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CITY WILL MOVE, EXPAND VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK | PG 3

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BHS WINS FIRST-EVER FLAG FOOTBALL DISTRICT TITLE | PG 15

The Sweetest Strawberries this side of Heaven

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, April 27, 2023

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BC 4-H team wins state title



The Bradford County 4-H livestock-judging team won the overall team championship at the state competition, which was held April 15 in Gainesville. The team placed first in the following divisions en route to winning the overall title: Cattle, Reasons, Sheep and Goats and Swine. Team member Bailey Jones was the number-one overall individual, placing first in the Cattle, Reasons and Swine divisions. Jones also placed third in Sheep and Goats. Shayna Durrance was the fourth-place individual in Swine and placed sixth overall, while Bailey Varnes was the fifth-place individual in Swine and placed seventh overall. The team will compete against 48 teams in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. Pictured (l-r) are Volunteer Coach Carson Willis, Durrance, Tanner Connell, Jones, Varnes and Coach and UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Livestock Agent Lizzie Whitehead.



"Mr. BHS" and Bradford High's next principal, Chris Coffey.

Coffey named next BHS principal

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Last Friday, Bradford County School District revealed that Chris Coffey will be principal at Bradford High School for the 2023-24 school year.

Coffey has been an assistant principal at the school since 2017.

"I am extremely excited that Mr. Coffey will be our next principal at BHS," Superintendent Will Hartley said. "I think in his work as assistant principal over the last six years he has established himself as 'Mr. BHS' in the eyes of the majority of our students and parents. He is a very well-rounded leader that has the student's best interests at heart. His work ethic is second to none and his continued level of commitment as principal of Bradford High School will serve our community well."

"I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing to work alongside our amazing students and the best faculty and staff around," Coffey said. "I appreciate Mr. Hartley and the Bradford School Board for putting their faith in me and for Ms. Tomlinson who continues to be a phenomenal mentor. Go Tornados, Go Big Red!"

"Mr. Coffey is by far the best pick as the next principal of Bradford High School," Principal Angela Tomlinson

See COFFEY, page 3

Kornegay predicts bright future, difficult decisions

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — In summarizing his first 180 days, Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay covered a lot of topics and received praise for his performance.

Kornegay delivered a progress report to county commissioners on April 20 that enumerated accomplishments and predicted promise for the county's future if they are willing to face some tough decisions.

The manager said he set goals very early on that included building relationships with commissioners, building public trust, and evaluating organizational structures such as financial position and policies and procedures.

"If you don't have good relationships between your county manager and your commissioners, nothing gets done. Things become contentious, and it's a terrible way to operate," Kornegay said.

He and staff meet regularly with commissioners to individually discuss their priorities and expectations. They attend trainings and conferences together where they cooperate on networking, building knowledge and discovering opportunities for



Scott Kornegay speaking at a meeting of the Lake Region Prosperity Partners.

the county. They also socialize at community events, demonstrating their cohesiveness as a team.

Similarly, Kornegay said they've built public trust and communication through activeness in civic and business groups, maintaining fact-

See MANAGER, page 3

Growing Keystone RV Park makes U.S. Top 100

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Keystone Heights RV Park general manager said that after only two years, his park has been designated as one of the country's top 100 by the Good Sam Campground Network.

Ken Loyd told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that when Good Sam notified him of the honor, it said it had never before named a park two years old or younger to its top 100 list.

"It was quite an honor," Loyd said. Good Sam evaluates each campground in three categories: campground and RV park, restroom and showers and visual appearance and environmental quality.

The Keystone Heights RV Resort is one of only nine RV parks in Florida, with a perfect score in all three categories.

Tripling in size

Loyd said the resort opened in 2020 with 192 sites and now has 550 operating sites. He added that 705 sites will be operating by mid-May, more than tripling its original number of lots.

He also said 394 of the park's residents live there year-round.

Loyd said that after the latest sites are completed in May, he plans to upgrade some of the park's original sites.

"Phases 1 and 2 got a little bit neglected while Phase 3 was being built," he said. "We were growing so fast, so we're going to go back and do some clean up and touch up and make Phases 1 and 2 look pretty again."

Loyd also said the facility broke new ground last week by selling its first model home: a small modular home on one of the park's lots.

Helping local businesses

Loyd said he encourages the park's residents to follow his example in buying local.

"It's been a practice of mine as the general manager of the park doing most of my business here in town," he said. "I buy all my lawn equipment from Lake Area Small Engine, so we try to build the economy here in the area as much as we possibly can."

See PARK, page 4

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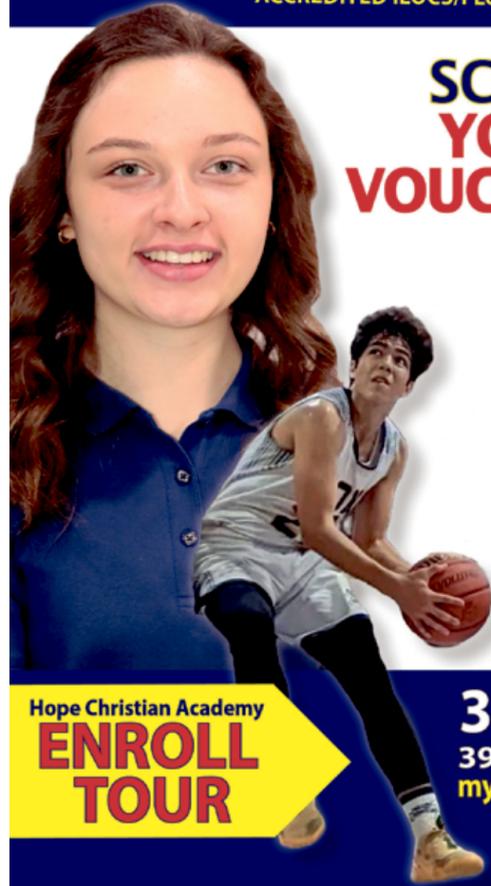
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Split decision over moving city's veterans park

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Charles Schaefer Veterans Memorial Park will be moved from Call Street to Edwards Road, where it will be expanded.

The idea has been under discussion among commissioners and veterans. The move from a site further restricted by the overpass structure to a site where will be allowed to grow was finally made April 18, but the decision was not unanimous.

According to the resolution, the bypass has altered the traffic pattern around the park and disrupts the ability of those visiting the park to view and reflect upon the memorial, which was placed there to honor the memory of those who have sacrificed themselves to military service.

"The park is no longer located in a place befitting the honor of

those who served their country," the resolution states.

The new parcel identified in the resolution is located at 929 Edwards Road, across the street from the Edwards Road Municipal Complex.

Commissioner Danny Nugent has opposed the move and wanted to know what the rush was when the city was supposed to be researching the ownership status of the parcel, and the American Legion veterans had voted against moving the memorial. If the road is a danger to the veterans park, why isn't it a danger to the rest of the city's property there, he asked. He said it doesn't make sense.

"I feel, personally, it was put there for the soldiers who helped build this community, and, to me, to move it when they don't, the ones who actually serve and protect us and defended our country do not want to move," he said. "Why would you want

a veterans memorial park there if you're going to move the veterans memorial park behind a ballfield and five miles away? It doesn't make sense, in my opinion."

Commissioner Andy Redding, who has supported the move, said Nugent spoke out of turn when he said Redding was responsible for drafting the reason behind the move, which was written by the city attorney. Nugent attempted to interrupt, but Mayor Scott Roberts insisted Redding be allowed to speak.

"And this is why we're where we're at because of this incoherent rambling," Redding said.

"We had a very positive meeting yesterday with the Legion, and the pluses outweigh the minuses," he said. The location is unsafe, and the parking has been further restricted, he explained.

"Unless something has

changed in the last 24 hours, we're on the same page," he said.

The new location will provide a safer and peaceful location for the veterans, according to the commissioner.

"And your concept of distance is terrible, because it's only about a half-mile further away," Redding said.

The location at Edwards Road will place the park in proximity to young people who will learn about conflict and sacrifice, he added.

"That's what we're trying to honor here, but you want to keep people in a hole, in an unsafe environment," he said, adding that the memorial will also be expanded and brought up to date. No one lost since Vietnam is represented.

Commissioner Shannon Smith only questioned the amount of money being set aside — \$10,000. He suggested investing \$100,000 or more to cover

expansion and lighting, saying there were remaining ARPA funds cover the costs.

It was explained \$10,000 was only expected to cover the actual relocation, not any improvements. Roberts said the idea is to make it bigger, better and more accessible.

Legion members present at the commission meeting chose not to comment pending further investigation.

The resolution passed 4-1 with Nugent dissenting.

Before the meeting ended, Redding told Nugent that he loved him even though they disagree. Nugent said differences are allowed. It's a part of life.

The city manager has been directed to complete the relocation by Veterans Day, Nov. 11, when the memorial will be rededicated.

COFFEY

Continued from page 1

said. "He is a solid educator and brings consistency that the school needs to lead them to the next level."

"Mr. Coffey and his family are active members of the community and he is personally involved in many events. As the Principal of Bradford High School, Mr. Coffey will bring both his educational knowledge and love of the community to create a well-rounded atmosphere for all," she continued.

Tomlinson said her next chapter is a work in process.

"I am confident that the Lord will lead me where He needs me. I am thankful for the time I was able to spend with the faculty and staff as well as the families of Bradford High School. I consider BHS family and I will forever be a Tornado!" she said.

MANAGER

Continued from page 1

to-face relationships with community leaders. There are protocols in place for addressing constituent concerns as well. Commissioners bring those concerns to him, and they figure out a plan together. There is an open-door policy for everyone. The manager's office is always open, and the phone is always answered, he said.

"We welcome visitors and anyone else that needs to do business with the county manager all through the day."

Kornegay said the county's "very, very poor financial condition" is no secret. Work has included meeting with business leaders to identify new revenue sources, exploring grant opportunities and considering both electric franchise fees and impact fees on new development.

Airport access

Discussing some specific projects in detail, Kornegay said they have salvaged a project to create an alternate entrance to the Keystone Heights Airport. The new access road will provide a straight shot to the airport for existing tenants like MHD Rockland while opening more land for future commercial and industrial tenants.

The manager — who was previously a member of the airport authority — said the authority had resigned themselves that the \$2.3 million grant received was going to go away because the project couldn't be completed in time.

Since becoming manager and discussing the project with Project Works Director Jason Dodds, they decided to see if they could accomplish at least a portion of the original scope of work, spending as much of the grant award as they could.

Kornegay said the Department of Economic Opportunity has been wonderful working with the county on this, allowing them to modify the scope.

"We've jumped all the hurdles. We've relocated all the gopher turtles, we've put a silt fence, and we're now, on Monday, supposed to get the permit from the St. Johns River Water Management District the last permit that we need, and then we can start construction in earnest," he said.

"What great, great news this is. That access route is going to mean a lot to the to the airport and to Bradford County."

Project Douglas

Another project Kornegay was involved with prior to become manager is the attempted acquisition of the former Division of Surplus Property warehouse on U.S. 301 south of Starke.

The 100,000 square-foot building could be used to provide some desperately needed storage for MHD Rockland.

Kornegay said when he found the property was in the hands of the Department of Emergency Management, he reached out to the director, an old friend from Jacksonville, who agreed the building should be turned over to the county for economic development.

That's easier said than done. Months later, Kornegay

said they're still living a nightmare with the Department of Environmental Protection involved. Fortunately, the county did receive a \$20,000 grant from Enterprise Florida to complete a 910-page report and carry out the environmental assessment.

They hope to have the matter on the governor's desk within the next couple of months.

The acquisition could have a role in MHD Rockland's plans to expand its campus with a Space Florida grant received in 2019.

High-speed internet

The Local Technology Planning Team — which includes community leaders and subject matter experts — has been on the fast track, learning how to proceed with submitting letters of support for projects to the Florida Office of Broadband. These would expand the availability of high-speed internet in rural parts of the county.

Kornegay said they have sent letters supporting two projects. A plan for Comcast in the northwest portion of the county and for Windstream in the southwest.

"They sent us their maps and their plans, and we decided to endorse both of them because the two plans were complementary," he said.

Oracle Lab

Kornegay was invited in January to visit the Oracle Innovations Lab opened in Deerfield, Illinois, last year. While there, he promoted Bradford County and the airport as a site for a future lab.

Since then, there have been three follow-up meetings. They are interested in Bradford, and a steering committee is being formed.

"I don't want to jinx anything

or say anything that's not true, but I'm very excited about this," he said.

According to Oracle, their labs provide customers a hands-on environment to develop new ideas and create solutions leveraging technology from Oracle and more than 30 industry partners. In the labs, customers from a variety of industries can test and validate new technologies in a simulated environment.

The Deerfield lab focused first on energy and water, construction and engineering, communications, and manufacturing.

The enormity of the possible

The county doesn't have a single individual assigned to human resources, much less a department. Kornegay is looking at placing a consultant on retainer to provide that function. The county needs help with recruitment and retention, as well as updating its policies and procedures.

"I don't think archaic is too strong of a word to use when it comes to our policies and procedures. They're just so outdated, and they need attention desperately," he said.

The county knows growth is coming, and impact fees will be evaluated to help pay for the demand on public services. As for electric franchise fees, he said Florida Power and Light is on board, and all that remains is for the commission to vote and the documents to be signed. Clay Electric is a "different animal," he said, and they are still evaluating how to handle that.

Kornegay closed with his wife's favorite quote, an observation by First Lady Rosalyn Carter: "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where

they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."

The manager said that is where Bradford is right now, facing some hard decisions that nevertheless must be made.

"I think that's what we're doing, and I think we're doing it thoughtfully, deliberately and correctly," he said.

What city and county managers around the state share is that none of them get any sleep because of all the job entails, Kornegay said.

"What scares me is the fact that there's so much possibility and so much potential here in Bradford County, and so I think we shouldn't be afraid of the enormity of the possible."

Commissioners and partners alike heaped praise on Kornegay at the conclusion of his presentation, with the unanimous agreement being that his hiring was one of the best decisions the commission has made. Commissioner Kenny Thompson called for a standing ovation from the board, and officials and partners from the city of Starke, airport and business community took turns sharing how impressed they are with Kornegay and his past and present accomplishments.

Kornegay said the presentation wasn't all about him.

"These department heads that we have — unbelievable," he said. "That's what's gotten us where we are: the leadership of our departments and their willingness to work through problems and enjoy the success that comes with it."

Other presentation highlights

—When Kornegay started, there was no executive assistant, county attorney or auditor. All those positions were successfully filled, although because of personal issues, he is searching

to replace his executive assistant.

—There was also no spending plan for more than \$5 million in federal ARPA funding, but since that time, the money has been allocated for courthouse climatization improvements, the RJE gymnasium renovations and — at \$4 million — a plan to extend water and sewer lines down State Road 16 to the bypass to serve future development. This partnership demonstrates work toward building better relationships with other local governments, Kornegay said.

