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INSIDE THIS PAPER

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Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, March 9, 2023

144th year, 28th Issue — \$1

Crash north of Lawtey claims mom, 3-year-old

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE—The Florida Highway Patrol said a mother of three and a three-year-old child died in a crash north of Lawtey Saturday morning.

FHP said a Green Cove Springs woman was driving an SUV southbound on U.S. 301 around 10:45 a.m. The vehicle left the roadway and hit a ditch.

The vehicle “then became airborne, going through a small field and onto NW 246th Street,” troopers said in a news release.

The SUV came to rest against a building.

The driver, 40-year-old Angela Sippel and her daughter, 3-year-old Eden Sippel, died at the scene.

Three of the driver’s other children, Niyah:10, Joslyn:7 and Jude: 5, were hospitalized with serious injuries.

FHP said none of the children were



wearing seatbelts or restraints.

Angela Sippel’s mother, Susan Goodrich, set up a Gofundme.com account to help the family with funeral expenses.

She wrote that her daughter and grandchildren were going to visit family in Gainesville when the crash occurred.

Goodrich reported on the day after the crash that the survivors were recovering.

“Joslyn is continuing to recover well,” Goodrich wrote on the Gofundme.com page. “She has been



Sippel family. Photos from Gofundme.com.

eating ice cream, popsicles and watching princess movies. Jude is in good spirits as well and is improving. Niyah still has a very long road ahead of her, with another surgery on her

right arm tomorrow.”

The support page at Gofundme.com can be found by searching for “Sippel Family Car Accident.”



Sumner

Deputy arrested for sexual battery

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — The Bradford County Sheriff’s Office said one of its deputies turned himself in after admitting to sexual battery.

The agency said that on March 1, Dalton Sumner turned himself in at the Union County Jail, where he was processed, posted a \$200,000 bond, and released.

The office said that in September, it received information about a deputy possibly committing a sexual battery while off duty.

“We initiated an investigation by interviewing the female victim and other witnesses,” the office said. “Detectives then interviewed Deputy Dalton Sumner, with his attorney present, and confirmed the victim’s account.”

Sumner was placed on administrative leave without pay. The State Attorney’s Office obtained an arrest warrant for the officer for sexual battery on a victim 18 or older with special circumstances on Feb. 28.

“BCSO worked with Sumner’s attorney to have him surrender at the jail,” the agency said.

Daylight Savings Time begins

Remember that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12. Clocks should be set forward one hour. The change takes place at 2 a.m. Sunday morning.

Zaxby’s restaurant acquires land for new Bradford location

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — It looks like Zaxby’s is coming to Bradford County.

Three parcels south of Starke sold for \$700,000 in January to MattsZax301 Inc., which is owned by Matthew Karlton of Lake City, owner of a few Zaxby’s locations.

The location is at the northern entrance of Deerwood Subdivision, across from Walmart. The parcels were rezoned for commercial use after being acquired by New River Land Development. The change also made the way for Main Street Family Care, the urgent care center that opened last year.

The timeline for Zaxby’s is uncertain, but the Bradford County Building and Zoning Department confirmed that a “rough” site plan has been submitted.

Zaxby’s is a relatively young franchise. The first location opened by childhood friends in Statesboro, Georgia, in 1990. According to the company, it was one of the first premium quick service restaurants. Based on the success of the original, the owners decided to franchise the brand in 1994.



The restaurant is most known for its chicken and its sauce. Originally made by hand, the sauce recipe remains a well-guarded secret. As for the chicken, it appears in wing or finger form in a variety of meals, sandwiches and “Zalads.”

More on the way?

Harbor Freight opened weeks ago, and there are still plans for Five Below to come to Starke.

Two more newbies could be joining them in Bradford Square, where the parking lot was recently resurfaced.

According to city hall, there has been interest from a well-known retailer as well as another new restaurant.

It was too soon for anyone with the city of Starke to go on record, however, as no plans have been submitted or permits pulled.

Zoning for solar panel project

According to Zoning Director Randy Andrews, the county’s application to rezone around 38 acres at the old landfill on State Road 100 is related to a solar farm.

The county plans to change the property from conservation to agriculture to accommodate the project, which was brought to them by Keystone Heights RV Resort. Andrews said the small project — seven or eight acres — would provide power for the nearby resort if the business was to acquire the property.

The county separately advertised a commercial rezoning for Keystone Plumbing, which would bring the property into compliance, Andrews said.

The Building and Zoning meeting will take place at the courthouse at 6 p.m. on March 16.

Brothers arrested for drafting hit list

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE— The Bradford County Sheriff’s Office said it arrested two Hope Christian Academy students after the pair drafted a hit list on a classroom whiteboard.

The students were arrested for making written or electronic threats to kill, do bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism, a second-degree felony.

According to a sheriff’s office social media post, a teacher saw the brothers writing on a whiteboard when she realized the writing was a hit list that named a specific teacher and two students.

The agency added that the students admitted to an administrator that they drafted the list. However, when Detective Michael Garmon questioned the boys about the incident in the presence of their father, they refused to answer questions.

The office said that after booking, the pair was turned over to the Department of Juvenile Justice for further processing.

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BCEF spelling bee returns March 16

The Bradford County Education Foundation Adult Spelling Bee is making its return and will be held Thursday,

March 16, at the Bradford High School cafeteria and auditorium. Dinner is at 6 p.m., followed by the bee at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20. The event needs participating teams, which will consist of two members each. One member will be the designated team spokesperson.

Teams are asked to be creative with names and costumes and are encouraged to bring a cheering section. Prizes will be awarded to the first-place team and the team with the best costumes. The registration fee is \$200 and includes dinner. Goody bags will be presented

to all teams. Registration forms may be obtained from and returned to Lila Sellars at the Bradford County School District office and Matt Dyal at Capital City Bank of Starke. You may also contact Cheryl Canova at ccanova53@gmail.com for more information.

All proceeds support Bradford schools. **Homecoming for 75 years** Johnstown Baptist Church annual homecoming celebration is Sunday, March 12. The church

is celebrating 75 years. Sunday School will start at 10 a.m., and morning service will start at 11 a.m. There will be lunch following the morning service. Everyone is welcome to come and join the congregation for a day of fellowship. There will be an evening service around 2 p.m.

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Public hearing on school zones Monday

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The Bradford County School Board's public hearing on school rezoning will take place at 5:01 p.m. on Monday, March 13.

John Gilreath with DRMP recently reviewed the considerations that influenced the proposed changes with the board.

Infrastructure and future development, and diversity and programming all played a part in the consultant's review of the elementary schools. They also wanted to make sure the schools consistently reflected the county's demographics. Decreasing the student population at Starke Elementary was another objective.

While Starke Elementary, Lawley Elementary and the new Bradford Elementary will be pre-K through sixth grade schools, the school zones utilize the addresses of the current kindergarten through fifth grade students.

The accompanying maps show the current zones and proposed changes. The northern most zone is for Lawley Elementary, with Starke Elementary below that, and Bradford Elementary will cover the southern zone.

In terms of population, Starke's projected enrollment would go from 578 to 562, Lawley from 237 to 235 and Southside/Bradford from 661 to 679. The racial breakdown would be 59% white, 22% Black at Starke Elementary; 78% white, 15% Black at Lawley; and 60% white, 24% Black at Bradford.

This does not include the pre-K or sixth grade enrollment. The numbers also reflect where students live, but not necessarily where they would

go to school. Because of school choice, families, within certain parameters, can apply for their child(ren) to attend an out-of-zone school. Bradford also has students enrolled from Alachua, Clay and Union counties.

It will also be up to families whether their fifth-graders will remain at their current school or move to the school in their new zone for sixth grade. This could prevent two years of transition in a row since those rising sixth-graders will be transitioning to middle school in fall 2024.

Superintendent Will Hartley said families will soon be able to view their location within the proposed zones online.

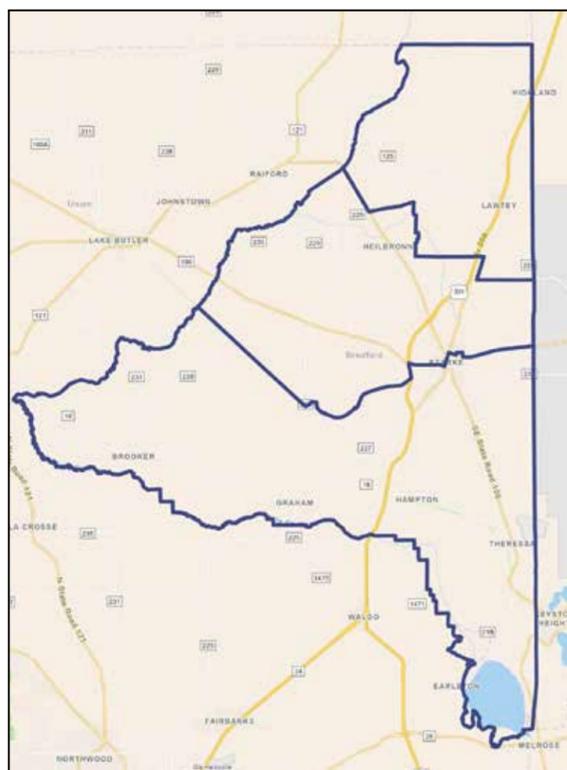
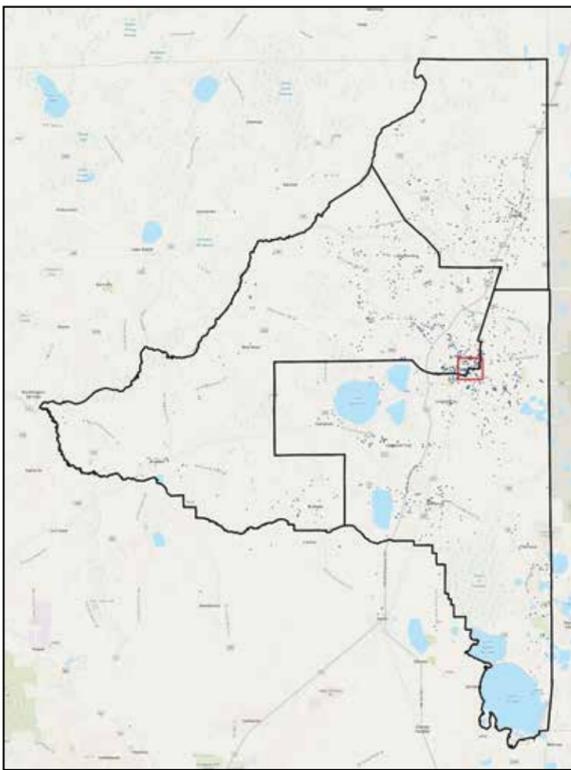
Long meeting day Monday

Monday, March 13, will be a marathon for the superintendent, school board, and other participating staff. Beginning at 10 a.m. and running to 4 p.m., the board will be meeting in a "retreat" setting to learn about and discuss multiple topics. This will take place in the community meeting room at Capital City Bank in Starke.

At 4:30 p.m., the board will move to its meeting room at the district office for a workshop on school board policies and the proposed rezoning. The public hearings on those topics will take place at 5:01 p.m., followed by the regular monthly school board meeting.

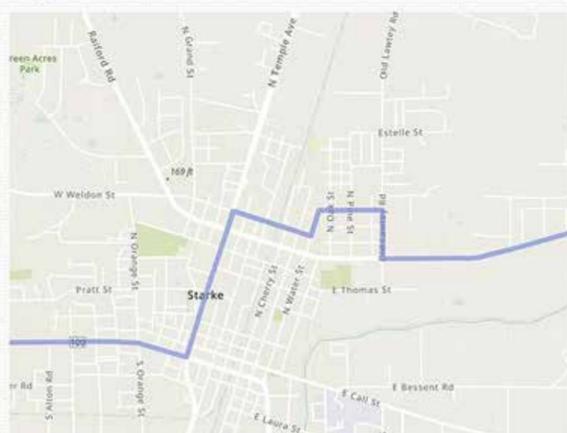
Finally, the school board and county commission will once again be workshopping redistricting maps with a goal of coming to a consensus. This is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

All of these meetings are open to the public.



The current zones (left) versus the proposed zones, where the primary changes are in western and central Bradford and the city of Starke.

Downtown Starke, FL Elementary School Zone Boundaries



A closer look at how the lines have shifted in the city of Starke. The lines separating Starke and Southside elementary schools went up the railway and Old Lawley Road. They now go up U.S. 301 and out State Road 16.

Funtastic Fire Brigade ready to locate in Hampton

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

HAMPTON — Hampton City Council voted to lease the former fire station to Funtastic Fire Brigade.

Michael Heeder presented his ideas for use of the space, which were met with excitement by the council, at the previous meeting. Now it was time to put pen to paper and sign the lease agreement.

The business, with Heeder as business manager, will pay \$50 per month for lease of the property. The business will cover the cost of improvements, insurance, utilities and interior upkeep. The city of Hampton will be responsible for exterior maintenance.

This new lease relieves

Bradford County from the lease it had on the building, since the fire station is now operating out of Sampson City and the county no longer needs use of the property.

Heeder is planning to make numerous improvements so that the facility can be used for events and training sessions. The building also needs to be prepped to house his "toys;" the revamped firetrucks, ambulance, and other equipment, such as adult and kid sized wearable gear. Heeder wants to use his retirement, after 38 years of experience, to share his passion for both fun and firefighting.

Hampton will reach its centennial in 2025, and Heeder imagines a special celebration that will draw crowds to the city. Other community events he wants to offer include CPR

training and fire safety classes, and even possibilities ranging from food banks to toy drives.

Grants help city survive and thrive

City Clerk Mary Lou Hildreth stays busy submitting grant proposals to fund the various community needs and projects. This month the construction will begin on phase two of a water looping project that will eliminate dead ends in the system. Funded by Suwanee River Water Management District and DEP, this grant will replace old meters with new automated readers.

Other proposals awaiting executed contracts include funding for a new backup well for the water system, new

culverts and ditches in the Hampton Villas neighborhood, and paving for the parking lot at Bobby Shepherd Memorial Park.

Clerk Hildreth says she'll be applying for \$100,000 from FDEP's Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program. If funded, the grant will be used for upgrades to Hampton's two parks.

'Ministry in Pictures' at New River Baptist

New River Baptist Church, located at 16703 SW 144th

Ave. in Brooker, will host Dr. Mike Todd for his "Ministry in Pictures" on Sunday, March 12. Dr. Todd will bring an exciting and fascinating presentation on the "Armor of God" in the morning service at 10:30 a.m., and then at 6 p.m. in the

fellowship hall, he will present "Creation vs. Evolution."

After the evening service there will be a time of food and fellowship. Don't miss this event. For more information call 352-485-1246.

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Lake Region

Tebow, sheriffs target child exploitation

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The Clay County Sheriff's Office has joined forces with five other Northeast Florida sheriffs in addition to FDLE and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to fight child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The Intercept Task Force is a public-private partnership that includes two nonprofit organizations: Operation Lightshine and the Tim Tebow Foundation.

During a news conference announcing the task force, Clay Undersheriff Ron Lendvay said the operation is dedicated to shining a light of hope into the dark underworld of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

"We all know these cases can be difficult to investigate and prosecute," he said, "but there is no higher calling in protecting those who are vulnerable among us, and we are all committed to this cause."

Lendvay said each of the partnering agencies: the Clay, Jacksonville, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns sheriff's offices, in addition to FDLE and Homeland Security Investigations, will contribute one full-time officer to the task force. Homeland Security will supervise the group.

Enticement and sextortion

The undersheriff added that the internet has multiplied the occurrences of child sexual exploitation.

"The disturbing reality is that the internet platforms we use every day to connect with each other and share information, including social media, online gaming, and email, are now being used for these illegal and illicit purposes," he said.

Lendvay added that child sexual exploitation offenders commonly employ enticement or

sextortion to lure their victims.

"Enticement involves an individual communicating with the child over the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offense," he said. "Offenders traffick in child sexual abuse material, share photos and video files across the internet and dark web, re-victimizing the child each time the images are shared."

Lendvay said sextortion occurs when a minor has shared an explicit image with someone they mistakenly trusted, who then blackmails them to produce additional sexual content, meet for sexual activity or pay to keep their images from being shared.

The undersheriff said that across Northeast Florida, over 2,000 child exploitation and human trafficking cases were initiated last year.

