

Bradford County Telegraph

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Lake Butler reconsiders alcohol rule for Wawa

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

A firm representing Wawa Inc. has approached the city of Lake Butler regarding the possibility of being allowed an administrative variance to the section of the city code concerning restrictions on the location of businesses selling alcoholic beverages within 335 ft. of a church or school.

In the past, the commission has refused to consider changing the ordinance that creates these restrictions, but this time, they are going to take the time to consider the request.

Jarrod Stubbs, from the firm Kimley-Horn, spoke to the board during the public comments segment of the Tuesday, Feb. 20, meeting, although Stubbs was given more time than the usual three minutes usually allowed for comments. Stubbs said that his firm is assisting Wawa with a proposal to develop a gas station and convenience store located on a parcel west of the existing Circle K store on the east side of the intersection of Southwest Sixth Avenue and Southwest Sixth Street. Stubbs said

that what was being requested was the possibility of revising Section 6-3 of the City of Lake Butler Code of Ordinances, which restricts the location of businesses selling alcohol. According to Stubbs, the main issue is the distance from the proposed development to Tiger's Den Daycare, which is directly across the street and churches. He noted that there were existing businesses that were within a similar distance to daycares and churches that were currently allowed to sell alcoholic beverages.

Background of ordinance

According to Commissioner Melissa Hendrix, who stated that she had discussed these businesses with City Attorney John Maines and done extensive research herself, she wanted to "ensure there is clarity in the current existing businesses." According to Hendrix, the ordinance in question was initially enacted in 1963 and was revised in 2011. The gas station/convenience store, now Circle K, was built in 1972, and, at

that time, the daycare was not owned by the school district. She said she had talked with the church pastor and been told that the establishment would not interfere with the church. Hendrix told Stubbs that the main concern with the ordinance was the daycare.

Proposal for new store

Commissioner Rondoll Huggins said he would like to review the proposed modification to the ordinance and visit the area to see what other businesses are currently located next to the church.

Hendrix confirmed with Maines that a decision was not necessary at the current meeting. However, if the board reached a consensus to modify the ordinance, Maines would need to draft an ordinance modifying the existing one.

According to the proposal presented at the meeting, the Wawa would be a 6,372 square-foot convenience store with 16 vehicle fueling stations that would "sell packaged beer and wine sales as part of its sales offerings within the store, as is typical of convenience stores in the Florida

market." The document also states that the proposed development provides the required 335 feet from the store entrance to the church's main entrance but fails to provide 335 feet in a straight line from the convenience store to the grounds of the Tiger's Den. That distance is proposed at 171 feet, making the requested variation would need to reduce the required distance by +/- 164 feet. The proposal notes that the existing convenience store on the opposite corner is separated from the school grounds by only 233 feet. It is also noted that via the existing and planned pedestrian routes, the distance between the store property and the school grounds provides a separation of 499 feet.

According to estimates provided by Wawa, the proposed store will employ 30-40 individuals from the local area and generate +/- \$5 million in taxable revenue for the city.

At this time, it is unclear whether the Lake Butler City Commission will seriously consider making the variance requested by the company, but it is sure to be discussed at the board's next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16.



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WORTH NOTING

Food distribution at fairgrounds

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, April 16, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds in Starke.

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

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith is distributing food on the first and third Thursdays each month. The April 18 drive-thru giveaway will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the church, 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, April 23, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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

Summer day camp

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County is offering a four-week summer day camp at the RJE Complex in Starke from June 3-28, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Campers will receive breakfast and lunch, math and reading labs, behavioral health classes, healthy cooking and baking classes, arts and crafts and athletics.

The cost is \$160 per child, not including the cost of a field trip, and the Concerned Citizens group is asking for sponsorships. Payments can be made in installments, but must be paid in full by May 10. To register or sponsor a child, please call Sherry Williams at 352-278-3540, Alica McMillian at 904-966-1100 or Glenda Ruise 904-769-1691.

STEM is for heroes

This summer's hero-themed STEM camp is I am STEM: Activating the Hero Within. It will run from June 17 to July 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Faith Community Center, 721 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

The camp is open to rising second-eighth graders. They will spend the summer learning to code, conducting experiments, building robots, engaging in social emotional learning and protecting the galaxy!

Registration is \$75 and the camp is \$100 per week for six weeks. Visit www.iamstemcamps.com to register. Contact 12gibt.12gip@gmail.com or 904-364-0868 for more information.

Consolidated High historical marker unveiled

Graduates of the former Consolidated High School in Lake Butler helped to unveil a historical marker commemorating the school for Black students for approximately a decade before schools were desegregated.

The ceremony was held April 6 at Lake Butler Elementary School, which used to be Consolidated High School.

Black students in Union County used to attend various one- and two-room schools throughout the county and then be bussed to schools in other cities for their high-school years.

In 1957, Consolidated High School was built for \$219,000. As its name suggests, it was a consolidated school for the county's Black students.

Ruth Mildred Jenkins, who was already teaching in Union, was the school's principal.

When the school it opened, it was grades 1-10, though 11th and 12th grades were eventually added.

The school was known for having strong math and science departments and earned state and national awards.

Consolidated also had a 41-member choir that was featured on Jacksonville's "The Ken Knight Show."

In the spring of 1968, Union's schools were integrated, with Consolidated High School becoming Lake Butler Elementary.



Preparing the unveil the Consolidated High School historical marker are (l-r) Gertie Weeks Walker (Class of 1960), Rudy Shrivvers (Class of 1959), Betty Thomas Jones (Class of 1959), Elorene Manker (Class of 1960), Mary Bryant (Class of 1960), Marcella Lett (Class of 1960) and Eddie Jackson (Class of 1960). Photos provided courtesy of Lola Lacy.

The unveiled historical marker, which gives a brief history of Consolidated High School, which was built in 1957. It became Lake Butler Elementary School as Union County schools were desegregated in 1968.

NFTC practical nursing program ranked 6th in state

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Two nursing instructors at Starke's North Florida Technical College told a Lake Region civic group that their program is ranked 6th out of more than 160 practical nursing programs in Florida.

The rankings by NursingProcess.org took academic quality, first-time pass rates for the state licensing exam, and affordability into account when ranking the schools.

Becky McCord and Lynn Dickinson told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that 100% of their LPN program graduates and nursing assistant students passed first-time licensure exams over the past two years.

McCord administers the program and is the lead instructor. She was named this year's teacher of the year at the college. Dickinson is the primary instructor for the full-time



Becky McCord (left) and Lynn Dickinson told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that 100% of their LPN program graduates and nursing assistant students passed first-time licensure exams over the past two years.

and part-time programs at the Orange Street campus and was the school's teacher of the year for 2022-2023.

Dickinson said first-time pass rates are important because the state uses them to evaluate nursing programs in Florida.

"They look at that pass rate," she said, "and we are always looking at it, making sure that we have what we need because we have to maintain our licensure for the Florida Board of Nursing to continue to educate students."

Full-time and part-time

McCord said the college offers both full-time and part-time programs. Full-time students are in class or in clinics

See NURSE, page 5



Gianas scholarships awarded at Beast Feast

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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The Starke Rotary Club held its 16th annual Beast Feast at the Bradford Sportsman's Farm on Saturday, April 6.

The event featured cuisine with wild game, door prizes, a pig auction, and the presentation of the Pete Gianas Scholarship recipients.

Brett Redding and Landen Waters each received a \$1,000 scholarship check as recipients of the award honoring the late physician and medical director of several area emergency medical services.

Master of Ceremonies Jesse Myers told the crowd that the Starke club, founded in 1937, partners with other Rotary clubs worldwide to eradicate polio.

"We support Boy Scouts Troop 70," he added. We've got Santa Fe College scholarships, and in our newest venture, we've partnered with the City of Starke, and we got pickleball courts."



(L-R) Rotary Club President Matt Dyal, Pete Gianas Scholarship winners Brett Redding and Landen Waters, and Rotary President-elect Brad Bishop.



Rotary Club President-Elect Brad Bishop with Chrissy Thompson.



Rotary Assistant Governor Scott Kornegay, John Williams, Rotary President Matt Dyal, Jesse Myers, and Rotary President-elect Brad Bishop.



(L-R) Carol and Bob Milner and Don and Esther Hardy.



Rotary Club members Kim Smith, Jesse Myers, and Brad Bishop give away door prizes.



(L-R) Maggi Wetzel, Brandi Noegel, and Elzie Sanders volunteer at the ticket booth.



Rotary members Marty Shaw and Denny Thompson.

Republicans meet April 11

The Bradford Republican Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, April 11, in the Capital City Bank community room beginning at 7 p.m. The bank is located at 350 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. If you are a Republican candidate or thinking of becoming a candidate for office, you are encouraged to attend.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month. All registered Republicans are welcome. For more information about meetings or running for office, contact Chairman Richard Solze at 904-964-5803.

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Johnson says goodbye after long career at Starke PD

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Bawdy jokes about fuzzy pink handcuffs aside, Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson's farewell was marked by emotion, including gratitude for him and some anger toward the city commission.

"All in God's time," Johnson repeated it several times as he told his story, beginning with his mother moving his family back to Starke. While in school, he took his first job working for the city in 1978, he said.

"I really believe that was God's timing, putting a godly man like that in my life," Johnson said of Jim Lewis, who was his PE teacher and many years later became the police department's victim advocate. Johnson added his mother, Harold Crews, Jerry McGriff and others as godly people who influenced his life for the better.

"They put me where I am," he said.

That part-time job was in the recreation department working for Cassandra Johnson Kiser, Cheryl Godwin Canova, Liliane Johns and Randy Crews, and after three years he went full time when he turned 18.

From there, he moved to the fire department — a short

career as a firefighter that lasted just over a year. Then he became a jack of all trades working for the city's street department. There weren't strictly defined job duties, so Johnson repaired meters or gas lines, worked at the power plant, rode the garbage truck, etc.

Johnson joked that God didn't want him to be a fireman or a garbage man, so after a short leave, he went back to the recreation department while he, his brother and Gordon Smith went to the police academy. He worked days and went to school at night, receiving the training he needed to be hired by the Starke Police Department. Besides a three-year period writing speeding tickets in Waldo, Johnson has been at Starke PD serving under numerous chiefs, including Smith. Johnson has led the agency since 2009, stretching his law enforcement career nearly 40 years.

Now, without an agency to lead, Johnson is retiring from the position.

"I'm proud of everything I've done — the good and the bad. Have I made mistakes? Absolutely, and I'll own up to every one of them, but I've done a good job with that police department," he said to a round of applause.



Retiring Police Chief Jeff Johnson receives a plaque of appreciation from Mayor Scott Roberts.

He shared appreciation for everyone who showed up, with some specific shout-outs, including Barry Warren for his loyalty.

His children and grandchildren are his world he said, but besides Jesus Christ, the most important person in his life is his wife, Carrie.

"She knows all my faults. I don't think there's many, but she will probably tell you

different. We've been married a long time, and every time she gets mad at me and starts packing clothes, I just ask her where we're going, because I'm going with her," he said.

With apologies to anyone he had forgotten, Johnson thanked those whom he's worked for and those who worked for him.

"It's God's time to move forward and retire," he said.

Several spoke to Johnson or on his behalf, including Jeff Oody, who acknowledged Carrie Johnson and the nights she spent worrying about her husband on the job.

"Carrie, that's your best friend," he said.

To the chief, Oody said, "Punkin, you have been a pillar of the community, with the kids, through sports, through friendships, through the political atmosphere you've been in. And I can't tell you enough, from me to you as a friend, how much I respect you."

Others weren't happy with the changes the city commission had made regarding law enforcement or with losing Johnson as police chief. Business owner Al Mize said he feels less safe and accused the city commission of firing Johnson by eliminating the police department and considering an ordinance to make the position ceremonial with an annual salary of \$1.

"The city of Starke has in essence fired the chief without using the word fired," he said, predicting an increase in burglary, drugs and vandalism.

Attorney Dan Sikes asked the commission to postpone consideration of the police chief ordinance until after

Johnson's retirement was effective May 1. Sikes said Johnson should be able to retire with dignity.

"This man has served the community. He has stood fast. He's held mothers after their children died. He's helped people when they've had all sorts of tragedies. He's been by so many people in this community, and there are so many people out here that love him. And there's a popularity that this guy has that I don't think everybody here really understands. This man should have the opportunity to retire with absolute dignity," Sikes said.

Albert Hunter also spoke out about the ordinance, claiming the city commission was in the wrong for trying to eliminate an official elected by voters.

Johnson did not rescind his resignation as Mize requested, however, and the commission voted to approve the ordinance — although there was enough support on the board to amend the effective date to May 1.

Commissioners said the ordinance was not about an individual — i.e., Johnson — but about the commission's decision regarding the future of law enforcement and placing it in the hands of the sheriff.

Starke sets special election to replace commissioner

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Starke has set a special election to fill the District 3 seat currently held by Commissioner Shannon Smith.

Smith recently announced he would run for the District 1 county commission seat. Because his term as city commissioner would overlap if he were elected to serve on the county commission, he must resign from office.

His resignation is effective Oct. 1.

Starke has arranged to hold a special election to replace Smith on Aug. 20, which coincides with this year's primary election.

District 3 covers the northwest portion of the city as well as much of downtown west of U.S. 301.

Starke commissioners earn \$1,481 a month, or \$17,772 a year. The qualifying fee of 5% of the annual salary plus a 1% election assessment comes to \$1,066, which must be paid during qualifying week. Qualifying week is

from noon on Monday, June 10, to noon on Friday, June 14.

Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang will oversee the election.

Commissioner Danny Nugent wanted the commission to fill the position of city clerk during the same special election. The position is open following the resignation of Jimmy Crosby. Like Smith, Crosby's term would have ended following the city's next scheduled election in fall 2025. City Manager Drew Mullins has been appointed interim city clerk by the commission to carry out the duties of those offices.

Commissioners still have more to talk about regarding both the clerk and police chief positions. Both are elected offices per the city charter. The commission could place charter referenda on the primary ballot, however, asking voters if they would like to amend the charter and remove these elected positions.

If that is the case, electing a new clerk might be premature.

In 2017, the commission asked voters about changing the clerk from an elected to an appointed position. With a 16% voter turnout, the referendum lost by just six votes.

Starke is something of an anomaly as many municipal clerks are appointed by a mayor or city council. The same is often true of police chiefs as well.

Despite what some have claimed, Starke voters have not in recent times been asked about whether the police chief should remain an elected position. While it was discussed, the question never made it to a ballot.

The difference now is there is no longer an agency for a police chief to lead. The commission has turned law enforcement over to the sheriff's office and approved an ordinance naming the police chief a ceremonial position paid an annual salary of \$1.

School superintendent latest race on the ballot

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Among the latest updates to Bradford's 2024 election news, Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley is facing a challenge for his job.

Tracey S. Kendrick has filed to run to be the district's next superintendent of schools. Kendrick, a Bradford High graduate, has been in the business teaching and leading schools for more than 28 years, according to her statement. Currently, she is principal of Brookview Elementary School in Duval County.

Hartley, coming to the end of his first term, has announced he is running again. Both candidates are running as Republicans.

