

Bradford County Telegraph

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Thursday, April 10, 2025

146th year, 39th Issue — \$1

Starke voters keep clerk in city's charter

Starke's mail ballot referendum ended Tuesday night, with a majority of voters deciding the position of city clerk should remain an elected office.

Of the 540 votes cast in the mail ballot referendum, 328 — nearly 61% — voted to keep the position in the city's charter.

The city had called the move an effort to streamline governmental operations.

Starke's charter has been in place for more than 100 years without updates. It still lists a city clerk as the city's tax assessor, tax collector and even supervisor of elections. The position originally included law enforcement

roles such as issuing criminal arrest warrants, attending trials, and recording fines and sentences.

These duties haven't been part of the clerk's job for a long time. As for duties related to finance, they are now overseen by the chief administrative officer and finance director.

According to the city, fewer than 7% of Florida cities now having an



elected clerk, so most of the commission felt this was a logical step forward. But when Starke's election rolls around this fall, it could still include a clerk's race — if anyone is willing to qualify to run.

This mail ballot referendum follows last year's referendum to remove the position of police chief from the charter following closure of the city's police

department. Starke commissioners chose to pay Sheriff Gordon Smith for law enforcement while diverting more of the city's budget to infrastructure improvements.

Following Chief Jeff Johnson's resignation, commissioners declared police chief a ceremonial office with a \$1 salary. Voters overwhelmingly supported removing a police chief from the charter in November.

This is the second time an attempt to remove the city clerk as an elected position has failed, although in 2017 the referendum failed by just six votes.

Bell wins open council seat in Lawtey

Joshua Bell will be the newest member of Lawtey's City Council.

Lawtey held a special election last week to fill the open council seat. Bell won the race with 85 voters. Kendra Butler Griffin received 30 votes.

Bell, 37, is student services coordinator at the Santa Fe College campus in Starke and works to connect students with the resources they need to achieve their academic goals. Bell previously told the Telegraph his

current role gives him experience in bringing "different approaches to pressing issues."

Bell also owns and operates the business Brotherly Bling. He previously worked as a team teacher at Lawtey and Starke elementary schools and is currently working to earn a degree in organizational management.

Bell says his vision for Lawtey is one that continues the deep local

connections but also looks to bring resources and events for the youth of the city. He said the city comes together for fun events, but there are a lot of untapped ideas. Bell said if elected, he hopes to take the ideas of his neighbors and friends in Lawtey and do what he does best, "transform that information into meeting needs."

Bell will finish out the term of Emily Hoffman who resigned from the position.



Joshua Bell



City council candidate Dave Welch campaigns in front of city hall on Election Day.

Welch wins by 5 votes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Keystone Heights City Council candidate Dave Welch unseated Vice Mayor Chris Thompson 79-74 in the city's April 8 municipal election.

Welch said he campaigned for effective development and management of the city's airport and

preserving the area's lakes.

He said that as he spoke to voters, they were much more interested in the water bodies than the 2,000-acre airfield which straddles Bradford and Clay counties. He added that he hoped to raise public awareness of the airport's importance to the community.

Bradford accepting applicants for fair board

Management to be decided

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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With closure on ownership of the fairgrounds property set for last Friday, Bradford County is moving forward with the formation of the new governing board.

Five of the nine new members of the Bradford Fair Association will be selected by the county. At the commission's April 1 meeting, County Manager Scott Kornegay suggested the same committee that reviews and ranks bids be appointed to review applications from those interested in serving.

The review committee will consist of Kornegay, executive assistant Amanda Brown, Public Works Director Jason Dodds and Fire Chief Ben Carter. Kornegay also asked to invite someone from the UF/IFAS Bradford Extension Office to join them.

Commissioners Chris Dougherty and Diane Andrews as well as Clerk of Court Denny Thompson asked about including members of the public with

existing ties to farming and agriculture on the review committee as well.

"I think it would serve the public, you know, if we had somebody else that was added on to that committee that, instead of it being all county and IFAS as well. Just someone from the public that has an agricultural background and that has also been involved with the fair," Dougherty said.

They made the distinction between someone willing to serve on the review committee and those who would want to serve on the fair board. Commissioner Kenny Thompson said there would be no shortage of good picks given the number of people who have given their time and effort to the fair over the years.

Kornegay said he also expected a lot of interest in serving on the fair board.

"I anticipate receiving a number of applications, which is a good thing," he said, adding that applicants would be asked for a resume and a letter of intent stating why they are interested and what they have to offer.

See FAIR, page 7

Couple pitches Union School Board on preschool

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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The only people to respond to a request for proposals to lease the building now home to Union County's Tiger's Den Daycare presented their proposal to the Union County School Board during a Monday, April 8 workshop.

Earlier this year, the school board voted to stop operating the preschool to reduce district costs.

Jesus and Stephanie Rivera told board members they come from law enforcement, small business, and preschool backgrounds.

Jesus told board members he is a retired police officer with the Gainesville Police Department and started a lawn care business in 2021.

Stephanie said she started working in preschools in 1995.

"I started my own home daycare when my daughters were born in 2004," she said in a slide presentation, adding that she possesses credentials for both a preschool staff and a director.



Stephanie and Jesus Rivera presenting their proposal for operating a preschool in the building that currently houses Tiger's Den Preschool.

The couple told the board they planned to operate the facility as a Christian daycare, using the A Beka curriculum.

Stephanie said she has used the A Beka curriculum for several years and believes it is perfect for preparing children for further education.

Jesus told board members he would focus on the business side of the school. He claimed his lawncare business was very successful, servicing businesses in Gainesville.

The couple said they planned to charge tuition between \$150 and \$200 a week, depending on the age of the student, giving a break to teachers. They added that they planned operating hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Superintendent Mike Ripplinger said he intentionally priced the monthly rental for the building to \$1,500 a month, which he said is below market value. The lease for the second year increases to \$2,000 a month. Ripplinger said the low rental is designed to keep the building functioning as a preschool.

Board members Russell Gordon, Becky Raulerson, and Terra Johnson indicated a positive response to the couple's proposal.

Chair Curtis Clyatt and Chris Hodgson were absent.

Ripplinger said the board would take up the Rivera's proposal during a future meeting.



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WORTH NOTING

Scholarship for graduating girls

The Lake Butler Woman's Club is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for a female resident of Union County to attend an accredited university in the state of Florida. This scholarship is in memory of Joan Gartman, a devoted member of the club for many years, and is sponsored by her family. Applications are available in the guidance department at Union County High School. Completed applications must be received in the guidance office no later than Friday, May 2, 2025.

For further information, please contact Tracey Fortner at 352-448-5250 or Bobbie Morgan at 386-867-0781.

2K event promotes wellness

Register your team for the 2K Run, Walk and Roll Relay for fun prizes and activities. The event takes place at the Bradford County Senior Center (1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke) on Wednesday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. alongside a health fair that includes no costs fitness tests and health screenings, as well as information on health cooking, eating and fitness. Enjoy refreshments and giveaways while accessing to health and wellness resources.

Movement, stretching and Zumba dance zones will be set up, and teams can register for the 2K (1.5 mile) track where they can run, walk, use a walking device or wheelchair to complete the relays. No team, no worries. Just call 904-349-1037 to sign up.

The event is sponsored by the senior center, the Florida Department of Health in Bradford and Bradford County Fire Rescue.

Donation drive for hygiene products

The Warren Project Corp is partnering with Fun Point in Starke to host a donation drive for hygiene products. All items donated will be split among every Bradford County public school. The supplies will then be available for students in need at no cost.

The drive will run from April 10 through May 1. All items can be dropped off at Fun Point in Starke, during regular business hours. Each item donated will earn one entry into a prize drawing. Financial donations can also be made by mailing or delivering payment to The Warren Project Corp, or electronically through PayPal's Giving Fund.

Items requested include socks, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and miscellaneous items like hair ties, perfume and cologne.

For more information, please contact 904-769-9353 or thewarrenprojectcorp@gmail.com.



Prayer Walk returns for third year

Pastors, prayer warriors, intercessors, and clergy from the greater Starke Community will be participating in a

community-based 3K Prayer Walk to combat crime and drugs, make the community aware of the poor, sick, and homebound, and to protect the children and law enforcement.

Prayer will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, at Greater Allen Chapel African

Methodist Episcopal Church, 747 Pine St. in Starke (Reno community). Everyone is invited to join communities come together in prayer. The walk will extend for three miles and will end at noon.

Sunrise service for Easter

Bayless Highway Baptist Church invites you to Easter Sunday service April 20 at Water Oak Creek Ranch — 6720 NW 203rd St., Starke. The sunrise service begins at 7 a.m. and will be followed by a pancake breakfast at 8:30. The worship service begins at 10 a.m. Lunch will follow at noon, and there will be an egg hunt at 1 p.m.

Sons of Allen service

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church of Lawtey and its Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Dupree, will host its Sons of Allen worship service at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. The theme for this service is "Men Under Construction." Guest messenger for the occasion is the Rev. Michael Ward, pastor of Greater New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Live Oak. The public is invited to join this exciting worship service.

VFW egg hunt

The Auxiliary of VFW Post 10082 is having its Community Annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. at the VFW Post off S.R. 231 in Union County. Lunch will be served and there will be an egg hunt. Contact President Barbara Fischer at 904-263-0647 with any questions.

In addition, the VFW still has bingo every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the post.

Calling All Union County Seniors!

Enroll in Farm Share's Senior Food Program through April 15th!



In order to qualify, you must be over 60 years old, be an active resident of Union County, and earn an income below 150% of the poverty line.

Apply at one of these Union County locations:

Lake Butler Church of Christ

475 NW 2nd Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
Mondays, 4-6pm

Sardis Baptist Church

3859 SR -121
Worthington Springs, FL 32054
3rd Thursday of month, 11a-12pm

Santa Fe Baptist Church

7505 NW County Road 236
Alachua FL, 32615
2nd & 4th Saturdays, 9a-12pm

Fellowship Baptist of Raiford

12790 NE 221st Ct
Raiford, FL 32083
2nd Saturday, 9-10am

For more details, you can call Farm Share at 904-328-6158.

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You may be at increased risk if:

- ▶ You or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer.
- ▶ You have inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis.
- ▶ You have a genetic syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome).

People at increased risk for colorectal cancer may need earlier or more frequent tests than other people. If you think you may be at increased risk, talk to your health care provider about the routine screening tests that are right for you.

What Are the Symptoms of Colorectal Cancer?

Someone could have colorectal cancer and not know it. People do not always have symptoms especially at first (or in early stages).

If there are symptoms, they may include:

- ▶ Changes in your bowel habits.
- ▶ Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- ▶ Abdominal pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away.
- ▶ Unexplained weight loss.

Contact your health care provider if you notice any of these symptoms.



cdc.gov/colorectal-cancer/index.html
Call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
For TTY, call 1-888-232-6348

Clay Electric holds 87th annual meeting

CEO warns of possible rate increase

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Clay Electric Cooperative held its 87th annual meeting on Saturday, March 29, at Keystone Heights High School.

CEO and General Manager Ricky Davis said Florida's largest electric cooperative now serves just under 164,000 members, an addition of 4,582 accounts over the previous year.

He also said the utility maintains over 14,000 miles of line, which he said, if extended linearly, would stretch from the North Pole to the South Pole.



Palatka Trustee Kelley Smith, CEO and General Manager Ricky Davis, Seminole Electric CEO and General Manager Lisa Johnson, Retiring Board Member Jo Ann Smith, and newly elected Trustee Terri Kane of Micanopy, who who is replacing Jo Ann Smith to represent District 8. This district includes parts of Levy, Marion and Lake counties.

Retiring board member and capital credits

Board President Kelley Smith recognized retiring board member Jo Ann Smith, who represented District 8 for 13 years.

"She brought a lot...of insight into business, into...financial assistance, into agriculture, and into politics," Smith said of the outgoing board member. "I mean, this lady has done it all. It's amazing."

Smith also highlighted the co-op's capital credits program, which will refund \$12 million to Clay Electric members this year.

"The refund is available to members because Clay is a not-for-profit organization," he said. "So, all the profits return to the members at the end of the year."

Cost increases and possible rate increase

Davis said the nonprofit remains financially sound. However, he added that the co-

op is currently undergoing a rate study as its materials costs continue to rise.

"No one likes to discuss the possibility of a rate increase," the CEO said, "but it is a necessary thing to keep your cooperative financially stable."

"Who would've thought eggs would be 53% higher than last year?" he asked the members in attendance. "The average cost of wiring insulators used on power poles is up 58%. Transformers

are up almost 100%, and cross arms, which are used also in power pole construction, are up 103%."

The CEO added that because of uncertainties in the utility's materials supply chain, it has increased its materials inventory from \$15 million to \$42 million.

