

Bradford County Telegraph

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144th year, 29th Issue — \$1

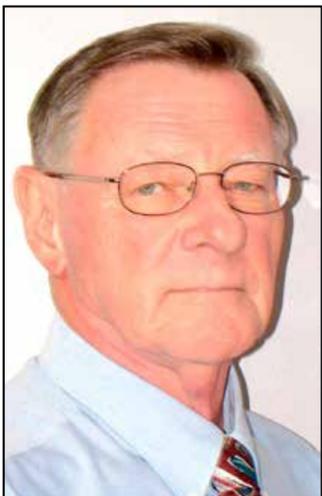
Tillis accepts interim manager role in Lake Butler

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — There is a familiar face at Lake Butler City Hall these days in the role of the interim city manager selected by the city commissioners to assist in running the city for the next several months and help navigate the financial maze created by previous city manager Dale Walker.

Former City Manager Richard Tillis was the only one of the two applicants for the position that met the criteria set by the commission that the candidate must be a resident of Union County. He served as city manager for 11 years and brings to the position a knowledge of the city and its residents that only a local person could have.

He also brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in municipal administration, as well as understanding the problems the city has and dealing with the funding



Lake Butler Interim City Manager Richard Tillis

(particularly grants) the city has acquired to help deal with them. The commission voted 3-1 to accept Tillis' application (with Mayor Annette Redman casting the dissenting vote) and then voted unanimously to compensate Tillis at a rate of \$75 per hour for no more than 40 hours a week. The city attorney is drafting a hiring contract, and the commission will most likely discuss and vote on that at the regular April 21 meeting.

Before serving Lake Butler the first time, Tillis worked as county manager for Richmond County, North Carolina, for eight years, city manager for Rockingham, North Carolina, for four years and public works director for Orange Park for five years. Now he says he is back to help the city he cared for in the past, but only for the interim until matters are cleared up and a new, permanent city manager can be hired. He estimates that he will only be needed as interim manager for

a period of four to six months and says he has no interest in applying for the permanent position.

"I love retirement," Tillis said. "I made it very clear that I was applying to be considered on a temporary basis to get this mess sorted out. I said that I would stay long enough to do that and, possibly, assist the commission in creating some new policies that will hold management more accountable but I am not interested on returning on a permanent basis."

When he left the city manager position, Tillis, who is a certified commercial building contractor, started a contracting business, which he closed in 2012. He was totally retired when he took the interim position with the city last week.

The commission offered the position to Tillis at a special March 7 meeting called to consider all applications for

See **MANAGER**, page 6



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WORTH NOTING

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share plan a food distribution on Thursday, March 16, and on April 6 and 20, from 10-11:30 a.m. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. This is a drive-thru giveaway.

Food distributions announced

Two communitywide food distributions hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place next week. The first distribution is Tuesday, March 21, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds. The second distribution is Wednesday, March 22, at 9 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Free event celebrates 36 years of service

Bradford County Faith Community Center and Starke Church of God By Faith welcome the you to help celebrate 36 years of service on Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Edwards Road park. Enjoy the free meals, fun games, music, water park and community fellowship. All are welcome.

KH Rotary celebrating 75th

The Keystone Heights Rotary Club is celebrating 75 years of community service with a March 25 gala at the Keystone Heights RV Resort Clubhouse.

The 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., 1940s-themed event will feature an auction.

Tickets are on sale at <https://tinyurl.com/gala75th>. Each ticket comes with a raffle entry for a \$1,000 vacation voucher.



A side view of the Bradford Elementary School administration building and, to the right, one of the classroom buildings.

Revised school zones move to board vote next month

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — No public comments were received on the proposed new zones for Bradford's elementary schools during a hearing held on Monday.

According to Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke, letters are ready to go out to parents pending the board's vote to approve the new zones at its April 10 meeting.

The zones and timeline for notifying parents were discussed during the board's retreat workshop earlier in the

day. Letters will inform families which school their students are zoned to attend and let them know that fifth-graders assigned to sixth grade at another school will be allowed to remain at their current school if they choose. Doing so would avoid two consecutive years of transition when they move to the middle school for seventh grade. Parents will be provided a form to let the district know they want their student to remain at their current school.

There will also be a general school

choice form for parents to request an out-of-zone school. However, Clarke said it will take some time before the results of those requests are known.

"It's not so much about the capacity of the school," she said. "It's about the capacity of the teachers we have."

A school campus may have room for more students, but that doesn't mean there is space in a particular grade group, and board members agreed the district cannot hire more teachers to satisfy special requests.

While parents made no showing at the public hearing, they have been

reaching out to school board members with questions. Clarke provided some answers.

For example, a family seeking exceptions to attend an out-of-zone school with a second-grader and a fourth-grader might find that the fourth-grader is approved and the second-grader is not because there wasn't space for more students in that grade level.

See **ZONES**, page 6

Keystone mayor: Airport board bullied council

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — During the city council's March 6 meeting, Mayor Karen Lake accused Keystone Heights Airport Board members of bullying the city council during previous meetings.

Lake's comments were in response to airport board members' efforts to get past board member Chad Rischar reappointed.

In January, the council chose Rex Siemer to replace Rischar on the board, turning away the incumbent's application for reappointment.

The following month, Airport Board

Chair David Kirkland, Vice-chair Scott Fryar and Manager Maria Searcy protested Rischar's treatment by the council. They said that contrary to past appointments, council members did not consult with airport management before appointing Siemer. They also emphasized Rischar's efforts on the board to manage the facility's timber resources. Finally, they accused council members of snubbing Rischar in retaliation for the former board member leaving the city's engineering firm.

"I'm puzzled as to why you would punish someone for accepting the job of a lifetime to better take care of his

family," Kirkland said. "A couple of you shared that you got a call from our county commissioner recommending Mr. Seimer, and apparently, that swayed your vote. Sadly, none of these are even related to the seat and its responsibilities."

Kirkland added that Rischar has managed the airport's timber resources and conservation efforts. "For unrelated reasons previously mentioned, you appointed someone else with no silvicultural experience," he said.

During the council's March 6 meeting, city leaders considered an appointment to a different seat on

the airport board, noting that Rischar had applied for the seat in addition to firefighter Bobby Ludwig.

Kirkland endorsed the former board member during the meeting's public comment session.

"I have concluded Mr. Chad Rischar is the more qualified applicant," Kirkland told council members. "Mr. Rischar has served with distinction on the airport authority board and will continue if appointed to further develop the silviculture assets of the airport. I emphasize experience and qualifications because I think those

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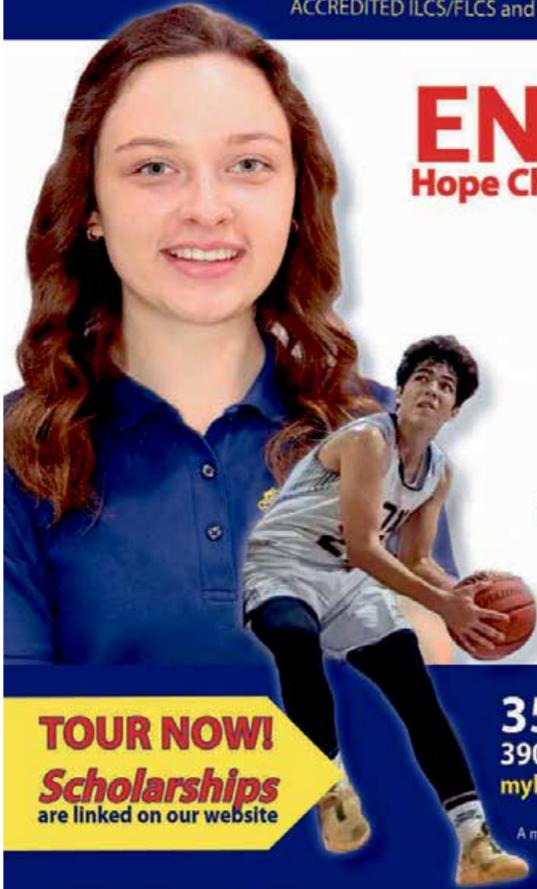


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The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area is pleased to host their second annual Democratic Women's

Social on Saturday, March 25, from 4-6 p.m. There will be music, wine, tea and hors d'oeuvres.

The social is open to all interested Democratic women (and men). You're invited to come to the historic Homemakers Club at 25728

Park St. in Melrose to meet club members and other Democratic women. Bring a friend and enjoy the company.

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Fire Station 10 given another chance

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — More money will be spent to make Speedville's Station 10 a working fire station, but it won't come out of the county's pockets.

Vincent Esson, CEO of the company operating the Keystone Heights RV Resort, has offered \$250,000 to construct living quarters for a fire station crew.

According to Fire Chief Ben Carter, once the new addition is built, the fire crew from Theresa would be relocated to the County Road 21B station. The EMS crew would remain in Theresa.

The station, which also serves as the tax collector's satellite office, was completed in 2019. Donations from Esson and former volunteer firefighters in Keystone helped complete the station, but the commission at the time repeatedly voted to proceed with the project despite the growing county costs at the urging of its biggest proponent, District 4 Commissioner Danny Riddick.

The adequacy of the station was questioned by members of the public, but the county's fire director, working under the sheriff, and an outside inspector also concluded that the lack of a fire suppression system made it unsuitable to house emergency response equipment.

While the station was built

according to plan, they said the plan was not aligned to the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, which is adopted the State Fire Marshall as required by state law.

There is no exception to the fire suppression system requirement, the inspector wrote in his report, because facilities serving the public welfare must be constructed "to provide reasonable assurance of continued function following a fire, explosion or hazardous material event."

According to NFPA, the requirement was introduced in 2003 and later expanded to include EMS stations because it helps prevent the disruption of emergency services.

According to the agency, "The public welfare goal of this code shall be to maintain a high probability that buildings and facilities that provide a public welfare role for a community continue to perform the function for their intended purpose following a fire, explosion, or hazardous materials event."

In 2019, the inspector recommended a sprinkler system be installed in the Speedville fire station and the proposed living quarters along with a 30,000-gallon water tank to ensure adequate water pressure.

Based on that and calls for service data, the fire crew remained stationed in Theresa, although the station bays have been used for storage.

The generous offer from Esson has motivated the county to rethink the future of Station 10.

"We have built an excellent relationship with Mr. Esson and over the years, and he's been more than generous and more than helpful to the county," County Manager Scott Kornegay said. "And now we have this opportunity to provide living quarters at the Speedville fire station where we can then have 24-hour, seven-day-a-week coverage in that fast-growing area of the county."

Riddick said he hasn't been able to wipe the smile off his face since learning about the donation.

"What a blessing. I just thank God for people like Mr. Esson," he said, reminding everyone of Esson's original \$150,000 contribution to the construction of the fire station. "This is just going to be great — 24/7 fire protection in the south end of the county."

Commissioner Chris Dougherty asked if plans included adding a sprinkler system to the fire station. Fire Chief Ben Carter said the code allows for separate living quarters with a 5-foot breezeway from the station.

The living quarters would have sprinklers installed.

Dougherty recalled prior discussions about the need to protect the emergency response equipment, and he asked Sheriff Gordon Smith, who was a part of those discussions. Smith agreed with Carter and praised Esson for his contributions to the community.

Dougherty, who was part of the unanimous vote to accept the donation and move forward, said he didn't want the decision to "come back and bite us."

"It's certainly something that is needed, and I'm glad Mr. Esson is willing to do this, but I just don't want to get to the finish line and then somebody says, 'Oh, you haven't done this, and you haven't done this,' and then we have to move everybody out because there's problems," Dougherty said.

Carter said as they dive into the project, they will ensure the county follows all requirements.

"Mr. Kornegay and I have had that discussion, and we both have the desire to make sure we're doing this by the book moving forward, so we will be thorough," Carter said.

Esson's offer did come with two stipulations: that he be able to use his own contractor, Evan Douglas, and the addition of a plaque to the building for name recognition.

Certified success



Agriculture teacher Allen Shaw was awarded an Industry Certification Trophy at the February school board meeting. Shaw's students earned the most industry certifications during the 2021-22 school year. This is the second year in a row his students have led in industry certification attainment. He is pictured above with North Florida Technical College Director Brad Bishop.

Smoking ban contemplated for county parks

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County Commissioners deferred a resolution encouraging people to avoid smoking in public places but will instead consider a ban on smoking in public parks.

Bradford County SWAT members and supporters attended, including student Casey Schaefer, who encouraged the board to adopt an ordinance establishing tobacco-free parks.

"An ordinance for tobacco-free parks will help with secondhand smoke, smoke exposure, youth initiation, the abundance of tobacco litter and will set an example that we want to protect our children and youth from the negative impacts of tobacco and nicotine use," she said.

The resolution on the agenda, however, was a suggestion, not an enforceable law, she said.

Commissioner Danny Riddick agreed, saying he wanted an ordinance to prevent smoking in parks and ballparks, and

Commissioner Chris Dougherty agreed if they were talking about parks and no other public spaces, such as parking lots. The resolution before them more generally encouraged a smoke-free outdoors.

The commission deferred passing the resolution and requested an ordinance be brought back for consideration to ban smoking and vaping in public parks. If passed, a violation of that ordinance would be a second-degree misdemeanor.

School district takes on vaping

The prevalence of vaping among students came up as part of a larger discussion on discipline and restroom monitoring at the middle and high schools at the school board's workshop retreat on Monday. Citations are issued to students found in possession of a vape, and numerous or unresolved citations can lead to bigger repercussions for students

and parents.

The citation comes with a \$30 fine and a required online tobacco education course. But, if a group of students is caught, only the student in possession is eligible for the citation.

Students are resourceful at hiding vapes in the bathrooms, according to School Board Member Candace Osteen, who is also a tobacco prevention specialist.

Vape monitors have been ordered for restroom installation, with cages discussed to protect them from vandalism — another restroom issue. Vandalizing one of these expensive monitors would be a felony offense.

Students also receive a referral when caught, but Osteen said they would like to move away from that in recognition that these students are addicted, and if they are sent home, they wind up using more.

Smoking or vaping are generally handled differently than if a student is found in

possession of a dab pen used for marijuana use. Students with drugs end up in alternative education. But if a student is caught with a vape three times in 12 weeks, that will get them placed in alternative education as well.

Osteen said they have made progress with the citation process. Ignoring a citation's requirements results in court dates in front of County Judge Tatum Davis and places drivers' licenses in jeopardy. Parents' licenses may also be in danger if the process isn't taken seriously.

Before it gets that far, Osteen said they want to adopt a supportive approach and help student struggling with nicotine addiction get cessation resources. She said Bradford County has been picked to pilot a youth smoking/vaping cessation course in partnership with Suwannee River AHEC.