Starke Commissioner Shannon Smith made it official by filing his paperwork to run for county commission in District 1 against Carolyn Spooner. Smith is a Republican and Spooner a Democrat. Spooner, a former

city commissioner, is currently chairing the county commission.

The third and final race is for the District 4 school board seat currently held by Candace Osteen. Osteen is running for reelection and now has two challengers — Dana Reddish Bell and Mitchell Gunter. School board races are nonpartisan.

Julie Johnson has also filed to run for school board in District 3 where she would replace Cheryl Canova, who is retiring from office. So far, she is unopposed, as are county commission incumbents Chris Dougherty in county District 3 and Diane Andrews in District 5.

All the county's constitutional officers are seeking reelection and are also unopposed: Sheriff Gordon Smith, Clerk of Court Denny Thompson, Property Appraiser Kenny Clark, Tax Collector Teresa Phillips and Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang.

Qualifying week is June 10-

14. Candidates may submit announcements of their intention to run for office to the Telegraph along with a photograph through Monday, June 17, by emailing editor@bctelegraph.com. There is a \$50 charge, and no exceptions will be made to the deadline. Payment must be made prior to publication.

Scholarship available for medical study

The Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship is available for the 2024-25 school year. Students must apply by May 30, 2024, to be considered for the upcoming fall and spring semesters.

This scholarship is for students entering any field of study related to medicine, such as nursing, medical research, cancer

research, etc. The scholarship is provided in memory of the late Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone, a registered nurse who died from breast cancer.

Applications are available at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center, Bradford High School guidance office, North Florida Technical College and Starke City Hall. For further information, you may contact Carolyn Brown Spooner at 904-964-5807.

Community yard sale

On Saturday, April 13, there will be a community yard sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will take place in the parking lot of the former Jay's Mini Mart, 15043 U.S. Hwy 301 South in Starke. This yard sale is sponsored by the Bradford County Democrats. If you would like to join in to sell your own extra items or crafts, call or text 904-612-3942. Spaces are \$20, and you need to bring your own table.

Bradford High Class of 1964
Get-together at Cedar River Restaurant on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 5PM. It's been ten years since our 50 year reunion and we're looking forward to seeing our classmates again. If any questions contact Jerome Kelley at 352.538.0741 or Eugenia Whitehead at 352.745.1828

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Lake Region

New sports park dedicated

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Clay County officials dedicated the county's new regional sports park near the intersection of State Roads 16 and 21 last week, less than two miles from Camp Blanding.

County Commissioner Betsy Condon said that the new 250-acre facility, in addition to the recently opened 250-acre adventure park on County Road 215, makes her district, which covers western Clay County, the center of recreation and land conservation in the county.

"Combined with Jennings State Forest, Belmore State Forest, and Camp Blanding, we have now (over) 10,000 acres in District 4 (on which there) will never be houses," she said. "It will never be developed beyond recreational opportunities for our county and for military and law enforcement."

The Crystal Lake resident said land preservation is important to her constituents.

"We think we live in the most beautiful end of the county," she said. "We're the least populated part of the county, but we're the most beautiful part of the county."

Team sports and public places

County Manager Howard Wanamaker said Phase 1 of the park was funded with a \$3 million matching grant from the state's Department of Economic Opportunity and \$2 million in legislative appropriations.

"The complex consists of eight multipurpose fields, restroom facilities, and covered shaded areas throughout a large parking area," he said. "As you can see, a beautiful three-quarter-mile walking trail goes through this area and along the ponds and sidewalks to access the fields. Five of the eight fields are lighted, making this complex ideal for hosting tournaments into the evening hours."

Wanamaker thanked 1621 Ventures, which he said partnered with the county to



District 4 County Commissioner Betsy Condon said that with the new regional sports park on State Road 21, the outdoor adventure park on County Road 215, Jennings State Forest, Belmore State Forest, and Camp Blanding, her district now has over 10,000 acres dedicated to recreation, law enforcement, and military uses.

acquire the land, and Carlton Construction for its innovative design leadership and on-budget and on-time project completion.

Bryan Campbell, Congressman Aaron Bean's district director, said Bean asked him to state Bean's belief in the value of team youth sports and the importance of public spaces.

"In his 30-plus years of public service," Campbell said of the congressman, "he says that you can tell the measure of a community by how they commit to their parks and their public spaces. You heard Commissioner Condon mention the 10,000 acres all in this area, not just including this park, but all of the other projects that have been committed, and that shows the commitment of Clay County to its parks and spaces and the quality of what we're providing to our people."

Relay race crosses the finish line

State Rep. Sam Garrison

called the park's completion a relay race, with prior county commissioners completing the first leg and current officeholders getting the project across the finish line. He added that his predecessor, Travis Cummings, first envisioned the regional sports park.

"Travis lost his dad a few years ago," Garrison said. "His dad was a little league coach, (and Travis) had a strong desire for kids to have the opportunity to play in Clay County...He asked, 'Why can't we have something really awesome for our citizens that they have in other parts of the state and other parts of the nation?'"

The representative added that former county commissioners Diane Hutchings, Wayne Bolla, and Gayward Hendry committed county money to the project to secure state funding.

Garrison also credited Gov. Ron DeSantis for not line-item-vetoing the project after the 2020 legislative session.

"You might recall that budget



(L-R) Congressman Aaron Bean's District Director Bryan Campbell, County Commission Chair Jim Renninger, State Rep. Sam Garrison, and County Commissioner and Tourism Development Chair Mike Cella.

was passed, I think, at the end of February 2020, and we had a little thing coming called COVID at the time," recalled Garrison.

"At the time, we didn't know what we were dealing with, so the state budget was slashed to the bone because we didn't know what we were going to be living in. But the governor, probably, honestly, because he loves the Clay County Fair so much, which is true, and because he trusted Travis and Rob (Bradley), kept that money in the budget. So, we owe a big thank you to Ron DeSantis."

Garrison also said County Attorney Courtney Grimm and former County Manager Stephanie Kopelousos kept the project alive at critical points.

Flag football, Lacrosse, and Spike Ball

County Commissioner and Tourism Development Chair Mike Cella said sports tourism is an integral part of the county's tourism strategy and that tourism brings \$300 per household into the county each year.

"It's nice," he said of visitors. "Folks come, they visit, they leave their money, then they go home."

Cella said the first event the



County Manager Howard Wanamaker said Phase 1 of the park was funded with a \$3 million matching grant from the state's Department of Economic Opportunity and \$2 million in legislative appropriations.

park will host is a three-day, Jacksonville Jaguars-hosted flag football tournament with an estimated 3,000 attendees.

"In June, we've got a lacrosse tournament," Cella added. "Also, the Florida round net spike ball tournament is coming in. If you haven't seen spike ball, you've got to avail yourselves of some

spike ball on YouTube or come out and see it live. The United Flag Football League will be here in October for another regional tournament, and some 45 collegiate teams will be competing in a national intermural flag football championship here in December."

Clay County appoints new emergency manager

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Clay County officials said its Division of Emergency Management has new leadership.

The county said in a news release that Tim Devin is the new Emergency Management Director.

The county said Mike Ladd, the previous Emergency Management Director and former Deputy Emergency Management Director, resigned from the position to spend time with his young family.

"I cannot express my thanks

adequately for the support and sense of team during my tenure," Ladd said. "TEAM CLAY and CLAY EM are comprised of exceptional people who routinely make outcomes better. It was my honor to work with them all."

The county said Devin, who came on board in November, has been working in the Division as the Chief of Plans. He started his career volunteering with Clay County Fire Rescue in 1985.

"After my time in Clay, I started with Jacksonville Fire Rescue, and that's when I really fell in love with Emergency

Management," Devin said. "One of my first deployments was for Hurricane Andrew in 1992. That was the start of my experience working large-scale disasters."

The new appointee was also the captain of the EMS training for Jacksonville Fire Rescue.

County Manager Howard Wanamaker, Fire Chief Lorin Mock, and Acting Fire Chief David Motes thanked Ladd for his dedication to the division and the county during emergencies and storms.

Council member says Keystone not ready for full lakes

"We could literally have people dying in Lake Geneva"

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Keystone Heights City Council member warned his colleagues that the city is unprepared for the consequences of rising water levels on area lakes, adding that without action, Lake Region residents risk property damage, injury, and even death.

Dan Lewandowski listed several potential problems resulting from the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project. The 17-mile pipeline is designed to replenish the Floridan Aquifer and raise lake levels on Lakes Geneva and Brooklyn.

The first problem, Lewandowski said, was that at this point, the St. Johns River Water Management District's permit allows water from the Black Creek project to flow into Lake Brooklyn only.

"And so, until they get that permit changed," the council member said, "water will be turned off as soon as Lake Brooklyn gets to 114 feet."

Lewandowski added that he believes the district will get the permit amended, which will allow water to exit Lake Brooklyn and into Lakes Keystone and Geneva.

"But that has got to be done," he said. "Otherwise, the rest of the lakes won't see a drop of water."

The council member said a second problem is cleaning Alligator Creek to improve water flow from the Black Creek project's terminus on Camp

Blanding into Lake Brooklyn.

He warned that without free-flowing water in Alligator Creek, upstream property owners might experience flooding as the Black Creek project pumps up to 10 million gallons of water into the creek daily.

Lewandowski then brought up the Geneva Project, a Save Our Lakes initiative to remove trees and underlying brush from Lake Geneva's dry lakebed before water rises to cover up the vegetation.

The council member said execution of the Geneva Project is essential for the safety of people using the lake for recreation.

"If we start boating on Lake Geneva," he said, "the trees will eventually die and topple over, and there'll be stumps there. And we could literally have people dying in Lake Geneva because they're out there water skiing, and they accidentally land on a tree stump."

The council member added that the city should aggressively support SOLO's Geneva Project.

Lastly, Lewandowski said the city should anticipate and prepare for a dramatic increase in public boat ramp use and out-of-town visitors to the Lake Region.

"I used to go fishing on Lake Santa Fe, and there was always a problem with parking," he said. "There were boat trailers and vehicles pulling the boat trailers, and everybody was jockeying for position and where they were going to park."

"If Lake Geneva and Lake Brooklyn come back," he continued, "and we think they're going to come back, we're going to have everybody from Jacksonville to Gainesville coming out here with their boats, and it's going to be a good thing

and a bad thing at the same time, and we need to be ready for it."

Council Member Steve Hart said he had already noted increased activity at the King Street Boat Ramp.

Lewandowski said that Save Our Lakes is the only organization looking at the big picture and the consequences of rising water levels. He added that the magnitude of the changes that rising water levels will bring warrants attention from the city, county, and state.

In other news from the April 1 meeting of the Keystone Heights City Council,

Road closures

The council approved two road closures associated with the July 4 holiday. One was for the Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund 5K Run. The second was for the Our Country Day Parade later that same day.

Water conservation

Doug Conkey of the St. Johns River Water Management District told the council that April is Water Conservation Month throughout Florida. Mayor Nina Rodenroth read a proclamation declaring April as Water Conservation Month in the city.

"Whereas outdoor irrigation comprises a large portion of water use," she said, reading from the proclamation, "the City of Keystone Heights will encourage citizens and businesses to focus on improving outdoor irrigation efficiency."

Conkey said this is the 26th year of Water Conservation Month and added that the typical

See LAKES, page 6

Terry McCarthy



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Lawtey asked to revitalize long dormant park

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

Members of the community voiced their support for revitalizing the recreation building and park on Old Middleburg Road at the Lawtey City Council Meeting April 1.

The building has been left in disrepair for years, and citizens want it to be repaired or replaced. The rebuilding of this public space, they say, is just one step towards a brighter future for Lawtey.

County Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner addressed the council about expanding the Middleburg building, comparing it to the restoration of the RJE Complex in Starke. She said it could be a community project if the community was motivated to help. Grants could be used to fund each stage.

“Lawtey is a viable community and deserves improvement,” Spooner said.

Terricena Kittles said she and others had been trying to get the building repaired for more than 10 years, even setting up a nonprofit to fund the repairs. She said the city would not relinquish the building to the group and wanted to know why there was a hold up.

Kittles and other citizens shared how that building and community center had been a place they utilized as children and teens. They want the city to

have the property open again for today’s children to have a place to have activities and feel safe.

Isaac Williams, a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, shared his experience working with the private and public sector to build new buildings. He suggested the city start by attacking the problem and not each other.

Williams suggested the city work with Camp Blanding to make an improvement plan. He also urged the council to plan for the future, examine the city’s needs and consider long-term costs and impacts.

The council will have an inspector evaluate the structural integrity of the existing building once they get clear specifications from the county. Councilwoman Emily Hoffman offered to cover an estimated \$1,500 charge.

In response to the large showing of concern for the needs of the city and plans for future development, Mayor Jimmie Scott asked for a show of hands of those interested in serving on an economic development council. Several hands went up.

Fire department MOU

Bradford Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter appeared to discuss a proposed memorandum of understanding between the city and county for fire rescue services and the transfer of city-

owned facilities.

City attorney Dan Sikes addressed the topic by explaining the long cost-sharing understanding with the county. Chief Carter stated that the county is already paying for vehicle repairs because the city is typically not able to pay the large bills. The new MOU calls for the county to take ownership of the vehicles, including the cost of maintenance.

Most council members wanted a workshop to discuss the details of the new MOU with the chief before approval, so a workshop was scheduled for April 16.

Councilwoman felt ‘threatened’

Hoffman was unable to attend the last meeting and wanted to take the time to present the council with information about an incident earlier this year that resulted in each member being called to a meeting with the warden at Lawtey Correctional Institution.

Hoffman handed each member a copy of the following: a picture she took of falling trash from a trailer and a transcript of a portion of the February meeting she was accused of interrupting that resulted in a fiery exchange.

Hoffman said she felt a comment made in that meeting by Police Chief Jerry Feltner was a veiled threat to arrest her. She also made a public



Flashback to a community park cleanup from 2011. Charles Strong, Terricena Kittles, Tory Kittles and Scorpio Mosley supported Bring Back the Rec Day. Special T-shirts were printed to mark the occasion.

records request for the report that was sent over to the warden that resulted in “safety and procedural” meeting.

Lawtey Police Maj. Nathan Blom responded to Hoffman saying she felt threatened.

“Chief Feltner never threatened to charge you with anything at the meeting two months ago. ... He simply stated that anybody

that records, harasses, molests or takes photos of inmate work squads can be charged. He never threatened you.”

In other business:

—new members were appointed to the recreation board, including Williams, who spoke about the Middleburg building.

—the council voted to sell a

2014 Dodge for a minimum bid of \$2,000.

—Sikes advised the council to hire a magistrate to hear appeals of citations issued by the city’s traffic camera.

NURSE

Continued from page 1

Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning in August and ending in June.

“You can be at LPN in 10 months and come out making close to \$30 an hour,” she said. “That is what they’re getting paid these days. There’s a high demand for LPNs.”

McCord said part-time students meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 18 months.

“Usually, they do clinics on Tuesdays and come to class on Thursdays,” McCord added. This is more for working people who have a full-time job.”

The program administrator said the two programs’ combined enrollment of 24 students is higher than larger schools in the area.