—The status of the phosphate mining application was finally resolved by its withdrawal.

—The commission and school board have agreed upon a redistricting map. Both boards will be voting to approve the map in May.

—Vincent Esson and the Keystone Heights RV Resort have agreed to fund construction of living quarters for fire personnel at Station 10 in a fast-growing portion of the county. Esson and the county area also working together on the placement of a solar farm at the closed landfill that could power the resort and benefit the county as well.

—In the past few weeks, working with the health department, they've implemented a solution for contractors who were waiting months for septic permits. The Department of Health is now compensating the county to accept those application in-house through the Building and Zoning Department.

—CareerSource is leasing vacant space in the courthouse annex through an \$1,800 a month lease that was finally approved.

—Kornegay is encouraging the county let go of its "lazy assets" — properties the county is not using that could be returned to the tax rolls while reducing insurance liability costs.

—The manager also summarized some very active departments, including the library and UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Office.

—Kornegay has been invited to appear as part of a five-person panel at the annual conference of the Florida City and County Managers Association. The topic will be building relationships between managers and commissioners. It will be another opportunity to elevate Bradford at the state level.

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~ By Henry Hodges
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Lake Region

Keystone Heights Council delays decision on airport board

Motion to replace board with advisory committee tabled

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — During an April 24 workshop, the city council tabled a motion by Chris Thompson that would have replaced the city's independent airport authority board with an advisory committee.

Council member Tony Brown, who, along with Thompson, recommended the workshop to evaluate the board's function, said he needed more information before deciding whether to reconstitute the airport's governing board.

Brown acknowledged the growth and achievements of the airport over the last several years. He added, however, that as a council member responsible for the city's welfare, he had an obligation to review the airport's governance. Brown added that because of Florida's Sunshine

statutes, a public meeting was the only forum in which council members could undertake that review.

The council member said he wanted the city to consider hiring an airport manager who reported directly to the council instead of an independent airport board. He added that under the concept he was considering, the current board would remain in place but would serve as an advisory board to the council rather than having final decision-making authority.

Vice mayor Steve Hart said he was worried that converting the board to an advisory role would expose the city to additional liability. He added that the council could increase its oversight of the airport by its rule-making authority rather than converting the airport board into an advisory panel.

Highly focused skillset

During the workshop, airport board members and tenants

advised against the move. They said shifting decision-making from the board, whose sole responsibility was to manage the airport, to the city council would slow down the airport's responses to tenants' requests. They also said council members lack the technical aviation knowledge to make informed decisions about the 2,476-acre facility, which straddles Clay and Bradford counties.

The airport's engineer, Bill Prange, told the council that running an airport requires a highly focused skillset.

"The aviation skillset and understanding FAA laws and guidelines related to the airworthiness of aircraft, how to operate a flight school and down to funding, it's a pretty narrow skillset," he said, "which is why most airports engage a consultant to help them manage that."

The engineer said changing the governing board could endanger Rural Economic Development Initiative funding from the state because that funding was secured, naming the airport

authority board as the sponsor.

"As an example," he said, "you currently have a project at the airport, the estimated value about \$800,000. That's the runway lighting project. It's a hundred percent (Florida Department of Transportation) funded. If you lose your REDI status, you'd be on the hook for \$80,000."

Prange also described the three models for airport governance in Florida: an independent board created by the state legislature, an independent board created by the local government, and the airport operating as a department of the local government.

"Of the eight (airports) I represent, there are all three examples of typical airport governance," he said. "The least stable of those airports are the municipal-run (airports)."

Tenants favor current board

Todd Falconer, vice president of flight operations for MHD Rockland, told the council his

company is one of the airport's largest tenants and probably the most significant financial contributor to the facility.

He said changes to the airport's governance would lead the company to reevaluate its future investments at the facility.

"We have concerns as a company with some of the past council meetings that we've reviewed and really don't understand why you want to change something that isn't broken," he said. "We are on the precipice of now having (an approval) letter from the FAA spending tens of millions of dollars, and from a company standpoint, the atmosphere, I'll just say that and over the last few months has made us step back and reconsider whether there's stability here for us to make those kinds of financial decisions."

Several airport tenants compared the Keystone facility's current governance model with the Palatka-Kay Larkin Airport, which is run as a city department.

Jeff Hathorn told the council he served on the Palatka airport's

board for 14 years until the city converted it into a municipal department.

"They have been affected by city hall taking over, and the airport has gone down the toilet, and you can put me on record saying that," he said. "The tenants are upset there. There's no continuity between real-time activities and the city council, and it's just a mess."

Grant Hooks told the council he rented a hangar from the Palatka Airport for six months.

"The only reason I went over there is I was able to get a hangar at the time, and (when) we were able to get a hangar at Keystone, we ran back as fast as we could," he said. "In dealing with that setup over there, just trying to resolve the prorated monies paid for the hangar that month and get them back when we left early took six to eight weeks to get that check back from the city. And when I called the city, they had no idea who I was, what I was talking about, and it was not good."

PARK

Continued from page 1

He added that the park hosts a coffee and doughnuts social for residents and that local businesses often meet with them

during those events to build relationships with residents.

"I know the residents have been very receptive to (local businesses)," he said. "We've had several vendor-type events for local vendors to come and set up, and we've had an

excellent turnout when we've done that. So, there's a lot of great opportunities for the local businesses to come in there and interact with the residents."

"They're looking for activities," Loyd said of the park's campers. "They're looking for nice day trips; they're looking for nice restaurants. They're looking for nice grocery store facilities to get them what they need without driving to Gainesville or Jacksonville. They're always looking for new things and get very excited when they see news like Popeye's building in Keystone Heights."

Leading the RV industry

Loyd said he started in the grocery business at age 19 and worked in the industry until 12 years ago when the business started to change, and his employer wanted to convert his job to part-time.

He said he got into the recreational vehicle business while staying at an RV resort in Jacksonville.

"The general manager followed me to my site and said, you're our marketing director, and that's the end of the story. We need one, and you're it," recalled Loyd. "That's how I got into the industry."

After advancing to assistant



Ken Loyd speaks to the Keystone Heights Rotary Club.

general manager at the park, Loyd joined the Keystone Heights operation in 2020.

Not long after joining the industry, Loyd was elected to the board of the northeast region of the Florida RV Trade Association. He was then elected to the Florida and Alabama Campground Association board and is now statewide president of the Florida RV Trade Association.

Loyd said he is the first non-RV dealer to lead the Florida RV Trade Association in its 40-year history.

"I'm very proud of that," he said. "I take a lot of pride in the fact that they felt comfortable enough in my ability to run the organization to put me in charge."

Loyd said the association's primary goals are to monitor and influence legislation that affects the industry, and to provide legal support, training and networking to RV dealers and suppliers.

He said the association also polices its members when some get out of line.

Loyd recalled that when the economy was recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, many RV manufacturers in Elkhart, Indiana ramped up manufacturing before their suppliers were ready. As a result, manufacturers started shipping incomplete RV units to dealers, planning to have the dealers complete the units when supplies became available.

"They didn't have the cabinets, or they didn't have the refrigerators or whatever, and then they were letting the dealers finish them at the dealership," he said.

Loyd said that some dealers failed to tell buyers that the units for sale were incomplete until after deals were closed.

"I heard several horror stories about people who camped two or

three times a month, traded their camper in, and then when they came for the closing, they got told, well, your RV's not ready yet. It'll be ready in about three months," Loyd said. "So they went from an RV that they could readily go camping in anytime they wanted, to having to sit and wait for their new RV to be completed. It put a little bit of a black eye on some of the dealers that were doing that."

Loyd said the Florida RV Trade Association reignited that practice in within Florida, requiring full disclosure to buyers.

More growth coming

Loyd said his company plans to open an RV dealership and consignment facility on the southeastern corner of County Road 21B and State Road 100.

He added that the RV park's main entrance may be moving from its current spot on CR 21B to State Road 100 toward Starke.

"I'm sure you've all seen our construction entrance there on 100," he told club members. "The proposal that we've put together has (the main entrance) at a crest (in the highway) before you go around that turn and get to our construction entrance (traveling toward Starke)."

Loyd said he proposed putting the entrance at the crest to maximize visibility.

"Our understanding is we're going to have to put acceleration and deceleration lanes in," he added. "We're going to have to put turn lanes in. We're prepared to do all that. We just need to get the final approval, and so far, everything is moving forward for us to be able to do that."

He added that the facility plans to install a Top Tracer golf driving range and is talking to the Bradford County Sheriff's Office about a shooting range on the RV park's property.

Loyd also said he is looking at building a small retail facility within the park that might include a general store with snacks and camping supplies, a nail salon, a fitness facility, and a dog grooming and daycare operation.

"We've talked to Pet Paradise and gotten some ideas from them as far as there's a right way to put it in and the right facilities to have at the moment," he said.

In the middle of everywhere

Loyd recalled that during a recent RV show in Tampa, one man asked him why he was working at a park in Keystone Heights, which he claimed was in the middle of nowhere.

Loyd told the man the Lake Region is an easy drive to St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Daytona and Gainesville.

"Either way, you're an hour, hour-and-a-half to get to the ocean, Loyd added. "You've got it backwards. We're not in the middle of nowhere. We're in the middle of everywhere."



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Bradford County
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NOTICE

APPLICATIONS FOR BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council invites interested persons to apply for membership on the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board is an advisory Board that oversees the provision of transportation services for older adults, persons with disabilities and persons with low income.

These are volunteer positions. Applicants must be residents of Bradford County.

Applications or additional information may be obtained by contacting: Lynn Godfrey, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653; phone 352.955.2200 x 110, e-mail godfrey@ncfrpc.org or by visiting our website at www.ncfrpc.org/TD/td.html.

Applications must be received no later than June 1, 2023.

Lake Region welcomes back MotoSurf World Cup

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — City and county officials welcomed the return of the MotoSurf Games at Lake Geneva during a ceremony on Saturday, April 21.

County Commissioner Kristen Burke said MotoSurf and MotoSkate competitions occur at venues in 15 countries worldwide, and the event at Lake Geneva puts the Lake Region on the world stage with coverage from CBS Sports.

Mayor Nina Rodenroth thanked the Keystone Heights High School band, JROTC color guard and cheerleaders

for participating in the opening ceremony, in addition to the Clay High School cheerleading squad.

“You have showcased our small southern town just perfectly, which we really, really appreciate,” she said.

MotoSurf Director Martin Jancelek said competitors from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe would compete over the weekend.

He also pointed to MotoSurf USA’s new junior surfer initiative, intended to promote the emerging sport to young people.

“The junior movement is the future of our sport,” he said.



Mayor Nina Rodenroth thanked the Keystone Heights High School band, JROTC color guard and cheerleaders for participating in the opening ceremony, in addition to the Clay High School cheerleading squad. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.



County Commissioner Kristen Burke said MotoSurf and MotoSkate competitions occur at venues in 15 countries worldwide, and the event at Lake Geneva puts the Lake Region on the world stage with coverage from CBS Sports. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.

Financial support helps band excel

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Keystone Heights High School Band will play at the musical performance assessment state concert for the first time in 33 years on April 29.

Band Director Justin Coker said the accomplishment, in addition to other achievements by this year’s band, was attained not only by his team members but also by financial support from the Lake Region community.

Coker, now in his fifth year leading the band, said that after growing pains and steady improvement during his first two years on the job, things took off in Years 3 and 4.

“Last year, we’d gotten our first excellent (rating) in a few years, at least since I’d been here,” he said, “and they’ve even got better this year, and it’s been growing a whole bunch as well.”

Coker said the band has performed at the Daytona International Speedway and the MotoSurf competition in Keystone Heights, in addition to other community appearances.

The director said the most significant factor leading to the band’s improvement over the last year has been the community’s financial support.

Coker said the support, highlighted by the Clay Electric Foundation, Friends of Keystone Heights High School and the Band Boosters, enabled him to upgrade the band’s tubas and percussion sections.

“We spent a couple thousand just making sure the percussion



Coker

is where it is,” he said, “and we spent several thousand this year on it as well.”

Coker said donations of instruments have also helped the students.

“One of our students has been using almost a brand-new professional line horn that someone donated to the school,” he said, “and I have a few of my students using some other instruments that were donated to the school as well.”

Coker added that because of monetary donations, he has been able to purchase quality instruments for his students to play.

He said the contributions also finance the group’s trips to appearances like the one to Daytona earlier this year and the upcoming state concert in Gainesville.

Coker said he appreciates the



The Keystone Heights High School Band plays the National Anthem during the MotoSurf Games opening ceremony. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.

efforts of community members who volunteer in the band’s concession stand during football games.

He also thanked Principal Laurie Burke and former school board member Tina Bullock for their support, in addition to band booster members Julie Carlson, Kimberly Parker, Sarah McMillan and Barbara Ross.

National Day of Prayer

There will be a National Day of Prayer observance at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, at the Starke Church of God by Faith, 730 Old Lawley Road. All are invited to come pray for the community and nation.

Spring Revival at New River Baptist

Join New River Baptist Church for a Spring Revival beginning on Sunday, April 30, at 10:30 a.m. and continuing Sunday evening through Wednesday evening, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. in

the fellowship hall with finger food each night.

The speaker will be Ben Bryant and he will be preaching through the book of Ephesians answering the question of who we are in Christ. New River Baptist Church is located at 16703 SW 144th Ave. in Brooker. For more information, please call 352-485-1276.

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- Marti Vicenzi Project manager Assistant
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UNION COUNTY

More than 200 attend Faith Festival

Promised Land Family Ministries, a volunteer-led nonprofit youth ministry dedicated to educating youth and their families about God through agriculture, held its Faith and Family Ag Festival on April 22.

This is the second year for the free event. The festival showcased eight different educational agriculture stations, with participants rotated around to see each station. The stations were: Agriculture in the Bible (led by Matthew Green and Blake Kendrick), bees (led by Sharon Mullins), gardening (led by UF/IFAS Extension Agent Erin Harlow and Annette Mehl), Florida Fish & Wildlife (led by FWC biological scientist Cade Chaney), beef cattle (led by Allison & Lane Hartley), pigs (led by Clayton Lyons from CK2 Showpigs), horses (led by Graham Cattle), and tractor safety & demonstration (led by Cody Barfield from Ag-Pro in Lake City).

More than 200 participants attended, playing games and enjoying smoothies in addition to seeing the stations. Lunch followed and more than \$1,200



Dallas Graham of Graham Cattle leads a horse for a young girl's first ride.

in prizes were given away.

Sponsors included Florida Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Program, Tri County Metals, Clubhouse Athletics, Ag-Pro, Florida Cattlemen's Foundation and North Florida Equipment Rentals.

Organizers with the ministry are grateful for the support of their partners and the community and excited for the future. For updates on events planned later this year, follow them at www.facebook.com/promisedlandfm and www.PromisedLandFM.org.



Biological scientist Cade Chaney showed participants how she uses different cameras to monitor wildlife in their natural habitat.



