

Bradford County Telegraph

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Indians repeat as state champs



Keystone Heights High School weightlifters and coaches pose with the two trophies they received from winning both the traditional and the snatch events at the April 23 Class 1A state finals. Pictured are: (front, l-r) are Jayden Goodman, Ben Ulsch, Declan Shine, Reid Begue, Nathan Tisdale, Logan Williams, Ulysses Freed, Bryar Schenck, Davin Adams, (back, l-r) Sam Ulsch, Landon Hovsepian, Coach Chuck Dickinson (behind Hovsepian), Tyler Anthony-Rozier, Caleb Moncrief, Trey Jeffries, Luke Snider, Tyler Jenkins, Mason Dicks, Wyatt Van Zant, Coach Steven Reynolds, Bryson Wester, Jackson Herman, Clayton Kicklighter, Coach Doug Johnson and Coach Lantz Lowery. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

KHHS wins title in newly added snatch event as well and wins 23 individual medals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

In the midst of posing for numerous photos outside of Port St. Joe High School, Keystone Heights High School weightlifter Tyler Jenkins summed the day up perfectly.

"It's great. It's déjà vu."

Indeed. For the second straight year, the Keystone boys weightlifting team captured the Class 1A state championship trophy, making it the third championship in program history. (The first was won in 2014.) Keystone is the 18th school to win at least two consecutive titles and the first to do so since Baker County won

four in a row from 2008 through 2011.

The Indians graduated only two from its 2021 championship team, so winning state again this year was certainly a realistic expectation.

"This was the goal from the start," said Mason Dicks, who won the unlimited weight class. "We worked every day for it."

Jenkins, who competes in the 183-pound class, said, "As soon as got off from the off-season, we just came in and worked hard every day. It definitely paid off."

Keystone Coach Lantz Lowery said, "We've got hard-working kids. They're just willing to outwork everybody."

Trey Jeffries, who competes in the 219-pound class, said, "There was a lot of pressure on us, but we did it."

Keystone didn't just win team championship. It became Class 1A's inaugural snatch champion as well.

The snatch was added as a voluntary competition this season.

"We thought we could definitely win it," Jenkins said of the snatch event. "Look at us now."

On the strength of two individual champions and 11 total top-six medals, the Indians won the snatch event with 44 points, putting them 24 points ahead of runner-up South Sumter.

Keystone had three individual champions and earned a total of 12 top-six medals in the traditional (bench press and clean and jerk) event, finishing with 55 points ahead of West Nassau's 17.

"We came here to compete and win a state championship," said Ulysses Free, who was the 154-pound class champion in both the snatch and traditional events. "We didn't come here to win individually. That's a plus, but we came here to place and get

points."

Lowery said, "All I wanted every kid to do was just put up their best total they've put up this year and make South Sumter or West Nassau come beat us." The coach added: "I want every kid to be an individual state champion, but more importantly, I want every kid to be a part of a team state champion."

The Indians had quite a group of supporters in the stands, with Jenkins saying, "Everywhere I looked, there was somebody from Keystone."

Dicks said each of the 21 competing lifters must have had at least four people there watching them, which is saying something. As he noted, Port St. Joe is a long way from Keystone.

"They are why we win," Dicks said of the family members and other fans.

See CHAMPS, page 14



Wilson

Starke man guilty of murder conspiracy

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A Bradford County jury convicted a 28-year-old Starke man for arranging the murder of a 19-year-old in 2020.

Demetrius Dewayne Wilson was found guilty of manslaughter and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder for the July 10, 2020, death of 19-year-old Blake Reed Williams.

Prosecutors said Williams was shot on Old Lawley Road around 9:28 p.m.

In February, a jury convicted Gainesville resident Marcus Tereul Whitfield, 33, of second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder for the killing. Prosecutors said Whitfield was the triggerman in the slaying.

Prosecutors said Wilson offered Whitfield \$10,000 to kill Williams, because Wilson believed the 19-year-old had stolen a large amount of cash from Wilson.

He loved his mother, took care of his nephew and sold drugs

Assistant State Attorney Luis Bustamante told jurors during closing arguments that his case showed why a 19-year-old man was shot dead and left on a Starke sidewalk.

"What do we know about Blake Williams?" Bustamante asked jurors. "We know that he loved his mother and liked her cooking. We know that he took care of his nephew."

"We know he lived off (Old Lawley Road), about a 10-minute walk from the Delta Store," the prosecutor continued. "We know that he had a routine: that he would try to make it to the Delta Store before closing time... We know that he did not like to wear a shirt. We know that he did not have a car, and if he had to go out of town, he used a rental car that was provided by his sister or a friend."

"We also know he was a drug dealer. Something that is sad," Bustamante added. "We know there were drugs

See GUILTY, page 8

Raulerson, Simmons win state titles for Tigers

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

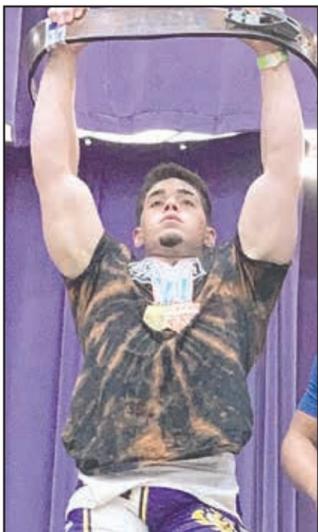
Union County High School's Quinn Raulerson won his second straight state championship, while teammate Christian Simmons won a title as well at the April 23 Class 1A boys weightlifting finals at Port St. Joe High School.

Raulerson admitted he felt like he didn't perform to his best of his abilities at last year's state finals, but he was satisfied with this year's effort, which saw him win the 183-pound class with a 700-pound total (405 bench press, 295 clean and jerk).

"I'm thankful I got the numbers I did," Raulerson said. "I couldn't ask for a better performance."

All the competitors had gotten all three of their bench-press attempts in before Raulerson attempted his first. He started out at 390, which was 65 pounds more than the best bench press at that point.

After getting 390, Raulerson bench pressed 405 — a total he had done in



Union County High School's Quinn Raulerson won his second straight state championship. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



The Tigers' Christian Simmons topped the 119-pound class to join Quinn Raulerson as a state champ.

workouts, but never at a competition.

"It was a great day," Raulerson said.

He attempted a state-record of 415 on his third bench-press attempt, but didn't get it. Still, he'd go on to finish with an overall total that was 100 pounds better than class runner-up Tyler Jenkins of Keystone Heights.

According to the Schwartz formula, which takes body weight and amount of weight lifted into account, Raulerson was the top lifter in the traditional event (bench press and clean and jerk).

Simmons won the 119-pound class with a 430 total (230, 200), which put him 40 pounds ahead of The Villages' Kristian Sarakinis.

Like Raulerson, Simmons didn't attempt his first bench press until every other lifter in his class had done all three of their attempts. Simmons opened at 215, which was 15 pounds more than the best attempt at that point.

See TITLES, page 17

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Four funding options remain on the table

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Based on the agenda for the April 21 Bradford County Commission meeting, board members were expected to narrow down discussion of new revenue sources from four to two, but that didn't happen.

Franchise and impact fees, special assessments and a new 1-cent sales surtax all remain on the table, not that action will be taken to enact any of these revenue sources soon.

First, commissioners are reluctant to act without a clearer picture of the county's current financial condition, which will come with the audit for 2020-21 and a draft budget being prepared for the next budget workshop, which has been moved to Monday, May 2, following the board's 9:30 a.m. meeting.

Second, each revenue source

has its own timeline and process for implementation. The additional sales surtax, for example, requires notification to the Department of Revenue and must be approved by voters.

Based on the prior workshops, staff felt the commission was leaning toward the sales tax and franchise fees but asked the commission to formalize that at the April 21 meeting.

Special assessments for fire and emergency medical services aren't popular with the board or the public. Chairman Chris Dougherty, however, said the board has also discussed how other counties are using assessments to fund specific services, which allows them to lower the property tax rate.

Last year, Bradford commissioners voted to raise the tax rate to 10 mills. Dougherty said assessments and fees are

a way of achieving the goal of cutting taxes and sharing the burden of funding services with those who don't pay property taxes. As the county attorney pointed out, one reason other counties don't pursue the sales surtax for fire rescue services is because they have imposed special assessments.

"I just want to keep it fresh in everybody's mind that when we keep putting off any discussion about any further revenue streams, we're just putting ourselves right back to where we've been for at least the last five years," Dougherty said.

Attorney Will Sexton said there was no need to take any possible funding source off the table. If staff is aware that it's still up for discussion, then they shouldn't miss any deadlines for acting, such as potentially adopting a special assessment

resolution this year to begin collecting it next year.

Commissioner Danny Riddick said he doesn't want to vote on any new revenue stream before June when they find out how taxable values have grown. He feels increased property values and recent development being assessed for the first time might be enough to lower the property tax rate.

Sexton said he would bring the discussion back this summer after the property appraiser presents the board with the tax roll information for next year.

The budget that will be presented during the May 2 workshop will not be balanced. This will give the commission a sense of how much spending needs to be cut or how much reserve or new funding will be needed to balance the budget.

get the referendum on this year's election ballot.

The board must notify the Florida Department of Revenue 180 days before the general election in November of its intent to place the referendum on the ballot. This will give the department time to conduct a required audit.

To achieve that deadline, the board will be asked to approve an emergency ordinance on May 2 to notify DOR by May 6.

"The ordinance would simply outline your desire to impose the tax and to ask the supervisor elections to place the referendum question on the ballot for Nov. 6. You have the ability later to change your mind and withdraw the ballot question if it turns out that our research makes you uncomfortable with this tax," Sexton said.

If the surtax referendum isn't on the ballot this year, the next opportunity to place the question to voters would be in 2024.

"This is moving very quickly, and that's obviously cause for concern. But in our conversations with the clerk's office, we feel like this is what's necessary to keep the option open — not to be

a final decision on the matter," Sexton said.

If voters were to approve the sales surtax, the commission must use that money for fire rescue services and rollback property taxes by an amount equivalent to the new surtax revenue.

In other business: —The May 2 meeting will include discussion of county manager qualifications and salary as well as redistricting.

—Commissioners approved staff look at more affordable options for the employee health insurance plan.

—Sitting as the Board of Adjustment, the commission approved a special exception to allow the construction of mini-warehouses on three parcels next to the Keystone Heights waste collection site owned by Michael L. Walters.

—As the Planning and Zoning Board, the commission rezoned the Timbuktu property north of Starke from residential to commercial use, bringing the property into compliance now that it has changed hands.

Emergency ordinance on surtax

While there is no commitment to move forward with the 1-cent sales surtax, there is a deadline the board must meet if it wants to

Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm. — Winston Churchill

Health fair in Starke today

Bradford County Health Department is hosting a health fair in recognition of National Minority Health Month on Thursday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be free screenings for diabetes risk and blood pressure, plus information on health equity, dental care, Healthy Start, mental health, heart health, diabetes prevention, Elder Options, victim services and more.

The health department is located at 1801 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.



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Superintendent addresses latest financial audit

District too big even after school closures

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley is meeting with schools to explain the context of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 audit, which once again found issues of material weakness in processes and procedures, and noncompliance in handling federal funding.

Issues included a more than \$767,000 drop in the district's fund balance, from more than \$1.3 million to \$542,000. That reduced the fund balance to just over 2% of total general fund revenues — less than the 4% required by school board policy. Also, the district must report to the state when the figure falls to 3% or below, but the state was not notified until after the audit was released.

The fiscal year audited began July 1, 2020. Hartley did not become superintendent until Nov. 17 of that year. John Valinski was serving as finance director but has since been replaced.

Hartley said in Brandon Esposito the district has a finance director who understands the complexity of school funding. The experience of Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke has also proved helpful, as has consultant Scott Ward, who was hired to help go through years of "bad accounting."

"Luckyly, we got Mr. Esposito

because he's maybe the first person in a while that really truly understands education finance in that position," Hartley said. "It's just completely different from any other accounting, and it's hard for people to understand that. But there are so many categorical areas and all the places where you have to spend money, or you can only spend money."

Hartley said one of the drains on the fund balance has been the practice of paying for certain positions out of general revenue instead of categorical revenue, including positions like curriculum resource teachers and interventionists.

The size of the district is another strain. This time last year the discussion of budget constraints led to the closure of the elementary schools in Hampton and Brooker. Now Hartley is discussing a report prepared for the prior administration dating back to 2017 which revealed — through a comparison with similarly sized Gilchrist County — that the Bradford School District was overstaffed by 180 positions.

Allowing that Bradford has a higher enrollment of ESE students than Gilchrist, Hartley said 150 positions might be more correct. It is a problem they have been dealing with through attrition, trying not to hire replacements as employees leave the district of their own accord.

So, while there won't be many layoffs, they do plan on

General Fund Financial Condition Ratios			
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2019, 2020, and 2021			
Fiscal Year Ended June 30	Total Assigned and Unassigned Fund Balance (A)	Total General Fund Revenues (B)	Financial Condition Ratio (A)/(B)
2019	\$2,688,736	\$26,766,682	10.05%
2020	\$1,309,296	\$27,026,479	4.84%
2021	\$ 541,902	\$26,488,020	2.05%

According to the superintendent, the information they were getting about the fund balance did not match what auditors found.

addressing the overstaffing problem over time.

"The objective is to save as many jobs as we can, and then through time and attrition be able to cut back like we need to. And then by the end of 2024 when those extra grants run out, we should be where we need to be," he said.

Explaining to teachers that the district is overstaffed has been one of the harder discussions.

"It's very hard for them to hear because they work in the school every day. And I get it, I used to work in the school, and it seems like you could never have enough people. But in a district like Gilchrist, where they have 180 less people than we do, if you go back and look, traditionally, they are one of the highest performing districts in the state. And so, it can be done and be very successful with the number of staff that they have.

Eventually, as we year by year cut back, cut back and cut back, we're just going to have to learn to do things a different way."

The cost for those positions is enormous for the district budget. Hartley said assuming just 50 of them are teaching positions at an average salary and benefit package of \$55,000, that adds up to \$2.75 million.

Looking at allocations for next year, 18 teaching positions are being cut, he said. They are still looking at noninstructional positions and making sure each position is paid for out of the proper pot of money.

Hartley said not doing so actually hurts teachers, pointing to Fiscal Year 2019-20 when the district was overspent by \$1.2 million by relying on general versus categorical revenue.

"I mean, to put that into perspective, just that money alone would give our teachers a

\$6,000 raise," he said.

Instead, they are going into another budget year with a diminished fund balance and the state requesting districts to increase teacher pay.

Beyond available operating funds, the audit dinged the district on a few other areas, including the failure to correct misspending of federal dollars on health insurance premiums for employees who were not participants in the program. This money, more than \$167,000, must be repaid out of general revenue.

Auditors also found a significant deficiency because the district did not comply with the requirement to minimize the time between receiving and disbursing federal Education Stabilization Fund Program revenue. This led to questioned costs of nearly \$995,000.

Also, while there was turnover in the finance office, the district missed even an extended deadline to file an annual financial report with the state, and information was misreported. For example, the district reported emergency relief funding not earned by the end of the 2021 fiscal year and therefore not available to cover expenses during that year. In addition, more than \$982,000 in coronavirus relief funding expenditures was omitted from the schedule of federal awards. The same was true of Education Stabilization Fund revenue totaling more than \$196,000.

Finally, a previous comment

on timely bank account reconciliations was only partially corrected.

"At the end of our audit conference this year, the auditors said, sorry, this isn't anything that that you've done, or your new finance director has done. This has just been years of very bad accounting," Hartley said.

Now that the state has been notified of the district's financial condition, the superintendent is not sure what the response will be. He did say he is confident that funding positions out of the correct category would quickly get the unassigned fund balance back up to 3% of general revenue.

"I mean, the main thing that I've been trying to make sure our staff knows is, yes, we are here, and this is why we're having to make some of the decisions we're making in the district. I mean, obviously, we know in a small town there's going to be a narrative that's created, and it's either going to be the truth, or it's going to be what everybody assumes," he said.

"My thing to them is, this is where we're at. This is how we're going to begin to move in the right direction, which we can do pretty quickly. That things are going to be OK. It's not time to jump ship or go run off somewhere else. And truthfully, there will be a very small amount of cuts that have to be made once we move people to correct funding sources."

Fire rescue employees replaced to protect service level

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Commissioners allowed Bradford County Fire Rescue Director Allen Parrish to fill three recently vacant positions despite the ongoing hiring freeze.

Parrish told commissioners April 21 that the department had lost three more full-time employees.

This came on the heels of losing six employees who were not replaced. That resulted in the loss of an ambulance crew and became the basis for a \$561,000

cut to the proposed fire rescue budget next year.

Parrish said the loss of three more employees left the commission with three choices. Emergency service levels could continue to be cut, the board could allow him to replace these three employees, or he could pay remaining employees overtime to take on the extra hours.

"We're down to those choices," Parrish said. "I've heard this board talk about making hard choices, and here we are."

While he said he was happy to keep the board informed and

even make recommendations, this decision is a function of the commission.

At the same time, he apologized to commissioners if any of them have received a phone call about emergency services.

"We've been asked by a lot of citizens of this county why it took us so long to get to them in an ambulance or a fire truck, and we've told them the truth. We've told them that we can't afford to put any more out there. And so, if you receive those phone calls, I apologize for that. It was in no way intended to be incendiary

towards you. It's just the facts, the truth, and I don't think we should lie to the citizens," he said.

According to Parrish, they need to cutback services or fill the positions, because staffing the shifts at time and a half isn't affordable.

Parrish received the board's permission and agreed to start interviewing candidates the next day.

"I believe right now the product that we're putting out there is as good a product as we can put out there with what we have. There

are going to be days where we're caught, and we can't do anything about it. But you can't plan for 30 emergencies when you're normally having 22 to 23 a day, and then all sudden you jump up to 30, 35. We just do the best we can there in those days," he said.

Commissioner Diane Andrews asked that Parrish not apologize for any contact commissioners have received from the public.

"We put you under this hiring freeze, and when the people call you, have them call us, because we're the board that did that," she said.

She further asked that he keep an eye on the numbers and let the board know when the calls for service rise and they can't respond in a timely manner.

"When it gets out of hand, we need to know."

County will maintain flashing light under protest

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County commissioners had no choice but to accept the ongoing maintenance of what Commissioner Danny Riddick called the "worthless flashing light" at the intersection of State Road 100 and County Road 21B.

The agreement was pulled from the agenda during a previous meeting, but Florida Department of Transportation insisted the county follow through since the commission approved of the installation from the start.

But the commission and others have actively sought full traffic signalization for the intersection, which is considered dangerous because of its location and the amount of traffic on the roads.

The county expressed itself again in a letter to FDOT District 2 Secretary Greg Evans.

"Dear Secretary Evans: I write as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida and on their behalf with regard to the above-referenced matter.

As you may be aware, on or about August 2, 2021, our Board preliminarily agreed to provide for the cost of maintaining the flashing beacons and related vehicle loop detection system at the intersection of State Road 100 and Southeast County Road 21B. Today our Board approved a Final Acceptance of Traffic Signal Installation(s) and Transfer of Maintenance pursuant to that earlier, preliminary agreement.