Chicken Sing at New River

New River Church on C.R. 125 outside of Lawtey is bringing back its Chicken Sing this Saturday, March 18. The meal will be served at 5 p.m. with music from local singers beginning at 6 p.m., followed by featured group Second Crossing at 7 p.m.

The good food, singing and fellowship are all free.

Eternal Vision at Hope Baptist

Eternal Vision will perform in concert on Sunday, March 19, at 6 p.m. at Hope Baptist Church. The concert is free; a free will offering will be collected. For more information, you may contact Pastor Larry Strickland at 352-473-4188.

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Flight competition at Keystone Airport

For decades a favored site for aerobatic practice and competition, Keystone Heights airport will welcome the Snowbird Classic Aerobatic Contest from March 23-25. IAC Chapter 89 is hosting the contest. The USA Advanced Team will be practicing its aerobatic sequences the week prior to the contest and will join the Florida

chapter for the competition. The Snowbird Classic will attract pilots from throughout the Southeast. Five categories of difficulty, from primary through unlimited, will be flown. The contest will culminate on Saturday, March 25, with unknown sequences and the unlimited 4 minute freestyle flight.

The airport will not be open to the public, but if interested, you can easily observe from outside the airport fence boundary at the FBO airport building — just bring a lawn chair and enjoy the show.

For more information on USA competition aerobatics, please visit www.iac.org.

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Animals to get lawyers under Bradley bill

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Republican Sen. Jennifer Bradley has filed a bill to give animals legal representation in courts, similar to the state's current Guardian ad Litem program that provides children with advocates in Florida courts.

Bradley represents all of Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Gilchrist and Union counties in the Senate and a portion of Alachua County.

Democratic Rep. Lindsay Cross of St. Petersburg filed an identical bill in the House, giving the effort bipartisan support.

"Honored to sponsor this doggone good bill w/ @jenn_bradley," Cross wrote in a social media post. "These animals deserve a voice, and this bill will ensure that there is a trusted advocate that can represent the interests of justice."

The proposed law allows judges to appoint an animal

advocate in cases where an animal's welfare or custody is being determined.

The advocate would monitor court proceedings, attend hearings and present information to the judge relevant to the case.

Under the bill, attorneys or law students could volunteer for the role.

Kate McFall, Florida director of the Humane Society of the U.S., said the legislation would fill a gap in the court system.

"The Courtroom Animal Advocate Program will allow for much-needed support to prosecutors and judges in the shape of animal cruelty while providing a voice for the animal victims," she said in a news release.

Neither bill has yet been heard by a committee. A similar proposal filed last year by Democratic Sen. Jason Pizzo failed to pass.



Union County still has \$2M in ARPA funds and numerous grants

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — At its regular February meeting, the Union County Board of County Commissioners received reports from County Coordinator Jimmy Williams about the status of county ARPA funds, recent and ongoing grants the county has been awarded and Florida Department of Transportation SCRAP grants for road work in the county.

According to the report, the county received \$2.96 million in ARPA funding in February of 2021. Since that time the county has spent \$641,835, including the recent vehicle purchase, and is obligated to pay \$274,400. This leaves a balance of available funds of \$2.04 million.

Money spent includes distributions to the towns of Raiford, Providence and Palestine, premium pay to county employees for working during the pandemic, COVID related supplies, repeaters for EMS, an ambulance retrofit, work and equipment for parks in the county, an overage on the recent FRDAP grant (caused by an increase in materials costs between the time funds were requested and the time they were actually purchased) and other infrastructure spending.

Most expenditures were discussed at more than one meeting before the spending was approved. Bids were taken as appropriate and all department were required to verify the need for their requests for equipment. Both inmate and in-

county personnel have been used whenever possible to keep costs down.

Williams has been hard at work locating and applying for grants as well to fund a number of projects in the county. Grants that have been awarded, most of which have disbursed the funds and are ongoing, total more than \$5.5 million. These grants cover a number of areas, including a \$430,500 Brownfields grant (a federal grant to fund cleanup of contaminated sites in the county for the purpose of resident safety and economic development); a FRDAP grant of \$165,000 for recreation and renovation of the ballfields at O. J. Phillips Park, including a new ballfield; a \$50,000 Small County Restoration Grant for the design phase of courthouse renovation;

\$750,000 from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the additions to the Union County Agricultural Education Center; Enterprise Consulting (\$25,000) and Marketing (\$5,000) for making the county more visible to the rest of the state and U.S. to encourage economic development; \$25,000 for the tire amnesty event; \$1.62 million from the FDOT for sidewalk improvement for the schools in Lake Butler; and \$963,698, also from FDOT, for the creation of a turn lane at the intersection of S.R. 121 and C.R. 231.

Williams also helped secure appropriations from the Florida Legislature totaling \$4.4 million, including \$550,000 for upgrades on courthouse security, \$850,000 for the construction of a fire

station in Providence and \$3 million for the initial phases of the construction of a public safety complex adjacent to the courthouse.

FDOT has been generous to Union County in the form of SCRAP and SCOP grants, with four of five projects ongoing and one getting ready to begin. These grants are provided to small counties to help them with paving, widening and otherwise improving roads in the county which are not FDOT maintained. These grants include work on: C.R. 18 from the Columbia County line to S.R. 121 (survey done, work starting on alignment, plans 30% complete – estimated completion date 12/31/2026), C.R. 238 North from NE 111th Way to C.R. 229 North (plans 60%

complete – estimated completion date 6/30/24), 92nd Street (design only, 30% complete and preparing Suwannee River Water Management District submittals for culvert extensions in the wetland areas), C.R. 229 South from the bridge to S.R. 121 North (approved by the board Feb. 20 – estimated completion date 12/31/2023).

The county still has needs and Williams is now working on securing more grants from a number of sources to meet them. It should be noted that all of the grants listed above have no requirement for the county to pay any matching funds, so there will be no cost to the county.



Kerry and Brad Collins at the grand opening of the Inn at Palmetto.

Inn at Palmetto holds grand opening

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A Lake Region couple held a grand opening for the city's only public lodging facility.

Brad and Kerry Collins greeted guests at the Inn at Palmetto, located across Southeast Palmetto Avenue from the city's public tennis courts behind city hall.

The three-bedroom, two-story structure was initially completed in 1925, the same year Keystone Heights was incorporated.

It was intended to be a winter home for Leona Clark Caughey, although she never occupied the house.

"Leona was an artist who worked for the Keystone View Company in Meadville, Pennsylvania," wrote Collins on the inn's website: www.TheInnAtPalmetto.com.

"Leona, along with her husband Ed, a part owner of the

Keystone Lumber Company, lived in a home two blocks to the west on Lake Keystone. Upon completed construction of the house, her sister Maude and husband Ward Ogden along with their two daughters Arneita and Helen moved into the home."

The inn features a wrap-around porch, original wood supplied by the Keystone Lumber Company and three bedrooms: the Queen's Room, the Palmetto Room and the Admiral's Quarters.

Kerry Collins said she saw the home for sale several years ago when visiting for the Fourth-of-July holiday.

"I've always loved this property," she said. "Drove by when I was in high school because I love this park and that tree across the street."

Collins added that she was a frequent patron of the library across the street from the Caughey home, recalling that while growing up, she read all

the Nancy Drew mysteries at the library.

Collins said that converting the house into an inn was a long-term project because her husband is on active duty with the Navy, and the contractor the couple hired was also on active duty.

Brad Collins is a rear admiral in the Navy and is currently the commander of Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central and commander of Maritime Air Forces, Naples. He is stationed in Naples, Italy.

Kerry is a Keystone Heights Heritage Commission member and sits on the city's growth management committee.

She also organizes the Freedom 5K for the Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The fund provides scholarships to Keystone Heights High School graduating seniors.

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Eastbound S.R. 100 through Starke to be detoured Thursday morning

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's Starke Railroad Overpass Interchange Improvements project, eastbound State Road 100 between Walnut Street and Cherry Street will be detoured Thursday, March 16, to pour decking. The roadway closure will take place at 1 a.m. and reopen by 8 a.m., weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

Drivers attempting to travel eastbound on State Road 100 will be detoured onto southbound Walnut Street, then left onto South Street, right onto Cherry Street, left onto Laura Street and proceed to State Road 100.

Drivers traveling westbound on State Road 100 will not be detoured but may experience intermittent traffic stoppage due to related flagging operations.

A large vehicle detour will remain in place for eastbound State Road 100 from U.S. 301 to Water Street. Eastbound State Road 100 large vehicle traffic will turn right onto southbound U.S. 301, then turn left onto SE 144th Avenue (Hazen Street) and continue onto SE 144th Street to

State Road 100.

FDOT hired J.B. Coxwell Contracting to complete this \$23.6 million project in summer 2023, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

Public comment period extended for Santa Fe Watershed flood maps

The timeframe for public feedback for the Santa Fe Watershed Flood Risk Maps updates has been extended until the end of April.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Suwannee River Water Management District, hosted a series of meetings in late February for citizens to provide feedback on proposed flood zones changes to their property. Additionally, a 30-day period was opened to allow for public comment following the meetings for those unable to attend.

However, due to continued feedback from the public regarding proposed changes to flood maps, the district requested to extend the public comment period to 60 days, which now ends April 30.

Those with requested changes

and feedback to the existing maps should utilize this critical time to provide written comments. Changes requested after April 30 may require engineering studies and other formal analysis.

Map changes based on feedback are not guaranteed, but data or photos from recent flood events are encouraged to be submitted for consideration. Preliminary maps are expected to be available early next year, with the new flood maps going into effect in 2025.

Additional information, including the presentations made during the meeting and flood zone designation status, can be found by visiting www.SRWMDfloodreport.com/virtual.

Democratic Women meet March 23

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. Phillip Minor will speak on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion. All Democrats are welcome, and doors open at 6:30.

The group meets at the Melrose Historic Homemakers Club, 25728 Park St. For further information, call 352-235-4161 or write Info@dwc-la.org.

Top STEAM Fair winners at Hope Christian Academy

Out of 80 student participants at the fifth annual Hope Christian Academy Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Fair, three were recognized as top overall scorers and one was named Crowd Favorite.

In an age when some have moved away from science fairs, I push to continue," said HCA instructor Adina Leon, coordinator for physical and biological sciences. "It's about the process for me. Students recognize a problem, research to learn more, develop a plan to investigate a solution to their hypothesis, conduct a controlled experiment, analyze their results, form a conclusion, visualize their data, and then present their findings."

Students were required to present their final projects in class oral presentations, to the event judges, and to the student body and other guests at the event. "These are the life skills I trust our students will take with them along with a confidence that they can solve a problem in their path."

Penny Hunt, coordinator for arts, asked her students to base their projects around the famous Winnie-the-Pooh characters. "Based on the theory that A. A. Milne meant to represent psychological disorders in his Winnie-the-Pooh characters, students researched what disorder each character supposedly represented," she said. Each student then was tasked with

conducting a research paper on their chosen psychological disorder followed by a "character analysis ... and to also determine whether or not the character they chose truly reflected the mental disorder they researched," Hunt continued. Additionally, each student participant took a Pooh Pathology test to see which character they were most like.

Leon said, "The feedback from the students this year referenced their surprise at how well they improved in speaking in public, how they loved teaching younger students, and how proud they were to share their learning with others."



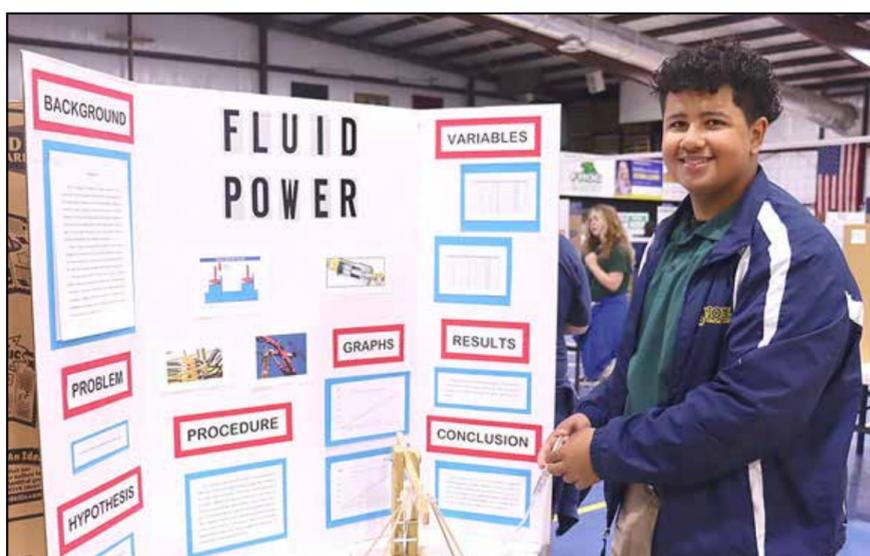
Front (l-r): Natalie Lowe -8th (high honors), Gaia Sama - 11th (Crowd Favorite and 2nd Place Overall - Biological), Lucas Grider -7th (Overall Biological), Landen Perry - 9th (Overall Physical Science), and Rainey Norman - 7th (High Honors Physical Science). Back (l-r): Brendan Musser - 11th (Honors - Biological), Alyssa Hunt - 10th (High Honors Biological), Kylie Maloy - 8th (High Honors Physical Science), Adam White - 9th (High Honors Physical Science), Instructor and event co-coordinator Adina Leon, Noah Leon - 8th (High Honors Physical Science).



Gaia Sama with her Crowd Favorite project that also took second place overall in the Biological Division. Gaia is an exchange student from Italy. Pics by Virginia Denmark.



Overall Biological winner Lucas Grider discusses his project with HCA Head of School Terry Denmark.



"Fluid Power" took the Top Overall award in the Biological division for Landen Perry.



Front: Jadie Clark - 12th (Overall ARTS), Summer Sigers -12th, not pictured (2nd place ARTS) Back (l-r): Trayven Chandler - 12th (Honorable Mention), John Ford - 12th (Honorable Mention) Thomas Slocumb - 12th (tie 3rd), Instructor and event co-coordinator Penny Hunt, Mector Diaz - 12th (tie 3rd). Not pictured: Alex Brantley - 12th (Honorable Mention.)

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Santa Fe College awarded nursing grant

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Santa Fe College was one of 27 colleges and school districts to receive state grants totaling \$19 million to fund nursing education programs.