Enrollment down across the state

“Enrollment is down in general across Florida,” she said. “It’s like there’s not a lot of interest in becoming a nurse these days.”

Dickinson traced the enrollment drop to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

“With all the media and all the stress and the bombardment that nurses had,” she said, “I think a lot of nurses left the field, and then that stigma is maybe tied to that. So, a lot of people don’t want to go into nursing for that reason. But we still have a very high enrollment compared to many of our area colleges, and they’re even bigger than we are. And nobody has our 100% pass rate, so we’re very grateful for the work we put into that.”

Dickinson added that her and McCord’s focus on developing

relationships with students is a significant factor in their success.

“Because we are a smaller college,” she said, “even though we have a higher enrollment compared to other schools, we have that one-on-one relationship with our students, and I think that gives the students the buy-in to our program and our curriculum and they will work really hard for us.”

She added that McCord often tutors students in the math necessary to calculate drug dosages, while Dickinson customizes materials to fit a pupil’s learning style.

“Maybe Jeopardy-type games and things like that that they can play that prep them with questions for the test,” she said. “A lot of them will be at a local clinic or health facility doing their clinical work, and they’ll ask if they can come on their lunch break. So, they’ll come

over on their lunch break and sit with me for an hour.”

Holistic approach to care and teaching

Dickinson said that just like her students learn to care for patients holistically, she and McCord look out for their students’ emotional, social, mental health, and physical needs.

“We approach teaching and our students in that holistic way because if a student didn’t sleep the night before or was up all night because their dog was bit by a rattlesnake and was having seizures, and this is a true story, we have to understand that we can’t expect that student to perform well the next day if they’re sleepy.”

The pair said that at the beginning of the current school year, one of their student’s house burned down. McCord

and Dickinson responded by organizing a chicken-and-rice fundraiser for the student that raised around \$1,000.

Dickinson also said most graduates find jobs in the local area, either at the Northeast Florida State Hospital in Macclenny, nursing homes in Starke, the Florida Department of Health in Lake Butler and Starke, the Department of Corrections, or with providers or hospitals based in Gainesville.

Cancer Walk for awareness

The Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Foundation will sponsor a Breast Cancer Awareness and Education Walk on Saturday, April 27, at 9:30 a.m.

Organized by Carolyn Brown Spooner, director and cancer survivor. The walk will begin at the Mt. Pisgah AME Church parking lot, 102 SE 44th Ave., also known as Steel Mill Road. Participants will walk to the steel plant and back to Mt. Pisgah.

For further information, please

contact Spooner at 904-364-6271. Health Fair.

Celebrate May Day

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County and the RJE Alumni Association will host a groundbreaking ceremony for a new playground during a May Day Celebration on May 4. Beginning at 1 p.m. at the RJE ballfield, there will be plaiting of the maypole, music, kids activities with a bounce house, senior activities with bingo, food trucks and other vendors. There will also be a softball tournament and a free Community Resources

Revival at CrossRoads

CrossRoads To Victory Church will be having a revival Sunday, April 21, through Tuesday, April 23, with Brother Jamie W. Williams as guest speaker. Sunday night services will start at 6 p.m., and Monday and Tuesday night services will start at 7 p.m. The church is located off C.R. 125 in Union County on NE 271st Ave. Everyone is invited.



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2. Can you tell me what benefits from the Florida Air National Guard have helped you the most?
I would say that the education benefits have been the most helpful. Prior to enlisting I was having trouble finding somewhere I could study and get Certifications without spending vast amount of money. Since enlisting I’ve been able to take several classes and I am preparing to take multiple certifications and commence my first year on college.

3. Can you talk about some of the new skills you have learned in the Florida Air National Guard that have helped you in the civilian work force?
Thanks to the experiences that the Florida Air National Guard has granted me I’ve been able to learn a variety of new and useful skills. I was able to learn the networking and cyber security. These are skills I use daily especially in my pursuit of a carrier in the IT field. Another very important skill that we learn no matter what job you have is communication. This has been by far the most advantageous skill I’ve learned. Its helped me through all aspects of the work force.

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UNION COUNTY

Commissioner cleared of wrongdoing

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The Florida Ethics Commission has found that two accusations against Union County Commissioner Mac Johns lack legal sufficiency.

According to the Ethics Commission's description, "allegations do not form a sufficient basis for opening an investigation."

The allegations originated through two complaints submitted to the ethics commission, one concerning John's involvement with the Union County Recreation Board and the other his business dealings with the Suwannee River Economic Council Transportation Disadvantaged Program after becoming a county commissioner and acting as the board liaison to the agency.

The allegations concerning the recreation department were found legally insufficient based on the appearance that some of the occurrences listed in the complaint were alleged to have

occurred more than five years before the date of the complaint – beyond the statute of limitations for such alleged offenses. There were also many points in the complaint that did not meet the legal definition of corruption according to Florida Statutes.

In the second complaint, the commission decided that the professional relationship between Johns' business and the SREC did not violate any statutes since the business relationship did not begin until after he became a commissioner. Johns' business provides automotive repairs and maintenance for the agency's work vehicles. Since there was no ethical concern about the business relationship, Johns is free to continue the professional relationship he had in the past with the council.

In an interview after the complaints were dismissed, Johns said he was under no obligation to publicly inform his fellow commissioners that complaints were filed against him, but he felt it was the right

thing to do, so he did so at the board's February meeting.

In a recent interview, he said he knew that he had not done anything wrong and was not worried about it. He also said he felt that the complaints were a form of retaliation for some of the recent opinions and decisions he had made as a commissioner.

"I feel like I was standing up for what is right, and I think the complaints came from people who objected," Johns said. "I have always tried to stand up for Union County citizens and to do what is right for the county. There are still things going on that I do not think are as they should be, but I am ready to move on and try to get back to normal. I will continue to work to create better communication between the board and the clerk's office – that is a priority, and it needs to be addressed. I will always, before anything else, work to do what is best for the county and its residents."



O'Reilly Automotive Stores Inc. purchased a 0.929-acre lot with an 8,736-square-foot building at 817 East Main Street in Lake Butler.

O'Reilly buys former Dollar General

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

In March, O'Reilly Automotive Stores Inc. purchased a 0.929-acre lot with an 8,736-square-foot building at 817 East Main Street in Lake Butler.

The Missouri-based auto parts store, which has over 6,000 locations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, paid \$900,000 for the former Dollar General building across Main Street from Lake Butler Hospital.

According to Union County

Property Appraiser and Clerk records, the seller, Terravest Group L.L.C., with owners Paula G. Webb and Pamela B. Howard acquired the property in 2013 from T.E. Properties for \$317,000.

Union County allows Sunday alcohol sales

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County Commissioners passed an ordinance allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages outside the county's municipalities on Sunday afternoons.

Chair Channing Dobbs said the change only affects one establishment, Springtown Saloon, north of Worthington Springs on State Road 121.

Dobbs added that he opposed the change.

"I believe we've got one day to keep sacred," Dobbs said, "and we make it Sunday, but that's just my take on it."

Commissioner Mac Johns called Dobbs' comments strange and hypocritical.

He pointed out that Worthington Springs's SunStop store, formally branded S and S, can sell beer on Sundays because it is within the municipality. Springtown Saloon and SunStop are about one-half mile apart.

Jimmy Tallman said he previously agreed with Dobbs but has come around to Johns' point of view.

"In Worthington Springs, they sell beer all day long," he said. "In Lake Butler, they sell beer as well, and this one gentleman is kind of pinpointed."

The new ordinance allows alcohol sales from 7 a.m. Saturday to 1 a.m. Sunday and then from noon Sunday until midnight. The new ordinance continues the prior ban on sales between midnight and 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday.



Business partner appreciation

At the March School Board Meeting, the Union County School District was honored to recognize the Lake Butler Farm Center as a valued business partner and supporter of the district. Greg Williams was present to accept a plaque of appreciation and the gratitude expressed by the school district. For many years, the Lake Butler Farm Center has strongly supported the district's athletic teams, band and the FFA. The Union County School District appreciates the support and generosity shown by the Lake Butler Farm Center towards the students of Union County and for its dedication to our students and their continued success. Pictured (l-r) Superintendent Mike Ripplinger and Greg Williams.

Whispering Woods lots going fast

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A northwest Union County subdivision that started selling 10-acre parcels in mid-March has sold 11 of its 16 lots.

The Ranches of Whispering Woods is located east of Northwest County Road 239 and west of Northwest 89th Avenue

near Swift Creek, about three miles southeast of Lulu.

Whispering Woods, LLC purchased the 177.3-acre tract from the Weyerhaeuser Company in January and subdivided the parcel into 16 lots the following month.

Eleven of the lots sold between March 14 and April 4.

Last October, Atlantic Land and Lakes, Whispering Woods's developer, recorded a similar subdivision in northeastern Union County, north of County Road 125 and east of State Road 121. Pineview Ranch consists of 192-plus acres in lots of around 10 acres each.

Worthington Springs may use grant for community center parking

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Worthington Springs Town Council may use a \$600,000 Small Town Community Block Development Grant to expand parking at the town's community center.

Town Clerk Pat Harrell said that several years ago, the town was awarded the money and had earmarked the funding to pave streets in the Worthington Springs Trailer Park.

However, when questions arose about the ownership of the streets and easement proceedings

were delayed, town leaders decided to redirect the funding to a less controversial project.

Harrell said the town's community center is rented virtually every Saturday and often on both days of the weekend for weddings, baby showers, and receptions.

"Sometimes they'll get married out in the gazebo and then have the reception in the community center," she said.

The clerk added that the town purchased the lot behind the facility several years ago and may use the grant to add 15

spaces to the community center's parking area.

Harrell also said that when Kinetic by Windstream completes its 5G project in the Worthington Springs area, the town plans to upgrade its cameras at Chastain-Seay Park.

The clerk said trespassing and vandalism continue to plague the facility, and town council members hope the upgraded cameras with internet connectivity will deter further damage to the park or help law enforcement catch the criminals.

LAKES

Continued from page 6

Florida household consumes over 50% of its water for outside uses, mostly irrigation.

"There's no one best choice," Conkey said of preserving and increasing the water supply, "but of all the options that we are facing, conservation is the cheapest."

Guitars for Kids

Paul Wayne of the group Duval County Line said his group will be playing in Keystone Heights during Our Country Day. The musician added that he will bring performers from his Guitars for Kids program, which donates musical instruments to children.

"At this point, there are somewhere between 250 and 300 of them," he said of his program's recipients, "and what it does is it basically improves their home life and their focus. It gets the phones and the game controllers out of their hands for a while and lets them be creative and do something with their own minds rather than following someone else's lead."

Airport feasibility study

Airport Engineer Bill Prang presented to the council what he called the final draft report on a feasibility study to bring water and sewer to the airport.

He said the report is 95% complete and contains plans to bring Clay County Utility Authority water and sewer lines to the airport.

The engineer said that the anticipated demand for potable water and sewer is low and that even if CCUA service was provided to the airport, the facility would still need to

maintain its own independent firewater service. Prang said the demand for firefighting water to the airport far outstrips what CCUA could provide.

The engineer added that the cost to bring water and sewer service to the airport would be between \$22 million and \$23 million.

When asked how the city might obtain funding for the project, Prang responded that CCUA might be willing to fund part of the project and that Florida's Department of Environmental Protection has a program for small community wastewater facilities.

The engineer added that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has money to replace septic systems and that the state's water management districts have cost-sharing programs.

"We were not tasked with developing a costing or a financial capital plan for the project," Prang said, "but I've been in a number of meetings. This question comes up all the time."

Prang added that the first step in obtaining grants or any type of funding is to show a need, and the feasibility study shows this need.

Lewandowski said one funding problem could occur because the airport lies in two counties and two water management districts.

Appointments

The council appointed Terri Hall to Seat 1 on the airport board, reappointed Robert Ludwig to Seat 3 on the airport board, and reappointed Kerry Collins to the Heritage Commission.

Fishing Pier

Council members approved a \$25,000 contribution to Save Our Lakes to construct a fishing pier at Keystone Beach Park.

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Joshua Mitchell Bramlett, 31, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 4 for an out-of-county warrant.

Damien Daquen Butler, 47, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for withholding support.

James Samuel Cobbin, 33, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Travis Marlon DeSue, 40, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 31 for larceny, battery, kidnapping – false imprisonment, obstructing justice, robbery, and fraud – swindle.

Steven Randall Dodson, 39, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 4 for a probation violation.

Cody Alex Drew, 18, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 30 for battery and criminal mischief with property damage.

Christopher Trent James Gilstrap, 23, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 5 for failure to appear.

Clayton Maurice Glosson, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 4 for out-of-county warrants.

Marcel Vashawn Henderson, 50, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 1 for loitering.

Holly Ann Johnson, 42, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for a probation violation.

Christopher Travis Jones, 36, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 8 for battery and obstructing justice.

Kirstyn Jade Key, 24, of

Raiford, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 8 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, possession of cocaine, and an out-of-county warrant.

Amber Elizabeth Lambert, 42, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 7 for vehicle theft and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Christopher Edward Lariscy, 46, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 3 for an out-of-county warrant.

Ra'ann Ma'chele Love, 29, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 3 for possession of drugs, DUI, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Sholeke Lomeke Merriweather, 35, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for disorderly conduct, resisting an officer, and making a false report.

Roy L. Morand, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 8 for sexual assault.

Corey McKenzie Osborne, 37, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 31 for an out-of-county warrant.

Anthony Jernard Richardson, 41, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 1 for an out-of-county warrant.

Noah Stanley Scoville, 22, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for being an out-of-state fugitive.

Lisa Marie Smith, 35, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 1 for an out-of-county warrant, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, resisting an officer, and disorderly intoxication.

Thomas Cole Smith, 26, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 1 for a probation violation.

Trashawn Levon Thornton, 22, of Orange Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 2 for failure to appear and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Michael E. Wheaton, 59, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 1 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Jennifer Lynn Bedford, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 5 for burglary.

Union

Thomas Cole Smith, 26, of Raiford, was arrested by Union deputies on April 1 for an out-of-

town warrant.

Ashton Blake Southerly, 16, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 5 for lewd and lascivious behavior.

Morgan Shea Griffis, 30, of Callahan, was arrested by Union deputies on April 5 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Lawrence Leon Kessen Jr., 28, of Ocala, was arrested by Union deputies on April 5 for fraud-impersonation, an out-of-county warrant, and resisting an officer.

James Cleveland Perry, 60, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 5 for disorderly intoxication.

David Daniel Hines, Jr., 18, of Raiford, was arrested by Union deputies on April 6 for criminal mischief with property damage and battery.

James Stacy Higginbotham, 53, of Hampton, was arrested by Union deputies on April 6 for an out-of-county warrant.

Paul Michael Martin, 45, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 7 for possession of drugs and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Christopher S Varner, 33, was arrested by Union deputies on April 8 for resisting an officer.

Christopher S Varner, 33, was arrested by Union deputies on April 8 for resisting an officer.

Clay

Raymond Scott-Ashton Drawdy, 21, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 31 for assault on a law enforcement officer, possession of drug equipment, and resisting an officer without violence.

Jennifer Renee Riess, 34, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 31 for burglary and vandalism.

