



Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, March 7, 2024

145th year, 34th Issue — \$1

New fire station phase begins in Speedville

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County officials broke ground on new living quarters for Speedville's Station 10 during a March 4 ceremony.

Fire Chief Ben Carter led the ceremony, saying the new facility will impact residents of southern Bradford County.

"This facility will house our dedicated fire rescue personnel, ensuring they have the necessary amenities and a comfortable living space to serve our community better," he said. "We're truly excited about this project's positive impact on our fire station and the vital services we provide."

The chief lauded Keystone Heights R.V. Park proprietor Vincent Esson for funding the addition to the station.

Last month, the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce named Esson's facility the Chamber Business of the Year.

"His commitment to community welfare and public safety is truly commendable, and I'm honored to have him as a steadfast partner in our mission to protect and serve," Carter said.

The chief said the project is a prime example of the private and public sectors working together to meet the needs of residents.

"The collaborative effort between the private sector represented by Mr. Esson and our local government, spearheaded by the county commission and county manager, showcases the power of community partnerships," he said. "It is a shining example of what can be achieved when individuals and organizations join forces for a common cause, the betterment of our community."

Carter said the living quarters will have a profound impact on residents. He added that Bradford County's dedicated team of firefighters and paramedics will use the additional resources to improve service to residents.



Bradford County Fire Rescue Operations Captain Kevin Mobley, County Manager Scott Kornegay, Vincent Esson, Chief Dylan Rodgers, County Commissioner Danny Riddick, County Chair Carolyn Spooner, County Commissioner Diane Andrews, Economic Development Chair Patricia Evans, Economic Development Executive Director Amber Shepherd, Fire Chief Ben Carter and North Florida Regional Chamber President Pam Whittle.



"When I came to this community, I didn't know anybody," Vincent Esson said. "The community supported me, and I'm just here to pay it back."



Fire Chief Ben Carter said the living quarters will have a profound impact on residents. He added that Bradford County's dedicated team of firefighters and paramedics will use the additional resources to improve service to residents.

See FIRE, page 8

Report cites code violations and conflict of interest

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

A report issued by the State Attorney's Office concluded that Union County Coordinator Jimmy Williams violated Florida building codes and Union County Land Development Regulations while building a home under his building contractor's license and that his actions should be investigated by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. The prosecutor also reported that William's actions might be a conflict of interest and should be reported to the Florida Commission of Ethics. State Attorney Brian Kramer also said there might be a violation of Florida Statute in that Williams did not pay for his power pole permit when he received it and

that he may have violated or caused others to violate in the area of official misconduct.

Union County Commissioners responded to the report by calling a special meeting on Feb. 5. In that meeting, commissioners agreed to wait 30 days for Williams to respond to the report and other claims made by community members.

Questions surrounding Williams's conduct began when Lindsey Reddish, a private citizen, sent a group email to all of the commissioners, Union County Property Appraiser Bruce Dukes, and Union County Attorney Russ Wade.

Kramer's investigators interviewed Reddish, who stated that she had been advised that Williams had allegedly waived a zoning application fee for

Tom Jenkins.

Reddish said she opposed the proposed re-zoning because she felt it would affect her family. In the process, she said she received a video and some pictures of the house Williams was building, and the photos showed a permit in the job box of a permit from an old project Williams was building in 2022. Reddish said she began her investigation based on these materials and discovered that records showed that Williams had not secured a permit for his current project and had not registered a notice of commencement. She said she felt that there was a conflict of interest since Williams was over the building department.

Williams's attorney contradicted this claim during a county commission

meeting by saying Williams has no authority over the building department and only handles planning, zoning, and land development regulations.

Kramer's investigators also talked to then-County Commissioner Ryan Perez, Building Department Secretary Denise Clemons, Board Secretary Diane Hannon, and Building Administrator Wilson Whidden.

Whidden said Williams may have used poor judgment but had not done anything wrong.

The matter is not over, as Williams' attorney requested time to gather a defense to the accusations and present it to the board. This will happen in a special meeting scheduled for March 11 at 5 p.m. Currently, Williams is suspended with pay until the matter is resolved.



Demolition of the Murphy USA gas station in front of Walmart will make way for — a new Murphy USA gas station. The upgrade, according to Starke's building office will include a walk-in convenience store instead of a walk-up kiosk. Across the street, construction of the new Zaxby's restaurant is also underway. In town, construction began on Wawa and Elliano's has been gutted for its remodel.



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WORTH NOTING

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, March 12 and 26, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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

Early voting begins

Early voting for the Republican Presidential Primary begins Saturday, March 9, and continues through Sunday, March 17, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily in the commission meeting room in the north wing of the Bradford County Courthouse. Polling locations will be open on the day of the primary, Tuesday, March 19, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In Union County, early voting is open from Saturday, March 9, through Saturday, March 16, at 175 W. Main St. in Lake Butler. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Polling precincts on primary day will be open on March 19 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In Clay County, Keystone Heights City Hall will be open for early voting from Friday, March 8, to Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Polling precincts on primary day will be open on March 19 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Prayer Walk planned

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

Go to the 50s for dinner

Faith Presbyterian Church is hosting a Back to the 50s Dinner on Saturday, March 9, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at Faith Treasures at the Midway Farmers Market. Dress up for the occasion is encouraged. The church is located at 2738 S.R. 21 in Melrose.

Evangelist Miller at Bradford Baptist

Bradford Baptist Church (located on S.R. 100, 1.3 miles east of U.S. 301) welcomes evangelist Chris Miller during its 6 p.m. service on Sunday, March 10.

For more information, please call Pastor Rick Jackson at 904-964-3708.



Educator of the Month

February 2024



We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **Bradford High School!**
William Vidal

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



10 - 10 - 10 GOOD SAM RATED PARK
Keystone Heights RV Resort
1177 SE Keystone Ave,
Keystone Heights, FL 32856
(352) 645-4930




We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **Keystone Heights High School!**
Julie Blank

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Whitton Roofing Co.
275 Fox Run Rd,
Keystone Heights, FL 32856
(352) 478-8962

WHITTON ROOFING CO.




We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **Union County High School!**
Kelly Dorsey

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



11629 SW 42nd St,
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(352) 538-3599

Robby Worrell Construction LLC
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We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **McRae Elementary!**
Debbie Walker

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown




BWS Homes
Brandon Smith
Residential Contractor
352-562-5180




We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **Bradford Elementary!**
Vivian Ramseur

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Taylor's Concrete Solutions
7099 NW 180th St
Stark, FL 32091
(904) 759-1560




We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **North Florida Technical College!**
Lisa Gault

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Michael Hardde Timber
26937 US HWY 301 N
Lawtey, FL 32058
(904) 364-8907




We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **Hope Christian Academy!**
Kiana Kennedy

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown





We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **Lake Butler Middle School!**
Aaron Tetstone

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Nutrition Hideaway
275 W Main St Suite B,
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(386) 496-9008




We are **proud** to sponsor the educator of the month at **Starke Elementary!**
Kristin Furneaux

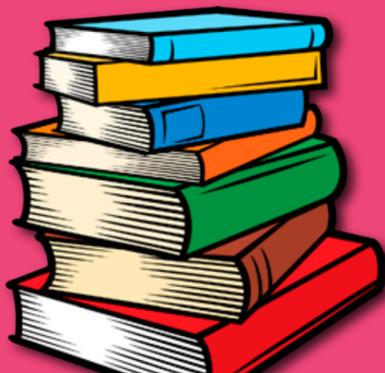
“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Ford's Land Clearing
10634 SE 38th Ave,
Starke, FL 32091
(352) 260-2387



“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning”
- Brad Henry



Small businesses are the backbone of local economies.

Educator of the Month

February 2024



We are *proud* to sponsor the educator of the month at **Keystone Heights Elementary!**
Amber Kelowitz

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Santa Fe Gutter (352) 478-5617




We are *proud* to sponsor the educator of the month at **Melrose Elementary!**
Miriam Kestner

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Dr. Nancy Short, Chiropractor
100 SE Nightingale St,
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(904) 778-6859




We are *proud* to sponsor the educator of the month at **Keystone Heights JR High School!**
Kristi Morgan

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



Kane's Draft Service, Inc.
335 NE Commercial Cir,
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(888) 478-2420




We are *proud* to sponsor the educator of the month at **Lawtey Elementary!**
Makayla Elixson

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



131 W Call St,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-6305




We are *proud* to sponsor the educator of the month at **Lake Butler Elementary!**
Maria Kish

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



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10% OFF FOR ALL TEACHERS!

40 E Main St,
Lake Butler, FL 32054
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We are *proud* to sponsor the educator of the month at **Bradford Middle School!**
Jason Ramirez

“Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions.”
-Unknown



18435 US-301,
Starke, FL 32091
(352) 478-9960

DOWN TO EARTH
Land Management LLC



Providence Christian Academy
will be featured next week on **March 14th!**



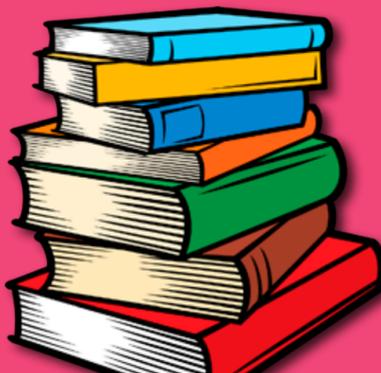
WITHOUT LOCAL BUSINESSES, THERE WOULD NOT BE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

Brooker Community School
will be featured next week on **March 14th!**



Brooker
Community School

“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning”
- Brad Henry



Small businesses are the backbone of local economies.

Harvesters Quartet sing

Lifeline Ministries is hosting the Harvesters Quartet of Sanford, North Carolina, on Saturday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. All are invited. There is no cost to attend. An offering will be received for the group.

Homecoming at Johnstown Baptist

Johnstown Baptist Church annual homecoming celebration is Sunday, March 10. The church is celebrating 76 years. Morning service

will start at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served following the morning service.

Everyone is welcome for a day of preaching, singing and fellowship. There will be an evening service around 2 p.m.

3 fire stations building living quarters

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay lauded the county's public-private partnership with Vincent Esson and the Keystone Heights RV Resort, which will help turn Station 10 into a fully functioning fire rescue hub.

Esson approached the commission last year with an offer to build living quarters at no cost to the county. A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 4.

Stationing a crew at the Speedville station will improve firefighting and EMS coverage for the RV resort and southern end of Bradford County.

Station 10 was completed and dedicated to the former tax collector, the late Teila Norman Pearson, in 2019. Pearson helped found a satellite office in the area that was moved into Station 10, which was built on land donated by Santa Fe College. Since the dedication, the satellite office has been up and running in Speedville, but the lack of a separate living quarters has prevented a full-time fire rescue team from being stationed there.

Officials were pleased with the turnout and public support for the groundbreaking on Monday.

"The turnout was phenomenal," the county manager said. "I really didn't expect that level of support from the community."

Kornegay said construction will be in full swing within a couple of weeks, thanking Esson once again.

"A lot of people are unaware that this is not costing the county anything. It's fully funded by private dollars," he said.

County Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner also expressed gratitude to Esson and excitement that progress is being made on the unfinished project. She also thanked Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter and his employees, saying they deserve it.

Commissioner Danny Riddick has championed the Speedville station from the beginning. He shared his gratitude and excitement for this next phase.

"I can't wait to get it done and use those buildings for what they were designed to be used for and that's to help people and save lives," he said.



Benjamin Vanwagner joins Chief Ben Carter in tossing some dirt at the groundbreaking for Station 10's living quarters.

Theresa and Sampson City

Similar improvements at other stations will be paid for by the state. Sheriff Gordon Smith

obtained a legislative allocation to expand and improve the station at Heilbronn Springs when he was over the fire department. Carter has since sought and received permission to use the remaining \$789,000 to add living quarters to the Station 20 in Theresa and Station 50 in Sampson City.

According to the proposal he submitted, Carter said, "There are currently 'construction site office' type buildings that are functioning at both sites. ... These portable style buildings have been on site since 2019 and are not a sustainable solution for housing personnel long term. The ultimate goal of the project is to remove these portable buildings and construct 'brick and mortar' living quarters."

In addition to improved living conditions, Carter stated the project would enhance public safety and disaster preparedness and response from more energy efficient structures.

The current deadline for the project is June 2025.

In other business, the commission:

—approved acceptance of a \$78,000 state grant to provide employee training and automated CPR devices for Bradford County Fire Rescue.

—approved spending \$40,000 in Tourist Development Tax revenue on a MERV — an emergency medical response cart that can maneuver through crowds at festivals and other public events. The tourist, or bed, tax is the 4% added to the bill for overnight accommodations lasting fewer than six months, so they are generally paid by visitors, not residents.

Bed tax revenue is usually used to promote local events to create more tourism in Bradford County, which in turn brings revenue to businesses. Visible public safety also makes people feel better coming to the county, according to the TDC request. Pam Whittle said it will be used even more as visitation increases.

"To me, it's reassuring to invite somebody over and they know they'll come into a safe place," she said.

Bradford County Fire Rescue has two aging MERV units from 2001 and 2008. The first was acquired from the former Keystone Heights volunteer firefighters and the second was purchased with grant funding.

Permit for proposed boat ramp questioned again

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

A resident and member of the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District continues to urge the county commission and its engineer to change its plan to place a boat ramp at Cypress Run.

Paul Still has approached the commission several times to say the plan to dredge and construct a new boat ramp is unlikely to be permitted. Each time he has proposed a simpler alternative.

On March 5, Still told commissioners that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection had returned a permit application seeking additional information and detailed answers about the project.

Rather than push forward, Still once again asked the commission to change course and consult an engineer other than DRMP.

According to Still's calculation, less than \$5,000 remains to pay the engineer to provide the significant amount of information needed for DEP to

review the permit.

In addition, Still said the county needs to request more time from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission since the deadline for completion is at the end of June.

"I think it's very important that the county determine whether they're going to proceed with DRMP or whether they need to go out and find another firm to complete this project. It would be a real shame to lose the opportunity to put in a boat ramp there at Cypress Run," Still said.

Still continues to suggest an alternative he says would not require a dredging permit. Getting that "404 permit" was further complicated by a recent district court ruling, which found that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acted illegally when turned Clean Water Act permitting over to the state. The state is challenging that ruling, but Still said the chance of getting the permit needed to carry out DRMP's plan is in "significant limbo," at least for

the near future.

Rather than dredge a new location, Still has advocated removing vegetation from an existing canal. This maintenance dredging will not require a permit, he said. The county could then build a simple boat ramp with pervious parking that won't require a retention pond.

"You'd have a really nice, easily fundable project. But if you continue to seek this high-end project that DRMP has put in place, I think you're going to essentially walk away with nothing," Still said.

In other business: —County Manager Scott Kornegay addressed the expiration of engineering services contracts and received the board's approval to advertise a request for qualifications from engineering firms. In addition to DRMP, the county also has services contracts with CHW Professional Consultants and Jones Edmunds.