Gov. Ron DeSantis's office said a total of \$79 million was awarded to school districts and post-secondary nursing programs for matching funds for scholarship awards, faculty

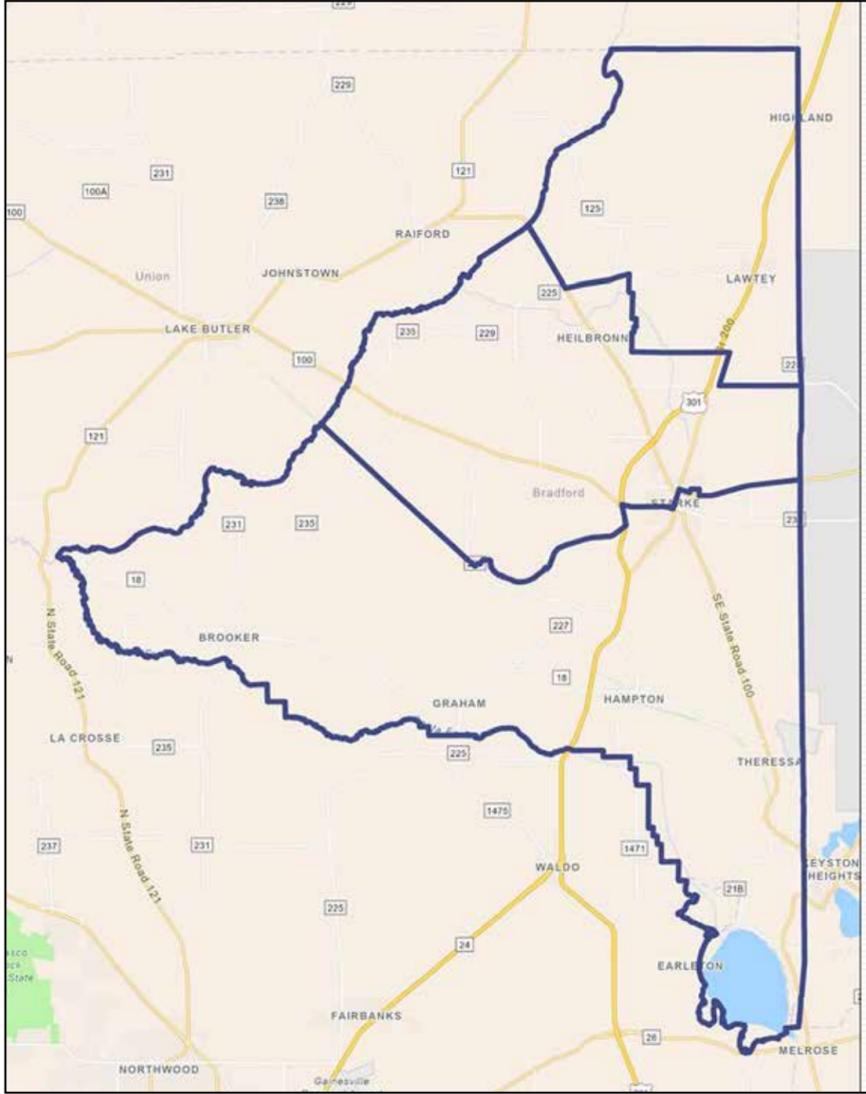
recruitment, equipment and additional educational support.

"These awards will meet a critical need of our state by ensuring we continue to have high-quality nursing graduates and by creating new opportunities for Floridians interested in healthcare," DeSantis said in a news release. "I am grateful to the colleges and universities who have gone above and beyond to train the next generation of nurses in our state."

To qualify for some of the \$19 million allocated to the Linking-Industry-to-Nursing-Education grants, institutions had to have a completion rate of at least 70% for certified nursing assistant programs and a 70% passing rate for first-time National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination for licensed practical nurse, associate of science in nursing and bachelor of science in nursing programs.

The governor's office said \$60 million in grants were awarded under the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education program.

Those awards: \$20 million for licensed practical nurse programs and \$40 million for registered nurse programs are based on the number of students completing nursing programs and passing rates on professional licensing exams.



Zones from top to bottom: Lawley Elementary, Starke Elementary, Bradford Elementary.

ZONES

Continued from page 1

Similarly, while fifth-graders are being offered an exemption to stay at their current school next year, that would not apply to siblings in younger grades. Space for them to remain at their current school cannot be guaranteed.

Parents also need to know that selecting an out-of-zone school

means the district will not be able to provide transportation.

Clarke said the district must make sure that there is capacity for families moving into a particular area, because their students will be automatically zoned to attend that school.

According to Clarke, many students are already attending out-of-zone schools and the new zones may settle that for them.

"We don't know that until we get the kids in the schools, figure out who wants to go where, and

then let it shake out from there," she said.

"At the end of the day, I think we all want people to go to school where they want to go to school," Clarke said.

Parents should receive their zone notification letters by the third week in April — at least those with verified addresses. The district will publish the information in other ways to reach the other 30% or so of families without verified addresses.

MANAGER

Continued from page 1

the interim position and make a selection. The commission voted to accept his application and he was hired. He was on board at city hall the morning of March 6. As of March 13, he had already met with commissioners, City Attorney John Maines, Richard Powell of Powell, Jones and Associates to whom he provided about 10 items they needed to complete the forensic audit ordered by the commission.

He plans on meeting soon with Mittauer, the engineers who work for the city, to get

up to speed on grants, sewer lines, lift stations, the ground storage tank and the new wastewater treatment plant.

He said he is also working on tracking the ARPA funds and seeing how they have been handled. Given the time frame he is working under, he is prepared to create the budget for the next fiscal year, based upon the findings of the audit.

"It will probably be a month or two before we see the results of the special forensic audit," Tillis said. "It would not surprise me if we receive it at the same time we get the regular annual audit, which is also being worked on."

Tillis said he will also see that the commission will receive

the expected documents, with any explanatory information necessary, at every meeting.

"This month will be better than it has been and by April everything should be back on track and has it should be," Tillis said.

Tillis said he has his work cut out for him and is, on a daily basis, wading through several years of financial and commission records, trying to see where the city stands financially. He said he is hopeful of having everything on track so the new city manager, when a permanent one is found, will walk into the job without problem.

AIRPORT

Continued from page 1

should be the major items to be considered."

Like ripping the band-aid off

However, when the council took up the appointment for discussion, Lake interpreted Rischar's application as an affront to the council's January action.

"How can I go back and allow this person on, when we took him off, and then we were bullied on top of that, and then you apply for another position?" she asked.

While the mayor acknowledged Rischar's right to reapply, she characterized his action, and the airport board's support of his second application as a rebuke to the council's January appointment of Siemer.

"For me, it's kind of like ripping the band-aid off," she said, adding that she was fine with board members discussing the appointments with council members one-on-one in private, but objected to the public criticism of the council by board members.

"I mean, we've been bullied," she told Fryar when he asked to respond to Lake's charges. "You met with us independently; that's what I'd like to see. You came up, and you spoke against us last meeting, and you're here again tonight in mass, so it feels like bullying. I'm just gonna say to you, it feels like bullying."

'We are the bosses'

Councilman Tony Brown had even harsher words for the airport's governing panel.

"I've been here a long time... and there's a lot of decisions that I've been a part of, but I have never, never had a board stand up in front of this council and basically tell us we didn't do a good job," he said.

"We are the bosses," he added. "I hate to put it that way, but we are. We are your bosses."

Brown added that if the board's public criticisms of the council had occurred in a private employment environment, they would have been terminated.

"I would have fired every dadgum one of you," he said. "That ticked me off."

"This is America, and you've got a right to say what you want to say," he added, "but I was always taught that you respect your bosses and that you, in a public meeting, to do what some of you did to us, that boils my blood."

Fryar told Lake that his comments, and those of his fellow board members, were not bullying but merely an expression of their passion for the airport and how seriously they take their roles as board members.

He added that the board's emotional response to Rischar's denied reappointment was partly because it was unexpected.

"It kind of shocked all of us," he said.

Vice-mayor Steve Hart moved to place Rischar back on the airport board. His motion failed 4-1. The panel then voted to appoint Ludwig to the seat, and the measure passed by the same 4-1 vote.

In other news from the March 6 meeting of the Keystone Heights City Council:

Baker given key to the city

Lake awarded Tina Baker, the director of the community partnership school at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School, with a key to the city.

"She works very quietly behind the scenes," the mayor

said of Baker. "You don't see her. She's not flashy about the way she goes about her business, but she's very impactful."

Lake described the community partnership school as a cooperative effort between the Children's Home Society of Florida, the University of Central Florida and the state.

She said that the partnership provides social and healthcare services students lack access to, adding that through those services, one-in-four KHHS students receive comprehensive medical care, including dental and vision care.

The partnership also provides clothing, access to laundry facilities, food and personal hygiene products.

"Thirty-five students attended Camp Boost," Lake said of an opportunity provided by the partnership school, "which stands for building on opportunities to strengthen teens."

She added that students gained life skills and substance abuse education during the week-long overnight camp.

"Tina Baker has done an outstanding job establishing and building the community partnership school with her core partners since 2018," Lake said. "Tina Baker is a champion and fierce advocate for the most traumatized members of our community and...is a master collaborator with all of the human service providers in our community."

Lake also read a letter from high school principal Laurie Burke. The principal said Baker's efforts make it possible for students to concentrate on academics and succeed on the Orchid Avenue campus.

Baker said she and her team had observed a large increase in the number of traumatized children in the Lake Region.

"When we connect them with a caring adult, the relationships and the attendance and the grades and the discipline referrals (improve)," she said. "We have three young students that are on the A-B honor roll. Last year they were failing. Three is such a small number but just think: that's three students on their way to graduation, and they're not going to be relying on taxpayer dollars to support them. That is what drives me: to get families out of the system and to be productive citizens."

Spelling bee winner recognized

Lake pointed out Clay County Spelling Bee champion Rena Reddish in the audience.

The mayor read a letter from the Keystone Heights Junior High School student's family that described her spelling bee accomplishments.

"Rena's spelling bee journey began in first grade at Hope Christian Academy," Lake said. "She won her classroom spelling bee, then proceeded to win the first through third-grade spelling bee."

Lake said the experience increased Reddish's love for reading and her appetite for words.

"In fifth grade, Rena won her classroom spelling bee," Lake said, adding that Reddish also won the Keystone Heights Elementary School title that same year, placing sixth in the county bee.

"We did not know the county spelling bee was for fifth to eighth grade; it was a little intimidating when we arrived and saw how tall some of the spellers were in sixth grade," Lake said, reading from the family's letter.

In 2021, Reddish spelled her way back into the county bee and placed third.

"These first two years really helped her understand how

to prepare," Lake said, "so in seventh grade, she won her classroom spelling bee and the Keystone Junior High School spelling bee. There was a little more pressure and (higher) expectations of winning the county spelling bee. The words were difficult, and it came down to words the spellers had not prepared for."

Reddish won the 2022 county bee and placed fifth in the regional competition.

Lake said that Reddish successfully defended her 2022 county title this year and is returning to the regional meet in Jacksonville on March 31.

Denies permit for Easter Extravaganza

After approving a road closure for the Our Country Day Parade and a food truck event, blood drive and sunrise service at the city-owned beach park, the council turned away an application to hold an Easter Extravaganza at the Lake Geneva Park.

Hart criticized the event because it was to be led by a profit-making entity.

"I have nothing against business ventures," he said, "but is this really a suitable thing for the park, especially since their application indicates they're going to be selling some items?"

City Manager Lynn Rutkowski said a local handyman business recently produced an event at the park. However, during the event, the for-profit entity did not promote its services or sell items.

"It was just a fun day for kids to come out," she said. "Cricket Wireless is the applicant (for this event), and they did express that they would be selling items at this event."

Tony Brown moved that the council deny the event application, which the panel approved unanimously.

New Heritage Commission member

The council appointed Elise Moore, who lives on County Road 352, to its Heritage Commission.

Moore is a former teacher and has owned and operated Locker Room Athletics since 1981. Her community service includes membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Moore told council members that she has always had an interest in preserving history, adding that she was a political science and history major in college.

She said she wants to preserve historic buildings in the city and added that the demolition of the Historic Keystone Inn was a black mark in the city's history.

"I think that was the biggest shame, when the hotel was removed because that was the one thing that kind of was the symbol of Keystone," she said.

Hart told Moore that the destruction of the historic inn was the reason behind the creation of the Heritage Commission.

"The Heritage Commission was formed so that something like that wouldn't happen again," he said.

Karen Nagle of Brooklyn Bay Road also applied for the voluntary position. Nagle has worked as a procurement specialist with the St. Johns River Water Management District and as the assistant chief information officer for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Her community service includes Save Our Lakes, Mission of the Dirt Road and St. William Catholic Church.



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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Spat on officer to get into jail

James Alfred Baxley, 34, of Sparr was arrested by Starke police on March 5 for aggravated battery and assault.

According to an arrest report, reporting officer Jay Raulerson drove to the Bradford County Sheriff's office due to a report of a disturbance.

Raulerson wrote that when he arrived at the sheriff's office, the defendant was in front of the building screaming. The officer put Baxley in the back seat of his patrol car.

"At this time while the rear door was open James Baxley stated that he wanted to go to jail," wrote the officer. "I advised him that he wasn't under arrest because he hadn't committed a crime. At this James Baxley then spit in my face. I then closed the door to my patrol vehicle."

Raulerson reported that the defendant spat toward him a second time, but the officer did not know if he had been hit.

"James Baxley continued to scream obscenities and threaten both myself and Sgt Bellamy," the officer wrote. "James Baxley also was banging his head on my rear passenger window in an attempt to break it."

Russell Lynwood Blake, 70, of Starke was arrested on March 4 for resisting an officer and possession of drug equipment.

Jozie Rose Bruce, 19, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 9 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Devin Clint Calton, 19, of Hampton was arrested on March 9 for possession of drugs.

Earnest Lee Coleman, 40, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 9 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, resisting an officer and an out-of-county warrant.

Shandah Michele Crawford, 49, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 8 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of drugs and a conditional release violation.

Employee created fraudulent gift cards

Taquandra Deshon Diggs, 29, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on March 9 for battery, resisting an officer, larceny and fraud.

According to court papers, a Walmart loss prevention officer told Starke police officer David Clancy Jr. that the defendant processed fraudulent returns of merchandise and put the proceeds on gift cards.

"(The loss prevention officer) advised that Diggs performed 14 fraudulent transactions of returns to gift cards," wrote Clancy in an arrest report. "(He) advised Diggs performed these fraudulent transactions from (Jan. 14 to Feb. 23, 2023). Total amount of fraudulent transactions (were) \$1,411.25."

Clancy added that while attempting to arrest Diggs at the store, the defendant resisted his efforts and the pair fell to the floor. The officer deployed his taser twice to subdue Diggs, but the 29-year-old was able to break away and flee from the Commercial Circle retailer.

She later turned herself in at the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.

Hit partner with coffee mug

Bruce Bernard Donley, 30, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 8 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told reporting officer Deputy Lekiesha Lewis that Donley had been sick and irritable when he became upset with children in the house.

"She tried to calm Donley down," wrote Lewis, "but he continued to get upset and they started to argue. Donley picked up a small table when (the victim) told him to go ahead and hit her with it. According to (the victim) Donley put the table down, picked up the coffee mug which contained hot chocolate, and threw it at her hitting her knee and causing it to bruise."