Matthew Green and Blake Kendrick share the parable of the sower at our Agriculture in the Bible station.

Note veterans service office schedule

The Bradford County Veteran Service Office will be closed May 1-4, and the Union County

office will be closed on May 3.

Normal hours are Monday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday from 2-6 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday hours vary. Call Barbara Fischer at 904-966-6385 or 904-263-0647 for an appointment.

Get help quitting

If you're ready to quit, join the next Tools to Quit Tobacco group. Virtual options by computer and phone are also available.

This free, one-time two-hour group will give you tips on how to deal with triggers and withdrawal symptoms and how to prevent relapse. You'll also receive up to four weeks of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges.

Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot.

Union Board allows coordinator to sign for chair in certain cases

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — The Union County Board of County Commissioners has voted to increase the administrative powers of County Coordinator James Williams to include authorization to sign certain contracts and other necessary paperwork (such as change orders) on Florida Department of Transportation projects (grant funded) with prior board chair approval on the grants/projects.

"This is a limited grant of authority that will help streamline various projects and will health the projects to run more quickly and smoothly," Commissioner Jimmy Tallman said.

In the past, delays in getting necessary paperwork signed led to delays and requests for time extensions until the board chairman's signature could be obtained — a common problem with boards that meet only once a month and have chairs that work out of town.

The approval comes with the conditions that any documents signed do not financially obligate the county for any costs and remain within the project budget.

The resolution approved to grant Williams these extended obligations does not in any way give the coordinator governing powers, simply administrative

powers to keep things running in a timely manner. All projects must be examined and approved by the board, and the coordinator must consult with the board chair before executing any document. It is not a delegation of authority in any way.

In other discussion and action, the Union County Board of County Commissioners:

—heard a report from Emergency Medical Services Director Toby Witt that the fire department has received a grant that will reimburse up to half of the purchase price for equipment, up to \$16,000, used to fight wildfires.

"The allowed items are mostly things that the department would purchase anyway," Witt said.

—heard a report from Williams that the county would be getting two new inmate work crews, nearly immediately, to cover the mowing and groundskeeping at 23 facilities (such as the courthouse, commission office and other governmental buildings and properties) and 30 guardrail locations. The road department is in the process of putting together two new equipment trailers with mowers, weed eaters and other equipment necessary for the inmates to do their jobs.

In a related matter, the influx of inmates will free up road department workers for mowing the cemeteries in the county,

although Commissioner Mac Johns said he would like to see a list of cemeteries and the amount of time it takes to do each one and discuss payment in some form with the governing bodies of the properties. In the past, some of the cemeteries have donated funds to the county for the service, and Johns said he would like to see some payment from them to offset county costs.

—heard a report from Williams that the plans for the new fire station in Providence were within 90 days of completion. Once the plans are finalized the county can call for bids on the construction itself.

—approved a request, first meeting as the county planning and zoning board and later at the BOCC, from local landowner Jimmy Matthews to change the zoning of less than 10 contiguous acres (0.81 acres) from agricultural to industrial light and warehousing to allow the owner to create an RV storage facility.

The facility will provide secure parking for storage purposes only and that none of the vehicles would be hooked up or inhabited. Many people do not have room to park their RVs at their homes or live in developments that prohibit the parking of the vehicles.

Housing development fails second attempt

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The Sandcastle Pines housing development proposed for North Westmoreland Street will not move forward at this time.

The Starke City Commission denied approval of the 22-lot development's site plan at a continued hearing on April 18.

This was the second failed attempt to construct new housing in the area. The project was opposed by existing residents over traffic and flooding concerns, but even with promised revisions, the site plan did not pass.

The developer proposed a 25-lot affordable housing development last year but was denied a zoning change needed to accommodate that number of houses. They returned with a 22-lot site plan that fit into the existing zoning category.

After testimony from city staff during part one of the hearing in March, it appeared the development had succeeded in presenting a compliant plan.

But during the continuation of the hearing last week, Starke attorney Clay Martin questioned the differing versions of the site plan presented during the evaluation process. The final plan sent to the city was submitted after a prior plan and been reviewed by the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

The council's Sondra Joseph testified that the presence of a community center on the final site plan was not compliant with the existing zoning category. Kevin Powell in the city's Building and Zoning Department agreed.

The community center for the affordable housing development would have served as a management office, storage for landscaping equipment and as

a center to present programs to renters on financial literacy and job searches.

The sidewalk had also been designed on the wrong side of the street.

Concerns were again raised about the impact to the road both from the construction traffic and new residential traffic. Because this was no longer a zoning matter, the commission could not approve the project based on an agreement to repair or improve the street. Development attorney Robert Williams pointed out the only question before the board now was whether the site plan met the requirements of the land development regulations as presented.

To make that so, Williams said they were willing to replace the community center with an additional home and move the sidewalk to comply with the regulations.

Suddenly, there were unanswered questions about the source of the project's funding and whether it would continue as an affordable housing project with those revisions. Commissioner Andy Redding questioned the ever-changing claims — that the funding was a risk, that the programming for residents was essential.

At this point, the developer said they needed to know what the city would allow before they could decide what to develop. It could simply be another subdivision instead of rental properties. They were willing to agree to comply with the requirements of the land development code to receive conditional approval.

They did not receive it. The commission voted 3-2 to deny approval, with Commissioners Roberts, Mortimer and Redding on the prevailing side, and Smith and Nugent voting against denial.

Brooker School plans open houses

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

BROOKER — Brooker Community School is making plans and taking action to get details in place for the opening of the new school in August. The April 12 board meeting detailed the promotion and recruitment plans ahead.

School Principal Felecia Moss will be visiting potential recruitment sites as well as making herself available for one-on-one meetings. Moss spoke at the Greater Bell Church and is hoping for other invitations to talk about the school. She is in contact with the Acorn Clinic and with Love'n & Learning Child Care Center, along with other interested places.

To offer folks a chance to meet with her in person, Moss will be holding an "open house" each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school. That is the perfect time for those interested in applying for a position to have a private discussion or for parents of potential students to get questions answered.

Not all the recruitment work falls to the principal. Board members and volunteers will form teams of two to fan out and hold enrollment events regionally in areas that include LaCrosse, Brooker, Hampton, Montechoa and Worthington Springs.

The school is a public school and offers free and open enrollment. As a charter school they can operate with smaller classes and develop their own curriculum, if it complies with Florida Department of Education standards. The school will serve grades K-5 and will provide transportation within a six-mile radius of the school.

Bradford Community School will hold a budget workshop with their CPA, Richard Trainor, on Thursday, May 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the school cafeteria. The regular monthly Community School Board meeting will follow immediately (in lieu of the regular meeting held on second Wednesday of each month).

NOTICE

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Applications must be received no later than June 1, 2023.



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Chemours employees visited Head Start in Starke for Earth Day and shared with the kids a love of nature through gardening.



Kendall Blye and Casen Guin tend the newly planted garden.



Josiah Blye and John Tyson Jr. water the thirsty transplants.



County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner attended and assisted, showing Jayceona Mealing and Makena Miller how to water the plants.

Judge tosses Methodist lawsuit

Lawtey congregation was lead plaintiff

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — A circuit judge dismissed a lawsuit against the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church brought by Lawtey's Grace United Methodist Church and other congregations.

Judge George Wright wrote in a 15-page order that the present law in the State of Florida requires a secular court to defer to the decision of the highest ecclesiastical body regarding intra-church property disputes.

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

The congregations were seeking to separate themselves from the Florida Conference because of what they claimed was the latter's acceptance of same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy.

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

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

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

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

The congregations claimed that the statewide body forced them to pay exorbitant costs to leave the denomination with their properties.

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

"The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the First Amendment prohibits state interference not only into matters of faith and doctrine but also 'matters of church government,'" wrote lawyers for the conference in a motion to dismiss. "The First Amendment protects the authority of religious institutions

See LAWSUIT, page 8

Bradford schools getting ready for kindergartners

Now enrolling the Bradford Tornadoes Class of 2036

Bradford County School District Kindergarten Registration is underway. To enter kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year a child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2023. There is no early admission provision for kindergarten enrollment.

Documents required for registration:

- a birth certificate.
- a school entry health exam performed within 12 months prior to the first day of school, a required immunization certification.

- proof of residency, including a rental agreement or mortgage documents plus a utility statement.
- a photo ID or driver's license of the parent/guardian

- the voluntary collection of the child's Social Security card number, which may be used for specific purposes including Medicaid eligibility and billing, scholarship applications, state assessments.

More details are available on the Enrollment Checklist which can be found at www.bradfordschools.org.



VPK students Quinn Reinken and Carrigan Meng are all smiles about heading to kindergarten in the fall.

bradfordschools.org. A student is not considered enrolled until all documents are submitted.

Not sure which school to enroll in? Visit www.bradfordschools.org for an interactive zoning map. Choose Student Registration and then Interactive Zoning Map. Type in your home address to learn which school your child will attend. Then mark your calendar for you and your child to visit your child's school of enrollment on May 16. (Schedule below.)

Superintendent Will Hartley is delighted to provide each enrolling kindergartener with a Tornado sport bag and new book for their home library. The books selected for this year are from

the Scholastic Getting Ready for Kindergarten collection.

Kindergarten enrollment is digital, but help is available at each site. Review the checklist to ensure that you have all required documents. August 10 will be here before you know it. Learn more about your child's first day based and the staggered start dates available at your school. Help your child arrive on time every day through graduation 2036.

First through 12th grade registration documentation requirements parallel those for kindergarten enrollment. See the Enrollment Registration Checklist at www.bradfordschools.org.

LAWTEY ELEMENTARY 904-966-6796	Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4 pm - 6 pm	Kindergarten Roundup - Question and answer session with K teacher, walk through K classroom, and K screener for new students.
SOUTHSIDE/BRADFORD ELEMENTARY 904-966-6063	Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4 pm - 6 pm	Kindergarten Roundup - Question and answer session with K teacher, walk through K classroom, and K screener for new students. Light casual food provided..
STARKE ELEMENTARY 904-966-6049	Tuesday, May 16, 2023 5 pm - 6 pm	Kindergarten Roundup - Question and answer session with K teacher and administration, walk through K classroom, and schedule upcoming screener for new students. Light casual food provided..

diagrams may not be to exact scale

Bradford County
Telegraph

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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

Jorge Giovanni Aguilar, 37, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 19 for a probation violation.

Neftaly Guevara Alarcon, 27, of Bradenton was arrested on April 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Rudolph Carter, 65, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 21 for possession of cocaine and selling cocaine.

Cherie Lu Dickinson, 19, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 20 for abuse of an elderly person.

Latraka Maresha Fairley, 26, of Sanford was arrested on April 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jeremiah Lamar Givens, 22, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 18 for failure to appear.

Wendell Lamar Grover, 25, of Starke was arrested on April 18 for a probation violation and an out-of-county warrant.

Joseph William Harper, 42, of Florahome was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 17 for larceny and burglary.

Jackie L. Hundley, 53, of Lake City was arrested by Starke police on April 19 for failure to appear.

Jennifer Amanda Jones, 40, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on April 19 for cruelty toward a child and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Philip Merrill Jones, 32, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on April 19 for sexual assault and cruelty toward a child.

Cody McLaughlin, 34, of Ocala was arrested on April 21 for DUI.

Sholeke Lomeke Merriweather, 34, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on April 20 for aggravated battery.

Robert Wayne Morris, 61, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 18 for a probation violation.

Terry Lee Puckett, 50, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 16 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Melissa Dawn Pusateri, 41, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on April 20 for battery.

Rachel Marie Rosier, 27, of Macclenny was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 21 for contempt of court.

Alexis Erwing, Ruizlopez, 22, was arrested on April 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Donald Smith, 72, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 16 for DUI.

Miranda Ann Stewart, 26, of Melrose was arrested on April 15 for being an out-of-state fugitive.

Linda Paschan Turner, 64, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 18 for battery on an elderly person.

Roberto Montalvo Vazquez, 26, of Bradenton was arrested on April 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Ramona Suzette Williams, 58, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 15 for DUI.

Union

Jennifer Deneane Bryan, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 20 for an out-of-county warrant.

Heather Marie Crews, 34, of Glen St. Mary was arrested by Union deputies on April 23 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Branden William Dukes, 38, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 19 for disturbing the peace.

Jessie Olivia Elixson, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 17 for failure to appear.

Jose Dean Gonzalez, 29, was arrested by Union deputies on April 19 for stalking.

Denetrius, Leroy McCallum, 32 of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 20 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and out-of-county warrants.

Andrew Murphy, 51, of Lake City was arrested by Union deputies on April 20 for fraud-swindling.

Robert Earl Stoutamire III, 30 was arrested by Union deputies on April 18 for fraudulent use of credit cards.

Clay

Kayla Jean Brinson, 19, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on April 20 for domestic battery and vandalism with \$1,000 or more in property damage.

Daniel, Paul Murrhee, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on April 18 for domestic battery.

Douglas William Robinson, 40, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on April 15 for DUI with property damage or injury and leaving the scene of a crash involving property damage.

Christina L. Souza, 52, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on April 18 for criminal mischief with \$200 or less in property damage.

Accused of stalking Lake Butler women

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Union deputies arrested a 29-year-old homeless man after they said he followed two Lake Butler women, crept around their homes and peeped into their windows.

Jose Dean Gonzales was arrested for stalking.

According to an arrest report, one of the victims told deputies

that when she and her cousin go for morning walks in the area of Northwest Fourth Street, the defendant follows them making snide comments.

“(The victim) told me Jose has been creeping around her house and she has even seen him peeping in her windows,” wrote Deputy Staci L. Stock in an arrest report. “She told me that she is in fear for her and her children’s safety.”

The officer added that the victim told her that she and her husband told the defendant not to come back on their property. However, he continued to trespass.

The second victim corroborated the first victim’s story and added that she believed the defendant was going to try to break into her residence while she was on her morning walk.

“(The victim) said that she saw him on the corner by her house, so she turned around to see him charging towards her front door,” wrote Stock.

The deputy added that the second victim provided home surveillance video to the deputy to back up her claim. Stock wrote that the video shows the defendant lurking outside of the victim’s residence, watching her and running toward her front door.

Caregiver confiscates dead woman’s property

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Calvin Eugene Miller, 66, of Palatka was sentenced to four months in jail followed by two years’ probation after pleading to grand theft auto.

According to a warrant affidavit, the defendant cared for a woman who died in July 2022.

After the woman’s death, Miller took possession of the decedent’s valuables, including a 2006 Chevrolet Avalanche.

The defendant refused family members’ requests to return the items and the vehicle, even after ownership of the car was transferred to one of the decedent’s children.

Circuit Judge James M. Colaw also ordered the defendant to pay \$1,200 in restitution to the victims. Miller had already served the jail time in pretrial detention.

Deputies: Woman punched 67-year-old

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Bradford deputies arrested Cherie Lu Dickinson, 19, of Starke on April 20 for abuse of an elderly person.