He added that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 29.3 million tips in 2021, a 35% increase over 2020 and nearly double the number of leads received in 2019.

"So, as we can see from this trend line," he said, "we have an ascending problem nationally."

Sister's death sparks mission

Operation Lightshine President Matt Murphy said he founded the nonprofit after his sister, a victim of human trafficking, was found dead.

Murphy's organization launched the first Intercept Task Force in Nashville, Tennessee. The North Florida team is the second.

The former Green Beret said that while working counterterrorism missions in the middle east, he witnessed interagency cooperation that contributed to the success of those missions.

"Everyone came together, put their pride aside, put their agency aside, put all of the red tape aside so that we could accomplish that mission to defeat terrorists," he said. "What I didn't realize

at the time is the lesson that would teach me later in life on November 5th, 2019, when my little sister Sarah went missing."

Murphy said his sister became addicted to opioids, which started her downward spiral.

"She would disappear all the time on drug benders," he recalled. "I'm sure everyone in this room knows somebody that has lost their life to heroin or fentanyl or someone that has struggled. But the dark side of that is that a lot of the women and even men fall victim to trafficking because of their addiction, and my sister got pulled into that underworld."

Murphy said the details of his sister's death are still unclear. However, her body was discovered in a river on Christmas Eve, 2019.

"Our family finally got closure," he said, "but that sent me into the darkest spiral of my life. I got pulled out of my operational capacity as a Green Beret and got made an instructor."

Murphy added that the shutdowns sparked by the COVID-19 Pandemic isolated him and worsened his reaction to Sarah's death.

"I'll spare you the raw, dark, gloomy details of that," he said, "but one day I prayed, and I asked— I didn't know what I was asking for, but I prayed— I just asked for help, and that prayer changed my life."

Murphy said he started Googling human trafficking and child exploitation. He researched the fentanyl epidemic.

"I started to see just how bad the situation in this country got, how (vulnerable) our children are, how much they're exploited from every corner of the earth because the second we hand our children a cell phone or an iPad, we give them access to the world and we give the world access to them."

Murphy recalled that a Homeland Security official told him that if he took the lessons

he learned fighting terrorism and applied them to combatting child exploitation and human trafficking, he could move the needle.

"He told me about the concept that he had worked on and bringing together federal, state and local law enforcement," Murphy said, "and we started just talking through the process. He was like: 'if you could pull this off, I will move my agents out of the Homeland Security office, and I will move them into your task force.'"

Murphy said the final step in making his dream a reality was getting the support of Tebow.

He added that a month after the Nashville task force launched, an FDLE agent visited the office and asked Murphy to consider establishing a second operation in Florida.

MVP: Most vulnerable people

Tebow told the audience that throughout his career, he has been designated as the most valuable player for a game or even a season.

"But as cool as those MVPs are, they'd be nothing compared to what this group is fighting for," he said. "I was competing for MVPs of being the most valuable player, which ultimately one day means nothing. It's just a game. But what this group is fighting for are real MVPs, meaning the most vulnerable people, who desperately need us, need you, need all of us to work together to put the mission above the credit."

Tebow said the news conference is a rallying cry for victims of human trafficking.

"As we're talking, so many boys and girls are in their darkest hour of need," he said. "They're calling out to us saying, rescue me. Help me. Because there's a lot of monsters that are chasing them, and we need an army of people that will stand in the way and say no longer under our watch because every life is that valuable."



Tim Tebow addresses a news conference about the Intercept task force while Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook looks on.



Clay County Undersheriff Ron Lendvay said over 2,000 child exploitation and human trafficking cases were initiated in Northeast Florida last year.

Lake Region man claims \$1 million prize

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The Florida Lottery said a

65-year-old Lake Region man won \$1 million in the lottery's scratch-off game: 500X THE CASH.

Lee Tang of Keystone Heights opted to receive his winnings as a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$820,000.

Tang purchased the winning ticket from Lee's Discount

Beverage, located at 7387 State Road 21 North in Keystone Heights.

The lottery said the store would receive a \$2,000 bonus commission for selling the winning ticket.

The lottery said the \$50 game features a top prize of \$25 million—the largest ever offered

on a Florida scratch-off game—and the best odds to become an instant millionaire. The game's overall odds of winning are 1-in-4.50.

The state agency added that scratch-off games comprised approximately 77% of ticket sales in fiscal year 2021-2022.

"Since inception, scratch-off games have generated more than \$17.69 billion for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund," the lottery said.

March 18 event, the refreshments and the fashions are all free.

To RSVP or volunteer, call Wanda at 386-972-0937.

The church is located at 8736 S.R. 21 in Melrose.

Melrose High School alumni to host reunion on March 18

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

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

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

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

Eternal Vision at Hope Baptist

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

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KH expands façade grants

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — During its February meeting, the city council approved expansions to its 2023 façade grant program.

The city's community redevelopment agency will fund improvements to business buildings within the municipality's redevelopment area, which mostly straddles South Lawrence Boulevard.

Grants will be provided for painting, signs, lighting, awnings, windows, doors, landscaping, pedestrian amenities and external structural improvements.

In a program that ended in 2016, the city provided grant

funding for commercial signs to help businesses comply with the municipality's new sign ordinance.

During its February meeting, the council expanded the façade program to include parking lot improvements, including dumpster enclosures.

The council also widened the availability of the program from businesses facing State Road 21 and State Road 100 to those facing side roads like Oriole Street, Nightingale Street and Sylvan Way.

Under the program, the city's redevelopment agency will match 50% of a building owner's costs. The maximum grant amount is \$5,000; to obtain

\$5,000, the building owner would have to spend \$10,000 of his or her funds.

Grant applications are due on March 17, which drew a complaint from downtown building owner Karen Nelson, who said contractors are not timely responding to requests for work and a March 17 application deadline might be impracticable for building owners.

"People don't return calls anymore," she said. "They don't want to work. It's just going to be frustrating."

Mayor Karen Lake said the city could change the deadline if Nelson's prediction turns out to be true.



In a program that ended in 2016, the city provided grant funding to help businesses comply with the municipality's new sign ordinance. The 2023 façade grant program will cover a broader range of improvements.

Clay Electric refunding \$12 million

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay Electric Cooperative said its board of trustees declared a \$12 million capital credits refund for members who received service from 1993 through 2021.

The utility added that qualifying members would see the credits in their March bills.

"Capital Credits reflect the cooperative's not-for-profit and member-owned status and represent each member's pro-rata share of any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are paid," the co-op said in a news release. "Capital Credits are a unique benefit of being served by an electric cooperative. Investor-owned electric utilities send their profits to stockholders, and municipally owned utilities return their profits to city coffers for use in road-paving or similar projects".

The co-op added that this year's refund is the 49th consecutive time it has refunded capital credits.

This is the sixth successive year the co-op has declared a \$12 million capital credits refund. In 2016 trustees approved a \$6 million refund, increasing it to \$8 million the following year.

In other news from Clay Electric Cooperative:

Power costs decrease

The co-op said members would see a decrease in the power cost adjustment portion of their bills in March and will likely see another reduction in April.

"Members using the industry household average of 1,000 kWh of power will now pay \$146," the co-op said. "The previous cost was \$149.50".

The utility credited falling natural gas prices for the drop in the rate.

"If natural gas prices continue trending lower, the PCA may be lowered again in April," it said.

The March and potential April PCA decrease follows a \$5 increase last September and a \$10 drop in December.

Annual meeting continues under new format

Clay Electric said its 85th annual meeting would be held on March 25 at Keystone Heights High School under the same format it initiated last year.

Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, the utility held its annual meeting under a tent near State Road 100 in front of its Keystone Heights district offices after giving away free lunches.

Last year the co-op switched to a morning session at the high school's football stadium, serving a light lunch.

The annual meeting still features speeches from cooperative leaders, door prizes, and announcing the results of board of trustee elections.

Another change initiated since the pandemic is voting for trustees by online or absentee ballots only. Previously, members could cast ballots in-person during the annual meeting.

This year four board seats are up for election. During district trustee meetings in January, Cindy Loose was nominated as the candidate for the District 1 seat. Kelley Smith was nominated for the District 2 seat, Carl Malphurs secured the District 4 nomination, and Jimmy Wilson was nominated for District 6. Smith, Malphurs, and Wilson are all incumbents.

Loose is running for the seat formally occupied by her deceased father: Carl Hagglund.

While all four nominees are running unopposed, members may still vote for write-in candidates.

Online vehicle auction in March

The co-op said it would operate its vehicle and equipment auction online from March 21-28.

"Once the auction is underway, information about the auction items can be found at www.ggauctions.com," the co-op said. "The phone number is 407-886-2211."

The utility added that photos

and information on each vehicle and other auction items would be posted on the auctioneer's website when the auction begins.

A partial list of the vehicles and equipment that will be auctioned includes:

- Astec RT360 Trencher
- Butler LT1014 tilt trailer
- International 7400 Altec 60' ROW bucket
- Five Ram 5500 4x4s with Versalift
- Vermeer chipper
- Ford Ranger pickup
- Five Ford F-150s
- Three Ford F-350s (utility bodies)
- Hyster S50ft forklift
- Silverado 3500
- Chevy 4500 Crew cab utility body
- Imperial equipment trailer
- Chevy K3500 utility body

Scholarship applications accepted

The co-op said it is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. High school seniors of any public, private, or home-school whose primary residence is served by Clay Electric may apply.

Applications are available at ClayElectric.com and at all district offices. Applications must be received by April 3.

"Selections are based on community involvement and extra-curricular and academic achievements," the utility said. "The youth scholarship program is funded by unclaimed money that would normally have to be turned over to the state."

Clay Electric added that to provide an equal representation of scholarship winners throughout its service area, no more than one student at a given public school can receive a scholarship, and not every school will have a scholarship recipient.

Get your bank to say 'yes'

Consultant offers advice for small business loans

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A Small Business Development Center advisor spoke to a Clay Chamber of Commerce group about obtaining bank loans on Feb. 23.

"How to Get Your Bank to Say Yes" was the title of Mike Chung's presentation during the February Lake Region Prosperity Partners meeting at the Keystone Beach Pavilion.

During the same meeting, Capital City Bank's Ginger Lee gave the group a preview of the Rotary Club's upcoming anniversary celebration.

The group's March meeting will feature Clay County Tourism Director Kimberly Morgan,



File photo by Dan Hildebran: Mike Chung (left) speaking at a prior meeting of the Lake Region Prosperity Partners.

who will advise businesses on competition at the beach later preparing for upcoming Lake this year. Region events, like the MotoSurf

Storys awarded Yard of the Month

BY DEIRDRE MURPHY
Garden Club of the Lakes

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Garden Club of the Lakes has honored Richard and Virginia Story with its Yard of the Month award.

The Storys moved into their current residence approximately six years ago. Their home is located by the Keystone golf course in the community of Airy Woods.

A neighbor, Marilyn Sandbeck, also a Garden Club member, nominated them for the recognition.

The couple's azaleas were in full bloom when I came by and took photos.

Virginia said that she wanted flowers and planted Gerber daisies for color.

The Storys added they wanted to keep the yard manageable but still have flowers.

A lovely swing is located in the perfect place to sit and overlook their beautiful landscape.

If you want to learn more about the Garden Club of The Lakes or nominate yourself or someone in the community for Yard of the Month, please call Deirdre Murphy at 352 281-3026.



Richard and Virginia Story. Photo by Deirdre Murphy, Garden Club of the Lakes.

Yoga and more offered in Melrose

Mossman Hall in Melrose has fitness classes open to the community, including Zumba, tai chi and yoga. There are also programs for artists, musicians and poets. Some classes request

a fee, but others simply ask for a donation.

The Art Walk is the first Friday of each month at 6 p.m., and a Conscious Awakening Interfaith Service is held every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Call 352-475-2924 for more information or visit www.facebook.com/mossmanhall.

Foster, adoption classes

Looking to make a difference in the community? Call Partnership for Strong Families today at 352-213-7219 to enroll in a foster and adoption class for parents.

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UNION COUNTY

Additions to UC Ag Education Center will be ready for fair

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — In less than a week the activities for the Union County Agricultural Fair will begin and both organizers and competitors are collectively breathing a big sigh of relief that the addition to the pavilion area of the Union County Agricultural Education Center will be complete and ready to use in time for the event.

The additions to the Ag Center are the third phase of the project. In Phases one and two the meeting area, extension office locations and the original pavilion were constructed about four years

ago — all funded by grants from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Once the center was up and running, hosting the Union County Livestock Association's Union County Agricultural Fair, it was soon determined that the pavilion area, used for housing and showing animals, was a bit too small for the volume of animals and County Coordinator Jimmy Williams went back to work, securing a grant to pay for phase three of the project.

Phase three is set to include the doubling of the pavilion area so as to allow more space for the animals, as well as a new



The Union County Agricultural Complex with the new pavilion ready for use. The first pavilion area is located to the left, ending just to the left of the electric pole. The white building on the far left is the existing IFAS Extension building. The new event auditorium will be built to the right of the new arena, where the truck is sitting in this picture.

event auditorium (for classes, presentations and meetings) the same size as the current enclosed office and meeting room area. Construction of the auditorium is set to begin soon but getting the pavilion up in time for the fair took priority. Grants funding for both the arena expansion and

the auditorium is provided by FDACS, so there is no cost to the county for the project.

The project will be an additional 10,800 square feet to the pavilion area, making the total open-air, covered area total 23,760 square feet (mostly built with grant funds but some added

by a donation of materials and time by the UNLA. The addition of the event auditorium will be 4,800 square feet.

Although the addition to the arena area could allow two show rings operating simultaneously, it has been decided to use the new space for housing animals

brought in for the shows at the fair and practice events throughout the year. The size increase will prevent any issues about room for animals such as are facing the Bradford Agricultural Fair this year, which has turned away as many as 30 swine exhibitors due to lack of space for the animals.

UCHS students win runner-up honors in business development competition

Project Venture statewide program helps students with disabilities develop key workforce skills

The High School High Tech team from Union County High School took home second place at the statewide Project Venture competition March 1 in Orlando.

Project Venture is a team competition for students with disabilities who participate in The Able Trust High School High Tech (HSHT) program. To compete in Project Venture, HSHT students develop and execute a comprehensive business plan and 30-second video commercial for a company,

product, or service they would like to create.

The Union County High team, representing the Union County HSHT site, received a \$750 award for their strong finish. The Orange County West HSHT team won the top prize, while third-place honors went to the Bay County HSHT team.

The Union County team partnered with the CareerSource Florida Crown Workforce Board. They created a commercial for A+ Homework, a tutoring service that connects struggling K-12 students with peers of or relatively close to their own age who are experts in a variety of core academic subjects.

"We are so proud of all the teams who took part in this year's competition," said Allison Chase, President and CEO of The Able

Trust. "This was the largest field of Project Venture entrants yet, with 19 High School High Tech sites extremely well-represented. Students who participate in High School High Tech learn skills that are important to their future. The Able Trust helps these students by connecting them to a broad range of academic, career development and experiential resources, and the Project Venture competition allows them to use these skills in a workplace simulation."

Project Venture creates a forum for students to develop real-world skills, including working in groups, creating timelines, using written communications, problem solving, and developing presentation skills. During the second phase of the competition, the three final teams gave an



Students Elizabeth (Beth) Crawford, Jelissa Garacia, and Kaycee Parks are pictured with HSHT State Director Coleen Agner; Laurie Sallarulo, President and CEO of Junior Achievement of South Florida; and Allison Chase, President and CEO of The Able Trust.

in-person pitch of their project to a panel of four judges, each including a slide show, the commercial and a Q&A session

with the judges and audience members. Projects were graded on the written proposals and commercial, as well as their in-

person presentation.

Salle named Transport SRE

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

It's rather obvious that Randy Salle is popular at the Union County School District Transportation Department as he has been named School-Related Employee of the Year for that department three times.

At 62, Salle has worked in a variety of areas in his life.

He served in the military from 1979-84 as part of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Infantry at Fort Bragg, where said he was "paid to jump out of airplanes." Of his military service, he said he particularly enjoyed his off-base training, both in Alaska and Panama.