Marissa Lee Eaton, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on April 1 for knowingly giving false information to a law enforcement officer.

Lucy Viola Eacobacci, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 2 for violating an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

Jennifer Lynn Bedford, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 5 for burglary.

Lake Butler man gets 10 years after pleading to sexual battery

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 26-year-old Lake Butler man was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading to sexual battery on a victim 18 or older with special circumstances.

Randall Fitzhugh Howard was arrested in February 2023 for four counts of the felony. Prosecutors dropped three counts after the defendant pleaded to one count.

Judge Mitchell Bishop also designated the defendant as a sexual predator.

According to a sworn complaint, the victim told a senior case coordinator at the University of Florida's Child Protection Team that Howard first molested her and then raped her four times over four days.

"Each time (the victim) would tell Howard to stop, but he would tell her that it was all right and continued having sex with her," wrote Union Sheriff Sergeant Charles Townsend in the complaint. "(The victim) was afraid to push Howard away because she believed he has a violent temper."

Townsend added that the victim is mentally defective as

defined by Florida Statutes.

"(The victim's) level of cognitive functioning compromises her decision-making ability, including her ability to consent to sexual activities," the sergeant wrote. "Howard knew or should have known (the victim) suffered from some type of mental illness but continued to encourage or entice (the victim) to participate in this inappropriate activity."

In a letter to Bishop, the defendant's mother told the judge that her son has an expressive and receptive language disorder.

"He misinterprets what people say," the mother wrote. "He doesn't understand or comprehend on an adult level. He is very gullible and trusts people out of the need to be liked and have friends."

She added that according to her son, the sex with the victim was consensual, and he pleaded guilty because of a recommendation from his public defender.

"My son is not violent and has never hurt anyone except himself because he gets frustrated about his disabilities," she wrote.

Prison for Raiford burglary

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 38-year-old Jacksonville man was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison after admitting to stealing \$55,000 worth of equipment from the New River Solid Waste Association near Raiford.

Shawn Michael Harrison pleaded to grand theft and conspiracy to commit grand theft.

According to a warrant affidavit, Harrison and his co-defendant, who is currently awaiting trial for the same offenses, broke into the facility between midnight and 2 a.m. on May 5, 2023.

Surveillance video captured the pair stealing a Dodge truck, lawnmowers, a Polaris four-wheeler, lawn equipment, a utility trailer, and DeWalt power tools from the facility.

Union County Sheriff's Sergeant Charles Townsend reported that the defendants caused over \$3,500 in damage

to the facility's automatic gate when forcing their way onto the property.

According to Townsend, the surveillance video identified enough features of the defendant's white Ford pickup for a license plate reader located at State Road 121 and Interstate 10 to link the vehicle to a license plate that passed by the reader 36 minutes before the break-in.

The sergeant added that a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office detective told him the same stolen truck was used in another crime in Duval County. Townsend wrote that when he inspected the vehicle impounded by JSO, he found stolen items from New River Solid Waste in the Ford.

Townsend also reported that a search warrant served on Google revealed that both Harrison and his co-defendant were at the Raiford solid waste facility at the time of the burglary.

Townsend wrote that when he returned the stolen items to New River Solid Waste, he

showed employees of the facility photographs of the suspects, and one employee who supervises inmate work crews at the facility immediately identified Harrison's co-defendant as a former inmate who has worked at the solid waste facility within the past year.

"This information is important," wrote Townsend, "because it is reasonable to believe the two suspects who entered the property at NRSW had knowledge of the locations where items were stolen from, and they appeared to have knowledge where the surveillance cameras were located around the shop."

Townsend added that in one clip, the co-defendant is seen pointing to an area where a camera is located, and Harrison reacts by covering his face. However, the video shows a tattoo under Harrison's right eye that is also identifiable in his driver's license photo. Other clips show tattoos on his legs, which were noted in the defendant's previous arrests.

Starke making room for developments

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke approved first reading of an ordinance amending its land development code to allow smaller planned unit developments within the city limits.

If approved on final reading, the minimum PUD size would drop from 10 acres to 5 acres, making a mixed-use development more likely within a city Starke's size.

Sandra Joseph, a planner with the North Florida Regional Planning Council, talked to the commission about PUDs in February.

Joseph said there has been recent and past interest in doing a "tiny unit development" in the city. They fell short of the minimum 10-acre requirement, and so Starke has never approved one.

A planned unit development is a separate zoning district with its own development plan determining the restrictions and regulations of the proposed development. According to Joseph, PUDs encourage creativity and innovation in planning, such as flexibility in building design and placement. They blend a variety of land uses,

property densities and dwelling types, resulting in "a more desirable environment" than would be possible through the strict application of the existing land development regulations.

A proposed development plan for a PUD includes details like subdivision plats and covenants, required easements, building sizes and locations, development density, plans for open spaces and use of public facilities. The application would contain, among other things, a vicinity map, topographic survey and site analysis containing flood prone areas, soil and vegetation types, and stormwater drainage patterns.

The preliminary plan would also include details about land uses, lot sizes, building setbacks and maximum heights, function of open spaces, arterial and collector streets, screening and buffering, signage requirements, and setbacks from environmentally sensitive areas like wetlands or water bodies.

Proposed uses within the development must be compatible with the existing and planned land uses around the development. A landscape buffer is required around the perimeter of the PUD.

Once staff has determined the application is complete, the

application follows the same process as any other zoning application.

A second and final reading of the ordinance is required for the amendment to be approved.

UCHS Class of '74 reunion

Union County's Class of 1974 will celebrate 50 years on Saturday, June 22, 2024. Save the date. The reunion will take place at 5 p.m. at Lake Butler Community Center. Additional details are forthcoming.

Medicare classes offered online

SHINE offers virtual classes on Medicare basics, prescription drug coverage, Medicare Part C, long-term care planning and more. Visit www.floridashine.org to view the schedule, register and explore information on the latest scams.

For more information, you may also contact Elder Options at 1-800-262-2243 or visit www.agingresources.org.



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Garden encounter inspires Coleman to write kids' book

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Mikaeli Coleman drew something unexpected in her garden — the idea for a children's book.

Proving that inspiration can hop out in front of you at any time, Coleman turned a seemingly random moment in life into "Mulch Toad Hits the Road," which is available in softcover format at Amazon. Hardcover copies will be available via the end of the month via mikaelicolemanbooks.com.

Copies will also be available for purchasing and signing during a book-launch event on Saturday, April 13, from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at 550 S. Lawrence Blvd. in Keystone Heights (the park across from city hall). A limited number of free refreshments will be available, as well as craft projects, and Mulch Toad paraphernalia.

Coleman, a 2020 Keystone Heights High School graduate, described her book as the story of "a little lovable toad who chooses to be bold and brave in big ways."

Writing books for children was something Coleman had already given thought to because of her job as a children's librarian at Keystone Heights Public Library. She has worked at the library for three years.

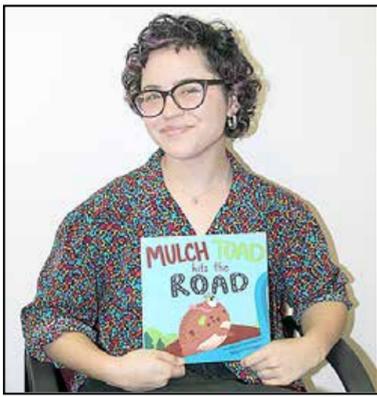
"I've done hundreds and hundreds of storytimes and have read so many books," she said. "I just specifically wanted to write books for the Keystone and Starke kids because they're close to my heart."

It was while putting mulch in her garden that writing a children's book became more than just a thought.

"This little toad popped out (of the mulch pile)," Coleman said. "I was like, 'Oh, where'd you come from?' I started thinking about what his story could've been — all his adventures and such."

"That was kind of the inspiration."

Mikaeli Coleman is pictured with her children's book, "Mulch Toad Hits the Road." She'll be hosting a reading-and-signing event on Saturday, April 13, from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the park across from Keystone Heights city hall.



The premise of "Mulch Toad Hits the Road" is that his mulch pile, with him inside it, gets transported from one place to another by a woman in the back of her truck.

"I'm technically the mulch thief," Coleman said.

Coleman approached her book by writing what she described as "a whole blurb of the whole thing" that, at that time, made no sense. It was the starting point, though, as she pulled pieces here and there from that blurb and turned them into a coherent, rhyming story.

"During (library) storytimes, I love rhyming books," Coleman said. "They're my favorite."

Coleman said she's "always been a bit of a writer," but what she discovered in the process of making her book a reality is that she has a knack for drawing, too, as she provided the book with its illustrations. Her role at the library helped her tap into that artistic side.

"So much of being a children's librarian with a very small budget is creating these displays and these things for children," Coleman said, adding, "Then, I was like, 'Maybe I'm pretty good at this. Maybe I should've started this earlier.'"

It was important to Coleman that the illustrations in the book be hers, which is how she came to self-publish it through Amazon.

"Early on, I was thinking

about doing traditional publishing," Coleman said, "but when I approached them, they said they don't usually let the authors illustrate the books. That was kind of gut-wrenching for me because I really wanted to illustrate it."

Coleman said in traditional publishing, she'd be giving up control over her work to others.

"This isn't something I'm doing for money," she said. "This is something I want to do to share with the people around me. When I hand my book to someone, I want it to be completely mine."

Authors such as Sandra Boynton and James Dean inspired her book, Coleman said, noting that both authors also do their own illustrations. She especially wanted her book to have the "vibrant, cool, funny style" that Dean's "Pete the Cat" books have.

Coleman made sure to add something distinctive to mulch toad's look, which can serve as a discussion point when she reads the book to children.

"He has his green spot, even though most toads don't have a green spot," Coleman said. "I get to ask (children), 'What do you think his green spot is?' They all have very interesting opinions. Some kids have told me they think he has a tree frog in his lineage. Another one told me that

See BOOK, page 9



Austin Musgrove (second from right) is pictured at an April 3 ceremony at which he signed to play baseball at Florida State College at Jacksonville. He is pictured with (l-r) his parents, Mark and Leann, and grandmother Tina Sturdivant.

KHHS pitcher Musgrove to play baseball at FSCJ

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School senior Austin Musgrove initially wanted to play shortstop in college, but after he became, in his coach's words, the team's "ace" on the mound, that changed his mind.

Now, Musgrove wants to pitch, and he'll get the chance to do just that with Florida State College at Jacksonville.

"I'm excited," Musgrove said following an April 3 signing ceremony in the KHHS media center. "I'm just ready."

Musgrove said he was interested in any school willing to give him the chance. Now that FSCJ has done that, he said also likes the fact that the school is close to home.

As a junior in 2023, Musgrove was the Indians' leader in innings pitched at 40.1. He was one of two pitchers with a team-leading five wins (he went 5-3) and led the team with 45 strikeouts. His ERA was 2.26.

Musgrove is 4-1 this season through April 5. He has a 1.25 ERA through 28 innings and leads Keystone pitchers with 40 strikeouts.

Offensively, he currently has the fourth-highest batting average on the team at .275. He has five RBI and is first on the team in triples (2) and second in doubles (4) and walks (9).

Musgrove batted .254 as a junior with 12 RBI. He was second on the team in runs scored (20), doubles (5) and walks (16).

Keystone Head Coach Chris Roach said, "I think he could do any sport there is and anything athletically with the God-given talent that he has."

Roach passed along a sentiment from former KHHS Head Coach Alan Mattox, who said Musgrove's hands "are the best hands since Tony Stevens." Stevens is a former KHHS great who graduated in 1997 and was drafted by the Minnesota Twins.

That explains why Musgrove was first wanting to play shortstop if he got a chance after high school.

Pitching is his future now. Roach said Musgrove can be "deadly" at the next level if he develops the changeup to where it works as well as his fastball and changeup.

"At that time, you've got trouble," Roach said.

Roach said Musgrove hides the ball well, which Musgrove said is one of the best things he does.

What Musgrove wants to improve is his velocity.

Roach said that'll come, adding that right now, Musgrove gets the most out of his 165-pound frame. The coach believes Musgrove can get his velocity up to 90-91 miles per hour.

"As he grows, and as they put

weight on him, the pitching's only going to get better," Roach said.

Musgrove appears to have the kind of mentality you want in a pitcher.

"He doesn't break," Roach said. "I've never really seen him waver on the mound as far as when something's not going right. Of course, I haven't seen a lot of that."

Musgrove would like the opportunity to play for a four-year school after two years at FSCJ. He'll play for any school, but admitted his dream school is the University of Florida.

Until then, he'll prepare to make the most of his chance at FSCJ. When asked what it'll feel like the first time he steps onto the field for the Blue Wave, he said, "I'm going to be kind of nervous, but after a few games, when I get used to it, I'll be fine."

Musgrove is the second KHHS baseball player to sign with a college this year, joining Connor Guy, an outfielder who'll play at Daytona State College.

Roach said the two players are similar.

"They're quiet. They just work. They go about their business, and they handle it," Roach said, adding, "For me, it's an honor to pass another guy onto college and see what they can do. I think they both end up playing for four years somewhere."

Indians earn 2 Region 2-1A runner-up trophies

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School won the runner-up Olympic and traditional trophies, with two individuals winning their weight classes in each event at the April 6 Region 2-1A boys weightlifting meet at Suwannee High School.

It was the first time since 2018 that Keystone didn't win a regional championship as a team. The Indians had an Olympic score of 40 to Suwannee's 83. In traditional, Suwannee had 59 points to Keystone's 40.

Still, the Indians will send 13 Olympic individuals and 13 of its traditional lifters to the state finals, which will be held Saturday, April 20, at the R.P. Funding Center in Lakeland.

Trey Jeffries remained undefeated this season, winning the 238-pound class in both Olympic and traditional. Jeffries, who won a state title in traditional last year, had a traditional total of 695 pounds (320 clean and jerk, 375 bench press), which put him ahead of Suwannee's Alex Mabey by 65 pounds.

In Olympic, Jeffries had a 560 total (240 snatch, 320 clean and jerk) to finish 20 pounds ahead of Fernandina Beach's Josh Modupe.

Wyatt Van won the Olympic championship in the 129-pound class with a 425 total (175, 250). He finished 30 pounds ahead of Suwannee's Demontay Brown.

Ben Ulsch won a championship in traditional, topping the 154-pound class with a 585 total (285, 300). He finished 45 pounds ahead of Williston's C.J. Howard.

The individual champions automatically qualified for state.

Keystone lifters who received at-large state berths in Olympic were Ulsch, Davin Adams, Tyson Baxter, Tyler Duncan, Jayden Goodman, Jackson Herman, Kyle Perkins, Declan Shine, Jed Tisdale, Brayden Wester and Bryson Wester.

Earning at-large traditional bids were Adams, Baxter, Duncan, Goodman, Shine, Tisdale, Van Zant, Brayden Hall, Colton Hollingsworth, Brayden



Trey Jeffries remained undefeated this season, winning the 238-pound class in Olympic and traditional.



Ben Ulsch was the traditional champ in the 169-pound class. He was the Olympic runner-up.

Wester and Bryson Wester.

