

Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 38th Issue — \$1

Sweet traditions and small-town charm welcome visitors

Starke's 27th Annual Strawberry Festival

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Telegraph

The scent of ripe strawberries and sizzling festival treats filled the air at the 27th annual Starke Strawberry Festival this past weekend as visitors gathered to celebrate tradition, community, and the sweetest fruit of the season.

Hosted by the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce, the festival took place on March 29th and 30th at the Bradford County Fairgrounds, welcoming families, friends, and vendors from across the region for a berry delightful time.

A Berry Sweet Saturday

With over 100 food and craft vendors lining the fairgrounds, there was no shortage of sights, sounds, and flavors to enjoy. The air was thick with the enticing aroma of funnel cakes, roasted nuts, and sizzling turkey legs, each booth offering a unique slice of small-town charm.



No festival is complete without an adorable strawberry shortcake! Tiny Miss Bradford Fest 2025 Zoey Carney poses with mom Ciera Lemire at the Strawberry Festival last weekend.

Among the vendors, mother-daughter duo Lai'Nyia Mathews and Nataki Campbell of Bites of Sweetz stood ready to serve up their strawberry-flavored desserts after enjoying a mouthwatering lunch from One Way Jamaican Cuisine. Just a few booths down, Lorenzo Williams and his partner enticed festival-goers with their flavorful Mike's Seasonings and Sheffield Pecans. Meanwhile, Randy Adams, owner of The Wayward Potter, showcased his intricate handmade pottery, each piece telling its own story of craftsmanship and care.

Classic car enthusiasts gathered around a collection of vintage automobiles, their gleaming exteriors reflecting the golden afternoon sun. Over at Underhills Forge, owner Jacob Underhill mesmerized onlookers with his blacksmithing and bladesmithing demonstrations, hammering red-hot metal into stunning works of art. Even the Army recruiters and Bradford High School JROTC added an exciting touch with their helicopter simulator, giving festival-goers a taste of aviation adventure.

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Keystone vice mayor faces challenger on April 8

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Michigan native who moved to the Lake Region in 2021 is challenging Vice Mayor Chris Thompson for the Seat 2 Keystone Heights City Council.

Dave Welch said he first considered running for the city council when some council members, including Thompson, pushed for more direct control over the city-owned airport.

"I felt it was a bad decision as many, many people did," he recalled, "partly because of the risk of losing FAA grants and the risk of exposing the city directly to liability, should there be any accidents or damage claims of any sort out at the airport. I think those are the primary concerns."

Welch said that Thompson's motion to fire City Manager Charlie Van Zant after the former school superintendent was on the job for only a few months also factored into his challenging the incumbent.

Thompson's motion failed 4-1.

Welch, who has an aeronautical background and is a tenant at the airport, attends airport board meetings to stay informed about what is happening at the facility.

He said the city should maximize the economic development potential of the 2,000-acre parcel that straddles



Chris Thompson

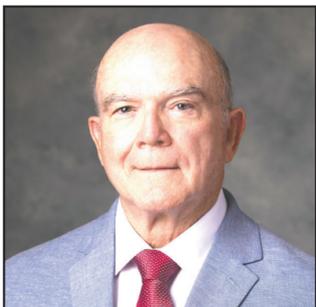
Clay and Bradford counties.

"Ultimately, I'd hope we would find a way to encourage more business out there," he said, including airport operations. From what I gather, there's some increasing interest in more aircraft maintenance and services and so on out there."

Airport and Lakes

Welch said the airport and the city's surrounding lakes are Keystone Heights's most valuable assets and should be preserved and developed.

"We're, I think, well along the process of restoring our lake levels and so on," he said, "and the airport,



Dave Welch

those are the two big draws. I think those are the opportunities we have as a city to grow and to fund the growth that we're going to need to make, funding other priorities like education and the parks and community services and so on."

Welch said that while talking to voters about the upcoming election, the lakes have received much more attention than the airport. He said he hopes to raise public awareness of the airport's importance to the community.

He said he has also heard complaints about the increasing traffic through the city and the noise, congestion, and speeding that accompany the

additional cars and trucks.

"That's a concern that I would like to propose we begin to tackle," he said. "I'm not sure how to do that yet. Obviously, I'm sensitive to noise, so some sort of noise ordinance might be appropriate. Modify the speed limits, and try to encourage some way or another, especially the heavy traffic, to use other routes rather than directly through town."

Welch added that he had observed one positive trend with the council over the past year. He said council members appear to be working together better and are more engaged with the community than in the past, and he hopes that pattern will continue.

Lived in Keystone for 54 years

Chris Thompson was first elected to the Keystone Heights City Council in 2022 and currently serves as vice-mayor.

The first-term council member seeking re-election said she has been endorsed by Sheriff Michelle Cook, Outgoing Council Member Tony Brown, and County Commissioner Betsy Condon.

See RACE, page 7

Starke improving facilities just in time for spring

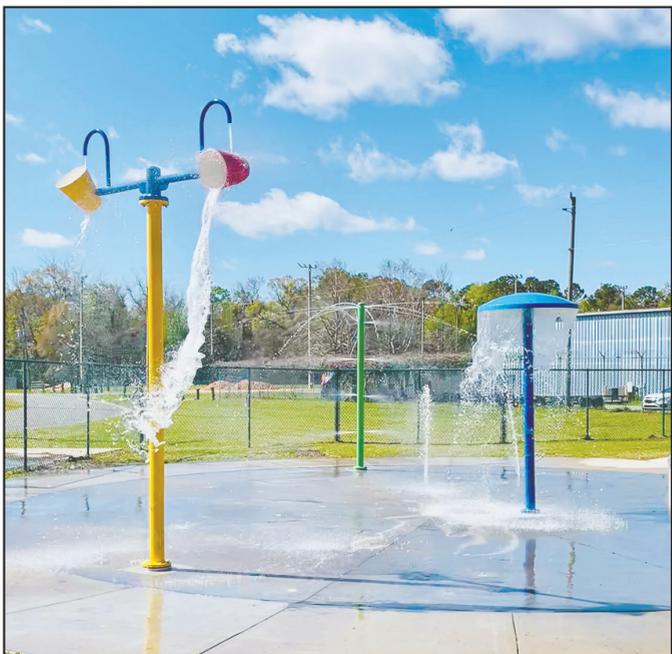
BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

With the arrival of spring, the city of Starke has been preparing its parks for families.

The splash pad at Edwards Road Park received a \$17,000 upgrade with new features. Basketball backboards and nets were replaced at a cost of approximately \$5,000, and both Wainwright Park and Edwards Road Park have had their bathroom fixtures updated.

At Thomas Street Park, improvements were made to the playground and football field. New sod was laid on the field to ensure a safe playing surface, and new playground equipment was installed using state grant funding amounting to around \$42,000.