After serving his country, Salle ended up in Spokane, Washington, and then made the move to Florida in 1986. His wife, Donna, was born and raised in Union County and wanted to come home. He worked as a correctional officer at UCI for 26 years, from 1986-2011, retiring as a lieutenant. He started out his retirement well enough, spending time with family and woodworking but he said he got bored and decided to go to work again. He came to the Union County Bus Garage in 2017 and said it was the right move — he said he loves working for his boss, Tony Raish, and enjoys the company of all his coworkers.

Salle had not worked as a mechanic before but learned on the job. He now holds the position of shop foreman. Salle's main job is to perform regular maintenance on the buses in the



Randy Salle

Union County fleet. Diagnostics and major repairs are outsourced as the expense of many of the tools and analyzers would be a major expense to the district. Salle also serves as a bus driver when there is a need.

Salle has been married to Donna for 23 years and the couple have five grown children. These five have given the Salle's 15 grandchildren, which both enjoy spending time with.

The Salles' also have a passion for travel and have visited every state in the Union except West Virginia (but it's on the list, Salle said). For many years they traveled by car but have recently acquired a motorhome and are looking forward to traveling in it.

Salle said he does not get to go very often, but he enjoys any type of saltwater fishing, and

especially likes charter fishing trips. Most of his free time is spent with his grandchildren, "a few at a time," doing "grandpa stuff."

Salle said he is glad he came to Florida and plans on staying. He was voted as Transportation SRE of the Year in 2020 and 2022 and, recently, for a third time in 2023.

"It feels really good to be selected," Salle said. "It is nice to have your co-workers think enough of you to vote for you. It's an honor."

Salle said he is constantly amazed by the school district of which he is a part.

"I really enjoy the fact that everyone in the community pulls together for the schools," Salle said. "There is incredible support for the superintendent from both the community and the district and Mr. Ripplinger pays close attention to our department, always seeing we have what we need to do our jobs. It makes the job easier and more pleasant to do."

London, Paris, Switzerland, Italy

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

Pittman named District SRE

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

Marie Pittman, the 2023 District Office and District School-Related Employee, said she loves her job and all of the people she works for and with.

Pittman was born in Pennsylvania, but said she moved to Florida when she was very young and has been here for 63 years. She has spent 28 of those years working for the Union County School District. She was a stay-at-home mom for a few years then began as a sub at Lake Butler Elementary School, then was hired as a paraprofessional at the school. She then became the bookkeeper for the school then moved to work at the district office as a bookkeeper and secretary.

She wears a few hats in her job. She serves as secretary to District Director of Curriculum and Accountability Stacey Rimes, she also handles risk



Marie Pittman

management for the district (including areas such as worker's comp, property insurance and related matters). She handles the paperwork for the Union County Schools Education Foundation as well.

"I worked under (past)

Superintendent Carlton Faulk from 2013 until his retirement, then moved on to work for Superintendent Mike Ripplinger," Pittman said. "I have always loved my job under both leaderships — Mr. Ripplinger is a very supportive, motivational and inspirational boss and Stacey is a caring, trusting and amazing boss and person. I enjoy working in a fantastic district office and school system and love coming to work each day."

Pittman has been the district office SRE once before, but that does not change how she feels about being named a second time.

"I am very, very honored to be selected by my peers to be the district office SRE and even more so by the district," Pittman said. "I am very happy here and cannot imagine working anywhere else. I have two years until retirement, and I have no plans to go anywhere else."

UC to purchase new vehicles for several departments

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — At its Feb. 20 meeting, the Union County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the purchase of several new vehicles to replace ones that have outlived their useful life and are costing increasing amounts to repair and keep in service.

The new vehicles will be bought under a state discount program. It should be noted that there may be a price differential for two of the same make and model vehicle, since the use to which the vehicle will be put may require options not required for other uses. For example — vans used to transport prison inmate workers must have a specific type of door locking mechanism that might not be needed for van used for other things and vehicles that might be required to travel in other than paved areas might require a different suspension

set-up.

The funds for the purchase of the vehicles will come from federal ARPA funds. The board has been very careful in spending these funds, even after the variety of items for which they can be used was expanded and, after the vehicle purchase, will still have over \$2 million left in the account. Previous expenditures have included an ambulance, a drone and van for the sheriff's office and repairs and improvements to the county parks.

New vehicles will be provided to six county departments.

The UF IFAS Extension Office will be getting a new Explorer that will be used mostly for 4-H member transport for \$34,821.62.

The Department of Parks and Recreation will be getting a passenger van at a cost of \$60,918.50.

The Union County Road Department will be getting two new passenger vans, one priced at \$60,918.50 and a second priced at \$50,342.46.

The Board of Commissioners Administration Office will be getting a new Explorer at a cost of \$34,701.62.

The Solid Waste Department will be receiving an F-150 truck priced to the county at \$36,686.06 while the Building Department will also get a new F-150 costing \$34,315.58.

The total for all seven vehicles is \$313,315.58. When the price schedule was given to the board for consideration, motion was made by Commissioner Jimmy Tallman and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ryan Perez then asked that County Coordinator Jimmy Williams see that all the vehicles received proper decals to identify them as county property.



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Bradford Fair midway relocated

Change impacts parking and Market Road traffic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

If you haven't yet been to the Bradford Agricultural Fair, which opened March 7, you'll notice something different when you do as the midway rides and vendors have had to be relocated to the parking lot south of Building 2 and Building 3.

Part of the fair's ongoing upgrades was to raise the entire midway and surrounding grounds at least 6 inches to withstand heavy rain events. Bradford Fair President Bob Milner said that "in spite of valiant efforts by the fair association and our contractors, the 309 loads of dirt that was brought in and watered and compacted unfortunately did

not reach the compactness level required to stabilize the rides."

To get to the midway, which is enclosed by fencing, people will proceed through Building 2, turn left before the Building 3 entrance, go outside and then walk around Building 3.

Building 3 is currently being rented by the Bradford County Health Department.

Due to that fact, the amount of parking available in the paved lot will be decreased. Milner said parking spots between Building 1 and the Colonel Arley W. McRae Bradford Food Pantry will be for disabled people. General parking will begin on the south side of the food pantry and extend southward past the old farmers market. Once those spaces are filled, people will be directed to park on 8 acres of land the fair association owns on the south side of Market Road.

"There'll be plenty of light bars

out there at night and deputies in high-vis vests," Milner said. "It'll be safe for people to park over there, and they won't have to walk too far."

Milner said the city has declared an emergency that will result in the closure of the Market Road railroad crossing to traffic from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. each night of the fair.

"It'll be open all day long for people to go back and forth to their homes and to the solid-waste collection site east on Old Lawley Road," Milner said. "It'll open up again at 10."

Milner said this year's fair, which takes place Tuesday through Sunday, March 7-12, was set to have more rides than ever due to the expansion of the midway by approximately 400 feet. Having to relocate to the parking lot has changed that, but there will be 20 rides.

"There will be less rides, but



A partial view of the Bradford Agricultural Fair midway on the morning of March 6 — one day before the fair's opening. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

they'll be good rides," Milner said. "I think everybody will still have a good time."

The fair runs through Sunday, March 12. It opens at 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 9-10, 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, and 1 p.m. March 12 (midway only).

Methodist conference seeks lawsuit dismissal

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE— The board of trustees of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit brought against it by a Lawley congregation and dozens of other churches.

Last July, 106 Florida churches sued the conference seeking to leave the United Methodist Church without having to pay penalties outlined in the denomination's Book of Discipline.

The lead plaintiff is Lawley's Grace United Methodist Church.

"The Annual Conference has taken the position that it is entitled to keep the Grace UMC Property—which was owned and paid for by Grace UMC long before The UMC and the Annual Conference ever existed—unless Grace UMC pays a substantial payment of money as unilaterally determined by the Annual Conference defendants," lawyers for the plaintiffs wrote in their complaint.

Acceptance of same-sex marriage

The congregations are seeking to separate themselves from the Florida conference because of what they claim is the latter's acceptance of same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy.

The official position of the Florida Conference, as outlined in the Book of Discipline, is that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The

same document prohibits clergy from officiating same-sex weddings and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy.

However, the plaintiffs assert in their complaint that Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, who leads the statewide organization, has failed to enforce the prohibitions outlined in the Book of Discipline.

They cite an openly gay St. Petersburg bishop and a St. Petersburg pastor who officiated a same-sex wedding to support their claims.

Ecclesiastical abstention

In a Feb. 21 hearing in Starke, lawyers for the conference argued that the ecclesiastical abstention doctrine deprives the circuit court of jurisdiction over the dispute between the conference and the congregations.

"The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the First Amendment prohibits state interference not only into matters of faith and doctrine but also 'matters of church government,'" wrote lawyers for the conference in a motion to dismiss. "The First Amendment protects the authority of religious institutions 'with respect to internal management decisions that are essential to the institution's central mission.'"

The defendants also claimed additional reasons for dismissing the lawsuit, including the claim that Bradford County is the improper venue for the litigation.

"Plaintiffs are required to plead facts sufficient to support

a basis for venue in Bradford County, Florida, and failure to make these allegations this Court to dismiss the action for improper venue," lawyers wrote. "Here, Plaintiffs fail to plead any facts regarding the residence of all Defendants except for the Annual Conference, which Plaintiffs allege is located in Polk County, Florida. Plaintiffs also fail to plead any facts regarding where the causes of action accrued."

Half of plaintiffs settle

Since the lawsuit was first filed nearly eight months ago, around one-half of the original plaintiffs have dropped out of the litigation, including the First United Methodist Church of Starke, the Middleburg United Methodist Church and Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Starke. The Lawley congregation, as well as the Keystone United Methodist Church, remain as plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

In addition to seeking the dismissal of the litigation, the defendants also asked Circuit Judge George Wright to impose sanctions on the plaintiffs for filing what the plaintiffs called a frivolous lawsuit.

"Plaintiffs and their counsel knew or should have known that Plaintiff's claims lacked a basis in fact or law," lawyers for the defendant wrote in a motion.

As of press time, the judge has not ruled on the plaintiff's motions.



Roofers are at work saving the RJE gymnasium with federal and state funds obtained by Bradford County and the city of Starke.

Work begins on fully funded RJE project

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Starke was successful in its renewed attempt to obtain grant funds for the renovation of the RJE gymnasium.

City Clerk Jimmy Crosby announced the city was awarded a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant for the project.

Combined with the \$500,000 in federal ARPA funds donated by Bradford County, Concerned Citizens of Bradford County will have access to \$1.2 million to preserve the historic building.

Part of the RJE Highschool that served the Black community prior to desegregation, organization members including President Alica McMillian have said the gymnasium is a landmark worth preserving, both for what it has and what it will do for the community as a center for learning, recreation fellowship and celebration.

Architect Paul Stressing agreed the building could be saved, and workers are already busy reroofing the gym to stop any further weather infiltration.

Crosby said the city was excited to help the project achieve full funding.

City Manager Drew Mullins was previously given credit for writing a persuasive appeal for the grant application to be reconsidered. The effort literally paid off.

Bradford Commissioner Carolyn Spooner thanked everyone who has supported the project and said she was elated by the news.

SPD considering parking enforcement

Police Chief Jeff Johnson has once again approached the city commission about parking enforcement on public streets and property, saying the city has been kicking the ball down the road for a long time.

An ordinance passed in 2014 that allows for citations and impoundment of vehicles left on public property for longer than the prescribed times is not enforced.

Other than designating hours during which the rules would be effective (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.), the city has not established parking times or fines. (Prior rules refer to time limits imposed by approved signage, and there are limits of 48 and 72 hours to leave a vehicle parked on-street or off-street.) Johnson asked for a new ordinance that clarifies procedures and penalties, such as whether the car would be towed for being parked longer than two hours.

Johnson said they would use decals to mark vehicles and then return later to see if the vehicles have been moved. There are no parking meters.

Clerk Crosby said this conversation was prompted by a car without a license plate parked on the side of the road. The police department was not able to enforce the existing codes, according to Johnson.

The current codes will be reviewed for adequacy. Attorney

Clay Martin said they also need to investigate whether a citation can be served by placing it on a vehicle or if officers would have to track down the driver to issue the citation.

Martin believes enforcement authority exists in the current codes, but the city lacks a mechanism, such as a uniform citation, to notify owners of violations, fines and eventual impoundment of their vehicle.

In other business:

—The city approved a contract with All Terrain Tractor Service for upgrades and rehabilitation of the wastewater collection system. This includes lining pipes, rehabilitating manholes, open cut sewer repair, new force main installation and other related construction. The work is split into two phases, but only the first phase is currently funded. The city is once again looking to Florida DEP's State Revolving Fund program for money to complete the project.

Phase 1's cost is \$4.09 million. Phase 2's cost is \$1.73 million.

—The commission approved contract negotiations with Powell and Jones from Lake City, the only company to respond to the city's advertisement for auditing services.

—The city is also negotiating with Veolia, the highest-ranking company to respond to the city's request for water treatment plant tank maintenance.

—A 180-day moratorium was placed on requests for cellular towers and antennas. The city's code contains no land use regulations, and this is something the city attorney and regional planning council are looking into.

Historic inn to hold grand opening

An original home of the city of Keystone Heights has been renovated to become a historic inn and bed and breakfast, with a grand opening and tours to be held on Saturday, March 11, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The Inn at Palmetto, located at 555 S.E. Palmetto Ave., was originally constructed in 1925 as a winter home for Leona Clark Caughey, one of several native Pennsylvanians who traveled to Florida and settled in the lake region to escape the harsh Northeast winter weather.

Keystone Heights itself was originally incorporated in 1925 by J.J. Lawrence as a vacation spot filled with recreational opportunities and health benefits associated with the clean lake waters of the region.

Interestingly, it was 99 years ago (April 1924) that the now-demolished Keystone Inn celebrated a similar grand opening — only a stone's throw from where the Inn at Palmetto is opening its doors. In the same vein as that original inn, the Inn at Palmetto will pride itself on historic ambience, small-town charm and Southern hospitality.

You can find more details on the event on The Inn at Palmetto's Facebook page as well as at theinnatpalmetto.com.

It is requested that visitors park at the Keystone Beach parking lot and walk to the inn as parking will be limited on the day of the event.

Reservations can be made via its website or by phone at 904-755-6831.

The whole inn will also be available to rent for special events



The Inn at Palmetto will have a grand opening on Saturday, March 11. The historic home was renovated by Keystone native and KHS alumnus Kerry Cooper Collins.

and occasions.

The home was purchased in 2014 by Kerry Cooper Collins, a Keystone Heights native and Class of 1987 Keystone Heights Jr.-Sr. High School alumnus. Despite many recommendations to tear the property down, Collins chose to renovate the property back to its historic heritage.

"I didn't buy the property to tear it down," she said. "I bought it to preserve a piece of this town that has meant so much to me."

Renovations on the two-story home began in 2015 and were completed in 2022 — a lengthy process that had to take into account the active-duty military career of Collins' husband.

The Inn at Palmetto boasts three bedrooms and sits on one-half acre in the historic, downtown area of Keystone Heights, across

from the city park and library. An interesting feature of the home is that it has a basement, which is unusual to the area.

Inside the inn, visitors will be treated to a piece of history infused with modern conveniences. Thoughtful restoration has been done of the original fireplace, original heart-of-pine wood floors and exposed stair treads, which bear the stamp of the Keystone Heights Lumber Company. Along with these historic elements, the Inn has been remodeled with a completely updated kitchen, beautiful and modern bathrooms, and a porch that beckons one to sit and swing and invite friends to meet them on the porch at The Inn at Palmetto.

Inquiries for additional information can be made to: contact@theinnatpalmetto.com.

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Channel	Trust Percentage
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Special note: The Relevence Project thanks The Nielsen Co., a global leader in audience measurement, data, and analytics, for this excerpt from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 24 channels, a term to distinguish where ads show up or are referenced, in the study.

Here's further proof that advertisers and marketers seeking a trusted media should hire newspapers. Newspapers show up as two of the Top 5 "trusted advertising channels" rated by U.S. Consumers in Nielsen's 2021 Trust in Advertising Study. Seven out of 10 consumers said they either trust completely or trust somewhat four of the channels that included newspapers or products they offer advertisers. The top channel applies also to newspapers because their readers are informed consumers.

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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

Isabella Rae Chambless, 20, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 28 for a probation violation.

Marion Milton Coleman, 37, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 28 for a probation violation.

Terry Reena Crawford, 40, of Hampton was arrested on Feb. 28 for possession of drugs.