Santa Fe College hosting open house

Prospective students and their families are invited to Santa Fe College's Northwest Campus Saturday, March 23, for the college's annual Open House event.

SF faculty and advisors will be on hand to talk to students about programs available at the college, including career and technical education, emerging technologies, fine arts, graphic design, health

sciences, public safety and more.

There will also be informational sessions on paying for college, international opportunities, student success, career connections, degree options and student life and activities. There will also be advisors from the University of Florida providing information about transferring to UF after

earning an associate degree at SF.

Open house begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. on SF's Northwest Campus, 3000 NW 83 St. in Gainesville. Following the event, attendees can also visit the SF Teaching Zoo or watch the SF women's softball game.

Learn more at sfcollege.edu/openhouse.

NOTICE OF LAND USE CHANGE

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

R230511A, an application by Osceola Land & Timber Co., LLC, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use classification from COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (less than or equal to 2 dwelling units per acre) to CITY HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (more than 8 less than 20 units per acre) and CITY COMMERCIAL on property described, as follows:

From COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (less than or equal to 2 dwelling units per acre) to CITY HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (more than 8 less than 20 units per acre):

A parcel of land lying in Sections 16 and 17, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of said Section 17; thence South 01°18'25" East 661.10 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 01°06'15" East 671.29 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 01°22'20" East 497.19 feet, along the East line of said Section 17 to the Point of Beginning; thence South 01°22'20" East 816.75 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence North 88°18'34" East 1,319.73 feet; thence South 01°23'37" East 1,316.42 feet; thence South 88°18'17" West 1,322.16 feet; thence South 87°40'55" West 182.44 feet; thence North 00°53'16" West 271.12 feet; thence North 54°19'51" West 186.57 feet; thence North 39°52'58" West 105.98 feet; thence North 46°41'46" West 174.22 feet; thence North 62°49'38" West 418.52 feet; thence North 79°34'06" West 274.64 feet; thence North 50°51'37" West 158.52 feet to a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223), said point lying on a curve concave Westerly, having a radius of 13,625.00 feet, and being subtended by a chord having a bearing and distance of North 28°15'43" East, 235.59 feet; thence Northeasterly, along said Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223) and the arc of said curve through a central angle of 0°59'27", an arc distance of 235.59 feet to the end of said curve; thence North 25°36'34" East 1,062.65 feet, along said Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223); thence North 27°11'50" East 36.54 feet, along said Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223); thence North 88°14'53" East 661.77 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 77.37 acres, more or less.

AND

A parcel of land lying in Section 17, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of said Section 17; thence South 01°18'25" East 661.10 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 01°06'15" East 671.29 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 87°29'14" West 736.93 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223) and the Point of Beginning; thence South 87°29'14" West 559.27 feet; thence North 03°12'46" West 967.72 feet; thence South 88°20'20" West 1,749.63 feet to the Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16; thence South 18°53'59" East 1,437.61 feet, along said Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16; thence North 48°14'14" East 520.99 feet; thence South 37°38'40" East 815.02 feet; thence South 50°09'05" West 280.93 feet; thence South 38°40'22" East 551.33 feet to a point on said Westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223), said point lying on a curve concave Northwesterly, having a radius of 6,086.00 feet, and being subtended by a chord having a bearing and distance of North 35°22'28" East, 765.95 feet; thence Northeasterly, along said Westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223) and the arc of said curve, through a central angle of 07°12'57", an arc distance of 766.46 feet to the end of said curve; thence North 31°46'00" East 518.74 feet; thence North 27°46'00" East 353.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 62.54 acres, more or less.

From COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (less than or equal to 2 dwelling units per acre) to CITY COMMERCIAL:

A parcel of land lying in Section 17, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of said Section 17; thence South 01°18'25" East 661.10 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 01°06'15" East 671.29 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 01°22'20" East 497.19 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 01°22'20" East 816.75 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence North 88°18'34" East 1,319.73 feet; thence South 01°23'37" East 1,316.42 feet; thence South 88°18'17" West 1,322.16 feet; thence South 87°40'55" West 182.44 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence North 00°53'16" West 271.12 feet; thence North 54°19'51" West 186.57 feet; thence North 39°52'58" West 105.98 feet; thence North 46°41'46" West 174.22 feet; thence North 62°49'38" West 418.52 feet; thence North 79°34'06" West 274.64 feet; thence North 50°51'37" West 158.52 feet to a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223), said point lying on a curve concave Westerly, having a radius of 13,625.00 feet, and being subtended by a chord having a bearing and distance of South 30°07'15" West, 648.38 feet; thence Southwesterly, along said Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223) and the arc of said curve through a central angle of 02°43'37", an arc distance of 648.44 feet to the end of said curve; thence North 87°40'55" East 250.05 feet; thence South 04°09'00" East 419.00 feet; thence North 87°40'55" East 1,162.04 feet to the Point of Beginning.

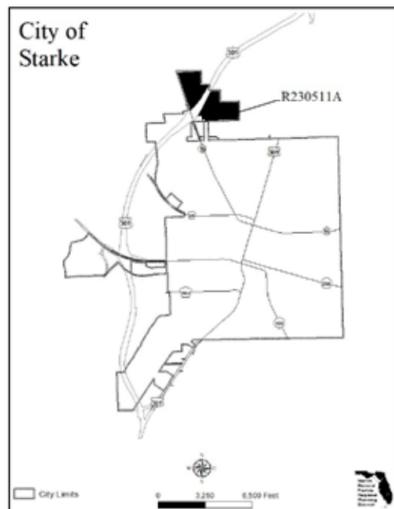
Containing 19.66 acres, more or less.

AND

A parcel of land lying in Section 17, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of said Section 17; thence South 01°18'25" East 661.10 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 01°06'15" East 671.29 feet, along the East line of said Section 17; thence South 87°29'14" West 736.93 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223); thence North 03°12'46" West 967.72 feet; thence South 88°20'20" West 1,749.63 feet to the Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16; thence South 18°53'59" East 1,437.61 feet, along said Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16 to the Point of Beginning; thence North 48°14'14" East 520.99 feet; thence South 37°38'40" East 815.02 feet; thence South 50°09'05" West 280.93 feet; thence South 38°40'22" East 551.33 feet to a point on said Westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223), said point lying on a curve concave Northwesterly, having a radius of 6,086.00 feet, and being subtended by a chord having a bearing and distance of South 42°04'25" West, 656.38 feet; thence Southwesterly, along said Westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 223) and the arc of said curve, through a central angle of 06°10'57", an arc distance of 656.70 feet to the beginning of curvature of a compound curve concave Northerly, having a radius of 50.00 feet, and being subtended by a chord having a bearing and distance of North 76°51'58" West, 84.78 feet; thence Westerly, along the arc of said curve through a central angle of 115°56'19", an arc distance of 101.18 feet to said Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16; thence North 18°53'48" West 543.25 feet, along said Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16; thence South 71°06'12" West 20.35 feet, along said Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16; thence North 18°53'59" West 918.90 feet, along said Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 16 to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 20.52 acres, more or less.

All said lands containing 180.09 acres, more or less.



A public hearing will be conducted by the City Commission to consider the amendment and enactment of the ordinance adopting the amendment on March 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF MORE THAN 50 ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, R230511A, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 2 DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE) TO CITY HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MORE THAN 8 LESS THAN 20 UNITS PER ACRE) AND CITY COMMERCIAL ON CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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

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

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

Lake Region

Historic home is Yard of the Month

BY GINNY GEIGER AND BARBARA ANDERSON
Garden Club of the Lakes

Do you know what a Keystone Heights “plaqued” home is? Have you seen those Keystone-shaped signs on a few homes here? When we volunteered to be on the Yard of the Month Committee, we had no idea, either. Now we are experts – thanks to Deirdre Murphy, a longtime member of the Garden Club of The Lakes, realtor, and co-chair of the Keystone Heights Heritage Commission, founded in 2007.

There is not enough space for us to tell you all about this commission: its history, purpose and numerous projects they have going on all the time. If you are interested in history, hopefully, these few sentences will spark your interest, and you will Google it for yourself or even go to one of their meetings.

If you do, you will find this to be an interesting town with so much fascinating history. A big part of that heritage is the historic homes here. There are 111 homes within the city that are 50 years or older, but only 12 have been recognized by the Heritage Commission and received the plaque.

Homeowners need to apply for this award and meet the requirements set by the commission. When our Yard-of-the-Month committee selected the home of Troy and Lea Wong, located at 245 Southwest Lakeview Drive, we had no idea it was one of the 12 recognized by the city.

To continue with our history lesson, did you know that all the founders of Keystone Heights were from Pennsylvania, the Keystone State? John Lawrence was one of those founders, hence



Troy and Lea moved into the home in 2015. It is known as the E.A. Smith House, built in 1926.

the name Lawrence Boulevard.

Troy and Lea moved into the home in 2015. It is known as the E.A. Smith House, built in 1926. The remodeling of the inside and outside took a relatively long time and a lot of hard work, but they both agreed it was well worth it.

When they began in the yard, there was nothing but sand sloping down into Lake Geneva, which presented a serious watering issue. They had come from Valdosta, where their entire yard was topsoil. They had to figure out how to deal with these issues. They began by planting small gardens: Shade, Woodland, Fairy, Zen, and Lamp Post. Then, in those gardens, they planted everything really close together to minimize the area for weeds

to grow and allow for specific watering.

Troy likes this layout because he has open areas to mow and doesn't have to weave around a bunch of individual plants. He also likes all the green spaces, which he says are for “eye rest.” Since Troy installs high-end home theaters and automation systems during the week, he welcomes the much-needed “eye rest.” Seeing their beautiful yard makes them extremely happy and proud of their accomplishments.

After Troy showed us several “before” pictures, it was obvious that they had great reason to be proud. Oh, what an incredible job they did! There are Crotons, Crepe Myrtles, numerous grasses, a Japanese Maple, Bottle Brush plants, Angel Trumpets, Cannas,



They began by planting small gardens: Shade, Woodland, Fairy, Zen, and Lamp Post. Then, in those gardens, they planted everything really close together to minimize the area for weeds to grow and allow for specific watering.

Jasmine, Azaleas, and more. There are various sculptures or statuary around the yard, one being a water fountain that is the watering hole for all the local cats. Their little Shih Tzu, Tiki, is not always so welcoming, but he tolerates them.

If you live in a historical home, Lea would like to encourage you to apply to become a plaqued home. She said the process was relatively simple, and there is always some well-deserved pride that goes along with the plaque on your door.

If you want to learn more about the Garden Club of The Lakes or nominate yourself or anyone in the community for Yard of The Month, please call Pat Lorenzo at (904) 728-9460.



After Troy showed us several “before” pictures, it was obvious that they had great reason to be proud.

JROTC keeps Gold Star designation

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School Army JROTC Indian Battalion received 97 points out of 100 possible points in JROTC's program accreditation, earning the Army's highest JROTC rating and maintaining designation as a Gold Star Honor Unit with Distinction.

JROTC adviser Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hall said the cadets were evaluated by the U.S. Army Cadet Command 6th Brigade in a continuous improvement briefing, a service-learning project briefing, cadet portfolios and interviews, and the unit's competition color guard.

Hall added that the evaluation included a battalion inspection by Army recruiter Sergeant First Class Josh Paris.

“He came in the week before and did a battalion in-ranks inspection where he checked them in uniforms, and they had to answer general knowledge questions about JROTC,” Hall said, adding that the queries included questions about Army ranks, colors on military maps, and other basic knowledge.

Hall said many of the evaluations were extensive.

“One example is the competition color guard is evaluated in completing 43 separate movements to standard,” he told the school's faculty in an email.

The two briefings the cadets presented to Arthur Curry from 6th Brigade incorporated other JROTC curriculum activities, including time management, public speaking, goal setting, thinking maps, and meeting conduct.

Hall said earning above 95 points entitles the Indian Battalion Cadets to maintain their Honor Unit with Distinction Gold Star for the next three years as long as they continue participating in activities like color guards and competitive meets.

Hall said the continuous improvement briefing, which was led by Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Trista Harrison, Cadet Second Lieutenant Reagan Sames, and Cadet Command Sergeant Major



Arthur Curry (left) from 6th Brigade, United States Army Cadet Command, and Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School Vice Principal Barry Underwood (right) react to a briefing given by (l-r) Cadet Command Sergeant Major Emily McFarland, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Trista Harrison and Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Reagan Sames, during the JROTC unit's evaluation.

Emily McFarland, centered the battalion's historical around the Cadet Fitness Challenge.

“The Cadet Challenge consists of pushups, curl-ups, a one-mile run, a shuttle run, and a flexibility test,” he said. “They took that over three months to show improvement each month.”

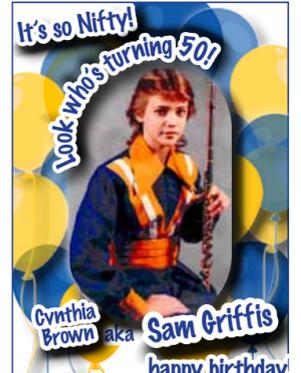
Cadet Captain Kristofer Neibauer led the service-learning briefing, which explained

the presentations during Veteran's Day ceremonies at the high school and elementary school.

“They did historical vignettes of all the different wars that America's been in,” Hall said. “They picked a character from each war that they highlighted and learned about them, with a lot of focus on women's roles. In some of the wars, like the

American Revolution as an example, they studied Molly Pitcher, a historical figure that took the role of her husband, who was injured in a battle in the American Revolution on the cannon.”

Hall added that for the Civil War, cadets highlighted Mary Edwards Walker, the U.S. Army's first female surgeon, a prisoner of war, and the only female recipient of the Medal of Honor.



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UNION COUNTY

High school hosts career fair

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

Union County High School students had the opportunity to learn about further education and jobs at the 2024 UCHS Career Day event on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The event was held in the UCHS auditorium, with 31 vendors (representatives from area employers and sources of further education/training) arrayed with tables and displays around the floor. Students attended by class (sophomores, juniors, etc.) and walked around talking with the vendors and perusing displays concerning the jobs the vendors might have to offer and what was involved in training for them. Each student carried a card the vendors stamped, showing that the students participated in the event as intended.

Military personnel populated several tables, with the Air National Guard, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Navy represented. Law enforcement opportunities included criminal investigation, the Department of Corrections, the Florida Wildlife Commission, and the Union County Sheriff's Office. Opportunities for further education or training included Florida Crown, the



Jackson Thames talks with Theron Hunt, the welding instructor at North Florida Technical College, about learning to weld and careers available in the field.

Gainesville Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee, Florida Gateway College, J Tech Institute, North Florida Technical College, Pay it Forward Scholarship program, Tulsa Welding School, the University of Florida, the University of Northwestern Ohio and Valdosta State.