The purpose of this letter however, is to advise you and FDOT that the Board of County Commissioners believes very strongly that the intersection at SR 100 and SE CR 21B must have a full signalization in order to meet the safety needs of our community.

Accidents — including serious and fatal accidents — have regularly occurred at that intersection for many years. More recently, dramatically increased

commercial, residential and tourist development in the area of the intersection has occurred and continues to occur. Included in that increased development is the construction and expansion of a Recreational Vehicle park with accommodations for over 800 RVs. This development has obviously exacerbated the ongoing traffic safety concerns at the intersection.

It is the position of our Board that these ongoing traffic safety concerns, serious accidents and deaths will continue at this intersection until FDOT takes the necessary steps to signalize the intersection at SR 100 and

SE CR 21B.

Our efforts — both locally by our Board members and staff, our Sheriff and other members of our community as well as at the Legislature through Florida Representative Bobby Payne — have heretofore been unsuccessful. These efforts have failed largely due to the unwillingness of FDOT to recognize the significance of the public safety threat at this intersection and to deviate from its previously established position on the signalization of this intersection. It is our sincere hope that you will instruct your staff to reconsider their position

on this matter and take the necessary action to ensure the safety — and quite literally the lives — of our citizens."

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~ By Henry Hodges

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Lake Region

Ex-superintendent continues allegations against camp director

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The former superintendent of Alachua County Public Schools leveled another allegation against the director of Camp Crystal Lake during a school board workshop on Friday, April 12.

Carlee Simon addressed the board during the public comment period of the meeting.

While superintendent, Simon ordered an investigation into the financial operations of the facility and its director Scott Burton. However, the investigation concluded with no probable cause found.

On April 12, Simon appeared before the school board as a private citizen and read to the board an email which she said originated from Burton. In the message, the director allegedly talked about awarding camp scholarships to “business partners.” Simon said that in the email, Burton also stated he does not want anyone to know about the scholarships.

Simon’s reading of the email comes after six months in which the district investigated Burton, Burton’s threat of suing the district for defamation, and Simon’s own termination as superintendent.

8,000 campers a year

In a presentation to the Keystone Heights Rotary Club last year, Burton said that between the 1,200 annual summer campers, 5,000 campers during the school year and parents who accompany their children on some trips, the facility hosts around 8,000 people a year.

He said the camp, situated in Clay County south of the Keystone Heights Airport on the northwest shore of Crystal Lake, was acquired by the district under the guidance of Superintendent Howard W. Bishop in the 1940s.

“In 1947, Camp Crystal Lake was part of the Keystone Heights Air Base which was owned by the United States Department of Defense after World War II,” he said. “The War Assets Administration was given the authority to sell federal lands and property that were not essential to our nation’s defense. Thus in 1947, the 151 acres and 28 existing buildings that became Camp Crystal Lake were put on the market for \$17,500.”

Burton said that at the same time, the Florida Legislature passed the Omnibus School Bill which expanded the scope of public education beyond the Three R’s and enabled school districts to spend state and local taxes on a wider variety of programs.

Burton added that before COVID, in addition to school district campers, Camp Crystal Lake hosted between 18 and 20 private groups a year, including groups from the University of Florida and youth groups from Jacksonville, Gainesville and the Lake Region.

He said he also tries to host one or two community events a year.

“One of the big ones that we do right now is something called Camp Hazelnut,” he said. “It’s typically in October every year. This last year was cancelled due to the pandemic.”

Burton said Camp Hazelnut is attended by around 70 children with pancreatic cancer and is co-hosted by the band Sister Hazel.

Superintendent's email

Simon first accused Burton of fraud and financial mismanagement in a Nov. 5, 2021, email to board members.

In it she said the district improperly paid a monthly \$182 Dish television service for Burton’s family, that Burton and his family lived within the camp rent free, and that a scholarship fund designed to



Former Alachua County Public Schools Superintendent Carlee Simon addresses the school board on April 12.



Camp Crystal Lake Director Scott Burton speaks to the Keystone Heights Rotary Club in 2021.

assist financially disadvantaged campers was poorly managed. She also accused Burton of awarding gifts of camp tuition to his friends.

“Other scholarships were given to friends from affluent families that could otherwise afford the camp tuition,” Simon wrote. “The ‘friend’ recipients did not apply for the scholarships either. It was given and taken without going through any process. This is especially concerning, as we are aware of other scholarship applicants that were not awarded the full tuition.”

Simon also claimed the camp was allowing students from outside Alachua County to attend summer camp, when students within the county were unable to attend due to a lack of available spots.

Investigation

On Jan. 19 the district placed Burton on paid administrative leave and began investigating Simon’s allegations. The district’s human resource investigators interviewed Simon, the camp’s registrar and executive assistant, the district’s Finance Chief Alexander Rella, Administrative Secretary for Public Information Prescott Cowles, who worked at the camp for a year and finally Burton.

Rella told investigators he had been aware of and concerned about the allegations made by Simon for over five years.

“I’ve been looking at it,” Rella

told investigators according to the investigative report. “I’ve brought the same concerns up to all of the superintendents.”

Burton told investigators he followed the procedures that had been in place at the camp for years. He also claimed that he could not respond to many questions asked by investigators because he had been locked out of his records and email account. Burton added that at least on two occasions, he requested from the district assistance with drafting policies and guidelines for the awarding of scholarships.

At the conclusion of the inquiry, a five-member investigations review committee found that there was no probable cause for disciplinary action against Burton.

Defamation suit threatened

In response to the investigation, Burton’s attorney H. Bryan Boukari wrote to Simon, accusing her of denying Burton’s due process rights. He added that his client was entitled to a copy of the allegations lodged against him, as well as witness statements and exculpatory evidence of which the district is aware.

Boukari added that Simon broke several state and federal laws in making her accusations against his client.

“Please be advised,” Boukari wrote, “that Mr. Burton has become a target of Dr. Simon’s well-known, vengeful

propensities as the ‘investigation’ that grew out of her own personal ‘pre-investigation’ has turned into an inquisition designed to uncover some wrongdoing that can be laid at Mr. Burton’s feet to justify Dr. Simon giving his position to her hand-picked personal assistant, Prescott Cowles,” Boukari wrote.

On Feb. 8 Boukari sent a letter to school board chair Rob Hyatt, warning that unless the district retracted and renounced Simon’s allegations, the district could face a defamation lawsuit.

He said Simon broke the law in several ways, one of which was her failure to keep the investigation confidential.

“At best, the Superintendent’s actions display a level of gross incompetence that is difficult to imagine this board would accept,” the attorney wrote. “At worst, and more likely, we believe, is that Superintendent Dr. Carlee Simon intentionally targeted Mr. Burton, maligning his impeccable character and reputation. What is so shameful is that we believe she did this not out of concern for Camp Crystal Lake but as a means to yet again promote her hand-picked personal assistant who she has already fast tracked over the last year.”

Superintendent fired

The board fired Simon on March 1 on a 3-2 vote.

Board member Gunner Paulson was one of three members who voted to oust the superintendent and gave Simon negative performance reviews. Paulson was the member that gave Simon the lowest evaluation scores in the reviews.

In his performance review, Paulson cited Simon’s decision to not renew the contracts of nine administrators in 2021 as one example of her failure to employ positive relationship skills and her propensity to produce high anxiety among district employees.

Paulson said the administrators were terminated without the opportunity to get feedback from Simon or the chance to improve their performances.

“Not only was the

superintendent’s lack of effective communication a stunning surprise to the administrators,” Paulson wrote, “it sent a clear message to all district and school administrators that any administrator could be non-renewed without explanation nor would be given the opportunity to discuss concerns with the superintendent.”

Simon returns as private citizen

On April 12, Simon appeared before the school board as a private citizen and read to the board the email which she said originated from Burton.

“Remind me to have a private conversation about my ‘I won’t identify,’ guys,” Simon said, reading from the text message. “I am giving them a partial scholarship as a thank you for being business partners with us.”

“Camp Hazelnut is getting bigger and bigger, and it looks great having their kids here,” Simon continued. “This is not a scholarship in the sense they are financially struggling, but more, like I said, a thank you. Make sense? I don’t want anyone to know. We are also moving the student to a two-week session. They know not to talk as well.”

“This is a public school system,” Simon said after reading the message. “These are taxpayer dollars. As far as I see it right now, one of the reasons I asked for the investigation is this is mismanagement. I’ve informed you of this. I’ve shared this information with you. We’ve had to do an investigation.”

Simon then recommended to current Superintendent Shane Andrew that he launch an external investigation into Camp Crystal Lake.

When Simon exceeded the three-minute limit for public comment, she asked Chair Rob Hyatt for more time. When he said no, she lashed out at the board member.

“You are trying to stifle this continuously,” she told Hyatt, “and your past concerns with fraud that not mentioned...”

With that, Hyatt cut Simon off and moved onto another speaker.

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Kindergarten registration at KHES

Keystone Heights Elementary School kindergarten registration

will be in person this year, but by appointments only, on Thursday, May 12, and Tuesday, May 17.

In order to prevent possible loDuring scheduled appointments, parents will have the opportunity to meet kindergarten teachers as they meet with students for a simple readiness screening while parents turn in required documents. You will then be assisted in completing online registration for next school year.

Once completed families will be able to tour the kindergarten hallway, pick up a kindergarten goody bag and take their child’s picture in an “I’m Ready for Kindergarten 2023” setting. You will leave ready for their child to begin school in August.

Please call for an appointment. A list of the required documents will be shared after scheduling.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 904-336-1375.

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CORRECTION | CORRECCIÓN

The Election Notice below should have appeared for a second time this month in the 4-21-22 edition of the Bradford County Telegraph, however it was left out by mistake. We apologize for the error.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION	**OFFICIAL** ANUNCIO DE ELECCIONES GENERALES
I, Laurel M. Lee, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in BRADFORD County, State of Florida, on the Eighth Day of NOVEMBER, 2022, A.D., to fill the following offices:	Yo, Laurel M. Lee, Secretaria de Estado del Estado de Florida, por el presente anuncio que se llevarán a cabo ELECCIONES GENERALES en el Condado de BRADFORD, Estado de Florida, el día ocho de NOVIEMBRE de 2022, d.C. para determinar la ocupación de los siguientes cargos:
United States Senator	Senador de los Estados Unidos
Representative in Congress	Representante en el Congreso
Florida Cabinet - Governor	Gabinete del Estado de Florida - Gobernador
Florida Cabinet - Lieutenant Governor	Gabinete del Estado de Florida - Vicegobernador
Florida Cabinet - Attorney General	Gabinete del Estado de Florida - Procurador General
Florida Cabinet - Chief Financial Officer	Gabinete del Estado de Florida - Funcionario Principal de Finanzas
Florida Cabinet - Commissioner of Agriculture	Gabinete del Estado de Florida - Comisionado de Agricultura
State Senator	Senador estatal
State Representative	Representante estatal
Circuit Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit: Groups 2, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 13	Juez de circuito judicial, Tribunal del octavo circuito judicial: Agrupaciones 2, 6, 9, 10, 12 y 13
County Judge: Group 1	Juez de condado: Agrupación 1
School Board: Districts 1, 2 and 5	Junta escolar: Distritos 1, 2 y 5
County Commissioner: Districts 2 and 4	Comisionado del condado: Distritos 2 y 4
Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District: Groups 2, 3 and 4	Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District: Agrupaciones 2, 3 y 4

New subdivision in KH proposed

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The owner of a 14-acre parcel on the city's northwest limit appeared before the Keystone Heights Growth Management Committee on Monday, April 25 to propose a 55-lot housing development on the site.

In May 2021, Jeff Duckro pitched his vision for a 63-lot, age-restricted mobile home park near the intersection of Sunrise Boulevard and Paradise Point Drive.

He said that because of community reaction to his original idea, he reformulated the plan into its current iteration of a 55-lot neighborhood with site-built, wood frame homes.

The developer did retain the original name of his plan: Country Meadows.

Duckro added that the development will be governed by a homeowners' association.

He submitted a draft document for the association which includes terms of a minimum living space area per home of 1,350 square feet, a paved driveway requirement and the establishment of an architectural review committee which must approve any changes to structures within the neighborhood.

The draft document also prohibits window air conditioning units, antennas and large satellite dishes, clotheslines, noxious vegetation, litter, nuisances, more than two pets per household, dangerous pets, farm animals, tethered pets, unleashed pets, outside storage buildings more than 200 square feet, outside storage containers, commercial use of buildings, timesharing and flags, other than one, portable and removable United States flag or official State of Florida flag.

The developer said that even though the current version of the neighborhood is not aged-restricted like his original proposal, there is a high probability that many of the residents of Country Meadows will be retirees migrating from Florida urban centers or from other areas of the county.

Affordable housing

Duckro said he has contracted with a single builder to construct the homes: Century Communities, a New York Stock Exchange-traded company based in Colorado.

Purchasers may choose



A view of one of the elevations for homes to be built in Country Meadows.

from three floor plans, and the neighborhood will have a recreational area including a dog park.

He added that he anticipates purchase prices in the \$230,000 to \$250,000 range.

Committee member Vivian Katz-James said the low purchase price concerned her.

"I think the market would accommodate from \$250,000 to \$280,000 she said.

"I'm looking at houses," she said of Duckro's plan, "if I was going to guess, five years from now there would be cars sitting on blocks. The quality of the home matters."

The developer responded that the neighborhood's homeowner's association is designed to prevent Katz-James's prediction.

He also said the development's covenants and restrictions prevent investors from buying up a large number of the homes and converting them into rentals, a widespread trend in today's housing market.

The restrictions also designate a minimum rental period of one year, which would prohibit owners from marketing homes on short-term rental websites like Airbnb and Vrbo.

Duckro added that he could amend the covenants and restrictions, adding an outright prohibition of renting homes in the development.

"We want to try to bring the best-quality house to Keystone that's an affordable house and not be too expensive," Duckro said. "Any large home builder that would be interested in this, and there are quite a few, they're all going to have the same kind of plan."

Scott Kornegay, the executive director of the Lake Region Development Corporation, said

he drove through a Century Communities development in Live Oak now under construction: Deer Lake Preserve. Kornegay said that homes there appeared small with their front views dominated by their garages.

"I think that Mr. Duckro ought to take a good look at trying to find a local builder," he said. "I know they would have to be somebody with enough capacity to get it done."

Committee member Keith Hatch said that in today's home building environment, the appearance of an outsized garage overtaking the front view of a home is commonplace.

Traffic

Hatch said the development's impact on the intersection of Sunrise Boulevard and State Road 100 was a major concern for him.

Duckro said that a traffic study he commissioned is not yet complete but should be finished in time for his presentation to the city's planning and zoning committee.

"You have to understand that the intersection at Sunrise and 100—and I'm not telling you anything that you don't know—it's already broken," Duckro said. "The developer: me will have some kind of proportional response...It is not a streetlight. That's up to DOT. That's not up to us."

Growth Management Committee chair Steve Hart said that the committee would not vote on Duckro's proposal.

See HOMES, page 8

Lake Region in new congressional district

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Under a new redistricting plan signed into law by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday, April 22, Clay County is in a reconstituted congressional District 4 that also covers all of Nassau County and the westside of Duval.

Previously the area was in District 3, which it shared with all of Bradford, Union and Alachua counties, in addition to the northern half of Marion.

Kat Cammack, an Alachua County resident, will be seeking reelection in District 3. There is no current member of congress residing in the new District 4.

Clay County will have an outsized influence on the new Republican-majority district, with 44% of the district's GOP voters residing in Clay County. Duval will be home to 35% of the district's Republicans and Nassau County will have 21%.

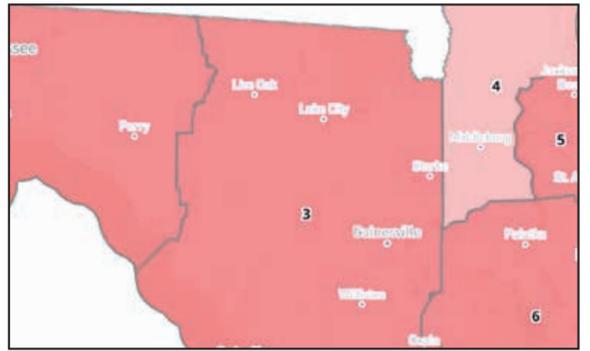
President Trump won the district by over six points in 2020.

Two Republicans have said they are considering a campaign run in District 4. One is former Fernandina Beach mayor and current Nassau County State Senator Aaron Bean. The other is Jacksonville City Councilman and K-9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond.

FloridaPolitics.com reported that Bean is lining up support from former Sen. Rob Bradley of Fleming Island and future Florida House Speaker Sam Garrison of Orange Park.

The new District 4 replaces the minority-access District 5, currently held by Al Lawson.

One day after DeSantis signed the redistricting plan into law, the League of Women Voters, Black Voters Matter, Florida Rising and Equal Ground Florida filed suit in Leon County, alleging the plan violates Florida's Fair Districts constitutional amendment.



North Florida congressional districts according to the new redistricting plan.

In 2015, a court discarded the redistricting plan passed by the legislature and replaced it with maps drawn by Common Cause and the League of Women Voters which had sued the state. Like the litigation filed last week, the two groups said the redistricting plan violated the Fair Districts Amendment.

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, 2022.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD Proposed Plan for Sites DP001, DP002, and OW004 Camp Blanding Military Reservation

The Air National Guard invites you to review and comment on the Proposed Plan for remedial action at Sites DP001, DP002, and OW004 at Camp Blanding Military Reservation in Starke, Florida. The sites are located centrally within the installation boundary along Avenue D. The Air National Guard recently completed a study of Sites DP001, DP002, and OW004 to evaluate environmental media contaminants and remedial action alternatives.

The preferred alternative for soil remediation is excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soil. The preferred alternative for groundwater is enhanced biodegradation with groundwater monitoring and land use controls, if needed. The preferred alternatives and the other alternatives evaluated are discussed in the Proposed Plan.

The Air National Guard welcomes the public's comments on all of the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan is available online for community review and comment at <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/Default.aspx> or by contacting the Base Environmental Manager at joseph.bacorn@us.af.mil.

To access reports on this website, select "Continue to site" near the bottom of the page, select "Air National Guard" in the top left corner of the page, then choose "Camp Blanding Military Res, FL" from the Installation List, and click on the "Search" button to retrieve a list of records to view. Internet access is available at the Bradford County Public Library. If sufficient interest exists, a public meeting will be held to discuss the Proposed Plan.

The Air National Guard encourages you to comment on the proposed plan during the 30-day Public Comment Period, from **May 2, 2022 to June 1, 2022**. Written comments may be submitted by mail, postmarked no later than **June 1, 2022**, to the following address: Mr. Joseph Bacorn, Environmental Manager, 202nd RED HORSE Squadron, Camp Blanding JTC, 5629 FL-16 W, Starke, FL 32091.

Public comments received during this period will be considered in the final decision-making process for remedial action at Sites DP001, DP002, and OW004 and will be addressed in the Record of Decision responsiveness summary.

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UNION COUNTY

Promised Land Family Ministries outwaited COVID and now ready to start

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

After a bit more than two years and a long-lived pandemic, John and Rebecca Hall are finally getting ready to begin programs at their faith-based educational and agricultural programs at Promised Land Family Ministries.