Choked woman while she was driving

Trenton Andrew Edsall, 20, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Feb. 27 for resisting an officer, driving with a suspended or revoked license, battery and false imprisonment.

According to an arrest report, the victim told officers she was driving on U.S. 301 with the defendant sitting in the front passenger seat.

“(The victim) advises while at the red light at S. Walnut and Commercial Drive Trenton Edsall began choking her,” wrote reporting officer Jay Raulerson. “She advised that he choked her for about 30 seconds, and she could not breathe during this time.”

The victim said she continued driving southbound on 301 and “Edsall kept grabbing the steering wheel and making her go into the outside lane almost hitting other cars.”

The victim added that when she got close to the IHOP Restaurant, she found a grassy area on Hazen Street and pulled in.

“She attempted to get out of the car,” Raulerson wrote, “but Trenton Edsall grabbed her right arm and pulled her back into the

car and would not let her leave. She attempted to get out of the car to no avail.”

The driver was then able to get to IHOP’s parking lot and started blowing her horn until customers from within the restaurant helped her escape.

After the victim exited the car, the defendant hopped into the driver’s seat and fled the scene.

Police chased the defendant onto the expressway, onto State Road 100 and then to Southwest 162nd Terrace where Edsall jumped out of the vehicle and into the woods.

Sgt. Moses C. Bellamy reported that approximately five minutes later, he and Bradford Deputy T. Lovell caught the defendant.

Michael Leonard Hankerson, 41, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 27 for a probation violation.

Ryan Olen Kitchens, 43, of Waldo was arrested by Starke police on Feb. 28 for a probation violation.

Gary Vincent Lamb, 25, of Starke was arrested by FHP troopers on Feb. 27 for an out-of-county warrant.

Chase William Lamoree, 20, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 28 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Paul Asa McMahan, 37, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 27 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, DUI and an out-of-county warrant.

Edgar Depaul Powell, 49, of Boonie, Maryland was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 28 for failure to appear.

Kaitlyn Nicole Watkins, 27, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 1 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Julia Faith Wilkes, 41, of Middleburg was arrested on Feb. 26 for out-of-county warrants.

Union

Michael Trevon Hamilton, 29, of Palmetto was arrested by Union deputies on March 1 for a probation violation.

Clay

Lawson Macklane Edenfield, 19, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 1 for aggravated battery on a pregnant female.

Joel Joao Medeiros, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 2 for operating a vehicle without a valid license.

Shawn Adam Sieling, 49, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Feb. 26 for aggravated assault, battery and violating a domestic violence injunction.

Travis Allen White, 37, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 1 for a probation violation. The defendant was also arrested on March 2 for resisting an officer without violence.

Richard Soren Vey, 55, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on March 2 for trespassing.

Sold Molly at Pleasant Grove Park

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

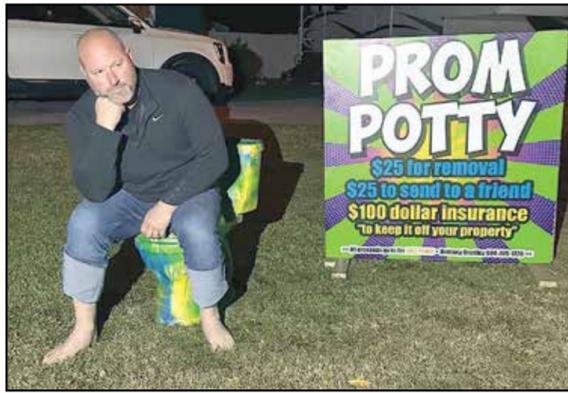
STARKE — Billie Christine Astra, 43, was sentenced to 62 days in jail and three years drug offender probation after pleading to possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a school, park, childcare facility or community center.

According to a warrant affidavit, on September 1, 2022, the defendant sold 0.7 grams of the synthetic narcotic MDMA for \$20 to a Bradford Sheriff’s confidential source. The transaction occurred at Pleasant Grove Park on County Road 229 around 11 a.m.

The State dropped additional charges of selling a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, park, childcare facility or community center and illegally using a two-way communications device.

Raising the lid on prom donations

In case you haven’t seen some of the fun BHS class sponsor Brittany Bradley and others have been having raising money for the prom with the traveling Prom Potty ...



Superintendent Will Hartley



Elections Supervisor Amanda Seyfang



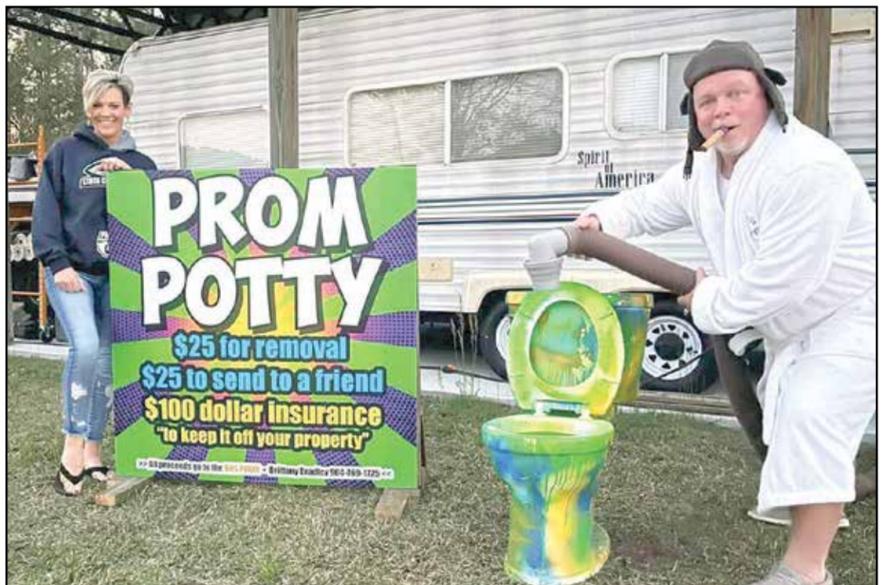
Starke Fire Rescue with Chief Gary Wise



Sheriff Gordon Smith



Logan and Ciara Johnson



Tiffany and Chris Dougherty, Bradford County commissioner

Public comment period extended for Santa Fe Watershed flood maps

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

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

following the meetings for those unable to attend.

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

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

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

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

Free event celebrates 36 years of service

Bradford County Faith Community Center and Starke Church of God By

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

Get help quitting

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

This group more than doubles your chance of quitting for good. Pre-registration is required. Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot.

Enjoy the outdoors this month as March is Florida Biking Month

The month of March is Florida Biking Month, and the Suwannee River Water Management District encourages all its residents and visitors to take advantage of Florida’s spring weather and enjoy the great outdoors.

Research has shown that exercising outdoors includes a variety of health benefits and can be enjoyed by the whole family. There are few places better in North Florida than District-owned lands, many of which provide specific bike trails for enjoyment.

“While the District acquires property for conservation and protection, almost all of them are available for public use year-round,” said Hugh Thomas, executive director of the District.

“Whether it’s bicycling, hiking, or bird watching, these lands provide many opportunities for various recreational activities and the chance for our residents and guests to enjoy the outdoors.”

Some District-owned tracts, such as White Springs (Hamilton County), Little Shoals (Columbia County), and Anderson Springs (Suwannee County), have designated bike trails. Others, however, have administrative or secondary roads that are bicycle-friendly.

More information about District lands and their amenities can be found at <https://map.mysuwanneeriver.com>.

Oddfellow Cemetery requests community’s help

The Oddfellow Cemetery Committee Members regret to inform you that the records for the

gravestones of your grandparents, mothers and fathers purchased back in the 1940s and 1950s are no longer maintained due to the change of administration and personnel. However, if you have any copies of any transaction, it will be honored.

The committee is trying to preserve the cemetery for the community and need your help. When exchanging the flowers of your loved one’s grave, please carry the old ones with you from the cemetery. Thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

The committee’s goal is to fence in the cemetery within the next five years. It will be gated as well, with a walk in area for visitation. A directional board will be located there to show where your love one is located.

Contact any committee member or call 904-964-7905 with any questions or concerns.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street
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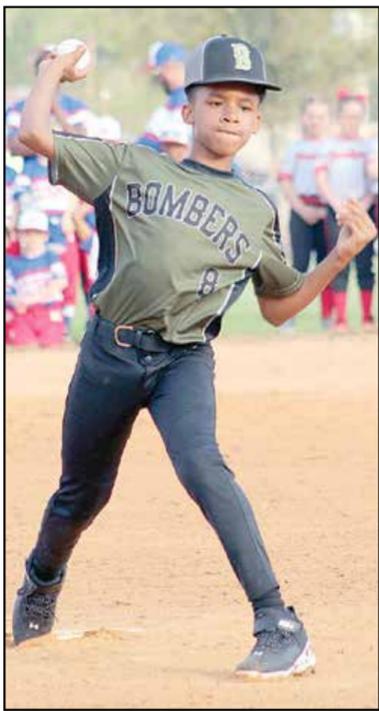
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Bradford Youth Athletics hosts opening-day ceremony



Bradford High School JROTC cadets (l-r) Lysa McKenzie, Tyler Shaffer, Madison Miller and Yandel Morales present the colors during the national anthem.

Trenton Wise fields a ground ball.



ABOVE: Callay Carter throws out the ceremonial first pitch for softball at Bradford Youth Athletics' opening-day ceremony on Feb. 25. Jalyaah Johnson caught the pitch. LEFT: Journey Reed throws the first pitch for baseball. Catching for him was Caleb Dyal. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



LEFT: Coby Coffey and Cash Collins take to the field during team introductions. BELOW: Jett Crawford bats during one of the four games that started the day's schedule.



Brad Poole (right) greets player Edrick Hamilton Jr. during team introductions. Poole is the president of Bradford Youth Athletics. Other officers are Vice President Ashley Poole, Secretary Valerie Strickland, Treasurer Celia Hinds, Baseball Commissioner Cletis Brown, Softball Commissioner Rebecca Hancock, T-ball Commissioner John Griffis, Grounds Commissioner Kyle Jerrels and Concessions Commissioner Meghan Miscally.



Nichelle Brown (left) scored both touchdowns for Bradford in its 13-8 win over Middleburg. The Tornadoes are 4-0, having outscored their opponents 158-8. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

BHS improves to 4-0 in flag football

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School won its first three games by a combined score of 145-0, but Head Coach John Staples figured his girls flag football team would face a tougher test against a 1-1 Middleburg team that went 16-1 last year.

The host Broncos did indeed prove to be tough, but two touchdowns by Nichelle Brown and a game-clinching interception by Dariah Gilmore allowed the Tornadoes to return home with a 13-8 win on March 6.

Bradford quarterback Ar'Nayshia Griffin was sacked for a safety with approximately three minutes left in the game, making it a five-point game and giving the Middleburg offense a chance to march downfield and score. However, the Broncos' first play following the safety resulted in the interception by Gilmore.

It was one of four interceptions by the Tornadoes, whose defense made its presence felt early. On Middleburg's first play of the game, Griffin intercepted a pass. The Broncos' second possession was a three-and-out, with Khamyra Hankerson setting the tone with a tackle for a minimal gain on that drive's first play.

The Tornadoes' offense failed to pick up a first down on their

first offensive series, but they needed just one play on their next drive to strike paydirt as Brown weaved her way through defenders for a touchdown run with approximately six minutes to play in the opening quarter. Brown had a successful run on the one-point conversion attempt, putting Bradford up 7-0.

A penalty on the ensuing series gave Middleburg its first first down of the game, but Griffin came up with her second interception of the quarter on the next play.

Following the turnover, a run by Griffin gave Bradford first-and-goal, but a sack and a penalty hurt the Tornadoes, who eventually turned the ball over on downs.

The Broncos were able to put a touchdown on the board before the end of the first half. They picked up first downs on a pass play and a penalty. A completed pass on fourth-and-goal as time expired made it a 7-6 game. Griffin intercepted the pass on the one-point conversion attempt.

Middleburg's first play of the second half was the same as its first play of the first half — an interception by Bradford. This time, it was Jada Hankerson who came up with the pick.

Griffin completed passes to Brown and Jada Hankerson before picking up a first down on a run. Griffin carried the

ball again and was stopped approximately 8 yards shy of the end zone. Two plays later, Brown caught a pass for a touchdown to make the score 13-6. Griffin's run on the conversion attempt was unsuccessful.

The Broncos struggled passing most of the night, but they put together a late fourth-quarter drive on which their quarterback completed her first five attempts. Middleburg moved into scoring position, but after a third-and-goal pass fell incomplete, Griffin broke up a fourth-down pass.

After Gilmore intercepted the pass following the safety, Bradford was able to run out the clock after Khamyra Hankerson caught a pass for a first down.

Bradford opened the season with a 60-0 win over visiting Santa Fe on Feb. 27. Brown rushed for 263 yards on nine carries, while Griffin rushed for 124 yards on six carries.

Griffin also completed 6 of 6 passes for 76 yards, with Jada Hankerson catching two passes for 20 yards.

Ajijah Jackson recorded three sacks, while Gilmore and Destiny Crum each had an interception.

In a 32-0 win at Baker County on Feb. 28, Griffin rushed for 132 yards on 12 carries and completed 12 of 15 passes for 169 yards. Brown rushed for 80 yards on six carries and caught four passes for

See BHS, page 10



UNION COUNTY EVENT NOTICE!

TOXIC ROUND-UP

SATURDAY, MAR. 18, 2023 • 9 AM - 3 PM

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

SATURDAY, MAR. 11, 2023 • 9 AM - 3 PM

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

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

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The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Union County Commission are sponsoring a project to collect, recycle, treat and properly dispose of these household hazardous wastes:

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

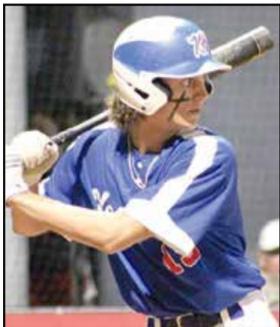
UCHS wrestler Thornton goes 1-2 at 1A state tournament

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School's Danny Thornton participated in the Class 1A wrestling state finals at Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee, getting a win in the second round before being eliminated.

Thornton, who wrestles in the 195-pound class, began with a loss to Hernado's Jayshawn Nantece, who pinned him in 3:58. He bounced back, pinning Gibbs' Malcolm Woods in 2:23, but then got pinned by Jensen Beach's Nate Sopotnick in 3:34.

Sopotnick would go on to place third, while Nantece placed sixth.



Noah Branch went 4 for 4 with an RBI in the Indians' 9-2 win over Newberry. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

KHHS baseball team wins 4th straight, beats Newberry 9-2

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Pitchers Gage Smith and Ben Goforth held host Newberry to three hits in the Keystone Heights High School baseball

team's 9-2 win on March 6.

Smith, who started, gave up two runs on two hits through 5.1 innings. He struck out 11.

Goforth pitched the remainder of the game, giving up one hit and no walks, while striking out one.

The Indians (4-1) scored all the runs they'd need in the first two innings. With two outs in the first, Noah Branch hit an RBI single, while an error allowed another run to score. Austin Musgrove hit an RBI single in the second that put Keystone ahead 3-1.

With the effort of the pitchers, the Indians didn't need a big inning, but put together one anyway, scoring five runs in the third. Andrew Wilson hit an RBI double, while Smith and Wil Rogel each hit an RBI single. Musgrove drew a bases-loaded walk, with the inning's final run coming off a wild pitch.

Musgrove finished with two RBI, while Branch went 4 for 4 with one RBI. Rogel, Smith, Wilson and Conner Guy each had one RBI, with Guy, Rogel and Smith each going 2 for 4. Guy's RBI came off a solo home run.

On Feb. 28, the Indians got two RBI each from Branch and Guy in a 9-2 win over host Middleburg.

Keystone had a five-run third inning, which saw Guy and Musgrove each hit an RBI double. Branch and Wilson each drove in a run in the inning as well, with Branch scoring a run on a wild pitch.

Guy finished 2 for 4, while Wilson, Ryan Jones and Chase Packham each went 2 for 3. Jones and Wilson each had one RBI, as did Musgrove and Caleb Mize.

Garrison Teague hit a double. On the mound, Smith threw the first four innings, giving up no runs, four hits and no walks. He struck out four.

Jesse Stanley gave up no runs and no hits in two innings of relief.