The victim added that Donley also struck her in the forehead with an unknown object, causing a small cut.

Five children were present during the incident. The deputy reported the battery to DCF.

"(The victim) stated she does not believe Donley would hurt any of the kids and his abusive behavior has always been towards her," Lewis wrote.

Joshua Brian Gunter, 31, of Hampton was arrested on March 11 for a probation violation.

Kindal Bryan Mobley, 45, of Lawtey was arrested on March 4 for a probation violation.

Lester Rios-Reyes, 35, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on March 4 for battery.

Michael James Rollins, 48, of Keystone Heights was

arrested by Bradford deputies on March 7 for possession of drugs.

Jose Armando Munoz Sajvin, 21, of Jacksonville was arrested by Lawtey police on March 8 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Herman Leroy Schoening, 39, of Lawtey was arrested on March 7 for an out-of-county warrant.

Leticia Marie Scott, 32, of Dade City was arrested on March 5 for being an out-of-state fugitive.

Michael Woodard Sumner, 48, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on March 6 for a probation violation.

Walker Jeems Thomas, 25, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 7 for a probation violation.

Jamir Tyson, 20, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 8 for a probation violation.

Lynn Shafonda Walker, 41, of Starke was arrested on March 5 for an out-of-county warrant.

Tajh Oneal Williams, 32, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 7 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, failure to appear and out-of-county warrants.

Michael Chance Wrenne, 31, of Williston was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 6 for failure to appear.

Union

Jennifer Deneane Bryan, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on March 6 for petit theft and criminal mischief with property damage.

Christopher Nicholas Castro, 47, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on March 8 for a probation violation.

Deborah Marie Karr, 21, of Branford was arrested by Union deputies on March 7 for possession of drugs.

Larry Wayne Langford, 54, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on March 8 for a probation violation.

Clay

Daniel Richard Lyons, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 8 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana.

Jillian Kimberly Miranda, 41, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 8 for possession of methamphetamine, possession of fentanyl and possession of drug equipment.

Michael Raymond Williams, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 9 for domestic battery.

20 months for punching, choking partner

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — A 35-year-old Starke man was sentenced to 20 months in prison after pleading to felony battery-repeat offender.

William Earl Kapellen was also sentenced to two months of drug offender probation.

Deputy Hiram Gonzalez wrote in an arrest report that the victim said the defendant woke up in a bad mood.

"(The victim) advised that on today's date, William woke up in a bad mood and tried to make her go inside the residence," wrote Gonzalez.



Kapellen

"When she refused, William grabbed her by the neck, preventing her from being able to breathe for a few seconds."

The deputy added that once Kapellen released his grip, he punched the victim in the face with a closed fist several times before she was able to get away and call 911.

"At that point," Gonzalez added, "he became more angry and attempted to hang up the phone. Once he knew law enforcement was en route, he ran into the woods wearing all camo clothing."

Pre-trial intervention for hiding bullet in bra

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — A woman whom Bradford deputies said hid a bullet in her bra while attempting to enter Lawtey Correctional Institution could escape prosecution if she adheres to the terms of a pre-trial intervention agreement.

Precious Monique Aikens, 22, of Cross City was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 1 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

According to an arrest report,

the defendant was visiting an inmate at the facility when she was subjected to a search by Department of Corrections personnel.

"Precious was asked to shake her bra for any loose items, at which point a 9-millimeter bullet fell out of Precious's chest area," wrote reporting officer Wyatt Konkel.

Konkel added that Aikens claimed the bullet was in her bra by accident and asked the DC officer searching her not to report the discovery.

Under the terms of the pre-trial intervention agreement, over three months, Aikens must periodically report to a pre-trial intervention officer, not violate any laws and fulfill other conditions.

"If you comply with these conditions during the period of deferred prosecution, within 90 days of the completion date, the State Attorney shall make the final determination as to whether prosecution shall continue," the agreement reads.

Melrose High School alumni to host reunion on March 18

Melrose High School alumni will hold their 38th reunion on Saturday, March 18, at Eliam Baptist Church in Melrose. Registration is at 9 a.m.

Past reunions consisted of graduates only, but anyone who attended the school is welcome to attend as the Melrose Alumni Association is looking to get more people involved in its association.

The deadline is past for reserving a place at the event's luncheon, but people may still attend the event to view memorabilia and to share in the memories of the school, which had its last graduating class in 1968.

If you're interested in becoming a part of the Melrose Alumni Association or want to find out more about it, please call Doris Whitener at 352-475-5620.

Conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at the Bradford County Extension Office.

The agenda will include a discussion of the Cypress Run Boat Ramp, the Edwards Bottomlands Mitigation Site located along Alligator Creek at the Edwards Road Park, a project to provide printed copies of the new Flood Risk Assessment Map for properties of Bradford County residents who may not have internet access to the SRWMD website, and other projects. The public is welcome to attend. Contact Paul Still at 904 368-0291 or email stillpe@aol.com for more information.

London, Paris, Switzerland, Italy

Union County students in any grade are invited to travel to Europe as part of a trip being planned for 2024. Parents are invited to participate. An organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, at 6 p.m. in the Union County High School library.

For more information, please contact Angela Johnson at johnsona@union.k12.fl.us.

Toxic Round-up events collect hazardous waste

In Union, residents can bring hazardous waste items to the Union County Road/Solid Waste Department (by RMC West Union) located at 15285 SW 84th St. on Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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

- Aerosol cans
- Antifreeze
- Automotive Fluids – Brake Fluid, Automatic Transmission Fluid, Lubricants, etc.
- Batteries – Automotive Batteries, Lead-Acid, Ni-Cd, Rechargeable, etc.
- E-Waste – Computers, TVs, Microwaves, Radios, and other Electronic Waste.
- Fluorescent Lamps and Tubes, CFL & LED Bulbs
- Household Cleaners, Degreasers and Solvents
- Fertilizers, Pesticides and Insecticides (Solid or Liquid)
- Paint, Paint Thinner, and Other Waste Paint Related Materials

- Propane Tanks
- Fire Extinguishers
- Non-Controlled Pharmaceuticals (Pills and Liquid) & Over-the-Counter Medications
- Gasoline, Fuels
- Used Oil & Used Oil Filters
- Shop Rags & Absorbents
- Flares and Ammunition
- Used Vegetable Oil

For your safety: All containers must be labeled. Please use a tub or tarp to contain any potential spills in your vehicle. If at all possible, please drive only with a well-ventilated cab and the windows open. For everyone's safety, please remain in your vehicle and allow staff to remove items from your vehicle.

Notice: Trash and/or recyclables will not be accepted at the Toxic Round-up events. Explosives, reactives, and/or radioactive, infectious, or biohazardous wastes including sharps (syringes, needles, and lancets) will not be accepted at the Toxic Round-up events.

For any questions or concerns about the handling of additional wastes (which are not listed here, or which cannot be accepted at this event) please call Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Collection at 352-334-0440, prior to the event.

All residents and small businesses are welcome. The event is free for residents, however, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department must assess small businesses a nominal fee for eligible quantities of all aforementioned waste items. Small businesses may contact 352-334-0440 for more information about associated fees and program availability.

For more information and a full list of accepted items, call Kim Hayes from Union County Solid Waste at 386-496-2180 or visit www.alachuacountyhazwaste.us.

New Covenant Baptist celebrates anniversary

New Covenant Baptist Ministries will be celebrating their 21st church anniversary on Sunday, March 26, at 11 a.m. The Reverend Dr. Willie G. Mayberry will be messenger of

the hour. Brother Hari Vaughn will also be ordained as a deacon. Dinner will be served. The public is invited.

VFW hosts Easter egg hunt

VFW Post 10082 Auxiliary is its annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1.

beginning at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served. The VFW address is 16483 SE 83rd Terrace in Lake Butler. If you have any questions, please call Auxiliary President Barbara Fischer at 904-263-0647.



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BHS holds signing ceremony for 5 football players

Covington looks to make an impact for Florida Gators

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Can Bradford High School senior Ahman Covington make a name for himself at the University of Florida?

If you listen to him talk, you get the impression he'll settle for nothing less.

Covington was one of five BHS players who participated in a signing ceremony on March 7. He didn't receive a scholarship offer from UF, but he's being given the opportunity to join the Gators as a preferred walk-on.

The chance came about due to hard work and determination, Covington said, explaining that his life has served as an inspiration to do great things.

"I'm blessed with this opportunity. Coming from where I came from and the obstacles I went through, I think God put me here for a reason," Covington said, adding, "My mama, she passed when I was 3. That just gave me that motivation. My daddy, he's gone. He's in prison. It's just motivation."

Then, looking toward his BHS teammates, Covington said, "If it wasn't for those boys right here, I would never have come this far."

Being a preferred walk-on means Covington is guaranteed a roster spot, though he won't be receiving any financial aid, at least for the first year.

"You never know what kind of scholarships and other things like that he'll be able to get (in the future)," BHS Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said, "but I've had that a few times over the years — guys who probably had offers elsewhere and could've gone elsewhere, but who decided to go to a place where they always wanted to go to for a PWO."

"I can understand that. In-state tuition is a lot less. I understand the decision."

Covington said some of the schools he was considering included Kansas State, Vanderbilt and Division I FCS schools Alabama State and Grambling State.

However, the chance to stay close to home and become a Gator seemed to him to be God's plan for his future.

"It's a great program," Covington said. "I had the chance to talk to the players and meet the new defensive coordinator

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Ahman Covington does the Gator Chomp at a March 7 ceremony at Bradford High School. He'll join the University of Florida football team as a preferred walk-on.



A ceremony was held March 7 for Bradford High School football players who are getting the chance to play in college. Pictured (l-r) are Gavin Cook, Bryson Bowen, Jip Pringle, Ahman Covington and Jayden Luna. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

4 Tornadoes get chances to play at out-of-state colleges

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

While Ahman Covington announced he was heading just down the road to join the Florida Gators football team as a preferred walk-on, four other Bradford High School football players signed their letters of intent to play for out-of-state schools, ranging from Division I FCS to Division III.

Bryson Bowen, Gavin Cook, Jayden Luna and Jametrius "Jip" Pringle, along with Covington, took part in a March 7 signing ceremony in the BHS auditorium. That now makes it a total of seven seniors who will pursue football at the collegiate level, with Manny Covey already at the University of Cincinnati as an early enrollee.

"It doesn't happen very often," BHS Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said of a team having that many players get opportunities at the next level. "You're supposed to win a bunch of games when that happens. We were fortunate to do that."

The Tornadoes are coming off a season in which they went 12-2

and advanced to the Class 2S state semifinals.

"A lot of the credit goes to them," Rodgers said of his players, adding, "Players make plays. I haven't made one tackle in 25 years."

Bowen, Cook and Pringle know about making tackles and playing defense, as all started on that side of the ball and now look to contribute there on their respective college teams. Bowen, a linebacker, was second on the team with 94 tackles (12 for loss) and had seven sacks, two caused fumbles, one fumble recovery and one interception. Cook, a defensive back, made 42 tackles, while Pringle, a defensive back also, made 26 tackles, two interceptions and one fumble recovery.

Luna, a starter on the offensive line, helped pave the way for a rushing attack that averaged 235 yards per game.

"I was very fortunate to coach them," Rodgers said.

Pringle to play for Division I Dukes

Pringle, who's 6-2, 160, will head to Pittsburgh to join Duquesne University, which competes at the Division I Football Championship Series level.

The reality of the situation and the atmosphere at the signing ceremony were enough to give

Pringle some jitters — the kind that come with knowing that your dream has come true.

"This is a lifetime opportunity," Pringle said. "I'm still shaking just from signing the paper. It's a great experience, celebrating everything with your family, all my brothers are here to support me — it's a great feeling."

Pringle said the Atlantic 10 Conference school was an easy pick for him because Dukes coaches were always in touch with him.

"They kept a close connection with me," Pringle said. "That made them really stand out from everybody else."

Though he expects to play at corner at Duquesne, Pringle was a factor in all aspects of the game at Bradford, especially on special teams. He returned kickoffs for touchdowns in three of the Tornadoes' four playoff games: 88 yards in a 48-0 Region 2 quarterfinal win over Crescent City, 98 yards in a 28-17 Region 2 championship win over Baker County and 95 yards in a 31-21 state semifinal loss to Cocoa.

"He knows what to do with the ball when he gets it. He only needs a little crease," Rodgers said, adding, "Once he was going in a straight line, it was over."

Rodgers said if there's one area where Pringle needs to improve as a defensive back, it's go and make plays on balls rather than backpedaling.

"With that speed, he can get

to a ton of balls that most people can't get to," Rodgers said.

Pringle plans on working on his speed and other parts of his game as he prepares to transition to college saying, "I need to get bigger, stronger and faster. I've just got to work for it."

That's why when he steps onto the field for the first time as a Duquesne player, he'll view it as just the beginning. Pringle's not settling for just getting to college.

"The journey's not complete," he said.

Bowen, Cook off to Division II schools

Bowen is set to head to Crestview Hills, Kentucky, to become a Thomas Moore University Saint, while Cook will join the Lake Erie College Storm in Painesville, Ohio.

"It's unbelievable," Bowen said. "It's a dream come true. All the hard work and effort I put in for this opportunity — it's just a dream come true. I'm thankful for it."

Cook said, "I'm just happy I accomplished another goal in life. This was a dream since I started playing football. I'm just glad that I marked that off the list."

Rodgers said Bowen and Cook, who are approximately 5-9 and 6-0, respectively, are

See BHS, page 13

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UCHS holds signing ceremony for 6 softball players

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

To say the Union County High School softball team's senior class is good is an understatement, as proved by the fact that six of the seven seniors were seated on the stage in the school's auditorium on March 1, signing their letters of intent to play in college.

"I think it's just a very good feeling, seeing everyone I've grown up with get to go to the next level and do what they love," said Hayley Burke, who was one of the signees, along with Leah Clark, Hailey Rivera, Hannah Rivera, Angela Tucker and Tamia Young.

Head Coach Jim Godwin certainly enjoys the fact that he has six players in one class getting the chance to play in college, saying, "It's great for me because I get to coach them."

Godwin said the signing ceremony was proof of more than just the talent level of the players. A lot of coaches will tell you it's not always easy to have so many talented players on one team, but Godwin has had no trouble with this year's senior group.

"I've never seen a group of classmates get along as well as these do," he said. "The reason why they've been so successful is because they do get along."

Lifelong friends Tucker, Young going to UWG



Angela Tucker (left) and Tamia Young will continue playing together at the University of West Georgia.

Tucker and Young will be attending the University of West Georgia, which is a Division II school in Carrollton.

"I'm excited. I love softball," said Tucker, an outfielder who bats second in the order. She added, "I'm just so blessed to be able to go play at the next level."