Davis said hurricane restoration costs continue to affect Clay Electric, adding that the last three storms impacting the utility's service area—Debbie, Milton, and Helene—cost the co-op \$20 million.

"We hope to receive about \$15 million of that back from FEMA," he said, "but that could be as much as a couple of years."

Changes to bylaws

Davis said that in addition to the re-election of trustees Karen Hasting and Cindy Loose and the election of new Trustee Terri Kane, Clay Electric members passed two bylaw changes this year.

The first extended the time members will be notified of the date and time of elections and meetings from 45 to 90 days.

"This change will allow us to send the members the official notice for elections and annual meetings before the elections begin," he said.

The second bylaw amendment changes the qualifications for trustees.

"Trustees will be disqualified if they have been convicted of a felony or if



Alachua Trustee Carl Malphurs, Orange Park District Manager Andy Chaff, Keystone Heights Trustee Cindy Loose, and Chief Officer of Corporate Services and Human Resources Justin Williams



Seminole Electric Vice President of Operations Charlie Wubbena, Lake Butler Trustee John Henry Whitehead, and Starke Trustee Dewitt Hersey.

they have been convicted of a first-degree misdemeanor five years before or while an active trustee," Davis said.

Pet crematory opens in Starke

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Middleburg resident Robert Altomare is opening a pet crematory on North Temple Avenue (U.S. 301), the former location of Bradford Pawn and Gun.

Altomare said he chose the Bradford County location because of its centrality to his market area, which approximates the part of Florida between Interstate 4 and the Suwannee River.

Altomare said he was attracted to the pet cremation business after volunteering for Pilots N Paws, a transport charity that flies adopted pets to their new owners.

"It was a friend of mine out in Oregon," Altomare recalled. "He and I used to fly together, and he says, 'Hey, you want to do a project together?' I said, 'Yeah,' and he says, 'I know a guy who builds these things.' He gave me the idea."

The Middleburg man said that after researching the business concept, he decided to pursue it. Altomare added that through Pilots N Paws, he had already



At the end of March, workers lowered Affordable Pet Cremation of Florida's crematory into the U.S. 301 structure through a hole in the roof. The business owner said he planned to open its doors on April 1.

been in contact with many veterinarians, the primary source of pet cremations.

"I've already visited about 80 of them, handing out leaflets and saying, 'Hey, we're coming,'" Altomare said of the vets. "It's a

needed service."

Altomare added that after discovering there were only a few pet crematories in Gainesville and several in Jacksonville, he saw a shortage in the supply of the service in northern and central Florida.

"There's not much there," he said of pet crematories in the peninsula's northern half. "So that's kind of where I decided I wanted to be. I spent some time in Starke and I'm like, I love Starke. So, it was a no-brainer."

Last week, workers lowered

Affordable Pet Cremation of Florida's crematory into the U.S. 301 structure through a hole in the roof. At press time, the business owner said he planned to open its doors on April 1.

More information on the business can be found at <https://www.affordablepetcremationfl.com/>.

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Bradford High Class of 1964

Will meet at Cedar River Restaurant (Starke) on Thursday, APR. 10, 2025 at 1 P.M.

All graduates & spouses are invited.

Please let Jerome Kelly 352.538.0741 OR Eugenia Whitehead at 352.745.1828 know if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know how many. **BE THERE!**

REVELATION CHURCH

AM I REALLY SAVED AND READY FOR HEAVEN? PART 2

In recent years God laid upon my heart to speak to certain local individuals in our community about their eternal destiny. I can truly say at first, I was a little reluctant about approaching them because their families were certain they were born again. But God pressed me further to go speak to them, and I did just that. I'm happy to say God was right and their families were wrong. They were gloriously born-again!

In our last lesson we looked at St. John 3 and we focused on verse 3 where Jesus told Nicodemus, "except a man be born-again, he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven" and then verse 7 where Jesus says "Marvel not that I said to you, you must be born-again." Being born-again is paramount, it is of necessity and it is the only way a person can be assured of heaven after this life or the hope of making the rapture when Jesus returns. It's not in being good or being a church member or being a priest or pastor, it's all about being born-again. Another look at 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature(new creation); old things have passed away, behold all things have become new." How does a person get in Christ? Individuals are placed into Christ Jesus when they make Jesus the Lord of their life and are born-again. It's at that point and time that a person is placed in Christ, placed into the family of God and God the Creator becomes "God our Father." If a person has never received Jesus as their Lord and Savior, never been born-again, then God isn't their Father and that person will not go to heaven when they die, and they will be left behind at the return of Jesus Christ. The New Birth (born-again) is a necessity to being saved. I would like to take this moment to warn you of the danger of being deceived. First, don't think that you and I are so intelligent and so educated that we could never be deceived. If you believe that, then you're already deceived. There is no purpose served in you fooling yourself. You are either born-again or you are not, period. You are either really saved and ready to die and meet Jesus or you are being deceived into thinking you are saved, and you're not. You know your own life and your true relationship with God. It doesn't matter if your family thinks you are saved or if your church thinks you're saved. Settle the facts in your own heart, ask yourself "am I really born-again, have I had this experience, am I truly saved."

This month we will be celebrating the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I urge you, if you have not already, make Jesus the Lord of your life, be born-again, and attend a local assembly to celebrate Jesus and your new life in Him.

God bless!
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Lake Butler resident, 'Dennis the Menace' actor dies at 71

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Jay North, a child actor who rose to fame during the 1960s as the star of "Dennis the Menace," died at his Lake Butler home on Sunday, April 6, from colon cancer. He was 71.

North began his career in commercials, eventually appearing on the Ford Show, a variety program starring Tennessee Ernie Ford. With subsequent roles on shows like "77 Sunset Strip" and "The Milton Berle Show, North built a reputation for learning lines fast.

'He owned the role'

In 1959, the 8-year-old landed the role that would change his life. North taped 146 episodes of "Dennis the Menace." After four seasons, he began to age out of the role, and the actor who played Mr. Wilson, his nemesis, died, resulting in the program's cancellation.

North said his success on the sitcom was both a blessing and curse because the fame he achieved as a wholesome but mischievous child left him typecast in that role.

His success and notoriety in the role also doomed actors who followed in his footsteps, such as Mason Gamble, who portrayed Dennis in a 1993 movie.

"He gave Dennis motion and music," wrote *Los Angeles Times* Television Critic Robert Lloyd of North. "The sound of his 'Hellll-o, Mr. Wilson' (and 'Good old Mr. Wilson' and 'Gee, thanks, Mr. Wilson') still lives in my ear. But he radiated a brightness and, well, menace distinct from any TV child actor of his time; he owned the role, while it fit him, and as much as anyone or anything, made the series a hit."

Just wanted to be a regular guy

After a couple of failed marriages, experiencing the 1960s counterculture with fellow child star Jerry Mathis of "Leave it to Beaver," and a stint in the Navy, North said he found peace and solitude in Union County.

"I just wanted to be a regular guy," he told the Altrusa Club of Lake City in 2000. "I just wanted to be with regular people."

North landed in Union County



Actors Gale Gordon and Jay North, portraying John Wilson and Dennis the Menace in the 1960s television series.

in the mid-1980s when moving to Lake Butler with his new wife and her three children from a previous marriage. The family settled near the city's Lakeside

Park. He told the Lake City Reporter he intended to become a correctional officer.

In the 2000 Lake City speech, North said life as a child actor



Undated photo of Jay North

in the 1950s was far from glamorous.

"It's amazing that children are able to survive in Hollywood," he told the club. "I'm a survivor."

The then 48-year-old described forced smiles, memorizing a 40-page script, and being denied the financial rewards of his work.

Advocates for child actors

After his acting career concluded, North teamed up with another child star, Paul Peterson

of the "Donna Reed Show," to advocate for changes in the law that would save others from the abuses they endured.

Around the same time North addressed the Altrusians, California passed child actor reforms that specified that child actors' earnings are the property of the performers, not their parents.

The legislation also required producers to deposit earnings into the actors' bank accounts promptly, addressing delays, sometimes months, before child actors received their earnings.

The child of a single mother, North harbored the abuse he received as a child actor, even after channeling that mistreatment into his crusade for better treatment of others who followed his career path.

He told the Lake City newspaper that he might write a book about his childhood career, but not while his mother was still alive.

FAA accepts action plan for track at airport

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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The Federal Aviation Administration has approved a corrective action plan by the Keystone Heights Airport to resolve the federal agency's objections to an automobile track at the facility.

Airport Manager Craig Coon told the airport authority board during its April 1 meeting that the plan would go into effect the following day.

One early key to the plan is the FAA's approval of designating Runway 11-29 as A-1, changing its current designation from B-2. The new classification will require pilots to approach 11-29 at a slower speed and prohibit aircraft with multiple engines from using it.

Runway 11-29 runs along the northern portion of the facility. The 4,988-foot-long airstrip runs northwest to southeast, near the airport's property line with Camp Blanding.

The airport's other runway,

5-23, runs 5,046 feet southwest to northeast parallel to Airport Road and the facility's offices, hangars, and the MHD Rockland facility. A third runway, parallel to State Road 100, is no longer active and is occupied by the Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park.

The change will reduce 11-29's runway protection zone, shrinking it to the point where a track owned by the motorsports park will no longer be in the zone.

Track encroached on runway protection zone

In February 2024, the FAA informed the airport that the track encroached on 11-29's runway protection zone. In addition, the federal agency asserted that the airport was undercharging the FIRM for its ground lease and that the FAA had never approved using the former runway for

nonaeronautical purposes.

However, according to Airport Manager Craig Coon and authority Chair David Kirkland, the track's encroachment on the runway protection zone was the FAA's primary concern, and the federal agency would not consider remedies to the other issues until the RPZ encroachment was resolved.

Other points in corrective action plan

The airport's submission to the FAA also outlines the steps it will take to request a land use change for the parcel the FIRM leases from the airport authority, obtain an appraisal that will determine the fair market value of the track's lease, get approval from the federal agency for changes to the track's layout, and then implement those changes.

Once the track is no longer in the runway protection zone for a B-2 runway, the facility proposes changing the 4,988-foot strip back to its original classification.

Mayor warns board members

Toward the end of the April 1 board meeting, Mayor Nina Rodenroth addressed the seven-member panel, reminding them that their primary duty was to represent the municipally owned airport and to prioritize the city and the airport's interests above those of tenants.

"We have to all remember that we are airport-first," she said. "We have several tenants here. I know the FIRM is one of them, but we also have other tenants."

Earlier in the meeting, board chair David Kirkland and board member Bobby Ludwig argued about whether it was appropriate for individual board members to discuss the runway protection zone encroachment, fair market value of the lease, and land use classification with FIRM employees.

"As board members," Ludwig told his colleagues, "we have a responsibility and a right to talk and communicate with any of our tenants and listen to their concerns."

Kirkland said he disagreed



One proposal by the Florida International Motorsports Park to reconfigure its track, resulting in the track being outside of Runway 11-29's runway protection zone.

because the airport's disputes with the tenant had been elevated to negotiations between the two parties' lawyers and that litigation was possible.

Near the end of the meeting, Rodenroth backed up the board chairman.

"As far as communications with (FIRM employees) about

this subject that has anything to do with it," she said, "unless you want to be on a (witness) stand in a courtroom and have to testify to what you said or didn't say to whoever, you're putting yourself at-risk. I'm just going to tell you that right now."

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Lake Butler 'money pit' appraised

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The Lake Butler City Commission reviewed the long-awaited appraisal of the old public works property at its March 18, 2025 regular meeting.

The property has been an issue for some time and was one of the "money-pits," that was a source of much of the misspending by a previous city manager.

Referred to by Lake Butler Mayor Melissa Hendrix as the city's "Taj Mahal," the eventual

sale of the property will be a major move in the city's recouping a large portion of the misspent funds.

The property, located at 9422 Southwest SR-121, adjacent to the city wastewater spray field, was never truly appropriate for the use it was intended. One of several major obstacles to its use was that the height of the bay doors installed was not tall enough to allow some of the city vehicles to be parked inside.

The board had declared the property to be surplus at the Nov.

19, 2024 meeting, at which time City Manager Kim Hayes was authorized to have the property appraised and bring the results of the appraisal back to the commission.

The appraisal was done by Donald Lee Hardenbrook, of Starke. In the appraisal report it is stated that the property is a total of 27.6 acres with a partially completed large structure (originally intended to be a residence), an enclosed pole barn, two ponds, a driveway a well and a septic system. The property was purchased by the city in July 2022 for \$390,000, with the majority of the modification of the pole barn being done thereafter.

The appraisal states the property is has an "as-is" market value of \$675,000. After discussion, motion to accept the appraisal was made by Commissioner Joe Stephenson and the motion passed unanimously.

The discussion then turned to consideration of how the property should be sold. Options discussed included the city advertising and selling the property itself, listing with a commercial property real estate broker or simply auctioning the property through a professional auction service.