"We added the pickleball courts last year and recognized that it was just the beginning of restoring our recreational facilities," said Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby. "There is still work to be done, but by combining city finances with grants, the public will see ongoing improvements and maintenance," he stated.



The splash pad on Edwards Road has been enhanced.

Music pavilion in the works

A grant-funded project introduced last fall has been designed and Starke is in search of the contractor to build it.

Starke is constructing a new pavilion in the Downtown Square to host live events such as concerts and movie viewings. It is a first step in the CityWalk downtown revitalization project which will be expanded overtime as the budget allows.

Architect Paul Stressing told the city commission last September that the design was based on Tioga's amphitheater but upsized by 25% with an estimated price tag of \$600,000 to \$650,000.

Stressing elaborated on the amphitheater's key features, which include a large stage with storage space, a handicap-accessible ramp, and a stairway on the opposite side. The design also features a back buffer of landscaping to add visual appeal. The amphitheater could be used for

See PARKS, page 2



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WORTH NOTING

Scholarships for Bradford seniors

Calling all Bradford High School seniors! The Say When and Remember Him Scholarship Fund is accepting applications, and the deadline is getting close. Don't miss out.

If you are a graduating 2025 senior entering a trade school or first responder program, contact your guidance counselor to find out more.

Generous community sponsors have helped raise \$30,000 for this first fundraiser. Scholarship awards will range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Scholarship for 12 G&G members

12 Guys in Bow Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls Scholarships are up for grabs for the second cohort who were members in 2017. These alumni members are now high school seniors and have an opportunity to be awarded with a \$500 scholarship.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to one lady and one gentleman alumni member. The deadline to submit the scholarship application and requirements is Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Requirements include a 2.0 minimum GPA, high school transcripts, a typed essay, education plans beyond high school, participation in two community service events with the current cohort, which include yard work on April 5, Day of Service at Jacksonville University on April 11 or beach cleanup on April 18.

Contact Edrick Hamilton for an application or more information at 904-364-0868 or 12gibt.12gip@gmail.com.

Alumni plan marker anniversary celebration

The Consolidated High School Alumni Association Committee is inviting the community to attend its upcoming annual Historical Marker Celebration on Saturday, April 5, from 1-3 p.m. at Lake Butler Elementary School. This is to commemorate the official unveiling ceremony which took place last year on April 6, 2024. The dress attire is casual (blue and white) and there will be a dinner provided as well as two high school students to receive a scholarship from the alumni.

Please RSVP to Lisa Maxwell if you plan to attend at 386-496-2336, or call for more information.

Church of God food distributions

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share's upcoming food distributions are Thursday, April 3 and 17, from 10 a.m. to noon. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. (Distribution could start early depending on delivery.)



PARKS

Continued from page 1

performances and public events like outdoor movie nights, with a motorized screen that can drop down from the back of the stage.

The surrounding area would also support events, with flexibility for closing Church Street to accommodate food trucks or event vendors. Stressing said they would create a shopping list of potential enhancements that do not fit into this grant and price them for addition down the road.

The amphitheater will sit in the northwest corner of the park, opposite the existing stage. The southeast corner of the square will accommodate Veterans Memorial Park when it is relocated to make way for the private CityWalk townhouse project.



Completed courts at Edwards Road Park.

The amphitheater, once complete, will serve as a central entertainment hub, drawing residents and visitors alike to the heart of the city. Bids for the project were set to be open April 3.

Downtown vision project

A separate grant is paying consultants to create an overall vision for Starke's downtown entertainment district.

Engineers with Woodward and Curran discussed the project with city commissioners last December. Having actual plans in place for the downtown should help the city in its pursuit of grant to fund projects identified in the visioning process.

The final piece of the project is due by the end of May.

Woodward and Curran described the project background like this:

"The city has experienced



Architects provided a color rendering of the amphitheater in the northwest corner of the Downtown Square.

a decline in visitors to the downtown district since the completion of the FDOT 301 Bypass. To promote the economic output of the city's downtown area while simultaneously meeting the needs of the rural community and increasing tax revenue for the city and state, the city of Starke desires to create a Downtown Entertainment District Visioning Plan.

"The project will address the needed recovery from the loss of pass-thru and foot

traffic occasioned by the Route 301 Bypass by developing a public facing and pedestrian friendly entertainment district that connects key downtown destinations, unique programming, recreation opportunities, and ecological networks.

"The project will integrate stormwater management and urban heat island mitigation to address associated climate resiliency challenges to ensure sustainable revitalization.

"The resulting visioning plan will serve as a downtown revitalization plan appropriate for the city commission to adopt, implement, and add to its comprehensive plan."

Editor's note: Starke Director of Administrative Operations Stephanie Mann assisted with this story, including providing photographs.

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Bring a Comfortable Chair

Union County approves land use and zoning change for crematory

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County commissioners, acting as their own planning and zoning board, approved rezoning a nine-acre parcel near Worthington Springs that would make possible the construction of a crematorium.

Garrett Milton, owner of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, presented the application for the zoning change from Residential Single Family Mobile Home to Rural Residential during a March 17 meeting.

Milton emphasized to commissioners his company's service to the community and told them that since he purchased the funeral home in 2018. Calls to the business had risen from 118 to 178 annually.

Milton said some of the concerns he has heard about a potential crematory on Little Springs Road are odor, noise, and smoke.

The funeral home owner showed the audience a video he took of a crematory in Starke. He pointed out that there were houses all around the facility and that while there was no visible smoke from the operation, it did produce heat vapor.

"These crematories run around 17, 1800 degrees," he said.

Not residential

Milton also addressed the concerns that the facility would produce toxic pollutants. He cited a report by the Crematorium Association of North America, which claimed the Environmental Protection Agency found no significant pollutants from crematories.

Milton also pointed out that the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home crematory in Starke is less than 500 feet away from the Windsor Manor nursing home.

"And to me, if there were concerns of health, I can assure you the nursing home right there would probably raise them, and they would probably shut down that crematory," he said.

Milton said he chose the Little Springs Road location because of a Florida Public Utilities natural gas line close by, adding natural gas is a cleaner and cheaper alternative to propane.

Milton also disputed the claim of his plan's critics that the proposed site is in a residential area.

"If we go in that southeast corner of our parcel, guess how

many homes are within 500 feet?" he asked commissioners. "Zero. If we go in that southwest corner, zero homes within 500 feet. So, is this considered residential?"

The business owner said the Jones-Gallagher facility in Starke has 42 homes within 500 feet. He also showed commissioners a photo of the Williams-Thomas Funeral Home crematory in Gainesville, where he said new homes had recently been built nearby.

"What's residential?" he continued. "I would think Bradford County, with 42 homes within 500 feet, is residential. Little Springs Road with zero."