Young, who plays catcher and bats leadoff, said, "I'm super excited to take it to the next level. I've always wanted to play softball at the next level. I'm just happy I can."

Both players love the fact they get to go to West Georgia together, continuing what has been a lifelong association.

"Angela and I have been friends since (we were in) diapers," Young said. "We've grown up playing softball together."

Tucker, who'll be rooming with Young, said, "I'm excited. She's the best. I absolutely love her. She's like my sister."

Both players plan to study nursing and said that's one reason why West Georgia was the right pick for them.

"The nursing program is really good," Tucker said. "That's what really led me to want to go there."

The school's atmosphere was an appeal as well, with Young saying, "Everyone is so welcoming."

Young also already had a relationship with Head Coach Kristy Burton.

"I've known her since my ninth-grade year," Young said. "We've built that bond."

Tucker is coming off a junior

season in which she led the team with a .493 batting average — a significant increase from her sophomore year, when she batted .274.

Godwin said he saw the potential in Tucker when she was a freshman.

"I said her junior year would be her coming-out year, and it happened," he said.

Tucker hit two doubles and two triples her junior year, driving in 21 runs and stealing 13 bases.

Godwin anticipates Tucker hitting with more power this season, saying, "Since the fall, we've been working on her straight swing. She's going to hit some balls out of the park this year."

As for her play in the outfield, Godwin said, "She runs down balls in center field that shouldn't get caught."

What the coach especially likes is that Tucker plays with all-out effort, no matter what the scores is. The Tigers were losing to Trenton this season by a score of 8-1, but that didn't stop Tucker from laying out to make a catch.

"She easily could've just went to the wall, gotten the ball and thrown it in," Godwin said. "She got on her belly for the team."

Tucker believes she'll have to improve the most in her hitting when she tries to make it at the collegiate level, which she said will be a huge adjustment, no matter what facet of the game you're talking about.

She's ready to compete, saying, "I'm excited to work hard and earn my spot."

And when she steps onto the field for the first time as a West Georgia player, Tucker said it'll be "crazy."

"It's going to be a lot taking it all in," she said. "I'm going to enjoy it — enjoy every second of it."

Young is coming off a junior season in which she was second in batting average at .433, while hitting eight doubles and two triples and driving in 24 runs. She had 21 stolen bases.

As a sophomore, she batted .4-3 with three doubles, three triples, two home runs and 26 RBI. She stole 17 bases.



LEFT: Hayley Burke signs to play for Florida Gateway College's resurrected program. RIGHT: Twins Hannah (left) and Hailey Rivera will join Burke at Florida Gateway College. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



"She's our team leader. She plays at a high level," Godwin said, adding, "She plays every inning like it's her last."

Godwin said Young has grown into where she's playing like she's already at the next level. He can't wait to see what she does at West Georgia.

"I'm eager to see just how far she can go," Godwin said.

One of the things Godwin likes the most about Young is her speed. It doesn't take much contact for her to be able to reach base. Once on, of course, she's a threat to steal a base or multiple bases.

Godwin said Young, like Tucker, will add a little more to her game this year when it comes to batting.

"She's going to hit some out of the park for us this year," Godwin said. "Anytime you have somebody lead off who can hit it out of the park, bunt it to reach and then steal a base — she's just a triple threat at this point."

Young said she thinks the biggest adjustment she'll have to make in college is getting used to the fact that everything's different — the overall talent level, the speed, the teams she'll play against and the crowds.

No matter how different it is, it's what Young has been hoping for and working toward. When she steps onto the field for the first time as a college player, she said, "It's going to feel like a dream come true."

A dream come true is giving West Georgia a player any

program would love to have. "She's just everything you want in a kid on your team," Godwin said.

Resurrected program to get Burke, Rivera twins

Burke, Hailey Rivera and Hannah Rivera will be part of ushering in a new era at Lake City's Florida Gateway College, which last fielded a softball team 15 years ago.

The revived program will begin play in 2023-24.

"It's really awesome because it's kind of like a new sport on campus," Hannah Rivera said. "Everybody's excited about it."

Burke said, "It's very exciting. I've seen the field. It's almost done. They've made a lot of improvements."

"I'm ready to play already."

Burke likes the fact she'll be playing college ball close to home.

Of course, she loves the fact that the Rivera sisters will be there as well.

It's very exciting to get to play with my friends who I've played travel ball and high school ball with for the last three years," Burke said. "We've shared a lot of memories together. Continuing that will be a great feeling."

Burke, who plays in the outfield, is coming off a season in which she batted .255. She had one extra-base hit that season and



Leah Clark will head to Ocala to play for the College of Central Florida.

two the previous year. Godwin believes she can improve those numbers this year.

"She has power," he said. "We're working on that. She's starting to see the ball a little bit now."

"I expect a lot of good things from her this year."

Union Assistant Coach Travis Smith remembers the first time he saw Burke play in a varsity game. She had been brought up from junior varsity for some reason and made two impact plays, one of which was making a play on a fly ball that "most starting left fielders wouldn't make."

What Smith likes the most about Burke is her attitude, which he knows well since he works primarily with the team's

See SIGN, page 12

Lee gives up 1 run in 6 innings, Tigers beat Tornadoes 7-5

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School starting pitcher Tre'Von Lee gave up one run through six innings, while Devin Diggs and Ayden Elixson each drove in two runs in the Tigers' 7-5 win over visiting Bradford on March 9.

Lee struck out seven and allowed just three hits before exiting the game with his team leading 7-1. The Tornadoes scored four runs in the seventh off two wild pitches, an error and a single.

Bradford scored in the first inning, with Jeffrey Brugh reaching on an error, stealing two bases and scoring on an error.

The Tigers put two on with one out in the bottom of the first and had the bases loaded with two outs, but failed to score.

Lee found himself pitching with two runners on with one out in the top of the second, but he recorded two straight strikeouts to keep Bradford from increasing its lead.

Union scored and took the lead in the bottom of the second. Leadoff batter Ethan Moody was hit by a pitch and advanced two bases on a steal and an error. He

scored on a Diggs single. After Jeremy Miller walked, Diggs scored on an Elixson single. Miller would eventually come around to score on a Lee double as the Tigers took a 3-1 lead.

Lee finished 2 for 4 at the plate.

The Tigers had a two-run third inning. Moody hit a double and scored on Bryson Huggins' triple. Huggins scored on a sacrifice fly by Diggs.

With two outs in the fourth, Union's Tucker Hardee walked, stole second, advanced to third on Blake Agner's single and scored on a passed ball to make the score 6-1.

Elixson, who went 2 for 4, scored the Tigers' final run with a home run to lead off the bottom of the sixth.

Bradford made it interesting in the seventh. Leadoff batter Kevin Crawford walked and advanced two bases on a single by Breion Johnson. Crawford eventually scored on an error before Matthew Stafford reached on a walk. With one out, Johnson scored on a wild pitch. Ryland Rike then drew a walk to put

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Alachua County Solid Waste and Resource Recovery

Gus Olmos, P.E. Director
gus@alachuacounty.us
Tel: (352) 548-1242

March 6, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNION COUNTY TOXIC ROUND-UP EVENT COLLECTS HAZARDOUS WASTE

LAKE BUTLER, (March 6, 2023) – The Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Department in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Union County Commission will sponsor a FREE "Toxic Round-Up" collection event to properly dispose of and/or recycle common household hazardous waste items that cannot be collected curbside. **Residents can bring hazardous waste items to the Union County Road/Solid Waste Department (by RMC West Union) located at 15285 SW 84th St. on Saturday, March 18, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.**

Household hazardous waste can be toxic to the public and pose a threat to our environment if improperly discarded. In 2022, 2.08 TONS of waste (4,151 pounds) was collected and neutralized in Union County alone.

A total of nine Toxic Round-Up events are scheduled for 2023 serving residents of Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Union, Lafayette, Gilchrist, Nassau and Putnam counties. In total, the Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste department processed 84 TONS of hazardous waste in 2022 from the Toxic Round-Up mobile collection events; including 9,200 pounds of e-scrap, 103,630 pounds of paint, 15,935 pounds of used oil, 2,074 pounds of batteries and 5,074 pounds of pesticides.

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

- Aerosol cans
- Antifreeze
- Automotive Fluids – Brake Fluid, Automatic Transmission Fluid, Lubricants, etc.
- Batteries – Automotive Batteries, Lead-Acid, Ni-Cd, Rechargeable, etc.
- E-Waste – Computers, TVs, Microwaves, Radios, and other Electronic Waste.
- Fluorescent Lamps and Tubes, CFL & LED Bulbs
- Household Cleaners, Degreasers and Solvents
- Fertilizers, Pesticides and Insecticides (Solid or Liquid)
- Paint, Paint Thinner, and Other Waste Paint Related Materials
- Propane Tanks
- Fire Extinguishers
- Non-Controlled Pharmaceuticals (Pills and Liquid) & Over-the-Counter Medications
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- Flares and Ammunition
- Used Vegetable Oil

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Hardee 7th-inning hit gives UCHS 6-5 win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Tucker Hardee drove in three runs, including the game winner on a walkoff single in the bottom of the seventh as the Union County High School baseball team defeated visiting Dunnellon 6-5 on March 13.

It was the sixth straight win for the Tigers (6-1), who played Suwannee this past Tuesday (March 14).

Union trailed 3-1, but took the lead with a four-run fifth. Bryson Huggins and Devin Diggs drew consecutive walks to start the inning, while a Jeremy Miller single loaded the bases. Tre'Von Lee hit an RBI single one out later, followed by a two-run single by Hardee. Blake Agner hit the team's third straight single to push another run across and give the Tigers a 5-3 lead.

Dunnellon put two runners in the top of the seventh with a single and a hit batter. With two outs, the visitors loaded the bases with a walk before scoring a run on an error. A bases-loaded walk then tied the score at 5-5.

Ayden Elixson led off the Tigers' half of the seventh with a double. Lee was then intentionally walked. Both runners advanced on a passed ball before Hardee drove a 3-2 pitch into center field to score Elixson.

Hardee finished 2 for 4. Agner, Diggs and Lee each had one RBI.

KHHS baseball team defeats Ft. White 10-0

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Ryan Jones drove in four runs, while three pitchers combined to give up two hits in the Keystone Heights High School baseball team's 10-0, five-inning win over visiting Fort White on March 9.

The Indians (5-2) scored two runs in the first, with Jones driving in one on a ground out and Noah Branch driving in another on a single. Those runs were all the pitchers needed work with. Starter Ben Goforth gave up one hit and one walk, while striking out three in three

innings. Seth Gagnon and Kolby Thomas each threw one inning, with Gagnon giving up one hit and no walks and Thomas giving up no hits and no walks.

Keystone built a 7-0 lead, with five runs in the second inning. The Indians loaded the bases with no outs, with Gage Smith reaching on an error, Andru Siemer getting hit by a pitch and Wil Rogel hitting a bunt single. An error on a fly ball hit by Chase Packham allowed Smith to score. Two outs later, Jones hit a bases-loaded double that scored all three runners. Branch then hit a double to push another run across.

Branch finished 3 for 3 with two RBI, while Jones went 2 for 3.

Rogel, Caleb Mize and Garrison Teague each had one RBI, with Rogel going 2 for 2.

It was the fifth win in six games for Keystone, which entered the game off a 4-0 loss at North Marion on March 7. Smith had the Indians' only hit.

Keystone will return to action with a road game against Fort White on Monday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Shaw wins event for KHHS at Clay County Champs meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kiersten Shaw won one event and was runner-up in another for the Keystone Heights High School track and field teams at the Clay County Championships on March 9 at Middleburg High School.

Shaw took first in the long jump with a distance of 4.95 meters and placed second in the high jump at 1.48 meters, which left her trailing Fleming Island's Gabrielle Flories, who cleared 1.53.

In the 100m hurdles, Shaw was fourth with a time of 17.50 seconds.

Shepherd Rozier earned a runner-up finish for the boys team, running the 400m in 53 seconds. Oakleaf's Josber Stimphil won the event with a time of 52.70.

Rozier also placed eighth in the 200m with a time of 23.80 and 10th in the long jump with a distance of 5.46.

The girls team got a fifth-place finish from Alexis Taylor

in the high jump (1.43) and a sixth-place finish in the 4100m relay, with Elizabeth Hogan, Grace Fisher, Laila Briseno and Bethany Burgess teaming up to run one minute.

Brianna Hogan placed seventh in the high jump (1.38) and just missed the top 10 with an 11th-place finish in the long jump (3.97).

Elizabeth Hogan was 11th in the 400m (1:13), while Marissa Dowell and Burgess placed 12th and 14th, respectively, in the long jump with distances of 3.94 and 3.88.

The girls team also had the following results: 100m — Ashly McCarthy 14.30, Dowell 14.90, Candace Jackson 15.60; 200m — Christine Djavaheri 30.50, Taylor 30.50, Jackson 32.40, Briseno 32.80; 400 — Tingleh Gubics 1:15.30, Fisher 1:15.60, Brook Graudons 1:17; and 100m hurdles — Djavaheri 21.58.

The boys team got a fifth-place finish from Trey Jeffries in the discus (32.37) and a fifth-place finish in the 4400m relay, with Jaden Park, Tyler Griffin, Rozier and Bryce Miller teaming up to run 3:49.

Ayden Graff placed seventh in the 3200m (11:29), while Griffin was eighth in the 800m (2:10) and ninth in the 1600m (5:00).

Jeffries was eighth in the shot put (11.04), while Miller was eighth in the long jump (5.79).

Park was 11th in the long jump (5.45), while Bryson Wester was 12th in the discus (26.63).

Hunter Sheppard and Park placed 13th and 14th, respectively, in the 1600m with times of 5:16 and 5:17.

Jacob Stahman earned a 15th-place finish in the 800m (2:19).

The boys team also had the following results: 100m — Miller 12.30, Hunter Chamberlain 14.0; 400m — Josiah Durrenberger 58.10, Tyler Sapp 60.0; 800m — Hunter Sheppard 2:24, Durrenberger 2:29; long jump — Chamberlain 4.56; shot put — Tyler Duncan 7.98, Joshua Blank 7.67, Jackson Herman 7.31; and discus — Herman 21.26, Duncan 21.19.

BHS girls flag football team gets 1-point win over 'Dogs

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

After a number of lopsided

wins to open the season, the Bradford High School girls flag football team has proven it can win tough, close contests as well. Three days after a 13-8 win over Middleburg, the Tornadoes defeated host Suwannee 13-12 on March 9.

Nichelle Brown caught two touchdown passes from Ar'Nayshia Griffin and finished with seven receptions for 120 yards.

Griffin completed 17 of 24 passes for 240 yards. Kimber Woods caught four passes for 55 yards, while Jada Hankerson caught three passes for 40 yards. Khamyra Hankerson had three receptions for 25 yards.