Just prior to playing Newberry, Keystone got more solid pitching from Musgrove and Jones as well as three RBI from Jones in a 13-3, five-inning win over visiting

Williston on March 3.

Musgrove started on the mound, giving up three runs, four hits and two walks, while striking out five in three innings.

Jones pitched the final two innings, giving up two hits and one walk, while striking out three.

Keystone got off to a fast start at the plate, scoring five runs in the first inning. Jones hit a two-run triple, while Branch and Rogel each drove in a run on a single.

The Indians ended the game early with a six-run fifth. All runs were scored with two outs. Wilson hit an RBI double, while Seth Gagnon drew a bases-loaded walk. Three runs scored on wild pitches and an error.

Jones and Musgrove each went 2 for 3, with Jones hitting two triples and Musgrove hitting a double and driving in one run.

Branch, Gagnon, Guy, Rogel and Wilson each had one RBI, with Guy hitting a triple and Wilson hitting a double.

Keystone played North Marion this past Tuesday (March 7) and will host Fort White on Thursday, March 9, at 6 p.m.

Miller's 7th-inning hit gives Tigers 4-3 win over Lafayette

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Jeremy Miller's two-out single gave the Union County High School baseball team a walkoff 4-3 win over visiting Lafayette on March 2.

After a three-run first inning, the Tigers (3-1) were held to two hits by Lafayette pitchers Hyatt Richardson and Garrett Taylor until the seventh. Taylor struck out the inning's first batter and forced the second to ground out, but Bryson Huggins then stepped to the plate and hit an infield single. Huggins stole second before Miller drilled a 2-0 pitch into left field.

That capped a 2-for-4 night for Miller.



Jeremy Miller, who was 2 for 4, drove in the winning run in the Tigers' 4-3 win over Lafayette. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

The Tigers scored the game's first three runs off just two hits in the first inning. Ayden Elixson was able to reach on a dropped third strike, while Tra'von Lee hit a single. An error on a pickoff attempt at second allowed Elixson and Lee to advance to third and second before Tucker Hardee drew a walk. With two outs, Preston Bonsall hit a triple into center field.

Lafayette (3-1) cut into the lead in the top of the third, which began with Dawson Mock hitting a triple and then scoring on Hunter Vann's single. An error on a pickoff attempt Kevin Posada, who entered to run for Vann, advanced to third. Posada scored on a Taylor fly ball to make the score 3-2.

Union had a runner in scoring position in the fourth. Ethan Moody hit a one-out single. Jeff Cook, who entered to run for Moody, advanced to second on a wild pitch, but two straight batters were put out on fly balls.

The Hornets tied the score in the sixth. Karlos Murphy hit a leadoff double and moved to third on a Richardson bunt. One out later, Richardson scored on an Austin Herron triple.

Lafayette put one on with one out in the seventh, but Elixson, who entered the game to relieve starting pitcher Moody, forced both batters he faced to fly out.

Union played Gainesville this past Tuesday (March 7) and will host Bradford on Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m. The Tigers host Dunnellon on Monday, March 13, at 6 p.m. before traveling to play Suwannee on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m.

7th inning costly as KHHS softball team loses 5-4

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Host Fleming Island scored a

run on an error in the bottom of the seventh to hand the Keystone Heights High School softball team a 5-4 loss on March 6.

The Indians (2-4) scored two runs in the top of the first on an Ashley Nugent double, but the Eagles answered with two runs of their own in the bottom of the inning.

Keystone trailed 3-2 before scoring two in the fifth. Abbie Roach walked, while Amber Wagner reached on an error. Roach scored on Kiley Channell's sacrifice fly, while an error on a fly ball hit by Nugent, which would've been the third out, allowed Wagner to score.

Fleming tied it with a run in the bottom of the fifth before scoring the winning run in the seventh.

Nugent went 2 for 3. The rest of the team had three hits, with one being a double hit by Wagner.

Pitchers Nugent and Caitlin Frampton combined to give up six hits.

On Feb. 28, a Nugent double gave the Indians the lead for good in a 6-3 win at Toco Creek.

Keystone fell behind 3-1, but Frampton and Ashlyn Brown each drove in a run in the third to tie it up.

Nugent hit her run-scoring double in the fourth, while Madalynn Glinski added a two-run single in the fifth.

Glinski went 2 for 3 with two RBI, while Brown, Frampton and Nugent each had one RBI.

Roach went 2 for 4. Nugent started in the circle, giving up three runs and one hit, while striking out five in three innings.

Kadence Massey-Hoadley finished it out, giving up no hits, while striking out five.

Prior to playing Fleming Island, Keystone defeated visiting Pierson Taylor 5-3 on March 2.

Taylor tied it at 3-3 with a run in the top of the sixth, but the Indians scored two in the bottom of the inning. Frampton hit a one-out single and, after a sacrifice bunt by Glinski, scored when the Wildcats committed an error on a ground ball hit by Channell. Roach later hit an RBI double for the final score.

Frampton finished 2 for 3. She, Nugent, Roach and Wagner each had one RBI.

Channell hit a double. Starting pitcher Frampton gave up two runs and four hits through four innings.

Massey-Hoadley, in three innings, gave up one run, three hits and no walks, while striking

out five.

Keystone travels to play Baker County on Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play Trinity Christian on Friday, March 10, at 7 p.m.

BHS softball team goes up 3-0 before losing 6-3 to Raiders

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Host Orange Park scored six unanswered runs in defeating the Bradford High School softball team 6-3 on March 6.

Bradford (2-3) took the lead with three runs in the top of the third. Tinsley Higginbotham walked, while Addyson Hinds reached on an error. Masey Padgett then hit an RBI single, while a Kirsten Hodges single drove in two.

The Raiders answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning after their first two batters reached on errors.

Orange park took the lead with a two-run fifth, with one of the runs scored by a batter who was hit by a pitch and later brought home on an error.

Hodges finished 3 for 3, while the rest of the team went 1 for 22.

Bradford entered the game off a 15-0, four-inning win over visiting Buchholz on Feb. 28.

Hinds' two-run homer in the first inning provided the Tornadoses with all the runs they'd need as pitcher Keegan Yowell threw a complete-game shutout. Yowell gave up five hits and struck out four.

The Tornadoses pushed five runs across in the second, getting a two-run double from Takeirra Bakken, a two-run single from Padgett and a one-run single from Hodges.

Hinds, who went 4 for 4 with four RBI, drove in two runs on a single as part of a six-run third.

Bakken and Padgett each went 3 for 4, with Padgett driving in four runs and Bakken driving in two.

Hodges and Kallie Yowell each went 2 for 2, with Hodges driving in two runs and Yowell driving in one.

Amber Wynn drove in a run on a hit in her only at-bat.

Bradford will return to action on Tuesday, March 14, when it hosts Baker County at 6:30 p.m. The Tornadoses will host Yulee on Thursday, March 16, at 6 p.m.

game, which was a 53-0 win at Bishop Snyder on March 1. The defense also got one interception from Brown and five sacks from Jackson.

Offensively, Griffin completed 10 of 15 passes for 185 yards, while rushing for 60 yards on seven carries. Brown caught six passes for 180 yards, while rushing for 60 yards on five carries.

Talaysia Jackson added 55 rushing yards on two carries,

while Izariah DeSue had 20 on two carries.

Bradford attempted to go 5-0 this past Tuesday (March 7) against Orange Park. The Tornadoses travel to play Suwannee on Thursday, March 9, at 6 p.m. before returning home to play Baker County on Tuesday, March 14, at 5:30 p.m.

BHS Continued from page 9

105 yards. Khamyra Hankerson caught three passes for 25 yards, while Kimber Woods caught two for 15 yards.

Defensively, Griffin and Alexis Berry had two interceptions each, while Brown, Courtney Comer and Kayla Evans each had one.

Griffin also made two interceptions in the team's next

Bradford County Clerk of Court Announces Its Annual Event to Help Customers Save on Fees to Reinstate Driver Licenses

- WHAT:** Operation Green Light Event. An event held to reinstate drivers licenses.
- WHEN:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM AND Friday, March 17, 2023 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- WHERE:** Bradford County Courthouse - Clerk of Court's Office 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091
- WHO:** Individuals looking to save on fees and have their driver license reinstated.
- CONTACT:** For further information, please contact the Bradford County Clerk of Court's Office at 904.966.6280.

This upcoming event is an opportunity for Bradford County customers with suspended driver licenses to pay overdue court obligations, including traffic tickets, while saving money in additional fees.

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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

- **COMMUNITY:** Events, fairs, gatherings, concerts sponsored by local schools, churches & community organizations; food banks, help, resources; crime reports, arrests; law enforcement, businesses, services, government.
- **HEALTH:** What is happening locally in our communities, hospitals, schools, health departments; school closures.
- **GOVERNMENT:** Taxes, fees, local & regional boards, commissions, officials, decisions, spending, budgetary oversight, local emergencies.
- **SPORTS:** local teams, athletes, scores, events, outdoor happenings, festivals, achievements, championships, competitions.
- **DEALS:** Advertiser sales, restaurant & store offers, grocery inserts, coupons, special events at stores & local businesses.
- **ELECTIONS:** Candidates running for local offices. Upcoming elections & election results; any local voting glitches.

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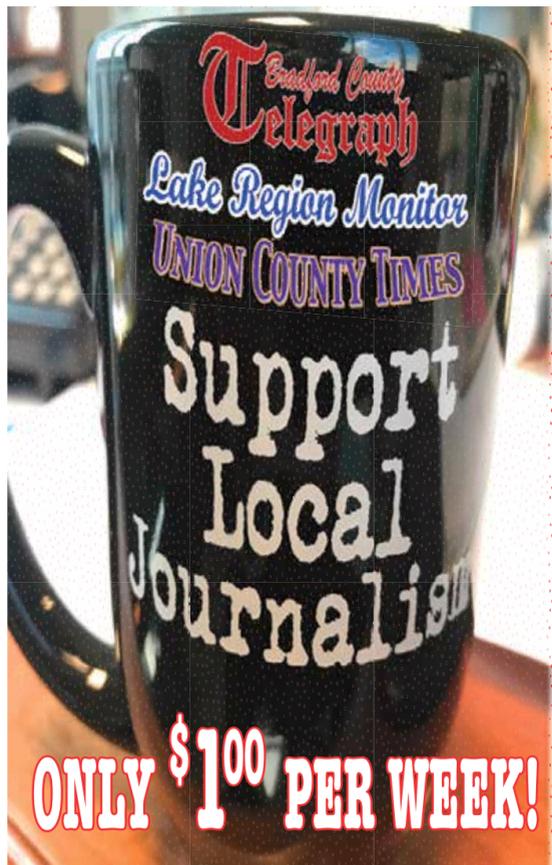
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Clay native Begue is new pastor at First Baptist of Keystone Heights

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Think of life as a puzzle — a puzzle that's being put together by God.

Ryan Begue's puzzle, at least for this stage of his life, is complete, as he heeded God's calling and is now the pastor at First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights.

Begue and his wife, Emily, who are Clay County natives, had been living out of the area for 16 years. Begue then felt his family was being called to move back home to be closer to his mother and his wife's parents.

That was four years ago. Opportunities then began falling into place for Begue, who was serving as the director of missions for a local association for more than a year before being named the pastor at Keystone's First Baptist approximately four months ago, stepping in for Daniel Findley, who moved to Georgia.

"All the pieces just sort of came together," Begue said.

What Begue likes about First Baptist is that its congregation has a willingness to think outside the box.

Or, more specifically, travel outside of the box.

As examples, Begue mentioned the church's clothes-closet ministry as well as its involvement with Lake Area Ministries.

"A lot of older churches that have been around a long time have a stigma of being set in their ways," Begue said, "but I would say that our church is far from that. I think all of us have things in which we're set in our ways, but as a whole, this church is very, very open to getting outside the box and engaging the community in fresh, new ways."

In other words, it's something more than just gathering at one building for services and events.

"The word of God never changes, but the way that we do life and the way that the culture moves is always changing," Begue said. "You can never compromise on the gospel, but you can change the approaches that you have in the way you interact with the community."

You might say that Begue went outside of the box as he took a path into ministry.

'Craziest thought' is God's will

Begue said he had a great childhood and is thankful to have had parents who were such a positive influence in his life.

Still, it perhaps wasn't the environment you'd think of when it comes to someone being led to go into ministry.

"I wasn't raised in a Christian home," Begue said. "Both of my parents are now followers of Christ, but I was the first person in my family to really live for Christ."

The family didn't go to church, but Begue said he went to a youth group with some friends of his when he was a teenager.

"I remember going home one night from youth group and telling my dad, 'I had the craziest thought today — that one day I might be a pastor or preacher.' I can't remember the verbiage I used," Begue said, "but I still remember that night."

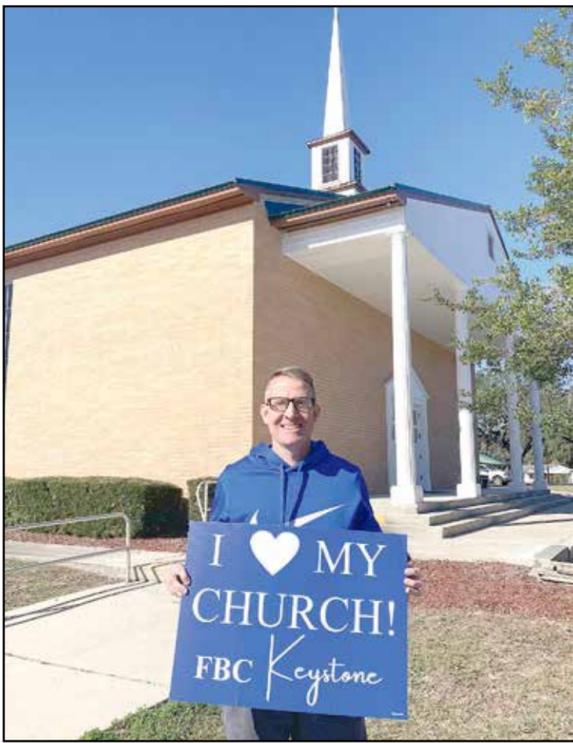
It wasn't until years later, however, when he had the feeling that God was in fact calling him to go into ministry. Begue, who was working at Florida Rock Industries at the time, said his reaction was mixed.

"Excited, but also a little overwhelmed," Begue said. "It's still overwhelming, but it's not something you can or would want to run from."

Some people may run from what God is calling them to do, but Begue, of course, believes that the will of God will eventually come to fruition. He also believes that even when a person is resisting the call of God, God is preparing that individual for what will ultimately happen.

Sometimes, an individual's resistance proves to be a blessing for others. Begue likens it to Jonah not immediately going to Nineveh as God wanted him to.

"It's obvious that Jonah ran from God and went the wrong direction, but while he's on the ship, all these people who had



Ryan Begue has been serving as the senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights for approximately four months. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

never heard about the true and living God see the mighty hand of God," Begue said. "All of a sudden, you see them calling out and worshipping God, making sacrifices to Him."

"God gets Jonah to where Jonah's supposed to be — on the beaches heading back to Nineveh, which is where he was supposed to go in the first place. God used Jonah despite his disobedience, but he also used Jonah where He wanted him to be."

Begue, who graduated from the University of North Florida and earned his master's degree at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, pastored a church in Esto and was later on the staff at a church in Central Florida. He also served as a student pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church in Green Cove Springs and served on the staff at Hibernia Baptist Church in Fleming Island.

Besides serving now as pastor at First Baptist of Keystone, Begue is also a board member for Lake Area Ministries and Clay County's Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Youth athletics is something Begue is passionate about.

'A big kid' with a passion for sports

Begue said he likes to "chunk the ball around" with the football players at Keystone Heights Jr.-Sr. High School. He helps coach that sport at KHHS as well as golf. (His wife, who works in the school's computer lab, coaches girls tennis and junior high cheerleading.)

"My wife will tell you I'm a big kid," Begue said.

When he's not helping coach, athletics is still a part of his life. His two oldest sons — Reid and Will — participate in most of the sports at KHHS, while his youngest son — Cade, who's in elementary school — is involved in baseball, basketball and golf.

"It never stops," said Begue, who also has two daughters: Hannah and Megan.

Begue said it's a sports family — one that was written about eight decades ago by the Florida Times-Union in a story about "the greatest athletic family in Florida."