Hayes recommended that the city list the property and sell it as a commercial property. Stephenson said he would like to see is for the city to try selling it "in-house," advertising it with a minimum bid and seeing if anyone would make an

acceptable bid.

City Attorney John Maines said that if the city wished to outsource the sale, there would be a contract, and the board would have to meet to approve the sales method, agreeing to fees, costs, and the percentage and commissions the seller would charge.

All the board members agreed to set the minimum price at \$700,000 and decided unanimously to attempt to sell the property in-house to avoid fees and commissions.

More Wawa delays

Another ongoing project that is of interest to many city and county residents is when the Wawa is going to begin construction.

According to Hayes, it seems the company has run into a problem with the land for the proposed location – the land is comprised of two lots and must be combined to be legally used for a business. Wawa requested that the commission grant a special exception (as provided for by the city's land development regulations) allowing it to have the two parcels combined. According to state statutes a fuel station cannot be placed on the property without this special exception. The matter was discussed in a public hearing prior to the regular March meeting but no decision was reached. Commissioners agreed to table the issue until the April meeting to allow for more public comment on the matter.

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17th annual Beast Feast features scholarship winners

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Starke Rotary Club produced its 17th annual Beast Feast on Saturday, April 5, at the Bradford Sportsmen's Farm.

The event featured a menu of wild game, door prizes, an auction, and the announcement of the 2025 Dr. Pete Gianas Memorial Scholarship winners.

Club Past President Matt Dyal told the crowd that there are around 1.4 million Rotarians worldwide, each focused on improving their communities and the world.

Starke Rotary President John Williams interviewed the scholarship winners: Brody Gunter, August Lefevers, and Reese Wainwright.

Gunter said he is dual-enrolled at Santa Fe College and plans to enroll at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, to study engineering and break into motorsports.

Lefevers said she is also enrolled at Santa Fe and plans a career in elementary education.



Starke Rotary President John Williams (second from left) with this year's Dr. Pete Gianas Memorial Scholarship winners (l-r) Brody Gunter, August Lefevers and Reese Wainwright.

Wainwright, who is dual enrolled at Santa Fe, told the audience that after earning his A.A. degree, he would head to

Boca Raton for Florida Atlantic University. He added that he had not settled on a course of study.

Williams said that in addition

to the club's scholarship program, Starke Rotarians are working to bring a covered pavilion to the county's boat ramp at Lake Santa



Drawing for door prizes are (L-r) Retired Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson, his grandson Easton Johnson and Rotarian Kim Smith.

Fe. Earlier this year, the club and the City of Starke dedicated new pickleball courts at the city's

Edwards Road Sports Complex and Splash Park, which the club partially funded.



Tampa personal injury attorney David Carter (center) was the winner of a 9mm Glock. Also pictured are (l-r) Bradley Witt and Kim Smith



Rotary Club members (l-r) Mike Schlofman, Matt Dyal and Scott Korngay.



Rotarians (l-r) John Ryan Tillman and Marty Shaw.



Maggie Wetzel and Dana DeJarnatt welcomed guests to the event.



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UF HEALTH FAMILY MEDICAL GROUP – STARKE

Breast Cancer Walk raises money for scholarship

The second annual Cancer Walk in support of Breast Cancer Awareness and Education will take place Saturday, April 26, at 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Foundation and organized by director and breast cancer survivor Carolyn Brown Spooner, the walk will begin at Mr. Pisgah AME church located at 102 SE 44th Ave. (Steel Mill Road) in Starke.

The 2.2-mile walk will take participants down C.R. 100A where they will turn around at the steel plant and return to the church. Water and Gatorade stations will be set up at Mt. Pisgah and Ebenezer Baptist Church, and restrooms are available at Lincoln City Park, next to Ebenezer Baptist.

If anyone would like to donate, please make your donation to the Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Foundation. The scholarships aid local students

pursuing their college education in medical fields such as nursing, cancer research, pharmacy, physical therapy and other fields that aid cancer patients. Educational materials on breast cancer will be shared at the event. For further information, contact Carolyn Spooner at 904-364-6271.

Soil and water group meeting

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District invites all to their supplemental meeting held the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will feature Matthew Corby from Camp Blanding Environmental who will talk about the work being done on the base.

This meeting will be Tuesday, April 15, at 10:30 a.m., at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. (U.S. 301) in Starke. Contact Amy Morie at 323-274-8858 or email a.morie.bswcd@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

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Permit approved for Lake Geneva trees removal

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Save Our Lakes leaders told the Keystone Heights City Council during its April 7 meeting that Florida's Department of Environmental Protection has approved a 5-year environmental resource permit for Clay County to remove trees and underbrush from Lake Geneva's dry lakebed.

Board member Scott Slater told council members that the permit will go into effect after a 14-day public comment period.

After the meeting, Slater said the permit has restrictions, but those restrictions do not interfere with the goals of the county or Save Our Lakes.

Save Our Lakes President

Vivian Katz-James said the permit allows the county to remove trees and underbrush below the 102.9-foot watermark. That land is considered state property, while land outside the 102.9-foot mark is the property of landowners surrounding the water body.

She added that even with the permit, the project still must overcome other obstacles, like access to the trees and the objections of some property owners to have trees removed near their homes.

Slater told council members that once the 14-day public comment period is over, the county will request bids or proposals from timber companies

and continue to manage the project through its completion.

He added that the project is no longer cost-neutral because rising water levels have made the trees in some areas more expensive to remove and that prices for biomass material, which he hoped would fund the project, have fallen.

Slater said removal operations could begin in six weeks, and one company he has spoken with about the job said the project would take an additional two to four weeks to complete.

Katz-James said her organization hired the law firm of Adams and Reese to shepherd the permit through FDEP.

"Best money we ever spent,"

the nonprofit's president said about the law firm's services, adding that one of the principals in the firm is a former FDEP secretary and Save Our Lakes's contact with Adams and Reese is a former deputy secretary.

The firm estimated Save Our Lakes's services at \$30,000. Katz-James said she has already paid \$15,000 in invoices and is awaiting the firm's final billing.

Slater added that Save Our Lakes is planning a Lake Geneva cleanup day for January 26. He said the remains of homeless encampments and illegal dumping were near the county's 5th Street Boat Ramp, and the cleanup day will remove that debris.



Save Our Lakes board members Scott Slater and Vivian Katz-James explains to the Keystone Heights City Council the details of an FDEP permit that will allow Clay County to remove trees and underbrush from the dry lake bed of Lake Geneva.

Tiny houses complaint prompts review of Union code enforcement

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County Commissioners discussed ramping up code enforcement during their March 17 meeting after a resident complained that Providence-area landowners were renting tiny houses through Airbnb.

In a March 4 email to County Building Inspector Wilson Whidden, P. Baker identified four parcels owned by Carol Govinda and Raymond-Balyas Krsna Jlvani off County Road 241 and claimed someone was operating an illegal campground on the lands.

"The property is now filled with small structures on trailers that they build themselves," the complainant wrote in the email. "It appears they are producing these structures faster than they can sell them, so instead, they rent them out by the day, effectively operating as a commercial campground. What started as just a couple of structures has now grown into nine or ten in a very short time."

Baker said the temporary rentals have increased unwanted traffic "with out-of-towners

searching for their camping spots at all hours—including very late into the night—disrupting the quiet nature of the area."

Glamping cabin getaways

At press time, the landowners listed 16 rentals on Airbnb, described as glamping cabin getaways and tiny homes. The rentals are located in Lake Butler, Alachua, High Springs, and Fort White, with most of the rentals in Lake Butler.

During the March 17 meeting, County Attorney Russell Wade told commissioners the complaint points to a long-debated subject in the county—whether commissioners should establish a code enforcement apparatus.

"Are we prepared to get into the code enforcement business, and if so, do we want to enforce it by investigating this particular complaint?" he asked. "It's really a budgetary resource question, I think, more than anything."

The attorney added that while it is easy to demand compliance with the county's land use and

zoning rules, enforcing those demands would be expensive and time-consuming without a formal code enforcement structure that utilizes a magistrate to adjudicate cases.

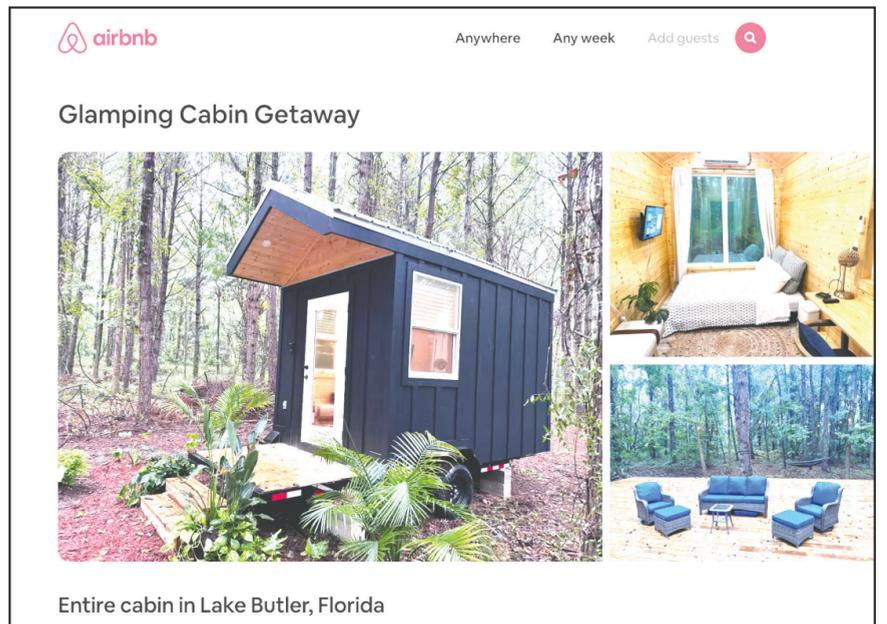
'Once they caught, they quit doing it'

"Ultimately, if someone doesn't voluntarily come into compliance, we can adopt the Florida Statute that allows for what's called a quasi-judicial process where we have a magistrate instead of having to take everything up to the big court," he advised.

Wade said that taking code enforcement cases to county or circuit court is costly and can be drawn out over long periods of time.

"It's rules of evidence," he said. "It is discovery. You have to prepare for full-blown court every time. In a quasi-judicial with a magistrate, you don't have the hearsay rules, you don't have the liberal rules of discovery that you have in court."

Wade warned commissioners that once word got out that the



At press time, the landowners listed 16 rentals on Airbnb, described as glamping cabin getaways and tiny homes.

county was serious about code enforcement, they could be deluged with complaints.

The lawyer also reminded commissioners that previous county commissions had instructed him not to pursue code violations.

Commissioner Mac Johns said that in many cases, once violators

know they have been discovered, they cease the illegal activity.

"A lot of them know (they are violating codes), and they just do it until they get caught, and then once they get caught, they quit doing it," he said.

Commissioners agreed to send a county representative to the properties with the alleged

violations and, if the complaint is verified, to write to the property owner.

In the meantime, they instructed Wade to investigate setting up a formal code enforcement process for the county.

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Union County High School student Holden Webb.

UC student debates at state

Union County High School student Holden Webb placed 11th overall in the Impromptu Varsity category against 30 other students from all over Florida in the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative State Championship in Sarasota on Saturday.

Holden, a ninth grade student, was accepted into the championship tournament, which was hosted by New College of Florida, after placing twice in regional competitions this year. Approximately 700 students applied to compete at the state championship, and Holden was one of over 200 accepted.

The category of Impromptu asks students to select three slips of paper from an envelope. These papers have quotes, sayings, or words based on a pre-determined category that students must incorporate into a speech that they do not write ahead of time. Students have seven minutes to think, write and deliver their speech to a judge. The preliminary round categories at this competition were Founding Fathers, Whimsical What-Ifs (Holden's was "If you lived in a house made of candy, what room

would be your favorite?) and Civics Duties.

Holden made it into the semi-final round, which cut the pool of students from 30 to 12. The category was Free Speech in a Democratic Society. Holden placed 11th overall. He needed 6th or higher to continue to the final round. He beat out students from places such as The Bolles School, Toco Creek High School, Orlando Science High School, Samuel W. Wolfson High School and St. Johns County Independent.

Superintendent Mike Ripplinger said, "The school district is very proud of Holden and his achievements in the debate tournament and during the season. His talents have shown brightly and we look forward to watching and sharing in his future accomplishments."

This is Holden's second year in speech and debate with Union County. He started in eighth grade at Lake Butler Middle School, where he was voted president by his teammates and still holds the title today. He is coached by Alexa Menz, a social studies teacher at LBMS.

"Holden has brought amazing recognition and success to himself and our county," Menz said. "I'm so excited to see what he will accomplish in his sophomore year and how speech and debate will open opportunities for his future academic and career goals."