John spoke to the Union County Board of Commissioners in late 1999, telling them about the project to provide agricultural experiences to children and through them show how they can apply Christian values and principles to their life.

At the 2019 meeting, Hall told commissioners that, "We are planning to help children and their parents experience farm life as a means of creating a new life. When you let a child be involved in caring for a living thing – plant of animal – and seeing it grow and thrive, it helps that child learn valuable lessons and life skills."

The Halls purchased 50 acres in Union County, located on C.R. 241, as home to their project. They had some clearing, cleanup and construction to do, but were looking forward to starting some after-school programs and weekend events in the late Spring of 2020 in Phase One, with Phase Two of development set for Fall 2020 with the continuation of these programs, plus the addition of free after-school tutoring. Phase Three, planned for Summer 2021 would continue all of the previous offering to a much greater frequency and extent add limited camping experiences as well.

Enter COVID-19 and all of its subsequent variants. Everything got put on hold, including the beginning of the planned programs, but John and Rebecca followed their faith and waited until the way was opened and they were allowed to begin.

Fast-forward to April 2021. COVID is still with us all but is much more under control than in the recent past. We now have vaccines for almost everyone and people are getting their shots, clear protocols have been developed by the CDC and the Florida Department of Health and, despite several spikes as new variants emerged, the future looks much brighter than it did at the start and for most of last year, so with an attitude of faith and hope the Halls have begun the process of getting their dream underway.

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, after more than two year later, Promised Land Family Ministries held its initial Open House. The idea was to invited



Hadley and Cristy Mosely take their turns at "calf roping" during their visit to Promised Land.

everyone in the community who was interest in the programs to come take a look and see what was being offered. Of course there were a number of activity stations, including ones presenting information on such things as dairy cattle, goats, chickens, bees, and agriculture as a career. Union County UF-IFAS Extension Agent Luke Harlow and his wife Erin (also an extension agent, working in Columbia County) were on hand, as were representatives from the Division of Forestry.

To increase the fun for the youngsters, about \$800 in toys and bikes were given away to the participants. The Halls also provided lunch at the event, grilling hamburgers and hotdogs and serving them with chips and cookies. All told, about 100 people came to take a look and see what the camp would be offering to area young people.

John himself has a background in agricultural education, a field in which he taught for almost 15

years at the middle school, high school and college levels. He hold degrees from the University of Florida in agricultural education (bachelor's) and agribusiness (master's) and a PhD. in agricultural leadership from Texas A & M.

The program planned for Promised Land are planned to be fun, educational and faith based. The Halls believe that through agricultural experiences they can help children see how to apply Christian principals to their lives.

The Halls are planning on taking their time getting started, keeping both the value given and the safety of the programs. They have a program coming up, Called "Growing for God," that will teach gardening skills to children. Right now, John said, they know they want to start with this program a little later this Spring but are not ready to set dates quite yet. Other activities and programs will fall into place as the year progresses, with the target date for many planned to coincide with the beginning of the next school year.

Promised Land Family Ministries is located 1 ¼ miles off C.R. 238 on C.R.241, near Providence. The Halls are busy getting ready for a future crafted to inspire, educate and bring stronger faith to all of the children they can reach with their programs.



(Left) Dr. John Hall (holding Titus Hall) and Rebecca Hall (holding Haleigh Hall); (Right) PLFM Board Members Dr. Ed Osborne and John Wait Boatright at the Open House festival earlier this month.



Sharon Mullins tells some interested kids about bees and bee keeping. It is hard to tell, however, if the kids are more interested in the insects or the sweet honey they produce.



Madison Johnson, Jordan Hendricks, Perry Johnson*, Abby Gainey, Hannah Sherrod*, Cailynn Boggs and Maegan Beatty* gave an information presentation at the April 18 BOCC meeting. (Names marked with a star were members of last years winning team at state competition).

FFA team presents to the board

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

The Union County High School FFA Chapter's Ag Issues team gave their new presentation

at the Aug. 18, 2022 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners – giving everyone in attendance some food for thought.

Team members Madison Johnson, Jordan Hendricks, Perry Johnson, Abby Gainey, Hannah Sherrod, Cailynn Boggs and Maegan Beatty gave at talk on the topic of Mental Health of the American Farmer – complete with some facts that took some of the commissioners by surprise.

Last year, the UCHS Ag Issues Team took third place in the state. This year, three of the members of that team are back, while the other four members seem to be working hard to take their show on the road, back to state competition.

The students first informed the board members and others in attendance that mental health issues were a major issue, and that these issues were more common in rural communities. Of the farmers surveyed by various studies, 35% suffer from depression, 85% from anxiety and 45% report high stress levels.

Reason cited in the presentation for these mental health issues include economic uncertainty, stressful situations, isolation and weather events. The team reported that the suicide rate for farmers was nearly four times the national

average. Farmers deal with trade disputes, labor shortages, worldwide pandemics, heavy workloads, farming hazards, animal diseases and equipment breaking down. If they fail, they know they can lose their homes and everything they have spent a lifetime building.

Team members reminded their audience that, without farmers, we would all likely go hungry and that it was in everyone's best interest to help them deal with their problems.

Warning signs of mental health issues include: a decline in property (upkeep and management), a change in behavior, a change in social activity and a decrease in the care the farmer takes with his appearance.

According to the presentation, 70% of farmers with mental health issues do not get help and counseling, largely out of embarrassment in having the problem. They also cited the general lack of resources available for farmers and said it was a big responsibility to see that they get what they need.

The team must do at least 5 public presentations on their topic in order to qualify for state competition. The presentation to the board was their second time on this topic.

City Commissioner Jimmy Beasley Announces Retirement



For the last four years, and many years before that, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve the citizens of Lake Butler as City Commissioner. It has been my honor to serve you in this way.

After much prayer and consideration, I have decided to retire and make way for someone new to fill this role.

I have taken my oath to serve you very seriously and have been honored by the trust you placed in me all these years. Although my retirement will bring to a close this chapter of public service, I will always remain committed to our city's prosperity and to the people who entrusted me with this honor.

Again, *thank you* for allowing me to serve you.

Humbly,
Jimmy Beasley

NOTICE APPLICATIONS FOR UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council invites interested persons to apply for membership on the Union 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 Union 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, 2022.

New EMS director brings expertise and experience to position

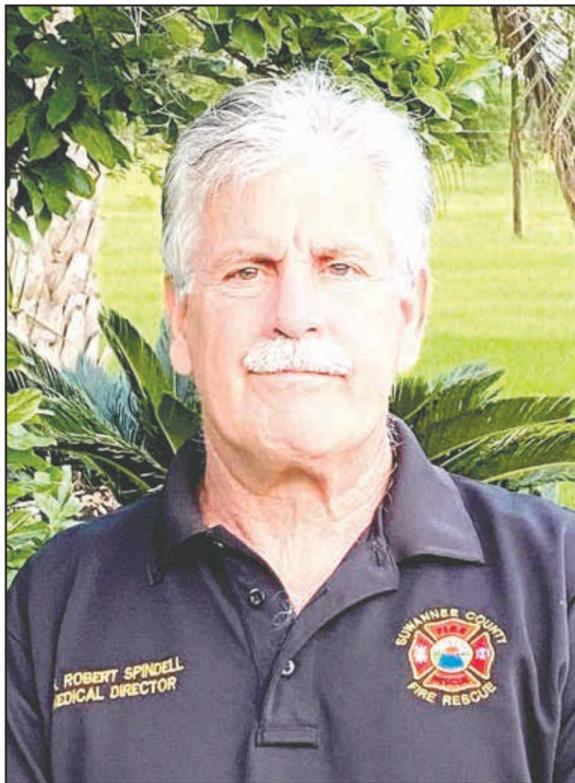
BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

Union County Emergency Medical Services has a new medical director who brings to the table extensive experience in emergency medicine and acting as a medical director for a department.

Dr. Robert Spindell comes from Maine, originally. He holds degrees from Julian University in New Orleans and Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, MO. He specialized in family medicine, doing both his internship and residency in Portland, ME.

Spindell moved to Florida in 1989 to work under the National Health Service Corp., a Federal agency, providing staffing in a program mandated to provide health manpower in areas where there were shortages. He filled this role as a Board Certified Family Medicine physician.

In 1990, Spindell began working in the emergency rooms in Madison and Suwannee counties, as well as in the Army Reserve, where, where he worked in Emergency Medicine in Operation Desert Storm and Fort Benning, GA. After this first foray into emergency medicine, Spindell advanced to become more specialized in emergency medicine. He became the full-time director of Suwannee



New Union County Emergency Medical Services, Dr. Robert Spindell.

Hospital, which became Shands Shands Starke. Live Oak about the same time as the hospital in Starke became Spindell said. "I like emergency medicine," "It is a lot more

dynamic and non-routine and I am grateful to be helping people that really need the treatment and attention."

Spindell soon started serving as the EMS Director in several counties, including Madison, Lafayette, Suwannee, Hamilton, Jefferson and Baker, making him well-versed in running the technical end of departments in small, sometimes economically challenged counties.

Now he has added Union to the list and to the consortium and a coalition which he helped to form, that include all of the counties he serves – the North Florida EMS Advisory Council and the North Florida Coalition (a program for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics, both of which meet quarterly.

Through his various emergency medical experience he became a friend and colleague of Dr. Pete Ganas, previous director of both Bradford and Union County Emergency Medical Services, who passed away last year. After his death Union hired another medical director, but the match did not work out for the county so, at the recommendation of UCEMS Director Toby Witt, the board hired Spindell in March.

With the addition of Union, Spindell is now the medical director of seven counties and also serves as the Emergency

Services Training Medical Director at North Florida College in Madison.

Spindell said he is well pleased with the Union EMS. He said he has worked with Witt before and is impressed with his knowledge and abilities.

Of Witt, Spindell said, "Toby will serve the county well. He is an administrator of great capacity and is well versed in clinical medicine. I am always impressed with his work. He is a good medic and I can honestly say that I don't have as much confidence in many others as I do in him."

He said he found the department to be well staffed with "as good as can be had," and said he could see Ganas' influence in the progressive protocols and standards the department operates under, although he said that in such a fact changing field "there is always room for improvement."

Spindell's duties will include upholding and maintaining both the highest standards and current protocols in emergency medicine (which he says is his biggest role), quality assurance measures, including new and better techniques and equipment. He will also review records of calls for service and will often take them to coalition meetings (patient name kept anonymous) for peer review.

"Reviews by peers serve a dual purpose," Spindell said. "Sometimes a call from another department will present a new situation to staff from other departments and other times will deal with a commonly encountered situation that the review can derive the best way to deal with matters."

Spindell will also work with groups in the department, or sometimes one-on-one with a medic, as much as is practical to make sure all are trained in, and aware, of best practices in situations. He is also in charge for making it possible (under his medical license) for the department to obtain the medications, drugs and supplies needed for the trucks and reviewing controversial cases, if any, offering an unbiased opinion and assuring quality in the service provided. He will also occasionally conduct other training with new hires and provide code training to training officers and will work medics from several counties for check-offs on skills.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to be given the opportunity to serve Union County and a challenge to try and fill the place of Pete Ganas," Spindell said. "I will do my best here, but I am not sure if I will ever reach his level in this position. He was one of a kind."

UC agrees to settlement on inmate health bill

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

When a person is arrested and jailed the responsibility for their healthcare needs falls on the arresting agency. Just as inmates must be fed, clothed and housed, their health must also be attended to.

When an inmate needs medical help, the Union County Sheriff's office has them transported to UF Health Shands. Sometimes this is a single visit, with the inmate being sent back to the Union County Jail after treatment. Other times, the inmate may be admitted to the hospital for treatment, sometimes for several days. The visits can range from injuries sustained while on a work crew, to COVID infections to any of the myriad health issues that plague anyone.

For a little more than two years, the UCSCO has been negotiating with UF Health Shands over eight claims, involving five inmates, which are classified as being medical catastrophic medical claims totaling (original total) \$402,752.24. The time period in which these bills were incurred runs from July 2020 to January 2022. One inmate required treatment on three occasions during this period, spending a total of 13 days in the hospital and resulting on a total bill of 269,738.41. Another inmate required two trips to the hospital, spent a single day in the hospital and resulting in a total bill of \$9,818.37. The other three instances resulted in billing for 13 days of treatment.

The UCSCO has been negotiating with UF Health Shands concerning these costs. According to a letter to the Union County Board of Commissioners from Union County Sheriff

Brad Whitehead, included in the agenda of the April regular meeting, a settlement offer from UF Health Shands was made in February of this year in the amount of \$102,372.74. THE UCSCO continued to negotiate and was able to get a settlement offer for a one time payment of \$38,426.96 to be made within 30 days of the offer.

In his letter, Whitehead states that his office has informed the county for the past two years concerning these claims and the attempts being made to try and negotiate a settlement on them. He stated in the letter that the UCSCO had held money back to help settle the claims, in the amount of \$166,660.15. This money was returned to the county at the end of the past two budget years as end of year fiscal conversions. He said he was now presenting the current settlement offer and was recommending that the county accepts the settlement and pay the bill.

At the board's April meeting, County Coordinator Jimmy Williams said he felt that the UCSCO did a great job negotiating the account down to less than 10 percent of the original invoice amount. Union County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Kellie Hendricks Rhoades said that the amount to pay the most recent settlement offer could be best dealt with in the budget by increasing the fund balance for the UCSCO and allowing it to made the actual payment.

The board briefly discussed the matter, with all five commissioners agreeing that the offer to settle for \$38,426.96 was a very good thing. The board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment and allow the UCSCO to make the payment withing the 30-day window

required by the settlement offer. In other discussion and action the UCBOCC:

—Voted unanimously to approve a one-time suspension of the county purchasing policy in relation to the most recent Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) awarded to the county for the upgrade of the lighting and the installation of perimeter fencing at the new ballfield at the O.J. Phillips Park.

Williams told commissioners that the grant written before the start of the COVID pandemic and that costs have gone up four to five times.

"The purchasing policy requires bids on the project but no one seems to want to bid," Williams said. "With the board's approval I want to go after the items needed to do the project singly. We would still get multiple bids on each item (i.e. fencing, light fixtures, etc.) so there would still be oversight on the purchases. We could use volunteers and inmates to accomplish all, or most, of the work. I feel that this would not only make it possible to get the job done under the current economic environment but would also be the best use of the funds made available by the grant.

Commissioner Lacey Cannon moved that the purchasing policy be amended for this project only, waiving the requirement for sealed bids.

"I know people in the fencing business and they tell me that, very often, they cannot get materials to do jobs, especially large ones," Cannon said.

The board approved the one time/one project amendment to the purchasing policy unanimously, with

commissioners saying that they felt it was best due to the economic conditions and in the best interests of getting the job done within the deadlines required by the grant.

—Discussed the acquisition of a new time clock system that would achieve the goal of getting the Human Relations Department and the various department's payroll duties together. According to Williams, the new system would be more accurate that then current recording methods being used and would save department supervisors a great deal of time in doing their payrolls.

Williams said he had been looking at the time/cost that each department expended doing payroll every two weeks, finding an average cost of \$340 per month, per department. He noted as an example UCEMS, which had already spent \$2,291 on doing payroll in this fiscal year.

The system the county is looking at would provide a kiosk at each department, as well as allowing the employee to clock in and out via their cell phone (verified by the recording of the employee's location through GPS tracking of the phone at the time the clocking took place). According to Williams the system (Nova Time Clock System) would result in better record keeping through more accurate data entry. He noted that converting to the use of the system would require training of both the department heads and employees. He also said that all of the county department heads

agreed that they could take care of their part of the cost of the system within their existing budgets.

Rhoades added that the county was in need of a better system to meet its payroll needs, noting that some departments were still using "old-fashioned" punch card time clocks. She said that, overall, the Nova system would prove much more cost effective. She added that the system would deal with situations like employees who worked in multiple jobs (such as one who currently works in both mosquito control and animal control), making it easy to track their work activities. She suggesting seeing if the company would offer the county a free trial to see if it would perform as expected.

Williams said he would look into the possibility of arranging a free trial and that he would be able to get the company to come to a meeting and give a free demonstration to the commissioners. He also said that there might be a possibility of getting a grant to fund the first three years of the use of the system.

Rhoades said that, if not a free trial for the entire county the company might be willing to do a limited free trial on a couple of departments for 60-90 days.

Williams said he would continue to pursue the matter and report back to the board about the possibility of any free trials and getting a grant to fund the system.

Florida Crown has youth programs

CareerSource Florida Crown is proud to announce the return of its youth programs for the summer of 2022. The Why Try and Summer Youth Employment Programs are currently accepting applications, and this is how your child can join in.

Why Try

Counties: Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union
The Why Try program was created to provide simple solutions for children ages 11-15 in the following areas:
—dropout prevention.
—increased academic success.
—truancy reduction.
—violence prevention.
—drug and alcohol prevention.

Each child who fully participates in the program will receive a cash incentive.

Summer Youth Employment Program

The Summer Youth Employment Program employs teens ages 16 to 18 in local jobs within the Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union counties. The program is a continued partnership that CareerSource Florida Crown shares with the

See YOUTH, page 8

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

April 16 through April 25

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

Nicole Lynn Baker, 41, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 17 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Calbren Leon Bennett, 49, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 17 for battery.

Annie Gale Burton, 32, of Kissimmee was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 22 for a probation violation.

James Randall Carlton, 33, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 22 for DUI and resisting an officer.

Lance William Couvillion, 21, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on April 21 for battery.

Isiah Emmanuel Crum, 20, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 19 for possession of marijuana.

Amber Key Ennis, 42, of Lake Butler was arrested by Starke police on April 16 for larceny and resisting during a theft.

Malik B. Hankerson, 19, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 20 for possession of marijuana.

James Jawan Jamison, 30, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 18 for child neglect and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Danielle M. Kates, 35 of Starke was arrested by Starke police on April 22 for an out-of-county warrant.

David Michael Laycock, 35, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 16 for battery.

Duncan James Lloyd, 19, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 22 for failure to appear.

Markquerva Tytianna Latori Lumar, 19, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 21 for an out-of-county warrant, fraud and illegal use of credit cards.

Dustin Charles Mereness, 34, of DeLand was arrested by Starke police on April 17 for disorderly intoxication.

Charity Rae Morris, 39, of Lulu was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 22 for failure to appear.

Brian Wayne Ogle, 41, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 23 for a probation violation.

Matthew Tyler Russell, 29, of Macclenny was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 18 for contempt of court.

Tommy Daniel Shaw, 45, of High Springs was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 19 for out-of-county warrants.

Clarence Alex Sumner, 55, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 22 for a probation violation.

Dominique, Tre'von Williams, 22, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 22 for trespassing.

Union

Katelyn Marie Allen, 31, of High Springs was arrested by Union deputies on April 20 for an out-of-county warrant.

Daniel Alvarez-Prevost, 24, of Orlando was arrested by Union deputies on April 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of drugs, possession of marijuana

and possession of narcotics equipment.

Ovie Ashby, 26, was arrested by Union deputies on April 21 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Christopher Nicholas Castro, 47, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 23 for failure to appear.

Gregory E. Childers, 25, was arrested by Union deputies on April 25 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Timothy James Crawford, 35, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 25 for a probation violation.