According to an arrest report, the 67-year-old victim told deputies she was driving when she and the defendant got into an argument. She said that during the argument, the defendant hit her in the face causing a black eye on the right side of her face and scratches.

“The victim stated that verbal abuse has been going on for two years; however, the physical abuse has been happening for the past year and is only getting worse,” wrote reporting officer Lakiesha Lewis in the report. “At this time, (the victim) is terrified of (the defendant) and for her life.”

Lewis added that she interviewed the defendant, who agreed that she and the victim

were arguing but said the victim’s injuries were from cat scratches and sunglasses.

“(The victim) has fresh red marks on her right eye along with discoloration that is consistent with someone who was punched in the eye,” wrote the deputy.

Played music too loud

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Union deputies arrested a 38-year-old Lake Butler man after he refused to turn the volume down on his music.

Branden William Dukes was arrested on April 19 for disturbing the peace.

According to an arrest report, deputies responded to a complaint of loud music coming from a white Ford F-350 parked in front of a residence on Northeast First Street in Lake Butler.

“Contact was made with Branden Dukes, who stated that he was unaware that his music was that loud and that he would turn it down,” wrote Deputy Lowell A. Green in an arrest report.

However, later that same evening, shortly before midnight, the sheriff’s office received a second complaint about loud music coming from the vehicle.

“Deputy Sheriff Word and myself responded and could again hear loud music coming from the vehicle,” reported Green. “Deputy Sheriff Word made contact with Branden and again asked him to turn the music down. Branden began to become irate and began yelling, ‘Y’all need to get the (expletive deleted) up out of here. You messed with the wrong one!’”

The two lawmen then ordered Dukes into his home then relocated to a Subway restaurant across the street to monitor the defendant’s compliance.

The deputy wrote that the two officers could hear loud music coming from the defendant’s residence, and dispatch received a third complaint about the noise.

“Sergeant Andrews, (Deputy) Word and myself walked up to the residence where we could hear loud music coming from a portable speaker placed on the railing of the porch and observed Branden sitting on the porch drinking an alcoholic beverage,” the deputy wrote. “Before contact was made, Branden stated ‘The (expletive deleted) did I do wrong? I’m at my house.’”

“Branden was taken into custody and transported to the Union County Jail,” wrote the officer.

Accused of breaking into church thrift store

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Bradford deputies arrested a 42-year-old Florahome man after they said he broke into a Keystone Heights church thrift store and stole items from the structure.

Joseph William Harper was arrested on April 17 for the Sept. 3, 2022, offenses of burglary and larceny.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, the pastor of Keystone United Methodist Church discovered the break-in.

Deputies viewed surveillance video of the incident and observed a man and woman wearing masks enter the structure and remove several items.

LAWSUIT

Continued from page 7

“with respect to internal management decisions that are essential to the institution’s central mission.”

Wright wrote that Florida is among the minority of states that use the mandatory deference approach, which requires courts to defer to and enforce the decision of the highest authority of the ecclesiastical body to which the matter has been carried.

Since the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church had already adjudicated the dispute between the congregations and the

“Although there were clearly items taken in the crime, church officials were unable to give an exact account of what was stolen,” wrote Detective Michael Garmon in the document.

The officer added that two Clay County detectives identified the defendant as the male in the video.

Garmon reported that he contacted the Keystone Heights woman the Clay detectives identified as the female in the video, but she claimed she was not the woman captured on camera.

(The witness) stated that the male in the surveillance footage was her ex-boyfriend Joseph William Harper but stated that the female was not her but rather was (another woman),” wrote the detective.

Couple arrested for sexual abuse of a child

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Starke police arrested Phillip M. Jones, 32, of Starke for sexual battery and child cruelty and Jennifer A. Jones, 40, of Starke, for child cruelty and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

According to a police report, Florida Department of Children and Families officials called police after the alleged offenses were reported on a state abuse hotline.

When police arrived at the Bradford Campground and Motel, the scene of the alleged offenses, they discovered that the victim’s mother: Jennifer Jones, had just kicked the girl out of the home, “telling her that she had to leave and couldn’t live there anymore.”

Police located the victim and took her to the University of Florida’s Child Protection Team for questioning.

The victim told members of the Child Protection Team that Philip Jones sexually battered her on several occasions and that Jennifer Jones knew of and consented to the offenses.

“(The victim) stated that prior to the first sexual encounter with Philip that Jennifer Jones had approached her with the idea and told her that Phillip wasn’t interested in having sex with her (Jennifer) and to save the relationship that she wanted (the victim) to engage in sexual activity with Philip,” wrote reporting officer Detective Michael P. Gillick. “(The victim) was additionally provided with marijuana prior to sexual encounters with Phillip.”

Accused of running over friend

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Starke Police arrested a 34-year-old woman after witnesses said she ran over her friend.

Sholeke Lomeke Merriweather was booked into the Bradford County Jail on April 19 for aggravated battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim was driving the defendant’s car on Starke’s eastside with the defendant in the car as a passenger.

“(The victim) stated she was driving her friend’s car on Jenkins Street when she saw another friend of hers walking nearby,” wrote Officer David

Hall in the report. “She stated out loud she wanted to stop and speak with the individual. Her friend, Sholeke Merriweather (suspect), who was the passenger and owns the vehicle, stated she did not want to stop and talk to the Individual.”

The victim said she stopped the vehicle over Merriweather’s objection.

“At this time, Merriweather exited the vehicle, walked to the driver’s side, and snatched (the victim) out of the seat,” Hall wrote. “(The victim) stated she was attempting to pick herself up off the ground and had one leg inside the vehicle... when Merriweather entered the driver’s seat and began reversing the vehicle while (the victim) was still attached to it.”

Hall added that the victim was dragged underneath the car and run over by one of the vehicle’s tires.

(The victim) stated she was screaming for Merriweather to stop and that she is running her over, but Merriweather continued to reverse, showing no regard for (the victim’s life.”

Hall wrote that the defendant eventually paused, allowing the victim to escape from under the vehicle.

The officer added that he observed a minor injury to the victim’s right hand where she struck the asphalt and noted road rash on her left elbow, lower back and left leg.

Hall added that he located the defendant’s Nissan at Pine Forest Apartments, but people in Merriweather’s apartment said the defendant was not home.

Arrested for shoving man

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Starke police arrested a 41-year-old woman after a man claimed he shoved him and she admitted to pushing the victim.

Melissa Dawn Pusateri was booked for domestic violence on April 20.

According to an arrest report, the victim told police he was moving his belongings from a bedroom he and the defendant shared into a guest bedroom when Pusateri shoved past him and dropped some clothes into a rack.

“Melissa then shoved him again using both hands,” reporting officer Tyler Layne Oliver wrote in the report. “(The victim) stated Melissa also started throwing clothes at him.”

Oliver added that, according to the defendant, the couple exchanged words, and Pusateri gave the victim a “death stare.”

“(The victim) advised he was afraid to turn his back on her,” wrote Oliver.

The officer added that after the defendant admitted to shoving the man, she was detained and placed in the back of a patrol vehicle.

Next Sheriff’s NET set

Clay Sheriff’s NET will meet again Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m. at St. William Catholic Church, 275 Satsuma St. in Keystone Heights.

The community is invited to hear the speakers and participate in the Q&A.



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New adjutant general assumes command at Blanding ceremony

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Maj. Gen. John Haas became Florida's new adjutant general during a change-of-command ceremony at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center on April 22.

After thanking Gov. Ron DeSantis for his confidence in giving him "the opportunity and the immense responsibility of leading the Florida National Guard," Haas said, "I take command responsibility and accountability very seriously and commit fully to the continued readiness and care of our great Florida National Guard soldiers and airmen."

Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez, who participated in the passing of the organizational color as well as the inspection of assembled troops with Haas and Eifert, said Haas was an important part of the Guard's recruiting and retention efforts the last four years.

"Despite nationwide recruiting shortfalls, Gen. Haas helped increase the Florida Army Guard

by more than 1,100 service members," Nuñez said. "He has also improved retention to the third best of the 54 states and territories in the National Guard."

"Gov. DeSantis and I are familiar with his outstanding leadership, and we look forward to his command of the 12,000 soldiers and airmen of the Florida National Guard."

Haas, who has been the assistant adjutant general-Army and commander of the Florida Army National Guard, assumed command from the retiring Maj. Gen. James Eifert, who served as adjutant general since April 6, 2019.

"Today, I could not be more proud or pleased to turn the reigns of this great organization over to one of your most highly decorated and respected leaders, Maj. Gen. John Haas," Eifert said. "Gen. Haas has commanded at every level of our organization as the lieutenant governor mentioned. He has sweated, toiled and spilled his blood for the nation through numerous combat

deployments. He is a warrior leader and the perfect person to lead you into a dangerous and challenging future, with many threats growing in size and sophistication around the world."

Haas said Eifert and Eifert's wife, Beth, were an incredible leadership team and thanked them for being "cherished friends and wonderful neighbors." He then thanked Eifert for his leadership as adjutant general, saying, "Over the past four years, your extraordinary stewardship of this organization through some of the most devastating hurricanes in Florida's recorded history, historic pandemic response and unyielding security of our coastal borders, while continuously deploying ready forces in support of federal mission requirements both at home and abroad, has been nothing short of remarkable. Your efforts have directly improved the lives of our Florida citizens at home and preserved America's interests around the world."

Three retired adjutant

generals were in attendance: Ronald Harrison (March 1992-November 2001), Douglas Burnett (November 2001-June 2010) and Emmett "Buddy" Titshaw (June 2010-March 2015). To them, Haas said, "This organization owes you a tremendous debt of gratitude for your legacy of leadership and selfless service. I personally am grateful to each of you for your valued mentorship and your years of support."

Haas thanked family and friends in attendance before recognizing his wife and children.

"A special thanks to my amazing and beautiful wife, Lisa, and our two wonderful children, Raleigh and Sydney. It's through your tireless support and endless sacrifices that I'm able to serve," Haas said. "It will be your continued support that will carry us through the journey ahead."

The new adjutant general then turned his attention to the men and women of the Florida National Guard.

"For nearly 458 years, you have been Florida's force, made up of 12,000 men and women from different backgrounds and walks of life who share a common trait: the willingness to sacrifice in the service of others," Haas said. "You have answered the call of our nation, deploying to the front lines on the battlefields in Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine, and here at home you have answered our governor's call, supporting our citizens in their hour of greatest need."

"You have been a force for good. Our state and nation are better because of you. That is who you are. You should be proud of yourselves, as I am proud of you and proud to share the title of Florida Guardsman with you. I sincerely look forward to soldiering and serving with each of you as we continue to answer the call of our great state and nation."

Haas has served in a variety of command and staff positions, including the role of director of strategic plans, policies, programs, serving as the principal



Participating in the passing of the organizational color are (l-r) Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez, Maj. Gen. John Haas, Maj. Gen. James Eifert and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Kendrick, a Graham native and Bradford High School graduate who is the Florida National Guard's command senior enlisted leader. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

adviser to the adjutant general and joint-force headquarters staff. He also commanded the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and completed three combat tours (two in Southwest Asia and one in Grenada).

A promise fulfilled

Eifert said when he was named as adjutant general, succeeding Michael Calhoun (March 2015-April 2019), he promised the governor that he wouldn't let him down.

"I'm pretty confident the governor would agree with my assessment that that promise was fulfilled," Eifert said.

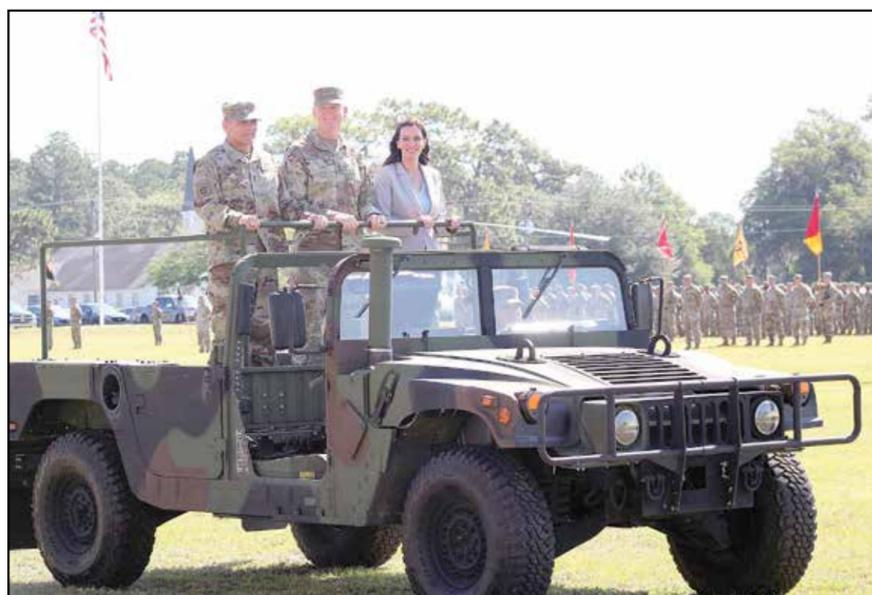
Eifert proceeded to summarize some of what the Florida Guard has been involved in the past four years, starting by saying that the Guard was activated 18 times for emergency relief operations in Florida. He said that was the highest level of National Guard

support since World War II.

The retiring adjutant general said some of the situations in which the men and women of the Florida National Guard responded to were wildfires in Chipola, the reservoir breach at Manatee County's Piney Point phosphate plant and the COVID-19 pandemic. They also were called upon to assist in the aftermath of six hurricanes: Dorian, Sally, Elsa, Ida, Ian and Nicole.

"Those unplanned state active-duty call-ups totaled over 653,000 man days executed in just this past four-year period," Eifert said. "To provide context for that number, from 31 years ago, when Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida, to the day I assumed command in 2019, the Florida National Guard executed about 700,000 man days in state emergency response, and in only the last four

See NEW, page 12



Preparing to begin the inspection of assembled troops are (l-r) Maj. Gen. John Haas, Maj. Gen. James Eifert and Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez. Haas became Florida's new adjutant general, taking the reigns from the retiring Eifert during a change-of-command ceremony at Camp Blanding.

Marshall excited to share his own experiences with Upward Bound

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School students can simply look at Marcus Marshall's life and see what can be accomplished, but they also get the opportunity to talk to him and receive the help they need as they, too, go down the path toward becoming a first-generation college student.

Marshall is the new academic coach with the Upward Bound, Santa Fe College program, which is offered free to BHS students. Upward Bound is a part of the U.S. Department of Education's TRIO program, which is designed to provide assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Upward Bound accepts students

that are potentially first-generation college students and whose families meet income requirements set by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Being a first-generation college student myself, I understand those shoes," Marshall said. "I know the difficulty I had just filling out financial-aid papers and doing a lot of these things on my own — learning and bumping my head also in the process. I'm just looking forward to making it easier for the students coming behind me."

Marshall began working with Upward Bound, Santa Fe College in January, making the move from teaching.