"My grandpa and a couple of his brothers won the high school basketball state championship in the early '40s in Dixie County," Begue said.

His father was a "big athlete," Begue said, but he downplayed his own abilities.

"I'm not very good in any sport, really," he said. "I was pretty decent in golf growing up. I played four years of varsity golf at Orange Park (High School)."

When he was going to college, Begue helped cover high school football for the Clay Today, which happened to have him writing about the school that's such a big part of his family today.

"They sent me to Keystone just about every time I covered a game for them," Begue said. "It was the only school I covered that I remember. I remember coming down and covering a game when they played Interlachen. I believe it was 1993. Coach (Bob) Wright was head coach then. He's become a friend."

Begue is a Florida Gators fan, but he was thrilled to be able to have FSU legend Bobby Bowden preach for him twice. In one instance, Begue was involved in a church replanting in the panhandle. He wrote a letter to Bowden and said he'd love to have him come and speak at the church sometime.

A return letter from the school confirmed that Bowden would speak at the church and gave the date that he would do so. Begue made the announcement to the church, when a member pointed out that the date in question was

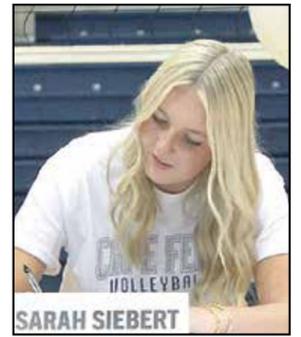
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Riley Barry signs her letter of intent to play at Enterprise State Community College. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Kori Jennings signs her letter of intent to play at Enterprise State Community College. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Sarah Siebert signs her letter of intent to play at Cape Fear Community College. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

3 KHHS volleyball players sign college letters of intent

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

How good has the Keystone Heights High School volleyball program been in recent years?

If a Feb. 27 ceremony at the school's gym was any indication, it has been pretty good. Seniors Riley Barry, Kori Jennings and Sarah Siebert signed letters of intent to play at the next level.

"It's definitely a big moment, not only for them, but for our program," said Kaitlyn Walker, who's been the KHHS head coach the last three seasons. "I feel like Keystone volleyball has really been overlooked these past few years. We've definitely rebuilt our program — (Assistant Coach) Jordan (Jennings) and I have — and this is a prime example of what comes out of small Keystone. I can't tell you the last time that three girls signed, and we have one more who's possibly going to be signing."

Jennings said it was a special moment. Plus, she was grateful for the turnout of supporters.

"It's really cool," Jennings said. "I'm glad there was a bunch of people who showed up. I didn't think this many people would come."

"Just to be able to do this with my friends — I'm really thankful."

Siebert, in talking about Barry and Jennings, said, "They're like my best friends on the team. It was so nice we could have this opportunity together."

Barry said she envisions having to make a lot of improvements in her game in going from high

school to college and plans on doing whatever it takes to get better.

"She offered me," Jennings said. "I was so shocked because I was expecting her to let us know later what she thought. I was super excited. Then she told me she was also offering Riley. That made me 10 times more excited because we get to go together."

When she received the offer from Howell, Barry said she "was so overwhelmed and so happy."

Barry, a front-row player, is coming off a season in which she led the team in blocks with 59 and was second in kills with 147. In four seasons, she had 130 blocks and 274 kills.

"I'm very excited and very grateful I'm able to play at the college level," Barry said. "It's literally all I've dreamed about since I started playing volleyball. I'm just grateful for all the coaches and everybody who's helped me get here."

Walker said Barry is a hard worker and someone who's always positive, no matter what's going on in a match.

"She was always encouraging her teammates, pushing them to be their very best," Walker said. "She actually won the Coaches Award at our banquet because she really displayed throughout her senior year what it is to be a Keystone volleyball player."

Barry said she envisions having to make a lot of improvements in her game in going from high

school to college and plans on doing whatever it takes to get better.

"She's proven to be someone who'll do whatever's asked of her by coaches."

"She was able to play anywhere we put her," Walker said. "Sometimes we had to have her pass in the back row. She would go back there, and you would think she was a libero she was passing so good."

Barry said when she steps onto the court for the first time as an Enterprise Boll Weevil, she'll be thinking, "Oh, my gosh. Hopefully, I don't mess up."

She'll be looking forward to that moment, though.

"I'll be very excited that they'd put me out there," she said.

Walker has no doubt Barry will do just fine and end up being an asset for Enterprise.

"They are really lucky to have her," Walker said. "I'm excited to see her grow even more as a player than she has already. I think that she is physically and mentally ready for college."

Jennings proved to be an outstanding setter at Keystone. She recorded 221 assists as a freshman when she was sharing time with then senior Emily Loose. She had more than 300 as a sophomore, more than 400 as a junior and more than 500 as a senior, finishing her career with 1,592.

"She's definitely made a name for herself," Walker said.

See SIGN, page 12

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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Exciting NEWS from the Offices of Environmental Health and Bradford Building Dept.

To better serve the citizens of Bradford County, we are excited to announce that beginning March 8th 2023, the Bradford County Building Department will be accepting Septic Applications for Bradford County **ONLY** via email or in person. Anthony Dennis and the Bradford County Health Department staff will still be available if you need to speak with them.

Application drop off:

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945 N Temple Ave., Starke
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Fridays: 8 am - 1:30 pm
Email: Aleshia.Wilsey@flhealth.gov
Phone: 904-966-6223 X2

Download applications:

www.floridadep.gov/water/onsite-sewage
click on **DEP4015** (all pages) halfway down the page.

Water samples and other Health Department permitting will continue to go through the Bradford County Health Department located at 1801 N Temple Ave., Starke.

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Obituaries

Sidney Bass

Sidney "Sid" Bass, 84, of Starke passed away at his home Saturday, March 4, 2023, following an extended illness. He was born June 2, 1938, in Boston, Massachusetts to Jacob and Ethyl "Linnick" Bass. He enlisted with the United States Army at the age of 17 and was stationed three years in Hawaii. Prior to retirement, he was a tax advisor for H & R Block. In 2004, he and his wife moved to Starke and began attending the Church of Christ in Melrose, where he became very involved and active. He enjoyed preaching, was an avid Patriots and Florida Gators fan, and he was a member of the American Legion Post #202 in Keystone Heights. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Sally.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 61 years, Jeraldine "Jerry" "O'Leary" Bass of Starke; and their children, Sheriann Purdy, Kathleen (Raymond) Simmons, Cynthia Bass, and David (Tracey) Bass; along with a brother, Lawrence (Lorie) Bass. Also left behind are his grandchildren, P. J., Nick, Erin, Logan, Derick, Britaney, Thomas, Sammy, and David Jr.; and great-grandchildren, Cyrus, Brock, and Kya. Also left behind is his cat, Lucy; and dog, Bubba.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 8, at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Gene Morgan officiating. Interment will be at Jacksonville National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts can be made to the American Heart Association.

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

Terri Carpenter

Terri Lynne Carpenter, 51, of Starke, left us on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023. She was born in Lake Wales on July 16, 1971, to the late William "Bill" Bacon and Sherri Eddings Whitaker. She grew up in Vero Beach and graduated from Vero Beach High School in 1989. After brief stays in Charlotte, North Carolina and Columbia, South Carolina, she moved to Starke in 1998. To many she was known as "Ms. Red" due to her vibrant hair. Others knew her for her love of singing karaoke. Her voice was rich and deep, which was perfect for belting out the country songs she loved. Her laughter, humor and vivaciousness were contagious. She had the ability to crack a joke and set a room at ease. She worked hard and played harder, loved fiercely, and never met a stranger. She was preceded in death by her stepfather, Jim Rike; and her brother, David Rike.

She is survived by her sons, Samuel "Chase" Baucom of Starke and Timothy "T.J." Daren Carpenter Jr., of Gainesville; her mother and stepfather, Sherri (Gene) Whitaker of Lawtey; sister and brother-in-law, Marie (Troy) Appling of Starke; her brothers and sisters-in-law, Joe (Alicia) Rike of Brooker and Chad (Soledad) Rike of Buford, Georgia. Her delight was taking pictures with her beloved nieces and nephews: Ryan, Ryland, Samantha, Easton, Stella Jo, Davey and Tyler. She will also be missed by dear aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

The Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 18, at 1 p.m. at Keystone Heights Christian Church, 3528 SE State Road 21, Keystone Heights, 32656, with Pastor Buster Appling officiating. Family and friends will be encouraged to gather after the service to share memories.
PAID OBITUARY

Carolyn Crosby

Carolyn Elixson Crosby, 86, of Worthington Springs, peacefully went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, with her family by her side. She was born Sept. 22, 1936, in Wildwood to Mason and Marie Elixson. She was the only girl among nine brothers. She moved to Worthington Springs as a child and was a lifelong resident of Union County. She was a 1954 graduate of Union County High School and, soon after graduating, married the love of her life, Bobby Crosby. The couple enjoyed 62 years of marriage until his passing in 2016. She worked for the Union County School System for over 30 years in various roles. She was always helping others. It has been said, "If you were sick, had a death, graduated, or had a birthday, you were getting a pie or a homemade apron from Mrs. Carolyn. If you were having a baby, you were getting a baby Bible." She had a servant's heart, which was especially true when it came to her family. She was happiest when she was with her children and grandchildren. She was a member of the Gideons Women's Auxiliary for over 30 years and a longtime member of Sardis Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bobby Crosby; her parents, and nine brothers.

She is survived by her children, Bobby (Tammy) Crosby of Trenton and Cristi Whitehead of Lake Butler; her grandchildren, John-John (Pam) Whitehead of Lake Butler, Tres (Ashley) Crosby of Branford, Kane (Shelby) Crosby of Trenton, and Lexi Whitehead of Lake Butler; great-grandchildren, Paisley, Kase, John, Jake, Millie Jean, and Briggs; numerous extended family members also survive.

A funeral to honor her life was held on Sunday, March 5, at Sardis Baptist Church. She was laid to rest at Elzy Chapel Cemetery in Worthington Springs.

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

Helen Dennis

Helen Harrell Dennis, 99, of Pinson, Alabama, passed away Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, in Haven Hospice, Gainesville. She was born Nov. 11, 1923 in Tarrant City, Alabama to the late Floyd Wesley and Bennie Sue Harrell. She grew up in the Birmingham area and had resided for a time in Atlanta, Georgia and Winter Park before settling in Pinson. She was married on Valentine's Day in 1942 to the late L. C. Dennis, who preceded her in death in 2008 after 66 years of marriage. She was an avid golfer and played her last round of golf at 97! She had been a longtime member of the Center Point United Methodist Church and was currently a member of the Palmedale United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Bill Brandon, of Keystone Heights; a granddaughter, Sonja Wright of Keystone Heights; a former grandson-in-law Jeff Campbell, of Keystone Heights; a brother-in-law; and five nephews.

A Celebration of Life service was held on Saturday, March 4, at the Palmedale United Methodist Church in Pinson, Alabama. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a memorial benefiting Haven Hospice in her name at everloved.com/life-of/helen-dennis/. Please visit her memorial page at www.williamsthomasmemorialhome.com. For further information, contact Williams-Thomas Downtown, 352-376-7556.
PAID OBITUARY



Joyce Jones

Joyce Juanita Cothren Jones, 72, of Florahome passed away on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka. She was born in Alma, Georgia on June 14, 1950, to the late Oliver and Juanita Haggard Cothren and relocated to Florahome 40 years ago. She was a stay-at-home wife and mother and, in her spare time, sold Tupperware, and Avon products and had worked for American Greeting Cards. She was most proud of her graduation from Orange Park Beauty Academy. Crafts were a favorite hobby; however, spending time with her loving husband of 53 years, her children and grandchildren were treasured times. She was of the Pentecostal Church of God faith. Preceding her in death were her parents, Oliver Cothren and Nollie Juanita Haggard Cothren; and one brother, Joseph "J.T." Tillman Cothren.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Albert Theodore Jones III; children, Keith Lawayne Jones, Kimberly Jones Broward and Albert "Ted" Theodore (Candace) Jones IV; brother, Oliver Denny Qdelis (Denise) Cothren; sister, Jeanette Florence (Glen) Taylor; sister-in-law, Joyce Hagans Cothren; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends on Friday, March 3, at Masters Funeral Home in Palatka. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 4, at Masters Funeral Home in Palatka with Reverend Jeff Crawley and Reverend Denny Cothren officiating. Interment followed in Keystone Heights Cemetery. Messages of sympathy may be shared on her online tribute page at www.themastersfuneralhome.com.
Masters Funeral Home of Palatka was in charge of arrangements.
PAID OBITUARY



Mary Ellington

Mary Alice Ellington passed away peacefully at her home on March 1, 2023, just one day shy of 92 years of age. She was born in Raiford to the late Mollie and Ona Griffis. She graduated in 1949 at Union County High School. She married the love of her life, Harlis R. Ellington, and became a wife and mother. She drove a bus for Union County Schools, was a seamstress at Lake Butler Apparel, and worked at North Florida Fertilizer throughout her life. She and Harlis later became partners and owners of Ellington Construction. When Harlis passed away in 1990, she became president of the company until her retirement in 2000. She was a member of the Sheriff's Association, Lake Butler Woman's Club, ALS Foundation, and a lifetime member of the Union County Riding Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harlis R. Ellington; parents, Mollie and Ona Griffis; son, Ricky Ellington; sister, Winnofae Fair; brother, Keith Griffis; her twin brother, Dallas Griffis; son-in-law, Larry Davison and granddaughter-in-law, Shannon Ellington.

She is survived by her daughter, Paulette Davison; daughter-in-law, Melanie Ellington; grandchildren, Jason (Kathryn) Davison, Deidre (Tad) Durrance, Courtnie (Todd) Douglas, Lindsey (Cory) Reddish, Garrett Ellington, and Garth Ellington; granddaughter-in-law, Andrea Davison; great-grandchildren, Kiersten, Colton, Alyssa (AJ), Austin (Sydney), Mackenzie, Savannah, Emily, Keeley, Dylan, Kutter, Cane, Hayden, Tess, Bailee, Maddee, and Cheyenne; great-great-grandchildren, Oaklyn, Sawyer, Jack, and Kolter; and a host of extended family and friends.

A service to honor her was held on Monday, March 6, at First Baptist Church Lake Butler. She was laid to rest immediately following the service next to her husband at Dekle Cemetery. Officiants of the services were Brother Mike Norman, Brother Jason Johns, and Brother Franklin Griffis.

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



Jacqueline Nicol

Jacqueline M. Nicol (nee Hooks), 84, of Starke, born Sept. 5, 1938, in Collinsville, Illinois, passed away Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, at St Vincent's Hospital in Middleburg. She loved to work, whether as a secretary, a school volunteer, in the accounting center at Sears, or serving as a faithful member of First Christian Church in Starke. Her greatest joy was being a wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend. She loved to laugh and make others laugh while making each one feel extra special. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clayton H. and Mary E. (nee Lea) Hooks; four brothers, Robert H., Dale, Clifton F. and John L. Hooks; and four sisters, Mary Zimmer, Genea Dugger, Betty Dix and Katie Hobbs.

She is survived by her husband, Bill, of 61 years; two sons, Bill (Susan) Nicol Jr., of Richmond, Virginia and Bob (Teresa) Nicol of Starke; one sister, Billie Jean (Tom) Allan of Maryland; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and an incredible group of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the First Christian Church, 507 W. Call St., Starke, 32091 on Friday, March 24, at 4 p.m.

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



James Sanders

James Luther Sanders, 39, of Starke, died on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. He was born in Lake City on Feb. 3, 1984, to William "Bill" E. Sanders Jr. and Sandra Sheppard Sanders.

He is survived by his wife, Brooke Sanders of Starke; daughters, Arianna Sanders and Henslee Sanders of Starke; parents, Bill and Sandra Sanders of Starke; brother, William Sanders III of Starke; sisters, Carol Sanders and Mary Sanders both of Starke; maternal grandparents, Edna and Bill Doolings of Melbourne; and numerous extended family members and friends.

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

SIGN

Continued from page 11

The fact that Jennings' assist totals increased every year speaks to the passion she has for the sport — a passion she said that some players lose by their junior or senior years.

"I just never got to that point," Jennings said. "I'm honestly thankful that I haven't."

Because she never got tired of playing, she gets to make a dream come true.

"Ever since seventh grade, when I started playing volleyball, I've always wanted to go to college (to play)," Jennings said.