Toni Michelle Ellison, 47, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on April 23 for driving with a permanently revoked license.

Tucker Allen Hart, 24, of St. Petersburg was arrested by Union deputies on April 20 for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Amy Lyn Mayer, 32, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on April 21 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of narcotics equipment.

Christian Alegandro Morales, 32, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 24 for disorderly intoxication and resisting an officer.

Amber Nychole Parker, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on April 21 for a probation violation.

Clay

Jon-Codi Austin Westervelt, 28, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on April 16 and 19 for burglary.

Carrie Amanda King, 36, of Starke was arrested by Clay deputies on April 21 for domestic battery.

GUILTY

Continued from page 1

found on him including marijuana and some crack cocaine.”

Bustamante also said that evidence showed during the two-day trial that a series of text messages occurred between the victim and defendant from June 8 to June 29 and those messages were all drug related.

“We know that after June 29 there is nothing,” he added. “No more text messages between Mr. Wilson and Blake Williams. Why?”

The prosecutor than provided his own answer to the question.

“We know that there was a break-in, and somebody stole money from Mr. Wilson’s place off Thomas Street,” he said. “We know that (Wilson) knew about it, because that’s what he told (Starke Police) Lt. Rooney. We know money was stolen and that he suspected Mr. Williams to be the culprit.”

A dead chicken and a handful of beads

Bustamante ended his closing argument by replaying a video from the Delta Food Store in which the defendant’s white Audi is seen driving up to the store’s gas pumps minutes before the murder and remained parked, with Wilson inside for one minute and 42 seconds.

Earlier in the trial, Marcus Whitfield’s aunt testified that he was always on drugs, and as law enforcement closed in on him resorted to carrying around a dead

chicken and a handful of beads as Voodoo-inspired protection against getting arrested.

Bustamante implied that Wilson parked his Audi 200 feet away from the scene of the murder to oversee a hit that was to be carried out by a chronically high amateur henchman whose dependability was questionable.

The assistant state attorney noted that after the prolonged wait in the Audi, Wilson walked inside the convenience store.

“Did he get out of the car at that time because the murder had already happened?” the prosecutor asked. “Possibly, but why was he in that car for a minute and 42 seconds, give or take a couple of seconds. Inside a car, doing absolutely what? Texting? Or making sure that the job was done by a guy who’s on drugs and who is not reliable. Why would he be there at the time of the murder?”

Never looked at anybody else

In his closing statement, Wilson’s lawyer: Michael Ruppert told jurors that the lead investigator for the crime: Starke Police Lt. Michael Rooney presided over an investigation that focused on Whitfield and Wilson, whose street name is Pete, early and never considered other possibilities.

“Oh my God, Marcus and Pete killed my boy,” Ruppert told jurors. “Blake’s mother made that statement to Officer Rooney. At that point forward, Officer Rooney had tunnel vision. The only two suspects were in fact Marcus and Demetrius. Never

looked at anybody else.”

Earlier in the trial, Ruppert spent over an hour cross-examining Rooney, trying to poke holes in his methodology and criticizing him for failing to obtain the defendant’s phone number, not obtaining a cell phone tower dump, and neglecting to order DNA analysis on a cigarette butt found near the victim.

However, the investigator held his ground, explaining to the jury why he made each decision while developing the case, and justifying why he did or did not utilize each investigative tool.

Ruppert also noted what he said were inconsistencies in the testimony of the state’s witnesses. He also criticized police for failing to investigate Marcus Owens, the 22-year-old police found near the victim when they arrived on scene. Ruppert said Owens had a black eye, but police failed to find out why.

The defense lawyer also asked why the state presented no evidence about the last hour-and-a-half of the victim’s life.

“For an hour-and-a-half, we don’t know what Blake was doing and where he was,” Ruppert said. “We do know he had cocaine in his pocket and marijuana in his hand. Did he make someone mad?”

Jurors could have convicted Wilson of being a principal to second-degree murder but instead found him guilty on the lesser charge of manslaughter.

After the verdict Circuit Judge James Colaw sentenced Wilson to 45 years in prison.

HOMES

Continued from page 5

However, the city’s planning and zoning committee would vote on the development at a later date.

In other news from the April 25 meeting of the Growth Management Committee:

Former church site

Civil engineer and part-time Lake Brooklyn resident Mike Bell told the committee he is close to closing on the former site of St. Anne’s Episcopal Church on Southwest Magnolia Avenue. The two parcels, now owned by Kristi Overton Johnson Ministries Inc. faces Azalea Park and is behind PNC Bank on South Lawrence Boulevard.

The Sarasota resident told the committee that he was looking for community feedback on some of his ideas for converting the property into a pocket neighborhood, retail space or multi-family housing.

Bell said pocket neighborhoods feature inward facing smaller homes with a shared lawn or courtyard. He added that converting the lots into a pocket neighborhood would entail demolition of the parcel’s two structures: the church sanctuary and fellowship hall.

He also said he is alternatively thinking about converting the two structures into multifamily housing or retail space.

Fox Run property

Real estate investor Joe Wiggins told the committee he recently acquired 48+ acres north of Commercial Circle and Fox Run and behind American Legion Post 202 on State Road 21.

Like Bell, Wiggins said he was appearing before the committee to gauge public opinion on several alternative uses for the property.

In July 2021, a previous owner of the land won approval from the Growth Management Committee to change the urban development plan for the parcel, reducing the number of allowed units within the development

from 204 to 180 and changing much of its composition from multifamily to single-family.

Later the owner told city officials he was putting his project on hold due to other priorities.

Wiggins said that in addition to buying the land in December, he is trying to acquire adjacent properties.

Wiggins said his vision for the area is different from the prior owner’s.

“It’s not going to be traditional,” he told the committee. “In our view, we don’t think single family is the right mix for this. There are plenty of areas around here to build single family, but to make a positive impact, to help the businesses, our vision is higher density.”

Wiggins added that in order to attract the types of businesses community members have expressed interest in, like Publix Supermarkets, Keystone’s population must increase.

He told committee members that while he originally envisioned only residential construction for the parcel, he is now leaning toward mixed use.

Wiggins said one feature he is contemplating is a four-to-five-story structure with a nice, rooftop amenity.

Committee member Kerry Cooper Collins told Wiggins that such a tall structure would not fit in Keystone.

“My concern with a four-to-five-story building is that it’s going to stick out like a sore thumb,” she said. “It’s going to be the only thing around that’s that high. I don’t think that, at least in my personal point of view, that is in the character and feel of the small town that we all

grew up with and why people move here.”

Wiggins responded that while he understood Collins’s point of view, the tall structure would allow him to preserve other areas of the development for greenspaces.

“I would like to have, rather than asphalt and shingles when I look at those 48 acres, I would like to have some greenspace,” he said. “In order to do that, I have to go up.”

YOUTH

Continued from page 7

Lake City Police Department. Thanks to its initial success in Columbia County in 2018, CareerSource was able to expand the program to Dixie, Gilchrist and Union counties. This year, participants will be paid \$12.50 an hour for six weeks of work.

The qualifications are as follows:

1. Must be age 16 – 18.
2. Must be enrolled in school, can be a graduating senior of 2022 or receiving a GED in 2022.
3. Must live in Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist or Union.
4. Must submit a completed application to CareerSource Florida Crown by May 20, 2022.

For more information on either of these programs, contact Elizabeth Wetherington or Erminia “Mini” Bare at 386-755-9026 at extensions 3132 or 3102. There are limited slots available so call now.

Letters

Correcting the record

Dear Editor:

I am the cosmetology instructor at North Florida Technical College. There have been rumors stating I moved to Starke because of the teaching position at NFTC. This is not true. I was downsizing to a home in preparation for my retirement and fell in love with my little house and the community. I very much wanted to be an active citizen of the community through my passion for teaching.

I have been teaching cosmetology at NFTC for two years. The recent article, “College Closes the Cosmetology Program,” stated that “the cosmetology instructor had spoken of leaving the program.” I never said I was leaving the cosmetology program. I indicated on the Re-Appointment Intent form that I wanted to return for the 2022–23 school year. I have been committed to Bradford County School District, North Florida Technical College, my students and our salon clientele. I have consistently worked toward strengthening the cosmetology program. As for funding, while it is true there are no grants available, our service sales from the salon clientele has been on the upswing. Given time, we could have produced the necessary funds to cover the cost of supplies. It was my intention to remain with the NFTC cosmetology program until my retirement in 2032. Once again, never did I say

I was leaving. This must have been some sort of misunderstanding in communication. I am committed to BCSD, NFTC and my students.

Thank you,
Laura Zoch

Respect and appreciate teachers

Dear Editor:

This coming week, May 2-6, is called Teacher Appreciation Week. In the Florida climate for public schools, where teachers are being accused of all kinds of nonsense and somehow grooming students to some sort of lifestyle while trying to teach more state standards than I can count, let me say I appreciate all the teachers trying to help children prepare for an uncertain world.

I know my two in high school have some great teachers. I personally know many teachers that deserve way more respect than comes their way. I have been doing some research on school methods and comparing countries. One thing rarely brought up is how much time teachers actually spend in front of their classes directing learning. This is one place we demand too much of our educators. I read about a few years ago and was amazed at the difference.

Lower secondary school teachers teach an average of 701 hours per year. The teaching time ranges from less than 600 hours in Finland, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Poland,

and the Russian Federation to more than 1,000 hours in Argentina, Chile, Mexico and the United States.

Just imagine how much planning and collaborating teachers in Finland and others can do with 400 more hours to do it during the year. It may sound inconsequential, but teachers have to be on almost all day with kids. And that means always alert to anything that can happen to disrupt the class or cause children to be off task. It is the single most wearing thing I remember in my career. Why? Because a class or group can turn into chaos in an instant and you are always watching for signs and trying to keep them interested, engaged, on task, and somewhat under control. Notice I mentioned Finland. Recognized as one of the best education systems on earth.

I honestly think if most parents, or even better lawmakers, could sit in a class for a few hours they would come to understand the challenges and sheer energy it takes to deal with the diversity of children that walk through the door each day. We all agree that there seems to be more crazy people all over now days. Well, their children go to our schools. Think about it. Also, speaking for friends who have seen the evidence. I wish that while we await the new school to replace Southside Elementary that possibly the vents and filters please be given more attention because there is evidence of mold and mildew that seriously affects some staff and children.

Steve Acree
Brooker

Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Thursday, April 28, at 9 a.m. at Philadelphia

Baptist Church in Lawtey. Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. The inventory is subject to

change based on availability. Tell a friend or a neighbor. The distribution is free and open to the public. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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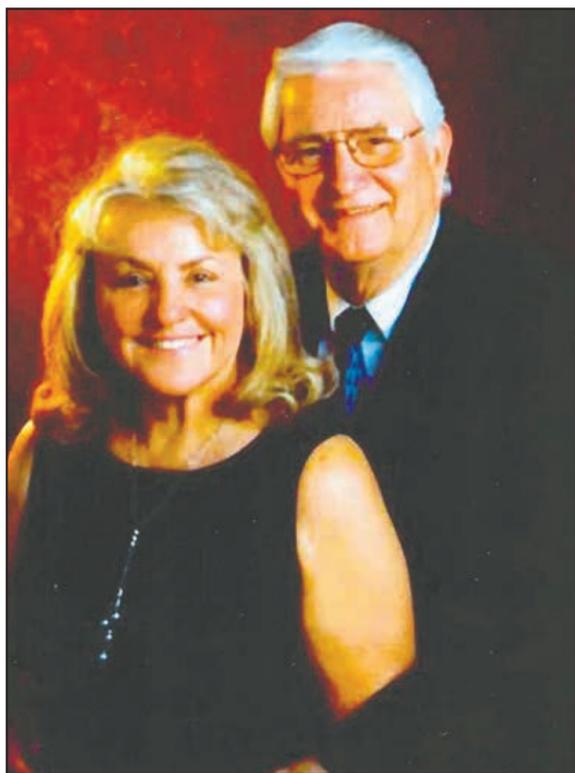
Local DAR chapter to present annual scholarship at May 2 meeting

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will present the recipient of its annual Betty Warren Memorial Scholarship at its Monday, May 2, meeting, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Montgomery Conference Center (88 S.E. 75th St., Starke).

A \$10 brunch (payable at the door) is available.

Betty Warren Memorial scholarships are presented to students attending Santa Fe College at either the Andrews Center in Starke or the Watson Center in Keystone Heights and who are pursuing studies in the medical field, education or American history.

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 Registrar Jane Argo Romeo at 352-478-3544 for more information.



Sanders celebrate their 60th

Sandra and Judge Elzie Sanders celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 25.

BCEF selling hydrangeas for Mother's Day

The Bradford County Education Foundation is selling hydrangeas for Mother's Day at a cost of \$20 each.

The plants come in 6-inch pots. Colors may vary. Delivery will be made on Thursday, May 5, but the deadline to order will be Thursday, April 28.

Contact Matt Dyal at Capital City Bank of Starke or any Bradford County Education Foundation member.

BHS Class of 1977 to host June 3-4 reunion events

Bradford High School's Class of 1977 will celebrate its 45th reunion June 3-4 at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

June 3 will be '70s night, with anyone who graduated in the 1970s welcome to attend. The event starts at 7 p.m. The cost is \$10, payable at the door.

The reunion night is June 4, beginning with time for socializing from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The cost is \$30 per

person or \$50 per couple. Money must be received by Sunday, May 15. Please mail to: Gayle Nicula, c/o Class of 1977, PO Box 119, Lawtey, FL 32058. On the memo line of your check, please write "Class of 1977."

For more information, please contact Sherry Petteway Williams at 352-278-3540, Ronnie Norman at 904-364-6985 or Gayle Shuford Nicula at 904-509-4269.

Arbor Day to celebrate 150th anniversary

Arbor Day (which literally means "Tree Day") was founded in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, a naturalist and journalist in Nebraska. He had a simple idea of setting aside a special day for planting trees that is now celebrated all around the world. Trees are an essential, vital and a fundamental component to human life. They provide us with over 5,000 products, clean air to breathe, and help to increase property values.

This year, on Friday, April 29, Arbor Day is celebrating its 150th year. Its relevance today is as strong as it was when the day was first celebrated.

Traditionally, Arbor Day is celebrated in the United States on the last Friday of April, but as ideal tree-planting conditions differ by climate, each state has its own specific Arbor Day as well. In Florida, the third Friday of January has been chosen to celebrate the State Arbor Day. During the winter is the ideal time to plant trees in Florida, as this allows the roots to develop without expending energy on growing new leaves and shoots. However, we should not focus on the date we observe Arbor Day on, but on the important role that trees play in our daily lives and the environment, helping to provide an educative service to all areas of our community.

Morton believed that Arbor Day is also a time for looking to the future. A tree planted today is a commitment, both to our future and our children's future. It's reminiscent of a story from the Jewish Midrash, "The old Man and the Fig Tree." The story goes: "An old man was observed planting a fig tree. When asked if he really expected to live long enough to eat the fruits of his labor, he replied, 'When I was a small child, I could eat fruit because those who came before me had planted trees, and I now plant for my children.'"

For more information, reach out to Bradford/Union County Forester Holly Tucker at 386-496-2190 or Holly.Tucker@fdacs.gov. The Florida Forest Service,

a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than one million acres of state forests and provides forest management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests. The Florida Forest Service is also responsible for protecting homes, forestland and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. Learn more at FloridaForestService.com.

Bradford County Master Gardener plant sale is April 30

You are cordially invited to the Bradford County Master Gardener Volunteers' annual plant sale, which will be held (rain or shine) on Saturday, April 30, at the Bradford County Extension Office at 2266 N. Temple Ave. (U.S. 301) from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

The sale has been moved to a fenced-in area of the fairgrounds that is near the area where plants were sold in past years. It's directly behind the old Florida Highway Patrol station. You'll find an array of colorful succulents, natives, and ornamental plants, mostly in 1-gallon pots priced at \$5. Look for last year's favorites, including pentas, plumbago, cat's whiskers, bottlebrush trees and passion vines. Blueberry and blackberry bushes will be available at a limit of five. You'll find easy-to-grow citrus trees (limit of two). There will also be a section with plants under \$5.

In addition, for a \$1 donation, you can be entered into a drawing for a wheelbarrow full of garden supplies or a succulent dish garden.

Sales are cash only. Supplies are limited, so come early to get the best selections.

The Master Gardener program is sponsored by the University of Florida. Volunteers go through a training program and then provide classes and support in gardening to the community. If you have questions, please

contact the Bradford County Extension office at 904-966-6299.

Socials



Harold and Jane Gay (seated) celebrated their 62nd anniversary at First Presbyterian Church of Starke, which was where they got married.

Harold, Jane Gay celebrate anniversary by going to church

On Feb. 27, 1960, Harold Gay and Jane went to the First Presbyterian Church in Starke to join in holy matrimony. Both were employed at DuPont, with Harold having worked the night before until midnight. A small gathering of friends, family and church family witnessed this union of two young people who would define for so many what love and devotion should be. They have remained married for 62 years, facing joy and sorrow with a solid faith in each other and in God.

Once married, Harold and Jane became active members of First Presbyterian Church and settled down to raise their family. It was through their church family that they were able to purchase the home they still live in today. A couple in the church lived on a place in the country and were wanting to move to town. Jane and Harold did not have a great deal of money or credit. The couple was willing to

take a chance on being paid over time because they recognized the hard-working Gays as a good risk. This property, purchased through faith and love, became not only a homeplace for their family, but a welcoming and warm place for so many others. Harold and Jane poured much love and labor into their home and their church. They both taught Sunday school and served on the session multiple times. They served as youth leaders, taking many young people to Montreat to camp and praise God in the mountains of North Carolina. Harold spent many hours working on the church property. He could be seen driving his old tractor to town to work on the grounds.

They years passed, with Jane working full-time at DuPont until her retirement in the early 2000s. Harold left DuPont to work for Florida Hydrocarbons in Brooker until his early retirement in 1987. After retirement, they continued

to serve in the church and spend time with their family. The years continued to roll by, and as their health changed, they became less active. However, their love for their church never waned. So when their 62nd wedding anniversary rolled around on Feb. 27, there was really only one place they wanted to celebrate. Jane and Harold, along with various family members, loaded up and went to church.

Their church family was overjoyed to see them and to help them celebrate their special day. It was on that day 62 years before when two young people entered into a union that spanned the years, creating a legacy of love and faith that has inspired so many. First Presbyterian Church of Starke was where it all started and it continues to be a place where they have both been blessed and been able to bless others.



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Business Section Spotlight On Administrative Professionals Day & Employee Appreciation

5 Reasons Admins Deserve The Spotlight On Administrative Professionals Day

Admins Are the Building Blocks

We've said it before and we'll say it again: there is no office without an Office Ninja. Assistant, Emily V. puts it perfectly in her analogy:

When people comment about how beautiful a house is, I doubt anyone mentions the structural pillars hidden behind the walls supporting that house. To me, that's my job. For any business to truly be successful, you have to have solid pillars. We know what it takes to run the day-to-day operations AND we can also see the big picture of the finished product, which tells us the most efficient way to handle the day-to-day tasks to get to that big picture.

It's no wonder high-power execs praise the office admin role—many even call a good admin the "crucial first hire" for any successful startup.