Milton also addressed the complaint that his facility would increase traffic on Little Springs Road. He pointed out that, with the current zoning, he could put 18 mobile homes on the property, and those additions would increase traffic vastly more than his proposed facility.

Concerns over emissions

Trey Tucker, who told commissioners he lives near the proposed site, challenged Milton's claim that the area is not residential. He called Milton's 500-foot line accurate but "convenient."

"I could hit four or five homes with baseballs from that property," he said, adding that seven or eight children live on the other side of the pipeline from the proposed crematory site.

"And as far as some of the points about what they're doing in Gainesville and what they're doing in Starke," Tucker continued, "that doesn't hold much water with me."

Tucker added that he did not trust the emissions that would come from the facility. He pointed out that the emissions data Milton presented were for new incinerators.

"I work on air conditioning systems, and I know that you have a loss of efficiency over time," he said. "It doesn't seem like there's a whole lot of rechecking in on these things."

Gioia Hessler told commissioners she was concerned about the particles that would be emitted from the facility.

"The particles can cause asthma," she said. "They cause heart disease that causes lung cancer. You have issues with—



Garrett Milton said his proposed crematorium near Worthington Springs would resemble a garage, like the one pictured in Starke.

if you're pregnant, one study showed that if you're pregnant, you have a higher chance of having a stillborn baby. And if you manage to have a live baby at birth, there's a higher chance for brain abnormalities. There's just a lot of different things that go into it health wise."

Hessler also claimed that crematory regulations in the U.S. are lax compared to other parts of the world.

"When you look at, for example, the U.K.," she told commissioners, "they have two to three football fields between their crematorium and any residential buildings."

Steven Rowdy told commissioners he lives directly across the street from the proposed site. He complained that Milton never notified him by mail or in person that he was considering putting a crematory approximately 1000 feet from his residence.

"I've lived in this residence for 27 years," Rowdy said. "I've worked weekends, countless hours of overtime to help pay this property off. I never in a million years thought that we'd be standing here today talking to you guys about possibly putting a crematory right across the street from my house, 200 yards from where I lay my head at night."

Would you want it upside your place?

Woody Lane told commissioners that he worried about the impact of the crematory on Little Springs Road.

"You have to move over in a lot of parts of it to allow another vehicle to pass," he said.

Lane also pointed out that the facility in Starke is near State Road 100, and the Williams-Thomas crematory is on Gainesville's Main Street.

the fumes coming up. You can't believe what the EPA says."

process bodies from his two locations.

Nobody wants to live near a strip club

Avery Drawdy told commissioners that the chemicals released when dead bodies are incinerated can damage the health of the living.

"There's heavy metals in all of us," he said. "There's heavy metals in all of us and they go right in the air, and then they go into our lungs. There's also the radiation from people who lost their battle with chemo, and that radiation goes right in the air."

Drawdy also declared that nearby property values would decline if the facility were built.

"If a landfill got put there, nobody wants to live next to it," he said. "Nobody wants to live next to a strip club. It has the same effect as a strip club. I mean, this is not good."

Jack Asbury told commissioners that he moved to the neighborhood because it was quiet, residential, and rural.

"I lived in downtown Gainesville," he said. "That's not really my thing. I love where I live."

Asbury described walking with his wife after dinner, walking to and from Blackwell Church and seeing other residents, jogging, and walking along the nearby rural roads.

"My main issue is that we didn't choose to be in a commercial area," he said. "They've chosen to come to us, and I just don't think that's right."

Under questioning from Commission Chair Channing Dobbs, Milton assured commissioners that he would erect fencing and shrubbery around the facility.

Milton also promised Dobbs that he would not cremate bodies from other funeral homes and that the facility would only

Another vote required

Under questioning from Commissioner Melissa McNeal, County Attorney Russell Wade said that with the rezoning approved, commissioners would have to approve a special exemption for the crematory to be built. During that process, the board could stipulate setbacks, fencing, vegetation, and other requirements.

Commissioner Donna Jackson emphasized that the evening's vote to change the land use and zoning for the nine acres was strictly to change the parcel's density for homes. She said the current zoning would allow 18 mobile homes, and the new zoning would allow nine homes on the nine acres without the special exception. Jackson repeated Wade's assertion that an additional special exemption vote would be required to approve the crematory.

Jackson also responded to Lynch's question about whether she would want a crematory near her home.

"If you ask me if I would want nine homes or 18 mobile homes or a crematorium, I'm going to choose a crematorium every time," she declared.

Commissioner Mac Johns agreed with the plan's opponents that property values around the facility would fall. However, he rejected their claims that emissions from the facility would harm nearby residents, and that Little Springs Road could not handle the impact of the crematorium.

Johns moved to deny the land use and zoning change, but his motion died for lack of a second.

McNeal's motion to approve the changes passed 4-1.

Bradford adds students but spends more on school vouchers

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

While Bradford County's school enrollment was up as of the February survey, the district still sent more money to other schools.

According to Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley, Bradford's student count increased by nearly 60 students, but spent more on students not attending district schools. The district had anticipated spending around \$600,000 on school choice vouchers, but the real number was closer to \$900,000.

Florida has expanded its school voucher program, now offering taxpayer-funded scholarships for private school tuition to all students, regardless of income, also allowing homeschool students to apply for vouchers. Those vouchers are worth about \$8,000 each to the school district.

But how is it that the district spent more on vouchers but still increased its student count? Hartley said vouchers are going to students who were already enrolled in a private school or being homeschooled.

"I think what's happening is more families are understanding the process to get a voucher," Hartley said. "And so, what it looks like is most of these students that are getting these vouchers are students that were never ours in the first place. But [the funding is] all run through the school district."

Hartley said he expects to see the same occur over the next few years as more parents realize the state has made the funding available.

As for news of all the education budget cuts coming out of Washington, including

the potential closure of the Department of Education, Hartley foresees little impact. Federal funding covers the cost of exceptional student education as well as the disabled. The district's understanding is there would not be an interruption in funding for the individualized education of these students, who make up around 30% of Bradford's total enrollment. Instead, Hartley said the funding would be filtered through another agency.

"For now, we don't expect it to have much of an impact, unless, you know, we learned something different later," he said.

Federal dollars also support the school nutrition program, although the USDA funds those programs. Bradford should maintain free breakfasts and lunches for students.

New school update

Following a recent visit from Florida's Department of Education, Hartley said the district was told its proposed new junior/senior high school is a viable project.

Bradford along with two other districts have projects moving forward. Lafayette requested a new K-12 school, and Hardy County requested a new high school.

The next step is ranking the projects, which will take place over the summer. Hartley said Bradford will be in Tallahassee presenting on June 19, after which it will have the first-, second- or third-ranked project.

With only three schools presenting projects, however, the ranking would only come into play if fewer than three projects

are funded during the next cycle.

"So, we're sitting in good shape," Hartley said.

If budgeted, the district could begin drawing down funds after July 1, 2026.