There are nine middle school students and two high school students on the current Union County speech and debate team. They compete in the NE Florida region, which is the largest FCDI region in the state with over 400 students. Next year, Menz hopes to expand the high school team, which is gaining a lot of interest already.

"I am so blessed to work with these students. You would think that middle school and high school kids wouldn't want to stay after school for practice and then give up whole Saturdays to compete, but they are always bursting with excitement for practice and stay positive and energetic all through our Saturday competitions," Menz said. "Coaching them has been the highlight of my teaching career."

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

Jason Gillespie, 54, of Lake City, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 30 for fraud-impersonation, fraud-swindle, driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of drug equipment, and possession of drugs.

Gary Hrinda, 36, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 1 for resisting an officer and disorderly intoxication.

Ira Hyun, 34, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 30 for battery and DUI.

Valentin Ivanov, 64, of St. Johns, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 4 for DUI.

Lenorris Jackson, 50, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 3 for possession of cocaine and

possession of drug equipment.

Kevin Jenkins, 51, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 29 for battery.

Carissa Kearns, 27, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for child neglect.

Timothy Kearns, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for child cruelty.

Avery McCallum, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for aggravated assault and criminal mischief with property damage.

David Murphy, 46, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 29 for battery.

Brenda Roberson, 70, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 31 for battery.

Ryan Rogers, 37, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 3 for an out-of-county warrant.

Monica Thomas, 37, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for possession of cocaine, possession of drug equipment, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Joshua Ward, 35, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 3 for escape.

According to an arrest report, after deputies handcuffed the

defendant in the parking lot of a Starke hotel, he ran away while still handcuffed and was caught a short time later.

Anderson William, 41, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 3 for aggravated assault and battery.

Union

None reported

Clay

Chris Ballou, 39, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 4 for trespassing.

Shane Gray, 53, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 29 for domestic battery.

Zachary Hurt, 24, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 3 for failure to register a motor vehicle.

John Kelly, 20, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 2 for domestic battery.

Frank Pearson, 53, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 1 for failure to appear.

Ronnie Smith, 36, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 3 for trespassing.

Lake Butler man charged with DUI manslaughter

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 23-year-old Lake Butler man was arrested on April 1 after a Florida Highway Patrol investigation said he was intoxicated and driving with a suspended license when he struck another vehicle head-on and killed a Gainesville woman.

Agelu Iosia Nunu was arrested for DUI manslaughter and for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, on October 28, 2023, the defendant was driving a white 2015 Toyota Corolla northbound on State Road 121 just south of LaCrosse.

Troopers said that fog was dense in the area just before the 6:15 a.m. crash.

Investigators said Nunu crossed over the center line, passed the southbound lane, and onto the grass before correcting back toward the northbound lane.

At the same time, a Silver



Nunu

Honda Civic driven by Sonja Rebecca Lindee was driving southbound and, for unknown reasons, left the southbound lane and went into the northbound lane.

At the time of the collision, Nunu's northbound Toyota was in the southbound lane, and

Lindee's northbound Honda was in the southbound lane. The two vehicles' left portions made contact, sending the Honda into a residence and leaving the Toyota in the northbound lane.

Lindee was pronounced dead on the scene, and Nunu suffered a broken leg.

Witnesses, who extracted Nunu from his car, told troopers they smelled alcohol and that the defendant had slurred speech. One trooper made the same observation and obtained a search warrant for Nunu's blood alcohol level.

Healthcare providers delayed giving Nunu pain medication until they drew blood for the test, one hour after the collision. The defendant's blood alcohol level was 0.106.

A trooper later discovered that at the time of the crash, Nunu was on felony probation and prohibited from consuming alcohol.

Lake Butler wins boat ramp grant

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The city of Lake Butler has won a grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that will allow the city to accomplish much needed work on the community boat ramp located at Lakeside Park.

The grant is from the Florida Boating Improvement Program, a state-funded program to help improve and encourage boating in the state. Funding is available through competitive grants for boating access projects and other boating-related activities, encouraging and promoting motorized vessels in Florida.

Any governmental entity in the state is eligible to apply, and the

program covers a wide variety of boating-related projects. Examples include replacing, repairing, and installing boat ramps and related water-access equipment, docks, piers, and other mooring facilities; marking for channels and waterways; boating education; economic development initiatives that promote boating and other related projects and activities that enhance access for recreational boating.

The city applied during the 2024-2025 fiscal year funding cycle for the grant, being the tenth application made during that time, and is one of nine chosen for funding at this time. Lake Butler was one of 31 applicants for the program

in 2024-25. According to the program's website, Lake Butler was the third highest scoring applicant in the state, behind Wakulla and DeSoto counties.

The city will be receiving \$100,000 for a project to repair/replace the concrete on the existing boat ramp.

The city has already put out both a request for proposals for grant administration services and a request for qualifications for engineering services for the project. The bids are already in for both facets of the project and have been opened and ranked, with the choices made reported to the Lake Butler City Commission at its regular March meeting and approved unanimously.

Friday crash closes down S.R. 21 between KH and Melrose

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

A three-car crash sent one person to a hospital in critical condition and a second with serious injuries on State Road 21 near the Putnam-Clay-County line Friday afternoon.

According to an eyewitness who declined to release his name, at around 5:30 p.m., a southbound silver pickup was stationary on the state road, waiting to turn left, with a Ford SUV positioned behind it.

A Kia SUV then rear-ended the Ford, pushing it into the trailer and causing it to flip.

Melrose Volunteer Fire Department Chief Kevin Mobley said two people were injured,



A southbound silver pickup was stationary on the state road, waiting to turn left, with a Ford SUV positioned behind it. A Kia SUV then rear-ended the Ford, pushing it into the trailer and causing it to flip.

one in critical condition and one seriously.

In addition to the Melrose volunteers, county firefighters

from Clay and Putnam responded to the emergency and transported the patients to area hospitals.

FAIR

Continued from page 1

The fair board positions will be advertised, and once the applications are reviewed, recommendations will be brought to the county commission for approval.

Operations

The previous fair association board and county commission have come to an agreement, with the county taking ownership of the fairgrounds property in exchange for paying off more than \$1.7 million in construction debt. The county will lease the property to the fair association for the next year. The association will be governed by a nine-member board, with four members selected by the former board and five by the county commission.

Events will continue as scheduled during this transitional year.

Commissioner Andrews asked staff about the commission's influence in decision making. She specifically asked about restoring the arena for the Bradford Riding Club.

"Will we be able to make that recommendation at all?" she asked.

Attorney Rob Bradley said that while commissioners won't be involved in the day-to-day operations, when it comes to major decisions about capital improvements and the overall

vision for the fairgrounds, the commission would be involved.

"If they [fair board] go astray, or they go to in a direction on those major decisions that's inconsistent with what a majority of the BCC does, well, that's kind of why you're hold the cards in terms of having a majority of the appointees on that board, number one. Number two, that's why we're going to revisit this all in a year," Bradley said.

While the agreement between the fair board and the county commission had been signed, the lease agreement is forthcoming. Clerk Thompson asked about the ability to break the lease if things aren't run the way the county expects. As property owner, Bradley said the county commission will be the "ultimate arbiter," but he also cautioned commissioners not to take ownership of every decision made at the expense of robbing people of their service.

"You want that to be meaningful service. You want that to be something where they're running the day-to-day operations of the matter, right? But you also want to be able to step back and watch how things are going, and if things are going in the wrong direction, to be able to have the ability to move in and make it right. And that's what you now have," he said.

Clerk Thompson mentioned revenue sharing with the fair association for costs incurred, such as insurance. Bradley agreed the arrangement should not cost taxpayers. The insurance

on the property would ultimately be the county's responsibility, but revenue generated at the fairgrounds should cover those costs. Thompson felt the property was currently underinsured at \$1.4 million.

"I would imagine that to be a two and a half million dollar building to build back right now," he said.

Future fair and rec management

In a related matter, Commission Chairman Danny Riddick appealed to staff and the board to find more money for recreation, which in addition to park maintenance, could include money for additional infrastructure and an employee designated to manage recreational programming. Some of that programming could take place at the fairgrounds, including the return of Pop Warner football practice.

The county manager told Riddick that the county and Tourist Development Council are in talks to hire a fair manager and folding responsibility for parks and recreation into that new position.

Riddick said he travels to youth sports tournaments in other counties and hailed what they manage to do in terms of fields, events and bringing people to their communities. Bradford has no fields for soccer or flag football, he said. Youth travel out of town to play.

"It would be nice if we could

Celebrate May Day

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County is once again sponsoring a May Day celebration on Saturday, May 3, beginning at 11 a.m. Celebrate the spring alongside a Community Health and Wellness Resource Fair. Activities include softball games, a kids corner with bounce houses, a senior citizens corner with bingo, food trucks and vendors, and the plaiting of

the maypole.

All this will take place at the RJE Complex ballfield, N. 1080 Pine St. in Starke. For more information or to sponsor, please call 904-966-1100 or email ccbe_inc@yahoo.com.

BHS Class of 1975 planning reunion

The Bradford County High School Class of 1975 will hold

its 50-year reunion on Saturday, June 21, at the Starke Woman's Club. The social will begin at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6.

The next planning meeting will be on Monday, April 14, at Beef O'Brady's in Starke beginning at 11 a.m. If you have not been to a prior meeting, you are encouraged to attend as plans are finalized. Help with locating classmates is also needed. Please contact Joy Tetstone at 352-745-6672 or Randy Martin at 352-235-6410.

We've got a bunch of them out there that like to play sports, and I just hate to see them have to go to another county to play," he said.

Later during a budget workshop, Dougherty asked to table discussion of parks and recreation, saying the county has a long way to go. Other counties are funded by much larger tourism budgets and have the attractions, including restaurants and hotels, that draw people in for multiday tournaments. Bradford is at a disadvantage even in its soil, which makes engineering fields that don't turn to mud in the rain expensive to pay for, plus the ongoing maintenance.

"I'm not, again, raining on your parade, but at the same time, I think it's something that we need to slowly walk into. And because with that budget being just as low as it is right now, you know, where do we come up with

the additional funds?" Dougherty asked.

The city of Starke was brought up as a potential partner for recreational services, given its parks and recent improvements.

"So, before we take that leap to do our own thing, let us collaborate together with what's already out there and seeing what we can do together," Commissioner Carolyn Spooner said.

Riddick said he would like to work with the city, but also said the Tourist Development Council has \$800,000 in the bank, and that could potentially be used to acquire and improve sports fields. He said he hopes to discuss it with representatives on the TDC board later this month.

"That's one can I don't want to kick down the road any further. I want to make it happen," he said.

Russ WADE

Attorney at Law

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(Across from Subway Plaza)

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Obituaries

Arthur Cross

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Arthur "Bill" W. Cross, who was called home Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at the age of 89. Born Dec. 28, 1935, in Schenectady, New York, Bill lived a full and adventurous life, ultimately settling in Dunnellon. He proudly served in the United States Navy for 20 years, achieving the esteemed rank of Chief Petty Officer. He and his wife traveled the world and made friends that lasted a lifetime. His dedication to his country was a testament to his character, but it was his deep love for God and family that truly defined him. He was a man of unwavering faith, his prayers always ending with the powerful words "in Jesus Name." His love for God shone brightly through his actions, serving as a source of hope and inspiration for others. He exemplified partnership and love throughout his life with his lovely and strong wife, Betty Cross. They would have been married 67 years on Saturday, Feb. 15! Above all, he was an incredible father. He cherished his children, Wendy (Tollie) Carter, Steven (Yazmin) Cross, Deborah (Keith) Maloney and Karen (George) Zackschewski, and took immense pride in their accomplishments. His guidance, wisdom, and unwavering support shaped not only their lives, but also the lives of his 10 grandchildren, who adored him. He was a loving grandfather who illuminated every family gathering with his warmth and humor, creating cherished memories that will forever resonate in their hearts. He was a proud great-grandfather to two great-grandchildren, whose smiles brought him endless joy. An adventurer at heart, he held a private pilot's license and enjoyed many other various hobbies. Yet, it was the time spent with family that truly fulfilled him, whether telling stories, sharing laughter, or simply being present, he embraced every moment with love. As we gather to say goodbye to this wonderful man, we will do so with a mix of tears and laughter. He had a marvelous sense of humor, and we know he'd want us to celebrate his life rather than mourn his passing. We'll reminisce about his unforgettable quirks; how he always insisted on being the one behind the camera during family gatherings and how he somehow managed to turn every serious moment into a reason to laugh. With a heavy heart, we say goodbye to a man who will be missed dearly, but whose spirit and laughter will resonate in our hearts forever. Rest in peace, Bill. Your love for God and your family will be your eternal legacy. Your laughter will echo in our memories, and your love will live on in our hearts. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur J. Cross and Ruth E. Cross; and sister, Shirley Moschetto.