Admins Make Efficiency Look

Effortless

You know that stillness and serenity you've felt since your office assistant came on board? Being the key to calm is one of the toughest jobs, but you'd never know it based on how your admin's performance. Office Ninjas have the innate ability to make it look effortless, and Carolyn B. is proof:

We take a certain pride in what we do because, truly, not everyone is cut out for the job. It is more difficult than we make it seem, the way an ice skater makes a simple spin look easy. In reality, that takes continual practice to keep it so sharp.

Admins are Masters of All Things Office

A Ninja can often answer your question, on anything, while juggling multiple priorities and booking a rental car. Connecting the dots from one department to the next, your admin professional is the epicentre for a

reason. Kiyomi D., Executive Assistant to high-profile CEOs, shares what makes Ninjas so important.

Not only are we the first line of communication, and to some degree, the informal face of the company, we are also the behind-the-scenes miracle workers. We handle everything from managing a team and planning 500-person events to defusing a prickly situation.

Admins Ensure the Office Always Delivers Awesome

Vibe is the new workplace culture, and your resident Office Ninja knows what it takes to not only keep the office happy, but to also keep it productive. Facilities Coordinator, Lisa O. shares an accurate spread of typical Ninja duties:

We need to plan ahead, use our crystal ball for any potential hazards or crisis, make sure office supplies and coffee are readily accessible, unjam the printer, come in early or stay

late to decorate the birthday cube, and always, ALWAYS be professional, pleasant, helpful, and knowledgeable to anyone asking for assistance.

Bottom line, your admin staff keeps you happy. Why not keep your admins happy with some thoughtful Admin Day gifts on Administrative Professionals Day?

The Admin Role Has Evolved into So Much More

Gone are the days of Mad Men-style secretaries. Office assistants do so much to run the organization so you can focus on the business. Executive Administrative Assistant, Michelle M. tells it like it is:

Sometimes you are the face of the company, sometimes you're behind the scenes building a better office system (policies, procedures, efficiency) and sometimes you're stuck doing errands everyone else won't do. Your role is never really defined and constantly changes, so it can be very challenging

some days. We aren't just 'secretaries' anymore of the Mad Men era—we are a pillar of a successful business!

It's no wonder the admin professional is the new power job. Office admins are to a business what Wi-Fi is to, well, everyone. Virtual Assistant Guru, Melissa S. shares:

The position deserves more recognition because we're too busy to recognize ourselves. It's

like the Internet—you expect to have service and a high-speed connection. It doesn't occur to you that you won't have an Internet connection, until you don't, and then you really miss it and realize how much your time is crippled without it. The admin role is the same.

Thanks to the original source material from: OfficeNinjas.com which is full of admin resources.

MARY POWELL

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Jessica:
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Northside Christian Academy softball team has 9-3 record

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Northside Christian Academy's softball team had a six-game winning streak snapped by Jacksonville's Old Plank Christian Academy, which defeated the Eagles 16-5, but it was just the second loss on the season for the Eagles, who had been mostly dominant up to that point. The Eagles entered the April 21 home game versus Old Plank with an 8-1 record. One of those wins was by forfeit, but Northside won the other seven by an average margin of 10 runs. Some of those wins were by 15-0 over Jacksonville's Cedar Creek Christian, 14-2 over Gainesville

Christian Community and 19-2 over Valdosta, Georgia's Open Bible Christian. Northside took the early lead against Old Plank in the bottom of the first. Briley Parrish drew a bases-loaded walk to force a run in, while Brooke Parrish drove in another run on a ground out to make the score 2-0. The Eagles fell behind 3-2, but took the lead again with a two-run second. Northside loaded the bases with one out, with Chylee Kahakua hitting a single and Ava Welsh and Rosalea Norman drawing walks. With two outs, Briley Parrish hit a single that scored two runs, making the score 4-3. Welsh had an RBI in the third



Brooke Parrish took a 5-1 record as pitcher into the Eagles' April 21 game against Old Plank.



ABOVE RIGHT: Karissa Lawrence makes a throw to first from her third-base position during the game against Old Plank. RIGHT: Rosalea Norman watches a pitch come in during an at-bat against Old Plank.



LEFT: Ava Welsh prepares to get a jump at first base in the first inning of the Eagles' loss to Old Plank. She scored two runs and drove in another. BELOW: Briley Parrish makes a throw from her shortstop position. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



to put the Eagles ahead 5-3. The game got away from the Eagles when Old Plank took advantage of timely hitting and multiple errors to score nine runs in the fifth. Prior to the Old Plank game, Norman, in 23 at-bats, led the team with an on-base percentage of .782, followed by Brooke Parrish (.727 in 22 at-bats), Harli Mosley (.680 in 25 at-bats), Karissa Lawrence (.653 in 26 at-bats), Briley Parrish (.653 in 26 at-bats), Anna Conner (.640 in 25 at-bats), Welsh (.576 in 26 at-bats) and Kahakua (.560 in 25 at-bats). Brooklyn Cooper and Chloe Templeton have on-base percentages of .727 and .636 in 11 at-bats each, while Jodey Garrison has a percentage of .800 in six at-bats. Callie Potts had a .600 percentage in five at-bats. Lawrence led the team in RBI with nine, while Conner and Briley Parrish each had eight. Kahakua and Mosley

KHHS baseball team wins 3rd straight

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Connor Guy had two extra-base hits, while Jeremy Miller hit a two-run homer to help the Keystone Heights High School baseball team defeat visiting Middleburg 7-3 on April 25. The Indians (12-11) scored four runs in the third inning. Ty Glenn drew a walk, while Chase Packham hit a single. Both scored on a Guy triple. Guy later scored on a wild pitch, while Miller, who walked, scored on an error. Those proved to be all the runs Keystone would need with the

way Ben Goforth was pitching. He gave up three unearned runs (two on two errors in the fifth inning) on three hits in 6.2 innings. He had seven strikeouts. Still, Keystone gave their pitcher a bigger cushion to work with, tacking on another three runs in the bottom of the fifth. Guy hit a leadoff double before Miller drove a pitch over the fence in left. Ashton Roach drove in his team's final run on a single, making the score 7-2. Guy finished 2 for 3, while Ryan Jones went 2 for 4 with a double. It was the third straight

win for the Indians, who were coming off wins over Orange Park and Palatka. On April 19, Keystone scored five runs in the second and another four in the sixth to defeat host Orange Park 9-3. Alex Addington hit an RBI double in the second, which also included Jones, Roach and Dalton Hollingsworth each driving in a run as well. An error also allowed a run to score. Addington, Guy, Miller and Noah Branch each drove in a run in the sixth, with Miller's RBI coming on a double.

Hollingsworth and Addington went 2 for 2 and 2 for 4, respectively. Gage Smith started on the mound, giving up two runs on three hits and one walk through two innings. He had three strikeouts. Glenn pitched the majority of the game, giving up no hits and striking out five in four innings. Jesse Stanley threw the final inning, giving up a run on one hit. Keystone hosted Palatka on April 22, with Cole

See KHHS, page 17

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Obituaries

Azie Allart

MACCLENNY Azie Lee Allart, 75, passed away Sunday, April 24, 2022 at Magnolia Manor of Midway under the care of Hospice of South Georgia after an extended illness. A longtime resident of Macclenny, she was born on July 17, 1946 in Brooker to the late Abril Zenith Padgett and Myrtice Lee Tillman Padgett. Her kind and loving nature made her a mother to nearly everyone and she absolutely adored children. She was a selfless person who always put the needs of others before her own, following the example of her savior, Jesus Christ, and she was a longtime member of the Macclenny Church of God, where she faithfully served the Lord for many years. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jackobus Allart; two sisters, Marsha Fletcher and Patsy Padgett; and two brothers, Edward Padgett and Gerald Padgett. Survivors include her four children, Susan Greene of Starke, and Keith Brooks, Kay Brooks and Larry Lee Brooks, all of Macclenny; siblings, Norma Lee Finley of Starke, Miriam Padgett of Folkston, Georgia, Larry (Louise) Padgett of Racepoint, Georgia, and Linda (Darrell) Hall of Jesup, Georgia; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins; and extended family members also survive. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 29, at Dedan Cemetery in Brooker, with Rev. Elliott Aspinwall and Rev. Shannon Conner officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services at the cemetery. Please sign our guestbook online at www.jesupfuneralhome.com



PAID OBITUARY

Sarah Brundage

Sarah Lee (Kareem) Brundage, AKA Snapper (Bit Bit) passed away on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. She was born to the late John Henry and Sarah Gilmore on May 20, 1923 in Sparta, Georgia and was the youngest of two daughters. Due to the death of her mother, she and her sister Margaret (Ree) moved to Jamaica Queens, New York to live with her grandmother, Lizzie Collier, and her aunt, Sharefah (Collier Cora) when they were just 6 and 8 years old. She was educated in the school system of New York. Afterward, she worked different jobs; but her main employment was working at Dover Nursing Home as a health care aide, where she retired after 30 years. In 1968, she met and married Frank Brundage, who had two daughters, Donna Brundage (now deceased) and Dorothy Brundage; she helped raise and care for both in Brooklyn, New York. She never had any biological children of her own, but was very nurturing to her cousin Anniebelle's eight children. The closeness between the two was more like sisters; therefore she was known to the family as "Aunt Snapper." She was very attentive also to her husband, Frank, and sister, Margaret, who were both ill and preceded her in death. After their demise, she moved to Florida to be close to her cousin Anniebelle and family. She left behind some close friends who, to this day, stay in touch as much as possible. She leaves many cousins, nephews, and nieces to cherish her memories. Along with her loving friends from New York, Mary Brooks and family; Rahkiah Eason; Anniebelle James; a very much loved godson, Larry (Satydra) Brooks of Maryland who she joyfully refers to as "moo-moo"; and the community of Speedville. The family will accept friends and family for a visitation held on Friday, April 29 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Services will be held Saturday, April 30 at 11 a.m., with Pastor Elder Harold Wanton Sr. presiding. Interment to follow at Speedville Cemetery in Melrose. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com



PAID OBITUARY

Margaret Cribb

Margaret Louise Carter Arwood Cribb, 93, passed to the next life in the early hours of Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at her home in Hartwell, Georgia. She was born in Lawtey, on Dec. 30, 1928, the oldest daughter of the late Carl "Bub" Francis Carter and Mildred Louise Durban Carter. She grew up as a farmer's daughter in Lawtey; she played the accordion and sang in church and for the USO during WWII. She met and married Wesley Lee Arwood II in August 1946. She and her husband lived in Key West; Jamestown, Rhode Island; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Pascagoula, Mississippi; and Jacksonville. After Wesley retired from the Navy, they settled in Melrose. He passed away in 1972 and she later lived in Jacksonville, working at the Barnett Bank of Murray Hill. She married a second time in 1980 and traveled worldwide with her second husband; they visited Europe, Russia, China, New Zealand, and Australia. They had a condo in Hawaii and St Augustine Beach, and retired again to Orange Park. Since 2012, she has lived in Hartwell, Georgia with her daughter. She made friends everywhere she went and was greatly loved by her family who will always miss her stories and great conversation. She was preceded in death by her parents; two spouses; sister, Linda Sweat; and two sons, Douglas and Mark Arwood.



She is survived by her children, Wesley (Claudia) Lee Arwood III of Alachua, Charles (Debbe) Arwood of Charlton County, Georgia, Nancy (Richard) League of Hartwell, Georgia, and Victor Arwood of Lawtey; brothers, Donald Carter of Kingsley Lake, and William Carter of Lake Hartwell, Georgia; sister, Ann Macy of Kingsley Lake; daughters-in-law, Mary Arwood and Sandy Arwood; grandchildren, Emily, Yvonne, Tabatha, Thaddeus, Trevor, Alan, Tristan, Megan, Sarah, and Hunter; and several great-grandchildren. Services were held March 19, in Starke with Pastor Jonathan Rodriguez officiating. Arrangements were under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Harry Dale Jr.

Harry A. (Fred) Dale Jr. died Thursday, April 14, 2022 at the E.T. York, Haven Hospice in Gainesville following an extended illness. He was born in Florida and lived in Lake Butler until he went to The Georgia Military Academy in Milledgeville, Georgia to complete high school. He then went to the University of Alabama and graduated with a BS degree. He lived and worked in New York for several years before moving to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. He returned to Lake Butler in 1995 to take care of his father and his rental properties. He was preceded in death by his mother, Anne Pound Dale; and his father, Harry A. Dale Sr. Burial is in the family plot in Evergreen Cemetery in St. Augustine.

Randolph Durrance

HAMPTON LAKE Randolph "RV" Vann Durrance, 81, of Hampton Lake passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. He was born in Jacksonville on Nov. 9, 1940, to the late Vonde Durrance and Ruby Byrd Durrance. He was raised in Maxville and graduated from Baldwin High School in 1958. On May 24, he married the love of his life, Beverly L. Cole Durrance, and together they have spent 42 wonderful years together. He was a driven, hard worker, and in 1964 he founded his family business, Durrance Pump and Well Drilling. He was also the owner of two Sonny's BBQ restaurants in Georgia. He enjoyed fishing and was an avid Florida Gator football fan. He went to all the games; including traveling to the away games. More than anything, he loved his family, especially his grandkids; they were his world. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Harold David; and brother, Howard Durrance. He is survived by his loving wife, Beverly Durrance of Hampton Lake; his daughters, Bridget (Robbie) Underhill, Brena (Bill) Murray, Becky (Jay) Hodges, Linda (Glenn) Hicks, Pam (Paul) Wheeler all of Starke; grandchildren, Kylope (MacKenzie), Kamryn (Kelly), Brent (Malory), Brett (Alex), Brad (Carly), Tela (Chris), Brandy (John), Corey, Jalyne, Jason (Julie), Shannon; great-grandchildren, River, Karsyn, Brentley, Briggs, Breelyn, J.C., Coby, Haiston, Hayden, Kaidence, Kendall, Trinity, Sage, Farrah (Tristan), and Jackson. A graveside Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, April 27, at Crosby Lake Cemetery with Pastor Roman Alvarez officiating. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements were under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke, 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.



PAID OBITUARY

Alma Kelley

BROOKER Alma (Smith) Kelley, 85, of Brooker and Blue Ridge, Georgia died peacefully on Saturday, April 23, 2022. She was born on Nov. 18, 1936, in Hazard, Kentucky. On April 27, 1957, she married, and is survived by her husband, Clyde Roswell Kelley. A passionate family woman, she dedicated her life to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, and nieces and nephews. Always the adventurer and ready for action, she avidly took to the mountains and oceans, cruising to new destinations



PAID OBITUARY

Janet Powell

STARKE Janet M. Powell, 87, of Starke, was taken into the loving arms of Jesus on Saturday, April 16, 2022. For decades she served the families and children of Bradford and surrounding counties as a caseworker, counselor, and supervisor for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. She also served the developmentally disabled at Tacachale in Gainesville. Her professional affiliations included membership in the National Association of Counsel for Children, National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Florida Council for Crime and Delinquency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Civil Defense (Bradford County), and a non-lawyer membership in the Florida Bar (1994-97). Upon retirement, she decided it was "the right time to dust off the Peace Corps dream and dress it in work clothes." So she joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to Thailand, where she served for more than six months as a teacher trainer until that experience was interrupted by the 9/11 attacks. She later traveled to Russia, China, the United Kingdom, Rome and the Vatican, and Antarctica. Following these well-deserved adventures she returned home to Starke. She volunteered at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park for more than 10 years, where, to her family's eternal amusement and pride, she earned the title: "Certified Gator Handler." She was a parishioner at St. Edwards Catholic Church and served that faith community in a variety of ways. She was preceded in leaving this world by her oldest daughter, Linda Sheffield, a respected Bradford County educator.



She is survived by her daughter, Karen Adams of Tennessee; and her sons, Lane of California, John of Florida, Tommy of North Carolina, and Gene of Texas. All were raised and educated in Starke and all followed her example to become college graduates, variously attending the University of Florida, The Citadel, and North Carolina State University. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren, including Courtney Kelly, who ministered to her with loving care during her final years and days. 1 Timothy 1:5. A family memorial will be held at San Lorenzo Cemetery in St. Augustine at a future date.

PAID OBITUARY

Levonina Paige

Levonina Paige 73, was born June 21, 1948, in Raiford to the late Louis Lawrence Stewart and Robenia Reeves Stewart. Also preceding her in death were her beloved daughter, Yvette Latonia Paige; and two sisters, Annie Hill and Lillian Clayton. She passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at UF Shands. She was educated in the schools of Union County. She accepted Christ as her Savior and began many years of faithful service in Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church in Raiford. She met the love of her life and was united in holy matrimony to Joe Paige on Aug. 7, 1969. She worked at Northeast Florida State Hospital until she retired, where she met and made many friends. She leaves to cherish her memories, her husband, Joe Paige; sons, Steve (Jean) McCray of Fort White, Aeron (Kim) Paige of Starke; daughter, Toni Hamilton, Lawtey; brothers, Nolan (Erma) Stewart, Jacksonville, Roman Stewart, Raiford; sister, Joann (Charles) Warren, Raiford; grandchildren, Steve (Sheree) McCray Jr., Jaiden Hamilton, Simone Hudson, Jazlyn Hamilton, Sierra Paige, and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.



Her wake will be held Friday, April 29, from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church, 12745 N.E. 227th Lane, Raiford 32083. The funeral service will be held Saturday, April 30, at 10 a.m. at Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church, with Rev. Flournoy officiating. Burial will be at Sanderson. The Repass will be at Simmer Down Lakeside Grill, 315 N Lake Ave., Lake Butler 32054.

PAID OBITUARY

Mary Schiller

STARKE Mary Louise Schiller, born Jan. 5, 1933, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 21, 2022 in Starke. She was a wonderful person and mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother; full of life. She loved her family, her Heavenly Father, and her church members. She was born in Starke and was a graduate of Bradford High School. Her parents were the owners of Libby's Automotive for over 50 years, where she worked after graduating Bradford High School. She married Jack Schiller, who was in the US Army. She supported her husband with assignments at Fort Benning, Georgia, where her two sons, Jack Jr. and Tim were born. Other assignments included Fort Indian Town Gap, Pennsylvania; and two overseas assignments at the US Southern Command, Quarry Heights, Panama Canal Zone. Upon retirement in 1974, she and Jack retired in Starke. She was a devoted church member/daycare worker at First Baptist Church, in Starke, under the leadership of Pastor Ben Bryant ("Brother Ben"). She was preceded in death by her parents, Leslie and Eva Libby; and brothers, Jimmy, Steve, Leslie and Charles. She is survived by her children, Jack (Joy) Schiller, and Tim (Xiomara) Schiller; siblings, Joan (Robert) Hall, and John (Peggy) Libby; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Graveside services will be held on Thursday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at Crosby Lake Cemetery with Pastor Terry Clarke officiating. The public is invited to attend the memorial services.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Louise Starling

LAWTEY Mrs. Louise Ilene Starling, 88, of Lawtey passed away Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at her home. She was born on March 31, 1934, in St. Ignace, Michigan to the late Enoch and Lydia (Beyer) Hawkins. She was a homemaker and worked on the family farm. She attended Sampson City Church of God and, more recently, Starke River of Life Church of God. Preceding her in death was her husband of 52 years, Lonzo Ray "Judge" Starling Jr.; and her brothers, Richard Hawkins, and Glenn Hawkins.