Businesses represented included Clay Electric, CW Realty, the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Gas Transmission, Gainesville Regional Utilities, Johnson Controls, Lake Butler Hospital, Pritchett Trucking, Ring Power, the Union County Supervisor of Elections office, Vystar Credit Union and West

Fraser Sawmill.

Students moved from table to table singly and in small groups, talking with representatives about their displays and collecting flyers and other materials concerning the opportunities presented. Also popular was the refreshment table, which offered cookies and drinks.

UCHS Principal Julie Denson said she was excited about the "variety of vendors willing to come to the event and speak with the students." She also said she wanted to extend her thanks to all of the people, vendors, and staff who made the event possible.



Patrick Mundorff and Jordan Wade from Clay Electric Cooperative talk about careers in the electrical service industry with Landon Cason and Ashton Bunkly.



Owen Johnson learns about careers involving heavy equipment from Kyle Hartsfield and Joseph Merriew from Ring Power.



Joey O'Steen, from Florida Gas Transmission, talks with Alexis Morris and Isabella Kalback about careers in the energy industry.

Prosecutor recounts Bundy trial

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

Members of the Union County Historical Society had

a real treat in their program for their last meeting, on Feb. 27, hearing a presentation from Bob Dekle concerning the

trial of serial killer Theodore "Ted" Bundy, in which Dekle played a pivotal role.

Dekle is from Lake Butler originally but ended up in Lake City as the state attorney for Columbia County. He acted as legal counsel in more than 350 jury trials. He served as the lead prosecutor in the first-degree murder trial of Theodore "Ted" Robert Bundy in Orlando in early 1980.

Dekle has since retired and written a book about the investigation and trial of Bundy for the murder of Kim Leach, a young girl in Lake City. He outlined the events of the case for the historical society.

Bundy kidnapped Leach on Feb. 9, 1978, in a white van stolen from the media center at Florida State University, where he had assaulted four women in a sorority house in January. He killed Leach while driving between Lake City and Live Oak on SR-90, then took her body to Suwannee River Park and left it in a wooded area. He drove back to Tallahassee and had dinner. He had a run-in with a deputy on Feb. 11 but eluded arrest. The next day, he stole an orange Volkswagen and returned east, finally being arrested in Pensacola.

Bundy was tried for first-degree murder, found guilty, and sentenced to death.

"There was a perfect storm of evidence presented during the trial," Dekle said. "There was a wealth of hair and fiber evidence in the van, from both Bundy and the victim, as well as the victim's blood."

Dekle said that the Bundy case stood out in his memory as the most vivid from his career, and prompted by these memories, he decided to write a book about it. He was asked several questions by members of the historical society, but many were concerning his coming from the county originally.



Business partner appreciation

At the February school board meeting the Union County School District was honored to recognize Badcock Home Furniture & More for its continued support for the students of Union County. Dorinda Akers was presented a plaque of appreciation and the gratitude expressed on behalf of the school district. Badcock Home Furniture & More has been a supporter of the district's athletic programs and a longtime friend of the FFA, sponsoring events and lending support to students when showing their market animals at the local fair. The Union County School District is appreciative of the support and generosity shown by Akers and Badcock Home Furniture & More towards the students of Union County. Pictured (l-r) are Dorinda Akers and Superintendent Mike Ripplinger.

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Anastasiya Boyer, Nichole Horne, Cynthia Coulter and Destiny Garmon, from Lake Butler Hospital, were on hand at the UCHS Career Fair 2024 to speak to young people about careers in healthcare.



Trinity Roberts and Joshua Ollar talk about careers with the Department of Corrections with RMC Officer Riley Rhoden.



Preston Griffin and Ethan Hourigan learn about careers in truck driving from Don McDavid from Pritchett Trucking.

Brooker school reunion held at beautiful Belle Oaks Barn

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Special to the Telegraph

The massive room at Belle Oaks Barn was packed with hundreds of former teachers and staff from the early beginnings of Brooker Elementary School, along with family members and current students from the new charter school.

It was an opportunity to honor the decades of educators who taught the children and to celebrate the community spirit that would not let the little town of Brooker go without a local elementary.

Belle Oaks Barn owners Doug and Michelle Green provided use of the space and staff. Hills BBQ & Catering from Gainesville cooked up chicken breast and brisket along with loaded mashed potatoes and fresh green beans. The school's food service specialist, Dora Broome, made her famous cakes for dessert.

Belle Oaks Barn is a wedding and event venue with a huge barn decorated in country elegance style and adorned with antiques. There is also a small chapel on the premises for wedding ceremonies and numerous outbuildings to serve other uses. The Greens are supporters of the charter school where Michelle is a volunteer art teacher.

The alumni reunion was also a fundraiser for Brooker Community School. Emcee Regina Parrish made it clear that, now that the community came together to get the school up and running, it still needs the ongoing financial support of the community. She pointed out the many items that would be up for silent and live auction later on and encouraged everyone to dig deep into their pockets when they bid or purchase tickets for the drawing.

It was easy to see why Parrish was chosen, or rather "voluntold" as she put it, to be the night's emcee. Her wry sense of humor brought numerous eruptions of laughter. And, her storytelling of Brooker's history and characters filled minds with old memories and reminded everyone of the deep roots of this small community. Aside from her humor, she has history of attending school and growing up in Brooker. She also served as school secretary, school board member and clerk of Union County for 20 years.

The Wards are a founding family who originally owned much of area that is now Brooker. Emra Priest Ward (1836-1904) and his wife, Margaret Godwin Ward (1846-1906), donated the land on which the Brooker Baptist Church now sits. Their son, Thomas Phillip Ward (1869-1921), built the steeple for the original church. Two of Emra and Margaret's great-granddaughters, Debbie Martin Johnson and Susan Martin, traveled from Jacksonville to attend the reunion.

Parrish acknowledged the sisters and told how the town of Brooker was originally called Ward City. The town of Brooker website relates the story this way. "In 1838, a settlement called Ward City was established in this area. The town was named after an early settler, E. P. Ward, who is buried in the First Baptist Church of Brooker's cemetery. In 1892, Thomas R. Collins petitioned for a Post Office and became postmaster in 1894. He named the post office after the old Brooker Bridge across the Santa Fe River. The bridge was named after Ed Brooker, a farmer in the area. Due to confusion about whether to call the town Ward City or Brooker after the post office, the citizens decided to drop the name Ward City and used the name of the post office, Brooker." Parrish said, "So, if you were taking the train you would be coming to Ward City, but if you were getting your mail



Emcee Regina Parrish shows the rifle to be auctioned..



Kaleb Dyal shows the prized Henry rifle won for him by his dad, Kelly Dyal.



Three generations of Crosbys: Marilyn Crosby Vellenga, Ronda Crawford (Elaine's daughter) and Elaine Crosby Griffis.



Susan Martin and Debbie Martin Johnson from Jacksonville are the great-granddaughters of Emra and Margaret Ward, founders of Ward City, which later became Brooker.



Jack and Clara Hazen are supporters of Brooker Community School. He was born and raised in Brooker.



School supporter Charles Tatum with volunteer Patsy Pullen.

you were getting it in Brooker."

Parrish went on to describe the community spirit. "A school is not only bricks and mortar. It is the life and experiences of each person in this community. A school will keep a community alive and prosperous. As all of you know, Brooker is a tight-knit family. We have strong family ties and very deep roots. Our school has produced many solid citizens. They have reached high expectations and they have used their skills and abilities beyond their beginnings. This (school) has been an effort by some of these alumni to keep Brooker School open. All of us in attendance here tonight are very fortunate to have had the Brooker experience."

"In the early 1900s, a man named Hugh Butler Crosby founded a school on the property that is presently occupied by Dee and Otis Testone. ... It is said that some of the timber in their house was from the old school. This school served many students and staff until 1928."

At that point, 92-year-old Marilyn Crosby Vellenga approached the emcee and said she wanted to clarify some history. She noted that her father, Hugh, was one of 14 children. "Oh Lord!" exclaimed the emcee. "Fourteen siblings! That's a good woman." Parrish noted that there were three Crosbys in attendance representing four generations of Brooker Elementary attendees.

She continued with the history. "In 1916, the school board of Bradford County provided a school for the families of workers in the lumber yards. ... In 1928, a new school was constructed as an elementary and junior high." The current, more modern building was constructed in 1967 to replace the older school. Parrish told a story of her time as secretary at the school when she started to receive obscene phone calls. Along with the sheriff a plan was concocted in hopes of catching the caller, who never showed up, "but the insurance man happened to come by and almost got arrested. The obscene calls stopped after that, dam it!" she proclaimed, as the room



Three of four generations of Brooker teachers, students and volunteers from the Barnes/Nash family. Volunteer P.E. teacher Jean Barnes, fourth grade teacher Stephanie Nash, son Pierce Nash, volunteer Eddie Barnes, daughter Lucy Nash and Stephanie's oldest son, Trent.

erupted in laughter.

In attendance were old timers, such as lifelong resident Jack Hazen, who is a supporting member of initiating the new school and was an original student at the old elementary built in the late 20s. Aside from his personal history of being born in Brooker and attending school there himself, Hazen explained why he felt it was important to him to contribute to the new school. "This school is a real asset to this end of the county and to Brooker." Other early school members acknowledged were Alma Leta Dyal Sparks, Marilyn Crosby Vellenga and Helen Barry Crosby.

After dinner it was time for the live auction, which was called by experienced auctioneer David Stalnaker. First up were the elaborately decorated homemade cakes, created and donated by resident bakers. A tray of Lynn Melvin's banana pudding went for \$175. The dozen or so cakes with names such as Oreo cake, Reese's cake, hummingbird cake, 10-layer cake, triple chocolate cake went for anywhere from \$75-\$250. A strawberry cake brought in a whopping \$475.

Then came the nonedible items. A pair of certificates to Bradford Sportsman's Shooting Range

with a value of \$500 was gotten for \$300. Other items included a chartered fishing trip or a jaunt to Wild Adventures. When the bidding got a little slow, Parrish stepped up to remind everyone why they were there. "You've never seen a U-Haul following a hearse, so spend that money!" A hand-carved bench with a giant Redfish as a back, donated by Peggy Stanwix-Hay, settled on

Madison Johnson, Grayce Girgus and Belle Oaks Barn owner Michelle Green fed the crowd.

a bid of \$1,000. And the highest-valued prize of the night, two tickets to an Atlanta Braves game was donated by Ramona and Harold Jackson. The tickets, valued at \$3,500 were a bargain at the \$2,500 they brought in. The final event of the evening was the drawing for a prized Henry rifle, won by Kelly Dyal for his son, experienced rifleman Kaleb.

The night wrapped up by announcing the winners of the silent auction items. Attendees caught up with old friends as staff and volunteers cleared the

tables and stacked the chairs. The reunion fulfilled numerous goals. It raised needed funds for the new school while honoring those who educated and nurtured students through the decades. It acknowledged the roots that formed so long ago and have spread throughout the region. And, it showed gratitude for the people and community spirit of Brooker that jumps into action when the need arises. This coming together grew the community roots even a little stronger that night.



Brooker School administrative assistant Cynthia Sirman; volunteer Pastor Singleton; Brandon Breedlove and grade 4-5 teacher Ashley Shelton; Shaelyn Rogers with 1st grade teacher Karrie Kulbacki, and Zach Rogers.

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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

John Adam Beaver, 41, of Callahan was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 27 for an out-of-county warrant.

Cory Randall Brown, 62, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 27 for a probation violation.

James Samuel Cobbin, 33, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 28 for a probation violation.

Aaron Lee Flournoy, 37, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 25 for failure to appear.

Mark Calvin Griffis, 34, was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 26 for fraud and dealing in stolen property.

Wallace Edwin Kirby, 58, of Macclenny was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 28 for an out-of-county warrant.

Kenyetta Zonae Patton, 26, of Tampa was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 28 for out-of-county warrants.

Jennifer Lynn Pelham, 35, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 24 for trespassing.

James Stanton Perry, 48, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 25 for battery and resisting an officer.

Becky Lynn Reddish, 58, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 1 for a probation violation.

Ashley Nicole Rehberg, 36, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 1 for DUI.

Michael Samuel Smith, 42, of Waldo was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 26 for a probation violation.

Ar'kialya Nechelle Taylor, 25, of Jacksonville was arrested by FHP troopers on February 25 for possession of marijuana and child cruelty.

Union

Marcus Whalon Dorsey Bennett, 30, of Sanderson was arrested by Union deputies on February 29 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jason Buren Byrd, 44, was arrested by Union deputies on February 29 for a probation violation.

Cameron Jamal McKenzie, 23, of Starke was arrested by Union deputies on February 28 for distributing obscene material.

James Michael Qualls, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on March 3 on an out-of-county warrant.

Douglas, M Schiek, 33, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on February 28 for battery by a person detained in prison, smuggling contraband into a prison, taking a firearm from a law enforcement officer, assault by a person detained in a prison, aggravated battery by a person detained in prison, destroying evidence, and sexual assault with a weapon or by force on a victim 12 years of age or older.

Clay

Luis Damien Rodriguez Gomez, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on February 26 for operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

John Charles Labonte, 54, of Melrose was arrested by Clay deputies on February 27 for failure to provide re-registration information.

James Daniel Lewis, 29, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on February 25 for a pre-trial release violation.

Natashya Yvette Rhoden, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 1 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Jamie Edwin Lee Sanders, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on February 26 for failure to appear and driving with a suspended license.

Morgan Riley Tindall, 36, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on February 29 for possession of child pornography.

FIRE

Continued from page 1

County Manager Scott Kornegay invoked the memory of former Jacksonville Mayor Jake Godbold in recognizing the county's firefighters.

"Whenever he would go to a speaking engagement, and there were firefighters there, he would always refer to them as his firefighters," the county manager recalled. "These are my firefighters," Kornegay added, pointing to the professionals lined up behind the speaker's podium.

County Commissioner Danny Riddick recounted the struggle he and other county leaders encountered while trying to get the station in Speedville operational, beginning with the efforts of the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department's overtures to serve in Bradford County and ending with Esson's \$150,000 donation to the cause.

"Today, we would not be here, it wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for Vince Esson seeing the need and donating the building for these living quarters," Riddick said. "When this building is complete, the vision doesn't end. It's just the beginning."

Esson also addressed the crowd, thanking county officials for standing by him when opposition to his RV park threatened to kill the project.

"When I came to this community, I didn't know anybody," he said. "The community supported me, and I'm just here to pay it back."

County Commission Chair



County Commission Chair Carolyn Spooner called Vincent Esson the county's ram in the bush, referring to the biblical story of Abraham nearly sacrificing his son on Mt. Moriah.

Carolyn Spooner called Esson the county's ram in the bush, referring to the biblical story of Abraham nearly sacrificing his son on Mt. Moriah.

Like Kornegay, Commissioner Diane Andrews praised the firefighters present at the ceremony.

"I just want to say I love these guys back here," she said. "I've been to many fires where they are out and about doing their jobs, and what they do is incredible. What they do is save people's lives."