His life will be celebrated with a gathering of family and friends. Details regarding the memorial service will be shared soon, and we invite everyone who knew and loved him to come together to honor his remarkable journey. Funeral services were held Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at First Assembly of God. Burial followed at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights, 352-473-3176.

PAID OBITUARY



Gary Hampton

OK, here's the deal I didn't wake up this morning, I don't appear to be in a coma, but I am lying down and, so far, haven't gone to the bathroom. What's worse, I don't have the urge to go to the bathroom, nor is the bed wet, so the answer appears to be the one I wasn't quite ready for yet. I'm dead. So, for my family, friends, and anyone else who liked me, sorry, I won't be seeing you anymore. For those who were looking for this event, here it is, go ahead and shout or do whatever else you think is appropriate in your celebration. Stop the hollering!!! And the traditional work of my passing follows.

Gary Hampton left his world at home near Keystone Heights on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Born in Columbus, Ohio on Jan. 9, 1942, as the first child in the Hampton family to be born outside of Southeast Kentucky. He was 82. He was the first son and second child of four to be born to his parents, Anthony Hampton and Georgia Marie (Howell) Hampton, both deceased. His daughter, Kimberly Glyn DeShon, Arbutis, (known as "Arti"); younger brother, Barry Lester; and younger sister, Lydia Fern Banks, are deceased. A sister, Angela (Michael) Stall was born to subsequent marriage by his father, Anthony, who was born in Millstone, (Letcher), Kentucky on Jan. 25, 1913, and his mother, Georgia, was born in McDowell (Floyd), Kentucky on Aug. 6, 1923. The family lived in Kentucky and Columbus, Ohio during World War II, then Fairborn, Ohio, moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1949, then moved back to Fairborn, Ohio on July 4, 1956. For Gary, it was a happy childhood. The family had no money, but it was a loving family, and it was displayed daily. Gary graduated from Fairborn High School in 1958 and joined the Navy on Feb. 28, 1959. He had a burning desire to get out and see the world, and the Navy was the way. He entered the Navy as an Airman Recruit and, over the course of the next 30 years, he advanced through the enlisted ranks, to warrant officer, and then was selected as a Navy Limited Duty Officer, with the specialty of aircraft maintenance and retired after 30 years at the grade of Lieutenant Commander. After the first four years, he left the Navy for a short time and met a girl who became his wife and the mother of his children, Saundria June Patterson. She was a devoted Navy wife and wonderful mother. Now divorced, Mrs. Hampton resides in Orange Park. Gary proudly served in Vietnam in 1970, after which he was selected for a Navy program which led to a college degree from the University of West Florida in 1973. After leaving the Navy in 1989, he pursued a civil service career as the Training Systems Program manager for the H-46 Marine Corps helicopter and retired totally in 2004. His passions include the POW/MIA organization, Rolling Thunder, and motorcycles. He and his wife, Rachel, took many motorcycle rides all over the U.S., and a two-week touring ride on a Harley in China and greatly enjoyed those adventures and many others. He is a proud member of Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 4, a 50-plus year member of the Fleet Reserve Association, and a life member of the Military Officers Association of America.

His survivors include his devoted wife, Rachel Ann Hampton of New Jersey; son-in-law, Rick DeShong; son, Gary Anthony Hampton and daughter-in-law, Amy (McClure); grandson, Gary Cole Hampton; former spouse, Saundria June Hampton; sister, Angela Stall; nieces, Amber, Dawn, and April; nephews, Michael, James, Barry Lester Jr., Scott, and Tony; and many grandnieces and nephews. In addition, he had a stepdaughter, Melissa; three stepsons, Matt, Mark, and Miles; and seven grandchildren, Miles Hudson II, Layla, Andrew, and Emma Hudson, Emilia Connor, Violet Hudson, and Nevaeh Martin.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, April 10, with Pastor Glenn Creasey officiating. Interment will be at Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Wounded Warrior Project or Parkinson's Foundation.

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

PAID OBITUARY

James Young

In Loving Memory. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of James Earl Young, who left us Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at the age of 90. He was a cherished member of our community and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Born June 3, 1934, in Hinton, West Virginia, he led a life filled with love, joy, and dedication. He was a devoted father and a loyal friend to many. His warmth, kindness, and generosity touched the lives of everyone he met. He pursued his passion for motorcycles and made significant contributions to the motorcycle community. He and his wife, Eleanor, started a Kawasaki dealership in Port Richey in 1972, named Pasco Cycle, which lasted until 1998, when he sold the business. His commitment and hard work earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and peers. Beyond his business achievements, he and Eleanor are known for their love of motorcycle drag racing, which brought them great happiness and respect in the motorcycle drag racing community. He received numerous awards including most contributive to the sport. In times of joy and sorrow, he was a pillar of strength for his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Patti Jane Young; and son, James Cliff Young.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dorothy Eleanor Young; Vicki Young Johnson and Monty Steve Young; grandson, Jeremy M. (Elizabeth) Johnson and Kyle J. (Mika) Young; great-granddaughters, Koko and Niko Johnson; as well as many other relatives and dear friends. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights. Family and friends are invited to gather and remember the beautiful moments shared with James. As we say goodbye to James, we take comfort in knowing that his legacy of love and kindness will endure. He will be profoundly missed, but never forgotten. Because of his faith in Jesus Christ, he will rest in peace.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Zane Leger is one of 10 Keystone lifters who'll compete in both Olympic and traditional at the state finals.

Indians win Region 2-1A Olympic title

KHHS will have 13 individuals each in Olympic and traditional compete at state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School won four weight classes in capturing the team championship in Olympic at the Region 2-1A boys weightlifting meet on April 4 at KHHS.

The Indians had 56 points to finish ahead of runner-up Williston, which had 48 points.

Keystone was second as a team in the traditional event, with 42 points to West Nassau's 44.

Individual champions automatically qualified for the state finals, which will be held Saturday, April 12, at R.P. Funding Center (701 W. Lime St.) in Lakeland. Keystone's Jackson Herman, Colton Hollingsworth, Elijah Mize and Kyle Perkins won their classes in Olympic, while Hollingsworth and Mize also took first in traditional.

Keystone had nine earn at-large berths in Olympic and 11 in traditional, meaning the Indians will have 13 competing in each event at state. Olympic at-large qualifiers were Pete Bostic, Clark Byrnes, Dylan Currington, Zane Leger, Logan Madden-Moore, Aiden Nobles, Brayden Wester, Trase Wooden and Layton Wright, while traditional at-large qualifiers were Bostic, Currington, Herman, Leger, Nobles, Perkins, Wester, Wooden, Wright, Damien Dunlap and Jagger Lancaster.

At-large bids were determined by comparing the totals from all of Class 1A's four regional meets.

The Indians' lifters in weight classes 119, 129, 154 and 169 will begin competing at state at 9 a.m., while the lifters in the 199, 219, 238 and unlimited classes will begin their competition at 3 p.m.

Admission is \$11 if purchased in advance and \$14 the day of the event. Visit rpfundingcenter.com.

Parking will have a fee of \$12.

Olympic

Mize won the 119-pound class with a 320-pound total (135 snatch, 185 clean and jerk). He finished 15 pounds ahead of runner-up Andrew Ulsch of Fort White and bettered his District 8 championship total by 5 pounds.

Hollingsworth improved upon his District 8 championship total by 20 pounds in winning the 129 class. He had a 370 total (155, 215), which put him 65 pounds ahead of runner-up Elijah Galtieri of West Nassau. Hollingsworth's snatch total was the best in his class by 20 pounds, while his clean-and-jerk total was the best by 40 pounds.

Herman and Perkins, like Hollingsworth and Mize, were coming off championships at the District 8 meet. Perkins took the Region 2 title in the 199 class with a 495 total (210, 285), while Herman won the unlimited class with a 530 total (225, 305).

Herman tied with Hawthorne's Tyler Duncan, who used to attend KHHS. Herman, who was the fourth-lightest lifter in the class, missed 305 on his second bench attempt, but successfully got it on his third attempt, which allowed him to tie Duncan and earn the championship with the weigh-in tiebreaker.

Leger and Wright were runners-up in their respective classes. Wright had a 420 total (175, 245) in the 169 class, while Leger placed behind Perkins in the 199 class with a 470 total (185, 285). Wright improved upon his district total by 5 pounds, while Leger bested his district total by 40 pounds.

Currington and Nobles each placed third, with Currington posting a 295 total (120, 175) in the 119 class and Nobles posting a 300 total (125, 175) in the 129 class. Currington bettered his district total by 5 pounds, while Nobles' total was 10 pounds better than his district total.

Keystone had three fourth-place finishers: Byrnes, with a 410 total (175, 235) in the 154 class, Wooden, with a 480 total (200, 280) in the 219 class, and Wester, with a 450 total (175, 275) in the 238 class. Byrnes and Wooden improved upon their district totals by 10 and 15 pounds, respectively.

Bostic also contributed to Keystone's team score with a sixth-place total of 420 (175, 245) in the 238 class.

Though he didn't earn points, Madden-Moore received an at-large bid to state with his eighth-place total of 420 (175, 245) in the 219 class.

The Indians also had the following results: Brayden McCall, with an eighth-place total of 370 (150, 220) in the 154 class, Talon Lybarger, with a ninth-place total of 370 (165, 205) in the 183 class, Connor Mooneyham, with an 11th-place total of 275 (115, 160) in the 139 class, Andrew Snider, with an 11th-place total of 400 (165, 235) in the unlimited class, Caleb Alvers, with a 14th-place total of 260 (105, 155) in the 139 class, Brodyn Adams, with a 14th-place total of 340 (145, 195) in the 169 class, and Hunter Crumpton, with a 14th-place total of 305 (130, 175) in the 183 class.

Traditional

In traditional, Hollingsworth

See REGION, page 10

If you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks you'd like to publish, please email to socials@bctelegraph.com or call 904-964-6305.

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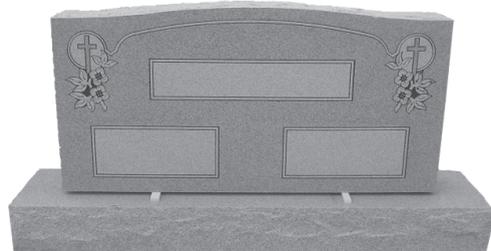


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Barry, Brinson come up big in KHHS' 16-3 win over BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Guage Barry hit a two-run triple as part of a five-run first as the Keystone Heights High School baseball team scored at least three runs in each inning in defeating visiting Bradford 16-3 in 4.5 innings on April 3.

Barry, who went 3 for 3, finished with three RBI, while Tyler Brinson and Andrew Wilson each had two RBI as the Class 2A Indians won their second straight and fifth in their last six games.

Though the Indians had only two more hits than Bradford (eight to six), they were able to take advantage of three balks, three passed balls and two wild pitches. The Tornados also committed three errors.

Brinson earned the win, allowing six hits and no walks, while striking out four through the first four innings.

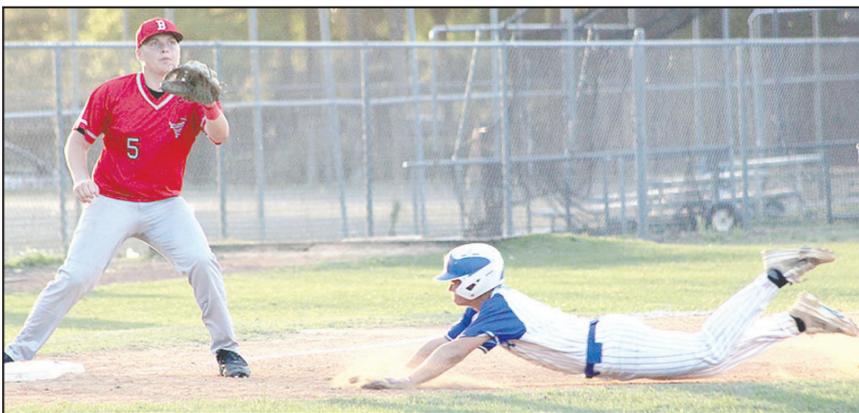
Class 3A Bradford (10-12), which dropped its third straight

game, put the first runs on the board in the top of the first. Ryland Rike and Patrick Pendarvis hit back-to-back doubles, with Rike scoring on Pendarvis' hit. After a sacrifice bunt by Breion Johnson, Pendarvis scored on a Cannon Sapp single.

In the bottom of the first, Wilson reached on a fielder's choice, while Aiden Screen walked. With two outs, Barry hit his triple, which tied the score at 2-2.

The inning continued, with Ethan Franklin drawing a walk and Tallon Campbell getting hit by a pitch. Barry scored on a wild pitch, while a Brinson single scored Franklin and courtesy runner Brock Screen, putting the Indians up 5-2.