The state meet begins at 9 a.m. with the lighter weight classes (119-154). The heavier classes (169-unlimited) will begin competing at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$11 in advance and \$14 on the day of the event. They can be purchased via the R.P. Funding Center box office at rpfundingcenter.com.

Parking will be \$10.

Olympic results

Ulsch was the runner-up in his class with a 490 total (205, 285). He trailed Fernandina Beach's Luke Twardy by 35 pounds.

Duncan tied with Suwannee's

See REGION, page 10

The Matthews Museum (Bradford County Museum) Needs Volunteers!

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Obituaries

Bennie Adams

Bennie Adams, 88, of Alachua, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at his home surrounded by family. He was born on Jan. 22, 1936, in Erin, Tennessee, to Okla Homa and Verble Golden Adams. At the age of 11, his family moved to Florida looking for work and they settled in the Titusville area. He began working at a young age in construction. That work ethic would prove valuable as he had a successful career specializing in the asphalt industry. While working on a project in Palatka, he stopped in at a diner and met the love of his life, Mary Sue Crawford. The couple would go on to enjoy 61 years of marriage. After his retirement in 1997, they relocated to Alachua. He was known as "Mr. Fix It." He was a talented handyman who enjoyed woodworking, mechanics, and tinkering with small engines. He was a member of New Oak Grove Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Robert Dale Adams; and his brothers, Bob, Bill, and Brooks.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sue Crawford Adams of Alachua; his children, Deborah (Carlton) Smith of North Carolina, Carol Jean of Georgia, Judith of North Carolina, Bennie Ray (Melinda) Adams of Bartow, Raymond Bradley (Diana) Adams of Lakeland, and Randall Lee (Stacy) Adams of Bessemer, Alabama; 19 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren; sister, Betty Cole of Griffin, Georgia; and numerous extended family members.

A funeral to honor his life was held on Saturday, April 6, at his church, New Oak Grove Baptist Church with Brother Terry Elixson, pastor, officiating. He was laid to rest in the church cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Donald B. Bagwell

Mr. Donald "Donnie" Barrie Bagwell, 77, of Starke passed away Thursday, April 4, 2024, at HCA Florida North Florida Hospital. He was born on Aug. 9, 1946, in Bradford County to the late Donald Franklin and Dorothy Rae (Dixon) Bagwell and was a lifelong area resident. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Starke and retired from the United States Army and Florida National Guard as a Command Sergeant Major. During his 32-year military career, he also worked for the Florida Department of Transportation as a structural material and research lab manager. His philosophy was "Let No Soul Cry Out, If Only I had Been Trained."



Survivors are his wife of 57 years, Shirley (Morrison) Bagwell of Starke; son, Donald "Byron" Bagwell of Keystone Heights; nephew, Shane Johnson of Plano, Texas; and brother-in-law, Johnnie Johnson of Starke.

The family will receive friends in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel on Thursday, April 11, beginning at 11 a.m. Funeral services will begin at 12 p.m. Entombment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery Mausoleum with military honors.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

David Burk

AWOC David Michael Burk, 37, of Whidbey Island, Washington went to be with our Lord on Friday, March 29, 2024, from injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident. He was born Aug. 14, 1986, in Madison, Wisconsin. He proudly served eight-plus years in the United States Navy and had traveled the world. He was a musician, enjoyed music, his favorite color was blue, and he was known for always being a happy person. But mostly he was known for the love he had for God, his family, and friends. He was preceded in death by his sister, Tanya Drell.



Left behind to cherish his memory are his parents, Kathleen (Peter) Banning of Keystone Heights and Timothy (Lynn) Burk of Waukesha, Wisconsin; siblings, Michael Wayne Schmoeyer, Kim Marie Schmoeyer, and Robert (Shannon) Banning, Michael Fuss, Mike "Pedro" (Amanda) Burk, Jamie (Steve) Shirley, Benjamin Burk, Max (Jozie) Burk and Lukas David Burk. Also left behind is his soulmate, Anisa Colon; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends that became family.

A celebration of life will be held 11 a.m. at Paran Baptist Church, on Friday, April 12, with Pastor David Price officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 10 a.m. Interment with full honors will follow at Paran Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Wounded Warrior Project. There will be a gathering immediately following at Kathleen and Peter's home.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Johnnie M. Cuffee

Johnnie M. Cuffee, 89, of Starke, died on Monday, April 1, 2024. She attended the local schools of Bradford County. She was a member of Greater Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church in Starke and she retired from the Bradford County School Board.



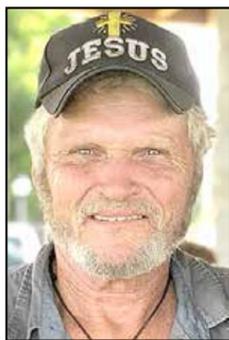
She leaves precious memories to her daughters, Lula M. Cuffee, Sandra Cuffee, Gwendolyn Cuffee and Phyllis Thomas; her son, Lenwood Cuffee; and host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and many sorrowing friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, at the Greater Freewill Bethlehem Baptist Church with Pastor Michael McDuffie, eulogist. Interment will be at Greater Bethlehem Memorial Garden Cemetery under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke 32091. 904-964-7905. Visitation will be held Friday, April 12, from 2:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Greater Freewill Baptist Church. The cortege will form on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Johnnie M. Cuffee, 318 Red Grave St. Starke 32091.

PAID OBITUARY

Ted Curtis Jr.

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Ted B. Curtis Jr., who departed this life on Monday, April 1, 2024, at the age of 67. Born on Dec. 20, 1956, in Starke to Ted B. and Billie Jean (Lott) Curtis Sr., he was a dedicated, self-employed carpenter, often collaborating with his father in operating Curtis Recycling. He was a faithful member of the Church of Hampton, finding joy in spreading laughter and holding his faith in Jesus dear to his heart. His love knew no bounds, extending deeply to his treasured Jack Russell puppies, Jibby, BJ, and Fannie, that are left of the 19 furry companions he adored. His profound faith was the cornerstone of his life, reflecting in his devotion to Jesus, his cherished dogs, his beloved family, and his extensive circle of friends. His infectious laughter and boundless kindness touched the lives of all who knew him. He had a heart of gold, always ready to lend a helping hand and bring joy to those around him, including his cherished practice of distributing pocket crosses to all.



He is survived by his devoted wife of 15 years, Jody Stevens-Curtis; his children, Crystal "Sital" (Chad) Norman, Ted "Bubba" Curtis III, and Melissa "Sissy" Curtis; as well as his grandchildren, Alexandra N. Curtis, Chase B. Curtis, and Cayden W. Norman, who lovingly called him "Gampy." He also leaves behind great-grandchildren, Annslie Thomas and Alister Thomas, who were the light of his life. In addition to his beloved wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, he is survived by his devoted mother, Billie Jean Curtis; and siblings: Sheila (Frank) Bryant, James (Christy) Curtis, Brenda (Steve) Jones, and Denise (Aaron) Mathews. Though deeply mourned, Ted's passing reunites him with his late father, Ted B. Curtis Sr.; and his sister, Melissa G. Newman. Their memories will forever remain in the hearts of those who loved him.

A service to celebrate his life was held at The Church of Hampton, 10196 N Division St, Hampton 32044, on Friday, April 5, with Pastor Donnie Lott and Pastor John Hodges officiating.

PAID OBITUARY

Wayne Moore

Clarence Wayne Moore, 77, a lifelong resident of Starke passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Friday, April 5, 2024, at Community Hospice. He was born April 15, 1946, to Clarence and Doris (Brown) Moore. Prior to retirement, he was employed by Winn-Dixie as a manager in the meat cutting department. He enjoyed being outdoors fishing, farming, or just sitting on the back porch drinking his coffee, smoking a cigar, and playing his guitar. He also had a love for his cats and dog. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Clara Susie (King) Moore; a sister, Gloria May; and two grandsons, Clinton Moore Jr. and Trey Gilpin.



His survivors are two children, Clint (Ruth) Moore and Kelly (Matt) Roling, all of Starke; sisters, Sharon Carlton of Lawtey, Kathy (Doug) Bennett of Starke, Ann Arflin of Pensacola, Cindy (Jimmy) Wheeler, Donna (Kevin) Elixson, all of Starke, and Teresa Richard Martin of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Also left behind are six grandchildren, Ashley Sharpe, Crystal Moore, Darren Jackson, Logan McKinley, Cody Moore and Connor Roling; along with six great-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held Wednesday, April 10, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with Mr. Mathew Carlton officiating. Interment will follow at Sapp Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 Nona St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Althea NesSmith

Althea May Schoonover NesSmith passed away on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Haven Hospice in Lake City. Born on Nov. 25, 1945, in Corning, New York to Hugh Schoonover and Mildred Austin. She was raised near Knoxville, Pennsylvania, graduating from Cowanesque Valley High School in 1963. After graduation, she enrolled in cosmetology school where she met her future husband, Carlton NesSmith, and they were married in 1965. After marriage they moved to Lakeland until moving to Providence in 1980. Known to her family as "Nanny," she was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Known for her love for traveling, bingo, cheering on her grands' sports teams, and caring for her family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 38 years, Elma Carlton NesSmith; a son, Bryan Scott NesSmith; and a brother, Edward Lee Schoonover.



She is survived by a son, Bruce (Michelle) NesSmith; daughters, Kim (Shane) Kennedy and Kelly (Bruce) Dukes; eight grandchildren, Aaron (Chesley) Dukes, Mason Dukes, Morgan (Brennan) Starling, Austin (Hayley) Dukes, Shawn Cloud, Stephanie (Lance) Thornton, Ashley Lasseigne (Gaje), and Taylor Lee (Hunter); 10 great-grandchildren (and one due in May), Boone Dukes, Shep Dukes, Everley Dukes, Jude Dukes, Darby Starling, Hampton Dukes, Luke "L.A." Dukes, Lyla Starling, Micah Dukes, and Eva Chancey; and a sister-in-law, Marie Lewis of Jacksonville.

A service to honor her life was held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 9. The family received friends for a visitation prior to the service. She was laid to rest immediately following the service at Oak Grove Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY

Patricia Sost-Hyde

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Patricia Sost-Hyde, cherished sister, and esteemed nurse, who peacefully passed away on Monday, April 1, 2024. Her life was a beacon of love, compassion, and dedication to her family, her faith, and her profession. Born on Aug. 12, 1957, she embarked on a journey filled with compassion and service, exemplified by her distinguished nursing career. For many years, she dedicated herself to caring for others, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those she served at Lake City Medical Center and North Florida Regional Hospital. Her unwavering commitment to healing and comforting others was a testament to her compassionate nature and unwavering professionalism. Her faith was central to her life, and she found strength and solace as a devoted member of Cross Church. Her unwavering devotion to her spiritual community was a guiding light in her life, providing her with comfort, support, and a sense of purpose. Beyond her professional and spiritual endeavors, Patricia found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She had a special fondness for llamas and delighted in showcasing these gentle creatures whenever she had the opportunity. Additionally, she found solace and creativity in crocheting blankets, each stitch a labor of love that brought warmth and comfort to those fortunate enough to receive them. She also enjoyed exploring the vast world of online shopping and cherished the moments spent dining out with her loved ones. One of her greatest joys was gathering with her family, especially during the cherished holiday of Thanksgiving. Her presence illuminated every celebration with warmth, laughter, and love, leaving an enduring legacy of togetherness and gratitude. She was preceded in death by her father, Charles E. Sost; and mother, Patricia A. Sost. Patricia leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering faith that will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be deeply missed by her beloved siblings, brothers, Paul (Maryanne) Sost of Plantation and Lawrence (Melody) Sost of Grant; sisters, Kathleen Sost of Lake City and Charlene (Christopher) Liston of Providence; nieces, Chelsea, Nicole, Katie and Kelly; nephews, Shawn, Bryan, Matthew S, Matthew L., Timothy and Christopher; great-nieces, Annaston, Bailey, Taylor, Amara, Arloh, and Arden; great-nephews, Noah, Cameron, Barrington, Kolby and Greyson.



A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 13, at 2 p.m. at Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home, where family and friends will come together to honor and remember her remarkable journey. Visitation with the family will be held one hour prior to service. Though she may be gone from our sight, her spirit will forever live on in our hearts. Rest in peace, dear Patricia. Your love, laughter, and legacy will forever be cherished and remembered.

Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 2596 S. US Hwy 441, Lake City. Please leave words of comfort for the family at www.gateway-forestlawn.com

PAID OBITUARY

BOOK

Continued from page 8

he thought it was a fungus."

Writing and illustrating "Mulch Toad Hits the Road" involved many long nights. Coleman said she normally goes to bed early, but she hasn't done that in four months while working on her book.

"When I have an idea or a spark, I feel like I have to get it done in that moment," she said. "I'll be working on it and working on it. Then, I'll look at the clock, and I'm like, 'Oh, my gosh: It is the next day, and I have not slept.'"

Coleman received support throughout the process, especially from her library co-workers, her mother, Tiffany Sanders, and her husband, Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a big help during the publishing process as well as bringing experience to advertising and promotion, which he learned from being in a band.

"He was able to sit down and really figure out how to do it," Coleman said. "He was my

editor, my graphic designer, my marketer — he was just awesome."

Jeremiah was also good about encouraging Coleman during those times she got discouraged.

"I honestly don't think I would've finished it (without him)," Coleman said.

It, of course, has been exciting to read the book to the children who see her at the library, though Coleman said the children now have to get used to seeing her in a different light.

"You know how kids are," she said. "They have a certain version of you in their heads. I'm Mikaeli-the-story-reader, not the story writer."

Mikaeli the story writer plans on writing more books, saying that her toad character could be part of a series. In fact, she's already mulling over ideas for a second book that she's thinking of calling, "The Bold Mulch Toad."

"I think that would be cute, but it's still in the very beginning," Coleman said. "In the back of my head. Not even a word yet on paper."

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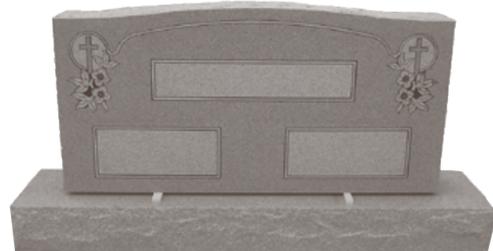
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Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

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Wyatt Van Zant was the Olympic champ and the traditional runner-up in the 139-pound class.

REGION

Continued from page 8

Justice Leggett for the second-best total of 495 in the unlimited class, with Duncan officially placing third due to the weigh-in tiebreaker. He had a snatch of 195 and a clean and jerk of 300.

Goodman also placed third with a 500 total (185, 315) in the 219 class.

Three lifters placed fourth: Tisdale with a 350 total (145, 205) in the 129 class, Adams with a 405 total (175, 230) in the 154 class and Herman with a 485 total (205, 280) in the 238 class.

Baxter and Perkins also contributed to the team's score, with each placing fifth, with Baxter compiling a 270 total (110, 160) in the 119 class and Perkins compiling a 415 total (175, 240) in the 183 class.

Four lifters just missed out on earning points toward the team score with seventh-place finishes: Hollingsworth with a 300 total (125, 175) in the 129 class, Zane Leger with a 400 total (155, 245) in the 199 class, Bryson Wester with a 500 total (185, 315) in the 219 class and Brayden Wester with a 455 total (175, 280) in the unlimited class.