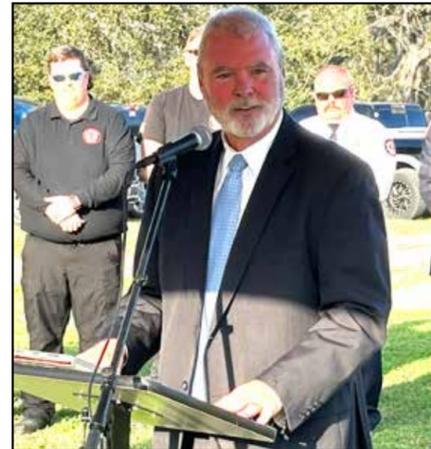
Andrews also swatted down what she characterized as unfair

criticism of the firefighters.

"One thing I heard was, 'Ms. Andrews, sometimes they just lay around and sleep,'" the county commissioner recalled of one conversation. "That's a good day that God gave us when a firefighter can lay around and sleep," Andrews added, responding to the claim. "These men and women put their lives on the line for each of us every day. They come to work and don't know if they're seeing their families for the last time. I think the world of them."



County Commissioner Danny Riddick recounted the struggle he and other county leaders encountered while trying to get the station in Speedville operational.



"These are my firefighters," County Manager Scott Kornegay said, pointing to the professionals lined up behind the speaker's podium.

Students, staff invited to Melrose reunion

Melrose school alumni, staff and their families are invited to a reunion that will take place Saturday, March 16, at Lake

Swan Camp, 647 State Road 26. The camp is 2.5 miles east of the Melrose red light.

New Covenant Baptist anniversary

New Covenant Baptist Ministries, 863 E. Brownlee St.,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in Starke, will be celebrating its 22nd church anniversary on Sunday, March 24, at 11 a.m. Bishop W.R. Adkins, founder of Global Network Media Ministries Inc., will be the speaker. The public is invited. Dinner will be served.

Early voting begins soon

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Florida's Republican Presidential Preference Primary is March 19, and early voting begins soon.

Early voting in Bradford County begins Saturday, March 9, and continues through Sunday, March 17, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily in the commission meeting room in the north wing of the

courthouse in Starke. Polling locations will be open on the day of the primary, Tuesday, March 19, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In Union County, early voting is open from Saturday, March 9, through Saturday, March 16, at 175 W. Main St. in Lake Butler. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Polling precincts on primary day will be open on March 19 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In Clay County, Keystone Heights City Hall will be open for early voting from Friday, March 8, to Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Polling precincts on primary day will be open on March 19 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Florida is a closed primary state, and that means only registered Republicans will be choosing who gets their nomination. President Joe Biden was the only name submitted by Florida Democrats, so they will not have a presidential preference primary.

The primary election for other offices will be Aug. 20, with early voting from Aug. 5-18. Election Day is Nov. 5, with early voting from Oct. 21-Nov. 2.

Running in Bradford

Most Bradford County officials with expiring terms in 2024 say they plan on running for office again.

This includes Sheriff Gordon Smith, Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang, Clerk of

Court Denny Thompson, Tax Collector Teresa Phillips and Property Appraiser Kenny Clark. Joining that list is Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley and District 4 School Board Member Candace Osteen. The county commissioners from Districts 1, 3 and 5 — Carolyn Spooner, Chris Dougherty and Diane Andrews — have also confirmed reelection runs.

Most have already filed paperwork to run again, and so far, no one is facing a challenger. Without a challenger on the ballot, incumbents who declare their candidacy will automatically retain their offices. The only elected official retiring from office is District 3 School Board Member Cheryl Canova. No one has filed to run for that seat at this time.

These are all salaried positions with benefits. The state sets the salaries based on county population size. For Fiscal Year 2023-24, the state has set the salary for county commissioners at \$38,858 and school board members at \$33,044.

Most of the county's constitutional officers have the same salary. The clerk of courts, supervisor of elections, tax collector and property appraiser salaries were set at \$124,849. That is the school superintendent's salary as well.

The exception is the sheriff, whose salary is set at \$162,767.

For information on becoming a candidate, call the elections office at 904-966-6266 to make an appointment and pick up a candidate handbook.



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Abbie Roach signs her letter of intent to play softball at Ocala's College of Central Florida. Pictured (l-r) are stepfather and mother Mark Williams and Karla Krohl, Roach, father and stepmother Chris Roach and Joni and stepsister Emma Rogel.

KHHS' Roach to play softball at CCF

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School senior Abbie Roach added to an already highlight-filled week with a Feb. 28 scholarship-signing ceremony, making it official that she'll continue her softball career at Ocala's College of Central Florida.

The signing occurred one day after Roach went 4 for 4 with a double, a triple and three RBI in Keystone's 16-1 win over Clay and two days after she went 2 for 3 with a double, a triple and two RBI in the Indians' 12-1 win over Ridgeview.

"It's something I've dreamed of since I was like 3 years old," Roach said of playing in college. She added, "Softball's just been something so big in my life."

Roach said she was looking at some schools in North Carolina and South Carolina, but found Central Florida a more appealing option.

"I mainly wanted to stay somewhere in the Sunshine State, and CF has such a great program and a great coach," Roach said.

Roach's stepsister, Emma Rogel, a 2022 KHHS graduate, is in her sophomore season for the Patriots softball team.

Through Keystone's first four games, Roach, who plays center field, led the Indians with a .714 batting average and team highs in hits (10), doubles (3), triples (3), RBI (8) and runs scored (7). She was second on the team in most offensive categories during her junior season, with 30 hits, six doubles, three triples and 24 runs scored. Her batting average of .323 in 2023 was third on the team, as was also her RBI total of 15.

"I think she has a lot of confidence when she gets up there," KHHS Head Coach Jessica Marquart said, adding, "She makes really good adjustments at the plate when

she swings and misses a couple of times. Then she goes and gets a double."

Marquart said Roach has the God-given gift of athleticism, but added that Roach also puts in hours of practice, fueling her competitive drive to always get better.

"She is always up at the field hitting," Marquart said. "She's in the baseball cages hitting. She has asked pitchers to stay after practice. 'Hey, pitch to me. I want to get a couple more reps in.'"

"It's not just at practice. She's doing this all the time, by herself, or she's asking somebody to go hit with her."

Roach doesn't think twice about putting in the time to get better, saying, "It's just natural for me. I want to do it."

KHHS Principal Laurie Burke said that work ethic is key for any student-athlete who wants to earn a college scholarship.

"Don't think that it's come easy for them," Burke said. "Don't think that they didn't go through struggles. Don't think they didn't have to battle with a lot of the things we battle with."

"If you work through those and don't make excuses, you're going to have more opportunities. Excuses hold you back."

"I want to commend Abbie for that."

The work doesn't end with having earned a college opportunity, Roach said she knows she'll have to adapt to facing pitchers with more speed, spin and movement on their balls.

Marquart said, "I think she's going to have to understand that she's not going to get on base every single time. Pitching's going to be a little bit better, but I think through practicing, she's going to make a lot of

See SIGN, page 16

Open Door monies can help students in upcoming NFTC truck program

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Interested in a career in truck driving? You could possibly receive monetary assistance in enrolling in the next North Florida Technical College program, which begins Monday, March 18.

Thanks to the Florida Department of Education's Open Door Grant, some students who enroll in the commercial-vehicle driving program may receive financial assistance. NFTC Director Brad Bishop said he is targeting students who may have out-of-pocket expenses, even those who may be receiving some assistance through scholarships and Career Source.

The truck-driving program isn't long enough for students to qualify for Pell grants.

"We are looking to see how we can bridge the gap through scholarship opportunities to those who qualify," Bishop said, adding, "I think this Open Door opportunity is good for those students, especially now that you're seeing the expense of everything go up."

Open Door grants are designated for use in short-term career and technical programs that lead to high-demand, high-wage jobs. The money is to cover costs of tuition, exams and books and other materials.

Bishop said Open Door monies were first made available last year in the form of grants that schools could apply for. However, some school administrators had a lot of unanswered questions regarding the money and how it could be used, Bishop said, noting that many schools didn't bother applying.

This year, the monies were distributed to schools without an application process. North Florida Technical College received approximately \$86,000.

"Basically, the money can be used at the school's discretion," Bishop said, adding, "I was really surprised at the flexibility that was there to help students."

Though he admitted there are still some unknowns surrounding Open Door, Bishop said, "We're going to utilize (the money) to be the best of our ability."

The commercial-vehicle driving program is 320 hours, with classes held Mondays

through Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. The program runs through May 16.

Visit nftc.edu to complete an online registration form and view the requirements for enrollment.

Application deadline for Steve Denmark Scholarship is March 15

Bradford County students (high school seniors, traditional or nontraditional students) may apply for the \$500 Kiwanis Club of Starke's Steve Denmark Memorial Scholarship.

Applications are available at Bradford High School and Santa Fe College.

The deadline to apply is March 15. Applications may be submitted at the applicant's school or mailed to Kiwanis Club of Starke, Steve Denmark Memorial Scholarship, Attn: Cheryl Canova, 5346 N.W. C.R. 229, Starke, FL 32091.

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and be residents of Bradford County.

The scholarship can be used at any regional, accredited college or at North Florida Technical College.

Ryder Detweiler receives top award in Very Berry Bakeoff

Ryder Detweiler received the best-overall award in this year's Bradford 4-H Very Berry Bakeoff, which was held March 1.

Detweiler was one of four participants in the Intermediate division, earning first place with his chocolate-covered butter creams.

Kierstyn McKenzie and Nicholas Ward earned second and third place, respectively, in the Intermediate division and received blue ribbons. McKenzie entered strawberry shortcake cupcakes, while Ward entered a strawberry cream pie.

A'miriyah Glover earned a red ribbon and fourth place in Intermediate with a strawberry Bundt cake.

The Senior division consisted of two participants, with Kaitlyn McKenzie earning first place for strawberry shortcake cookies. Natalie Thames received a blue ribbon and second place for a

strawberry cheesecake.

Shawn Ward was the lone participant in the Junior

division. He entered strawberry thumbprint cookies.



Ryder Detweiler took first place in the Intermediate division and received the best-overall award in the Bradford 4-H Very Berry Bakeoff. He is pictured between UF/IFAS Bradford Extension Agriculture Program Assistant Sterling Westbrook (far left) and UF/IFAS Bradford Extension Livestock Agent Lizzie Whitehead.

Obituaries

Lana Ervin

Lana Annette Walker Ervin of Keystone Heights passed away Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, in Middleburg following a brief illness. She was born Dec. 28, 1960, in Sikeston, Missouri. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lavern "Jim" Walker and Reita Walker. She was a cosmetologist. Her hobbies were sports, spending time with her friends, and listening to music. She played basketball at Keystone Heights High School and received a scholarship to play at Santa Fe Community College. She was on the first Lady Indian softball team. She loved being a mother and grandmother.



She is survived by her son, Justin (Alexis); granddaughter, Jencii; and sister, Yvette (Jim)

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 9, at 1 p.m. at Mission of the Dirt Road in Keystone Heights with Pastor Carey Morford conducting the service. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mission of the Dirt Road, 7790 S.R. 100, Keystone Heights 32656.

PAID OBITUARY

Tom Gainey Jr.

Mr. Tom Gainey, Jr., 78, born on April 30, 1945, in Gainesville transitioned on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. He attended the local schools of Bradford County and was of the Baptist faith. He retired as a plant operator at Whitley Steel.

He leaves to cherish precious memories to his wife, Mary Gainey; children, Kevin Reddish Gainey, Patricia McDuffie, Rickey Gainey and Evette Gainey; sisters, Patricia Gainey and Surveller Gainey; brother-in-law, Dennis DeSue; sisters-in-law, Mary Alice DeSue and Leslie A. DeSue; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and grieving friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 9, at the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Starke with Rev. Alvin Green, eulogist. Interment will be held in Oddfellow Cemetery under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke 32091. 904-964-7905. Visitation for friends will be held on Friday, March 8, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Carl and Elaine D. Haile Memorial Chapel/Haile Funeral Home Inc. The cortege will form on Saturday, March 9, at 10:30 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministries Church, 422 St. Clair St., Starke 32091.

PAID OBITUARY

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2024 Presidential Preference Sample Ballot for Bradford County

provided for the citizens by
 Amanda Seyfang, Supervisor of Elections Bradford County
 Visit us at www.votebradfordfl.gov

Presidential Preference Primary - Sample Ballot

March 19, 2024
 Republican Party
 Bradford County, Florida

Primaria de preferencia presidencial - Boleta de muestra

19 de Marzo de 2024
 Partido Republicano
 Condado de Bradford, Florida

Instructions: To vote completely fill in the oval next to your choice. Use black or blue ballpoint pen. If you make a mistake, don't hesitate to ask for a new ballot. If you erase or make other marks, your vote may not count.

Instrucciones: Para votar, llene completamente el óvalo al lado de su preferencia. Use bolígrafo negro o azul. Si usted hace un error, no dude en pedir una nueva boleta. Si borra o hace otras marcas, su voto no se puede contar.

President (Vote for One)
 Presidente (Vote for One)

- Ryan L. Birkley
- Chris Christie
- Ron DeSantis
- Nikki R. Haley
- Asa Hutchinson
- Vivek Ramadwar
- Donald J. Trump

NOTICE:

THIS IS A REPUBLICAN ONLY ELECTION, THOSE REGISTERED WITH ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY OR NO PARTY AFFILIATION WILL NOT HAVE A CONTEST TO VOTE ON DURING THE MARCH 19TH PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION.

The deadline to change your political party affiliation is 29 days prior to the election. (This is also the deadline for new registrations) For the March 19th election, the deadline is February 20, 2024

AVISO:
 ESTA ES UNA ELECCIÓN SÓLO REPUBLICANA, AQUELLOS REGISTRADOS CON CUALQUIER OTRO PARTIDO POLÍTICO O SIN AFILIACIÓN PARTIDARIA NO TENDRÁN UN CONCURSO PARA VOTAR DURANTE LA ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA DE PREFERENCIA PRESIDENCIAL DEL 19 DE MARZO.

La fecha límite para cambiar su afiliación a un partido político es 29 días antes de la elección. (Esta es también la fecha límite para nuevos registros) Para las elecciones del 19 de marzo, la fecha límite es el 20 de febrero de 2024.

NEW POLLING LOCATIONS!

Due to redistricting, your precinct and polling location may have changed. Visit our website www.votebradfordfl.gov to see your new precinct and location.

¡NUEVOS LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN!

Debido a la redistribución de distritos, es posible que su distrito electoral y su lugar de votación hayan cambiado. Visite nuestro sitio web www.votebradfordfl.gov para ver su nuevo distrito electoral y ubicación.