Keystone's half of the second began with consecutive walks drawn by Destin Harnage and Wilson. After both runners stole a base, Harnage scored on a wild pitch, which also allowed Wilson to advance to third. Aiden Screen



Keystone's Tyler Brinson (right) steals third in the first inning of the Indians' win over Bradford. Bradford third baseman Avery Burgin is also pictured.

then drew a third straight walk for the Indians. Wilson scored on a passed ball, while a Barry single scored Screen.

Rike, who went 2 for 3, led off the top of the third with a double and moved to third on a ground out by Pendarvis, but the Tornados couldn't bring Rike home, with a fly out and a ground out ending the inning.

The Indians' Ty Mitzel reached on a single in the bottom of the third. He advanced to second on a balk and stole third before Harnage walked. Wilson hit an RBI single, while Harnage would later score on a balk. Wilson, who moved to second on the balk and then advanced to third on a passed ball, scored on a passed ball, making the score 11-2.

Bradford had a runner on with two outs in the fourth. Nehemiah Flowers, who reached on a fielder's choice, moved to second on a wild pitch and advanced to third on a Kaedan Parks single. Parks would get caught in a rundown between first and second, which allowed Flowers to score before Parks was tagged for the third out.

Barry and Franklin singled and walked, respectively, to start the

Indians go 1-1 after the win over Bradford

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's baseball team was seeking its fourth straight win, but instead lost 12-3 to Class 4A North Marion on April 7 in Citra.

The Class 2A Indians (16-6) scored the game's first two runs on an Austin Smith single and an Ethan Franklin ground out in the first inning.

North Marion answered with four runs in the bottom of the inning, with two coming on a home run.

The Colts hit two home runs in all and finished with six extra-base hits and 17 hits total to Keystone's four.

Keystone entered the game off an 8-0 road win over Class 5A Fleming Island on April 4, with pitchers Franklin and Guage Barry combining to allow three hits.

Barry started on the mound and gave up two hits through 4.1 innings. He had seven strikeouts.

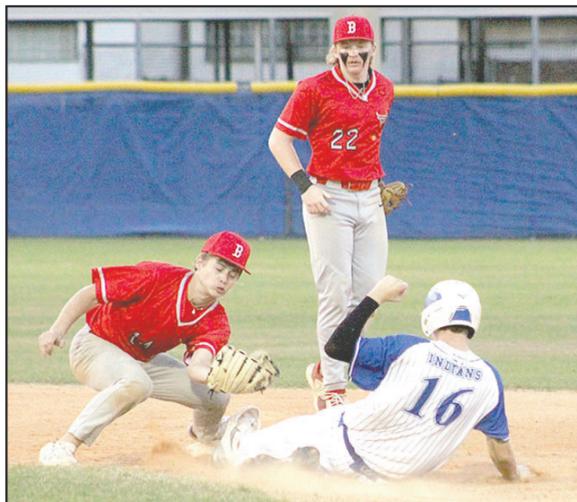
Franklin closed it out, allowing one hit and striking out two.

The Indians scored three runs in the first. Harnage hit a leadoff single, followed by Andrew Wilson getting hit by a pitch. Franklin, Smith and Tallon Campbell all hit RBI singles.

It was 4-0 before Keystone added three runs in the fourth. Ty Mitzel singled and scored on a double by Harnage, who finished 4 for 4. Wilson hit an RBI single, while another run scored on an error.

Smith, who went 2 for 4, hit an RBI single in the sixth.

The Indians played Eagle's View this past Tuesday and will travel to play Clay on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m.



Bradford second baseman Jaxson Carter (left), after receiving a throw from catcher Taylor Bice, puts out Keystone's Guage Barry on a steal attempt. Bradford shortstop Ryland Rike is also pictured.



Keystone's Destin Harnage (left) takes a lead at first. Bradford first baseman Nehemiah Flowers is also pictured.

bottom of the fourth. Brinson reached on an error to load the bases. Mitzel drew a walk to force a run in before Harnage drove in another on a single. An error on that play allowed another run to score as well. Wilson, who went 2 for 3, stepped to the plate and hit an RBI double. After Aiden

Screen was intentionally walked, Austin Smith hit a sacrifice fly to drive in the final run.

Aiden Screen pitched the final inning for Keystone, striking out all three batters he faced.

See KHHS, page 12



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Bethea breaks UCHS 100m record at Pepsi Florida Relays

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Amia Bethea continues to break her own Union County High School record, with her latest record-setting performance occurring at the April 4 Pepsi Florida Relays at the University of Florida.

Bethea ran the 100m in 11.95 seconds to finish 11th out of 31 runners. The mark broke her previous record of 12.11, which she ran on March 18 at a meet hosted by Suwannee High School.



Amia Bethea broke her school record (again) in the 100m at the state at the Pepsi Florida Relays.

No other runner at a school in District 4-2A, which includes UCHS, has a better time than

Bethea. Eastside's KeAisha Williams has a top mark of 12.69.

Bethea has the second-best 100m time among schools in Region 1 of Class 2A. Only Bolles' Evie Freeman has a better time at 11.57.

In Class 2A as a whole, Bethea ranks sixth behind Dasia Reed of Montverde Academy (11.41), Freeman of Bolles, Trinity Parham of Cocoa (11.61), Diamond Bryant of Cocoa (11.76) and E'Tesia Forbes of Glades Central (11.83).

Reed and Parham both placed ahead of Bethea at the Florida Relays, with Reed winning the event.

The other runners who finished ahead of Bethea at the meet were ranked second, third and fourth in Class 3A and first, third, fourth, sixth and seventh in 4A.

REGION

Continued from page 8

and Mize won their classes by 50 and 60 pounds, respectively, with Mize finishing as the event's second-best pound-for-pound lifter. Mize, who had the best bench press in his class by 35 pounds, had a 425 total (185 clean and jerk, 240 bench press), while Hollingsworth had a 440 total (215, 225).

Hollingsworth improved upon his district total by 20 pounds, while Mize improved upon his by 10 pounds.

Leger and Perkins took second and third, respectively. Leger's 575 total (285, 290) was 5 pounds shy of winning the

199 championship and was 25 pounds better than what he did at the district meet. Perkins finished with a 565 total (285, 280).

Herman and Wester each placed third, with Herman posting a 600 total (305, 295) and Wester posting a 570 total (275, 295). Each lifter improved upon his district total by 10 pounds.

Wester actually had the second-best total in his class, with the champion and runner-up lifters finishing with the same total.

Dunlap (154 class) and Wright each earned a fourth-place finish. Dunlap had a 470 total (225, 245), while Wright improved upon his district total by 15 pounds with a 490 total (245, 245).

Currington had a fifth-place total of 340 (175, 165), while two

lifters finished sixth: Lancaster, with a 460 total (205, 255) in the 154 class, and Bostic, with a 510 total (245, 265). Lancaster's total was 15 pounds better than what he did at the district meet.

Keystone also had the following results: Wooden, with a seventh-place total of 520 (280, 240), Nobles, with an eighth-place total of 335 (175, 160), Madden-Moore, with an 11th-place total of 480 (245, 235), Lybarger, with a 12th-place total of 430 (205, 225), Adams, with a 15th-place total of 405 (195, 210), and Crumpton, with an 18th-place total of 375 (175, 200).

Madden-Moore improved upon his district total by 5 pounds, while Wooden improved upon his by 20 pounds.

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SHOP LOCAL ALL 2025

Bradford youth hooping it up in spring league



Kapp Hartley goes in for a layup.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Can Bradford High School find success on the basketball court with teams composed of players who've never played organized ball until getting to middle school? Sure, but could success be more likely or even greater if players developed skills before seventh grade?

That's the hope that BHS coaches have with the creation this year of a spring league.

"That was our biggest thing when we all sat down to talk about it," said D.J. Mackey, who's a BHS boys basketball coach. "It can help us tremendously when the kids get to high school and even to middle school. Most of these kids are going to have some type of experience with



Chris Carn (left) pulls down a rebound in front of Remington Jeffrey.

coaches.

"Most of these kids — when we first started — had no idea what a travel or a double dribble was," Mackey said. "Now, as time has gone by, and we've been getting a little bit of work in, everybody's picking up more on the rules."

Jackson said another benefit of the league is that it brings together children from all three of the Bradford County School District's elementary schools. It fosters a familiarity among children who may become teammates one day at Bradford Middle School.

However, it's not just a basketball benefit. Jackson said new friendships can be created that a lot of times wouldn't be possible until the children reach middle school.

Taking a broader view of the league, Mackey said it's not just creating good basketball players. Some children may not play basketball in middle school or high school, but if they do play a sport, their participation in the league will help them be a better teammate, Mackey said.

Mackey added that learning to be a good teammate can help a child grow into becoming a better person as an adult.

For now, though, it's all about teaching basketball fundamentals and giving the youth something fun to do.

"Every time I look up, and those kids are smiling and having fun, it's worth the Saturday mornings and the extra four hours a week we're putting on our plates," Jackson said.

Since the league falls under the umbrella of Bradford Athletics, Jackson and current BHS coaches hope that it's something that will continue when they're no longer involved.

"Doing it through our athletic department has allowed us to create something — or still in the midst of creating something — that's going to exist, whether we're here or not," Jackson said. "The hope is that the format of it continues past us."

Mackey said that would be such a positive for the county's youth.

"I think it's going to be pretty good as far as the growth of basketball in our community," Mackey said. "We haven't really had any youth basketball in the last couple of years here."



LEFT: Stetson Slocumb (right) looks to shoot after getting by Asher Phillips. BELOW: Jessiah Hyman (far left) drives to the basket against Asher Phillips (center) and Callen Eison.



LEFT: Asher Phillips (left) prepares to challenge a shot by Jessiah Hyman. BELOW: Emma Reed (center) guards Cayden Coffey (far right) as Bradford Athletic Director/BHS Head Girls Basketball Coach Sampson Jackson looks on.

organized basketball. It'll help the middle-school and the high-school programs — girls and boys.

The league, which is in its sixth week (out of eight total), consists of boys and girls in three divisions: first-second grade, third-fourth grade and fifth-sixth grade. Sampson Jackson, the head girls basketball coach for BHS and the school district's athletic director, said an average of 30 have been participating in each division.

"It's going really good," Jackson said.

Jackson, who was the BHS boys head coach when the Tornadoes won the state championship in 2022, said the spring league has a benefit over the summer camp he hosted in the past.

"They get up to about two hours of practice a week (in the spring league)," Jackson said. "It's a little more in depth and longer than a weeklong camp or something like that."

Practices are held during the week, with games being played Saturday mornings.

On game days, you can see Jackson walking up and down the court, providing explanations — especially to the younger children — of any violations the players are committing. The games will stop to allow for teaching moments from Jackson and the other participating



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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

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65 Help Wanted

THE BRADFORD COUNTY Telegraph has opening for school coverage. This individual would cover special achievements, awards or recognitions of students in Bradford, Union and Keystone Heights. Info would be

approved by school, parents, etc. Paid by submissions. Interested parties apply to Mark Crawford, editor@bctelegraph.com

WRITER POSITION available for local news & social functions. To include clubs, churches, meetings, etc. Work schedule and salary negotiable Send resume to editor@bctelegraph.com

Legal Focus Group participants are needed in the Bradford County area. We are seeking participants as mock jurors in a paid legal focus group on Thursday, April 17, 2025 for three hours. Participants will listen and provide their opinions and feedback. No experience is required. Compensation: \$60.00. For information please call (352) 372-9999; M-F 9:00a – 4:30p.

Tri-County Classifieds
Bradford County Lake Region UNION COUNTY
Monitor Times
Classified

INDEX

40 Notice	57 For Sale
41 Vehicles Accessories	58 Building Materials
42 Motor Vehicles	59 Personal Services
43 Rv's & Campers	60 Secretarial Services
44 Boats	61 Scriptures
45 Land for Sale	62 Vacation/Travel
46 Real Estate Out of Area	63 Love Lines
47 Commercial Property Rent, Lease, Sell	64 Business Opportunity
48 Homes for Sale	65 Help Wanted
49 Mobile Homes for Sale	66 Investment Opportunity
50 For Rent	67 Hunting Land for Rent
51 Lost/Found	68 Rent to Own
52 Animals & Pets	69 Food Supplements
53 Yard Sales	70 Money to Lend
54 Keystone Yard Sales	72 Sporting Goods
55 Wanted	74 Computers & Computer Accessories
56 Trade or Swap	

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Jaydin Alvarez (right), accompanied by Head Coach Brian Tomlinson, displays her home-run ball from the Tigers' 10-0 win over Trinity Christian.

UCHS softball team wins its 5th in a row

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Three players drove in two runs each, with Jaydin Alvarez doing so on a home run in the Union County High School softball team's 10-0, five-inning win over Trinity Christian on April 7 at St. Johns River State College in Palatka.