The superintendent described the school as a completely enclosed building. The middle school portion would be built first, followed by the high school, and they would share centralized administrative offices and a cafeteria.

"When it's finished, it will actually be one continuous building, so that once the students get in, they don't have to get out, and it's much a much safer school environment than what you would see now," Hartley said, explaining high school students now leave their buildings to access the restrooms outside. The high school will no longer be situated on U.S. 301 either. The junior/senior high would take the place of the middle school and technical college, which would also be part of the new school.

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, April 8 and 22, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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

Bradford High Class of 1964
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Ward, McDowell take top honors in breed show

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The 2025 Union County Livestock Association's Beef Breed Show was held March 20 at the Jimmy Tallman Agricultural Education Center as a part of the UCLA Livestock Fair.

A large audience came out to support the youngsters, showing off the animals they have worked to raise and train.

The animals shown were all heifers, many of which had been bred – these animals are not required to be sold as they have been raised to be breeding stock rather than for beef.

In all, 39 heifers were walked around the arena, watched closely for confirmation defects by professional Texas cattle judge Braden House (who judged all of the UCLA cattle events this year). Breed animals were shown in seven classes, by weight, and also in a showmanship competition.

The show was long – about three hours – and the night was cool, but the excitement of the



Ansel Ward with her Grand Champion Breed Heifer. Judge Braden House looks on from the back.

competitors and crowd stayed high throughout the event.

Class One was made up of four cows ranging in weight from 505 to 570 pounds. All four were homegrown. Winner of the class was Rylee McDowell. In second was Wayne Hartley, who bred the heifer himself, and Lawson Roddenberry took third place.

Class Two had five entries, ranging in weight from 725 to 870 pounds. Addisyn Worrell took first place, while Cain Addison and Kalli Kadlec filled out the top three.

Class Three contained seven animals, weighing out between 915 and 1080 pounds. Alyssa Lee took first place, with Lane Hartley in second and Graysen Willis in third.

Class Four had seven entries, weighing between 1085 and 1140 pounds. Bailey Varnes took top honors, with Kalyn Reynolds and Wayne Hartley filling out the top three.

Class Five was made up of five cows, all weighing between 1175 and 1180 pounds. Weston Thomas placed first, followed

by Chayten Elixson and Kassi Kadlec in second and third.

Class Six had six entries, ranging from 1265 to 1385 pounds in weight. Charley Box won the class, with Lalya Alexander taking second and Weston Daniel in third.

Class Seven was composed of the six largest of the heifers, weighing in between 1415 and 1585 pounds. Ansel Ward won first place, with Lawson Roddenberry coming in second and Addisyn Worrell taking third. The winners were called back

to the ring to compete for Best of show honors, with Ansel Ward's entry taking Grand Champion honors, Riley McDowell taking Home Grown Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion title and Weston Thompson selected as the Home Grown Reserve Grand Champion.

Senior Breed Exhibitors were recognized for their participation. These included Kutter Durrance, Jolene Moore, Bo Wilson, and Addisyn Worrell.

Junior Showmanship was held in two heats, with Lawson

Roddenberry, Lane Hartley and Rylan Boyette finishing top three overall out of a total of eight competitors.

In Intermediate Showmanship, also held in two heats, Chayton Elixson, Ansel Ward, and Weston Daniel took the top three positions overall out of a field of 11 competitors.

In Senior Showmanship, Jacee Box took top honors, with Addisyn Worrell in second and Rylee McDowell in third out of eight competitors.

Seventy-eight swine featured at show

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The 2025 Union County Livestock Association Swine Show was held Wednesday, March 19, 2025, to a standing-room-only crowd at the main arena of the Jimmy Tallman Agricultural Education Center.

Seventy-eight swine and their handlers took to the ring in multiple classes, based on the animal's weight, and three levels of showmanship competition, based on the exhibitor's age. The judge for the show was Jada Johnson.

Class One featured swine ranging in weight from 240 to 243 pounds. There were seven competitors. Emery Crim took first place, with Cooper Gemelli placing second and Clay Emery coming in third.

Class Two was composed of swine ranging from 245 to 255 pounds. There were eight competitors. Malia Williams took top honors, with Addisyn Worrell taking second and Malana Patrick coming in third.



Wyatt Barber with his Grand Champion/Home Grown Champion Swine, joined by members of his family and Strawberry Royalty.

Class Three was made up of swine ranging in weight from 256 to 261 pounds. There were eight competitors. First place was taken by Tinsley Moates, with Kylee Thomas and Kyleigh Groves taking second and third respectively.

Class Four featured swine weighing between 262 and 267 pounds. Eight competitors vied for top honors, which went to Wyatt Barber, with FFA Alumni

Rebecca Langkau placing in second and Jayden Johnson in third.

Class Five held swine ranging in weight from 268 to 271 pounds, shown by eight handlers. Winning the class was Jamie-Lynn Courson, followed by Brylee Elixson and Corbin Neal.

Swine in Class Six ranged in weight from 272-275 pounds, with nine competitors. Bryson Ranard won first place, followed by Wyatt Wilson in second and Isaiah Cepeda in third.

Class Seven featured seven competitors showing swine that were 276-278 pounds. First place went to Raylan Dyal, with Payton Kilgore and Madison Adams

in second and third places.

Class Eight was made up of six animals, all weighing in at 280 pounds. Hagen Thomas won the class, with Amelia Grace Newson taking second and Maddie Croft finishing third.

Class Nine swine ranged in weight from 282 to 285 pounds. There were seven in the class. Emmerson Ogden won the top spot, followed by Rachel Harris and Jackson Crawford.

Class Ten included six swine, ranging in weight from 288 to 293 pounds. Hudson Thomas won the class with Paisley Schmitt-Theus taking second and Sadie Croft in third.

Class Eleven, featured four swine all weighing in at 300 pounds. Reagan Douglas took top honors, while Makailynn Rowan and Colt Thomas rounded out the top three.

The final show class of the evening was for Best Overall Honors. The winner of the Grand Champion and Homegrown Champion honors was Wyatt Barber. Winner of the Reserve Grand Champion title was Emmerson Ogden.

The evening was already in its third hour, and both the judge and competitors all looked tired, but the Showmanship competitions were next.

In Showmanship the pig is not judged, it is all about the expertise of the handler. The classes are based on the exhibitor's age as of Sept. 1, 2024. The top three from each heat in a division are then brought together to compete for Best Overall Honors for their division.

Junior Showmanship had two heats (divided to make sure there was enough space in the arena). These were competitors ranging from eight to ten years old. There were 17 competitors in the two heats.

Junior Showmanship Heat One was won by three eight-year-olds: Emmerson Ogden, Noah Thomas and Colt Williams. Heat Two was won by Kylee Thomas (10), Kyleigh Groves (9) and Everett Emery (9). In the final competition for best

overall in Junior Showmanship the honors went to Emmerson Ogden, Everett Emery and Kylee Thomas.