Brown led the defense with six tackles, while Griffin made an interception.

The Tornadoes (6-0) entered the game off a 30-0 win at Orange Park on March 7 that saw Griffin rush for two scores and pass for another.

Griffin rushed for 85 yards on seven carries and completed 12 of 17 passes for 190 yards.

Brown rushed for 75 yards and a touchdown on six carries and caught one touchdown pass and seven passes overall for 110 yards. She also scored on special teams with a 65-yard punt return.

Destiny Crum caught one pass for 35 yards, while Woods had three receptions for 20 yards.

On defense, Griffin made two interceptions, while Brown had one.

Alexis Berry led the team in tackles with seven. Ajiyah Jackson, who had two sacks, finished with five tackles.

The Tornadoes played Baker County this past Tuesday (March 14) and will be back in action on Tuesday, March 28, when they travel to play Keystone Heights at 6 p.m.

Massey throws shutout KH softball team's win over Baker

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kadence Massey hurled a complete-game shutout as the Keystone Heights High School softball team won for the third time in four games, defeating host Baker County 3-0 on March 9.

Massey gave up six hits and no walks, while striking out six.

The Indians pushed two runs

across in the top of the first, which began with leadoff batter Abbie Roach drawing a walk. Roach moved to second on an Amber Wagner sacrifice and scored on a Kiley Channell triple. Channell initially stayed on third when Ashley Nugent was put out on a fly ball to left field, but she'd take off and score when the Wildcats took their focus off of her.

Baker put two runners on with two outs on a pair of singles in the bottom of the first, but Massey got out of the inning with a strikeout.

Keystone scored again in the third, which began with a leadoff double by Roach. Roach advanced to third on a fly ball out by Channell and scored on a single by Nugent.

As in the first, the Wildcats put two on with two outs on a pair of singles in the bottom of the third. This time, the Indians got out of the inning when second baseman Alaina Kinsall snagged a low line drive.

The Indians had the chance to increase their lead in the fourth. Caitlin Frampton, who went 2 for 3, hit a single, followed by a Lorelei Booth double. The runners were left stranded on a ground out to end the inning.

Baker led off the bottom of the sixth with a single by Kalin Davis and a double by Haley Marker. Keystone left fielder Ashlyn Brown caught a fly ball hit by Chloe Woods and then fired a throw into the infield to catcher Wagner, who recorded the put out on Davis' score attempt. Brown then recorded the third out of the inning when she caught another fly ball.

The Wildcats' Kara Davis reached on an error with two outs in the seventh, but Massey forced Brooklyn Davis to hit a ground ball to shortstop Channell for the final out.

Keystone followed the win by defeating visiting Trinity Christian 11-6 on March 10, with Channell driving in four runs.

Channell hit a two-run single as part of a seven-run second inning, which also included a two-run triple by Roach and RBI singles by Frampton and Kinsall.

Three Indians were perfect at the plate, with Channell going 3 for 3 and Kinsall and Wagner each going 2 for 2. Kinsall and Wagner each had one RBI.

Frampton and Roach each had two RBIs.

The Indians (4-4) will be back in action on Tuesday, March 21, when they host Oakleaf at 7 p.m.

UC softball team loses despite Young grand slam

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Tamia Young hit a grand slam as part of a late rally, but it wasn't enough as the Union County High School softball team lost 8-6 to host Suwannee on March 13.

The Tigers (2-7) trailed 7-1 before scoring four runs in the sixth. Campbell Webb, Mackenzie Orton and Hannah Rivera drew walks to load the bases, setting the stage for Young's big hit.

Suwannee took advantage of a couple of errors to score a run in the bottom of the sixth.

Webb hit an RBI double in the seventh, accounting for the final two-run margin.

Young and Hayley Burke each went 2 for 4. Young finished with four RBI, while Burke and Webb each had one.

During a March 4 tournament, Union defeated Lafayette 6-4, while losing 4-3 to Yulee.

In the win over Lafayette, Burke and Angela Tucker each hit an RBI single as part of a three-run third, while Tucker and Young each drove in a run as part of a three-run fourth.

Orton also had an RBI for the Tigers, who had just four hits.

Pitcher Lily Neal earned the win.

Against Yulee, Burke gave Union a 3-2 lead with an RBI single in the fifth, but the Hornets scored two runs in the sixth to take the win.

Leah Clark, who hit an RBI triple to help the Tigers go up 2-0, went 2 for 3.

Young had one RBI as well.

Pitcher Shyla Crowe gave up just two earned runs.

Union traveled to play Baker County on March 7, losing 11-1. The Tigers had only two hits and scored their only run on a couple of errors.

On March 9, visiting Ridgeview scored five runs in the fifth inning in handing the Tigers a 6-3 loss.

Burke, who went 2 for 3, hit an RBI to help Union take a 2-0 lead in the first, while a Crowe single made it 3-0 in the third.

The Tigers played Ridgeview this past Tuesday (March 14) and will host Williston on Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m.

GATORS

Continued from page 8

(Austin Armstrong). I think (the program is) going to be great for years to come. The Gators are definitely building something."

Covington, at 6-0, 203, was listed as a defensive back on

the BHS roster, but he started a game at inside linebacker and started multiple games at outside linebacker.

"His versatility in the back half of the defense is what sets him apart, in my opinion," Rodgers said.

Covington played at Gainesville High School in 2021, recording 72 tackles and five

sacks as a linebacker.

Rodgers said Covington returning to Bradford County was an asset for his team.

"He gave us a shot in the arm on defense," Rodgers said. "What he did was give us a lot of depth."

At GHS in 2021, Covington recorded 72 tackles and five sacks as a linebacker. He made 44

tackles and had one interception for Bradford last season.

Rodgers said one thing Covington will have to do when he gets to UF is to get in the weight room and get bigger and stronger. Covington added he has to focus on his ball skills as a defensive back, but then said he simply has to improve in everything.

"As a DB coming out of high school, I don't know everything," Covington said. "I'm not perfect at everything. I'm looking to just learn everything."

Rodgers said Covington may have thought some of the things he went through playing in high school were hard, but his experience will be nothing like what he's about to go through.

"Now, it's real," Rodgers said. "Now, you're the guy who gets beat up on every day, but what comes with that is a chance to make a name for yourself. Hopefully, Ahman will stick with it and do that."

Covington said, "I'm not going to put too much pressure on myself, but I'm definitely coming to work."

CLASSIFIEDS

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40 Notices

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OUT OF AREA CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTIONS
MOECKERS AUCTIONS
ONLINE AUCTION ONLY
Florida Spine and Joint Institute, LLC d/b/a IRISE Assignment for the benefit of Creditors Case No. CACE22-013385 Assets located in: Pompano Beach, FL 33069 The Florida Spine and Joint Institute, LLC (operating as IRISE) is upgrading its medical equipment and offering its current surplus items for sale at auction. Auction ends: Tues, March 21, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Auction will consist of: GE DEC Series 9800 Plus C-Scan X-ray Machines, Surgical Treatment Tables, Ultrasounds and more. Registration, catalog, photos and terms available at www.moeckersauctions.com Preview: 03/20 by appointment. Call for details (954) 252-2887 (800) 840-BIDS https://moeckersauctions.com/2023/02/22/florida-spine-and-joint-institute-llc-d-b-a-irise-3/ (No onsite attendance) AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin

Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors Case No. CACE-23-002032 Assets located in: Hollywood, FL 33060 Surplus Construction Equipment and Heavy Machinery Auction ends: Fri, March 24, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Auction will consist of: Caterpillar Skid Steer, Caterpillar Mini Excavator, Big Tex Dump Trailer, Ford F-250 Truck, Yale Forklift, Block Forklift, Hino Flatbed Truck, Gradall Telehandler, Komatsu Backhoe Front Loader, Vibratory Compactors, Power Tools, Scaffolding, 20' Storage Containers and more. Registration, catalog, photos and terms available at www.moeckersauctions.com/2023/02/20/j-stephens-construction-llc/ (No onsite attendance) AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin

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LPN PART-TIME needed 2 days a week. Contact David or Letty. 904-964-2747.

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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of March 16, 2023

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MID-FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 424
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 01666-0-00100
Case Number: 04-2023-TD-003
Description of Property: North West (NW 1/4) Quarter of the north East (NE) Quarter of the South West (SW 1/4) Quarter lying West of the Old Lawtrey and Kingsley Lake Road, and less the right of way of State Highway no. 121, in Section Twenty five (25) Township five (5) South Range Twenty Two (22) East and containing about six (6) Acres more or less.

Note: Less and except the following Deeds (outsales): ORB 40 Page 417, ORB 41 Page 489, ORB 61, Page 141, ORB 69 Page 241, ORB 74 Page 107, ORB 83, Page 266, ORB 128 Page 101, ORB 201, Page 423, ORB 203 Page 354, ORB 244, Page 246, ORB 273, Page 249, ORB 357 Page 243 and ORB 731 Page 311
Name in Which Assessed: LOUIS JOHNSON & BERTHA

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 04/19/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: Kanetra Jenkins
Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain necessary to redeem.

DATED: February 27, 2023
DATE OF PUBLICATION: MARCH 2, 2023; MARCH 9, 2023; MARCH 16, 2023; MARCH 23, 2023
3/2 4tchg 3/23-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No.: 04-2023-CP-21
Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARVIN RILEY CLARK

Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of MARVIN RILEY CLARK, deceased, whose date of death was July 14, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, 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 March 16, 2023.

Attorneys for Personal Representatives:
THOMAS M. DONAHO, JR.
Florida Bar No. 078530
MICHELLE MEDINA
Florida Bar No. 772623
Attorneys for Personal Representatives
DONAHO & MCMENAMY, P.A.
245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 150
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Telephone: (904) 354-8080
Fax: (904) 791-9563
Email: eservice@dmjxlaw.com
SHELDON CLARK
Co-Personal Representative
VICTORIA CLARK
Co-Personal Representative

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

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

CASE NUMBER: 04-2023-CA-0073
DIVISION:

DAWN D. MOTES and KELLY MIKE JAMES as
Co-Personal Representatives of the

Estate of Regina Joan Darling James, deceased,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
FLEET HOME EQUITY USA, INC., a Delaware corporation, successor by merger to FLEET FINANCE, INC., a Florida corporation, successor by merger to FLEET FINANCE AND MORTGAGE, INC., a Florida corporation, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST MARCELINE E. BROWN, deceased, and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES T. BROWN, deceased, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO DEFENDANTS UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST MARCELINE E. BROWN, deceased, and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES T. BROWN, deceased, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT AGAINST YOU TO QUIET TITLE TO THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

A Parcel of land situated in the Southeast One Quarter of the Southwest One Quarter of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said Parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a concrete monument at the most Westerly corner of Lot 20 of Keystone Club Estates Unit One Replat; as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 51 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida and run South 29 degrees 16 minutes 20 seconds East, along the Westerly line of said Keystone Club Estates Unit One Replat, 325.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence run South 60 degrees 43 minutes 40 seconds West, 530.55 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 89 degrees 45 minutes 55 seconds West, 248.43 feet to an iron pipe and the Point of Beginning; thence continue North 89 degrees 45 minutes 55 seconds West, 210.00 feet to an iron pipe on the Easterly right of way line of a County Road; thence run North 00 degrees 14 minutes 05 seconds East, along said Easterly right of way line 105.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence run South 89 degrees 45 minutes 55 seconds East, 210.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence run South 00 degrees 14 minutes 05 seconds East, 105.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

The above described Parcel of land being Lot 16 of Indian Lake Woods as surveyed by Joseph G. Knapp, Registered Land Surveyor and shown on a map of said Indian Lake Woods dated March 23, 1984 and revised April 25, 1984.

Reserving an easement for utilities over, under and across the Easterly 7.5 feet thereof. Subject to the Florida Power and Light Company right of way as described in Miscellaneous Book 8, Page 593 and Miscellaneous Book 9, Page 45 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida. Bradford County Parcel Identification Number: 05819-A-01600

[this space intentionally left blank]
You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukas, the Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 9th day of April, 2023, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiffs' attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED this 21st day of February, 2023.

Denny Thompson
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Published in: Bradford County Telegraph On (dates): 3/9, 3/16, 3/23 and 3/30, 2023.
By: K. Jenkins
Deputy Clerk

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to access court facilities or participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. 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. 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@court8.org

3/9 4tchg 3/30-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-0006
DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF CHRISTINA CLAYTON

Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of CHRISTINA CLAYTON, deceased, whose date of death was July 1, 2022; is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 04-2023-CP-0006; the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioners and the Petitioners' attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED 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 March 9, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
M. Aaron Dukas, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 124394
Dukas Legal, P.A.
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386-269-2394
Petitioner:
Elizabeth M. Potts
518 West Liberty Street, Apt. No. 117
Hubbard, Ohio 44425

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

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

CASE NO.: 04-2023-CP-10
ESTATE OF:
DALLAS AMBERODO SHELTON, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

If you have been served with a copy of this notice and you have any claim or demand against the decedent's estate even if that claim is unmaturred, contingent, or unliquidated, you must file your claim with the court, ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF A DATE THAT IS 3 MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF

THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent, or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the court ON OR BEFORE THE DATE THAT IS 3 MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702, FLORIDA STATUTES, WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

EVEN IF A CLAIM IS NOT BARRED BY THE LIMITATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE, ALL CLAIMS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN FILED WILL BE BARRED TWO YEARS AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DEATH.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is: March 9, 2023.

The date of death of the decedent is: August 21, 2022.

The address of the court where this probate is pending: 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091.
Vanessa Newton (FBN 641723)
Garry W. Crews (FBN 574791)
THE LAW OFFICES OF RON SHOLES, P.A.
9282 Atlantic Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32225
FamLawDocs@youthurwefight.com
(904) 805-1500
Attorney for Petitioner

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

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

PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 2023-CP-0011
Division: Probate

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CALVIN EDWIN HENLEY, JR., Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Calvin Edwin Henley, Jr., deceased, whose date of death was December 18, 2022, 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 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 CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 16, 2023.

Personal Representative
Carolyn Faye Hardenbrook
THE HINSON LAW FIRM, P.A.

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-0015
DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF STEPHEN M. POTTS

Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of STEPHEN M. POTTS, deceased, whose date of death was January 11, 2023; is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 04-2023-CP-0015; the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioners and the Petitioners' attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED 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 March 16, 2023.