Survivors are her children, Helen Padgett of Macclenny, Deborah Passwater of Lawtey, Joy (Jack) Schiller of Starke, Lydia (Wayne) Spratlin of Lawtey, Amy (Randy) Head of Gainesville, Steven (Sherri) Starling of Lawtey, and Enoch (the late Katrina) Starling of Enterprise, Alabama; siblings, JoAnne Bentline of Iowa, Nina (the late Eric) Olsen of Michigan, Leonard (Margaret) Hawkins of Arkansas. Also left are 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

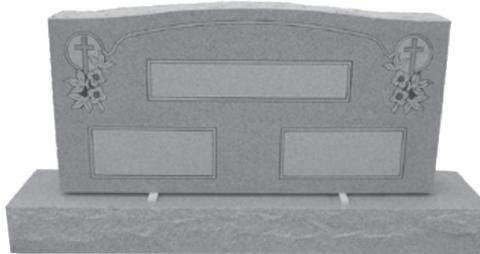
Funeral services were held Friday, April 22, in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home. Interment followed at Kingsley Lake Baptist Church Cemetery with Brother Gene Bass and Bishop Terry Clark officiating.

Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200.

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while basking in the sunshine. A sports fan, she was a loyal fan of the Cincinnati Reds, Cincinnati Bengals, and the Florida Gators. She was preceded in death by her parents, McKinley Smith and Carrie Stacey Smith; along with her six siblings, Pearl Smith, Naomi (Bob) Combs, McKinley (June) Smith Jr., Herbert Clark Smith, Alex Earl (Louise) Smith, and James Otis Smith.

She is survived by her children, Linda (Robert) Phillips, Lisa (Stephen) Peek, Nancy (Gary) Hundley; her grandchildren, Kara Eickelman, Derrick Hundley, Kelley Eickelman, Sarah (Paul) Rindfleisch, Kristen Eickelman, Heather Brown, Jared Eickelman, Katie Pagliaro, and Rachel Pagliaro; and five great-grand children, Aurora, Jayden, Luna, Aubrie, and Kinsley.

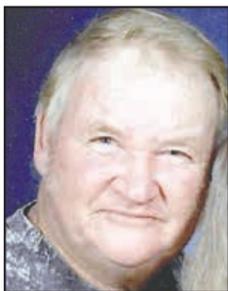
Her memorial service will be held on May 7, at 12 p.m. at Brooker Baptist Church, 17197 Bradford Avenue, Brooker. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her honor to the American Brain Foundation, dedicated to funding cure-based research, or the Lewy Body Dementia Association, dedicated to caregivers' support and resources.

PAID OBITUARY

Obituaries

Robert Thornton

STARKE Robert Thornton, 77, of Starke, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the Haven Hospice in Gainesville. He was born on Aug. 27, 1944, in Macclenny to Willis Thornton and Grace Moates. After growing up in Glen St. Mary, he moved to Starke around age 18 and resided there for the remainder of his life. He was a jack of all trades. He operated a bulldozer, had a fill dirt company, owned and operated Thornton and Jones Construction and Logging Company, and worked in the salvage industry. He was a hard worker, but enjoyed coming home and being with his family, and his "babies," his dogs. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother, and will be deeply missed. He was preceded in death by his daughters, Yvonne and Yvette Thornton; parents, Willis Thornton and Grace Moates Thornton Douglas; brother, William Thornton; and sister-in-law, Kathy Thornton. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Audrey Cooper Thornton of Starke; his children, Sylvia (Rodney) Cayton of Lake Butler, Glen (Dawyna) Thornton, and Lisa Thornton all of Starke; siblings, Shirley (Walt) Kraus of Starke and Pete (Susan) Thornton of Hampton; 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; numerous extended family also survive. A funeral was held Wednesday, April 27 officiated by Brother Johnny Frampton and Brother Gene Bass. Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008. www.ArcherFuneralHome.com



PAID OBITUARY

William Wesley Sr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS William "Bill" James Wesley Sr., 74, of Keystone Heights passed away on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. No services will be held at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656, 352-473-3176 www.jonesgallagherfh.com

In Memory

In Memory of R. V. Durrance

Starke and Bradford County have just lost a great, great business man, who founded his business in 1964. A very quiet, private, but friendly man. He could outwork anyone that I know of and he had perseverance in the tasks at hand. He always set an example, not only for his employees, but anyone who observed him. A great husband, father, grandfather and business man, he was a straight-shooter for all who knew him, but words cannot totally express who he was. He, along with his family, agreed to and assisted with accomplishing the mission of having the water tower cross in the Starke sky again on Sept. 5, 2019. This great, great American is R. V. Durrance, founder of Durrance Pump and Well Drilling. He will be greatly missed.



UCHS rallies, but loses 6-5 to Red Devils

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Leah Clark hit a two-run triple in the bottom of the seventh, but it wasn't enough as the Union County High School softball team's rally fell short in a 6-5 loss to visiting Williston on April 25. Williston's Raegan Geiger hit a two-run homer to help the Red Devils take a 3-0 lead in the first. The Tigers (14-4) made it a one-run game in the third. Hannah Rivera and Tamia Young led the inning off with back-to-back singles. One out later, Hailey Rivera singled to load the bases. Hannah Rivera scored when Nyasia Williams ground into a fielder's choice. Clark then hit a single that scored Young, making the score 3-2.

Williston scored three runs in the top of the seventh, taking advantage of two singles, a double and an error. Hannah Rivera led off the bottom of the inning with a double. After the first out, Angela Tucker hit a single. Hailey Rivera ground into a fielder's choice, which resulted in Hannah Rivera being put out at third. Williams hit a single that scored Tucker before Clark delivered her triple that made it a one-run game. A line out to shortstop Karley Jerrels ended the game.

Clark went 3 for 4, while Hannah Rivera was 2 for 3. Tucker, Williams and Young each went 2 for 4. It was the second loss in three games for what was Class 1A's top-ranked team. The Tigers have since dropped to number three in the latest power poll. On April 19, Union's Megan Sullivan and Dixie County's Bria Hinkle battled in the circle, combining to give up seven hits, but it was the Bears who came out on top in the pitching duel, defeating the Tigers 2-0 in Cross City. Dixie scored its two runs in the fifth, hitting back-to-back two-out doubles after a runner reached on an error. Sullivan gave up four hits

and no walks, striking out five. The Tigers' bats made more noise in their next outing, which saw Clark and Hailey Rivera driving in three and two runs, respectively, in a 10-2 win over visiting Bell. It was a 2-2 game until Union scored five runs in the fourth. Clark drove in two of those runs on a single. Clark and Tucker each went 2 for 4, while Hailey Burke and Hannah Rivera each had one RBI. Sullivan pitched a complete game, giving up four hits, while striking out five. The Tigers played Columbia this past Tuesday and will cap the regular season by hosting Gainesville on Thursday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. Union will then play in the District 5 tournament. Details weren't known by deadline.

Frampton and Mitzel throw no-hitter, but KH loses 5-1

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Caitlin Frampton and Madi Mitzel combined to pitch a no-hitter, but the Keystone Heights High School softball team lost 5-1 to host University Christian on April 22. University took advantage of two walks, an error, a hit batter with the bases-loaded, a sacrifice bunt and a ground out to score four runs in the third inning. The host team added a run in the fifth on a hit batter, an error and a ground out. Frampton (who started) and Mitzel each threw three innings, with Mitzel giving up one run and no walks, while striking out five. Alaina Kinsal drove in the Indians' lone run in the sixth inning. Her ground ball scored Abbie Roach, who reached on an error. Jaiden Robinson had the only hit for Keystone. The Indians had plenty of hits and runs to start the week, defeating visiting Interlachen 21-0 in 2.5 innings on April 19. Keystone had 16 hits, including

a two-run double by Emma Rogel as part of an eight-run first inning. A 13-run second inning featured two two-run singles by Roach as well as a two-run double and a one-run single by Kinley Carlton. Carlton and Roach went 3 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively, with each driving in four runs. Rogel went 3 for 3 with three RBI, while Robinson went 2 for 3 with three RBI. Kinsal went 2 for 3 with two RBI. Frampton, Kiley Channell and Kadance Massey-Hoadley each had one RBI. In the circle, Mitzel gave up two hits and no walks, while striking out six. On April 21, Roach drove in the game's only run in a 1-0 win over visiting West Nassau. Roach hit the third of three straight one-out singles in the third inning, with her hit scoring Robinson. She and Rogel each finished 2 for 3. Mitzel pitched a complete game, giving up two hits and no walks. The Indians played Baker County this past Tuesday and will host Middleburg on Thursday, April 28, at 6 p.m. Keystone concludes the regular season with a home game against University Christian on Friday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. Keystone will play in the District 3-3A tournament next week. The schedule wasn't known by deadline.

Errors hurt BHS in a 6-5 loss to Bolles

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Host Bolles took advantage of five errors in defeating the Bradford High School softball team 6-5 on April 25. The Tornados (13-6) committed errors on balls put into play by the first three batters in the bottom of the second. Another two errors in the inning would score two runs. The Bulldogs also scored runs on a double, a single and a sacrifice fly. Masey Padgett hit an RBI single in the fifth to make it a 6-4 game. Bradford had only

one out in the inning and had two runners on, but a fly out and a ground out ended the inning without any more runs scored. Takeirra Bakken went 3 for 4 with an RBI triple, while Padgett and Taylor Reddish each went 2 for 4 with an RBI. Cassidy Spratlin went 2 for 3. Allie Funderburk and Kirsten Hodges each had one RBI. Reddish pitched a complete game, giving up only three hits. The Tornados went 2-0 the previous week, which began with a 14-11 win over host Columbia on April 19. Bradford scored four runs in the top of the seventh, which gave them the eventual win. Padgett drew a leadoff walk and scored on a Bakken double. After a Spratlin single, Bakken scored on an error. Hodges' sacrifice scored Spratlin, while a Rylie Blankenship ground ball allowed Amber Wynn to score. Spratlin went 3 for 4 with two RBI, while Bakken and Padgett each went 2 for 3. Bakken hit a solo home run and had two RBI. Reddish, who hit an RBI double, and Hannah McFarland each drove two runs. Blankenship, Hodges and Wynn each had one RBI, with Blankenship going 2 for 4. On April 22, the Tornados had four batters drive in two runs each in a 12-2, 4.5-inning win over visiting Interlachen. Bakken hit a two-run double as part of a four-run first inning, while a seven-run third inning featured a two-run double by Reddish and a two-run single by Madison Highland. McFarland, who went 2 for 3, also had two RBI. Padgett went 3 for 3 with a double and an RBI, while Blankenship was 2 for 2 with a double. Funderburk and Spratlin each had one RBI. Spratlin started in the circle, giving up two runs on two hits and one walk through 4.2 innings. Blankenship entered the game to record the final out. Bradford played Bishop Snyder this past Tuesday to conclude the regular season. The Tornados will play in the District 5-1A tournament next week. Details weren't known by deadline.

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CHAMPS

Continued from page 1

4 individual champs

Dicks provided the last highlight for his team during actual competition. He cleaned and jerked 325 pounds on his second attempt, which was enough to give him the unlimited class championship by 5 pounds over Bolles' Brendan Black. On his third attempt, he made a successful 40-pound jump to 365, breaking a school record and finishing with a 730-pound overall total, which consisted of a 365-pound bench press.

"I had won on my second lift," Dicks said. "Our school record was 350. I had done that (before). I just wanted to go for it and beat it."

Freed attempted a school record, too, but he failed to clean and jerk 275. Still, he won the 154-pound class with a 540 total (285 bench press, 255 clean and jerk), which put him 10 pounds ahead of Imagine's Wyatt Rightmire.

Freed was unable to compete at state last season due to an injury, so to do so this year and win one championship was an incredibly good feeling. Yet he walked away with two championships, as his 200 total topped the

154-pound class snatch event. He finished 25 pounds ahead of Marianna's Tequan Cuttino.

"It's so amazing. It feels so good," Freed said, adding, "I was so ready. As soon as we parked, and we stepped out of the van, I was ready to go."

Using the Schwartz formula, which takes body weight and amount of weight lifted into account, Freed was determined to be the strongest lifter at state in the snatch event.

Like Freed, Logan Williams missed out on competing at state last season after he scratched on all three of his clean-and-jerk attempts at the regional level.

He made it to state this year, but admitted he got a little worried as he scratched on his first clean-and-jerk attempt of 245 pounds.

"That kind of scared me," he admitted.

Williams rebounded quite nicely, successfully getting 245 on his second attempt and then doing 265. With a best bench-press attempt of 335, he finished with a 600 total to win the 169-pound class traditional championship.

"It's unbelievable," Williams said. "I've never won anything like this. It's kind of crazy."

Bryar Schenck was making his first trip to state. It was memorable as he competed in the snatch and won the

183-pound class a 205 total.

"It feels surreal, to be honest," Schenck said, adding, "I've never won a state championship for anything. Winning for something I just learned feels like I really took it in my own hands. I did the work that I needed to. It feels like I'm being rewarded for the right things. It feels good."

Jenkins, Jeffries finish 2nd in both snatch, traditional

Jenkins finished second to Schenck in the 183-pound class in the snatch event. It was the first of two second-place medals he'd earn that day.

He and Schenck both admitted to using strategy to take the top two spots in the snatch event.

"We watched everybody's weight — what their come-ins were and what they were planning on ending on," Schenck said. "We just analyzed everything so perfectly, seeing what certain people couldn't get and how that could place us higher."

Jenkins finished in a two-way tie with Union County's Quinn Raulerson. Each had a best snatch of 195. Second place went to Jenkins, who weighed in at a little over a pound less than Raulerson.

"That was great," Jenkins said of Keystone's one-two finish in the snatch event.

In the traditional event, Jenkins compiled a 600 total (325, 275) to finish 100 pounds behind Raulerson, who was the clear-cut favorite going into the event.

"Quinn's kind of insane," Jenkins said of Raulerson, "but some other kids were actually giving me some competition to where I had to pull a 275 clean and jerk. That secured second."

Jenkins finished 15 pounds ahead of third-place finisher J.R. Rosenberg of Cardinal Mooney.

Keystone had another lifter earn two second-place medals in Jeffries in the 219-pound class. After missing 205 on his second snatch attempt, he made a successful 5-pound jump with a 210 total, that placed him 5 pounds ahead of North Bay Haven's Nathan Webb and left him trailing Lemon Bay's Landon Spaninger by 10 pounds.

In the traditional event, Jeffries had a 635 total (335, 300).

"I personally don't like second, but second is better than third," Jeffries said.

Still, he was happy knowing he contributed a total of 10 points to Keystone's snatch and traditional team scores.

"That's all that matters," he said.

Moncrief, Tisdale are also runners-up

Two additional lifters earned second-place finishes, including Nathan Tisdale, who finished 20 pounds behind Williams in the traditional event in the 169-pound class. He had a 300 bench press and a 280 clean and jerk, giving him a 580 overall total that was 15 pounds better than that of third-place finisher Alex Harrison of McKeel.

Caleb Moncrief was a runner-up in the traditional event also with a 650 total (325, 325) in the 238-pound class. He was 20 pounds behind champion Ellis Poplaski of The Villages and 5 pounds ahead of Port St. Joe's D.J. Oliver.

7 earn additional medals in snatch

Keystone had seven place fourth through sixth in the snatch, including Moncrief, who was third in his class with a 205 total. He finished tied with Poplaski, but Poplaski weighed in at more than 4 pounds less than Moncrief. North Bay Haven's Jonathan Serbest was the class champion with a 210 total.

Jayden Goodman placed third as well with a 195 total in the 199-pound class. He tied with Florida High's Chris Cotton, who weighed in at approximately 4 pounds less than Goodman. South Sumter's Jackson Sovercool won the championship with a 205 total.

Three earned fourth-place medals: Wyatt Van Zant with a 145 total in the 129-pound class, Ben Ulsch with a 185 total in the 169-pound class and Dicks with a 215 total in the unlimited class.

Ulsch actually finished in a four-way tie for third that included Tisdale. With the weigh-in tiebreaker, Tisdale officially



Mason Dicks cleans and jerks a school-record 365 pounds — the icing on the cake as had already wrapped up the state championship for himself in the unlimited class. Teammates cheering him on in the background are Reid Begue (third from right), Tyler Jenkins (second from right) and Logan Williams (far right).

earned fifth place behind Ulsch.

Jackson Herman placed sixth in the 238-pound class with a 185 total.

Sam Ulsch just missed out on earning a medal, placing seventh in the 154-pound class with a 155 total.

Reid Begue finished in a four-way tie for sixth in the 129-pound class with a 135 total, but after employing the weigh-in tiebreaker, the last medal in the class went to Bronson's Emeril Hall. Begue was officially eighth.

Keystone also had the following snatch results: Luke Snider ninth with a 185 total in the unlimited class, Declan Shine 11th in the 119-pound class with a 105 total and Davin Adams 15th with a 110 total in the 139-pound class.

5 place 3rd-6th in traditional event

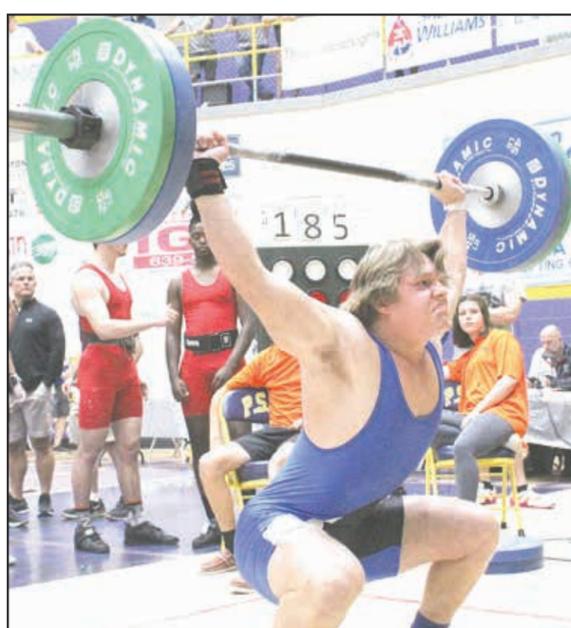
The Indians' team score in the traditional event included points earned by five lifters with third-through sixth-place finishes.

Landon Hovsepian and Tyler Anthony-Rozier placed third in the 154- and 219-pound classes, respectively. Hovsepian had a 515 total (260, 255), while Anthony-Rozier had a 620 total (345, 275) to finish 15 points behind teammate Jeffries.