There were three heats in Intermediate Showmanship, ages 11-13, with a total of 18 competitors. In Heat One, Bryson Renard took top honors, followed by Raylan Dyal and Nailana Hamilton. In Heat Two, Eric Hall took top honors, followed by Latoya Hampton and Emery Crim. In Heat Three, Corbin Neal earned first place, with Wyatt Wilson in second. In the final competition in Intermediate Showmanship, for Best Overall honors, Wyatt Wilson placed first, followed by Paisley Schmitt-Theus and Raylan Dyal.

In Senior Showmanship, age 14+, there were three heats with 29 total competitors. The final competition in Senior Showmanship and for the night was for Best Overall. Winners were Peyton Kilgore, Bo Wilson and Jamie-Lyn Courson.

There were a number of Senior Showmanship competitors recognized at the show and in the show program as the UCLA's 2025 Seniors, all of whom will graduate this year. These competitors were: Wyatt Barber, McKenzie Flick, Joseph Harris, Jaylynn Moates, Amelia Grace Newson, Ava Westmoreland, Tucker Williams, Bo Wilson and Addisyn Worrell. Congratulations to you all!



Emmerson Ogden with her Reserve Grand Champion Swine, joined by family members and Strawberry Royalty.

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Continued from page 1

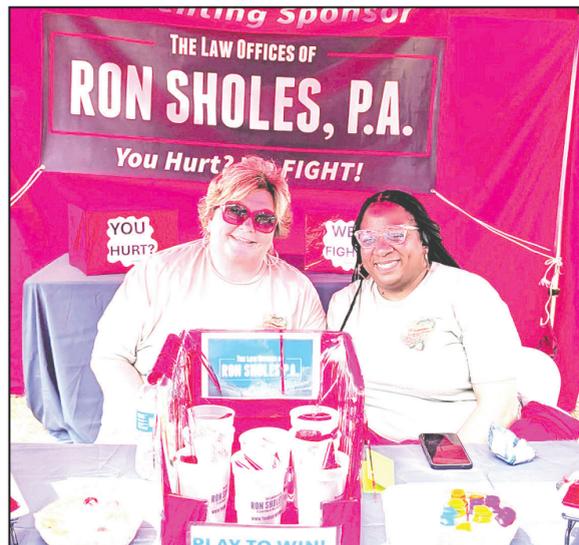
A Rain-Soaked Sunday Farewell

As sweet as Saturday had been, Sunday brought an unexpected twist. The skies darkened, and the once vibrant fairgrounds were soon washed in a curtain of rain, forcing the festival to close early. While the weather may have cut the festivities short, it did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who had already filled their weekend with laughter, delicious treats,

and heartwarming reunions. While the rain may have washed away Sunday's plans, it couldn't erase the magic of a festival built on decades of community and tradition.

A Taste of Home

The Starke Strawberry Festival isn't just about strawberries—it's about the people who come together to celebrate them. Even as the rain brought an early end to this year's event, there was an unshakable feeling of gratitude in the air—a love for Starke, for its people, and for the traditions that make this town feel like home.



Legal assistants Jodi Harris and Robyn Cummings represent The Law Offices of Ron Sholes, P.A.



Underhills Forge Owner Jacob Underhill demonstrates his blacksmithing/bladesmithing skills.



Angela Booth and Kyndell Bowers pose with little Codi Cox and pups Cowboy and Nova.



Superintendent Will Hartley, wife Amber Hartley and daughter Kyle Hartley leave the festival all smiles.



Princess on a pony! Evie Mattera takes a ride as mom Kelly Mattera walks alongside.



Friends Cathy Koch, Judy Abrams and Jurene Taylor show off the spoils of strawberry fun!



Taking a strawberry stroll are the Rey family, Cierra and Michel with their child.



Cutie Journee Samuels blowing fish bubbles with mom Ealaynea Howell.



Ready to represent Titan Chevrolet are Allyson McElhenny and Madison McClure.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Proposed Plan Amendment for Sites DP001, DP002, and OW004
Camp Blanding Military Reservation

The Air National Guard invites you to review and comment on the Proposed Plan Amendment 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 Amendment. The Air National Guard welcomes the public's comments on all of the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan Amendment. The Proposed Plan

Amendment is available online for community review and comment at <https://www.125fw.ang.af.mil/Information/Environment/Restoration/>. 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 Amendment.

The Air National Guard encourages you to comment on the Proposed Plan Amendment during the 30-day Public Comment Period, from March 17, 2025 to April 16, 2025. Written comments may be submitted by mail, postmarked no later than April 16, 2025, to the following address: Mr. Robert Lewis, ANG Readiness Center, NGB/A4VR, 3501 Fetchet Avenue, Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-5157. 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.



North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce volunteers Pam Wittle, Susan Norman, Chris Page, Grace Johns, Tony Gilson and Olivia Dickens.

Keystone Airport hosts Centennial Spring Fling, Rotary car show

BY JENN SAMSEL AND DAN HILDEBRAN
Special to the Monitor

On Saturday, March 30, the Friends of Keystone Heights continued its yearlong celebration of the city's 100th anniversary with a Spring Fling at the Keystone Heights Airport.

The Keystone Heights Rotary Club also produced a car show at the airport simultaneously with the centennial celebration. Fifty-three car owners participated in the show.

Also, on Saturday, across Airport Road from the Spring Fling and car show, the Ocala chapter of the International Aerobatics Club completed the third and final day of its Snowbird Classic Aerobatics competition.

The Spring Fling featured music, food trucks, and vendors.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office and the Fantastic Fire Brigade also participated.

Rotary Club President Todd Beals thanked the Friends of Keystone Heights for allowing his group to join the centennial event.

"We had a great time



Chad Morrison Sr, Raelynn Morrison, and Chad Morrison Jr.

coordinating our first car show in the event. The funds we raise ever," he said. "We felt it was a great success, having 53 cars



Deputy Diaz, Deputy Wilson, Deputy English and Sargent Coxen from the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

two \$1,000 scholarships for our graduating students." Beals added that the club

hoped the car show would return annually. Ginger Lee, president of the

Friends of Keystone Heights, credited her group's volunteers for the event's success.



Lake Region Kiwanis Club members Karen Lake, Tina Santillo, Roy Chandler and Mary Leigh Chandler.



Dave Rodenroth, Scott and Drew Bell, Branden Waters and Jim Bertato.



Igrid DeJesus, Samantha Key and Heather Abrahamsen.



Shelley Gibbs, Lorraine Paula and Chad Willhite.

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Spring Fling for Earth Day

Faith Presbyterian Church's annual Spring Fling will be held Saturday, April 5, at 2738 SE S.R. 21 in Melrose from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is in association with Earth Day. There will be vendors with information about the environment, local businesses, a plant sale and farmers market, a blood mobile, food and more.