"I was just looking to do something different," Marshall

said.

As a teacher, Marshall could encourage students to go to college. As an academic coach with Upward Bound, he's more than an encourager.

"I'm here to help them actually get there," Marshall said.

Getting there...and then getting here

Marshall was born in Georgia, but grew up in San Diego.

"We moved to California because she wanted a better life for us," Marshall said, referring to his mother. He added, "I had, I think, a tremendous childhood."

When it came to thinking

See COACH, page 12

DAR chapter meets May 1, will install its new officers

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will install its 2023-25 officers at its Monday, May 1, meeting, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Keystone United Methodist Church (4004 S.R. 21).

Judy Delmar, state treasurer, Florida State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will conduct the installation.

A lunch catered by Johnny's Bar-B-Q will be served.

Do you have a Revolutionary War-era patriot in your family tree? If you would like to find out, DAR can help with its genealogical resources. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership. Please contact Romeo at 352-478-3544 for more information.

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Jeff has called Starke home for the past 33 years and is passionately involved in the community, including the local Chamber of Commerce and being a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Starke.

Recently, First Federal Bank launched their Corporate Equipment Financing line of business where customers may now have access to new equipment financing solutions, this is in addition to the extensive commercial lending options including SBA and USDA loans, structured real estate transactions, and more.

Jeff is excited about the new position and the possibilities that it brings. "Starke and its surrounding towns is a natural expansion for First Federal Bank and I am excited to help take the bank to the next level," says Jeff. "Businesses in this area need commercial lending and banking services that can be tailored to their needs. An institution of this size is able to provide unique solutions without the customer even visiting a branch."

The addition of Jeff will not only help to increase the reach of First Federal Bank in the local market, but provide the community with the expertise, experience and dedication necessary to make a difference in people's lives. With Jeff's leadership, First Federal Bank is even better able to support the small business economy in Starke and the surrounding areas.



About First Federal Bank
First Federal Bank is a community-based bank offering consumer and commercial banking solutions, services, and loans through banking offices in Florida's Panhandle, North Central and East Florida, and coastal South Carolina. Mortgage, SBA and USDA customers are served through lending offices across the Southeast and Midwest. First Federal is headquartered in Lake City, Florida with assets totaling over \$3.6 billion. First Federal has received a "5-Star, Superior" financial rating from BauerFinancial, Inc., of Coral Gables, Fla. for more than two decades and was recognized by Newsweek as "Best Small Bank in Florida" in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. For more information, visit www.ffbf.com.

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Halfacre becomes 1st-ever UCHS wrestler to sign with a college

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The wrestling program at Union County High School has been in existence for only four years, but that's been enough time for senior Ian Halfacre to prove that it's a sport he's good at.

In fact, he proved that he's good enough to get a chance to do it at the next level.

Halfacre signed a letter of intent to wrestle at Division III Mount St. Joseph University during an April 20 ceremony in the UCHS media center.

"It's a big opportunity," Halfacre said. "It's a dream. It really is. It hasn't been a dream for very long, but it is a dream, nonetheless. I think regardless of however long you've had your dream, it's still good to get those dreams."
And it's a big dream come true.

Halfacre is the first-ever UCHS wrestler to receive an athletic scholarship. As you can imagine, that's a "big deal" to UCHS Head Coach Edwin Johnson, who said Halfacre won't be the last.

"It just shows everybody else that you can get it," Johnson said. "A lot of them think, 'At this little school, nobody will look at us.' This is just the start of it."

Halfacre said if no one's ever done something before, then the mindset is, "I can't do it." He's now proven that a wrestler from UCHS can get the chance to compete at the collegiate level.

"If they're able to say, 'Oh, he did it,' then it's possible," Halfacre said.

Prior to entering high school, Halfacre played tennis, but thanks to the encouragement of his mother, Cindy, he gave wrestling a try when it began at UCHS as a club sport its first

year. Halfacre said his mother told him it'd be a sport he'd be good at.

He fell in love with the sport. It gave him a satisfaction that tennis couldn't give him.

"Usually, guys like more physical sports," said Halfacre, who added that he had accepted the fact he was too small to play football. "It's a lot more rewarding when you win because it takes a physical toll on your body. When you go through all of that struggle and stress, the blood, sweat and tears — when you win, it feels good."

In Union's first year as a Florida High School Athletics Association participant in 2020-21 (the Tigers wrestled as a club team their first year of existence), Halfacre, who wrestles in the 132-pound class, placed fourth at the district tournament. He followed that up with a third-



Ian Halfacre, seated between his parents, Kyle and Cindy, signs his letter of intent to wrestle at Mount St. Joseph University. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

place finish in 2021-22.

As a senior, Halfacre won the district championship in his weight class and finished the season with more than 30 wins. Johnson said a knee injury at the regional tournament prevented Halfacre from giving himself a

better opportunity to qualify for state.

Halfacre said visiting Mount St. Joseph, which is located in Delhi, Ohio, was a great experience, which included being able to participate in a practice with the team. He described the

team as giving him the feeling of family and said the program has a great coaching staff.

As for the school itself, he said it reminded him a little bigger version of Union County High

See FIRST, page 16

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Clark sprints to 2 district titles for UC

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County's Leah Clark won two events, giving the Tigers two of their seven total of Region 1-2A berths at the April 19 District 3 meet, which was held at Toco Creek High School in St. Augustine.

The top four finishers in each event earned the right to advance. The Region 1 meet will be held Wednesday, May 3, at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

Clark's first event of the day was the 100m, which she won with a time of 12.49 seconds. That put her ahead of Santa Fe's Destiny McBroom, who had a time of 12.61.

Union's Amia Bethea placed third in the race with a time of 13.01 to qualify for regionals.

It was Clark and McBroom placing first and second again in the 200m, which Clark won with a time of 25.87 to McBroom's 26.20.

Like Clark, boys team member Auntrell Ross qualified for regionals in two events, with his highest finish occurring in the long jump. Ross' second attempt of 21-4.25 eventually resulted in a third-place finish.

Ross also ran the 200m, finishing with a fourth-place time of 22.73. He grabbed the last Region 1 qualifying spot ahead of Santa Fe's Kaleb Johnson, who had a time of 23.11.

The girls 4x100m relay team of Bethea, Clark, Holly Halfacre



Leah Clark runs the 100m. She won that race and the 200m. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

and Ny'asia Jones placed third with a time of 51.84, while the boys 4x100m team of Ross, Dayquan Diston, Rayvon Durant

See UCHS, page 15



Kiersten Shaw was the District 3-2A runner-up in the high jump. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

Shaw is a district runner-up for KHHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kiersten Shaw placed second in the high jump and was one of three from Keystone Heights High School to qualify for the Region 1-2A meet after their performances at the April 19 District 3 meet, which was held at St. Augustine's Toco Creek High School.

The top four finishers in each event earned the right to advance. The Region 1 meet will be held Wednesday, May 3, at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

Shaw cleared 4-9.75 in the high jump to place behind Santa Fe's Destiny McBroom, who cleared 5-3.75.

After successful first attempts at 4-2, 4-4 and 4-6, Shaw had two unsuccessful jumps at 4-7.75 before clearing the bar on her third attempt to keep advancing. She was one of four who attempted 4-9.75, which only she and McBroom were

successful in clearing.

The Indians' Marissa Dowell and boys team member Shepherd Rozier each earned a fourth-place finish to advance to regionals. Dowell's first attempt in the long jump was 14-11.25, which proved to be her best and good enough to give her fourth place ahead of Toco Creek's Alanah Curtis. Rozier qualified for regionals in the 400m, running a time of 51.92, which put him across the finish line ahead of Bradford's Jaleel Easley, who had a time of 52.02.

Tyler Griffin fell one spot shy of a Region 1 berth, running a fifth-place time of 2:04 in the 800m. That put him behind Bolles' Cormac Kimberly, who had a time of 2:02.

The girls team, which placed seventh in the team standings, also earned points in two relays. The 4x400m team of Christine Djavaheri, Brook Graudons, Candace Jackson and Ashly

See KHHS, page 15

Bradford earns 2 Region 1-2A berths

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School earned Region 1-2A berths in the boys 4x800m relay and the girls 400m at the District 3 meet on April 19 at St. Augustine's Toco Creek High School.

The top four finishers in each event earned the right to advance. The Region 1 meet will be held Wednesday, May 3, at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

Jordan Barton, Krystian Harris, Chayten Sanders and Hayden Starling teamed up to run a third-place time of 10:37 in the 4x800m. In the girls 400m, Kaelyn Booker ran a fourth-place time of 1:04.59, grabbing the last region-qualifying spot ahead of Santa Fe's Caidence Stengel, who had a time of 1:04.66.

Bradford missed out on qualifying in two other events by one spot. The girls 4x100m relay team of Booker, Diamond Ferguson, Holly Holt and Kendell Shanks ran a fifth-place time of 53.11, finishing behind Beachside, which had a time of 52.38. Jaleel Easley was fifth in the boys 400m with a time of 52.02. Keystone Heights' Shepherd Rozier earned the last Region 1 spot with a time of 51.92.

The Tornados also earned points from their boys 4x100m team. Ne-O Addison, Elijah Lawrence, Michael Oliver and Branden Williams ran a sixth-place tie of 45.41.

Bradford placed seventh in the boys team standings, while the girls team was eighth.

Other boys results were: 100m — Williams 11.84, Addison



Kaelyn Booker runs her way to a fourth-place, regional-qualifying finish in the 400m. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

11.92, Brian Clifflin 12.73; 200m — Oliver 24.64, Lawrence 25.28, Easley 25.40; 400m — Sanders 1:04, Lawrence 1:05; 800m — Barton 2:29, Harris 2:34, Starling 2:50; 1600m — Barton 5:55; long jump — Clifflin 17-2.75; discus — Nathaniel Raymond 105-4, Jacob Ferguson 99-3; and shot put — Ferguson 37-2.5, Raymond 36-7.75.

The Tornados also had the following girls results: 100m — Ferguson 13.77, Shanks 13.96; 200m — Kaiya Booker 33.45; 400m — Holt 1:11, Kaiya Booker 1:14; 800m — Layne Loper 4:09; discus — Loper 61-1; and shot put — Loper 16-3.25.

RIGHT: Amia Bethea (foreground) takes off after receiving the baton from Ny'asia Jones (background, right) in the 4x100m relay. The Tigers placed third and qualified for regionals. **BELOW:** Auntrell Ross (left) receives the baton from Thomas Williams in the last leg of the 4x100m relay. Ross qualified for regionals in the 200m and long jump.



Shepherd Rozier (pictured competing in the 200m) qualified for the Region 1-2A meet in the 400m.



Marissa Dowell (pictured competing in the 100m) qualified for the Region 1-2A meet in the long jump.



Hayden Starling (left) takes the baton from Krystian Harris in the 4x800m relay. Bradford placed third to qualify for the Region 1-2A meet.

7th-inning hit gives UC baseball team 9-8 win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Erick Lasseter hit a walkoff single in the bottom of the seventh as the Union County High School baseball team defeated visiting University Christian 9-8 on April 20.

The Tigers (15-6) fell behind 6-0, but cut University's lead in half in the third, thanks to Tucker Hardee's three-run homer.

A four-run fourth inning put Union ahead 7-6. Jeff Cook, who went 2 for 2, drove in a run with a single, followed by Lasseter scoring on a passed ball. Miller hit a sacrifice fly to drive in the inning's third run before Hardee hit a run-scoring single with two outs.

University drew three straight walks with one out in the top of the sixth. A runner scored on a wild pitch, while another scored on a sacrifice fly, putting the Christians up 8-7.

Hardee, who went 3 for 4 with four RBI, led off the bottom of the seventh with a single. Tre' Von Lee also singled before Blake Agner, who bunted, reached on

an error, which allowed Hardee to score and tie it up at 8-8. Devin Diggs was intentionally walked before Lasseter drove a 2-2 pitch into right field to score the winning run.

Lasseter, who pitched the final inning, earned the win, giving up no runs, one hit and no walks.

The Tigers, who are the top-ranked team in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 1A power poll, entered the game off a 10-2 loss to Columbia in Lake City on April 19.

Columbia, the third-ranked team in the FHSAA's Class 5A power poll, scored the game's first six runs.

Diggs had one RBI, while Hardee went 2 for 3.

Union played Baker County this past Tuesday (April 25) and will conclude the regular season with a home game against Trinity Catholic on Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m.

The Tigers will begin play in the District 6 tournament on Tuesday, May 2, at either 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. at Branford High School.

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Obituaries

Alison Millar

Alison E. Millar, 76, of Keystone Heights, passed away peacefully with family by her side at the Community Hospice Warner Center in Fernandina Beach on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. She was born April 20, 1946, in Edinburgh, Scotland, the daughter of the late James and Helen Haston. She grew up with her sister, Aileen, who remained her best friend throughout her life. In 1968, Alison married her husband, David Millar, with whom she had two daughters. In May of 1981 the family, along with her parents, immigrated to the United States to be reunited with her sister and family. She worked as a medical billing specialist and medical office manager for many years in Gainesville and Keystone Heights. After retirement, she spent as much time as she could with her grandchildren. Some of her favorite memories were traveling, especially to Hawaii and Scotland, as well as cruising whenever she could. She also volunteered for a time as a Pink Lady at Shands in Starke. She enjoyed assisting her sister volunteering at the Lake Area Ministry food bank in Keystone Heights. She attended Keystone Heights Presbyterian Church. She was loved dearly by her family and friends who will remember her feisty personality, her generous nature and her lovely Scottish accent. She was predeceased by her parents, James Haston and Helen Haston; her husband, David Millar; and her precious grandson, Jacob Berglund.

She is survived by her sister, Aileen Brown, of Orange Park; daughters, Leigh Litz of Middleburg; Anne (Mark) Berglund of Fernandina Beach; grandchildren, Alison (Tyler) Bohannon of Valdosta, Georgia; and Gracie Berglund of Fernandina Beach; and great-grandchildren, Grayson and Sadie Bohannon. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

A private gathering of family and friends is planned for a later date. Please share your memories and condolences at www.oxleyheard.com. Arrangements by Oxley-Heard Funeral Directors.

PAID OBITUARY



Evelyn Wicker

Mrs. Evelyn Wicker, 98, of Keystone Heights passed away in Gainesville on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. She was born Sept. 19, 1924, in Dothan, Alabama to James and Lillie (Kilgore) Griggs. She moved to Keystone Heights in 1986 from Palm Valley and was a homemaker. She was a very active member of the First Baptist Church, teaching Sunday school and serving anywhere she was needed. She enjoyed camping and was involved with Campers on Mission, Good Sam's Club, and The Clown Ministry. She was also a member of Ribault Masonic Lodge Order of Eastern Star, where she served as Grand Matron, and was involved in Rainbow Girls with her daughters as Mother Advisor for several years. Even though she loved volunteering, her most precious time spent was with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Wicker; their daughter, Llewellyn Nienkerk; and two brothers, Rev. William Griggs and Hugo Griggs.