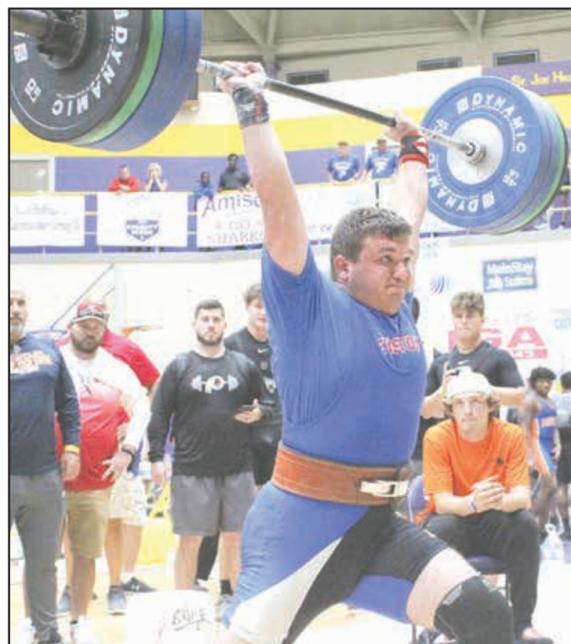
Like he did in the snatch, Van Zant earned fourth place in his class. He had a 415 total (200, 215).

Clayton Kicklighter earned fifth place in the 183-pound class with a 540 total (295, 245), while Begue took sixth in the 129-pound class with a 405 total (220, 185). Begue earned his class' last medal by finishing 20 pounds ahead of Marianna's Tre Harvey.

Keystone also had the following traditional results: Shine ninth with a 330 total (175, 155) in the 119-pound class, Snider 13th with a 600 total (325, 275) in the unlimited class and Bryson Wester 16th with a 510 total (285, 225) in the 199-pound class.



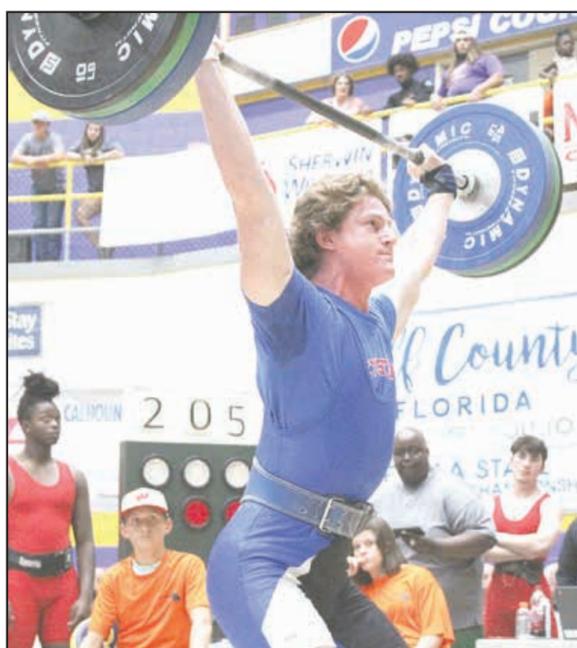
Tyler Jenkins was the runner-up in both the snatch and traditional traditional events in the 183-pound class.



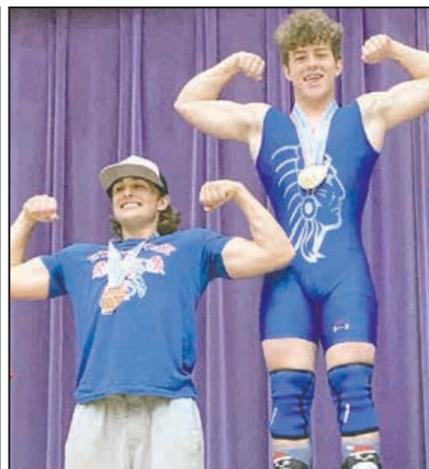
Trey Jeffries was the runner-up in both the snatch and traditional events in the 219-pound class.



Logan Williams, with teammate Nathan Tisdale (background, second from left) cheering him on, lifts his way to the traditional championship in the 169-pound class.



Bryar Schenck competes in the snatch. He won the 183-pound class.



The medal podiums provided another opportunity for Keystone lifters to show off. ABOVE LEFT: Bryar Schenck (left) and Tyler Jenkins are recognized for being first and second in the 183-pound class in the snatch. ABOVE: Landon Hovsepian (left) and Ulysses Freed are recognized for being third and first in the 154-pound class in the traditional event. LEFT: Logan Williams (left) and Nathan Tisdale are recognized for being first and second in the 169-pound class in the traditional event.

Area schools win titles, earn regional berths in track and field

Booker wins title for BHS, which will advance 2 individuals, 3 relay teams to regionals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kaelyn Booker won a championship for Bradford High School, which will send a total of two individuals and three relay teams to regional competition after their performances at the District 3-2A



Kaelyn Booker won a District 3-2A championship for Bradford in the 400m. She also ran on the third-place 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

track and field finals on April 21 at Santa Fe High School.

Booker's first-place time of 1:01 in the 400m placed her ahead of Santa Fe's Chandramukhi Zaldivar, who had a time of 1:03.

The top four finishers in each event will advance to the Region 1 finals on Thursday, May 5, at Tommy Oliver Stadium in Panama City.

Bradford had three girls relay teams earn third-place finishes. The 4x100m team of Booker, Diamond Ferguson, Holly Holt and Alyssa Hunt had a time of 55.51, while the 4x400m team, which consisted of the same lineup, had a time of 4:46. Layne Loper, Lindsey McCoy, Alissa Reddish and Natalie Thomas teamed up to run a time of 13:11 in the 4x800m.

Reddish earned a fourth-place finish individually with a time of 15:28 in the 3200m.

In the girls 1600m, Thomas and Reddish were seventh and eighth, respectively, with times of 6:55 and 7:00. Loper was 10th (8:23).

McCoy took 10th in the 800m (2:58), with Jillian Lee and Loper finishing 13th and 14th, respectively, with times of 3:26 and 3:43.

In the 400m, Holt was seventh (1:09), while Hunt was ninth (1:14). Jordan Barton and Silas



Holly Holt (pictured running the 400m) will advance to regionals as a member of the 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

Markwich competed for the boys team in two events. Barton was 13th in the 1600m with a time of 5:51, while Markwich was 14th (6:11). Markwich also ran the 800m, finishing 15th (2:44).

Indians' Gagnon, Moncrief win 3 titles in field events

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School's Caleb Moncrief won two events, while Kendall Gagnon won one at the District 3-2A track and field meet, which was held April 20-21 at Santa Fe High School.

Moncrief won the discus with a throw of 144-8, which put him ahead of Suwannee's Will Wainwright, who had a throw of 127-4.

In the shot put, Moncrief had a distance of 48-4.5, placing him ahead of Santa Fe's Connor Wetherington, who had a distance of 47-4.25.

Gagnon recorded her win in the javelin with a distance of 90-9. That put her ahead



Kendall Gagnon won the District 3-2A championship in the javelin. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

Jacob Stahman 2:43 (14th); 100m — Candace Jackson 14.65 (13th), Brianna Hogan 14.84 (14th); 200m — Jackson 30.76 (12th), Hogan 31.44 (15th), long jump — Park 17-4.75 (eighth); shot put — Jackson Herman 27-10.75 (seventh), Decrosta 2:49 (sixth); shot put and discus — Duncan 82-1 (sixth), Herman 78-9 (seventh).

The Indians recorded the following girls results as well: Shaylyn Williams 44-8 (15th).



Caleb Moncrief won the District 3-2A title in the shot put as well as in the discus

of Santa Fe's Riley Baker, who had a distance of 83-10.

The top four finishers in each event earned the right to advance to the Region 1 finals, which will be held Thursday, May 5, at Tommy Oliver Stadium in Panama City. Kiersten Shaw and Tyler Griffin will advance in three and two events, respectively, while Ella Hutchins will advance in one.

Shaw was the runner-up in the high jump. She and champion Dariniya Martin of Suwannee each cleared 4-7.75.

In the long jump, Shaw placed third with a distance of 15-7, while in the 100m hurdles, she was third with a time of 17.41. Griffin took second in the 1600m with a time of 4:47 to finish behind Santa Fe's Matthew Ortiz, who had a time of 4:43. Griffin also placed third in the 800m with a time of 2:15.

Hutchins was fourth in the 400m with a time of 1:07.

Boys team member Shepherd Rozier just missed qualifying in the long jump with a fifth-place distance of 17-9. He was 5.5 inches behind fourth-place finisher Byrcen Boney of Union County.

Keystone also had the following boys results: 200m — Rozier 25.46 (ninth), Jaden Park 26.80 (10th); 400m — Rozier 54.83 (sixth), Josiah Durrenberger 59.08 (11th); 800m — Durrenberger 2:30 (ninth),



Kiersten Shaw was the runner-up in the high jump. She also earned regional berths with third-place finishes in the long jump and the 100m hurdles.



Bradford track and field athletes: (front, l-r) Alissa Reddish, Natalie Thomas, Lindsey McCoy, Layne Loper, Jillian Lee, (back, l-r) Chadsity Stevens, Jamrian Cummings, Kaelyn Booker, Alyssa Hunt, Holly Holt and Chayten Sanders. Not pictured: Jordan Barton, Diamond Ferguson and Silas Markwich. Photo provided by Coach John Loper.

Malcolm Odum wins title for UCHS, which earns 10 regional berths

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Malcolm Odum won a championship for Union County High School, which earned a total of 10 regional berths at the District 3-2A track and field meet on April 21 at Santa Fe High School.

Odum's top time of 22.47 in the 200m placed him ahead of Santa Fe's Tyrique Robinson, who had a time of 22.63.

Union's Martin Odum was also in the race, finishing third with a time of 23.25.

The top four finishers in each event will move on to the Region 1 finals on Thursday, May 5, at Tommy Oliver Stadium in Panama City.

Martin Odum was runner-up in the 400m with a time of 49.31, which left him trailing Santa Fe's Trace Spires, who had a time of 49.11. Malcolm Odum was third with a time of 49.83.

Emma Jeffers earned a runner-up finish for the girls team, running the 1600m in 6:25. That left her trailing only Santa Fe's Elizabeth Blich, who had a time of 6:03.

Two boys relay teams earned regional berths, including the 4x400m team, which was second with a time of 3:43 to

See TRACK, page 17



Malcolm Odum is pictured running the 400m, which he placed third in. He won the district championship in the 200m. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Martin Odum (left) battles it out with Santa Fe's Trace Spires in the 400m. Odum finished second.

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

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- Estate Planning

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Legal Notices

Bradford

ESTATE NOTICE
ESTATE OF GERALD W. VICKERY JR.

Letters testamentary on the estate of GERALD W. VICKERY JR., late of Troy Borough, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Wills, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to pay the same at once, and all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same to the undersigned. BRUCE VICKERY, EXECUTOR
99 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
4/14 3tchg 4/28-BCT

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

PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO: 22000040CPAXMX
IN RE: ESTATE OF CHICAGO MICHAEL MULLIN, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of Chicago Michael Mullin, deceased, whose date of death was September 4, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida. Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is April 21, 2022. Attorney for Personal Representative:
Linda Muralt, Esquire
Florida Bar No.: 0031129
Bennett Jacobs & Adams, P.A.
Post Office Box 3300
Tampa, Florida 33601
Telephone: (813) 272-1400
Facsimile: (866) 844-4703
E-mail: LMuralt@bja-law.com
Personal Representative:
Audrey Whitehead
c/o: Bennett Jacobs & Adams, P.A.
Post Office Box 3300
Tampa, Florida 33601
4/21 2tchg 4/28-BCT

PUBLIC MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a budget workshop on May 2, 2022 immediately following the regularly-scheduled meeting at 9:30 AM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The public is encouraged to visit www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting.
4/28 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 04-2021-CP-000115
AMENDED PETITION FOR SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION
IN THE ESTATE OF: CORNELIUS C. SCOTT, Deceased
You are hereby notified that an Amended Petition For Summary Administration has been filed in Bradford county, Florida, Probate Division, Clerk of Court, Bradford County, Probate Division, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The decedent's date of death was May 06, 2021. The total value of the estate is \$5,886.00. The names of the beneficiaries are as follows: Mary Beth Scott, address unknown, Neil C. Scott, Daniel R. Scott, Douglas Scott, Michael Scott, and Cleighton Scott. You are required to respond with any claims or demands against decedent's estate to the Clerk of the Court, Bradford County, Probate Division, File Number: 04-2021-CP-000115, in the estate of Cornelius C. Scott. A hearing is scheduled for Case Management Conference on Monday, June 20, 2022, at 11:30am, as to the status of providing formal notice to Mary Beth Scott, and as to subsequent amendments to the petition to reflect surviving spouse's intestate share of the estate.
4/28 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO: 22000040CPAXMX
IN RE: ESTATE OF CHICAGO MICHAEL MULLIN, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of Chicago Michael Mullin, deceased, whose date of death was September 4, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida. Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is April 21, 2022. Attorney for Personal Representative:
Linda Muralt, Esquire
Florida Bar No.: 0031129
Bennett Jacobs & Adams, P.A.
Post Office Box 3300
Tampa, Florida 33601
Telephone: (813) 272-1400
Facsimile: (866) 844-4703
E-mail: LMuralt@bja-law.com
Personal Representative:
Audrey Whitehead
c/o: Bennett Jacobs & Adams, P.A.
Post Office Box 3300
Tampa, Florida 33601
4/21 2tchg 4/28-BCT

Petitioner
Daniel R. Scott
645 Lake Susan Road
Hawthorne, Florida 32640
4/21 2tchg 4/28-BCT

LEGAL NOTICE:
The Bradford County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Planning Committee/Workgroup will meet Thursday, May 5th at 2:30 pm in the Bradford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Bradford County Sheriff's Office at 945B North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL. Bradford County Emergency Management encourages any interested citizens and business owners to attend and provide input. The Committee guides the preparation and contents of the Bradford County Local Mitigation Strategy which serves as the plan submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management to reduce the community's long-term risk for protecting people and property from the effects of natural disasters and to build a safer and stronger community. This public meeting is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person wanting to attend the meeting and requires assistance with accessibility and/or interpretation should contact the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division at (904) 966-6336 at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting date. Any person wishing to provide comments who cannot attend the meeting may do so by submitting written comments via email to the Bradford County Emergency Management Director at brad_witt@bradfordsheriff.org at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting date. The meeting agenda may be obtained within 5 days of the meeting date via email request to the Emergency Management Director. Please contact the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division at (904) 966-6336 for more information. A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE JURISDICTION
4/21 2tchg 4/28-BCT

PUBLIC SALE
Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on the following unit at 10:00am on Friday May 6th, 2022 at 2117 N Temple Ave., Starke, FL. On the following unit containing personal items: #81 - Belonging to T. Derouville
4/28 2tchg 5/5-BCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on March 29, 2022: Chris Ward, of Oakridge Forest Partners, LLC, 161 Hampton Point Drive, Suite 101, St. Augustine, FL 32092 has submitted an environmental resource permit (ERP) application number ERP-007-242533-1. The project is located in Bradford County, Section 20, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, and includes 35.5-acres. Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication. No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.
4/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 05/06/2022 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N. THOMPSON ST. STARKE FL, 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78. 1FAHP36NX5W233557 2005 FORD 11N6ED29X73C434941 2003 NISSA KMHC35C74U289403 2004 HYUN
4/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Starke 301 U-Stor LLC, pursuant to SECTION 83.801-809 Florida Statutes "Storage Facility Act" will sell to the highest bidder the contents of the following storage units located at 1650 S. Walnut Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Said contents consisting of personal property, household and other goods, furniture, etc., or as otherwise indicated. Sale will take place May 14th, 2022 @ 11:00am. This sale is being made to satisfy a statutory lien. Registration will begin at 10:15am. A01- Timothy Cantu
A51- Winnie Maynard

A80- Sharon Vessel
B15- Kelsey Brantley
B80- Timothy Cantu
Entire contents of the following units will be sold to satisfy a lien & other charges according to Florida Statutes 83.806. Seller reserves the right to reject any bids and to withdraw any unit from such sale. Open bids only. CASH PAYMENTS ONLY All Sales Are Final. 10% Buyers Premium. Contents must be removed by close of business 5/14/2022. For any winning bid the buyer must present a \$50.00 cleaning fee for each winning unit and is refundable upon returning the unit broom swept by close of business 5/14/2022.
4/28 2tchg 5/5-BCT

INVITATION TO BID
SEALED BIDS will be received and accepted by the Town of Brooker, Florida, until 1:00 pm on Monday, May 9, 2022 for the prep and painting of the roof of the Brooker Community Center. The bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the regular Town Council meeting. Bidders should contact Gene Melvin via the Brooker City Hall office at 352-485-1022 if you have any questions. Bid: 1. Prepare and Paint metal roof on the Community Center building located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue in Brooker, Florida to include: a. Applying a solution of bleach to pressure wash/rinse roof clean b. Locating leaks and applying a patching compound to the noted areas c. Applying extra roofing paint to the patched areas. Application of elastomeric roof coating The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Equal Opportunity Employer, Fair Housing, Handicap Access
4/28 1tchg-BCT

INVITATION TO BID
SEALED BIDS will be received and accepted by the Town of Brooker, Florida, until 1:00 pm on Monday, May 9, 2022 for the following maintenance of City property. The bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the regular Town Council meeting. B i d :
1. Edge and maintain (to include debris removal) all sidewalks on both sides of State Road 18/ Charlotte Avenue within city limits.
2. Clean fence line (to include debris removal) in front of school building at the intersection of Bradford Avenue and School Street. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. You can contact the Brooker City Hall office at 352-485-1022 if you have any q u e s t i o n s .
Equal Opportunity Employer, Fair Housing, Handicap Access
4/28 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 04-099-CA-0147
LUKE T. FULMER, PLAINTIFF,
VS.
CLYDE D. TAYLOR, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING ANY ESTATE, RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST
BY, THROUGH, OR AGAINST
CLYDE D. TAYLOR, OR IN THE REAL PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED.
DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: CLYDE D. TAYLOR, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING ANY ESTATE, RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST BY, THROUGH, OR AGAINST CLYDE D. TAYLOR, OR IN THE REAL PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED. YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title to real property described as: THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. ALSO KNOWN AS LOT 22, WOODLAWN, OF SAID SECTION 21, AND AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 17 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY. SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 225. has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses/response, if any, to it on VeRonica R. Owens, Esquire., Attorney for the Plaintiff, whose address is 189 S. Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656, on or before May 31, 2022, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, before service on Plaintiff or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or

e-mailed to the addresses on record
Dated: April 14, 2022
DENNY THOMPSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
4/28 4tchg 5/19-BCT

Notice is hereby given:
Priscilla L. Curtis
Last known address of:
5213 Graver Dr
Hampton FL 32044
You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 58
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
Starke, FL 32091
Date: April 25th 2022
4/28 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:
Gary C. Powell
Last known address of:
603 Francis St
Starke FL 32091
You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 58
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
Starke, FL 32091
Date: April 26, 2022
4/28 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:
Lori A. Reid
Last known address of:
15820 SW County Road 18
Brooker FL 32622
You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 58
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
Starke, FL 32091
Date: April 25, 2022
4/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice is hereby given that CANDACE A RAULERSON, OWNER, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of TECH SAVVY GOV'T SOLUTIONS located at 4815 SW 136TH CT, LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA 32054 intends to register the said name in UNION county with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.
4/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Derrick Edwards, 4527 SE 145th Terr., Starke, FL 32091, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: ALL ABOUT YOU MOBILE DETAILING, 4527 SE 145th Terr., Starke, FL 32091, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 25th day of April, A.D., 2022, in Bradford County,
4/28 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 04-2022-CP-000034
Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF DANIEL LEE MCINNIS, SR.
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of DANIEL LEE MCINNIS, SR., deceased, whose date of death was February 14, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, PO Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is April 28, 2022. Personal Representatives:
Daniel L. McInnis, Jr.
1414 Azalea Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32205
Charlotte A. McInnis
3580 Pall Mall Drive #1802
Jacksonville, Florida 32257
Attorney for Personal