Walker said Enterprise is getting a strong team leader, which, of course, is important when you're a team's setter.

"Kori has been my captain since I started here for the last

three years," Walker said. "Her teammates love her for that. That just shows how selfless, how encouraging and how much of a teammate she is just by having your team vote for you for three years as captain."

Jennings anticipates growing even more as a leader, while also adapting to a new team.

"In Keystone, I played with the same seven girls like all through my high school career, so it's just meeting new people and learning more about them and their positions, where they want the ball and where I have to set them and stuff like that," she said.

Walker believes Jennings can also be utilized as a right-side hitter, saying, "She's very consistent when it comes to hitting right side. She also put up a pretty good block for being a little girl."

Now that she's officially a Boll Weevil, Jennings anticipates a mixture of emotions when she steps onto the court for the first time for Enterprise.

"Maybe a little nerve-racking, but more exciting than anything," she said.

Siebert is now a Sea Devil

Siebert, a front-row player, is taking her talents to Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, North Carolina. It's quite an opportunity for someone who's a relative newcomer to the sport when compared to others who get college opportunities.

"I'm just super excited," Siebert said. "I started volleyball three years ago. It's just really crazy to believe that I've worked hard enough to make it to the collegiate level."

Siebert said all her friends played volleyball, so she figured she'd "give it a shot." After recording 52 kills her first year, she was third on the team with 103 her junior season. She had a team-high 152 this past season.

She also finished her career with 145 blocks.

Walker said Siebert was like Barry in that she could be counted on to contribute wherever she was needed.

"Sarah was another one I could literally throw anywhere, and she would make the adjustment and make it happen," Walker said.

Siebert displayed an impressive skill set, but she also demonstrated a passion for playing. She enjoys the wins and is there to pick her teammates up during the losses.

"Sarah loves the game. She reminds me of me when I was in high school," said Walker, who played for the Indians herself. "You love the game so much, you get excited to win, and you get supportive when you lose. That's what type of person Sarah is."

It sounds as though Siebert couldn't have found a better place to continue her volleyball career, saying, "The place I'm going is so beautiful. I just feel like I'm going to have a lot of fun and great opportunities."

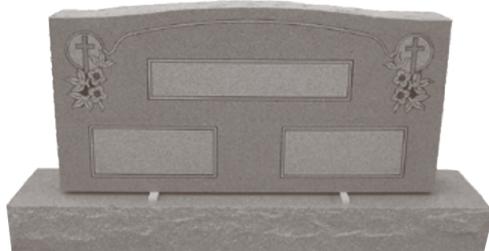
She also added that she likes the Cape Fear coaches as well as the players she met, describing them as "so nice and so sweet."

In preparing to move up to the collegiate level, Siebert believes she has a lot of room for improvement due to the fact she's played only three seasons, but she's looking forward to growing as a player.

"It's going to be good to learn and experience it at a different level," she said.

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KHHS baseball fundraising golf tourney to be held April 8

Keystone Heights High School's baseball program will host its annual fundraising golf tournament on Saturday, April 8, at the Keystone Golf and Country Club. Registration is at 8 a.m., followed by play at 9 a.m. The cost to play is \$50 per person.

A cornhole tournament will also be held at a cost of \$20 per person.

The fundraiser will also include a silent auction and prize drawings.

For more information, please call 352-258-1628.

BHS baseball team loses by 3 runs to Palatka

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

A three-run third inning by host Palatka proved to be the difference as the Bradford High School baseball team lost 7-4 on March 6.

The Tornadoes (1-5) took the lead on an RBI double by Foster Smith. Bradford fell behind 2-1, but tied the score in the top of the third when Luke Stucky, who reached on a two-out single, scored on a wild pitch.

In the bottom of the third, Palatka scored two runs on wild

pitches and another run on a passed ball.

Kevin Crawford and Kacen Thomassen each had an RBI single to make it a 5-4 game before the Panthers scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Smith and Ryland Rike each went 2 for 3, while Stucky went 2 for 4.

Bradford entered the game off a 14-5 loss at Baker County on Feb. 28.

The Wildcats scored eight runs in the first inning off six hits (including three doubles), a bases-loaded walk and an error.

Rike drove in two runs when he drew a bases-loaded walk in the second and was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the fifth.

Smith and Jeffrey Brugh each went 3 for 4, with Smith hitting an RBI single in the third.

Blake Wynn had an RBI as well.

The Tornadoes travel to play Union County on Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m. They return home to play Hamilton County on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. and Bellevue on Wednesday, March 15, at 6 p.m.

Tornadoes defeat UCHS in boys tennis, improve to 4-1

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School won its second straight match after its first loss, sweeping the doubles matches and defeating visiting Union County 5-2 in a Feb. 28

boys tennis match.

Gideon Jordan and Calum Butler teamed up to defeat Caleb Zapp and KeAndre Stevens 9-8 (9-7) at number-one doubles, while the Tornadoes' number-two team of Troy Smith and Nikolas Vargas defeated Parker Johnson and Jack Wells 8-3.

The Tornadoes (4-1) earned a win at number-two singles, with Butler defeating Stevens 8-1, while also picking up victories at number-four and number-five singles, with Hayden Knight defeating Wells 8-6 and Vargas defeating Austin Douglas 8-3.

Union (2-4) had wins from Zapp, who defeated Jordan 8-1 at number-one singles, and Johnson, who defeated Smith 9-7 at number-three singles.

Bradford opened the season with a 4-3 win at Palatka on Feb. 14, with all wins coming in singles play: Butler 8-4, Smith 8-3, Knight 8-1 and Vargas 8-1.

The Tornadoes followed that up with another 4-3 win, defeating host West Nassau on Feb. 16. Smith and Knight had wins of 8-1 and 8-3, respectively, in singles play, while teaming up for an 8-2 win in doubles play. Vargas also earned a win by a score of 8-5.

Vargas earned the only win in a 6-1 loss at Ridgeview on Feb. 21, defeating his opponent 9-8 (7-5).

Bradford bounced back with a 5-2 win over Palatka on Feb. 23 in Starke. Smith and Knight had wins of 9-7 and 8-0, respectively, in singles play, while teaming up for a 10-8 win in doubles. The Tornadoes also got wins from Jordan and Vargas, who defeated their opponents 6-5 and 9-7.

KHHS girls tennis team off to 3-1 start

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School defeated host Middleburg 7-0 on Feb. 28 to improve to 3-1.

Singles results, in order of seeding, were Tara Tarvit by 8-1, Whitnee Buchanan by 8-2, Shaylyn Williams by 8-1, Raegan Feldpausch by 8-0 and Sarah Siebert by 8-1.

Tarvit and Williams teamed up to win 8-0 at number-one doubles, while Buchanan and Feldpausch, at number-two doubles, also won 8-0.

The Indians opened the season with two straight wins, including a 7-0 win over visiting Middleburg on Feb. 9.

On Feb. 22, Keystone defeated host Union County 5-2. Buchanan won 8-6 in singles play, while Williams and Feldpausch each won 8-4. Siebert won 8-0.

Tarvit and Williams won 8-6 in doubles.

Santa Fe handed Keystone its only loss by a score of 7-0 on Feb. 23.

The Indians will host Santa Fe on Thursday, March 9 at 3:30 p.m.

BHS defeats UCHS 5-2 in girls tennis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School swept doubles play and recorded

three wins in singles matches in defeating visiting Union County 5-2 in a Feb. 28 girls tennis match.

The Tigers (0-7) got their wins at number-one and number-two singles, with Jordan Hendricks defeating Lexie Wells 8-2 and Morgyn Kirby defeating Reagan Harris 8-3.

Bradford (2-4) won the remainder of the singles matches. Brooklyn Reddish defeated Bailey Handley 8-3 at the number-three spot, while Caitlyn Jackson defeated Jewel Dekle 8-2 at number four. In the number-five singles match, Mary-Jane Lebert defeated Abigail Gainey 8-8 (7-6).

In doubles play, Wells and Harris teamed up to defeat Hendricks and Handley 8-8 (7-6), while Reddish and Jackson recorded an 8-6 win over Hendricks and Handley.

The Tornadoes opened the season with a 7-0 loss to Eastside on Feb. 7 and then lost 5-2 at Palatka on Feb. 14. Wells earned an 8-6 win against Palatka and also teamed up with Harris for an 8-2 win in doubles.

Bradford's first win came against host West Nassau by a score of 4-3 on Feb. 16. Harris and Jackson had wins of 8-6 and 8-4, respectively, in singles play. Both doubles teams won: Wells and Harris by a score of 8-2 and Reddish and Jackson by a score of 8-8 (10-6).

The Tornadoes, after a 6-0 loss to Ridgeview on Feb. 21, lost 4-3 at Palatka on Feb. 23. The Palatka wins all came in singles play: Reddish 8-5, Lebert 8-2 and Kasey Thompson 8-5.

Indians improve to 2-2 in boys tennis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Ethan Teague and Curran Capper earned wins in singles play and teamed up for a win in doubles as the Keystone Heights High School boys tennis team defeated host Middleburg 4-3 on Feb. 28.

Teague earned an 8-3 win at number-three singles, while Capper won 8-4 at the number-four spot. The two played at number-two doubles, winning 8-3.

The Indians (2-2) also got an 8-0 win at number-five singles from Beckett Capper.

Keystone opened the season with a 6-1 win at Union County on Feb. 22. The Indians swept the five singles matches, with Dalton Moore winning 8-3, Evan Booth winning 8-4, Curran Capper winning 8-5, Teague winning 8-0 and Beckett Capper winning 8-5.

The number-one doubles team of Moore and Booth won 8-4.

Keystone lost 4-3 to visiting Santa Fe on Feb. 23. Moore and Teague won in singles play by scores of 8-4 and 8-1, respectively, while Moore and Booth teamed up for an 8-4 win in doubles.

The Indians lost 6-1 at Eastside on Feb. 27, with Teague earning the only win by a score of 8-4.

Keystone plays at Santa Fe on Thursday, March 9, at 4 p.m.

BEGUE

Continued from page 11

Easter.

Begue said he called FSU, believing that perhaps there had been a mistake, but he was assured that Bowden would be there — that Bowden chose a church to speak at every Easter.

“We were about an hour and

40 minutes west of Tallahassee in a town of 370,” Begue said. “Of all the places, he said he was going to come preach for us. People couldn't believe it. There were people in our community who, when they saw he was coming to preach, thought it was fake. They said, ‘We would've come if we thought it was real.’”

Bowden would've told you — and Begue will tell you now

— there is no “I” in “team.” That doesn't just apply to athletics.

Just one part of the First Baptist team

Begue's title at First Baptist Church of Keystone may be “senior pastor,” but he'll be quick to tell you the church isn't about him. He references Proverbs 15:22, which in the King James

Version reads: “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”

In other words, it takes a team for a church to be successful. Begue said any pastor who's honest will say the same.

“I'm thankful for the leadership here at our church,” Begue said. “A church's strength is built on the spiritual strength

of its leaders. No one man is qualified to lead alone.”

A pastor must also always rely upon the guidance of God. Begue said that goes for those who've served in the ministry for decades as well as for those who are just starting out.

“No matter how much you learn, no matter how much seminary you take, you still don't know everything,” Begue said.

“You still deal with challenges you've never faced before. I would imagine if any pastor is honest, he would say at 70 years old, you realize no matter how much experience or wisdom that you have, you still are every day relying on God because you can't do it alone. No one's that smart. No one's that wise except God Himself.”

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of March 9, 2023

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO 63-2022 CP-043 In re THE ESTATE OF CLYDE RONALD SHORT, also known as CLYDE SHORT

Deceased NOTICE OF ACTION TO RONALD WRIGHT, IF ALIVE, AND IF DEAD, HIS UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES GRANTEEES, ADMINISTRATORS, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST RONALD WRIGHT OR ANY OF THE FOREGOING UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PARTIES YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a petition for administration and a petition for authorization to sell real property,

have been filed in the above-referenced court, with the above-referenced case style and caption, and you are required to serve any objections on Jennifer T Arrubla, the personal representative's attorney, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, within 3 months of the first publication of this notice of action, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the personal representative's attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise the Court in this action will consider

and may grant the relief requested in either or both of the above-identified petitions. Dated on February 15, 2023 KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES Clerk of the Court by K. Riggs As Deputy Clerk

2/23 4tchg 3/16-UCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida

Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Lamar Bear, 10219 West SR 238, Lake Butler, FL 32054, joint owners, doing business under the firm name of: Santa Fe Overhead Doors, LLC, 9276 S CR 231, Lake Butler, FL 32054, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 2 day of March, A.D., 2023 in Union County.

3/9 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO

REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Phyllis Lynn Allen, 6692 SW 44th Pl., Lake Butler, FL 32054, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: Shrimply Delicious Wild Seafood Catering & More, 6692 SW 44th Pl., Lake Butler, FL, 32054, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 27 day of February A.D., 2023, in Bradford County.

3/9 1tchg-UCT

CLASSIFIEDS

CALL 904-964-6305 OR EMAIL CLASSADS@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

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

50 For Rent

ROOM FOR RENT, for one person only! Roommate near Hampton. Master bedroom & bath. Furnished, internet included. No smoking, no pets. Electric must be in your name.

\$500/mo. References. Text first 813-358-8317 for more details.

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

NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW. 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

53 A Yard Sales

YARD SALE; Fri. & Sat. 9am-2pm. 20932 NE 20th Lane (Strawberry Acres) off 301. Little bit of everything, follow signs. Cancel if rain.

53 B Keystone Yard Sales

MOVING SALE; 465 SW Naha St., Keystone

Heights. Thurs., Fri., & Sat 10am-4pm. Entire contents, excellent condition.

MOVING SALE; behind Wendy's. You name it, I got it! Fri., Sat., & Sun. 9:30-till gone. Long-haired chihuahua. 352-478-1901

59 Personal Services

LAWN CUTTING & weed eating. Most yards starting at \$50. Will give estimates. Call Ted @ 904-364-3563.

65 Help Wanted

THE BRADFORD COUNTY Public Library is accepting applications for a full time Library Technical Assistant 1 to work in

the Children's Department of the Library. The person in this position works with children, their parents and caregivers so experience working with children is required, working with people of all ages is preferred. Some experience working in a library is preferred. The starting salary is \$14.66 per hour. Applications can be picked up at the Library Circulation Desk beginning on Thursday, February 23rd and must be returned to the library by 2:00 pm on Friday, March 10th. Bradford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

Orangewood Apartments
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Rental Assistance!
This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.
Equal Housing Opportunity

Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County Lake Region UNION COUNTY
Telegraph Monitor TIMES

Classifieds

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Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS US-ERS! A cheaper alternative to high drug store prices! 50 Pill Special-Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 866-259-6816

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UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional installation. Top quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 866-636-1910. Ask about our specials!

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BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 888-460-2284

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NEED NEW FLOORING? Call Empire Today! to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 855-919-2509

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COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain

programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 855-738-9684. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576

OTHER
DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576

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Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! American Residential Warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE! \$100 OFF POPULAR PLANS. 877-351-2364

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of March 9, 2023

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 653
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 02545-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0002
Description of Property: Lots Three and Six of Block Twenty-four of North Reno, a sub-division of West Half of SE1/4 of SE1/4 and SW1/4 of NE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 21, Township Six South, Range Twenty-two East, as same appears of record in the current Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.

Name in Which Assessed: MAGGIE SMALL EST.

Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 4/12/2023 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 13, 2023

2/16 4tchg 3/9-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 407
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 01590-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0001
Description of Property: Lot Fifty Nine in Section Twenty Six in East Lawley. Note: The above legal description is per Deed Book 44, Page 269 and includes all of Lot 59. Less and except: That portion of: Lots 51, 59, 43 (except the Westerly 1 acre of said Lot 43), and Lots 44, 39 and 35 according to plat of Lawley - East Side, lying within 100 feet of the centerline of State Road 121, Project 5502, LESS AND EXCEPT, HOWEVER, that portion of said lands lying within 50 feet of said centerline, said centerline being described as passing over and across a portion of said Lawley - East Side as follows:

Being on the Westerly boundary of Lot 57 of Lawley - East Side at a point of 200 feet Northeasterly from the Southwest corner of said Lot 57 and run thence South 89°30'30" East 454.33 feet to the point of a curve to the right, having a radius of 229.183 feet and central angle of 54°19'30"; thence Southeasterly along said curve to right 2473 feet to point of tangency; thence South 35°11' East 40.44 feet to the Southerly boundary of said Lot 33 at a point 323.9 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Lot 33. It is the intention of the first party to retain title to and reserve to itself that portion of the first above mentioned lands lying within 50 feet of said centerline, and to quitclaim to said second party that portion of the first above mentioned lands lying outside of and beyond said reserved lands within 100 feet of said centerline.