Shine earned his at-large state bid with a ninth-place finish in the 139 class. He had a 330 total (135, 195).

Two lifters had 10th-place totals: Andrew Ulsch with a 225 total (90, 135) in the 119 class and Layton Wright with a 395 total (165, 230) in the 169 class.

The following finished in 11th place: Jackson Parmeter with a 340 total (140, 200) in the 154 class, Clayton Shaw with a 395 total (155, 240) in the 183 class and Trace Wooden with a 370 total (155, 215) in the 199 class.



Jayden Goodman earned a runner-up traditional finish in the 219-pound class. He was also third place in Olympic.

BHS defeats KHHS for district title shot

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ar'Nayshia Griffin had the game's only score and came up with two interceptions on defense in the Bradford High School flag football team's 6-0 win over Keystone Heights in the District 4-1A semifinals on April 9 in Starke.

The Tornadoes (7-1) were scheduled to play for the championship on Wednesday, April 10, at 6 p.m. at BHS. They'll play a Region 1 quarterfinal game on Wednesday, April 17, at a time and location to be determined.

Keystone (5-11), which advanced to the game off a 21-0 quarterfinal win over Baldwin, had the game's first goal-to-go opportunity, with quarterback Alee Horton rushing for a 14-yard gain to the Bradford 19. The Tornadoes' Nichelle Brown put an end to the threat, intercepting a pass and returning it 29 yards to the Keystone 16.

The Tornadoes failed to score, turning the ball over on downs.

Keystone then put together its best drive of the game. An 11-yard run by Horton resulted in one first down, while her 19-yard pass to Alana Anderson resulted

in another at the Bradford 30. Horton then completed passes of 7 yards to Ashlyn Brown and 4 yards to Alyssa Sanford to set up first-and-goal at the 19, but the Indians would turn the ball over on downs.

After a scoreless first half, Bradford threatened to score on the opening drive of the second half. Brown completed a 14-yard pass to Griffin on the Tornadoes' first play. Brown then eluded at least three defenders on a run that took her 52 yards into the end zone, but a penalty nullified the score.

The Tornadoes still had a first down, though, at the Keystone 39. A 16-yard reception by Griffin and a 7-yard run by Brown resulted in first-and-goal at the 15. Bradford would gain another 5 yards before the Indians' Horton intercepted a fourth-down pass.

Keystone failed to pick up a first down on its first drive of the half. The Indians punted to Brown, who had an 11-yard return to the Keystone 34. Two plays later, Griffin made her way through the defense for a 17-yard run and a first-and-goal at the 13. Two pass completions moved the Tornadoes to the 1-yard line. Griffin scored on a run from



Bradford's Ar'Nayshia Griffin (right) gets loose for a big run as she's pursued by Keystone's Ella Hutchins.



Bradford's Nichelle Brown (far right) returns a punt.

there on fourth down on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Griffin had interceptions on two of Keystone's final three offensive series.

Brown and Griffin combined to rush for more than 100 yards. Brown had five carries for 50 yards, while Griffin had 10 for 58.

Each player also had 30 yards passing, with Brown completing

2 of 2 passes and Griffin completing 8 of 26.

Griffin was the leading receiver with two catches for 30 yards.

Keystone's Horton rushed for 48 yards on six carries and completed 12 of 24 passes for 94 yards.

Anderson caught two passes for 33 yards.



Keystone quarterback Alee Horton (right) escapes pressure brought by Bradford's Nyasia Lopey and gets off a pass.

KHHS baseball team falls again to Orange Park

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's baseball team lost its second straight game as well as losing for the second time this season to host Orange Park, which defeated the Indians 3-1 on April 5.

The Class 3A Indians, who lost 5-2 to Class 5A Orange Park on March 28 in Keystone, put two on with one out in the top of the first, but failed to score and left a runner stranded at third.

Keystone (12-4) had two runners put out at home in the fourth inning, which included an inning-ending out on a throw from right field.

The Indians tied the game in the fifth. Andru Siemer hit a two-out single. He stole second and

scored on an Alex Addington double. Keystone loaded the bases when Connor Guy singled and Austin Smith walked, but a fly out ended the inning.

The Raiders answered with a run of their own in the bottom of the fifth, taking advantage of two singles and an error before a runner scored on a passed ball.

Keystone's Austin Musgrove pitched a complete game, giving up two earned runs, seven hits and two walks, while striking out seven.

The Indians went 1-1 in their previous two games, with the win coming by a score of 8-4 against host Class 5A Middleburg on April 2.

Guy, who went 2 for 3, hit an RBI single as part of a two-run fifth that tied the score at 3-3.

The game went into extra innings, with Keystone scoring five runs in the top of the eighth. Aiden Screen was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, while Tallon Campbell drove in a run on a sacrifice fly. Ty Mitzel then hit a two-run single and later scored on an error.

Smith, who went 2 for 4, was

one of four players who drove in one run each, joining Campbell, Guy and Screen.

Mitzel led the team with two RBIs.

Gage Barry started on the mound, allowing three runs (one earned) and four hits in seven innings. He had seven strikeouts.

Musgrove threw the final inning, giving up one run and one hit, while striking out two.

On April 4, the Indians got a three-run homer by Guy, but lost 9-6 to host Buchholz, which is eighth in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 6A power rankings.

A balk and an RBI single from Smith put Keystone ahead 2-1 in the top of the third, but Buchholz led off the bottom of the inning with a home run and scored three runs total in going back on top 4-2.

Keystone trailed 8-3 before scoring three runs in the sixth. Mitzel singled, while Siemer reached on an error. Guy then drove the first pitch he saw over the fence in center.

The Indians played Class 4A North Marion this past Tuesday

and will travel to play Class 1A Baldwin on Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m. Keystone hosts Class 3A Fernandina Beach on Friday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. and then travels to play Class 4A Baker County on Monday, April 15, at 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 16, the Indians travel to play Class 3A Bradford at 7 p.m.

BHS baseball team falls 9-7 to Hilliard Flashes

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Class 1A Hilliard scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth en route to handing the Bradford High School baseball team a 9-7 loss on April 4 in Hilliard.

Class 3A Bradford scored the game's first three runs. Jeffrey Brugh hit a triple to lead off the top of the first and scored on a Luke Stucky ground out. Denver Hudson hit an RBI single with two outs, followed by Mattox Burgin scoring on a balk.

It was 3-3 when the Tornadoes scored one in the fifth. An error with two outs on a ground ball hit by Burgin scored Ryland Rike, who reached on a walk.

That would be Bradford's last lead.

Hudson and Brugh went 2 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively, with one RBI each.

Bradford also got one RBI each from Rike, Stucky and Patrick Pendarvis.

The Tornadoes played Class 1A Union County this past Tuesday and will travel to play Class 1A Hamilton County on Thursday, April 11, at 6 p.m.

Bradford returns home to play Class 4A Baker County on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m. Bradford travels to play Class 1A Fort White on Monday, April 15, at 6 p.m. before returning home to play Class 3A Keystone Heights on Tuesday, April 16, at 6 p.m.

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Jill DeSue Johnson
starring as
Cousin Jettie Mae

MEET the CAST. Cousin Jettie Mae (Starke, Florida native Jill DeSue Johnson) is Mama Lula's family from the Carolinas. She visits Mama Lula and her folks in Waycross from time to time. While whipping up a good meal for her family, she maybe the only one to whip Mama Lula into shape with a few words. COME OUT to the show Sunday MAY 12th, 2024 @ 7 p.m. p.s. Grab vip tickets which include a meal while they last, Jettie Mae and family will be cookin and dishing it up in Airing Grandma's Laundry # award winning novel turned hit stage play # ENCORE PERFORMANCE

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of April 11, 2024

BRADFORD

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

CASE NO.: 24000016CAAXMX FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION PLAINTIFF,

VS. KAREN ANN WALDRON A/K/A KAREN WALDRON, HARRIET WALDRON AND MARION WALDRON, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Unknown spouse of Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 8744 & 8734 Northwest 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
TO: Unknown spouse of Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 8439 SW COUNTY ROAD 225 STARKE FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
TO: Unknown spouse of Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 9827 SW COUNTY ROAD 225 STARKE FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
TO: Unknown spouse of Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 65 NW AVE STARKE FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
TO: Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 8744 & 8734 Northwest 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
TO: Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 8439 SW COUNTY ROAD 225 STARKE FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
TO: Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 9827 SW COUNTY ROAD 225 STARKE FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
TO: Marion Waldron
Last Known Address: 65 NW AVE STARKE FL 32091

Current Residence: UNKNOWN
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

ALL that certain land situate in Bradford County, Florida, viz: A part of section 27, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at the northeast corner of southeast 1/4, of the northwest 1/4 of said section 27;

THENCE South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 647.81 feet to the South Right of way line of the northwest 219th Street;

THENCE continue South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 256.25 feet;

THENCE South 89 degrees 10 minutes 36 seconds West, 246.89 feet to the point of BEGINNING;

THENCE South 00 degrees 47 minutes 34 seconds East, 208.72 feet;

THENCE South 89 degrees 12 minutes 23 seconds West, 208.72 feet;

THENCE North 00 degrees 47 minutes 34 seconds West, 208.72 feet;

THENCE North 89 degrees 12 minutes 23 seconds East, 208.72 feet to the point of BEGINNING.

Together with a 30 feet ingress, egress and utility easement being more particularly described as follows:

Part of section 27, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at the northeast corner of the southeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of said section 27;

THENCE South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 647.81 feet to the South right of way line of northwest 219th Street;

THENCE continue South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 256.25 feet;

THENCE South 89 degrees 10 minutes 36 seconds West, 246.89 feet to the point of BEGINNING;

THENCE South 89 degrees 12 minutes 23 seconds West, 30.21 feet;

THENCE North 05 degrees 58 minutes 25 seconds East, 107.81 feet;

THENCE North 33 degrees 19 minutes 41 seconds East, 210.55 feet to an intersection with the South right of way line of northwest 219th Street;

THENCE South 81 degrees 10 minutes 56 seconds East, along said right of way line, 32.97 feet; THENCE South 33 degrees 19 minutes 41 seconds West, departing said right of way line, 216.93 feet, THENCE South 05 degrees 58 minutes 25 seconds West, 96.95 feet to the point of BEGINNING.

And A parcel of land containing 20.00 acres and lying partly in the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 and partly in the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27,

Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Northeast corner of said SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 and run South 00 degrees, 49 minutes and 24 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 647.81 feet to a concrete monument found on the Southerly boundary of the right of way of NW 65th Avenue (a County graded road also known as Buck Lake Road) for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 00 degrees, 49 minutes and 24 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary 687.45 feet to an iron pipe found at the Northeast corner of said NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 thence South 00 degrees, 46 minutes and 17 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 932.02 feet to a set concrete monument: thence continue South 00 degrees, 46 minutes and 17 seconds East, along last said Easterly boundary, 77.04 feet to an intersection with the present centerline of Water Oak Creek: thence run along said centerline the following courses:

North 67 degrees, 37 minutes, and 15 seconds West, 50.52 feet; North 09 degrees, 36 minutes and 43 seconds West, 26.57 feet; North 45 degrees, 40 minutes and 36 seconds West, 42.24 feet; North 76 degrees, 09 minutes and 40 seconds West, 23.02 feet; South 86 degrees, 34 minutes and 45 seconds West, 50.69 feet; North 40 degrees, 40 minutes and 34 seconds West, 45.74 feet; North 75 degrees, 23 minutes and 39 seconds West, 91.62 feet; North 86 degrees, 17 minutes and 37 seconds West, 123.80 feet; South 60 degrees, 51 minutes and 17 seconds West, 24.51 feet; North 76 degrees, 35 minutes and 07 seconds West, 77.47 feet; North 87 degrees, 45 minutes and 01 seconds West, 74.52 feet to an intersection with a line having a bearing of South 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 37 seconds East (said line being the Westerly boundary of the herein described parcel); thence North 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 37 seconds West, along said line and along said Westerly boundary, 32.87 feet to a set concrete monument; thence continue North 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 37 seconds West, along said line and along said Westerly boundary, 1136.61 feet to an iron rod set in the centerline of a drainage ditch: thence North 25 degrees, 15 minutes and 49 seconds East, along last said centerline, 106.89 feet to a set iron rod: thence North 31 degrees, 22 minutes and 23 seconds East, along last said centerline, 159.53 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 15 degrees, 26 minutes and 57 seconds East, along last said centerline, 207.80 feet to an iron rod set on said Southerly boundary of NW 65th Avenue; thence South 81 degrees, 10 minutes and 56 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary, 380.77 feet to the Point of Beginning. Subject to existing easements for power lines or drainage.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on MILLER, GEORGE & SUGGS, PLLC, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 210 N. University Drive, Suite 900, Coral Springs, FL 33071, on or before _____, within or before a date at least thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the Bradford Telegraph, 131 W. Call Street, Starke, FL 32091 and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 22nd day of March, 2024.

DENNY THOMPSON
As Clerk of Court
By: Kanetra Jenkins
As Deputy Clerk

4/4 1tchg 4/11-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 751
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 02675-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-0005
Description of Property: Commence at SW Corner of NW1/4 of SW1/4 run E 960 feet, North 430 feet for Pt. of Beginning: Thence East 100 feet, South 130 feet, West 100 feet, North 130 feet to Point of beginning, Section 22 Township 6 South, Range 22 East.

Name in Which Assessed: LEROY THOMAS JR.; LEON THOMAS
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 07/10/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
Deputy Clerk

Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: April 1, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: APRIL 4, 2024; APRIL 11, 2024; APRIL 18, 2024; APRIL 25, 2024

4/4 4tchg 4/25-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 751
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 02675-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-0005
Description of Property: Commence at SW Corner of NW1/4 of SW1/4 run E 960 feet, North 430 feet for Pt. of Beginning: Thence East 100 feet, South 130 feet, West 100 feet, North 130 feet to Point of beginning, Section 22 Township 6 South, Range 22 East.

Name in Which Assessed: LEROY THOMAS JR.; LEON THOMAS
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 07/10/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
Deputy Clerk

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DATED: April 1, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: APRIL 4, 2024; APRIL 11, 2024; APRIL 18, 2024; APRIL 25, 2024

4/4 4tchg 4/25-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 871
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 03304-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-0006
Description of Property: Lot 4 of Block 8, Livingston Truby and Company Subdivision of Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter, Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East.