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2021-DR-007618
Division: FM-F
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF Diane Deering,
Petitioner
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION
TO: ANTHONY P. BURCH
9611 SW 40th Way

Representatives:
Kristopher D. Robinson
Florida Bar No. 582018
Robinson Collins
1604 Stockton Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32204
Telephone: (904) 483-3857
E-mail Addresses: kris@robinsoncollins.com
amy@robinsoncollins.com
4/28 2tchg 5/5-BCT

Notice is hereby given:
Gary C. Powell
Last known address of:
603 Francis St
Starke FL 32091
You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 58
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
Starke, FL 32091
Date: April 26, 2022
4/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an ordinance with the title hereafter provided will be enacted by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida at their regularly-scheduled meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 9:30 AM or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the office of the County Clerk, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Courthouse North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. The title of the ordinance reads as follows: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA LEVYING A ONE CENT DISCRETIONARY EMERGENCY FIRE RESCUE SERVICES AND FACILITIES SALES SURTAX PURSUANT TO SECTION 212.055(8), FLORIDA STATUTES, CONTINGENT UPON THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THE PUBLIC IN A REFERENDUM AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 212.055(8)(B), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SAID REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022; SETTING FORTH THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR SAID REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR THE ALLOCATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURTAX PROCEEDS AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 212.055(8)(C), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR THE REDUCTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES COMMENSURATE WITH THE PROJECTED REVENUES FROM SAID SURTAX AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 212.055(8)(E), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR THE INITIATION OF SURTAX COLLECTIONS ON JANUARY 1, 2023, FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 212.055(8)(G), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE NOTICE AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 212.055(11), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ALL OTHER STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LEVY OF SAID SURTAX; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO STAFF; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ARTICLES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR ENACTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EMERGENCY ENACTMENT PROCEDURES AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 125.66, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision(s) of the Board of County Commissioners, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 by 5:00 PM at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service (800) 955-8770 or (800) 955-8771.
4/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of LORI ANN MANN, deceased, whose date of death was January 4, 2022, File Number 2022CP11 is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Union County Clerk of Court, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida, 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and of the personal representative's attorney are set forth below and the lawyer-client privilege in Section 90.5021 applies with respect to the Personal Representative and any attorney employed by the Personal Representative. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is 21 April, 2022. ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
REUBEN S. WILLIAMS, IV
Florida Bar No 509612
954 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, Florida 34470
Telephone: (352) 629-9747
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Eddie Norman
14267 N. Nopon Valley
Decatur, TN 37322
4/21 2tchg 4/28-UCT

RFQ TITLE: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING, INCLUDING CEI SERVICES FOR UNION COUNTY DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAY 12, 2022 AT 11:00 A.M.
The Union County Board of County Commissioners will receive qualification at the Board of County Commissioner's office located at 15 NE 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, until Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. The RFQ's will be opened in the Board of County Commissioners' Office located at the above address on May 12, 2022 or as soon thereafter as they can be opened. RESPONDERS MUST SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL AND FIVE COPIES; AND LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE AS "RFQ PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING, INCLUDING CEI SERVICES FOR UNION COUNTY." Further information may be obtained at www.unioncounty-fl.gov
4/21 2tchg 4/28-UCT

Union

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 2021-DR-007618
Division: FM-F
IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF Diane Deering,
Petitioner
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION
TO: ANTHONY P. BURCH
9611 SW 40th Way

Bradford County Telegraph
USPS 062-700
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
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Bradford County Telegraph
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
John Miller, Publisher
Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goodge
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge
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John Miller, Publisher
Editor: Dan Hildebran
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goodge
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
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Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goodge
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
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Quinn Raulerson bench pressed 405 for the first time in a competition as he won his second straight state championship.

“Maybe I can win it next year.” Raulerson said his late arrival to the meet didn’t allow him time to warm up for the snatch. He finished tied for second with Keystone’s Jenkins, who was officially awarded second place with the employment of the weigh-in tiebreaker. The 195 total was what Raulerson got on his second attempt. He figured since he was going to earn a medal anyway (medals are given out for top-six finishes), he would attempt 15 pounds more on his third attempt in an effort to pass Keystone’s

Bryar Schenck, who won the championship with a 205 total. “I thought I might as well go for it,” Raulerson said. Union had two other lifters competing in the traditional event: Tucker Baynard and Thomas Williams. Baynard was 10th in the unlimited class with a 610 total (365 bench press, 245 clean and jerk). Williams had a best bench press of 295 in the 183-pound class, but didn’t finish with an official total after scratching on all three of his clean-and-jerk attempts.



Christian Simmons competes in the clean and jerk. He won the traditional championship in the 119-pound class and was runner-up in the snatch.

TRACK

Continued from page 15

finish behind Santa Fe (3:33). The 4x100m team placed third with a time of 45.47. The girls 4x100m relay team ran a fourth-place time of 56.94. Union had two earn fourth-place finishes in field events: Brycen Boney with a distance of 18-2.5 in the boys long jump and Taleyah Smith with a throw of 76-5 in the girls discus. Tucker Baynard and Thomas Williams just missed qualifying for regionals, with Baynard finishing fifth in the shot put with a distance of 33-5.25 and Williams finishing fifth in the 110m hurdles with a time of 19.35. Union also had the following boys results: 100m — Williams 12.01 (10th); 800m — Konner Rossiter 2:36 (11th), Joseph Harris 2:38 (12th); 1600m — Harris 5:34 (10th); and long jump — Williams 17-7 (seventh). On the girls side, the Tigers had the following results: 100m — Jahlivah Woodall 14.58 (11th); 200m — Mia Odum 29.97 (10th); 400m — CeCe Thomas 1:16 (14th); 800m — Jeffers 2:58 (ninth); long jump — Taliyah Harper 13-8.25



Emma Jeffers was the district runner-up in the 1600m.

(sixth), Thomas 12-6 (seventh), Woodall 11-9 (10th); shot put — Smith 25-2.5 (eighth), Jaliah Hatcher 25-2.5 (ninth), Deashia Gainer 23-1.25 (11th); and discus — Hatcher 63-11 (10th).

TITLES

Continued from page 1

Simmons felt really good about his clean-and-jerk performance, though, which saw him set a personal record as he made a 15-pound jump from his second attempt to his final attempt. His thanks for his performance goes first and foremost to God, Simmons said. Then he gave kudos to Raulerson. “Quinn has helped me become better than I ever could’ve dreamed of,” Simmons said, adding, “I work out with him every single day. He’s been a blessing in my life and has helped me out tremendously.” Raulerson said Simmons

deserves the credit for his performance. “He’s worked harder than anybody in the state and probably in the country, really,” Raulerson said. The two lifters also competed in the snatch event, with Simmons placing second with a 135 total and Raulerson placing third with a 195 total. Simmons tied for first with Wewahitchka’s Cole Williams and Palatka’s Ismael Foster, but Williams was awarded the championship due to weighing in at less weight than Simmons and Foster. “Sometimes, it is what it is. God shuts a door, but He also opens another one,” Simmons said, adding,

KHHS

Continued from page 11

Cumbus striking out 11 batters in the Indians’ 4-2 win. Palatka led 2-0 before Keystone scored three runs in the fourth. Miller singled and advanced on an Addington sacrifice bunt before scoring on a Walker West double. After a Roach single, West scored on a passed ball. Hollingsworth then hit a single to score Roach.

Branch and Roach each went 2 for 3, with Branch hitting a double and driving in one run. Cumbus pitched a complete game, giving up five hits. The Indians played Toco Creek this past Tuesday and will conclude the regular season with a home game against Clay on Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. Keystone will play in the District 2-3A tournament next week. Details weren’t known by deadline.

Legal Notices

Union

CONCURRENT NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
Date of Publication: April 28, 2022
Name of Responsible Entity: Town of Worthington Springs
Address: P.O. Box 150 (11933 SW 36th Drive)
Town, State, Zip Code: Worthington Springs, Florida 32697
Telephone Number (386) 496-1006
These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Worthington Springs.
REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
On or about May 17, 2022 the Town of Worthington Springs will submit a request to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project within the Town of Worthington Springs that will include the use of up to \$600,000 in CDBG funds for the construction of parking and street repaving improvements that will take place in the following locations: Service Area (SA) 1 — Activities within SA 1 consist of paving the existing vacant lot next to the Worthington Springs Community Center/ Emergency Shelter which is located at the intersection of Southwest 36th Drive and State Road 121. The paved lot will serve as a parking area for the community center/emergency shelter and will be used for community center/emergency shelter activities. The parking area will allow residents to access the emergency shelter in the event of a weather or manmade disaster. CDBG funds in the amount of \$135,000 have been budgeted for parking lot construction activities. Non-HUD funds that are being contributed to the project include the value of the land for the parking area that was previously purchased by the Town for \$30,000. Service Area (SA) 2 - Street Improvements - Repaving Activities within SA 2 consist of repaving approximately 6,300 LF of asphalt roadway spot improvements, right of way tree removal, street resurfacing, complementary drainage improvements, and street reconstruction. The following streets will be resurfaced: Southwest 37th Lane; Sierra Drive; Southwest 116th Circle; Southwest 117th Run; Cardline Drive; Southwest 37th Terrace; Southwest 36th Way; Southwest 117th Road; Southwest 36th Path; Southwest 115th Road; Southwest 36th Terrace; and Southwest 118th Place. CDBG funds in the amount of \$322,000 have been budgeted for street repaving activities. There are no non-HUD funds being contributed to the project for repaving activities. Grant administration activities will include complete management and reporting for each project activity. Engineering costs will include project inspection and construction contract administration. CDBG funds in the amount of \$95,000 have been budgeted for engineering, while \$48,000 has been budgeted administration. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
The Town of Worthington Springs has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental

Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Town of Worthington Springs. Clerk’s office located at 11933 SW 36th Drive, Worthington Springs, Florida 32687. The Environmental Review Record (ERR) can be examined at this location and/or copied on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., or by appointment by contacting Pat Harrell, Town Clerk at (386) 496-1006.
PUBLIC COMMENTS
Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Town of Worthington Springs (Attention: Pat Harrell, Town Clerk, P. O. Box 150, Worthington Springs, Florida 32697). All comments must be received by May 16, 2022. Comments will be considered prior to the Town of Worthington Springs requesting a release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.
RELEASE OF FUNDS
The Town of Worthington Springs certifies to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and HUD that Joan Douglas in her capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Worthington Springs to use the CDBG funds.
OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS
DEO will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of

Worthington Springs certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Worthington Springs; (b) the Town of Worthington Springs has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the State; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures at 24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76 and shall be addressed to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, CDBG Program, MSC-400, 107 East Madison Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-6508. Potential objectors should contact the Town of Worthington Springs to verify the actual last day of the objection period. Contact information: Pat Harrell, Town Clerk, P. O. Box 150, Worthington Springs, Florida 32697. Ms. Harrell can also be reached by email at clerk.harrell@worthingtonspings.org or by phone at (386) 496-1006. Joan Douglas, Mayor, and Certifying Officer 4/28 1tchg-UCT

JR. Ltr. testamentary on the estate of GERALD W. VICKERY JR., late of Troy Borough, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, having been granted

to the undersigned by the Register of Wills, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to pay the same at once, and all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same to the

undersigned. BRUCE VICKERY, EXECUTOR 99 Main Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 4/14 3tchg 4/28-LRM

Lake Region

ESTATE NOTICE ESTATE OF GERALD W. VICKERY

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PRESENTS
Once to Die
Thursday, May 19, 2022
6:15-8:00PM
Hope Baptist Church Auditorium
3900 SE State Road 100
Starke, FL 32091
Call (352) 473-4040 to reserve your free tickets.

Please be advised: Our program has a number of special effects that may seem frightening to certain guests. Please be advised that flashing lights, darkness, screams, sound effect gunfire, etc. are all expected as a part of this performance.

FREE HEALTH FAIR
An Effort To Raise The Importance Of Improving The Health of Racial & Ethnic Minorities By Reducing Health Disparities.
Give Your Community A Boost!
Thursday, April 28th
11:00 am—2:00 pm
Bradford County Health Department
1801 N. Temple Avenue
Starke, FL 32091

Health Equity
Dental
Healthy Start
Hanley Foundation
Meridian Behavioral Health
Heart Health Plus
Snap-Ed
Diabetes Prevention
Nutrition Escape
Elder Options
Victim Services
CivCom

FREE HEALTH SCREENING:
Diabetes Risk Test & Blood Pressure Check

EQUALITY EQUITY



The SMAC-champion Indians: (front, l-r) Riley Shuford, Alee Horton, Tayler Buchanan, Jenna Lee, Chloe Still, (middle, l-r) Xana Briley, Audry Cisco, Schiley Starling, Kenly Shepherd, Kylie Norman, (back, l-r) Coach Piper Pescara, Makenzie Vinson, Kaleigh Marquart, Alyssa Wagner, Ammie Haast and Coach Lisa Cisco. Photo provided courtesy of Lisa Cisco.

Jr. high Indians win SMAC title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights Junior High School's softball team was swept by Lake Butler during the regular season, but the Indians got the win that mattered the most, defeating the Tigers 13-6 in Fort White on April 22 to win the Suwannee Middle Athletic Conference championship. "They came out and brought their A game when they needed it the most," Keystone Coach Lisa Cisco said. It was a game of offensive and defensive highlights, Cisco said. She talked of Xana Briley making an "amazing" catch in right field for an out truly needed and Jenna Lee recording the final out when she caught a line drive at second base. She also mentioned how the leading hitters consisted of Lee, Tayler Buchanan, Audry Cisco, Kaleigh Marquart, Riley Shuford, Schiley Starling and Chloe Still, but added, "Everybody brought the hits when we needed them." Audry Cisco got the start in the circle, while Alee

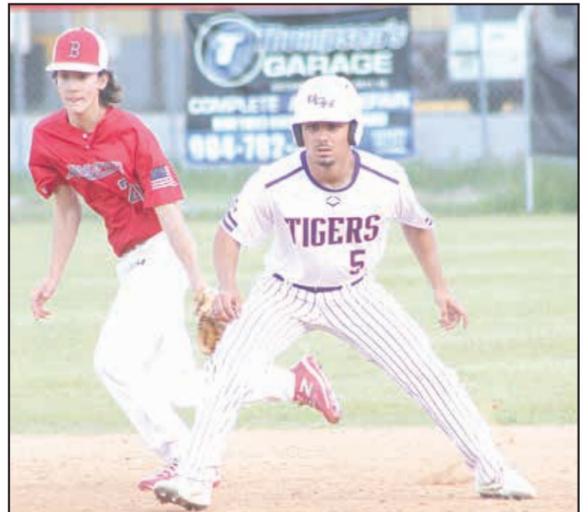
Horton came in to finish it out. "All in all, all of our girls did amazing," Coach Cisco said. "They all contributed in some way or another." Keystone (7-6) lost twice to Lake Butler during the regular season. The Indians were leading in the second, but Cisco said the team committed some errors that helped Lake Butler rally for the win. "The girls knew they could beat them," Cisco said. "They just had to believe they could beat them." The Indians built an early lead in the SMAC championship game. When Lake Butler began scoring runs midway through the game, Keystone's players didn't panic. They closed out the game in strong fashion. Cisco said it was the team's best performance offensively and defensively this season. In fact, a player's mother asked her what she put in the pizza that she fed the team before the game. "Nothing, that I know of," Cisco said with a laugh. "They just came to play. They decided they wanted the championship.

They were determined to get it." The two games Keystone played against Williston during the regular season proved to be a key factor in this season's success, Cisco said. She said her team dominated Williston in the first matchup, but then lost 10-9 in the second game. "They went in with a big head, thinking they were going to dominate and beat a team," Cisco said. "They ended up making silly errors. Williston came back and beat us 10-9. "We had a lot of conversations with them and just explained to them that we go in with a clear head, no matter what. We never give up. We fight until the end." In other words, play your best and take nothing for granted, which seems to be exactly what the Indians did in winning the SMAC. "It's been a great season," Cisco said. "The kids put in a lot of effort. They worked really hard." Next season could be special as well as the Indians lose just four eighth-graders: Lee, Starling, Still and Alyssa Wagner.

Tigers' Johns throws no-hitter in 7-0 victory over Tornados

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Luke Johns pitched a complete-game no-hitter in the Union County High School baseball team's 7-0 win over Bradford on April 21 in Starke. The Tigers improved to 11-8 as Johns struck out nine, while walking only one. Bradford starter Cason Pilcher had a solid outing as well, but a number of errors had him exiting the game after five innings trailing 6-0. He gave up one earned run on six hits and two walks. Union scored the only run it would need in the top of the first. Leadoff batter Quinten Rawls reached on an error. Two outs later, Tre'von Lee reached on an error as well. An Ayden Elixson single scored Rawls. Bradford's Brayden Smyth reached on an error with one out in the bottom of the first. However, he was caught in a rundown on a Johns pickoff attempt at first. Smyth was eventually tagged out by first baseman Ethan Moody. Johns then recorded his second strikeout of the inning for the third out. Rawls and Jake O'Steen hit back-to-back one-out singles for the Tigers in the third inning. Rawls scored on Jay Cohen's sacrifice fly. The Tornados' Foster Smith reached on an error to lead off the bottom of the third. He advanced to third on sacrifice bunts by Kacen Thomassen and Brady Pearson. Rawls, from



Union's Jeff Cook (right) takes a lead at second. Bradford shortstop Brady Pearson is also pictured. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Bradford's Carson Knight dives back to first base.



his shortstop position, caught a line drive to end the inning. Union's Trevor Holtzendorf reached on error with one out in the fourth and was able to advance to second on the play. Blake Agner then hit a double to score courtesy runner Jeff Cook to make the score 3-0. Johns reached on an error, followed by Rawls getting hit by a pitch. Agner scored on O'Steen's sacrifice fly, while courtesy runner Haiden Berringer scored when Cohen reached on an error, making it a 6-0 game. The final run was scored in the top of the seventh. Elixson was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning. He advanced to second on a passed ball and stole

third before scoring when Eli Rimes hit into a fielder's choice. Lee finished as the Tigers' only multi-hit batter, going 2 for 4. Union played Fort White this past Tuesday and will host Baker County on Thursday, April 28, at 6 p.m. The Tigers conclude the regular season at University Christian on Friday, April 29, at 5:30 p.m. The Tornados (1-15-1) played Baker County this past Tuesday and will host Bell on Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. to conclude the regular season. District tournaments begin next week. Details weren't known by deadline.



ABOVE LEFT: The Tigers' Luke Johns struck out nine and gave up only one walk in the complete-game no-hitter. LEFT: Union's Blake Agner looks for an opportunity to score from third. Also pictured is Union Coach Jiwan James. RIGHT: Bradford starting pitcher Cason Pilcher gave up one earned run in five innings.



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