Note: The above legal description is per Deed Book 52, Page 107 and includes a portion of Lot 59. This Deed conveyed back a portion to L.H. Hill within the 100' of the centerline, but retains 50' for the right of way.

Name in Which Assessed: L.H. HILL & EMMA PEARCE HILL; EMMA HILL PEARCE (DECEASED)

Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 4/12/23, 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 13, 2023

2/16 4tchg 3/9-BCT

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

CASE NO. 04-2022-CP-135
PROBATE

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: MARTIN SELIGSOHN, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of MARTIN SELIGSOHN, deceased, whose date of death was October 12 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL 32091.

The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of first publication of this notice is March 2, 2023

Attorney for Personal Representative: PETER P. LINDLEY, ESQ.

Florida Bar Number: 144517
PETER P. LINDLEY, P.A.

1200 North Federal Highway, Ste. 200

Boca Raton, FL 33432

Telephone: (561) 210-8604

Fax: (561) 338-9223

E-Mail: peter@flabuslaw.com

Personal Representative
MICHAEL SELIGSOHN

100 East Las Olas Blvd., #2901

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

3/2 2tchg 3/9-BCT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

On March 13, 2023 at 501 W. Washington St. District Office Board Room, the Bradford County School District will hold a Workshop at 4:30 P.M. and two 2 Public Hearings at 5:01 P.M. A Regular Board Meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearings. Workshop @ 4:30 P.M. Revised Board Policies #4.181, Transporting Students in Private Vehicles #8.210 and Proposed School Rezoning.

Public Hearing #1 @ 5:01 P.M. Proposed School Rezoning, Public Hearing #2 Revised Board Policies.

3/2 2tchg 3/9-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 424
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 01666-0-00100
Case Number: 04-2023-TD-003
Description of Property: North West (NW 1/4) Quarter of the north East (NE) Quarter of the South West (SW 1/4) Quarter lying West of the Old Lawley and Kingsley Lake Road, and less the right of way of State Highway no. 121, in Section Twenty five (25) Township five (5) South Range Twenty Two (22) East and containing about six (6) Acres more or less.

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

Name in Which Assessed: LOUIS JOHNSON & BERTHA

Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 04/19/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

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

DATED: February 27, 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: MARCH 2, 2023; MARCH 9, 2023; MARCH 16, 2023; MARCH 23, 2023

3/2 4tchg 3/23-BCT

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

PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 04-2022-CP-118

In re: ESTATE OF ALLAN RAY ARCHIE DECEASED.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of ALLAN RAY ARCHIE, whose date of death was September 11, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for

Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North 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 the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent, or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of the First publication of this Notice is: March 2, 2023.

J. Marc Jones, Esquire
Florida Bar Number: 069182

J MARC JONES, PA

P.O. Box 196336

Winter Springs, FL 32719

Telephone: 407/359-9900

Email: marc@jmarcjonespa.com and service@jmarcjonespa.com

Attorney for Petitioner
Clayton H. Archey,

Personal Representative
1780 W. Chapman Road

Oviedo, FL 32765

3/2 2tchg 3/9-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 04-2023-CP-21

Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARVIN RILEY CLARK

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of MARVIN RILEY CLARK, deceased, whose date of death was July 14, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, P.O. Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

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

Attorneys for Personal Representative:

THOMAS M. DONAHO, JR.

Florida Bar No. 078530

MICHELLE MEDINA

Florida Bar No. 772623

Attorneys for Personal Representative

DONAHO & MCMENAMY, P.A.

245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 150

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Telephone: (904) 354-8080

Fax: (904) 791-9563

Email: eservice@dmjxlaw.com

SHELDON CLARK

Co-Personal Representative

VICTORIA CLARK

Co-Personal Representative

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

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

CASE NUMBER: 04-2023-CA-0073

DIVISION:

DAWN D. MOTES and KELLY MIKE JAMES as

Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Regina Joan Darling James, deceased,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

FLEET HOME EQUITY USA, INC., a Delaware corporation, successor by merger to FLEET FINANCE, INC., a Florida corporation, successor by merger to FLEET FINANCE AND MORTGAGE, INC., a Florida corporation, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST MARCELINE E. BROWN, deceased, and UNKNOWN

HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES T. BROWN, deceased, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO DEFENDANTS UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST MARCELINE E. BROWN, deceased, and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES T. BROWN, deceased, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF THE FILING OF A Complaint against you to quiet title to the following property in Bradford County, Florida:

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

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

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

[this space intentionally left blank]

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

DATED this 21st day of February, 2023.

Denny Thompson
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Published in: Bradford County Telegraph On (dates): 3/9, 3/16, 3/23 and 3/30, 2023.

By: K. Jenkins
Deputy Clerk

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice if you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to access court facilities or participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337-6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org

3/9 4tchg 3/30-BCT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

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

Attorney for Personal Representative: M. Aaron Dukes, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 124394
Dukes Legal, P.A.
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386-269-2394

Personal Representative: DOUGLAS L. THORNTON
17728 NE 27th Ave
Lawley, Florida 32058

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF CHRISTINA CLAYTON

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702, FLORIDA STATUTES, WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

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

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

The address of the court where this probate is pending: 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091.

Vanessa Newton (FBN 641723)
Garry W. Crews (FBN 574791)

THE LAW OFFICES OF RON SHOLES, P.A.

9282 Atlantic Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32225

FamLawDocs@youthurfweght.com
(904) 805-1500

Attorney for Petitioner

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT

NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS: March 9, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

M. Aaron Dukes, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 124394

Dukes Legal, P.A.
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, FL 32054

386-269-2394

Petitioner:
ROY CLAYTON

939 Southern Villa Drive
Starke, Florida 32091

3/9 2tchg 3/16-BCT



Natalie Thames earned the junior division's best-overall rosette in the 4-H table-setting contest, which is held annually on the Friday before the start of the Bradford Agricultural Fair. It was the third straight year she earned a rosette. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Teagan Bradley earned the rosette in the senior division.



Cadence Meng received the junior division rosette.

Thames, Bradley, Meng earn top awards in 4-H table setting

Natalie Thames earned a best-overall rosette in the Intermediate division for the third straight year, while first-time participants Teagan Bradley and Cadence Meng earned rosettes in their respective age divisions in the 4-H Table Setting Contest, which was held March 3 at the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds.

Dressed as "Alice in Wonderland," Thames presented a setting based on the theme of "Mad Hatter's Tea Party," with his hat serving as one of the table's adornments. Decorations also included a rabbit, playing cards, mushrooms and a plate with butterfly artwork.

Thames' menu consisted of the following first-course items: Mad Hatter stuffed mushrooms, Queen of Hearts tomato tarts, Dina's salmon croquettes, Radish Rose tea sandwiches and Dormouse's favorite pimento-cheese tea sandwiches.

The second course consisted of White Rabbit carrot-cake scones with Devonshire platted cream and blueberry poundcake with lemon curd, while the third course consisted of Painting the

Roses Red red-velvet cupcakes with cream-cheese icing and golden afternoon syrup cake.

The menu also included cold (butterfly pea tea lemonade) and hot (London fog) tea.

Thames, who was the only

See TABLE, page 16

Griffis, Smith show best-overall goats

Emma Griffis and Harley Smith were awarded the overall grand champion and overall reserve grand champion awards at this year's Bradford-Union Goat Show, which was held March 4 at the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds.

Griffis' grand champion was also the grand champion in the meat division and took first place in Class 2 of that division. Smith's reserve grand champion was the reserve grand champion in the meat division and took first place in Class 1 of that division.

It was quite a day for Griffis and Smith, with Griffis also exhibiting the grand champion in the wether division and Smith showing the reserve grand champion in that same division.

The overall grand champion prize was \$100 (sponsored by Carlton Contracting), while the overall reserve grand champion prize was \$75 (sponsored by #JennStrong).

Division grand champions won \$50 prizes, while division reserve grand champions won \$25 prizes. The grand champion prizes were sponsored by Kim Adams in the meat division, Mike Adams in the dairy division and Realtor Mandy Taylor in the wether division. Beau and Sunnie Pearson sponsored the reserve grand champion award in the meat division, while David and Tamara Dinkins sponsored the reserve grand champion award in the wether division.

The meat division consisted of nine goats competing in two classes. In Class 1, Cassie Acevedo placed second behind Smith, followed by Griffis, Wyatt Acevedo and Regan Adams. Hailey Griffis took second in Class 2 behind Emma Griffis, followed by Smith and Adams.

Bret Polk was the only exhibitor competing in the dairy division, thus earning himself the grand championship.

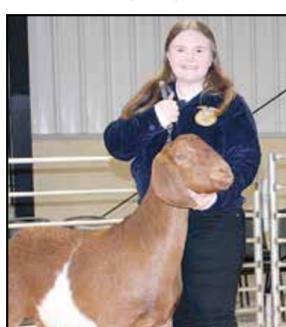
The wether division consisted of four goats in one class. Dempsey Bradley placed third behind Emma Griffis and Smith, while Trevor Clements was fourth.

Nicole Falk served as this year's judge.

The show was sponsored by Mike and Kim Adams, Patrick Hartley Welding and Fabrication, Dusty Acres Farm, Hillandale Quality Feed, Russell's Feed, Bradford County Farm Bureau, Bradford Soil and Water Conservation, Leroy and Renee Griffis, David and Tamara Dinkins, Carlton Contracting, Lori Caren Cheesecake Creations, Hartley Parking Lot Maintenance, #JennStrong, Realtor Mandy Taylor, Darren

and Sheila Evans, Lake Butler FFA Ag Sales/Erin Johnson, Terrasa Wood/Capital Insurance and Retirement Services, Rod and Deena Crawford, Beau and Sunnie Pearson, and Amy Polk.

and Amy Polk.



Harley Smith (left) and Emma Griffis also exhibited the top two animals in the wether division. Griffis earned the grand championship, while Smith earned the reserve grand championship.



Emma Griffis and Harley Smith earned the overall grand champion and overall reserve grand champion awards at the Bradford-Union Goat Show. Their animals were the grand champion and reserve grand champion in the meat division. Pictured (l-r) are Petite Miss Bradford Fest Brilee Melvin, Leroy Griffis (Emma's father), Emma Griffis, Judge Nicole Falk, Harley Smith and Miss Bradford Fest Kimberly Palmer. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

Showmanship, record book and skill-a-thon

Smith placed first in senior showmanship, followed by Cassie Acevedo and Wyatt Acevedo. The \$75 first-place prize was sponsored by Hillandale Quality Feed, while the \$50 and \$25 second- and third-place prizes were sponsored by Bradford County Farm Bureau and Bradford Soil and Water Conservation, respectively.

Hailey Griffis placed first in intermediate showmanship, followed by Clements and Adams. Russell's Feed sponsored the first-place prize, while Rod and Deena Crawford sponsored the second-place prize. Bradford Soil and Water Conservation sponsored the third-place prize.

In junior showmanship, Bradley took first place, followed by Emma Griffis and Polk. The first-place prize was sponsored by Lori Caren Cheesecake Creations. As in the intermediate division, Rod and Deena Crawford and Bradford Soil and Water Conservation sponsored the second- and third-place prizes.

Bradford County Farm Bureau sponsored the record-book contest's \$75 first-place prizes, which went to Smith (senior), Adams (intermediate) and Emma Griffis (junior). The \$50 second-place prizes, which were also sponsored by Bradford County Farm Bureau, went to Cassie

Acevedo (senior), Clements (intermediate) and Bradley (junior).

Terrasa Wood/Capital Insurance and Retirement Services sponsored the third-place senior-division prize, which went to Wyatt Acevedo. Darren and Sheila Evans sponsored the remaining third-place prizes, which went to Griffis (intermediate) and Polk (junior).

Leroy and Renee Griffis sponsored the \$75 skill-a-thon first-place prizes, which went to Cassie Acevedo (senior), Adams (intermediate) and Emma Griffis (junior). The \$50 second-place prizes, sponsored by Bradford Soil and Water Conservation, went to Smith (senior), Griffis (intermediate) and Polk (junior).

One third-place prize, sponsored by Terrasa Wood/Capital Insurance and Retirement Services, was awarded to Wyatt Acevedo (senior).

Little Kids

The goat show allows children ages 5-7 (4-H Cloverbuds) to gain experience. They're not judged, but they all receive ribbons for exhibiting goats as well as receiving helpful information for the future from the judge.

Exhibitors this year were Kessler Bradley, Easton Griffis, Lane Hartley, Wayne Hartley, Annabel Hughes, Braxton



Bret Polk earned the grand championship in the dairy division.

Johnson, Dakota Johnson, Tripp Pittman, Maccee Rowe, James Taylor and Hudson Williams.

Cloverbuds may also participate in record-book and skill-a-thon events.

Participating in record books were Bradley, Griffis, Lane Hartley, Wayne Hartley, Hughes, Braxton Johnson, Pittman, Rowe, Taylor and Williams.

Griffis, Lane Hartley, Wayne Hartley, Dakota Johnson, Pittman and Williams participated in skill-a-thon.

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GENERAL ADMISSION TO YOUR 2023 FAIR:

Adult \$7⁰⁰
Student \$6⁰⁰

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BUY TICKETS AT

The Fair Ticket Office (in Building 1):
Tuesday, March 7 THRU Friday, March 11
5:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Saturday, March 12: 2:00 - 11:00 pm



FFA & 4-H Cattle Heifers
Swine Pigs Goats Chickens
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Agriculture

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Events Calendar & Schedules

Sunday, March 12 is FAMILY FUN DAY! 1 PM - Closing

\$5 Admission (under 4 free) & \$17 Unlimited Ride Armband.
Sunday prices and midway closing hours are determined
by Deggeller Attractions and NOT the Bradford County
Agricultural Fair.

featuring rides & midway by

DEGGERLER Attractions

WE'RE HERE THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 12!

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 8
Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$17

Military - Active or Retired - Free Admission
during Veteran Appreciation / American Pride Night
Weds. ONLY on the Midway. Military ID Required.

THURSDAY | MARCH 9
BUDDY NIGHT!

Unlimited Ride Armbands:
\$17 for One, \$25 for Two

Both parties must be present to
purchase Buddy Armbands.

Advance armband coupons can be
redeemed for only ONE armband,
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FRIDAY | MARCH 10
MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$22
5 PM to Closing

SATURDAY | MARCH 11
Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$25
2 PM to Closing

SUNDAY | MARCH 12
FAMILY FUN DAY

\$5 Admission (non-riders & kids 3 & under 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.)

Unlimited Ride Armbands: \$17
1 pm to Closing

Sunday prices and closing hours are determined by
Deggeller Attractions, NOT the Bradford Agricultural Fair.

ALL RIDES take 2-6 Tickets

Tickets are \$1 each

ADVANCE ARMBANDS: \$17

Armbands \$17 - \$25 when purchased at Fair.
Advanced armband coupon is redeemed for one armband
and is good for any ONE session at the fair.

TABLE

Continued from page 15

participant in the intermediate division, received a blue ribbon as well as the rosette.

The senior division consisted of one participant, with Bradley earning a blue ribbon and the rosette with her "Red, White and Beautiful" setting, which made use of the colors red, white and blue. Her menu was made up of T-bone steak, mashed potatoes with brown gravy, green beans, garden salad, strawberry shortcake and butterfly pea

flower tea.

Meng earned a blue ribbon and the rosette in the junior division with her Easter-themed setting, which included an Easter-egg centerpiece, rabbit figurines and pastel-colored napkin and tablecloth. Meng's menu consisted of a Caesar salad, honey glazed ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, banana pudding and sweet tea.

Mattilyn Kerce also competed in the junior division, earning a blue ribbon for her "Country Formal" theme.

The contest also included one Cloverbud participant in Ansley Smith, whose theme was "Picnic

with Wildflowers."

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.

Judges for this year's contest were Ella Dinkins, Debbie Sapp and Donna Solze.

The table-setting contest 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).

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