Name in Which Assessed: VICKIE HOLMES CUMMINGS
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 07/10/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida

4/4 4tchg 4/25-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 708
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 02495-0-01100
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-0004
Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford

County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of said NE1/4 of SE1/4 and run South 00 degrees 21 minutes 17 seconds West, along the Easterly boundary of said NE1/4 of SE1/4, a distance of 327.40 feet; thence North 89 degrees 18 minutes 36 seconds West, 782.97 feet to the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described run South 01 degree 43 minutes 54 seconds West, 122.23 feet to an intersection with the Northerly boundary of the right of way of Harutha Drive; thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 51 seconds West, along said Northerly boundary, 75.00 feet; thence North 01 degree 43 minutes 51 seconds East, 122.74 feet; thence South 89 degrees 18 minutes 36 seconds East, 74.99 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Above described parcel also being known as Lot 11 of Harutha Heights, an unrecorded subdivision prepared by Joseph G. Knapp, P.S.M. Name in Which Assessed: [DELLA KING; ZIPPORAH KING
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 07/10/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida

BY: KANETRA JENKINS
Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: April 1, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: APRIL 4, 2024; APRIL 11, 2024; APRIL 18, 2024; APRIL 25, 2024

4/4 4tchg 4/25-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on April 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

2003 Honda M.C.
Vin #JH2RC38143M100121

4/4 2tchg 4/11-BCT

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

CASE NO.: 24000057CAAXMX PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. , et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF JACOB J. HOUDERSHOLT A/K/A JACOB HOUDERSHOLT 4193 SE 8TH AVENUE, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:

A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ONE QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST ONE QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT AT THE MOST WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 20 OF KEYSTONE CLUB ESTATES UNIT ONE REPLAT, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN SOUTH 29 DEGREES 16 MINUTES AND 20 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID KEYSTONE CLUB ESTATES UNIT ONE REPLAT, 325.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 60 DEGREES 43 MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS WEST, 530.55 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, 458.43 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE ON THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A COUNTY GRADED ROAD; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE 280.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST, ALONG EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 46.09 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AND THE POINT OF CURVE; THENCE RUN NORTHERLY ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE WITH A CURVE CONCAVE, SAID CURVE HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 24 SECONDS, A RADIUS OF 4276.00 FEET, AN ARC LENGTH OF 68.91 FEET, AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST, 68.91 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST, 220.56 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST, 115.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES, 45 MINUTES 55 SECONDS WEST, 220.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND BEING LOT 4 OF INDIAN LAKE WOODS AS SURVEYED BY JOSEPH G. KNAPP, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR AND SHOWN ON A MAP OF SAID INDIAN LAKE WOODS DATED MARCH 23, 1984 AND REVISED APRIL 25, 1984. SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITIES OVER, UNDER AND ACROSS THE EASTERLY 7.5 FEET THEREOF. SUBJECT TO THE FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY RIGHT OF WAY LINE AS DESCRIBED IN MISC. BOOK 8, PAGE 593 AND MISC. BOOK 9, PAGE 45, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on De Cubas & Lewis, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is PO BOX 5026, CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33310 on or before _____ a date at least thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in

the (Please publish in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH) and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 28th day of March 2024.
DENNY THOMPSON
As Clerk of the Court
BY: _____
As Deputy Clerk

4/11 2tchg 4/18-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on April 18, 2024, 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.

4/11 1tchg-BCT

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

The City of Starke Planning & Zoning Board will not meet on April 15, 2024 but will meet on April 17, 2024 at 5:30 pm at 209 North Thompson Street.

4/11 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

CASE NO. 22000022CAAXMX US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, Plaintiff,

vs. CHELSEA WHITEHEAD, et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 04, 2024, and entered in 22000022CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST is the Plaintiff and CHELSEA WHITEHEAD; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHELSEA WHITEHEAD; JAKE WHITEHEAD; JACK HENRY WHITEHEAD, A MINOR, BY AND THROUGH HER/HIS NATURAL GUARDIAN TAMMY WHITEHEAD AKA TAMMY R. WHITEHAD AKA TAMMY RENEE WHITEHEAD; PRESLEY WHITEHEAD, A MINOR, BY AND THROUGH HER/HIS NATURAL GUARDIAN TAMMY WHITEHEAD AKA TAMMY R. WHITEHAD AKA TAMMY RENEE WHITEHEAD; TAMMY WHITEHEAD AKA TAMMY R. WHITEHAD AKA TAMMY RENEE WHITEHEAD; MATTHEW WHITEHEAD, JR.; BRADLEY E. WHITEHEAD are the Defendant(s). Kellie Hendricks Rhoades as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Lobby, Union County Courthouse 55 W. Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, at 11:00 AM, on May 02, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA. SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT AN IRON ROD FOUND (1/2" LB5668) AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF NORTHEAST QUARTER AND RUN NORTH 86 DEGREES 01 MINUTE AND 03 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF 48.29 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD (1/2" LB4012) FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE NORTH 86 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 03 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY 612.44 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST ONE—HALF OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER. THENCE

NORTH 85 DEGREES 55 MINUTES AND 05 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF THE EAST ONE—HALF OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 48.29 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD (LB4012); THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 37 MINUTES AND 31 SECONDS EAST, 827.49 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET (1/2" LB4012) ON THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF NORTHEAST 100TH TRAIL (50 ± RW); THENCE RUN ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY THE FOLLOWING FOUR COURSES; SOUTH 76 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST, 295.34 FEET TO A SET 1/2" IRON ROD (LB4012); THENCE SOUTH 79 DEGREES 21 MINUTES AND 39 SECONDS WEST, 199.99 FEET TO A SET 1/2" IRON ROD (LB4012); THENCE SOUTH 85 DEGREES 48 SECONDS WEST, 126.93 FEET TO A SET 1/2" IRON ROD (LB4012); THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 06 MINUTES AND 37 SECONDS WEST, 44.02 FEET TO A SET 1/2" IRON ROD (LB4012); THENCE RUN NORTH 02 DEGREES 45 MINUTES AND 57 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH AND 48.29 FEET EASTERLY OF THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF NORTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 895.37 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Property Address: 20947 NE 100TH TRAIL, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.
Dated this 2nd day of April, 2024.
Kellie Hendricks Rhoades
As Clerk of the Court
By: Cheryl Norman
As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

4/4 2tchg 4/11-UCT

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

Case No: 63-2024-0047
Division:

TIFFANY KERSEY , Petitioner and DENNIS KERSEY , Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR (Specify action) PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER TO: (name of Respondent) DENNIS KERSEY

{Respondent's last known address} UNKNOWN (DUAL COUNTY) YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for (identify the type of case) TEMPORARY CUSTODY has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on {name of Petitioner} TIFFANY KERSEY, whose address is 16501 SE 71ST TRAIL, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054, on or before (date) MAY 2, 2024 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at (clerk's address) UNION COUNTY CLERK OF COURT, 55 WEST MAIN STREET, ROOM 103, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

If applicable, insert the legal description of real Property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the Property is located)

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request, You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 22-915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addressee on record at the clerk's office.

Instructions for Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.913(a)(2). Notice of Action for Family Cases With Minor or Dependent Child(ren) (06/18) Warning: Rule 12.285, Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings. Dated: April 2, 2024
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
BY: C. Norman
(Deputy Clerk)

4/11 4tchg 5/2-UCT

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Amber Wynn drove in a run as part of a five-run seventh that helped Bradford defeat Buchholz 16-12.

BHS softball team has big 6th, 7th in win over Buchholz

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Tinsley Higginbotham and Amber Wynn each hit an RBI single as part of a five-run seventh to help the Bradford High School softball team defeat Class 6A Buchholz 16-12 on April 8 in Gainesville.

The Class 3A Tornadoes (5-11) scored nine runs in the final two innings.

Carly Beggs hit a two-run double in a four-run sixth, which also included an RBI single from Rylie Blankenship and a sacrifice bunt by Wynn, which scored a run.

Bradford broke an 11-11 tie in the seventh when an error allowed a run to score. A Madison Highland ground out scored a run before Higginbotham and Wynn hit their run-scoring singles. Keegan Yowell was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to bring the Tornadoes' final run across.

Highland went 2 for 4 with three RBI, while Beggs and Wynn, who was 2 for 5, each drove in two runs.

Blankenship and Addyson Hinds each went 2 for 3 with an RBI, while Higginbotham was 2 for 5 with an RBI.

Yowell, Summer Sutton and Kallie Yowell each had one RBI. The Tornadoes went 1-1 in their previous two games, beginning with an 8-7 loss at Class 1A Hilliard on April 3.

Bradford built a 5-1 lead, with Highland hitting a two-run double in the first and driving in a run on a single in the third. The third inning also included an RBI double from Keegan Yowell.

An RBI single from Blankenship in the fifth tied the score at 6-6, but Hilliard scored two runs in the bottom of the inning on two singles and a double.

Highland finished with three RBI, going 2 for 4.

Blankenship and Wynn each went 3 for 5, with Blankenship driving in one run.

Sutton went 3 for 4, while Hinds and Kallie Yowell each went 2 for 4. Yowell had one RBI.

Keegan Yowell also finished

with one RBI.

Pitchers Keegan Yowell and Bailey Smith combined on a shutout in Bradford's 12-0, five-inning win over Class 3A Bolles on April 5 in Jacksonville.

Bradford had a seven-run first, which included RBI singles from Beggs, Blankenship and Kallie Yowell. Runs also scored on a ground out by Highland, a fielder's choice on a ground ball hit by Sutton, a passed ball and a bases-loaded walk drawn by Hinds.

Highland and Sutton each had two RBI, with Sutton going 2 for 3 with a double.

Blankenship and Kallie Yowell each went 2 for 3 with an RBI.

The Tornadoes also got one RBI each from Beggs, Higginbotham and Hinds.

Keegan Yowell started in the circle, giving up four hits and two walks, while striking out four in four innings.

Smith allowed one hit in the final inning.

Bradford hosted Class 5A Gainesville on Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. and will host Class 1A Union County on Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. Bradford travels to play Gainesville on Monday, April 15, at 7 p.m. and then travels to play Class 3A Interlachen on Tuesday, April 16, at 6 p.m.

KHHS softball team defeats Ridgeview 6-2

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's softball team defeated Class 5A Ridgeview 6-2 on April 8 in Orange Park.

The Class 3A Indians (8-8) had a five-run fourth inning in which Kadence Massey hit a two-run single. Riley Shuford drove in another run on a ground out, while two runs scored on errors.

Massey finished with two RBI, while Shuford and Ashley Nugent each had one.

In the circle, Massey pitched a complete game, giving up no earned runs, two hits and four walks, while striking out eight.

Keystone entered the game off a 2-2 performance in the Roger Jones Kissimmee Klassic.

The Indians opened play on April 4 with a 4-0 loss to West Broward, which was fourth in the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 7A power rankings. (The Bobcats have since dropped to 12th.)

Keystone committed four errors and never put a runner in scoring position.

Caitlin Frampton pitched a complete game, giving up three earned runs and seven hits.

On April 5, pitchers Massey and Nugent combined to allow three hits in a 4-0 win over Class 4A Merritt Island.

A two-run third inning featured a sacrifice fly from Massey that drove in the first run and an RBI single by Frampton, who went 2 for 3.

Delia Johnson led off the fourth with a home run, while Alaina Kinsall, who singled and advanced two bases on a wild pitch and a ground out, scored on



Kadence Massey drove in two runs and pitched a complete game in Keystone's 6-2 win over Ridgeview.

a wild pitch.

Massey started in the circle, giving up two hits and three walks, while striking out six through five innings.

Nugent allowed one hit and no walks in two innings.

In a second game on April 5, the Indians got a combined seven RBI from Johnson and Kinsall in defeating Class 7A Osceola 14-5.

Osceola went up 4-0 in the first, scoring two of its runs on one error.

It was a 4-2 game when Keystone scored four runs in the fourth. The Indians loaded the bases on walks by Frampton and Johnson and a single by Shuford. Kinsall hit a single that scored one run, while an error on the play allowed another two to score. Bella Cumbo then hit an RBI single.

The Indians led 8-5 when they scored six runs in the sixth. A double from Nugent, a single from Abbie Roach and a walk by Massey loaded the bases. Frampton drew a walk to force a run in before Johnson drove in two on a double. After an error allowed a run to score, Kinsall drove in another two on a double.

Johnson went 2 for 4 with two doubles and four RBI, while Kinsall was 3 for 5 with three RBI.

Nugent, who had one RBI, also went 3 for 5.

Cumbo and Frampton each finished with one RBI.

Starting pitcher Frampton allowed four runs (two earned), six hits and one walk through three innings. She had four strikeouts.

Massey threw four innings, giving up one unearned run and one hit, while walking only two.

The Indians' last game of the tournament was a 3-1 loss to Class 4A Lake Wales on April 6.

It was a 1-1 game when Kinsall hit an RBI single in the fourth, but Lake Wales scored three in the bottom of the inning to go up 4-2.

Nugent hit a single to lead off the fifth and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Roach. Nugent went to third on a fly out by Massey before Frampton drove a 1-2 pitch over the fence in center for a two-run homer, tying the score at 4-4.

Lake Wales hit five consecutive singles to lead off the bottom of the sixth and score the game's final three runs.

Kinsall and Nugent each

finished 2 for 3, with Kinsall driving in one run.

Massey also had an RBI.

Keystone will host Class 5A Fleming Island on Thursday, April 11, at 6 p.m. The Indians travel to play Class 5A Middleburg on Tuesday, April 16, at 6 p.m.

UCHS softball team wins 2 by a combined score of 34-2

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Every player in the starting lineup drove in at least one run in the Union County High School softball team's 15-2, five-inning win over host Hawthorne on April 5.

It was the fourth straight win for the Tigers, who improved to 8-7.

Union led 4-2 before scoring 11 runs in the fifth, which consisted of eight hits and five errors. Brooke Hunt and Mia Kent both singled, with Hunt scoring on an error. After a Jaydin Alvarez single, Jailyn Simmons reached on an error, which allowed a run to score. Emma Handley then drove in a run on a sacrifice fly, while Leanne Dicks drove in another on a single.

The inning continued with Mackenzie Orton walking and Shyla Crowe hitting a single to load the bases. Campbell Webb reached on an error, which allowed a run to score. Hunt came back up to bat and hit an RBI single, while Kent reached on an error that brought another run in. Alvarez hit a single, with an error on the play scoring a run. Handley, who 2 for 3 with three RBI, ended the scoring with a two-run triple.

Dicks finished 3 for 4 with two RBI, while Alvarez, Crowe and Hunt each went 2 for 4 with one RBI.

Crowe pitched a complete game, allowing five hits and one walk, while striking out four.

The Tigers entered the game off a 19-0, three-inning win over host Eastside on April 2.

A 13-run first inning included Kent batting twice and driving in two runs on a pair of singles. Handley drove in two runs on a single, while Crowe and Orton each had an RBI double. Dicks and Webb each hit an RBI single.

Crowe, who went 2 for 3, finished with two doubles and three RBI. Three players had two RBI: Kent, who went 2 for 2, Handley, Simmons and Makenzie Radford.

Dicks went 4 for 4 with one RBI. The following also had one RBI each: Alvarez, Orton and Webb.

Three players pitched one inning each in allowing no hits: Skyler Moates, Radford and Dicks.

Union played Crescent City this past Tuesday and will travel to play Bradford on Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. The Tigers host Buchholz on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m.

UCHS baseball team falls 6-2 to state runner-up Lafayette

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's baseball team was held to two hits in a 6-2 loss to visiting Lafayette on April 8 that was a battle between two top-10 Class 1A teams.

Lafayette, which was last year's state runner-up and third in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 1A power rankings, scored four runs in the first inning taking advantage of four singles and two errors.