Bradford County, Florida Precincts & Polling Locations Revised January 2024

Precinct 1 Lawley Community Center 22598 Park St Lawley, FL 32058	Precinct 8 Starke Golf & Country Club 15501 NE 14th Ave Starke, FL 32091
Precinct 2 Lawley Community Center 22598 Park St Lawley, FL 32058	Precinct 9 Sampson City Church of God 8042 SW County Road 225 Starke, FL 32091
Precinct 3 Heilbronn Springs Baptist Church 21354 NW SR 16 Starke, FL 32091	Precinct 10 Theresa Community Center 1748 SE 81st Ave Starke, FL 32091
Precinct 4 Church of God by Faith 730 Old Lawley Rd Starke, FL 32091	Precinct 11 Hampton City Hall 5784 Navarre Ave Hampton, FL 32044
Precinct 5 Bayless Highway Baptist Church 11798 NW CR 225 Starke, FL 32091	Precinct 12 Keystone United Methodist Multi-Ministry Bldg 4004 SR 21 South Keystone Heights, FL 32656
Precinct 6 Bradford County Senior Center 1805 N Temple Ave Starke, FL 32091	Precinct 13 Brooker City Hall/Community Center 17435 Tetstone Ave Brooker, FL 32622
Precinct 7 Madison Street Baptist Church 900 W Madison St Starke, FL 32091	

Obituaries

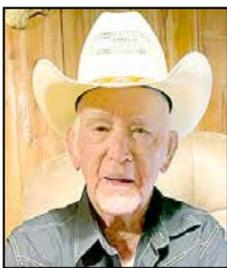
Johnnie Griffis

Johnnie Griffis, 83, passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. He was born on April 13, 1940, to the late Gordon and Alma Griffis. He dedicated a portion of his life to serving his country, with four years in the US Army followed by another four years in the National Guard. After his military service, he embarked on a career as a truck driver before eventually retiring and pursuing his passion for farming. In his leisure time, he found joy in simple pleasures like watching westerns, especially "Bonanza" and engaging in the craft of making cane syrup. He enjoyed sitting and talking about life. He was always a listening ear and helping hand. He was known among family and friends as a jokester, who always had a witty remark ready to bring smiles to those around him. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He was preceded in death by his parents; his nine siblings; and nephews, Leon and Mitchell Tillman.

He will be deeply missed by his surviving family members, including his daughters, Amanda and Claudia Griffis; and his grandchildren, Sugar Joe, Johnnie, Mason, and Johnnie. He is also survived by his granddaughter, Alayna; cousin, Carl Griffis; and numerous extended family and friends.

Services to honor and remember his life were held on Wednesday, March 6, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler with a visitation followed by a funeral service. He was laid to rest immediately following the service with military honors at Pine Grove Congregational Methodist Church Cemetery in Raiford.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Katy McCombs

Katy Lee McCombs, 91, a lifelong resident of Lawtey, went to her heavenly home on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024. She was born in Virginia on Jan. 31, 1933, to the late Dale and Margaret Mitchell. "Ms. Katy," which most would call her, was a God-fearing woman; she loved the Lord and had a spiritual soul that believed in the power of prayer. She spent most of her days burning up the phone lines seeking and praying for the sick and the lost. She believed there was power in the Word of God and offered a Bible verse for anything negative that someone was going through. She was loved by many and will truly be missed. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Andrew McCombs; daughter, Beulah "Marie" Bruner; and nine siblings.

She is survived by her grandchildren/caregivers Nathan (Joseph Fugatt) Blom and Amy Blom; son-in-law, Harry Bruner; sisters, Peggy Dobbs and Phyllis James; her children, Charles (Jennifer) Smith, Margaret (David) Albert, Mary (David) Scott, John (Eshin) Smith, and Martha (Jason) Hamm. Along with 12 other grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Out of respect for her wishes, a formal service will not be held, but family and friends are having a gathering at the Christ Church of Starke on Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Charles Miller

Charles "Chuck" Raymond Miller, of Starke, Feb. 23, 1938 – Feb. 29, 2024. A Hero's Echo: Remembering the Heart and Valor of a Guardian. In the quiet stillness of remembrance, we gather not just to mourn but to honor Charles Raymond Miller, who was a testament to the strength of the human spirit, the courage of conviction, and the deep well of compassion that defines true heroism. He began shaping his life on a dairy farm in Titusville, Pennsylvania where he helped his mom and two sisters. At 17, he convinced his mom to sign the early entrance papers so he could join the military and learn what it was to be a man. And a man he was; he served 30-plus years in the US Navy, where he was awarded several honors of distinction such as numerous Silver Stars and four Purple Hearts. He was one of the few to reach Lt. Commander via the Warrant Program. After retiring from the military, he then dedicated his life to the land and animals while serving as a member of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He was also very active with the Shriners. As The Potentate, he grew his hair long and declared that he would only cut it after the money for the children's hospital's designated equipment was achieved. For those who knew him, long hair was considered a hippy, but the children's hospital got their equipment! He was a dedicated soldier, husband, father, grandfather, son, and friend. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and meeting up with his buddies at the American Legion. His legacy is as wide as it is deep, a true American Hero.

He is survived by his wife Olivia "Libby" (Goodman) Miller; children, Deborah (Bob) Cox, and Keith (Tammy) Miller; stepchildren, Karla Harper and Timothy Harper; along with eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Wednesday, March 6, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Funeral services followed. A graveside service followed at Hickory Grove Cemetery, Green Cove Springs. In lieu of flowers, please share your support and love with the Alzheimer's Association.

Arrangements were under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St. Starke 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Jasper Miles III

Jasper (Jeff) Miles III passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024. He was born July 17, 1945, in Miami to J. J. Miles Jr. and Ella (Brooks) Miles. He served in the United States Air Force. He worked for NAPA Auto Parts in Starke and then in Keystone Heights, retiring in 1999. He was a member of Eagle Aries #3822 and 2nd Loyal Order of Moss #184. He liked the 'Noles and 'Go Dawgs.'

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Susan; daughters, Michele (Troy) McGee of Keystone Heights and Andrea Gooderham of eastern Tennessee; six grandchildren; three great-grandsons; and a sister-in-law, Vicki Kuhl.

No services are scheduled at this time, instead hug your loved ones, start a garden and go fishing!

PAID OBITUARY



Terry Hamilton

Terry Hamilton, 67, of Hampton Lake passed away on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, following complications from cancer. He was born in Key West on Feb. 29, 1956 (a Leap Year Key West Conch) and was raised in Raiford/Lake Butler. A devoted husband and father, he was enjoying retirement from tenures at Gainesville Regional Utilities and Seminole Electric Cooperative. He prioritized his family above all else, was an avid supporter of Florida Gators football (texting his son and friends with FREQUENT updates during games) and enjoyed a relaxing Sunday watching golf while looking out at Hampton Lake in his back yard. No one had more friends than he did, and he will be missed by all. He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond Hamilton; mother, Alice Hamilton; and sister, Suzi Powell.

He is survived by his wife, Annette Hamilton; son, Tyler Hamilton; nephew, Noah Abourezk; and brother, Tom Hamilton

A Celebration of Life will be Wednesday, March 13, on the Hampton Lake lot adjacent to 10689 S.W. 77th Ave., Hampton. Visitation will begin at 12:30 p.m., with the service beginning at 1:30 p.m.

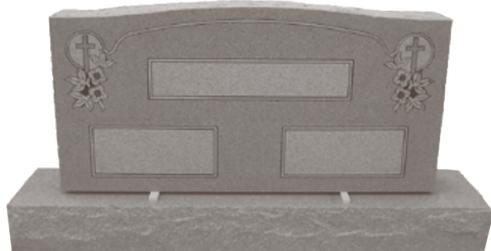
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Gregory Padgett

Gregory Chester "Greg" Padgett, 60, of Starke passed away Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, at his residence. He was born on Sept. 3, 1963, in Starke and was a lifelong area resident. He attended Smyrna Baptist Church and was a heavy equipment operator for Clay County Public Works. He enjoyed woodworking, was a moonshine collector and loved his dogs and his '63 Chevrolet that he spent countless hours restoring.

Survivors are his wife of 32 years, Marcilla (Carter) Padgett of Starke; his parents, L.E (Velma) Padgett; brother, Bryan (Connie) Padgett of Starke; niece, Alyssa (Trey) Shannahan, and their son, Mason; niece, Ashlyn (Connard) Rodgers and their son, Asher; mother and father-in-law, Charles and Nella Carter of Lawtey; sister-in-law, Vickie Crews of Starke and her children, Richard and Bailee. Also left are many aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family.

The family received friends at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Wednesday, Feb. 28. Funeral services were at Smyrna Baptist Church on Thursday, Feb. 29, with Pastor Josh Green officiating. Interment followed at Long Branch Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your local Humane Society.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Sheila Terrell

Sheila Kay Terrell, 61, a lifelong resident of Clay Hill, went to her heavenly home on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, at her residence with her loving family by her side. She was born in Starke on Sept. 13, 1962, to the late Donnie Mosley and Ruby Mosley. After attending Bradford High School, she married her best friend and forever companion, Bennie Terrell, on May 23, 1980. She was devoted to her family and always made them her first priority. She loved being a wife and mother and, later in life, cherished time with her grandbabies and great-grandson.

She was a homemaker for years and worked at Wilkinson Junior High School in Middleburg as a cafeteria assistant while her children were in school. She proudly retired after dedicating 22 years. She loved traveling, camping and taking trips annually to the mountains and especially loved days on Kingsley Lake. She enjoyed praising and worshipping her Lord and Savior at Christ Church of Starke. More than anything, she loved her family and was thankful for the gift of time and the beautiful memories she created throughout the years. Her legacy was great, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her grandson, Jousha Bennie Terrell.

She is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Bennie Terrell of Clay Hill; children, Brooksie Terrell, Ashley (Chunk) Higginbotham, both of Clay Hill, Earl Terrell of Starke, and Matt (Amanda Bass) Terrell of Hampton; sister, Cindy (Timmy) Durrance of Clay Hill; grandchildren, Michael and Ethan Higginbotham, Cash, Paisley, and Clay Terrell, Lynzi and Preston Terrell, and Logan Terrell; a great-grandson, Brantley Terrell; along with several extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held on Friday, March 1, at Long Branch Baptist Church with Pastor Lester Austin and Pastor Jeremy Crawford officiating.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Robert Troup

Robert "Bob" Charles Troup, 65, of Keystone Heights passed away Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the V.A. Hospital in Gainesville following a brief illness. He was born July 26, 1958, in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Charles E. and Dorothy (VanBuren) Troup. He served 21 years in the United States Navy, retiring as Chief. He also earned his Master's Degree in Business Management and a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering. Following his military career, he started a new career working as a Global Quality Control Manager. He had a passion for being outdoors hunting, fishing, or camping; he also enjoyed boating and scuba diving. He was always busy fixing or "rigging" things around the house (especially for Halloween). One of his most cherished times was building not one, but two Kit Cars with his son, then taking them to car shows, where they won several awards. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Johnathan Mann; and a brother, James Troup.

Left behind to cherish his memory is his loving and devoted wife of 42 years, Georgeanna (Whorley) Troup; and their children, Patricia Parsons, Brandon (Lyanne) Troup, and Erin Dort. He was lovingly called "Grandpa" or "Papa" by his five grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Thursday, March 7, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. A military graveside service was held Friday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m. at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Tunnels to Towers.

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

PAID OBITUARY

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KHHS boys weightlifting team wins home invitational

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Jayden Goodman, Trey Jeffries and Wyatt Van Zant won their weight classes in both the Olympic and traditional events, helping the Keystone Heights High School win both events as a team at the March 4 KHHS Boys Weightlifting Invitational.

The Indians, who have won three straight Class 1A traditional state titles, came out on top of 11 other teams, including Fleming Island, which was the Class 2A traditional state champ last season as well as the Olympic runner-up. The field also included Buchholz, Eastside, Gainesville, Matanzas, Middleburg, Oakleaf, Palatka, Ridgeview, West Nassau and Yulee.

Keystone had a score of 60 in the Olympic event, finishing ahead of second-place finisher Oakleaf, which had 45 points. In the traditional event, the Indians and second-place West Nassau had scores of 51 and 37, respectively.

Van Zant won the 129-pound class in the Olympic event with a 430 total (175 snatch, 255 clean and jerk). His clean-and-jerk total and 230 bench press gave him an overall total of 485 in winning the traditional event.

Goodman had a snatch of 205, a clean and jerk of 305 and a bench of 315 to win the 219 class with an Olympic total of 510 and a traditional total of 620.

Jeffries, who won the traditional state title last year in the 219 class, had an Olympic total of 515 and a traditional total of 675 to win the 238 class. He had a 205 snatch, 310 clean and jerk and 365 bench.

Tyler Duncan earned one win with a 490 Olympic total (190 snatch, 300 clean and jerk) in the unlimited class. He also bench pressed 320 to finish with a third-place traditional total of 620.

10 other lifters earn Olympic points

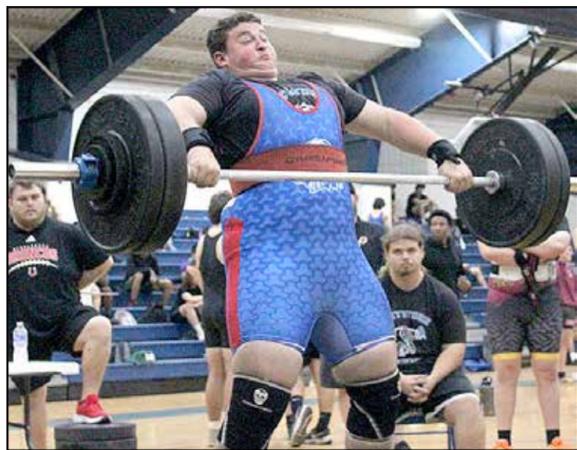
Keystone had three runners-up in the Olympic event as well as seven other lifters who earned points.

Points were awarded for top-six finishes.

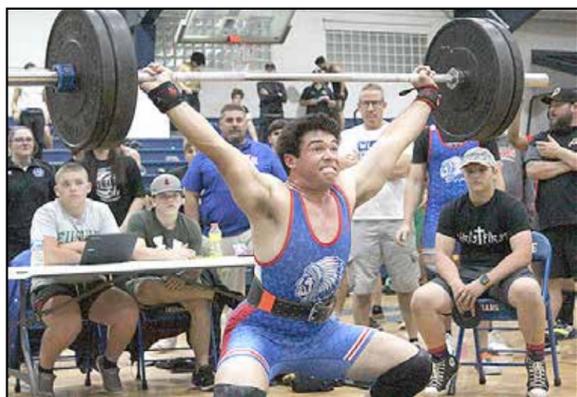
Runners-up were Davin Adams with a 395 total (170, 225) in the 154 class, Ben Ulsch with a 460 total (185, 275) in the 169 class and Kyle Perkins with



Trey Jeffries completes a snatch attempt. He won the Olympic and traditional events in the 238-pound class.