Personal Representative
Matt@HinsonLawPA.com
Kathryn@HinsonLawPA.com
Attorney for Personal Representative

3/16 2tchg 3/23-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY

gives notice that on Tuesday, 03/28/2023 at 09:00 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 10875 US HWY 301 S HAMPTON, FL 32044 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

2facp3f1mx125118 Ford 1991
1g1e5sa5d1f135298 Chevy 2013
2g4ws52mxx1508018 Buick 1999
2mefm74v78x653711 Mercury 2008
1gnek13z94r301407 Chevy 2004
1ftyr14v8ypc03144 Ford 2000
2gcec19v851376877 Chevy 2005
5fml38657b125399 Honda 2007

This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 03/16/2023.

3/16 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-22
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF TRUMAN COLUMBUS STRONG, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of TRUMAN COLUMBUS STRONG, deceased, File Number 04-2023-CP-22, is pending in the Circuit Court for

Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is: March 9, 2023.

The date of death of the decedent is: August 21, 2022.

The address of the court where this probate is pending: 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091.
Vanessa Newton (FBN 641723)
Garry W. Crews (FBN 574791)
THE LAW OFFICES OF RON SHOLES, P.A.
9282 Atlantic Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32225
FamLawDocs@youthurwefight.com
(904) 805-1500
Attorney for Petitioner

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

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

PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 2023-CP-0011
Division: Probate

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CALVIN EDWIN HENLEY, JR., Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Calvin Edwin Henley, Jr., deceased, whose date of death was December 18, 2022, 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 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 CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 16, 2023.

Personal Representative
Carolyn Faye Hardenbrook
THE HINSON LAW FIRM, P.A.

3/16 2tchg 3/23-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO 63-2022 CP-043
In re THE ESTATE OF CLYDE RONALD SHORT, also known as CLYDE SHORT

Deceased.
NOTICE OF ACTION TO RONALD WRIGHT, IF ALIVE, AND IF DEAD, HIS UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES GRANTEEES, ADMINISTRATORS, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST RONALD WRIGHT OR AGAINST RONALD WRIGHT OR ANY OF THE FOREGOING UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PARTIES YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a petition for administration and a petition for authorization to sell real property, have been filed in the above-referenced court, with the above-referenced case style and caption, and you are required to serve any objections on Jennifer T Arrubla, the personal representative's attorney, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, within 3 months of the first publication of this notice of action, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the personal representative's attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise the Court in this action will consider and may grant the relief requested in either or both of the above-identified petitions.

Dated on February 15, 2023
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
Clerk of the Court
by K. Riggs
As Deputy Clerk

2/23 4tchg 3/16-UCT

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

PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-0011
Division: Probate

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CALVIN EDWIN HENLEY, JR., Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Calvin Edwin Henley, Jr., deceased, whose date of death was December 18, 2022, 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 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 CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is March 16, 2023.

Personal Representative
Carolyn Faye Hardenbrook
THE HINSON LAW FIRM, P.A.

3/16 2tchg 3/23-BCT

Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is: March 16, 2023.

The date of death of the decedent is: August 21, 2022.

The address of the court where this probate is pending: 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091.
Vanessa Newton (FBN 641723)
Garry W. Crews (FBN 574791)
THE LAW OFFICES OF RON SHOLES, P.A.
9282 Atlantic Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32225
FamLawDocs@youthurwefight.com
(904) 805-1500
Attorney for Petitioner

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO.: 63-2022-CP-0039
DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF ELTON N. THORNTON

Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ELTON N. THORNTON, deceased, whose date of death was October 13, 2022; is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 63-2022-CP-0039; the address of which is 55 West Main Street Lake Butler, Florida 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED 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 March 16, 2023.

Personal Representative
Paul Sanders, P.A.
Florida Bar No.: 557463
115 E. Call St. Starke, FL 32091
Telephone: 904/964-2323
TRUMAN CORDELL STRONG (Petitioner)
5102 NW 181st Way
Starke, Florida 32091

3/16 2tchg 3/23-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on April 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

2001 Kia Vin # KNDJB623715091099
2009 Toyota Vin# JTLKE50E091091379

3/16 2tchg 3/23-BCT

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

CareerSource Florida Crown will hold a Finance and Personnel Meeting Date: March 22, 2023 (Wednesday) Time: 11am
Place: Teleconference & CareerSource Board

Obituaries

Connie Davis

Mrs. Connie (Thornton) Davis, 73, of Lake Butler passed away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Haven Hospice in Lake City after an extended battle with Parkinson's disease. She was born on Feb. 11, 1950, in Starke to Carl and Beulah Green Thornton. She grew up in Starke and was a 1967 graduate of Bradford County High School. In 1969, she met the love of her life, Joe Davis, and the two soon married and moved to Lake Butler. In 1970, she went to work for the Department of Corrections and was employed there for 33 years until her retirement in 2003. After retirement, she enjoyed staying home to be a "Nana" to her grandkids. She loved gardening and tending to her flowers, especially her roses. She also enjoyed fishing and being on the river. She loved to talk and never met a stranger. She was a member of Lulu Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her siblings, Vernie, Cleo, Jimmy, and Joe Thornton, and Fay Albritton.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Joe Davis of Lake Butler; her daughter, Tiffany (Eric) Roseke of Lake Butler; grandchildren, Erica and Tifton Roseke of Lake Butler; and numerous extended family members.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, March 11, at her church, Lulu Baptist Church, with Brother Rick Wake officiating. The family received friends for a visitation on Friday, March 10, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008. www.ArcherFuneralHome.com



PAID OBITUARY

Carol Dyer

Carol Ann Dyer, 79, of Starke, passed away suddenly on Monday, March 6, 2023. She was born in Camden, New Jersey on Dec. 2, 1943, to the late Robert Henry Dyer and Kathryn Richardson Dyer. She graduated from Woodberry High School in New Jersey in 1962 and resided in New Jersey until 1982, when she relocated to Bradford County. She moved several times from Florida to New Jersey until finally making Florida her forever home. She loved being a mother more than anything and had great joy in raising her four children. She enjoyed her career as a babysitter and housekeeper and truly had a love and passion for all children. In her spare time, she enjoyed crafting, sewing, woodwork and yard selling. She was an avid Elvis Presley fan, who even had a room full of memorabilia in his honor. She was a devoted mother and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; loving companion, George Nichols; and her great-grandson, Zachary Turner.

She is survived by her children, Kimberly Howard of Brooker, John "Jack" (Beth) Woolvin of Keystone Heights, Dawn Shepherd of Starke, and Cheryl Woolvin of Lake Butler; brother, Robert (Vicki) Dyer of Elmer, New Jersey; sisters, Lois Moseley of Starke, Nancy DiLeo of New Jersey, Cheryl Molyneux of Vineland, New Jersey; 12 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

A private graveside Celebration of Life will be held at Santa Fe 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

Samuel Eunice

Samuel "Sammy" Hughy Eunice, 76, of Lawtey, went to his Heavenly home on Monday, March 13, 2023, at his residence with his loving family by his side. He was born in Lawtey on Feb. 8, 1947, to the late James Harold Eunice and Gertrude Godwin Eunice. He was a lifelong resident of Lawtey and graduated from Bradford High School in 1965. Shortly after school, he joined the United States Navy, where he proudly served our country in the Vietnam War for two tours.



Following his honorable discharge from the military, he started his longtime career in law enforcement. He met his best friend and forever companion, Martha Batten, in 1973 and they were happily married on Jan. 5, 1974. He was a devoted husband and loving father to his two sweet daughters and a loving grandfather and great-grandfather. He started his career in the Bradford County Jail as a Corrections Officer, then served as a Deputy for a few years until earning his position as a Lieutenant. He enjoyed 18½ years at the Bradford County Sheriff's Office and transferred to New River Correctional Institute where he worked another 12½ years. In 2001, he retired and spent his time taking care of his grandson. More than anything, he loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. He also enjoyed mornings at Granny's Country Cooking, being outdoors, tending to his lawn and chickens, and he was known for keeping his neighborhood, along with his community in Lawtey, safe as he was always patrolling the area. He was so loved by so many and will be greatly missed. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Harold Eunice and Gertrude Godwin Eunice; and his brothers, Jimmy Eunice, Gene Eunice, Julius Eunice, and Phil Eunice.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Martha Ann Batten Eunice of Lawtey; daughters, Tina (Joey) Gunter of Starke and Wendy (Daniel) Tanner of Boston, Georgia; brothers, Emory (Pat) Eunice of Williston and Roger (Sharon) Eunice of Tennessee; sister, Connie (Jay) Browder of Lawtey; grandchildren, Jason Eunice (Savannah Vivona); great-granddaughter, Raven Lynn Eunice; along with numerous extended family and friends.

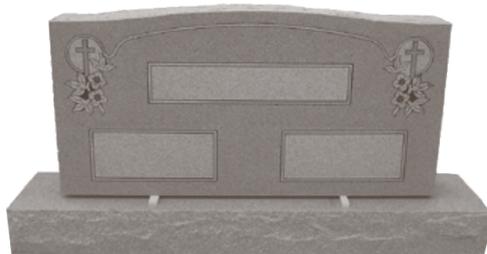
A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, March 17, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Lawtey with Pastor Tim Mulkey officiating. The family will receive friends on Friday from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at the church.

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

PAID OBITUARY

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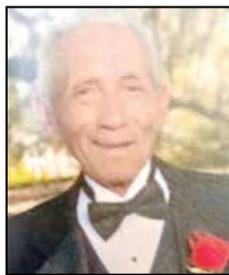
FL Lic. # F037700

Joe Harmon

Joe Curtis Harmon, 97, of Starke, passed away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at the E.T York Haven Hospice in Gainesville. He was born in Swainsboro, Georgia to the late Horace and Anna Grier. He retired after 45 years as a heavy equipment machinist with Hercules Power Inc. as well as serving in the USO. He was preceded in death by his wife, Myrtice Christine Harmon; and son, Clifford Eugene Harmon.

Left to cherish his memories are his children, JoAnne Wilkerson, Walter "Chick" Harmon, James "Jim" Harmon, LuAnn Harmon, Myrtice Jenkins, Sheree LuGrand, Samantha Harmon and Tina Petteway; his brother-in-law, Hosie Williams; numerous grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; and friends.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 17, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel/Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke. 904-964-7905 The Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 18, at 2:30 p.m. at the Charley E. Johns Conference Center, 1610 N. Temple Ave., Starke. Interment to follow at Oddfellow Cemetery under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc. The Cortège will form at the home of the late Mr. Joe C. Harmon, 1504 Estelle St., Starke, on Saturday, March 18, at 2 p.m.



PAID OBITUARY

Nancy Moody

Nancy Joyce Moody, 80, of Starke, died on Friday, March 10, 2023, at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville.

She is survived by her children, Tim (Pam) Moody of Starke, and Jeff (Kem) Moody of Gainesville; five grandchildren; five siblings; and extended family members.

A Celebration of Life was Wednesday, March 15, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel in Starke with her son Jeff Moody officiating. Interment followed at Kingsley Lake Cemetery.

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



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

UCHS

Continued from page 9

runners at the corners. One out later, Stafford scored on a wild pitch. Luke Stucky then hit an RBI single to make it a two-run game.

The Tornadoes had two runners on after Avery Burgin walked. Stucky advanced to third on a wild pitch before Union

pitcher Clayton Poppell recorded a strikeout to end the game.

Johnson and Stucky finished 2 for 2 and 2 for 4, respectively.

Bradford starting pitcher Cason Pilcher struck out six in four innings.

Union entered the game off a 12-0, six-inning win over host Gainesville on March 7, with starting pitcher Diggs giving up two hits and two walks, while striking out eight in five innings.

Carson Rogers pitched the

final inning, giving up no hits and no walks, while striking out one.

The Tigers had a seven-run fifth inning that saw Riggs Davis hit an RBI single and Hardee drive in a run on a sacrifice fly. Miller drew a bases-loaded walk, while Union also scored runs on two passed balls, a wild pitch and an error.

Five of Union's eight hits occurred in a four-run sixth inning. Agner, Elixson, Lee and

Preston Bonsall each hit an RBI single.

Elixson finished with two RBI, while Diggs went 2 for 3.

Union played Dunnellon this past Monday (see related story).

Bradford (1-6) played Hamilton County on March 14 and Belleview on March 15. The Tornadoes host Middleburg on Thursday, March 16, at 7 p.m. and travel to play Columbia on Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m.

PAID OBITUARY

SIGN

Continued from page 9

outfielders.

"She shows up with a good attitude," Smith said, adding, "The grind over the year can take a toll on you, but being around someone who keeps it as light and as fun as Hayley is always a great time."

Burke admitted it was hard to put into words when asked what she thinks it'll feel like when she steps onto the field for the first time at Florida Gateway College.

"I can't describe it," she said. "I don't know. I'm just excited."

Hailey Rivera said she is excited, of course, about the chance to continue playing softball, but admitted she's also nervous about the prospect of moving on from high school.

That nervousness doesn't mean she isn't looking forward to it.

"I'm ready to start this chapter," she said. "I'm ready to start playing in college."

What adds to the excitement level for her and her twin sister, Hannah, is that they get to play college ball together.

"It's very special," Hailey said. "I feel very blessed that I get to play with her."

Hannah said, "I'm really excited about going to the next level with my sister. She's one of my biggest supporters."

The thought of taking the opportunity to go their separate ways never crossed their minds.

"Ever since we started softball, we knew if we got a

scholarship, it was going to be together," Hannah said. "We're best friends. We're always right there together."

Hailey said, "We had to be at the same college."

The sisters, who currently play the corners in the infield, began playing at the age of 8. Hailey, who batted .317 as a junior and was second on the team with 26 RBI, said, "Our dad did it. Our mom did it. We were just interested in it. Once we started playing, we found joy. We really like playing with each other."

Hannah, who batted .245 with eight RBI last season, said, "Ever since then, I was like, 'I'm going to go to college.' I've finally got the opportunity. It's just one of the best feelings."

Smith said it's obvious to see how passionate the sisters are about the sport by watching them.

"They come out, and they work hard," he said. "They do things the right way. I've seen them have balls taken off the shin, shoulder, chest and maybe even the mouth once or twice, but they never shy away from it. They're tough. They play hard."

"They're always doing it, for the most part, with a smile on their face. It's always great to see people enjoy the game."

Godwin said he wasn't sure how the sisters would mesh with the rest of the team when they transferred from Gainesville, but he said they fit right in. He said all of his seniors are "great friends."

Hailey said to make a successful transition to playing at the next level, she needs to be

smart when making plays and to work hard and challenge herself to do her best. Hannah said she wants to focus on her hitting, saying it "just needs to be on a high level."

As to what it'll be like to be on the field for the first time at Florida Gateway, Hailey said, "I'm going to be really excited. I'll feel like I made it. My dream has come true. I'm playing on a college field. It's going to be very exciting."

Hannah said, "I'll be really nervous because it'll be a different atmosphere, a different feeling. The coach is going to be different, but I'm also very excited about it. It's going to be like a new chapter."