The Tigers, who are ninth in the FHSAA power rankings, trailed 5-0 before scoring a run in the third. Preston Bonsall drew a walk with one out, while Kacen Thomassen drew one with two outs. Bonsall and courtesy runner Bo Wilson advanced on a wild pitch before Bonsall scored on a passed ball.

Trenton Klein hit a sacrifice fly that scored Devin Diggs in the seventh.



Emma Handley drove in three runs in the Tigers' 15-2 win over Hawthorne. Union has now won four in a row.

Starting pitcher Ayden Androlevich had five runs scored against him, but only two were earned. He gave up eight hits and one walk through five innings.

Foster Smith allowed one run, three hits and no walks in two innings.

Union (9-10) went 2-1 in its previous two games.

On April 2, the Tigers got a complete-game shutout from Androlevich in a 10-0, five-inning win over host Class 1A Williston.

A four-run first inning included an RBI triple from Smith, an RBI double from Jake Walker and an RBI single from Thomassen. Walker scored on an error.

Union scored all five of its final runs in the third, which included an RBI single from Erick Lasseter and bases-loaded walks drawn by Diggs, Smith, Thomassen and Dallen Cox. Riggs Davis was also hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Smith and Thomassen finished with two RBI each.

Walker went 2 for 3 with a double and an RBI.

The Tigers also got one RBI each from Bonsall, Cox, Diggs and Lasseter.

Androlevich allowed two hits and one walk, while striking out five.

The Tigers earned another road win on April 4, defeating Class 2A St. Joseph 8-3.

Union led 3-0 before scoring four runs in the fourth, which included an RBI single by Androlevich. Bonsall drew a bases-loaded walk, while Thomassen drove in a run on a ground out. A run also scored on an error.

Androlevich, Bonsall, Klein, Smith, Thomassen and Walker all drove in one run each, while Davis went 2 for 3.

Starting pitcher Thomassen allowed no runs, four hits and two walks through five innings.

Bonsall threw the final inning, giving up no runs and one hit.

The Tigers returned home on April 5 and were involved in pitchers' duel, with a two-run home run being the difference in a 2-0 loss to Class 6A First Coast.

Lasseter started on the mound for Union, giving up seven hits and no walks, while striking out seven through six innings. First Coast's home run, which was hit by Hunter Carns, occurred in the sixth inning.

Hayden Carns went the distance on the mound for the Buccaneers, allowing three hits and two walks.

Diggs pitched the final inning for the Tigers, striking out all three batters he faced.

The Tigers played Class 3A Bradford this past Tuesday and will host Class 2A University Christian on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m. Union hosts Class 4A Taylor County on Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Park, Thomas lead Keystone boys and girls at track meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's Kaylee Park earned three top-seven finishes and was a member of two relay teams that placed in the top six at a mini meet hosted by Oak Hall on April 2.

Park took third in the long jump with a distance of 14-10.

She was fourth in the 200m and seventh in the 100m with times of 28.16 and 13.7.

The girls 4x400m relay team, which consisted of Park, Cali Chamberlain, Kenslee Phillips and Olivia Griffin, placed fifth with a time of 4:42. Park and Phillips teamed up with Christine Djavaheri and Laila Briseno to run a sixth-place time of 58.28 in the 4x100m relay.

Griffin earned a pair of top-10 finishes, finishing the 800m with an eighth-place time of 2:39 and the 1600m with a ninth-place time of 6:32.

Chamberlain and Phillips were eighth and 10th, respectively, in the 400m with times of 1:09 and 1:10.

Djavaheri had a ninth-place time of 29.26 in the 200m.

Other girls results were: 100m — Djavaheri 14.19, Briseno 14.73, Brook Gaudons 15.63, Jasmine Walls 16.27, Diannah Fisher 16.4; 200m — Briseno 31.37, Phillips 32.01, Fisher 34.78; 400m — Gaudons 1:17, Walls 1:19; and discus — Zoey Gill 38-11.75.

The Keystone boys team got a third-place finish from Ryder Thomas, who had a time of 4:49 in the 1600m. The race also had Tyler Griffin and Hunter Sheppard placing sixth and seventh, respectively, with times of 5:11 and 5:14.

Tyler Sapp, Jamari Turner, Jaden Park and Luke Lewis teamed up to run a sixth-place time of 49.21 in the 4x100m relay.

The 4x400m relay team of Turner, Sheppard, Thomas and De'Shawn Williams was seventh with a time of 3:59.

Park ran an eighth-place time of 24.35 in the 200m, while Park was 10th in the long jump with a distance of 17-7.

Keystone also had the following boys results: 100m — Park 12.09, Turner 12.16, Josiah Durrenberger 12.49, Williams 13.83, Lewis 13.89, Carter Andrews 15.81; 200m — Turner 24.95, Durrenberger 25.7, Williams 28.22, Lewis 28.51; 400m — Sapp 56.79, Andrews 1:17; 800m — Thomas 2:15.02, Griffin 2:15.05, Sheppard 2:18, Ryeland Wahl 2:19, Jason Parales 2:39; 1600m — Wahl 5:20, Parales 5:48; long jump — Turner 17-1, Parales 11-6.5; discus — Ricardo Rosario 58-0; and shot put — Rosario 31-3.25.



Union's Amia Bethea won the 200m at an April 2 meet at Oak Hall.

Tigers get 1st- and 2nd-place finishes from Bethea, Diston

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School competed at a mini track and field meet at Oak Hall on April 2, with Amia Bethea winning the girls 200m and Dayquan Diston finishing as runner-up in the boys 200m.

Bethea ran a time of 26.12 in the sprint, while Diston had a time of 23.2.

The boys 200m also included the Tigers' Bobo Woodall running a fifth-place time of 24.1.

Union earned a third-place finish in the boys 4x400m relay, with Blake McCoy, Brycen Boney, Bo Thomas and Gavin Smith teaming up to run a time of 3:43.

See JUMP, page 2

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LBMS baseball team defeats BMS 11-1, improves to 10-1-2

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler Middle School pitchers Westyn Miller and Spencer Legg combined to allow just four hits as the Tigers defeated host Bradford 11-1 in an April 4 baseball game.

The Tigers (10-1-2) scored seven runs in the third, which was more than enough with the

way the guys on the mound were throwing. Miller, who started, gave up one run, three hits and two walks, while striking out three in four innings. Legg pitched one inning, allowing one hit and no walks.

Lake Butler put the first run on the board in the top of the first. Tristan George drew a leadoff walk, but was put out at second when Miller ground into

a fielder's choice. An error on the play, however, allowed Miller to advance all the way to third. He eventually scored on a passed ball.

The Tornadoes (1-4-1) answered in the bottom of the inning. Kyler Hall hit a leadoff single, stole second and advanced to third on a ground out by Damarion Dodd. Hall scored on a Kaedan Parks single.

It remained 1-1 until the third inning. Lake Butler's Kiptyn Shuler hit a leadoff single and took second on an error. Shuler stole third and eventually scored on a passed ball.

The Tigers scored the rest of their runs in the inning with two outs. Weston Thompson, who reached on a fielder's choice, scored on an error. An error on a fly ball hit by Emery Muse allowed Ridge Robinson, who walked, to score. After Dalen Paige walked, Bradford committed an error on a ground ball hit by George, allowing Muse to score. Paige scored on a passed ball before Miller was hit by a pitch. A wild pitch scored George and allowed Miller to advance to second. Miller scored on a Shuler single.



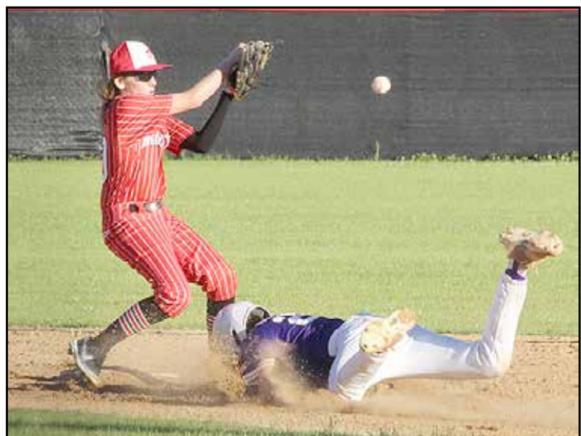
Lake Butler starting pitcher Westyn Miller gave up one run and three hits in four innings.

two-run single.

The Tigers, who played Trenton, Lake City and Williston earlier this week (April 8-10), will return to action on Thursday, April 18, when they

host Bradford at 6 p.m.

Bradford, which played Lake City on April 8 and Keystone Heights on April 10, will travel to play Fort White on Monday, April 15, at 4 p.m.



Lake Butler's Ridge Robinson (right) slides safely into second on a steal attempt as an off-target throw sails past Bradford shortstop Lucas White.



Bradford's Kaedan Parks (left) takes a lead at second in the first inning. Also pictured is Lake Butler shortstop Tristan George.

Lake Butler outlasts Bradford 11-9 in middle school softball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Courtney Manning drove in four runs, including a two-run double that proved to be the difference in the Lake Butler Middle School softball team's 11-9 win over host Bradford on April 4.

It was the third win for the Tigers (7-5) in their last four games and just the second loss for the Tornadoes (3-2-1).

Manning made an impact

early, hitting a two-run triple in the top of the first. An error on the play allowed her to score, putting the Tigers up 3-0.

Bradford tied it up in the bottom of the inning. Raelynn Alexander hit a leadoff single and advanced to second on an error. She went to third on a passed ball before a Regan Adams fly ball. Adams reached safely on an error. Autumn DeKorver and Tatum Burkhalter hit back-to-back singles with two outs, with Burkhalter's hit scoring two runs.



Lake Butler's Courtney Manning runs to third base after hitting a first-inning triple against Bradford. She continued running to home to score off an error.

Lake Butler pushed four runs across in the second. Ashlyn Ferris singled, followed by a Delaney Rhoden walk. Makayla Orton reached on an error to load the bases. Kailynn Gulbrand hit a single to score one run, while on error on the play allowed another to score. The Tigers loaded the bases again when Manning

walked. Emily Hunt, who went 2 for 4, then hit a two-run double, while Jessa Dekle drove in another run on a ground out, giving Lake Butler an 8-3 lead.

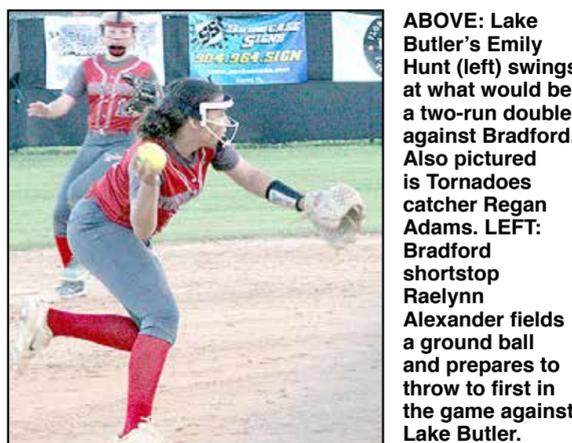
The Tornadoes had a runner on with two outs in the bottom of the second when Kingslee Phillips hit an RBI single, making it a four-run game.

Bradford had two outs and no one on in the fifth when DeKorver reached on an error and scored on a Burkhalter single.

Lake Butler scored a run in the top of the sixth to make the score 9-5. Hunt reached on a dropped third strike. She was replaced by courtesy runner Alyssa Lee, who stole second and moved to third on Layla Crowe's sacrifice bunt. Lee scored on a wild pitch with two outs.

The Tornadoes made it a two-run game in the bottom of the sixth. Iana Oliver and Alexander both hit singles. Phillips drove in one run on a ground out, while Adams hit a double to score another.

Orton and Gaulbrand both walked for the Tigers with two outs in the top of the seventh. Manning then hit her two-run double, wrapping up a 3-for-4 night and giving her team an



ABOVE: Lake Butler's Emily Hunt (left) swings at what would be a two-run double against Bradford. Also pictured is Tornadoes catcher Regan Adams. LEFT: Bradford shortstop Raelynn Alexander fields a ground ball and prepares to throw to first in the game against Lake Butler.



Lake Butler first baseman Kailynn Gulbrand (left) watches a pitch as Bradford's Iana Oliver looks to run.

See OUTLAST, page 14

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The camp, which is offered by Starke's 12G Mentoring, will run from June 17 through July 26, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. each weekday at the Church of God by Faith Community Learning Center (721 Old Lawtey Road). It'll consist of coding, experiments, robotics,

social-emotional learning and "protecting our galaxy."

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The weekly fee is \$100, with a \$75 registration fee.

Register at iamstemcamps.com. You may also call 904-364-0868 or send email to 12gibt.12gip@gmail.com.

TRACK

Continued from page 12

Thomas ran a fourth-place time of 53.34 in the 400m, while McCoy had a ninth-place time of 55.43.

McCoy placed sixth in the long jump with a distance of 19-1.5, while Matthew Rogers was seventh in the discus with a distance of 86-7.25.

The boys team had three 10th-place finishes: Woodall in the

100m (11.93), C.J. Ivey in the discus (83-8) and Dillon Lane in the shot put (33-9).

Union also had the following boys results: 200m — Michael Hill 26.54, Ashton Bunkley 29.56; 400m — Boney 58.04; 800m — Smith 2:15, Hill 2:24; 1600m — Bunkley 6:02; discus — Edward Durant 51-9.25; and shot put — Jacob Jenkins 31-9.5, Anthony Holmes 30-2.25.

The girls team got a sixth-place finish from Taleya Smith,

who had a distance of 27-6 in the shot put.

Tierra Williams was ninth in the 100m with a time of 13.82.

Other girls results: 100m — Holly Halfacre 14.55; 200m — Williams 29.73, Halfacre 30.61, Daina Smith 35.36; 800m — Makenzie Ring 2:58; long jump — Halfacre 13-7; discus — Briena Haight 53-3.75, Smith 46-0.25, Ja'Kari Hill 41-10; and shot put — Haight 23-11.5, Mari Williams 22-6.75.

OUTLAST

Continued from page 13

11-7 lead.

Bradford got RBI singles from Miranda Jameis and Alexander with two outs in the bottom of the seventh before the game ended on a ground out.

Burkhalter and Alexander

finished 3 for 4 and 3 for 5, respectively, while DeKorver went 2 for 4.

It was the second straight win for Lake Butler, which entered the game off a 16-2 win over host Keystone Heights on April 2.

Manning, who went 2 for 3 with three RBI, drove in two runs on a single as part of a four-run second inning that put the Tigers

up 6-1.

It was 7-1 when the Tigers exploded for nine runs in the sixth. Raelynn Alvarez hit a triple to lead off the inning and came up to bat a second time with the bases loaded. She hit another triple to finish 2 for 5 with three RBI.

The big inning also included an RBI single from Manning and an RBI double from Hunt, who was 3 for 4, with two doubles and three RBI.

Gulbrand and Ferris, who went 2 for 3, each had one RBI.

Starting pitcher Hunt gave up one hit and struck out six in five innings.

Ferris pitched one inning, allowing two hits.

Lake Butler and Bradford will play each other again on Thursday, April 18, at 6 p.m. at Lake Butler's O.J. Phillips Recreation Complex.



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