Tyler Duncan competes in the snatch en route to winning the unlimited class in the Olympic event.



Ben Ulsch earned second- and third-place finishes in the 169-pound class.

a 405 total (175, 230) in the 183 class.

Bryson Wester was third in the 219 class with a 420 total (155, 265), while two placed fourth: Jed Tisdale with a 325 total (125, 200) in the 129 class and Jackson Herman with a 450 total (185, 265) in the 238 class.

Three earned fifth-place finishes: Declan Shine with a 320 total (135, 185) in the 139 class, Layton Wright with a 390 total (155, 235) in the 183 class and Brayden Wester with a 430 total (155, 275) in the unlimited class.

Colton Hollingsworth had a sixth-place total of 315 (125, 190) in the 129 class.

Also competing were: Tyson Baxter (240 total in 119), Andrew Ulsch (210 total in 119), Braden McCall (320 total in 154), Clayton Shaw (350 total in 169), Zane Leger (340 total in 199) and Trace Wooden (335 total in 199).

11 place 2nd-6th in traditional event

The Indians had two runners-up in the traditional event in Bryson Wester and Brayden Hall. Wester had a bench of 335 for a 600 overall total, while Hall had a clean and jerk of 205 and a bench of 315 for a 520 total in the 238 class.

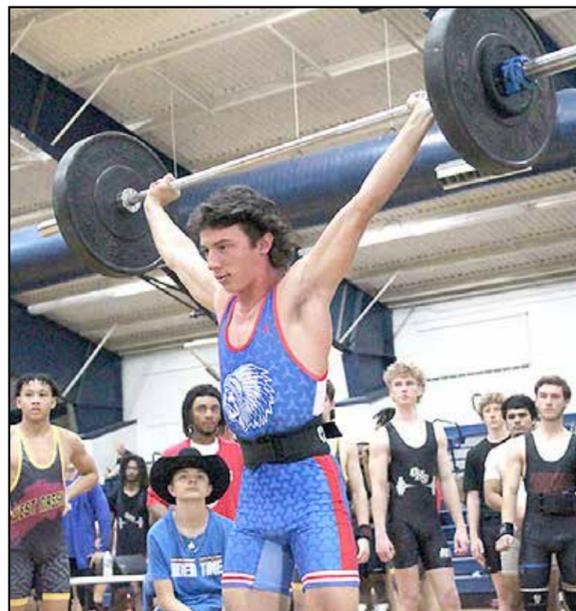
Joining Duncan as third-place finishers were Hollingsworth, who had a 210 bench and 400 total, and Ben Ulsch, who had a 295 bench and 570 total.

Placing fourth were Perkins with a 250 bench and 480 total and Brayden Wester with a 315 bench and 590 total.

Three finished fifth: Baxter with a 190 bench and 335 total, Tisdale with a 185 bench and 385 total and Adams with a 225 bench and 450 total.

Shine placed sixth with a 205 bench and 390 total.

Also competing were: Andrew Ulsch (240 total), Damian Dunlap (420 total in 154), Shaw (430), Wright (460), Leger (430) and Wooden (385).



Wyatt Van Zant lifts his way to becoming the 139-pound winner in both the Olympic and traditional events.



Jayden Goodman competes in the snatch in the 219-pound class. He won both the Olympic and traditional events.

Coming up

Keystone, which has only one loss in each of the Olympic and traditional events this season (both to 3A state champ Spruce

Creek), will host the Clay County Championships on Friday, March 22, at 4 p.m. The Indians then host the District 7 meet on Wednesday, March 27, at 3 p.m.

KHHS softball team defeats Blue Devils in 4 innings

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Alaina Kinsall, Ashley Nugent and Abbie Roach each drove in two runs as part of a nine-run first inning, helping the Keystone Heights High School softball team defeat Class 5A Clay 16-1 in four innings on Feb. 27 in Keystone.

Pitcher Caitlin Frampton pitched the entire way, giving up one run, two hits and three walks, while striking out seven.

Roach, who went 4 for 4 with a double and a triple, drove in the Indians' first two runs of the first on a single. An error allowed a run to score before Riley Shuford and Lorelei Booth each drew a bases-loaded walk. Kinsall and Nugent then drove in two runs each, with Nugent hitting a double.

Kinsall and Roach would both hit RBI doubles in later innings. Kinsall finished with four RBI, while Roach had three.

Nugent finished with three

RBI, while Amber Wagner went 2 for 4.

Keystone (3-1) played fellow Class 3A school Palatka this past Tuesday and will host 4A Eustis on Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m.

KHHS beats error-prone Rams 11-4

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School scored five runs on errors in defeating visiting Interlachen 11-4 in a Feb. 29 baseball game.

The Indians (3-1) built a big lead early with six runs in the first inning. Austin Smith and Aiden Screen drove in runs on a single and a double, respectively, while Brady Kerlin and Ty Mitzel each drove in a run on a sacrifice fly. Errors allowed both Kerlin and Mitzel to reach, while another error allowed Kerlin to score.

Keystone scored three runs on two errors in the second to make it a 9-0 game.

Tyler Brinson batted in a run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Smith and Alex Addington each went 2 for 4.

Kerlin earned the start on the mound, giving up two runs (one earned) and no hits in three innings.

Mitzel pitched three innings as well, striking out nine batters. He allowed one hit and two unearned runs.

Screen closed it out, striking out three of the four batters he faced.

The Indians entered the game off a 4-2 win at North Marion on Feb. 27.

Keystone scored three runs with two outs in the second, taking advantage of two errors and getting an RBI single from Connor Guy.

Guy, who led off the game with a home run, went 2 for 4 with two RBI. The rest of the team was held to two hits.

Starting pitcher Austin Musgrove gave up one run and four hits through five innings. He had four strikeouts.

Gage Barry threw the final two innings, giving up one run and one hit. He struck out three.

The Indians played Williston this past Tuesday and will host Baker County on Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m. Keystone travels to play Palatka on Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m.

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Pilcher fans 16 in 5-0 BHS baseball win over Parker

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Cason Pilcher went the distance on the mound, striking out a personal-record 16 batters



Ryder Thompson went 2 for 4 with an RBI in Bradford's 5-0 win over Parker. That gives him seven total RBI in the Tornadoes' three wins this season.

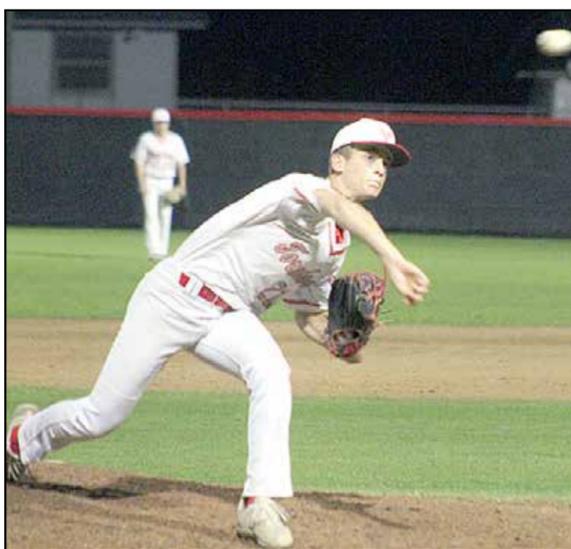
in the Bradford High School baseball team's 5-0 win over visiting Parker on Feb. 29.

Pilcher, who struck out the first nine batters he faced, allowed just two hits, both of which occurred in the top of the fifth. He walked none.

Denver Hudson, who reached on an error in the second, scored on a ground ball hit by Blake Wynn.

The score remained unchanged until the Tornadoes (3-1) pushed three across in the fourth. The first two batters of the inning struck out before Luke Stucky hit a single. An error on the play allowed Stucky to advance all the way to third. He scored on a passed ball.

Ryland Rike kept the inning going with a single. He appeared to be caught in a rundown between first and second while Mattox Burgin was batting, but the visiting Braves committed an error in trying to get Rike out, allowing him to score. Burgin drew a walk and scored



Cason Pilcher recorded 16 strikeouts in a 5-0 win over Parker. He allowed just two hits and no walks.

on a double by Ryder Thompson, putting Bradford ahead 4-0.

Thompson finished 2 for 3 at the plate.

Patrick Pendarvis, who also went 2 for 3, scored the final run. He drew a walk in the fifth, advanced on Wynn's ground out and crossed home plate on Jaron Hale's sacrifice fly.

The Tornadoes entered the game off a 4-2 win at Middleburg on Feb. 27.

Bradford had only three hits, but two were RBI doubles hit by Thompson. The second double was part of a two-run fifth that proved to be the difference.

Stucky pitched a complete game, giving up six hit and no walks, while striking out six.

The Tornadoes played Eastside this past Tuesday and will host Fort White on Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m. Bradford travels to play Baker County on Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play Middleburg on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 13, the Tornadoes host Interlachen at 7 p.m.



Patrick Pendarvis waits for an opportunity to run from second in the game against Parker. He went 2 for 3 and scored the game's final run.

Tigers' Barnett wrestles at 1A state finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Rodney Barnett, Union County High School's lone qualifier, went 0-2 in the 144-pound class at the Class 1A state finals on Feb. 29 in Kissimmee.

The day for Barnett (22-10) began with a 9-5 loss to LaBelle's Devon Jackson, who would go on to place seventh. He then lost 10-6 to Cocoa Beach's Kealan Sieni.

Barnett qualified for state after finishing as the runner-up in his class at the previous week's Region 1 meet. Fernandina Beach's Cole Miscianga, who defeated him for the Region 1 title, wrestled his way to a fourth-place finish at state.

BHS hangs on for 9-8 softball win over Bolles

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

An error in the bottom of the third proved to be the ultimate difference in the Bradford High School softball team's 9-8 win over visiting Bolles on March 1.

The teams combined for 15 runs in the first three innings, with the Tornadoes (1-3) building

an 8-4 lead. A six-run second inning by Bradford included RBI singles by Tinsley Higginbotham and Addyson Hinds and an RBI double by Keegan Yowell.

Amber Wynn singled in the third and scored when the Bulldogs committed an error on a Yowell single.

Bolles hit a single and two doubles in scoring two runs in the sixth to make it a 9-8 game.

The Bulldogs had a runner reach on an error with one out in the seventh. A pop-up to second baseman Higginbotham led to a game-ending double play.

Yowell finished 4 for 4 with two doubles and an RBI, while Kallie Yowell went 2 for 3 with an RBI. Higginbotham, Hinds and Rylie Blankenship each went 2 for 4, with Blankenship and Hinds each hitting a double. Hinds had two RBI, while Blankenship and Higginbotham each had one.

Summer Sutton, who hit a double, had one RBI.

Starting pitcher Emy Crawford, who threw four innings, earned the win, giving up four hits.

Bailey Smith pitched the final three innings, allowing three hits and no walks.

Bradford travels to play Middleburg on Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m. The Tornadoes then go on the road to play Baldwin on Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play Interlachen on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m.

UCHS softball team wins 2 games in Santa Fe Invitational

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's softball team competed in the March 1-2 Santa Fe Raiders Invitational in Alachua, going 2-1 before weather put a halt to the Tigers' game against host Santa Fe.

The Tigers (3-2) opened with a 10-6 win over Lafayette, scoring all of their runs in the first two innings.

Union's half of the first began with three consecutive doubles hit by Emma Handley, Leanne Dicks and Mackenzie Orton, which put the Tigers up 2-0. Brooke Hunt and Mia Kent each hit an RBI single, while Jaydin Alvarez drove in another run on a sacrifice fly.

The Tigers got one RBI each from Alvarez, Dicks, Hunt, Orton and Shyla Crowe in pushing another five runs across in the second.

Orton and Handley finished 3 for 3 and 3 for 4, respectively.

Crowe started in the circle, giving up two runs (one earned) on four hits and one walk through three innings.

Makenzie Radford pitched the final two innings, giving up one run and three hits.

The Tigers were held to two hits in their second game on

March 1, losing 12-1 to Williston, a Class 1A playoff qualifier last season.

Union scored its only run in the bottom of the first. Handley hit a leadoff double, followed by walks to Orton and Crowe. Hunt drew another walk, which forced a run in.

The Tigers rebounded in their first game on March 2, with Alvarez driving in what would prove to be the winning run in a 6-5 win over 6A Lake Gibson in eight innings.

Union trailed 4-3 entering the seventh. Alvarez hit a leadoff single, stole second and advanced to third on a Handley fly ball. She scored on an Orton bunt.

The Braves led off the bottom of the inning with a double and had the winning run on third base with one out. Pop-ups to third baseman Hunt and shortstop Handley sent the game into the extra inning.

Campbell Webb was placed on second base for the Tigers to begin the eighth (each team begins its half of an extra inning with a runner on second). An error on a ground ball hit by Crowe allowed Crowe to reach safely and Webb to advance to third. Hunt reached on a dropped third strike to load the bases for Brooke Burgess, who hit a single to score Webb. One out later, an Alvarez line drive allowed courtesy runner Jaiilyn Simmons to score, putting Union ahead 6-4.

Lake Gibson hit an RBI single with one out in the bottom of the inning to make it a one-run game, but a pop-up to third and a ground out to first baseman Kent ended the game.

Orton went 3 for 4 with an RBI, while Burgess and Crowe each went 2 for 4 with an RBI. Handley went 2 for 5. Crowe pitched all eight innings, giving up two earned runs on nine hits and one walk.

Union began a game against host Santa Fe, but the teams got only three innings in, with the Raiders leading 9-5.

The Tigers entered the tournament off a 3-1 loss to last season's Class 1A state runner-up Branford on Feb. 27 in Lake Butler.

It was tied 1-1 until the Bucs scored two in the sixth, taking advantage of a single and error and a double.

Union was held to four hits, with Webb driving in the lone run.

Crowe, who pitched a complete game, allowed just one earned run along with five hits and one walk.

The Tigers played 6A Buchholz this past Tuesday and will host Chiefland on Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m. Union then hosts Bell on Monday, March 11, at 6 p.m.

UCHS baseball team defeats Oakleaf 8-4

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Erick Lasseter and Foster Smith drove in two runs each, with Smith also earning the win on the mound in the Union County High School baseball team's 8-4 win over host Oakleaf on Feb. 29.

The Tigers (2-3) scored all of their runs in the first four innings. Lasseter got it started with a two-run homer in the first, while Preston Bonsall drove in a run on a ground ball in the second. Smith hit a two-run single as part of a three-run fourth.

Union also scored runs on a hit batter with the bases loaded, a passed ball and a wild pitch.

Smith pitched a shutout through the first four innings. He threw five overall, giving up four runs on four hits and two walks. He had four strikeouts.

Baler Waters and Jake Walker each pitched one inning. Waters gave up no hits, while Walker gave up one and struck out two of the four batters he faced.

Defensive, the Tigers turned a 5-4-3 double play in the sixth.

The Tigers entered the game off an 8-2 loss at Suwannee on Feb. 27.