In the end, Clark couldn't turn back on playing softball

Clark told Godwin a couple of years ago that she didn't want to play softball in college. However, the more she thought about it, the more she knew that she couldn't walk away from the sport after high school.

"Softball's always been 24/7 for me, so there was a time where I was going to hang it up," Clark said, "but I came to the realization that I didn't know what I was going to do without softball. I knew I was going to play in college. I wasn't going to hang it up just yet."

Now, she couldn't be happier that she's got the chance to play for the College of Central Florida.

"It's a dream I've had since I was a little girl," Clark said. "I always wanted to play college softball."

Clark likes the fact she's going to a school close to home. She also likes the coaches at Central Florida and the fact that even though it's a junior college program, it's a high-level program. Central Florida won the FCSAA State/NJCAA South Atlantic District A championship last year to advance to the

NJCAA Division I National Tournament.

"The softball there is very good" Clark said.

The shortstop is coming off a junior year in which she was third on the team with a .397 batting average. She led the team in RBI (33) and triples (5) and hit six doubles and one home run. She had 16 stolen bases.

Clark led the team in batting average during her COVID-shortened freshman season at .529 and led the team again as a sophomore with a .541 average. She led the team as a sophomore in RBI (26), doubles (6), triples (5), home runs (3) and stolen bases (31).

It didn't take long for Clark to impress Godwin, who said, "As a ninth-grader, she was the most fundamentally sound infielder I've seen. Now, she's a senior. She's only gotten better."

Godwin said he and his staff, like with Tucker and Young, have been working with Clark on increasing her power at the plate. If a recent batting practice is any indication, the work is paying off as she hit 22 balls over the fence.

"She's going to hit a lot of home runs for us this year," Godwin said.

Hitting is something Clark said she wants to continue to work on when she gets to Central Florida. She expects to face a high level of pitching.

As for whether or not she wants to keep playing after two years at the junior college level, she said, "We'll see how it goes. I don't know yet." All she knows is she made the decision to keep playing immediately after high school and is looking forward to the opportunity.

"I think it's going to be emotional," Clark said of taking to the field for the first time as a college player, "but I'm excited for the next level."

Godwin believes the Central Florida Patriots should be excited, too.

"I'm not lying when I say they stole a Division I player," he said.

Dewey Taylor Jr.

Elder Dewey Taylor Jr. of Starke quietly slipped away on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Elder Taylor leaves to cherish his memories, his children, Robert Taylor, Rosalyn Taylor (Reynard) Currington, Timothy Sr., Keith (Yaneisha), and Kevin Taylor; one brother, Jeffery Conaway; one sister, Jenny Salami; 18 grandchildren; and a host of other close family and friends.

Public visitation will be held Friday, March 17, at Phillip & Sons The Funeral Directors, 310 SR 26, Melrose, 32666, from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m. A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, March 18, at 12 p.m. at New Bethel Baptist Church, 901 Keller St., Starke. Family and friends are asked to assemble at 105 Harutha St., Starke, at 11 a.m. to form the cortège. The family will gather for a Rite of Committal at Oddfellow Cemetery.

Arrangements by Phillip & Sons The Funeral Directors, 310 SR 26, Melrose, 32666. 352-475-2000.

PAID OBITUARY

Shirley Thomas

Shirley Elizabeth Thomas, 87, of Lake Butler, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at her home. She was born on May 6, 1935, in Jacksonville to Ashford Travis Jordan and Violet Reyes. She grew up and lived in St. Augustine and was a 1953 graduate of Ketterlinus High School. She lived in Jacksonville for about 40 years until moving to Lake Butler 30 years ago. She worked for the Duval County School Board until her retirement. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

She was a longtime Sunday School teacher and served on the Building and Planning Committee for her church, Sardis Baptist Church. She was a past Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star #42 of Lake Butler and a member of the Starke Shrine Club. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 56 years, Henry Eugene Thomas; and her sister, Margot Reid.

She is survived by her children, Deborah (Richard) Bittner of St. Augustine, Donna (Stephen) Crutchfield of St. Augustine, Carolyn (Jack) Keefe of Green Cove Springs, and Richard (Wendy) Thomas of St. Augustine; her grandchildren, Laura Kern, Mathew and Nicholas Thomas, Jared and Benjamin Bittner, and Christopher and Thomas Crutchfield; great-grandchildren, Lily and Maverick Thomas; her sister, Thelma Ford of St. Augustine; and numerous extended family.

A funeral to honor her life will be held on Saturday, March 18, at 10 a.m. at her church, Sardis Baptist Church, in Worthington Springs. The family will receive friends for a visitation on Friday, March 17, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008. www.ArcherFuneralHome.com

PAID OBITUARY



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Maddie and Wyatt Thompson

Miller, Thompson wed March 4

Madeline “Maddie” Mae Miller and Carson Wyatt Thompson were wed in holy matrimony on March 4, 2023, at 5 p.m. The Rev. Josh Reinken officiated the marriage at The Club Continental in Orange Park.

A rehearsal dinner was held at Santioni’s Italian Restaurant on March 3.

Maddie is the daughter of Kevin and Noele Miller of Starke. She is the granddaughter of John and Anne Miller of Starke, Robert and Dona Hodges of Cumming, Georgia, and Renee and Donald Castro of Mountain Home, Arkansas. She attended Florida State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. Maddie currently works at the Florida Department of Health-St. John’s County, where she’s been a medical case manager for one year.

Wyatt is the son of Denny Thompson and Pammy and Tommy Jones. He is the grandson of the late Jean Geraldine and John Bennie Sapp, the late Clyde Dennis and Joan Valerie Thompson, and the late Lois “Betty” Elizabeth King and late Paul Leonard King. Photos and candles were placed in

memory of the groom’s departed grandparents. He attended the University of North Florida, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications, with a concentration in Public Relations. Wyatt currently works at Southeastern Grocers, where he’s been a communication specialist for 4.5 years.

Emily Nichols of Tallahassee served as Maid of Honor. Bridal attendants included Macey Donelenko of Gainesville, Mallory Donelenko of Gainesville, Makayla Neel (second cousin of the bride) of St. Petersburg, Kylie Moran of Hampton and Brianna Moore of Keystone Heights.

Cameron Moore of Keystone Heights served as Best Man. Groom attendants included R.J. Buxton of Melbourne, Justin Jordan of Keystone Heights, Ben Miller (brother of the bride) of Starke and Sean Powell of Tallahassee.

The couple honeymooned for six days in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, at the Secrets Cap Cana Resort & Spa. Wyatt and Maddie reside in Jacksonville with their dog, Mia.

Vernon earns rosette in fair’s Home Division

Cecilia Vernon earned a best-overall rosette in needlework, garments and needlecrafts in the Home Division at the Bradford Agricultural Fair.

Vernon’s exhibit was a rabbit carrying a basket of carrots, which earned her a blue ribbon in the holiday theme class. She also earned additional blue ribbons in the classes of pillowcases, towels, scarves, etc. and miscellaneous, while receiving a red ribbon in the pillow class.

Lisa Brannon and Carol Wise each earned three blue ribbons in needlework, garments and needlecrafts — Brannon in the baby afghan, lap robe and accessories classes and Wise in the quilts (machine-made), pillowcases and miscellaneous classes.

Sharon Carter earned two blue ribbons in needlework, garments and needlecrafts in the holiday and miscellaneous classes and a red ribbon in foods for relish.

The following earned one blue ribbon each in needlework, garments and needlecrafts: Abigail Cook (pillows) and Teresa Morgan (miscellaneous).

Apphia Cook earned a white



Cecilia Vernon’s rabbit earned her the best-overall rosette in the Bradford Agricultural Fair’s home division. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

ribbon in needlework, garments and needlecrafts (pillows).

The following earned one blue ribbon each in foods: Courtney Crawford (yeast bread), Jennifer Hoffman (jams and fruit butters), Amy Robinson (layer cake) and Edythe Robinson (jams and fruit butters).



Thomas has top entry in Very Berry Bake Off

Junior-division participant Ava Lynn Thomas earned the best-overall award in the Bradford County 4-H Very Berry Bake Off, which was held March 3 at the county’s Extension office.

The event, which is held prior to the official opening of

the Bradford Agricultural Fair, allows participants to create pies/cakes, cupcakes, cookies, candies/dipped or breads, with the requirement that the item contains strawberries.

Thomas earned first place in the junior division (ages 8-10) with a strawberry pound cake.

Judges selected her cake as the top overall entry regardless of age division.

Kierstyn McKenzie earned first place in the intermediate division (ages 11-13) with strawberry cheesecake cookies and strawberry cheesecake-stuffed strawberries. Kaitlyn McKenzie earned first place in the senior division (ages 14-19) with strawberry shortcake and chocolate-covered strawberries that were decorated to look like cows and pigs.

The junior division consisted of two participants in all, with Mattilyn Kerce earning the second-place rosette and a red ribbon for red-velvet cupcakes with strawberries and cherries.

Five besides Kierstyn McKenzie competed in the intermediate division. The second-place rosette went to Hailey Griffis for a vanilla cake with strawberry icing and strawberries on top. Cayman Brown earned the third-place rosette for a strawberry pie. The division also consisted of Landon Brown (strawberry jam shortbread cookies), Ethan Kerce (strawberry bread with cream cheese) and Natalie Thames (strawberry shortcake).

Kaitlyn McKenzie was the senior division’s only participant. Ansley Smith and Callie Smith



Ava Lynn Thomas, who competes in the 4-H junior division (ages 8-10), received the best-overall award for her strawberry pound cake in the Bradford County 4-H Very Berry Bake Off. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

participated as Clover Buds — 4-H members who are 5-7 years old. Their entries weren’t judged, but being allowed to participate as Clover Buds gives them experience that will benefit them in the future when they’re old enough to begin competing in the junior division.

Ansley Smith made strawberry shortcakes, while Callie Smith made strawberry bread.



Besides Ava Lynn Thomas, five earned rosettes for first-, second- or third-place finishes within their age divisions. Mattilyn Kerce (front) earned second place in the junior division. Pictured behind her (l-r) are: Kierstyn McKenzie (first place, intermediate), Kaitlyn McKenzie (first place, senior), Hailey Griffis (second place, intermediate) and Cayman Brown (third place, intermediate).

BHS Continued from page 8

undersized by college football standards, but as he put it, “The majority of people who play in high school, their story is being undersized. If we were all 6-6, 350, we’d all make it.”

So what will help them make it? Rodgers said for Bowen, it’s his non-stop motor. The coach described the linebacker as a “fireball,” who went full speed in practices as well as in games.

“His tenacity and how hard he gets after it — that’s what’ll set him apart,” Rodgers said. “He’ll get a chance to play.”

Rodgers said coaches love those guys who go full speed because even if they make mistakes, they’re often still in position to impact a play.

Bowen, though, was usually right where he needed to be.

“He really studied,” Rodgers said. “He really took the time to know what we were trying to do game plan-wise. He then set it in motion with just how hard he played.”

Rodgers said what Cook possesses are intelligence and versatility, referring to the fact Cook also played receiver as well as line up as a returner on special teams.

“Very rarely can you be able to put a kid at a position on offense, a position on defense and then in the return game on special teams and him be the smartest player on the field every single time,” Rodgers said. “He’d know what we were looking for and what we wanted to do in certain situations every time.”

Cook said in choosing Lake Erie, it came down to comfort. He’s traveling a long way from his family in Bradford County, but he said he feels as if he’s gaining another one.

“They head coach and the other coaches on the staff — they just felt like family to me. They made it feel like home,” Cook said, adding, “(The players) made it seem as if they were happy there, that it was a good team and a great fit for everybody. It was just an all-around great experience while I was there.”

Bowen had similar feelings when it came to choosing Thomas Moore. In fact, he refers to the university as “home.”

He admitted he’s a little nervous about leaving Bradford County and going to another state, but it’s an experience his

family says will benefit him.

“It’ll be something new for me to go and explore,” Bowen said. “My dad and my mom think I should go somewhere far just to explore life, so I’m going, and I’m sticking to it.”

“I feel like God has got me wherever I go.”

Bowen said being a success at the college level will take the same effort it took for him to be a success in high school.

“I just need to remain humble,” Bowen said. “I just need to keep working and keep grinding. I know if I keep doing that, then I’m going to be special.”

For Cook, it’s working hard, but also putting God first.

“Just keep my head down, stay focused and keep God first,” he said. “With Him on my side, there isn’t anything I can’t do.”

It may be a new level, but Cook said when he steps onto the field for the first time at Lake Erie, it simply comes down to playing football.

“It’s going to be great, but I feel like nothing should change,” he said. “Just do the same thing and show out.”

It may come down to just being football, but Bowen is eager to give it a go at a higher level.

“I hope that it feels great,” he said. “It’ll be a new journey for me.”



Luna set to be a Carthage Firebird

Luna has battled injuries, so his road to becoming a college signee wasn’t an easy one, but if he’s proven anything, it’s that he knows how to persevere.

“I don’t know if I’ve seen a guy play through more injuries than he played through this year,” Rodgers said. “There were a lot of times where he probably shouldn’t have been playing, but he kept coming up and saying, ‘Coach, I want to play.’”

Now, the offensive lineman gets a chance to play at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

“It’s a great feeling,” Luna said. “I’m glad that I’ve got the chance to do it. I’m so ready to go. I’m ready to go to work and just be at a different level and see what it’s about.”

Luna said in talking with current Carthage players, he got the sense that it was a good program to be a part of. He also likes the business program the school offers.

“I think it’s the best choice for me,” he said.

Luna said his mother keeps telling him how he’s going to be “super far” and up in the “freezing cold,” but he’s

obviously not one to back down from any challenges.

“It’s going to be tough, for sure, but I’m going to get it done,” he said.

Rodgers said Luna isn’t the biggest lineman, but for Bradford, he was one who was relentless.

“He was nasty and would not give in,” Rodgers said. “The defensive lineman knew he was there. At the end of the night, they were tired of dealing with number 58.”

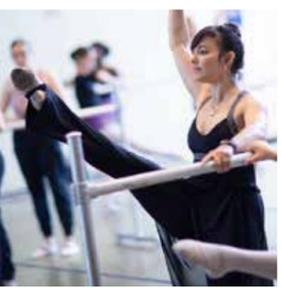
Rodgers said Luna will have to get in the weight room and get bigger to play at the next level. Luna added he also needs to work on improving his quickness in his hands and his feet.

Any improvements will complement his already present tenacity.

“If everybody was as tough as Jayden Luna, you’d be hard to beat,” Rodgers said.

In looking toward taking to the field for the first time as a Carthage Firebird, Luna said, “I think I’m going to love it. I can’t wait. I keep talking to my parents about the same thing: I can’t wait. I can’t wait. I can’t wait. The atmosphere’s going to be so crazy. I just can’t wait.”

“It’s going to be so much fun.”



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