Pitcher Shyla Crowe allowed four hits and no walks in a complete-game effort as the Tigers (12-5) won their fifth straight game. Union has won nine of its last 10.

Courtney Manning and Mackenzie Orton each drove in a run on a sacrifice fly in the first inning. The Tigers then scored four in the second. Mia Kent reached on an error, while Alvarez hit a single. An error on an Emma Handley single allowed a run to score. Orton and Leanne Dicks each drove in a run on a single, while Manning drove in one on a ground out.

Alvarez, who went 2 for 3 with two RBI, hit a two-run homer in the third to make it an 8-0 game.

Manning and Orton each finished with two RBI, while Union got one RBI each from Dicks and Campbell Webb.

Crowe and Handley batted 2 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively.

Union entered the game off a 12-0, five-inning win over Class 2A P.K. Yonge on April 1 in Gainesville.

Crowe earned the win in that game as well, allowing two hits and one walk, while striking out six.

A four-run second inning began with walks drawn by Crowe and Brooke Hunt. A Dicks double scored courtesy runner Autumn Burnette, while Hunt scored on a passed ball. After an Alvarez walk, Handley hit a two-run double.

Dicks, who went 3 for 3 with three RBI, hit a two-run single in the third to put the Tigers up 6-0.

Union scored all six of its remaining runs in the fourth. Alvarez singled, while Handley reached on an error. Orton then hit an RBI single before

Manning batted two runs in with a double. An error on a Webb single allowed a run to score, while Crowe drove in another on a ground out.

A Hunt walk and a Dicks single kept the inning going. Alvarez reached on an error, which allowed the final run to score.

Handley and Manning each had two RBI, with Manning batting 2 for 3.

Crowe and Orton each finished with one RBI.

The Tigers played Trenton this past Tuesday and will host Bradford on Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. Union then hosts Bell on Tuesday, April 15, at 6 p.m.

BHS softball team bounces back from 12-4 loss with 13-1 win over Colts

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's softball team scored eight runs in the second inning en route to defeating visiting North Marion 13-1 on April 4.

The Tornadoes (6-6) scored all of the runs they'd need before that big second inning, with Addyson Hinds and Kolee Lemire each hitting an RBI single as part of a four-run first inning.

Bradford scored all of its second-inning runs with two outs. With no one aboard, Kallie Yowell hit a double and later advanced to third on a passed ball. Courtesy runner Kendall Mort, who entered for Hinds, who walked, stole second before Summer Sutton and Tayrn Flowers hit back-to-back RBI singles. Regan Adams followed with a two-run single, while an error on Lemire's bunt single allowed another run to score.

The inning continued with back-to-back singles by Kingslee Phillips and Keegan Yowell, with Phillips' hit driving in a run. Amber Wynn then hit a two-run double.

Wynn and Adams finished with two RBI each.

Lemire went 2 for 2 with an RBI, while Phillips and Sutton each went 2 for 3 with an RBI.

Flowers and Hinds each had one RBI, while Kallie Yowell batted 2 for 4.

Pitcher Bailey Smith gave up an earned run, two hits and one walk.

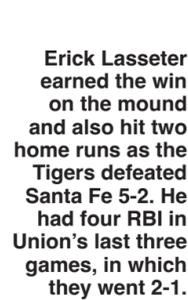
Bradford entered the game off a 12-4 loss at Bishop Snyder on April 2.

The Tornadoes trailed 8-0 before scoring two runs on an error in the fourth inning.

Wynn and Kallie Yowell each had one RBI, with Yowell batting 2 for 4 with a double.

Flowers and Keegan Yowell each hit a double as well.

Bradford, which was scheduled to host Toccoi Creek on Wednesday, April 9, at 6 p.m.,



will travel to play Union County on Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. The Tornadoes travel to play Clay on Monday, April 14, at 7 p.m. and then travel to play Eastside on Tuesday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m.

Lasseter helps UCHS baseball team defeat Santa Fe 5-2

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Erick Lasseter hit two solo home runs and held the host Santa Fe Raiders to four hits and two runs through five innings in the Union County High School baseball team's 5-2 win on April 3.

The Rural Class Tigers (11-11) took the lead for good on a Fisher Thomassen RBI in the fourth.

Lasseter, batting second in the order, took a ball in his first at-bat before driving a pitch over

the fence in right to put Union up 1-0. In his second at-bat, he needed to see only one pitch in hitting another homer to right, making it a 2-0 game in the top of the third.

In the bottom of the third, the Class 3A Raiders had a runner on with two outs. Santa Fe drew two straight walks before scoring a run on a wild pitch.

Devin Diggs reached on an error to lead off the Tigers' half of the fourth. Diggs stole second and moved to third on a passed ball before scoring on Thomassen's ground ball to short with two outs, giving Union a 3-1 lead.

The Tigers scored their final two runs in the seventh on a Trenton Klein ground out and a Diggs double.

Union had just five hits, with Lasseter finishing 2 for 3.

Lasseter struck out five batters in his five innings of work before being relieved by Kendall Carter. Carter gave up two hits and no

See UCHS, page 14

KHHS Continued from page 9

Keystone entered the game off a 9-1 win at Fernandina Beach

on April 1. Mitzel pitched a complete game, allowing one unearned run and four hits, while striking out six.

Three of the Indians' first five runs occurred on a solo homer by Wilson and a single by Harnage.

Franklin hit a two-run triple as part of a four-run seventh, which also included an RBI single by Aiden Screen.

Harnage, who went 3 for 5, and Franklin both had two RBI each.

Smith and Wilson batted 3 for 5 and 2 for 4, respectively, with Wilson finishing with one RBI.

Campbell and Aiden Screen each had one RBI.

Prior to playing Keystone, Bradford went on the road and

lost 11-1 to Williston on April 1.

The Tornadoes, who were held to four hits, left seven runners stranded in scoring position and failed to score on bases-loaded opportunities in the second and sixth innings.

Parks had the team's lone run when he singled and scored on a passed ball in the fourth.

Bradford next hosts P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of April 10, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF SALE
T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on April 21st, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.
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4/3 2tchg 4/10-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
File No. 04-2024-CP-000095-CPAX-MX
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: ESTATE OF CHRISTINE KNIGHT, also known as CHRISTEEN KNIGHT,
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of CHRISTINE KNIGHT, also known as CHRISTEEN KNIGHT, deceased, Case No. 04-2024-CP-000095-CPAX-MX, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida. Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 945 Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091.
The name and address 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 unmaturing, 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 creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
The date of the first publication of this Notice is April 3, 2025.
Personal Representative
LATASHA LURIE GORDON
4124 Dellwood Drive,
Macon, Georgia 31204
Attorney for Personal Representative
CURTIS A. "LEX" SANDERS
407 West Georgia Street
Starke, Florida 32091
(904) 964-2020/fax: 964-9400
Florida Bar No.: 0625647
4/3 2tchg 4/10-BCT

NOTICE OF ACTION
Bradford County, Florida
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN RE: The license to practice Nursing Assistance
Jessica L. Yates, C.N.A.
4673 Southeast 8th Avenue,
Melrose, Florida 32666
CASE NO.: 2023-02313
LICENSE NO.: CNA331464
The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Philip A. Crawford, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 558-9829.

If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by May 22, 2025, the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Board of Nursing in an informal proceeding. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4640, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.
4/10 4tchg 5/1-BCT

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of Amivie, with a mailing address of 4510 NW 6th Pl., 1st Fl., Ste. B, Gainesville, FL 32607, and a principal office located in Bradford County, intends to register the said name with the FL Dept. of State, Div. of Corps., Tallahassee, FL. Owner: Suncoast New Options Walnut Street, LLC
4/10 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of Amivie, with a mailing address of 4510 NW 6th Pl., 1st Fl., Ste. B, Gainesville, FL 32607, and a principal office located in Bradford County, intends to register the said name with the FL Dept. of State, Div. of Corps., Tallahassee, FL. Owner: Suncoast New Options Bessent Road, LLC
4/10 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 04-2025-CA-53
DIVISION:
SHERMAN BEAU CARNES and DORIS M. CARNES, v.
P l a i n t i f f ,
v.
ESTATE OF MARION SAMS, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MARION SAMS, HARRIETT MOORE, ESTATE OF ANN L MEYERS A/K/A ANNIE LEE MYERS and HEIRS OF ANN L MEYERS A/K/A ANNIE LEE MYERS,

Defendants.
NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: ESTATE OF MARION SAMS
0 JONES LANE
LAWTY, FL 32058
UNKNOWN HEIRS
OF MARION SAMS
0 JONES LANE
LAWTY, FL 32058
ESTATE OF ANN L MEYERS A/K/A ANNIE LEE MYERS
C/O HARRIETT T. MOORE
6318 LORENZO AVENUE
ORLANDO, FL 32818
HEIRS OF ANN L MEYERS A/K/A ANNIE LEE MYERS
6318 LORENZO AVENUE
ORLANDO, FL 32818
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND, SITUATE, LYING, AND BEING IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO WIT:
THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTH EAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH EAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH EAST QUARTER QUARTER OF SECTION TWENTY SIX, TOWNSHIP FIVE SOUTH OF RANGE TWENTY TWO EAST AND CONTAINING FIVE ACRES MORE OR LESS, has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on The Law Office of C.W. Wickersham, Jr., P.A., Plaintiffs attorney, at 2720 Park Street, Suite 205, Jacksonville, Florida, 32205, Phone Number: (904) 389 6202, not less than 28 days of the first date of publication of this Notice, and me the original with the Clerk of this Court, at 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, Florida 32091 before service on Plaintiff or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a Default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated this 26th day of March 2025
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Kanetra Jenkins
Deputy Clerk
4/10 4tchg 5/1-BCT

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION
TAKEN BY THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Notice is given that the following permit was issued on March 28th, 2025:
(Name and address of applicant)
Clay County Board of Commissioners
477 Houston Street Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 permit# 292368-1.
The project is located in Clay and Bradford County, Section 0, Township 8S South, Range 23E East. The permit authorizes a surface water management system on 2,392.73 acres for construction and Operation pursuant to Chapter 62-330.474, F.A.C., known as the Lake Geneva

Restoration Project. The receiving water body is Lake Geneva.

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the St. Johns River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the District Clerk at District Headquarters, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka FL 32178-1429 (4049 Reid St, Palatka, FL 32177) or by e-mail with the District Clerk at Clerk@sjrwm.com, within Fourteen (14) days of the District depositing the notice of intended District decision in the mail (for those persons to whom the District mails actual notice), within fourteen (14) days of the District emailing notice of intended District decision (for those persons to whom the District emails actual notice), or within fourteen (14) days of newspaper publication of the notice of intended District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., is not available.
A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Palatka, Florida during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the next regular District business day. The District's acceptance of petitions filed by e-mail is subject to certain conditions set forth in the District's Statement of Agency Organization and Operation (issued pursuant to Rule 28-101.001, Florida Administrative Code), which is available for viewing at floridaswater.com. These conditions include, but are not limited to, the petition being in the form of a PDF or TIFF file and being capable of being stored and printed by the District. Further, pursuant to the District's Statement of Agency Organization and Operation, attempting to file a petition by facsimile (fax) is prohibited and shall not constitute filing.
The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40C1.1007, Florida

Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.).
If you wish to do so, please visit <http://floridaswater.com/noticeofrights/> to read the complete Notice of Rights to determine any legal rights you may have concerning the District's intended decision(s) on the permit application(s) described above. You can also request the Notice of Rights by contacting the Bureau Chief, Bureau of Regulatory Support (RS), 4049 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177-2529, tele. no. (386)329-4570.
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
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COUNTY COMMISSION

MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on April 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured - no firearms or weapons are permitted.
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UNION

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.
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Indians host KHHS Relays — 1st event on school's new track

KHHS boys place 3rd, while girls are 4th

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School, which had a new track installed around its football field in 2022, hosted its first track and field meet in almost three decades, welcoming Baker County, Eastside, Interlachen, Newberry, St. Francis and Union County to the April 4 KHHS Relays.

The Telegraph-Times-Monitor has been unable to determine when the school last hosted a track-and-field event, but the last mention of a KHHS home meet in the paper appeared in its April 10, 1997, issue, which reported that the school was to host a meet on April 15 of that same year.

Keystone won two events on the boys side and placed third in the team standings with 105 points. Eastside (198.5) and



Keystone's Ryder Thomas won the 3200m and helped the Indians place second in the 400m distance medley relay.

Newberry (132.5) were first and second, respectively.

Ryder Thomas ran a first-place time of 10:27 in the 3200m. The Indians also got a win from the 440m shuttle hurdles team of De'Shawn Williams, Jamari Turner, Baylor Ford and Mason Clark, which had a time of 1:20.