Revival at Lawtey Church of Christ

A warm welcome awaits you at Lawtey Church of Christ's revival, which begins this Sunday, April 6, and runs through Wednesday, April 9. Sunday services are at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and weeknight services are at 6:30 p.m. Minister Jack Evans Jr. of Terrell, Texas. For transportation, please call 904-782-3771.

RJE food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, April 9, at 8:30 a.m. at the RJE Complex on Pine Street in Starke.

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

Prayer Walk returns

Pastors, prayer warriors, intercessors, and clergy from the greater Starke Community will be participating in a community-based 3K Prayer Walk.

Prayer will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, at Greater Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 747 Pine St. in Starke (Reno community). Everyone is invited to join communities come together in prayer. The walk will extend for three miles and will end at noon.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Heather Bryce, 35, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 24 for a probation violation.

Pacheco Flores, 23, was arrested by FHP troopers on March 27 for driving without a valid license and an out-of-county warrant.

Terry Gaskins, 55, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 25 for a probation violation.

James Harris, 39, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 26 for failure to appear.

James Harris, 63, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 26 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Kaeli Jones, 35, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 28 for a probation violation.

Didn't follow sexual offender requirements

Thomas Jones, 82, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 25 for sex offender violations.

According to a sworn complaint, deputies said the defendant failed to comply with the reporting requirements for sexual offenders according to Florida statutes and established a temporary residence within 1,000 feet of Starke's Wainwright Park in violation of Florida law.

Richard Lilley, 48, of Seminole, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 25 for a probation violation.

Shakira Mobley, 33, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 24 for a probation violation.

Brady Pearson, 20, of Bradford, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 23 for a probation violation.

Clifford Phillips, 37, of Steinhatchee, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 25 for a probation violation.

Eugene Shealy, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 26 for resisting an officer and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Wesley Tanner, 42, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 26 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Louis Taylor, 39, of Palatka, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 25 for a probation violation.

Shawn Webster, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 25 for child neglect.

Union

Dalton Baisden, 18, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on March 30 for a probation violation.

Mark Griffis, Jr., 35, of Raiford, was arrested by Union deputies on March 31 for a probation violation.

Faith Holmes, 19, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 30 for failure to appear.

Tyler Lewis, 28, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 28 for aggravated battery.

Cameron McKenzie, 23, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on March 31 for failure to appear.

Gloria Morales, 26, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 25 for failure to appear.

Clay

Dajshon Asbell, 32, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 27 for

battery during a burglary.

Jennifer Jacoby, 52, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 22 for domestic battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant shoved her ex-boyfriend while he was attempting to leave the residence.

Neighbors' dispute results in arrest

David McMillan, 59, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 23 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim and a neighbor told deputies that while the victim was walking in his State Road 100, Lake Geneva front yard, the defendant, who is a neighbor of the victim, started shouting at him and threatening to kill him.

As the victim was backing away, the defendant rushed toward him and struck him, putting the victim on the ground. As McMillan stood over the victim and continued to threaten him, a neighbor intervened and chased the defendant away.

Fired shotgun near girlfriend

Eric Osborn, 47, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 23 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, the victim told deputies that after she and her boyfriend began to argue, he pushed her onto a bed and began striking her shins and feet with a rifle.

"The defendant then grabbed a shotgun from the bedroom and loaded it with ammunition," wrote a deputy in the affidavit. "The defendant then told the victim to run, or he was going to kill her. As the victim ran out of the residence through the rear door, the defendant followed behind her with the firearm. The defendant then fired a shot, putting the victim in fear for her life."

An exterior camera from the McRae-area home showed the woman fleeing from the residence, recorded a sound consistent with a gunshot, and recorded the defendant shouting at the woman as she fled.

John Rabe, 37, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 27 for lewd and lascivious behavior.



Crawford

Woman pleads to child porn charges

BY DAN HILDEBRAN dan@bctelegraph.com

A Bradford County woman accused of possessing hundreds of pornographic images of children pleaded to one count of possession of child pornography and one count of using a two-way communications device to facilitate a felony.

Andrea Dare Crawford, 48, was sentenced to three years with the Department of Corrections and five years of sex offender probation. As part of a plea

agreement, the state dropped 10 additional counts of possession of child pornography.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, an FDLE agent working in the Cyber/High Tech Crimes Unit received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on Oct. 23, 2023.

The tip involved an incident on September 14 and came from the company that provides Verizon with cloud services. The report involved six files, two of which were deemed as child pornography.

The agent wrote that the two pornographic files depicted an adult male engaging in sexual activity with a male child.

The tip included the Verizon Cloud account owner's phone number, geolocation, and Gmail address, which agents traced to the defendant.

Agents then obtained subpoenas for the defendant's Verizon subscriber information, Gmail account, and Yahoo email account.

After executing a search warrant of Crawford's Verizon Cloud account, agents categorized 470 images within the account as child sexual abuse material.

"Several hundred images, videos, documents, and messaging threads were located

identifying Andrea Crawford as the owner of the content," wrote an agent in the affidavit. "At least 10 of the 470 files mentioned above contained child pornography."

The affidavit also describes smartphone screenshots stored on Crawford's cloud account in which she appears to be buying or selling images with Bitcoin utilizing an encrypted messaging app like Telegram.

KH man facing 35th charge

BY DAN HILDEBRAN dan@bctelegraph.com

A man facing 17 counts of drug, battery, burglary and gun charges in Putnam County and 18 in Clay County was arrested with 94 grams of methamphetamine after ramming his car into Clay County Sheriff patrol cars and fleeing on foot.

Deputies located Cameron Yarbrough near the intersection of Silver Sand Circle and Appomattox Avenue. When they tried to pull him over, he slammed into patrol vehicles and fled on foot.

Officers said that during the foot pursuit, the defendant dropped a bag with nearly 100 grams of meth.

Sunrise service for Easter

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

A gift changed her life

Operation Christmas Child is hosting a Full Circle Speaker Event at Trinity Baptist Church (3716 SE S.R. 21, Keystone Heights) on Friday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Epicenter. Lyda Giedd from Cambodia will share how the gift of a shoebox at age 12 impacted her life. For more information, please contact Diane Michel 352-283-4761.

Breast Cancer Walk raises money for scholarship

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

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

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

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

Celebrate May Day

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

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

April is Water Conservation Month

In partnership with the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association and other state and local entities, the St. Johns River Water Management District is recognizing April as Water Conservation Month, reinforcing the need for smart water use as irrigation season ramps up.

Now in its 27th year, Water Conservation Month raises awareness about water consumption and encourages Floridians to take action to protect the state's water resources. This year's theme focuses on irrigation evaluations, a key strategy for reducing water use in residential and commercial landscapes. Outdoor irrigation accounts for more than 50% of water use in new single-family homes, making it a major focus of conservation efforts.