She does leave behind three daughters, Sara "Sally" Deneen of Navarra, Lily Irwin of Melrose, and Charla Swale of Yorktown, Virginia; along with two sisters, Sara Elliott of Madrid, Alabama and Shirley Dismukes of Opelika, Alabama. She was lovingly called "Grandmother" by eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 5, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the funeral home chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, at the First Baptist Church. Interment will follow at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, 32257.

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



Samuel Williams

Mr. Samuel Lee "Sammy Lee" Williams, 69, of Starke, passed away on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at Windsor Manor Rehabilitation Center in Starke. He was born in Starke and attended the local schools of Bradford County. He was of the Christian faith. He was a truck driver with Lewis Timber Company for many years until he retired. After retirement he became an entrepreneur in mechanics and owned his own business.

He is survived by his wife, Annette Williams of Starke; two sons, Samuel Levi Williams and Gregory Williams; one sister, Robbin Williams; 13 grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins; and many friends.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, at the Bob-Love Cemetery in Starke with Pastor Alvin Green, Eulogist, conducting the services. Visitation will be held on Friday, April 28, at the Haile Funeral Home Inc., Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel for friends from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., and one hour at the cemetery prior to the service on Saturday. The cortege will form at 10:40 a.m. at the residence of Mrs. Annette Williams, 5379 N.W. 177th St., Starke 32091. Interment will be under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-7905. PAID OBITUARY

Card of Thanks

Thank you!

The family of Edna M. Cohens would like to sincerely thank everyone for their acts of kindness, prayers, and food during our loss. Your kind words have given us encouragement.

Thank you so much!

The Cohens Family

Judith Duperry

Mrs. Judith "Judy" Ann Duperry, 75, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, April 20, 2023, at Roberts Care Center in Palatka. She was born April 17, 1948, in Menominee, Michigan to the late Carl and Laura (Miller) Johnson.

No services are currently scheduled at this time. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

Catherine Waldron

Catherine C. Waldron, 85, of Keystone Heights, went to be with Jesus on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at Bailey Center in St. Augustine. She was born Dec. 13, 1937, in Jacksonville. She was known for her worship of Jesus and was a great encourager. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Ruth Elizabeth Emory West; and brother, Robert C. West.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry D. Becker; son, Terry Wilkinson; sister-in-law, Sue West; niece, Roxanne (Tom) Smith and their sons, Jordan and Jacob.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 29, at 2 p.m. at Madison Street Baptist Church, 900 W. Madison St., Starke with Rev. Charles Warren officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service beginning at 1 p.m.

Please visit her memorial page at www.williamsthomashome.com. For further information please contact Williams-Thomas Downtown at 352-376-7556.

PAID OBITUARY

NEW

Continued from page 9

years, we have nearly equaled that total. That is nearly 30 years of domestic-response operations packed into a four-year period."

Eifert said 400 members of the Guard are deployed in support of 11 prisons within the Florida Department of Corrections. Members of the Guard are also assisting state and federal agencies with illegal migrants along the southern coast.

The Guard has provided its support outside the confines of Florida as well.

"Since April 2019, the Florida National Guard has deployed about a third of our entire force on six-month to one-year deployments," Eifert said. "Over 4,000 soldiers and airmen from 53 units across the state deployed to every single geographical combatant command on the globe."

The Florida National Guard has been a part of Operations Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve, Spartan Shield,

Atlantic Resolve, Allies Refuge, Freedom's Sentinel and Noble Eagle as well as the European Deterrence Initiative. Eifert said the Guard members battled well-known, violent extremist organizations as well as lesser-known — but no less violent — extremist groups in partner nations, such as Chad and Burkina Faso.

"Florida National Guard soldiers were also training the Ukrainians last year when Russian troops invaded their peaceful neighbor," Eifert said. "The world has witnessed the quality of that training that you provided through the steadfast resistance and military acumen that the Ukrainians have demonstrated in defense of their homeland."

Eifert said the Florida National Guard currently has 400 members from 18 units mobilized abroad, adding that approximately another 3010 will be mobilized before the end of the year.

"Finally, you have made the world a safer place — specifically in our Western

Hemisphere — through your leadership and participation in a state-partnership program," Eifert said. "With our regional security system partner nations of Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Granada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, along with our other South American partner Guyana, you have forged strong relationships through subject matter, expert exchanges, exercises and leadership-development training."

Eifert said as he thought about "the incredible journey" he and the men and women of the Florida National Guard shared the last four years, he was "reminded of and humbled by your courage, strength and determination."

"It has been an honor to serve alongside such an extraordinary group of men and women," he said. "You have faced truly unprecedented challenges and dangers with bravery and selfless service, always putting the mission and your battle buddies first. Your dedication to duty and your unwavering commitment to our state and nation have been

a constant source of inspiration to me and Beth. I am proud to have called you my brothers and sisters in arms."

Núñez presented Eifert with the Distinguished Service Medal (awarded by the president) and the Florida Cross (awarded by the governor) as well as presenting his wife with the Distinguished Service Medal (awarded by the governor). She said she and DeSantis wished to express their thanks to Eifert for serving the Florida National Guard, state of Florida and nation "with the greatest integrity and honor."

"Gen. Eifert's 41-year distinguished career is one to celebrate and to honor," Núñez said. "On behalf of the state of Florida and the governor, I thank you for your incredible service and wish you and your family Godspeed as you retire and begin your next journey."

Eifert and his wife will retire to Melrose. They have two children, who both hold the rank of first lieutenant: Austin, who serves in the Army, and Kathryn, who serves in the Air Force.

COACH

Continued from page 9

about his future, Marshall said he thought maybe he'd get a football scholarship. That didn't happen, however, so he had to get used to a new role — being a student only as opposed to a student-athlete. He credited "some really good teachers" he had in high school for helping him think about his future path and what career it would lead him to.

Marshall left California to go to college, making his first journey to Florida, where he attended Daytona Beach's Bethune-Cookman University and majored in Social Science Education. Following graduation, he taught for a couple of years in Broward County before moving to Illinois, where he taught and coached.

"While there, I coached basketball, track, football, volleyball — you name it, I coached it," he said.

His time in Illinois wasn't solely devoted to teaching and coaching. He also worked on a master's degree, which he earned from Lindenwood University.

Marshall eventually moved to Texas, saying, "I just got tired of the cold weather in Illinois." He worked there for six years before deciding he wanted to impact youth beyond just teaching in a classroom.

"This was just an opportunity that presented itself," Marshall said of the academic coach

position with Upward Bound, adding, "It worked out for me."

A support system

Any new situation is scary, but it becomes even more so if no one in your family has gone through it before you.

Marshall knows. Whether it's filling out college applications or financial-aid forms or trying to figure out how to devote enough time to your studies while also working a job so you can earn enough money to eat, the whole experience can be intimidating for first-generation college students.

"Things are not always going to be comfortable for you," Marshall said.

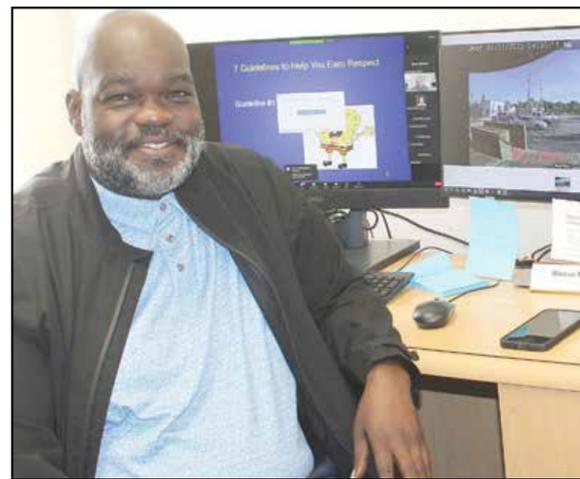
Upward Bound is that support system, to help students know ahead of time what to expect and to help them stay on the path toward college. As academic coach, Marshall visits students on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"I try to reach as many as I can while there," he said, adding, "We discuss everything from scholarships and financial aid to the SAT and ACT."

His interactions, of course, allow him to share his story.

"I want them to understand that even though there's a generational gap between us, I have walked in their shoes before," Marshall said.

Upward Bound is more than just telling students what to expect in college. Field trips to college campuses are also



Marcus Marshall is the new academic coach with Upward Bound, Santa Fe College. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

offered. Students took a recent trip to Alabama, where they visited Auburn and Tuskegee universities.

"It was an amazing time on both campuses," Marshall said. "They got to see a lot of the history there in Alabama also."

"Walking those campuses, I encouraged them to ask as many questions as possible. You want them to make sure they have a full view of everything this campus has to offer."

Students are also encouraged to picture themselves at whatever college they're visiting, asking themselves if they could see themselves being there and walking that campus as a student.

Some students may obviously choose to stay closer to home when going to college, but a trip to a far-away campus in Florida or outside of Florida may encourage them to seek out experiences they might otherwise never have if they stay close to home.

Of course, one choice isn't better than the other. The goal of Upward Bound is to help get students into college. Beyond that, Marshall said he hopes

students grow to become good citizens.

"I think the biggest thing I would like to see them do is become their own person and give back. All of us enter these different colleges to learn, but you also have a part to serve," Marshall said, adding, "Whether you're teaching, whether you're an attorney, whether you're a doctor — you're giving back. Don't forget to give back to where you left, and that's your hometown."

Marshall said he's given thought to how an Upward Bound-type program would've impacted him as a youth. He admitted he probably would've reached his potential sooner.

Yet he still accomplished what he set out to. Now, he is part of a program that can help the youth of today and of the future reach their potential.

It's a great thing to be involved with.

"We're excited here (at Upward Bound)," Marshall said. "Excitement is always contagious. If we keep the excitement going, we can influence generations."

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Tornadoes rally late, lose by 1 to Madison

Ryland Rike hit a two-run double as part of a six-run fourth inning, but the Bradford High School baseball team came up just short in a 10-9 loss to visiting Madison County on April 24.

The Cowboys, who are ranked ninth in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 1A power poll, scored the game's first four runs and built a 10-3 lead.

Rike finished 2 for 4 with two RBI, while Mattox Burgin, Jaron Hale, Cason Pilcher, Foster Smith and Kacen Thomassen each had one RBI.

Prior to playing Madison, Bradford (7-15) lost 21-12 to visiting Palatka on April 20, followed by a 9-8 loss to host Hamilton County on April 21.

Bradford scored seven runs in the first inning and led 12-5 after two innings in the game against Palatka.

Palatka scored six runs in the fourth, including three on errors.

It was 12-11 going into the final inning. The Panthers scored 10 runs off four hits, an error and three bases-loaded walks.

Thomassen led the team in RBI with three, while Pilcher, Jeffrey Brugh and Luke Stucky each had two. Stucky went 3 for 4, while Brugh went 2 for 5.

Burgin went 2 for 4, while the following had one RBI each: Kevin Crawford and C.J. McKinney.

In the loss to Hamilton County, Bradford trailed 9-3 before scoring five runs in the final inning.

Brugh went 3 for 3 with three RBI, while Ryder Thompson went 2 for 4 with one RBI.

Burgin and Crawford each had one RBI.

The Tornadoes played Wolfson on Wednesday, April 26, and will travel to play Bellevue on Friday, April 28, at 6 p.m.

On Monday, May 1, Bradford will begin play in the District 2-3A tournament quarterfinals, with games being played at various schools determined by seeding. The semifinals are Tuesday, May 2, at 7 p.m., with the championship game being played on Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m.

Seeding and matchups weren't known by deadline.

KHHS baseball team loses 10-0 to Pirates

It was a struggle for the Keystone Heights High School baseball team against the sixth-ranked team in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 3A power poll as the Indians lost 10-0 to host Fernandina Beach on April 21.

Connor Guy went 2 for 3, but the rest of the team combined for two hits.

The Indians (14-6, ranked 21st in 3A) went 1-1 in their previous two games, beginning with a 13-3, six-inning win over visiting Orange Park on April 18.

Chase Packham had two RBI, driving in both runs on a triple in the fifth.

A two-out RBI single by Noah Branch in the sixth enacted the mercy rule.

Branch, Carson Eatmon, Ben Goforth, Ryan Jones and Caleb Mize each finished with one RBI.

Starting pitcher Gage Smith gave up two runs, five hits and no walks in four innings. Seth Gagnon and Ty Mitzel each pitched one inning, with Gagnon giving up one run and no hits and Mitzel giving up two hits.

The Indians hosted Yulee (ranked 18th in 4A) on April 19, losing 10-4.

Guy, Packham, Smith and Austin Musgrove each had one RBI, with Musgrove and Packham each going 2 for 3.

Keystone played North Marion (the second-ranked team in 4A) this past Tuesday (April 25) and will end the regular season with a road game against Clay on Thursday, April 27, at 7 p.m.

The District 4 tournament, hosted by Trinity Catholic, begins with quarterfinal matchups on Tuesday, May 2. The semifinals are Wednesday, May 3, followed by the championship game on Thursday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Seeding and matchups weren't known by deadline.

KHHS softball team falls 4-3 to Baldwin

Visiting Baldwin, which is ranked sixth in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 3A power poll, scored a run on a two-out single in the fifth, which proved to be the difference in the Keystone Heights High School softball team's 4-3 loss on April 21.

Kiley Channell hit a solo home run and went 2 for 3 with two RBI. Alaina Kinsall had one RBI.

Kadence Massey pitched a complete game, giving up seven hits and one walk. She had seven strikeouts.

The Indians (6-15) went 1-1 in their previous two games, beginning with a 6-5 loss to host Trinity Christian on April 18.

Channell, who went 2 for 4 with four RBI, hit a two-run homer in the top of the seventh to

tie the score at 5-5. Trinity drew four consecutive walks with two outs in the bottom of the inning to win the game.

Riley Shuford had one RBI, while Abbie Roach went 2 for 4.

On April 19, Kinsall and Channell drove in four and three runs, respectively, as the Indians defeated host Santa Fe 10-7.

Kinsall went 4 for 5, while Channell, who hit a two-run homer, went 2 for 5.

Shuford went 2 for 3 with two RBI.

Keystone played Middleburg this past Tuesday (April 25) and will host Clay on Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m. The Indians conclude the regular season with a road game against University Christian on Friday, April 28, at 6 p.m.

The Indians will begin play in the District 3-3A tournament, which KHHS is hosting, on Monday, May 1. Quarterfinal games are scheduled for 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Two semifinal games will be played at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, with the championship game scheduled for Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m.

Seeding and matchups weren't known by deadline.

BHS softball team loses 5-1 to Suwannee

Bradford High School's softball team had its win streak end at two games after a 5-1 loss at Suwannee on April 24.

Masey Padgett drove in the Tornadoes' only run on a single in the top of the first.

Rylie Blankenship, who scored that run, went 3 for 4 as Bradford

fell to 7-9.

Blankenship also got the start in the circle, giving up three earned runs (five total) and eight hits through 5.2 innings.