The boys 400m distance medley relay team of Thomas, Judah Moses, Ryeland Wahl and Hunter Sheppard placed second with a time of 11:54, while the following individuals also earned runner-up finishes: Turner in the high jump (5-5.75), Ford in the triple jump (40-0.5) and Luke Lewis in the javelin (107-5).

Tyler Kerner and Ford took fourth and sixth, respectively, in the javelin with distances of 101-10 and 97-10, while Aaron Wiley placed fourth in the 100m with a time of 11.43.

The Indians also earned a fourth-place finish from the 4x200m relay team of Wiley, Turner, Clark and Ford, which had a time of 1:37.

Earning fifth-place finishes were Clark in the long jump (17-4) and the 4x100m relay team of Clark, Turner, Ford and Wiley (46.26).

Keystone got sixth-place finishes from Jason Parales in the 3200m (13:07) and Ricardo Rosario in the shot put (33-6).

Sheppard and Wahl finished seventh and eighth, respectively, in the 800m with times of 2:12.19 and 2:12.37, while Eli Rabe was seventh in the 3200m (13:27) and Carter Andrews seventh in the high jump (4-7.75).

The Indians had two additional teams in the 400m distance medley relay that placed seventh and eighth with times of 14:02 and 15:21, while the 1600m sprint medley relay team of Moses, Logan Wilson, Clark and Mason Gray placed eighth with a time of 4:38.

On the girls side, Keystone had 75 points to place fourth behind Eastside (196), Interlachen (119) and Newberry (90).

Olivia Griffin ran a second-place time of 2:29 in the 800m, while Cali Chamberlain was



Running the 100m are Union's Gavin Jenkins (left) and Keystone's Aaron Wiley. Wiley placed fourth, while Jenkins was sixth.



Keystone's Kaylee Park (left) was sixth in the long jump, while the Indians' Baylor Ford was second in the triple jump.



third in the high jump after clearing 4-2.

Keystone had two teams in the 4x200m relay, with Kaylee Park, Ashly McCarthy, Alexis VanNordstrand and Christine

Djavaheri teaming up to run a third-place time of 1:53 and Laura Herndon, Laila Briseno, Sophie Moses and Kenslee Phillips teaming up to run a fifth-

place time of 1:59.

Xana Briley earned two fourth-place finishes with distances of 24-1.5 in the shot put and 72-1 in the javelin.

Also earning fourth-place finishes were Melody Tyre in the 3200m (14:02), the 4x100m team of Park, McCarthy, Djavaheri, VanNordstrand (54.20) and the 1600m sprint medley team of Jayla Jamison, Briseno, Jasmine Walls and Chamberlain (5:39).

Chamberlain ran a fifth-place

time of 1:20 in the 400m hurdles, while two individuals placed sixth: Park in the long jump (13-7.75) and Tatum Hall in the javelin (45-11).

Seventh-place finishes were earned by Djavaheri in the 100m (13.43), Raven Bastin in the 800m (2:55) and Herndon in the long jump (13-5).

Keystone also earned third- and fourth-place finishes in the

See RELAYS, page 14

UCHS places 2nd in 5 events at KHHS Relays

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School got three runner-up finishes from its boys track and field team and two from its girls team at the April 4 Keystone Heights High School Relays.

The boys team placed fourth out of seven teams. Edward Durant was second in the shot put with a distance of 34 feet, 3 inches, while the Tigers had two second-place finishes with relay teams. The 4x100m team had a time of 44.41, while the throwers 4x100m team had a time of one minute.

Union also earned points from two other relay teams, with a third-place time of 4:04 in the 1600m sprint medley relay and a fifth-place time of 13:22 in the 400m distance medley relay.

Anthony Holmes and C.J. Ivey were fourth and fifth, respectively, in the shot put with distances of 34-1.25 and 33-8.75.

Gavin Jenkins was sixth in the 100m with a time of 11.48, while Jabari Young placed eighth in the event with a time of 11.60.

Matthew Rogers also competed for the boys team in the shot put, finishing with a distance of 28-0.25.

Union, which placed sixth out of seven teams in the girls competition, got a second-place



Melinda Mabrey earned a second-place finish for Union County in the shot put.

distance of 31-6.75 from Holly Halfacre in the triple jump and a second-place distance of 25-2.5 from Melinda Mabrey in the shot put.

Faith Sirmones was third in the long jump with a distance of 15-0, while the Tigers were also third in the 4x100m relay with a time of 54.01.

Union had three runners in the 100m: Brianna Taylor (13.61), Sirmones (14.38) and Alexia Cyr (16.34).

Jamie Webb and Cyr had distances of 19-4.75 and 17-9, respectively, in the shot put.

LBMS teams take 2nd at SMAC track and field finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler Middle School's track and field teams both finished as runners-up at the April 3 Suwannee Middle Athletic Conference track and field championships, which were held in Palatka.

The girls team got one win each from Latoya Hampton and Naliana Hampton and a total of 48 points in the discus and shot put in compiling 103 points, which left the Tigers trailing champion Interlachen by just one point.

Naliana Hampton took first in the discus with a throw of 50 feet, 5 inches. Latoya Hampton was second (46-11), while Genea Ivey was third (43-9).

In the shot put, it was Latoya Hampton taking first with a distance of 24-6.5. Ivey was second (24-3.75), while Naliana Hampton placed third (23-10.25).

Lake Butler was second in the 4x800m relay, with Kimber Andrews, Ryleigh Floyd, Naliana Hampton and Jillian Norman teaming up to run 12:33.

The 4x100m team of Makenzie Barry, Naliana Hampton,

Mikayla Johnson and Susan McLeod ran a third-place time of 57.54.

McLeod placed fourth in the 400m and fifth in the 200m with times of 1:11 and 29.86, while Barry was fourth in the long jump (12-6.5). Kinley Phillips and Johnson were fifth and sixth, respectively, in the long jump with distances of 12-5.75 and 11-2.25.

Norman earned fifth-place finishes in the 800m (3:07) and 1600m (6:50). Andrews took sixth in each race with times of 3:09 and 6:56.

Adding to the Tigers' point total were Maddison McKenzie's sixth-place finish in the 400m (1:13), Johnson's seventh-place finish in the 200m (30.43) and Floyd's eighth-place finish in the 1600m (8:14).

Lake Butler also had the following girls results: 100m — Barry 15.32, Phillips 15.58, Naliana Hampton 16.03, McKenzie 16.74; 200m — Phillips 33.13, Naliana Hampton 34.71; 400m — Johnson 1:22; and 800m — Floyd 3:49.

David Guadagnoli won one event for the boys team, which also got points in four events from

Braylen Tyson. The Tigers had 83 points in the boys standings to finish behind Palatka, which had 124 points.

Guadagnoli had a distance of 72-9 to take first in the discus, which also saw Lake Butler's Jenson Tetstone place fourth (62-5) and Hudson Parrish place fifth (48-3).

That same trio earned points in the shot put, with Guadagnoli placing third (30-9.25), Tetstone placing fourth (26-11) and Parrish placing seventh (16-10.75).

Tyson took second three events, running times of 11.88 in the 100m, 25.19 in the 200m and 1:01 in the 400m. He also placed third in the long jump (17-4.75).

The 4x100m relay team of Tyson, Carter Fitzpatrick, Kyson Waters and Zaden Williams ran a fourth-place time of 53.15.

Williams earned points in three events as an individual, placing fifth in the 200m (27.54), sixth in the 400m (1:04) and seventh in the 100m (12.73).

Fitzpatrick placed fifth in the 1600m (6:23) and sixth in the 800m (2:52).

Waters also competed in the 100m (14.65) and the 200m (30.25).

Cubbedge, relay team earn wins for BMS at SMAC meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Bradford Middle School competed in the Suwannee Middle Athletic Conference Championships on April 3 in Palatka, with the boys team getting wins in the shot put and the 4x100m relay.

Brilan Clifflin, Raef Cubbedge, McKenzie Nattiel and Chase Small teamed up to run 58.39 in the 4x100m relay, while Cubbedge earned the win in the shot put with a distance of 41 feet, 8 inches.

Nattiel placed third in the

400m with a time of 1:01, while Ethan Ansley was third in the 800m with a time of 2:26.

Cubbedge and Clifflin placed fourth and sixth, respectively, in the 100m with times of 12.16 and 12.60.

Bradford, which was fifth in the boys team standings, also got a point from Nattiel's eighth-place finish in the 100m (12.81).

Other BMS boys participants were Kingston Carroll in the 100m (13.42), Aiden Jackson in the 400m (1:10), Aspen Williams in the 400m (1:13) and Caden Eison in the 800m (3:05).

The Bradford girls team got a

second-place finish from Jense Baldree, who had a time of 14.10 in the 100m.

Baldree teamed up with Dezahlyn Brazzell, Ameriyah Pittman and A'shariah Williams in the 4x100m relay, with the team placing fourth with a time of 58.39.

Emma West placed fifth in the 400m (1:12), while Brazzell was eighth in the 100m (15.26).

Also participating for Bradford, which was fifth in the team standings, were Maliah Dodd in the 100m (15.41) and Lillian Haeseler in the 400m (1:18).

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KHHS softball team goes 2-2 in Kissimmee tournament

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's softball team won its first two games, but then dropped two in a row to complete a 2-2 outing at the April 3-5 Roger Jones Kissimmee Classic.

The Indians (6-9) began play with a 5-1 win over Florida Christian, which was ranked eighth in Class 2A at the time. Kadence Massey pitched a complete game, giving up four hits and one walk, while striking out 14.

Massey, Bailey Amato and

Audry Cisco each drove in one run, while Amber Wagner, who went 2 for 3, drove in two on a second-inning single.

Cadie Bowles batted 2 for 4. Cisco drove in the game-winning run for the Indians in a 3-2 win over Class 4A Jensen Beach on April 4.

The Class 2A Indians fell behind 2-0, but tied it in the sixth on a two-out single by Amato.

Maddi Glinski led off the bottom of the seventh with a single. She moved to second on Tayler Buchanan's sacrifice bunt and then to third on a ground out by Bowles. Cisco brought her home with a single, which was one of only four hits for Keystone.

Cisco pitched a complete game, allowing three hits and striking out 10.

Keystone played Class 7A St. Cloud on April 5, with Bella Cumbo's 2-for-3 performance at the plate accounting for the team's only hits in a 6-1 loss.

Wagner drove in the lone run on a sacrifice fly in the fourth.

Keystone's final game of the tournament was a 1-0 loss to Class 3A West Nassau.

Shelby Stewart pitched a complete game, giving up an unearned run and three hits.

The Indians had seven hits, but left eight runners stranded in scoring position and failed to score with the bases loaded in the second and seventh innings.

Keystone played Oakleaf this past Tuesday and will travel to play Fleming Island on Thursday, April 10, at 6 p.m. The Indians return home to play Santa Fe on Tuesday, April 15, at 6 p.m.

UCHS

Continued from page 12

walks, while striking out two in the final two innings.

The Tigers went 1-1 in their previous two games, beginning with a 5-2 win at Class 4A Baker County on April 1.

Union trailed 1-0 before scoring two runs in the fourth. Klein singled and stole second before scoring on a Diggs double. Diggs later scored on a Carter single.

A three-run fifth included an RBI double by Lasseter and a two-run single by Klein.

Diggs and Klein each batted 2 for 3.

Starting pitcher Kacen Thomassen went five innings, allowing one run, five hits and one walk.

Brezdyn Browning pitched the final two innings, giving up one run, three hits and no walks.

On April 2, the Tigers lost 13-4 to visiting West Nassau, which was ranked 13th in Class 3A at the time.

Union trailed 6-0 before scoring a run in the fifth on a single by Lasseter.

Browning and Brugh each drove in a run as part of a three-run sixth.

Brugh finished 2 for 3, while Carter batted 2 for 2 with a double.

The Tigers played Lafayette this past Tuesday and were scheduled to host The Villages on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. Union hosts West Port on Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m.

RELAYS

Continued from page 13

the boys team also had these following results: 100m — Ford 11.71, Moses 12.59, Williams 13.08, Lewis 13.63, Andrews 14.74, James Carsey 18.16; 4x100m — 57.76; 800m — Oliver Miller 2:44, Hunter Gray 2:46, Alex Mahaffey 2:56.75, Gavin Morford 2:56.92; long jump — Williams 16-0.5, Wilson 15-8.75, Andrews 13-11.75; triple jump — Williams 32-6.5,

Though not earning points,

Andrews 30-6.25; shot put — Moses 28-2.25, Kerner 27-11.5; and javelin — Carsey 39-10.

Keystone also had the following girls results: 100m — Park 13.58, Mcarthy 13.61, Briseno 14.31, Phillips 14.91, Jamison 15.0, Madylinn Michaud 15.69, Walls 16.02; long jump — Bastin 12-4.5, Walls 11-3.5; and shot put — Hall 18-7.75.

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