Union faced a big early deficit when the Bulldogs scored five runs in the second. Only one of those runs came off a hit, with the rest being scored on two bases-loaded walks, a passed ball and a steal of home.

Smith went 3 for 4 with a double and an RBI, while Bonsall was 2 for 4 with a double.

The Tigers played Baldwin this past Tuesday and will travel to play University Christian on Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m. Union returns home to play Nease on Monday, March 11, at 6 p.m. and Suwannee on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m.

KHHS has 5 top-10 finishes at March 2 invitational

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's boys and girls 4x400m relay teams each placed seventh as the Indians had a total of 5 top-10 finishes at the 10th annual Craig Speziale Memorial Track and Field Invitational on March 2 at Ponte Vedra High School.

Jaden Park, Tyler Griffin, Tyler Sapp and Ryeland Wahl teamed up to run 3:46 in the boys 4x400m, while the girls team of Cali Chamberlain, Christine DJavaheri, Kaylee Park and Olivia Griffin ran a time of 4:34.

The boys 4x800m relay team of Hunter Sheppard, Ryder Thomas, Wahl and Griffin placed eighth with a time of 9:22, while Park was 10th in the boys long jump with a distance of 17-8.25.

Griffin ran a ninth-place time of 2:33 in the girls 800m. The girls team also got a 10th-place finish from Park, who had a distance of 13-11 in the long jump.

Keystone also had the following girls results: 100m — Laila Briseno 14.98, Kenslee Phillips 15.48, Jasmine Walls 16.54; 200m — Park 28.64, DJavaheri 30.35, Walls 34.63; and 400m — Chamberlain 1:08, Phillips 1:11, Brook Gaudons 1:15.

Other boys results were: 100m — Park 12.08, Josiah Durrenberger 12.31, De'Shawn Williams 14.13; 200m — Williams 28.81, Taylor Rozier 34.2; 400m — Sapp 56.92, Durrenberger 57.0, Luke Lewis 1:06; 800m — Griffin 2:12, Wahl

2:17; 1600m — Sheppard 5:25; 3200m — Thomas 10:53; discus — Ricardo Rosario 62-7.5; and shot put — Rosario 30-3.5.

Bethea, Diston lead Tigers at Feb. 27 track and field meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Amia Bethea earned a runner-up finish for the girls team, while Dayquan Diston had two fourth-place finishes for the boys as the Union County High School track and field team competed at the Feb. 27 Santa Fe Raiders Mini Meet.

Bethea ran a second-place time of 26.67 in the 200m and was one of two on the girls to earn a top-10 finish. Taleyah Smith was seventh in the shot put with a distance of 27-0.5.

Other girls results were: 100m — Faith Sirmones 14.36, Holly Halfacre 15.0, Daina Smith 17.15; 200m — Sirmones 30.54; long jump — Halfacre 12-11.5; and shot put — Ja'Kari Hill 20-9, Briana Haight 20-7.25.

Diston's fourth-place finishes occurred in the 100m and 200m with times of 11.39 and 23.06.

C.J. Ivey was 10th in the shot put with a distance of 35-4.

The Tigers also had the following boys results: 100m — Bobo Woodall 12.0, Blake McCoy 12.13, Matthew Rogers 13.65; 200m — Deonte Jones 24.4, Bo Thomas 24.44, Brycen Boney 24.85; 800m — Gavin Smith 2:14, Michael Hill 2:28, Dane Johnson 2:33; 1600m — Ashton Bunkley 6:11; long jump — McCoy 16-10.5, Johnson 15-3.25, Ibn Williams 15-2.25; and shot put — Jacob Jenkins 33-2.5, Anthony Holmes 27-10.75.

BHS competes at Raines track and field meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School had a total of three top-10 finishes at a Feb. 27 track and field meet hosted by Raines High School.

The girls 4x100m relay team ran a seventh-place time of 53.76, while Kaelyn Booker earned a ninth-place finish for the girls team in the 100m hurdles with a time of 20.33.

Bradford also had the following girls results: 100m — Izariya Desue 13.69, Diamond Ferguson 13.88, Nakiya Easley 13.97, Jordynn Littles 14.41, Melissa Harding 15.13; 200m — Ferguson 31.17, Harding 32.42; Loundreikwa Hunter 36.47; 400m — Booker 1:13, Lysa McKenzie 1:38; 100m hurdles — Madison Miller 25.54; and long jump — McKenzie 11-7.75.

Boys team member Parviele Lee was ninth in the shot put with a distance of 36-10.5.

Other boys results were: 100m — Elijah Lawrence 11.8, Branden Williams 11.89, Bryce Thomas 12.31, Gino Addison 12.68; 200m — Williams 24.8, Jordan Barton 26.04; 400m — Barton 58.01; 800m — Krystian Harris 2:39, Andrew King 2:46, Hayden Starling 2:52; and long jump — Brayden Smyth 17-9.75.

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Late TD gives BHS flag football team win over KHHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ar'Nayshia Griffin's touchdown pass to Ajjiah Jackson with approximately 30 seconds remaining gave the Bradford High School flag football team a 12-6 win over host Keystone Heights on March 4.

An interception by Nichelle Brown set up the score as the Tornadoes (3-1) defeated the Indians (2-4) for the second time in less than a week.

The first play from scrimmage was an interception by Keystone's Alana Anderson, which set the Indians' offense up approximately 18 yards from the Bradford end zone. Quarterback Alee Horton threw a touchdown pass to Anderson, but the score was called back by a penalty for an illegal block. Keystone would eventually turn the ball over on downs, with the Tornadoes' Brown breaking up a fourth-down pass attempt.

Shortly afterward, Jackson found herself open to catch a pass from Griffin and turn it into a touchdown covering approximately 47 yards with 5:40 to play in the first quarter. The conversion attempt was no good.

Griffin made the first of four interceptions for the Bradford defense on the ensuing series, but Keystone's defense would keep the Tornadoes from gaining a first down and force a punt.

The Indians were able to tie the score late in the second quarter. Horton completed consecutive passes of approximately 26 yards each to Anderson and Ashlyn Brown, with Brown's catch resulting in a touchdown with 40 seconds left until halftime. The conversion attempt was no good, leaving the teams knotted up at 6-6.

Brown, who caught 11 passes for almost 100 yards for the Indians, had three receptions on the opening drive of the second half, but the Bradford defense would eventually force a punt, thanks to a Jackson sack and a pass breakup by Kha'Myra Hnkerson.

The Tornadoes' Nichelle Brown, who rushed for approximately 50 yards on five carries, had a 26-yard run into Keystone territory. She later caught a pass to set up a goal-to-go opportunity. The Tornadoes, though, turned the ball over on downs after two incomplete passes and two runs left them 8 yards shy of the end zone.

Bradford would get the ball right back on Griffin's second interception of the game, setting up first down 9 yards from the end one. A second-down reception by Brown moved the Tornadoes 7 yards closer, but two straight incomplete passes led to a turnover on downs, with Keystone's Alyssa Sanford breaking up the fourth-down play.



Bradford's Kailyn Teal (left) prepares to intercept a pass in the Feb. 29 game against Keystone. Also pictured is Bradford's Kha'Myra Hnkerson.



Bradford's Ar'Nayshia Griffin (foreground) runs upfield after intercepting a pass. Pictured in the background (l-r) are Keystone's Alyssa Sanford, Bradford's Ajjiah Jackson and Keystone's Brynn Creekmore.



Brynn Creekmore runs after making a catch for Keystone. Bradford's Kailyn Teal is also pictured.



Keystone quarterback Alee Horton gets a pass off in the first meeting against Bradford.

The Indians' next offensive series again ended with an interception, this time made by Bradford's Nichelle Brown. Brown then caught a pass on the first play following the turnover to give the Tornadoes first-and-

goal 20 yards from the end zone. Keystone's Ashlyn Brown ended the threat, making an interception inside the 10-yard line.

Three plays later, Bradford's Nichelle Brown made her second interception. This time,

the Tornadoes cashed in, with Griffin and a wide-open Jackson hooking up for their second 40-plus-yard touchdown, putting Bradford ahead 12-6. The conversion attempt failed.

Griffin completed just 8 of 22 passes, but those completions resulted in more than 130 yards.

Horton, who was 16 of 31 for approximately 180 yards, completed passes of 10 yards to Brown and 23 yards to Anderson, giving Keystone a first down past midfield before the game ended when a snap hit the ground well short of Horton.

Anderson finished three receptions for more than 60 yards.

The two teams played each other in Starke on Feb. 29, with Griffin running for one score and catching a pass for another in Bradford's 20-0 win.

Bradford scored on the game's opening drive. A 28-yard reception by Nichelle Brown moved the Tornadoes past midfield and left them just 2 yards shy of picking up a first down at the 20-yard line. Griffin, who was 5 of 18 for 52 yards, completed passes of 9 yards to Brown and 11 yards to Jackson. Jackson's catch set up Griffin's 2-yard touchdown run.

Hankerson caught a pass on the conversion attempt to make the score 7-0.

Griffin and Horton each had an interception in the first half as the teams struggled for any offensive consistency.

The Tornadoes didn't need their offense on the field to increase their lead. Bradford's defense forced Keystone to punt on the opening series of the second half. Nichelle Brown returned the punt approximately 50 yards put Bradford up 13-0. The conversion attempt failed.

Keystone's next two offensive series ended with interceptions by the Tornadoes' Brown and Kailyn Teal. Teal's pick led to an 41-yard touchdown drive that was helped by a personal-foul penalty. Griffin and Brown swapped positions on the scoring play, with Brown completing a 14-yard touchdown pass to Griffin. Griffin then completed a pass to Hankerson on the conversion attempt for the 20-0 final.

Nichelle finished with 40 yards on three catches, while Griffin rushed for almost 30 on four carries.

Horton completed 7 of 21 passes for almost 60 yards. Approximately 30 of those yards came on three catches by Anderson.

Bradford will next host Santa Fe on Tuesday, March 19, at 6 p.m.

The Indians played Oakleaf this past Tuesday and will travel to play Palatka on Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m. Keystone then hosts Bartram Trail on Tuesday, March 19, at 7 p.m.



Bradford's Nichelle Brown (foreground) makes a tough catch against Keystone's Yasmin Bryant.



Keystone's Alana Anderson (left) makes a catch before her flag is pulled by Bradford's Kha'Myra Hankerson.

Tri-County Classifieds



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Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay

Worded Classified Ad up to 25 words is \$10
Classified Display Ad is \$10 per col. inch
Deadline for Classified ads - Tuesday 12 noon

904-964-6305
classads@bctelegraph.com



Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads 3/7/24

40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status

includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida

Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

OFFICE BUILDING on Call Street by Sunshine Title. Has office space, conference room, break room, etc. Call Coldwell Bankers for info.

COMMERCIAL SPACE built out as a beauty salon. 142 W Call Street. Soon to have expanded parking. \$800/mo. Call 904-964-6305.

49 Mobile Homes For Sale

DWMH 24x 80 3BR/2BA, large dining room living room combined, W/D & office. This house is located in Three Rivers Estate. Has been remodeled, large lot. Country living at its best. \$177,000. Owner financing available with a large down payment and approved credit. Call 904-964-6305.

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323

NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW Lake Butler. No pets. 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

2BR/1BA single family. Carport & utility room. 1st, last and security deposit. Starke, close to hospital. 904-364-6602.

53 A Yard Sales

BIG YARD SALE; Saturday 8am-2pm. 329 N Church Street

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Southern Villas of Starke

Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.

Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL
Call 904-964-7295
TDD/TTY 711
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

WANTED: Highwaymen Art



CALL or TEXT WALTER 863-517-1986

WELL DRILLING
QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964
24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE
964-7061
STATE LICENSE #1305
DURRANCE PUMP

HERITAGE VILLAS
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts
607 Bradford Court
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-6216
TDD 771
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Lake Butler Apartments 1, 2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS
HC & Non-HC accessible.
1005 SW 6th St.
Lake Butler, FL
386-496-3141
TDD/TTY 711.
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

Orangewood Apartments
801 South Water Street
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-4214
TDD/TTY 711
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!
1, 2, & 3 bedroom HC & Non-HC accessible apartments.
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of March 7, 2024

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MID-FLORIDA DEVELOPEMENT LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 812
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 03345-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-0001
Description of Property: 28 6S 22 BLK 26 IN L T & COS S/D, EX E1/2 OF LOT 1 & EX S 25' OF E1/2 OF LOT 2 OF BLK 26, AS DESC IN OR BK 47 PG 108 of the Public Records of Bradford County, State of Florida. Name in Which Assessed: ARTHUR RANDOLPH
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 04/24/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that LEWIS CHAFF the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 713
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 02517-0-00000
Case Number: 2024-TD-0003
Description of Property: LOTS 2 AND 3 OF BLOCK 17, NORTH RENO, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOX 2 AT PAGE 39 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: February 19, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: FEBRUARY 22, 2024; FEBRUARY 29, 2024; MARCH 7, 2024; MARCH 14, 2024
2/22 4tchg 3/14-BCT

PUBLIC AUCTION

Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on 3/8/2024 10:00am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items:
Unit 98 Belonging to S. Hampton
Units 125 & 137 Belonging to P. Brewer
Unit 110 Belonging to V. Atkinson
Unit 134 & 144 Belonging to S. Wilkinson
2/29 2tchg 3/7-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
File No.: 04-2023-CP-000121
Probate Division

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ELLEN STUBBS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(Single Personal Representative)
The administration of the Estate of ELIZABETH ELLEN STUBBS, deceased, whose date of death was May 18, 2023, File Number: as referenced above, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All Creditors of Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate, including unmatred, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE 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, including unmatred, contingent or unliquidated claims, 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 §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 the first publication of this Notice is February 29, 2024.
Attorney for Personal Representative: /S/ ADAM S. GUMSON
JUPITER LAW CENTER
RiverPlace Professional Ctr
1003 W. Indiantown Road – Suite 210
Jupiter, Florida 33458-6851
Telephone :(561) 744 - 4600
Florida Bar No.: 906948
E-mail: asg@jupiterlawcenter.com
Personal Representative: KIMBERLY E. DUGGER
289 Maxwell Drive
Welaka, FL 32193
2/29 2tchg 3/7-BCT

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

CASE NO.: 04-2023-CA-271
MATTHEW S. BRYANT LLC, a Florida limited liability company, Plaintiff,
Vv.
JAVY ABSHER and MELISSA ABSHER, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO F. S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated February 23, 2024, in the above-styled action, the clerk of court, Denny Thompson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Bradford County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Bradford County, Florida 32091, in the hallway directly past the security checkpoint, at 11:00 a.m., on March 28, 2024, the following described property in Bradford County, Florida:

A parcel of land containing 0.55 of an acre and lying in Lot 46 of Woodlawn, Section 15, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 17 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:
Commence at the Southwest Corner of said Lot 46 for point of beginning and run North 0 degrees 04 minutes and 24 seconds West, along the Westerly boundary thereof, 143.0 feet; thence South 89 degrees 46 minutes and 41 seconds East, parallel with the Southerly boundary of said Lot 46 a distance of 169.34 feet; thence South 0 degrees 20 minutes and 19 seconds West 143.0 feet to said Southerly boundary; thence North 89 degrees, 46 minutes and 41 seconds West, along said Southerly boundary, 168.31 feet to the Point of Beginning.