Bradford's two-game win streak began with a 10-0 victory over visiting Hawthorne on April 20.

Addyson Hinds drove in four runs, going 2 for 4, while Kirsten Hodges drove in three runs, going 2 for 3.

Blankenship went 4 for 4 with one RBI.

Padgett had one RBI as well.

Three pitchers combined to give up two hits. Blankenship started, allowing one hit and no walks through two innings. Kegan Yowell allowed one hit in 2.1 innings, while Kolee Lemire struck out both batters she faced.

Five batters had at least two RBI each in the Tornadoes' 16-6, five-inning win over host Buchholz on April 21.

Bradford trailed 6-0 before scoring four runs in the third. The Tornadoes tied the score in the fourth and then scored 10 runs in the fifth to take the lead and end the game by mercy rule.

Takeirra Bakken, who went 2 for 4, had four RBI, while Blankenship (4 for 5) and Hinds (4 for 4) each had three. Padgett and Summer Sutton each drove in two runs, while Hodges and Yowell each drove in one.

Yowell pitched four innings of relief, allowing no runs, three hits and one walk.

Bradford played Bishop Snyder this past Tuesday (April 25) and will travel to play Baker County on Thursday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m.

The Tornadoes will then play in the District 3-3A tournament, which is being hosted by Keystone Heights. Quarterfinal games are scheduled for 3 p.m., 5

p.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday, May 1, followed by semifinal games at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2. The championship game is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m.

Seeding and matchups weren't known by deadline.

UCHS softball team lets late lead slip away

Host Santa Fe hit a double and a triple to score two runs in the sixth inning and hand the Union County High School softball team a 7-6 loss on April 24.

Leigh Ann Dicks drove in three runs, while Hannah Rivera, who went 2 for 4, and Tamia Young each drove in one.

Union (4-13) entered the game off a 7-6 loss to visiting Branford on April 20.

Branford, the second-ranked team in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 1A power poll, scored four runs in the fifth and sixth innings, which proved to be the difference.

Leah Clark and Angela Tucker each went 2 for 4, while Young and Dicks finished with three and two RBI, respectively.

Union played Bell this past Tuesday (April 25) to cap the regular season.

The Tigers next play in the District 6-1A tournament, which is being hosted by Branford. Union is the third seed and will play second seed Fort White in a semifinal game on Tuesday, May 2, at 5 p.m. If the Tigers win, they'll play either top seed Branford, fourth seed Bell or fifth seed Lafayette for the championship on Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m.

Tri-County Classifieds
Bradford County **Telegraph** Lake Region **Monitor** UNION COUNTY **TIMES**

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Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay

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Starting **April 6th**, the Bradford County Telegraph will run your for sale by owner ad for **free**.

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Users/responders release liability toward this paper, publisher, its agents or representatives who are not liable for any mistakes, errors, misrepresentations.

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Where one call does it all!

40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal

opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

50 For Rent

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

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

LAKE BUTLER; Older woman looking for roommate in 2-story home. No pets, no smoking, must be clean. \$450/mo. plus \$100/deposit. Call after

3pm 904-966-1896.

53 A Yard Sales

GARAGE SALE; Wed. thru Sat. Kayak, tools, gas grill, household items, books. 18178 NW SR 16. For more information call 904-263-6711.

57 For Sale

ARIENS 5HP rotor tiller, will need carb work for bad fuel. \$25. 904-364-9022

5 ACRE TRACT OF LAND located on 134th St. Zoned for 3 MH, has road to property. \$28,000. 904-364-9022.

WOODED LOTS IN STARKE, located on Ida St. by steel mill. \$7,900. 904-364-9022.

PROFORM SpaceSaver Elliptical. Folds up,

good cond. \$25. 904-364-9022. 57 LEATHER theater power recliner. \$125 904-769-9225.

2022 JOHN DEERE 835r Gator 4x4, heat/ac, winch, stereo, turn signals, even more 34k new \$25k obo 904-625-1887.

QUARTER MILE drag car, consistent low 9's, 582 cu. in., full cage, NHRA cert., race ready. 904-964-4564, leave message.

CYLINDER heads chevy LS, 4.8, 5.3, 6.0L, fully rebuilt ready to bolt on 400.00 set, 904-625-1887.

2016 RAM 3500 chrome steel wheels no tires, with center caps, no curb rash. \$150 for set of 4, 904-625-1887.

2022 JOHN DEERE Z777e zero turn mower 15hours, brand new,

roof and tweels, 48 inch cut \$8500 obo 904-625-1887.

1980 CORVETTE L82, black and silver, very nice car, newer paint, clean interior, 57k miles \$15k obo 904-625-1887.

2004 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER, runs like a toyota. 2wd white with black leather 230k miles very nice truck \$9000.00 obo, 904-625-1887.

1996 TRANS AM R-racer w/6 speed black, beautiful paint needs interior work, runs great, \$6500 obo 904-625-1887.

SBC CHEVY intake manifold and big block Chevy intake manifold \$125.00 each in Starke. 904-625-1887.

ROBINAIR 134A automotive ac machine works perfectly and has some 134a left in

machine \$800.00 obo, Starke. 904-625-1887.

BIG BLOCK CHEVY plastic mock up engine, used a few times no longer need it. \$450.00. Starke. 904-625-1887

MECHANICS TOOL BOX, top and bottom 14 drawers, green, clean. \$450.00 obo, Starke. 904-625-1887.

SBC ENGINE BLOCKS, 2 bolt and 4 bolt, some std, some 30 over. Price depends on what you want. 904-625-1887.

1979 CAMARO Z28, has built engine, 4k stall, 4.11 rear, lost interest in the car, \$5k, Starke. 904-625-1887.

1980 CAMARO. Nice car, been sitting for years in garage, dusty, \$10k obo, Starke. 904-625-1887.

YAMAHA Wolverine X4. 850. 2022. 4 seater. 86 miles. 13.4 hrs. Gray w/ orange. Never in mud. \$22,999. 904-966-7788

65 Help Wanted

THE BRADFORD COUNTY Public Works/ Solid Waste Department is accepting applications for a qualified, Part-Time Site Attendant for the ALL Solid Waste Collection Site. Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D. Applications along with a detailed job description may be obtained from the Solid Waste Department, located at 925 North Temple Ave. Suite E Starke, Florida 32091 or from the county website at

www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. The deadline for accepting applications is May 12, 2023 before the close of business. Bradford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For inquiries, please contact Solid Waste Director, Bennie Jackson at (904) 966-6212.

THE CITY OF LAWTEY is taking applications for full time/part time Maintenance Supervisor. Applicant must be able to pass and maintain a non-DOC supervisor class, drug test and background check, to get inmate labor. Application and full job description can be picked up at Lawtey City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawtey, FL. 32058, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Appli-

cations are due by May 12, 2023 by 4 p.m. City of Lawtey is an Equal Opportunity employer and a drug free work place.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Southern Villas
of Starke

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

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

HERITAGE VILLAS
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts

607 Bradford Court
Starke, FL 32091
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TDD 771

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

WELL DRILLING
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24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE

964-7061

STATE LICENSE #1305

DURRANCE PUMP

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

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

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OTHER
DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576
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Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! American Residential Warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE! \$100 OFF POPULAR PLANS. 877-351-2364

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of April 27, 2023

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MID-FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 858
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 03820-0-00000 Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0004
Description of Property:
Legal Description: Township 6 South, Range 22 East
Section 29: Begin at the NE corner of the NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 29, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, run West 100 feet, thence run South 15 feet, thence run West 50 feet to a POINT OF BEGINNING, thence run South 100 feet, thence run West 50 feet, thence run North 100 feet, thence
Run East 50 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Bradford County, Florida
Name in Which Assessed: DIANA LYNN HALEY
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 06/14/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON, Deputy Clerk
DATED: March 28, 2023
DATE OF PUBLICATION: APRIL 6 2023; APRIL 13 2023; APRIL 20 2023; APRIL 27 2023
4/6 4tchg 4/27-BCT

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Notice is hereby given that MID-FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 967
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 04691-0-00200 Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0006
Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 5, Township 7 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest Corner of said NE1/4 of NE1/4 and run thence North 89 degrees, 11 minutes and 50 seconds East along the Northerly boundary thereof a distance of 52.95 feet to a concrete monument; run thence South 1 degree, 54 minutes and 40 seconds East a distance of 105 feet to a concrete monument at the beginning of a curve, said curve being concave to the West and having a radius of 432.7 feet run thence in a Southerly direction along the arc of said curve, a chord distance of 50.03 feet to a concrete monument for point of beginning, said chord having a bearing of South 1 degree, 24 minutes and 10 seconds West. From point of beginning thus described, run in a Southwesterly direction along aforesaid arc, a chord distance of 107.6 feet to a concrete monument, last aforesaid chord having a bearing of South 11 degrees, 51 minutes and 30 seconds West; run thence North 89 degrees, 11 minutes and 50 seconds East a distance of 133.52 feet to a concrete monument; run thence North 1 degree, 54 minutes and 40 seconds West to a concrete monument; run thence South 89 degrees, 11 minutes and 50 seconds West a distance of 107.9 feet to point of beginning.
Name in Which Assessed: ALBERT JAMES SIMMONS & DEBRA RUE SIMMONS
Name on last tax roll, if different: ALBERT JAMES SIMMONS SR ET AL
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 06/14/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON, Deputy Clerk
DATED: April 4, 2023
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 04-13-2023; 04-20-2023; 04-27-2023; 05-04-2023
4/13 4tchg 5/4-BCT

PUBLIC HEARING A HEARING REGARDING THE BELOW RULES WILL BE HELD

May 15, 2023
5:15 P.M.
Bradford County School District Office
501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091

POLICY NUMBER: 5.030+
POLICY TITLE: Student Assignment PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The School Board shall establish residential attendance zones for each school based
SUMMARY: REVISION: The Superintendent may assign a student to any district school or educational program if it is in the best interest of the school district.
POLICY NUMBER: 5.032
POLICY TITLE: School Zone Boundary Descriptions PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of this policy is to make aware of the school zone of where one resides.
SUMMARY: NEW: The policy explains in detail the School Boundaries for Bradford Elementary, Lawtey Elementary and Starke Elementary Schools.
POLICY NUMBER: 5.150+
POLICY TITLE: Administration of Medication PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Awareness of Opioid Antagonist Naloxone ("Narcan")
SUMMARY: REVISION: Adding the Ability for schools to maintain and dispense Narcan. Policy is required but the Narcan language is district choice.
POLICY NUMBER: 5.190+
POLICY TITLE: Student Records
POLICY NUMBER: 6.451
POLICY TITLE: Drug Free Workplace - Pre-Employment Drug Screening PURPOSE AND EFFECT: An effort to meet its commitment to provide children with a quality education and eliminate future substance abuse related costs from its operation.
SUMMARY: REVISION: General review and corrections to the last update.
POLICY NUMBER: 7.170+
POLICY TITLE: Authorized Travel Expenses PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Addresses travel for officers and employees of the school board and reimbursement
SUMMARY: REVISION: To establish the maximum rate established by Florida Statutes for public employees
POLICY NUMBER: 7.400+
POLICY TITLE: Online Educational Services Agreement/Contracts PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The district is committed to maintaining the privacy and security of student data and teacher and principal data and will following all applicable laws and regulations
SUMMARY: REVISION: Pursuant to Administrative Rule change 6A-1.0955
SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION: The School Board has determined that this policy will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the policy. A statement of estimated regulatory costs ("SERC") has not been prepared by the School Board. The School Board has determined that the proposed policy is not expected to require legislative ratification based on no SERC being required at this time by F.S. 120.54 or F.S. 120.541. In the event a SERC becomes required, the School Board will promptly prepare one. Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

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SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION: The School Board has determined that this policy will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the policy. A statement of estimated regulatory costs ("SERC") has not been prepared by the School Board. The School Board has determined that the proposed policy is not expected to require legislative ratification based on no SERC being required at this time by F.S. 120.54 or F.S. 120.541. In the event a SERC becomes required, the School Board will promptly prepare one. Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

POLICY NUMBER: 5.190+
POLICY TITLE: Student Records
POLICY NUMBER: 6.451
POLICY TITLE: Drug Free Workplace - Pre-Employment Drug Screening PURPOSE AND EFFECT: An effort to meet its commitment to provide children with a quality education and eliminate future substance abuse related costs from its operation.
SUMMARY: REVISION: General review and corrections to the last update.
POLICY NUMBER: 7.170+
POLICY TITLE: Authorized Travel Expenses PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Addresses travel for officers and employees of the school board and reimbursement
SUMMARY: REVISION: To establish the maximum rate established by Florida Statutes for public employees
POLICY NUMBER: 7.400+
POLICY TITLE: Online Educational Services Agreement/Contracts PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The district is committed to maintaining the privacy and security of student data and teacher and principal data and will following all applicable laws and regulations
SUMMARY: REVISION: Pursuant to Administrative Rule change 6A-1.0955
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RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: For information regarding the proposed rule, how to present evidence and argument as to the proposed rule, and how to obtain a copy (at no charge) of the proposed rule, please contact: Lila Sellars, sellars.lila@mybradford.us and 904-966-6018. Any request to present evidence and argument must be received within twenty-one (21) days after the date of this notice.
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT: April 10, 2023, 5:00 P.M. Bradford County School District Office 501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091
All policies can be found on the Bradford County School District web page @ www.bradfordschools.org - School Board - Agenda tab
4/13 5tchg 5/11-BCT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA A HEARING REGARDING THE BELOW RULE WILL BE HELD
May 15, 2023
5:01 P.M.
Bradford County School District Office
501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091
TITLE: Redistricting Map "D2"
PURPOSE: To stay in compliance per statute. It is required to Redistrict every 10 years. The School Board and The Bradford County Commissioners met and work together during scheduled workshops creating a map that would represent the residents of Bradford County fair and equally in each district.
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT: April 10, 2023, 5:00 P.M. Bradford County School District Office 501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091
Between the Bradford county Commissioners and The Bradford County School Board -Redistricting Map "D2"
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4/13 5tchg 5/11-BCT

PUBLIC AUCTION
Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on 4/28/23 10:00 am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items:
110 - Belonging to V. Atkinson
120 & 136 - Belonging to M. Bushey
167 - Belonging to A. Hinds
4/20 2tchg 4/27-BCT

AMENDED NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Notice is hereby given that MID-FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the Property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 902
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 04318-0-00300 Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0005
Description of Property: North one-half of Lot 3 of Block 5 Lincoln City in S1/2 of SE1/4 W of Ry., Sec. 32 Twp. 6 S.R. 22 E. (Per Warranty Deed recorded in Deed Book 60, Page 373) South one-half of Lot 3 of Block 5 Lincoln City in S1/2 of SE1/4 W of Ry., Sec. 32 Twp. 6 S.R., 22 E. (Per Warranty Deed recorded in Deed Book 48, Page 354)
Name in Which Assessed: ALBERTA COLLINS
Name on last tax roll, if different: COLLINS ALBERTA EST
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 06/14/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON, Deputy Clerk
DATED: April 17, 2023
DATE OF PUBLICATION: APRIL 20 2023, APRIL 27 2023, MAY 4, 2023, MAY 11 2023
4/20 4tchg 5/11-BCT

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4/20 4tchg 5/11-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: MELISSA FOSTER, 7848 NW 181st Way, Starke, FL

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32091, joint owner, doing business under the firm name of: FOSTER NOTARY, 7848 NW 181st Way, Starke, FL 32091, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 18th day of April A.D., 2023, in Bradford County.
4/27 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY
CASE NO : 2022-CP-000015
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FREDERICK R. PHILLIPS, DECEASED.

FORMAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of FREDERICK R. PHILLIPS deceased, whose date of death was August 20, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court For Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4779 SE 109th Street, Starke, FL 32091 to-wit:

A parcel of land containing 1.08 acres, more or less, and lying in the SE1/4 of Section 20, Township South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, said parcel being more particularly described in Exhibit A attached. Parcel Indication Number: 04943-0-00405.
The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below:
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is April 27, 2023.
CHARLES DANIEL SIKES
817 W. MacMahon Street
Starke, Florida 32091
Email: dan.sikes30@gmail.com
(904) 964-2020
Florida Bar No: 0886858
Attorney for Petitioner
Tina Phillips
Personal Representative
4/27 12tchg 7/13-BCT

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Attorney for Petitioner
Tina Phillips
Personal Representative
4/27 12tchg 7/13-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on May 24, 2023. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools, and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10 AM on May 17, 2023, and end at 10 AM on May 24, 2023. The public sale will take place on www.storage treasures.com.
KO Storage of Starke

BHS wins 36-0 for first-ever flag football district title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School showed signs last year that it was ascending in the sport of flag football, having gone 4-4 after a 2021 season in which the Tornadoes scored only one touchdown.

Did anyone expect this, though?

The Tornadoes continued their dominance, remained undefeated and won their first-ever district title, defeating visiting Lincoln 36-0 on April 20.

Bradford will host Paxon in a Region 1 quarterfinal game on Wednesday, April 26, at 7 p.m. The Tornadoes are the region's third seed, while Paxon is the sixth seed.

"We thought we were going to be pretty good coming into the year, but I don't think anybody envisioned 16-0 and district champs after a 4-4 year."

Staples said it was an impressive performance after the team didn't play its usual game in the district semifinals — a game that was still a 16-point win.

"They came to play tonight. I was real proud of them," Staples said, adding, "They're a loose bunch. They came out tonight and just got after it."

The result was just like most of the team's games this year. A lot of points for Bradford and none for the opponent. It was the Tornadoes' 12th shutout of the season.

Ar'Nayshia Griffin, who had one interception on defense and scored three touchdowns on offense (two passing, one rushing), said she didn't



Bradford High School celebrates its first-ever district championship in flag football after a 36-0 win over Lincoln. Pictured (l-r) are Head Coach John Staples, Jamissia Williams, Assistant Coach Loretta Levenson, Ashlyn Waters, Tatyana Brown, Khamyra Hankerson (kneeling), Talaysia Cummings, Gabby Oliver, Ar'Nayshia Griffin, Nichelle Brown, Ajiyah Jackson, Jaydyn Lee, Kimber Woods, Alexis Berry, Jada Hankerson, Courtney Comer, Kayla Evans and Izarriya DeSue. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

anticipate such a result against Lincoln (13-4), but then again, she never goes into a game thinking it's going to be another lopsided affair.

"I'm never expecting to blow out a team because every team brings something different to the table, but we just brought more (against Lincoln)," Griffin said. "We wanted it more."

After the game's first two plays, the Tornadoes already had all the points they'd need, with Nichelle Brown scoring on a 63-yard touchdown run. Three plays after that, Jada Hankerson intercepted a pass and returned it for a score, putting Bradford ahead 12-0.

It was the first of two pick-sixes for Hankerson and one of three interceptions made by Bradford in all. Griffin intercepted a pass on Lincoln's second possession, which set the Tornadoes up for their third touchdown — a 2-yard run by Griffin that was set up by her 18-yard pass to Hankerson.

For the season, Bradford has 49 interceptions. Staples said Ajiyah Jackson and Jamissia Williams do a good job of pressuring opposing quarterbacks and creating those takeaway opportunities, which Griffin especially has cashed in on. She has 21 on the year.

"We feel if they throw it 15 yards or more down the field, we're going to pick it off," Staples said.

The Tornadoes were rolling,

but Staples and his team faced a scary moment when Brown went down with a knee injury on the drive that resulted in the third touchdown. Brown, who rushed for 76 yards on three carries and caught one pass for 29 yards, would later return before re-aggravating the injury in the third quarter.

"We overcame adversity tonight when Nichelle went down," Staples said. "Our prayers and thoughts were with her, hoping she'll be healthy. We'll do what we have to do (in the regional quarterfinals) to win the game, but our main concern is her being healthy. Hopefully, it's not anything serious."

Hankerson said, "I knew I had to step it up and make up (her absence)."

She certainly did. Besides her interceptions on defense, she caught two passes for 37 yards and a touchdown on offense. That touchdown concluded an eight-play, 63-yard drive early in the second quarter. Most of that yardage came on Griffin's legs, as she had seven carries for 44 yards, before Hankerson hauled in a 19-yard pass for the score, putting Bradford up 24-0.

"She's been stepping up on both sides of the ball," Staples said of Hankerson. "We really didn't get her the ball enough this year like we should have. I'm hoping from here on out, especially if we don't have Nichelle for a little bit, Jada will

be the person to fill that spot."

Brown set up the Tornadoes' fifth touchdown on a 29-yard reception to the Lincoln 12-yard line in the third quarter. A penalty later moved Bradford inside the 5, setting up Khamyra Hankerson's 3-yard touchdown catch from Griffin, who finished the game 5 of 10 for 73 yards and two touchdowns.

Griffin had been averaging more than 200 yards passing per game, but Staples said Bradford had to rely on its ground game more against Lincoln and in the district semifinals. The burden of that fell on the freshman quarterback, and she delivered. Against Lincoln, she rushed for 68 yards on 15 carries.

"The last two nights, when things were stalling, we basically asked her to take over the game. We really haven't had to have her run a whole lot this year," Staples said, adding, "She's just an amazing athlete."

Bradford maintained a 30-0 lead until late in the fourth quarter when Jada Hankerson returned her second interception for a score.

The Tornadoes have now scored 567 total points this season, while opponents have combined to score 46.

So, which side of the ball is the team better on? Griffin has posted some eye-popping numbers on offense, but she said, "I'd say it's our defense."

Griffin was wearing a shirt with

"#WeStingy" on the back, which sums up the Tornadoes' defense. The shirts were presented to her and her teammates after the game by Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley.

"We stinky," Griffin said. "We don't want any points on the board."

Staples said, "Defensively, we're really good. I know our offense gets a lot of the accolades, but defense is our bread and butter."

Or maybe Bradford's just a complete team. When asked which side of the ball the Tornadoes were better on, Jada Hankerson said, "Both. They're equal."

Whether it's defense, offense or both, the result is an impressive season and one championship trophy — one championship trophy for now. Perhaps more are to come in the near future.

"I'm real eager," Griffin said of the start of the playoffs. "I want state. I want it."

If Bradford wins its Region 1 quarterfinal game, it will either travel to Fort Walton Beach to play second seed Choctawhatchee (14-2) or host seventh seed Ridgeview (8-3) in a semifinal game on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 p.m.

The rest of the Region 1 bracket consists of top seed Ed White (17-1), fourth seed Stanton (15-2), fifth seed Lincoln (13-4) and eighth seed Florida High (12-5).

BHS advanced off 28-12 semifinal win

Visiting Suwannee led twice, but the Tornadoes scored 21 unanswered points in defeating the Bulldogs 28-12 in the District 2 semifinals on April 19.

An interception on Bradford's first offensive series set Suwannee up inside the 10-yard line and led to a touchdown and a 6-0 lead for the Bulldogs.

Bradford answered, with Khamyra Hankerson catching a touchdown pass as the Tornadoes went up 7-6.

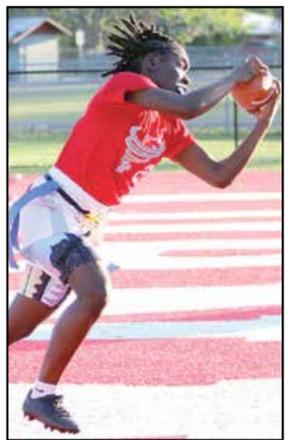
Suwannee put together a scoring drive to go back on top in the second quarter, but Bradford took the lead for good when Khamyra Hankerson returned an interception for a touchdown.

The Tornadoes had two touchdowns in the second half — one on a Kimber Woods reception and the other on a Brown run.

Griffin completed 15 of 29 passes for 195 yards and rushed for 110 yards on 12 carries. Brown had 20 yards rushing on two carries and 90 yards on five receptions.

Khamyra Hankerson caught four passes for 35 yards, while Jaydyn Lee caught two for 30. Woods and Jada Hankerson each caught two passes for 20 yards.

The defense got six sacks from Jackson, two interceptions by Griffin and one interception by Khamyra Hankerson.



Jada Hankerson catches a touchdown pass in the first quarter.



Nichelle Brown (right) prepares to make a catch that led to Bradford's fifth touchdown.

KHHS

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McCarthy ran a sixth-place time of 5:01, while the 4x100m team of Dowell, Graudons, Shaw and Tinleigh Gubics ran a seventh-place time of 57.85.

Shaw added to the team's score with a seventh-place distance of 14-8.75 in the long jump.

Other girls results: 100m — Dowell 14.60, Jackson 15.48; 200m — McCarthy 29.07, Dhavaheri 30.47; 400m — McCarthy 1:08, Djavaheeri 1:10, Gubics 1:18; and 800m —

Graudons 2:52, Jackson 3:00.

The boys team got points from its 4x400m team. Griffin, Rozier, Bryce Miller and Jaden Park ran a sixth-place time of 3:42.

The boys team also had the following results: 100m — Miller 12.48, Josiah Durrenberger 12.92, Hunter Chamberlain

14.22; 200m — 24.20; 400m — Durrenberger 59.54, Tyler Sapp 59.66; 800m — Jacob Stahman 2:19, Hunter Sheppard 2:22; 1600m — Sheppard 5:14, Park 5:15; 3200m — Ayden Graff 11:38; long jump — Miller 17-9.75, Chamberlain 12-7.75; and shot put — Joshua Blank 26-7.

UCHS

Continued from page 11

and Thomas Williams placed fourth with a time of 43.98. The Tigers grabbed the last Region 2-qualifying spot in the boys race ahead of Beachside, which had a time of 45.20.

Union just missed qualifying for regionals in the boys 4x400m relay. The team of Brycen Boney,

Deonte Jones, Blake McCoy and Bo Thomas ran a fifth-place time of 3:41. Tocoli Creek earned the last qualifying spot with a time of 3:34.

McCoy and Williams also earned points for the boys team in the long jump, placing sixth and seventh, respectively. McCoy jumped 20-4.25, while Williams jumped 20-3.75.

Both boys and girls teams placed sixth in their respective team standings.

The boys team got top-10 finishes from McCoy in the triple jump (36-2.25, ninth place) and Diston in the 100m (11.53, ninth).

Union also had the following boys results: 100m — Durant 11.81, Williams 11.82; 200m — Jabari Young 24.89, Treyjan Tyson 25.48; 400m — Jones 54.39, Thomas 55.69, McCoy 56.63; and shot put — Jacob Jenkins 32-10.25, Anthony Holmes 30-9.

Emma Jeffers earned two top-10 finishes for the girls team, placing ninth in the 800m (2:39) and 10th in the 1600m (6:04).

Halfacre placed ninth in the long jump (14-1.25), while Mia Odum just missed the top 10 in the 400m, placing 11th (1:07).

Other girls results: 200m — Jones 28.67; long jump — Odum 12-6.5; and shot put — Gracie Manning 21-10.

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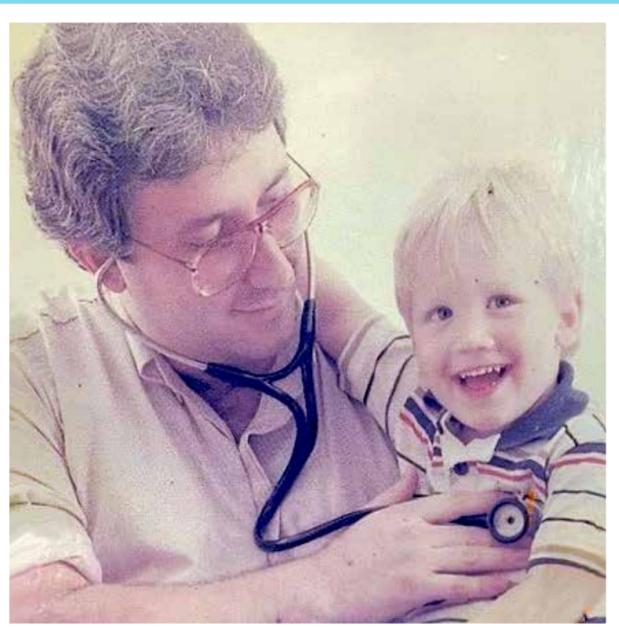
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FIRST

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School. "It's really everything I was looking for in a college," Halfacre said.

UCHS Principal Julie Denson said Mount St. Joseph is getting an "amazing, young man."

"Not only are we celebrating Ian's accomplishments on the wrestling mat, but we are also celebrating his academic diligence he has displayed at UCHS from ninth through 12th grade," Denson said. "He will be graduating with honors from UCHS in less than a month."

"I just want to say Ian is the kind of student you want in your school. He's kind. He's respectful. He is the citizen you want walking down your hallways."

Johnson said the first year at Mount St. Joseph is probably going to be the most difficult for Halfacre because of the culture shock of being away from home



Ian Halfacre won more than 30 matches this year and was his district's champion in the 132-pound weight class.

and in a new environment. However, the coach seems confident that Halfacre will persevere and ultimately be successful.

"I think he'll do well. I really do," Johnson said. "He's got the mental aspect already."

As for wrestling at the

collegiate level, Halfacre already knows it's going to be a lot more work than in high school.

"Obviously, the work and pace will be a little bit higher. The effort will be a lot higher," Halfacre said, "but one of my favorite quotes is, 'Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.' As long as I can keep working hard and putting in the effort and putting in the time, it'll all work out."

Halfacre is excited about his future as well as that of the UCHS wrestling program.

"Next year, watch out for our program," he said. "We're going to be really good."

Halfacre said he plans to be present when the next UCHS wrestler signs a collegiate letter of intent. He admitted he'll feel kind of like a proud father.

"I came before. Now, it's their turn," Halfacre said. "It's going to feel good."



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