"Water Conservation Month is a great reminder that we all play a role in protecting Florida's water resources — not just in April, but

year-round," said St. Johns River Water Management District Director of Water Supply Clay Coarsey. "Everyone can make a difference by practicing smart irrigation, watering only when needed and choosing Florida-Friendly landscaping."

Additional ways to conserve water include checking for leaks, installing water-efficient fixtures and selecting low-maintenance landscaping that requires less irrigation.

For more information on Water Conservation Month and water-saving tips, including signs of a stressed lawn visit www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions or explore the Water Less campaign website at www.WaterLessFlorida.com.

Sponsor a day camper

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County's Summer Day Camp returns this year from June 9 to July 3 for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade at the RJE Complex in Starke. The cost is \$200, which includes four weeks of camp — from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day — plus a special field trip.

In addition to free breakfast and lunch, there will be math and language labs, arts and crafts, healthy cooking and baking classes, athletics, and more.

Sign up or sponsor a child for \$200, which can be paid at once or in installments through May 31. Please contact one of the listed CCBC member for more information: Sherry Williams at 352-278-3540, Alica McMillian at 904-966-1100 or Glenda Ruise 904-769-1691.

Family histories sought

The Union County Historical Society is hard at work on a second book about the county's history and the families that made it happen.

Members are actively collecting family histories and information on Union County history. To inquire about the project or to submit a family history item, interested parties can email the society at theucbook@gmail.com.

RACE

Continued from page 1

Like Welch, Thompson said she is looking for ways to get residents more engaged with the city, not only raising awareness about the airport but also encouraging more public input at city council meetings. She said the city has focused on increasing events and pointed to a reduction in vandalism in the beach park. She said public safety will continue to be a top priority and added that her strong relationship with the sheriff will help keep city residents safe.

Thompson also said low taxes and improving the city's appearance will continue to be priorities and pointed to the city's ongoing streetscape project and the demolition of the China Chef restaurant as achievements toward the goal of beautification.

Thompson said one key to keeping taxes low is holding the line on spending. She said her opposition to a Smart Cities

project and her rejection of an expensive design estimate for an ADA-compliant fishing pier at the beach park exemplifies her commitment to controlling spending.

The vice-mayor also emphasized her deep roots in the Lake Region.

"I've lived in Keystone for 54 years, and I've raised three children here," she said. "My parents are buried here. Keystone is part of who I am, and I have a passion for the town, which is the reason I'm running again."

Thompson added that longevity does not stifle innovation and used a new event at the beach pavilion as an example.

She said her inspiration for suggesting the Open Mic Night at the beach pavilion was inspired by her experience in the city during her youth.

"When I was a teenager, my parents used to bring me down and take me to the dances at the beach pavilion," she recalled. "That gave me such good memories, and I thought (Open Mic Night) would bring

something old back that people would enjoy."

I asked Thompson about the two reasons Welch cited for his decision to challenge her for Seat 2: her support of bringing the airport under the city manager's control and her motion to fire City Manager Charlie Van Zant last year.

Regarding the airport governance issue, Thompson said that members of the public spoke clearly during a city council meeting that they wanted the airport to remain governed by the authority.

"So that vote is moot, now," she said. "I mean, the airport is doing as well as it can by itself, and I haven't brought that up any further."

Thompson added that she and the city manager have gotten beyond their prior disagreements.

"Charlie and I have moved on," she said, "and we have a good working relationship."

Scholarship available for medical studies

The Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship is available for the 2025-26 school year. Students must apply by Friday, May 30, to be considered for this coming

fall and spring semesters.

This scholarship is for students going into any field of study related to medicine, e.g. nursing, pharmacy, radiology, or any other health care related fields of study, including medical research, cancer research, or clinical psychology or sociology. The scholarship is provided in memory of the late Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone, a

registered nurse who died from breast cancer.

Applications are available at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center in Starke, Bradford High School guidance office, North Florida Technical College, Starke City Hall and CareerSource North Central Florida's Starke Office.

For further information you may contact Carolyn Brown Spooner at 904-964-5807.



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Obituaries

Patricia Crawford

Patricia Diane Crawford, 65, of Hampton, died Monday, March 24, 2025, at North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville. She was preceded in death by her mother, Marilyn Geer Estes; and, sister, Kathy Estes Crawford.

Survivors are children, John Crawford Jr., Terry Crawford and Deena Crawford; father, Oscar Estes Sr.; companion, William "Skeeter" Cunningham; one brother; and 10 grandchildren.

A graveside Celebration of Life was held Friday, March 28, at Santa Fe Cemetery in Hampton with Pastor John Hodges officiating.

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



Lisa McPherson

Ms. Lisa Rae McPherson, 66, of Melrose died at her home Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

Survivors are children, Kyle (Terry) Taylor, Rebecca (Justin) Wallace, Max Hillhouse, and Emmett Griggs; sister, Avis Goode; brother, Charles Jeffrey McPherson; six grandchildren; and extended family members.

A graveside service was held Monday, March 31, 2025. Interment was at Eliam Cemetery.

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

William Randolph

William "Ed" Randolph passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones Thursday, March 27, 2025. He was born May 13, 1951, in Pulaski, Tennessee, but lived in Starke most of his life.

Roscoe Seay

Roscoe Seay, a cherished resident of Worthington Springs, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at the age of 95. Born March 17, 1930, in Worthington Springs, he dedicated his relationship to the Lord, his family, his work, and his passions. At the young age of 16, he embarked on his career in logging, an endeavor that would shape his professional life. He went on to own and operate Roscoe Seay Timber until his well-deserved retirement. His commitment to hard work was matched only by his generous spirit and willingness to help others. He was known for having a big heart, always ready to lend a hand to those in need. In addition to his career, he had a deep passion for horses and participated actively in barrel racing. He was a proud member of the Union County Riding Club and the National Barrel Horse Association. He was also a member of Sardis Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Louise Seay; son, Ralph Seay; and his siblings: Clyde Seay, Doc Seay, Fate Seay, Ella Mae Gainey, Eva Green, Mary Elixson, and Lila Barber. Their memories will undoubtedly be honored and cherished by those who remember the bond shared.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Paula Seay; children, Joan Feuston of Newberry, Clarence (Priscilla) Seay, and Harley Seay, both of Worthington Springs; and sisters, Nita (Travis) Hemphill, Oveida (W.C.) Blue, and Donnie Guynn; along with many grand, great-grand, and great-great-grandchildren. He will be profoundly missed by his loving family and friends.

A visitation was held at his church, Sardis Baptist, on Saturday, March 29, followed by a funeral service at the same location. His services were officiated by Brother Paul Osteen, pastor.