TOGETHER WILL ALL IMPROVEMENTS, SUBJECT TO COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS, EASEMENTS OF RECORD AND TAXES FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. Parcel ID No.: 01219-0-00204. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. DATED this 26th day of February, 2024.

TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A. By/s/Katelyn T. Hardwick Katelyn T. Hardwick Florida Bar No. 118454 420 S. Lawrence Blvd. Keystone Heights, Florida 32656 Primary Email: katie@tah-law.com Secondary Email: kim@tah-law.com (352) 473-8088 (telephone) (352) 473-8161 (facsimile) Attorneys for Plaintiff
3/7 2tchg 3/14-BCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners and the Tourist Development Council will be holding a workshop on March 21, 2024, at 3:00 PM in the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.
3/7 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
CareerSource Florida Crown (CSFC) will hold an Executive Board/ Consortium Emergency Special Board Meeting to address the findings of the letter determining CSFC recurring financial monitoring finding in the Quality Assurance Report for program year 2022-2023, Florida Commerce letter dated February 19, 2024.
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024
Time: 10am
Place: Teleconference & CareerSource Board Room-1389 US Hwy 90 W Ste 170/Lake City, FL
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3962013193?pwd=bnRSL3JocTFL0ZHUW9tUGJKZStWQT09
Call In 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 396 201 3193
Participant ID: #
Passcode: 944786

It is advised that you call in as well as log in via the computer application. The public is invited to attend. Notice has been made of this meeting, through publication, to comply with the "Government in the Sunshine Law". All CareerSource Florida Crown public meetings are listed on the CareerSource Florida Crown web site at www.careersourcefloridacrown.com. CareerSource Florida Crown is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711. Contact Jeff Geering at 386-755-9026 X 3221.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need to record the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
3/7 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of City of Starke, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on March 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

LDC 24-01 is an application by the City Commission to amend the text of the Land Development Code by amending Section 4-106.L.1 entitled Development Standards for Planned Unit Developments to change the minimum size parcel for Planned Unit Developments from ten acres to five acres inclusive of all existing public streets.

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

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

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

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.
3/7 1tchg-BCT

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at a public hearing on March 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF MORE THAN 50 ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, 1R230511A, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDASTATUTES,ASAMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 2 DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE) TO CITY HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MORE THAN 8 LESS THAN 20 UNITS PER ACRE) AND CITY COMMERCIAL ON CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY

3/7 1tchg-BCT

OF STARKE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.
3/7 1tchg-BCT

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at a public hearing on March 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE,ASAMENDED;RELATING TO THE REZONING OF TEN OR MORE CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 23-03, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM COUNTY RURAL, RESIDENTIAL (RR) TO CITY MULTI-FAMILY,HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2B) AND CITY HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (B-3) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.
3/7 1tchg-BCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on February 2, 2024:

Joshua Smith, 8558 SW County Road 245, Lake Butler, FL 32054-5369 has submitted Water Use Permit application #221756-2, for renewal of average daily withdraws 0.1138 million gallons for agricultural use. This project is located in Section 6, Township 6S, Range 18E in Union County.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.
3/7 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 63-2024-DR-0004
Division: Probate

BETHANY AND CHRISTINA ESFORD, Petitioner
and
DEANA STOKES AND EARL BAGLEY Respondent.

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

TO: (name of respondent) EARL BAGLEY III (Respondent's last known address) HOMELESS, TALLAHASSEE, FL YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on (name of Petitioner) BETHANY AND CHRISTINA ESFORD, whose address is 13422 NE 233RD PLACE, RAIFORD, FL 32083 on or before (date) 3/8/2024, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 55 WEST MAIN STREET, ROOM 103, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. (if applicable, insert the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located) Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: January 31, 2024
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: C. Norman
Deputy Clerk

2/15 4tchg 3/7-UCT

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

CASE NO.: 23000050CPAXMX
DIVISION: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF B E T T Y GAMBLE

A/K/A BETTY SUE GAMBLE A/K/A BETTY BARNES GAMBLE, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of BETTY GAMBLE A/K/A BETTY SUE GAMBLE A/K/A BETTY BARNES GAMBLE, ("Decedent") deceased, whose date of death was April 6, 2023, and whose Social Security Number is XXX-XX-3999, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner'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 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 SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is February 29, 2024.
REBECCA BUCKALEW A/K/A REBECCA CHARLENE GAMBLE BUCKALEW, Petitioner
4685 W State Rd 238, Lake Butler, FL 32054
LAW OFFICES OF AL NICOLETTI /s/ Alfred V. Nicoletti
ALFRED V. NICOLETTI, ESQ.
Florida Bar No.: 125446
7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd.
Suite 50-647
Orlando, Florida 32819
2/29 2tchg 3/7-UCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

The Union County Board of County Commissioners will have a Special Meeting on March 11, 2024 at 5:00 PM in the Union County Courthouse.
3/7 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2024-02

The Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida proposes to adopt an ordinance extending the hours of the sale, consumption and service of alcoholic beverages within the unincorporated areas of the county on Sundays.

The public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held during the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on March 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Union County Courthouse, located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING ORDINANCE 00-3; AMENDING SECTION 2 ORDINANCE 80-1, PROHIBITING THE SALE, CONSUMPTION, OR SERVING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT

ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSED BY THE DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DURING CERTAIN HOURS, PROVIDING THAT NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BE SOLD, CONSUMED, SERVED, OR PERMITTED TO BE SERVED OR CONSUMED AT SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS BETWEEN 1:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. SUNDAY, 12:00 A.M. TO 7:00 A.M. MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, AND 1:00 A.M. TO 7:00 A.M. SATURDAY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the ordinance. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771.

3/7 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2024-01

The Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida proposes to adopt an ordinance to designate the Union County Sheriff as the chief correctional officer of the Union County correctional system.

The public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held during the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on March 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Union County Courthouse, located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA DESIGNATING THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF AS THE CHIEF CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE UNION COUNTY CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 951.061, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771.

3/7 1tchg-UCT

CIS Deployment.

Public notification that a Contraband Interdiction System will be deployed at the Reception and Medical Center. Those in the surrounding community should be aware there is potential for service interruptions during deployment.
3/7 1tchg-UCT

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a SPECIAL MEETING on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 5:45pm at the City Commission Chambers located at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.
3/7 1tchg-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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Editor: Mark J. Crawford
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Advertising: John R. Tillman
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Front office Asst:

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200

Thames, Eison, Smith earn table-setting rosettes

Natalie Thames earned a best-overall rosette in the Senior division, while Caden Eison and Ansley Smith earned best-overall rosettes in Intermediate and Junior, respectively, in the Bradford 4-H Table Setting-Contest, which was held March 1 at the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds.

The annual event teaches youth etiquette skills, menu planning and nutrition as well as helping them develop presentation skills (they discuss their setting and theme in front of judges, who ask them questions).

Thames, who won the rosette in the Intermediate division in each of the last three years, was this year's only participant in the Senior division. Her theme was based on Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." Thames dressed

as Belle as she presented her table to judges Ella Dinkins and Donna Solze. Thames' menu consisted of an appetizer of brie mousse with fig preserves, a first course of French-onion soup with assorted bread, a blue cheese, pear and walnut salad with apple vinaigrette, a main dish of braised chicken with onions, mushrooms and garlic on buttered pasta, a dessert of chocolate souffle with strawberries and sweet cream, and a drink selection of sparkling water, tart lemonade and hot chocolate.

The Intermediate division consisted of two participants, with Eison and Ryder Detweiler both earning blue ribbons. Eison was presented with the rosette for his setting based on

See TABLE, page 16



Ansley Smith presented a tea-party setting in earning the rosette in the Junior division.



Natalie Thames dressed as "Belle" in presenting her table, which was inspired by Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." She received the rosette in the Senior division.

Breathing Easy: A Sincere Thank You for Making Our Parks Tobacco-Free
The Tobacco Free Bradford Partnership extends heartfelt appreciation to our Bradford County Board of County Commissioners and Starke City Commissioners for their continued support and recent adoption of tobacco-free park ordinances. Policies like these create healthier environments for all to enjoy and promote healthier choices, while reducing youth exposure to tobacco.

Let's get out and enjoy our beautiful parks and celebrate the positive impacts that result from tobacco-free parks throughout our community.

Thank you for prioritizing our community's health and making our parks more enjoyable for all.

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- ⊕ Do NOT turn on/off any light switches or devices that may cause a spark
- ⊕ Then contact your local utility

These simple steps are what you need to know. Chances are, the leak is minor, but your local utility will come right over and check things out.

904.964.5027

cityofstarke.org



FGUST20-004



Congratulations to this year's honorees!

2024 Women of Distinction: Naima Brown, Jeannine Hogue, Chrissy Thompson;
2024 Woman of Promise: Honesty Huston

WOMEN OF
**DISTINCTION
&
PROMISE**

SANTA FE COLLEGE

Celebration Luncheon
Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Hilton Conference Center
Gainesville, Florida

\$40 per person. Advance registration required.

To purchase tickets visit sfcollege.edu/WOD or contact Teri McClellan at 352-395-5201, teri.mcclellan@sfcollege.edu.



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Continued from page 9

adjustments.”

Roach said something she'll take with her to Central Florida is Marquart's "five-second" rule: if something bad happens, like a strikeout, you've got five seconds to think about it before

putting it behind you.

"Just shake it off," Roach said. "It's all going to be OK. Just five seconds, and you're done. You're fine."

Roach has the goal of playing at a four-year school after she completes two years at Central Florida. She has no dream school in mind. Any opportunity will be a blessing.

"I pray that God will give me

one that feels right," Roach said.

As long as she's swinging a bat and chasing down fly balls, it'll feel right. That's why she doesn't admit to any nervousness when asked what it'll feel like when she steps onto the field for the first time as a College of Central Florida Patriot.

"I think it'll feel like home," Roach said. "I think it'll feel like right where I belong."

TABLE

Continued from page 15

his mentoring/service club, 12 Guys in Bow-Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls. His table's centerpiece was a display of garden tools, representing the club's community service projects.

Eison's menu consisted of Service Subs (choice of ham or turkey), Future Fruit Salad (strawberries, bananas, grapes and kiwi), Community Cookies (double chocolate chip) and Working Water Bottles.

Detweiler's theme was "Lunch with the Boys," which represented the video games he and his friends enjoy playing together.

Smith, who competed as a Cloverbud last year, was the lone participant in the Junior division. Her theme was based upon a tea party, with a menu that consisted of cucumber and cream cheese



Caden Eison received the rosette in the Intermediate division for his setting that was inspired by his involvement in the 12 Guys in Bow-Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls mentoring/service group.

sandwiches, fresh, fruit salad, peanut butter pear cookies, fresh-squeezed lemonade and mint tea.

Callie Smith was this year's lone Cloverbud participant. Cloverbuds are the youngest 4-H members. They receive green participation ribbons and gain experience that will benefit them when they are old enough to start competing in the junior division.

All of the table-setting displays can be viewed during the Bradford Agricultural Fair in Building 3 along with a display of other 4-H youth projects.

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Florida Twin Theatre

904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!

<p>THURSDAY 3/7 DUNE: PART 2-6:30 (Downstairs)</p> <p>ORDINARY ANGELS-6:30 (Upstairs)</p>	<p>FRIDAY 3/8 KUNG FU PANDA 4-7:00 (Downstairs)</p> <p>DUNE: PART 2-6:45 (Upstairs)</p>
<p>SATURDAY 3/9 KUNG FU PANDA 4-4:00 & 6:45 (Downstairs)</p> <p>DUNE: PART 2-3:30 & 7:15 (Upstairs)</p>	<p>SUNDAY 3/10 KUNG FU PANDA 4-4:00 & 6:45 (Downstairs)</p> <p>DUNE: PART 2-5:00 (Upstairs)</p>

TUESDAY 3/12
KUNG FU PANDA 4-6:00
All tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the window.
All proceeds go to the Lawley Elementary PTO Fundraiser.

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84TH ANNUAL
BRADFORD AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Buckets of Fun!

Parking \$5

A portion of the parking fees will go to the Bradford Sheriff's Office Explorer Post toward their conference expenses.

Sunday, March 11 is Family Fun Day!

1 PM - Closing (weather permitting)
\$5 Admission (3 & under free*)
\$18 Unlimited Ride Armband.

An armband is required for anyone riding rides regardless of age.
Sunday prices and midway closing hours are determined by Deggeller Attractions and NOT the Bradford County Agricultural Fair.

GENERAL ADMISSION TO YOUR 2024 FAIR:

Adult \$7⁰⁰ (Tues-Thurs)
Student \$6⁰⁰ (Tues-Thurs)
\$10 Friday & Saturday Entertainment Included
(Children 4 & under admitted free)

BUY TICKETS AT:

The Fair Ticket Office (in Building 1):
All ticket types will be available.
Tuesday, March 5 – Friday, March 8:
5 PM – 11 PM
Saturday, March 9: 2 PM – 11 PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Performance included with Admission

THE LEGENDS

Weds March 6

CLARK HILL

Thurs March 7

THE FLATLANDERS

Fri March 8

DEGGELLER

ATTRACTIONS

THROUGH MARCH 10, 2024

<p style="font-weight: bold; color: black;">WEDNESDAY MARCH 6</p> <p style="color: red;">Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$19</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: black;">SATURDAY MARCH 9</p> <p style="color: red;">Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$28</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">2 PM to Closing</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: black;">THURSDAY MARCH 7</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">BUDDY NIGHT!</p> <p style="color: red;">Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$19 for One, \$27 for Two people</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">Both parties must be present to purchase Buddy Armbands. Advance armband coupons can be redeemed for only ONE single armband, not Buddy Armbands.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: black;">SUNDAY MARCH 10</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">FAMILY FUN DAY</p> <p style="color: red;">\$5 Admission (non-riders & under 3 free, unless child is riding, then child & accompanying adult need to purchase ticket/armband as some 2 & 3 yr-olds are tall enough to ride.)</p> <p style="color: red;">Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$18</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red;">1 pm to Closing Sunday prices and closing hours are determined by Deggeller Attractions, NOT the Bradford Agricultural Fair.</p>

ALL RIDES take 2-6 Tickets

Tickets are \$1 each
ADVANCE ARMBANDS: \$18
Armbands \$19-\$28 when purchased at Fair.
Advanced armband coupon is redeemed for one armband and is good for any ONE session at the fair.

THE JEFF JOSLYN BAND and

MATT WILSEY & THE GENTLEMEN

JUKEBOX BAND Sat March 9