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



Ruby Crawford

Ruby Jewel Carter Crawford, age 92 years 10 months and 13 days, of Starke passed away Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born in Berlin, Georgia, May 13, 1932, to the late William Joe Carter and Cora Cassie McLemore Carter. She was raised in Georgia and Lawtey. She graduated from Bradford High School and, shortly after, married her best friend and forever companion, Stanley Crawford, on Dec. 25, 1950. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, and nanny. She dedicated her life to taking care of her family and, especially, enjoyed time with her children and grandchildren. She was extremely successful in her careers. She served for years at the Cigar Factory and Geico Insurance Company in Jacksonville, General Electric Battery in Hague, Winn-Dixie, Doyle Dry Cleaners, and Handy Way Convenience Stores in Starke and was a private seamstress, helping many with their sewing needs. She was generous with her talents and loved teaching others how to sew and can vegetables. She loved traveling to the Smoky Mountains with family and friends. She also loved attending Madison Street Baptist Church, where she was a longtime member. More than anything, she loved her family and cherished making memories with them. She was preceded in death by her parents; loving husband of 42.5 years, Stanley Crawford; son, Stanley L. Crawford; and brother, Henry Carter.

She is survived by her daughter, Irita Kirkland of Lake Butler; brother, Horace (Joy) Carter of Albany, Georgia; grandchildren, John Michael (Jennifer) Kirkland, Lezlie Ann Kirkland, Lindsey Nicole Hughes, Donald (Sara) Crawford, and Daniel Crawford; three great-grandchildren, Lorelai Kirkland, Sela Hughes, and Carson Crawford; favorite nephew, Harold "Nook" (with loving wife, Shyrel) Crawford; along with several extended family members and friends who were treated like family.

A Celebration of Life was held Monday, March 31, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Brother Charles Warren officiating. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

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 guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



James T. Lee

James Trueman Lee, 78, of Starke passed away Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Malcom Randall VA Hospital in Gainesville after an extended illness. He was born July 26, 1946, in Starke to Richard Lon (R.L.) and Ruth Fee Lee. Spending most of his life in Starke, he grew up surrounded by family and lifelong friends. He left Starke in 1965 to join the US Marine Corps (ooh rah), where he served his country proudly and valiantly during the Vietnam War.

He was honorably discharged in 1974 and continued his military career in the Army National Guard until his retirement in 1996. In addition to his military career, he also retired from Union Correctional Institution in 2001. He was preceded in death by his parents; youngest brother, Richard Anthony (Tony) Lee; half-sister, Barbara Jean Amason Parrish; and his fifth wife, Ann Podedjko Lee, whom he truly adored.

He is survived by his first wife and mother of his children, Linda Sanders Lee, of Melrose; brother, Carlton Leroy (Corky) Lee of Starke; and two children, Lana Marcia (Marcy) Lee and James Christopher (Chris) Lee, both of Melrose. His proudest accomplishment was his granddaughter, Jessica Kaitlyn Doty of Melrose. He also held a special place in his heart for Jacoby Hankerson of Starke, whom he considered his adopted grandson. James lovingly referred to both grandchildren as "knotheads." He leaves behind a host of nieces; nephews; brothers and sisters-in-law; and cousins; as well as Ann's daughter, Danielle Sutton Sanchez.

He will be cremated under the direction of Jones Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke and his ashes will be interred at Jacksonville National Cemetery with full military honors. There will be no formal service, but an informal gathering will take place at a later date at the cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Operation Catnip in Gainesville in honor of our father and the only two cats he ever liked, Bosco and One-Eyed Jack. Heartfelt thanks to the staff, doctors, nurses, and caregivers of the VA Hospital and Mederi Caretenders for their dedicated care of our father. Funeral services will be held Friday, April 11, at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 10 a.m.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Chana Sharpe

Chana Sharpe, a beacon of light in the lives of so many, was born Jan. 8, 1977, to Wayne and Margaret Williams, in Gainesville. She departed this world Friday, March 28, 2025, at Baptist Downtown in Jacksonville after a hard-fought battle with cancer, leaving behind a legacy of love, compassion, and dedication. A resident of Raiford her entire life, she made an impact on that community and many more. She devoted her life to the education of others, shaping the minds and hearts of students across multiple counties, including Bradford, Baker, Columbia, and Union. Earning two Master's degrees in Education and Educational Technology from the University of Phoenix, she was a consummate professional. Yet it was not just her credentials that made her remarkable; it was her heart. Chana never met a stranger and had a unique ability to connect with those around her, leaving a lasting impression that transcended the classroom. She worked tirelessly, often sacrificing her own needs to be the support system for her family. Her kind spirit echoed through the hallways of the Christian Fellowship Temple in Macclenny, where she was a dedicated member and found deep joy in her faith. She cherished singing gospel music, often filling the church with her spirited voice. She was also an exceptional cook, known for whipping up dishes that brought together family and friends in celebration and warmth. Her headstrong personality and fun-loving spirit made her the glue that held her loved ones together. She was patient and selfless, always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. Her love of sports and unwavering dedication to her community showcased her vibrant lifestyle, as she attended games with enthusiasm and cheered for her teams with infectious energy. She was preceded in death by father, Rev. Wayne Williams; mother-in-law, Margie Kirkpatrick; and her uncle, Rev. Billy Williams, but she now joins them in eternal peace.

She leaves behind her beloved husband of 13 years, Robert Sharpe, of Raiford; her cherished son, Haynes (Sara) Sharpe, of Nashville, Georgia. She is survived by her loving mother, Margaret Williams; grandmother, Geraldine Anderson; brother, Jamie Wayne Williams; sister, Stasi Mckenzie; goddaughter, Madison Mckenzie; and her godmother, Dianne Williams. They will carry forth her memory with every shared story and fond recollection.

Family and friends were invited to gather in her honor for a visitation on Tuesday, April 1 and a funeral service Wednesday, April 2, both held at Christian Fellowship Temple, 251 W. Ohio Ave., Macclenny 32063.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to once again serve the Williams and Sharpe families. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com



PAID OBITUARY



Patrick Pendarvis drove in a total of four runs in the last three games for Bradford, which wone two of those games and is now 10-10.

BHS baseball team falls 19-17 to 5A Broncos

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's baseball team rallied from a 6-0 deficit and took a lead it wouldn't relinquish until Class 5A Middleburg scored seven runs in the seventh in handing the Tornados a 19-17 loss on March 31 in Starke.

The Class 3A Tornados (10-10) were attempting to win their third in a row.

Middleburg scored five runs in the top of the third to go up 6-0, but Bradford answered with eight runs in the bottom of the inning.

Kaedan Parks hit a leadoff single, while Jaxson Carter and Ryland Rike were both hit by pitches to load the bases. A sacrifice fly by Patrick Pendarvis and an error on the play scored two runs. Breion Johnson and Connor Sapp were both hit by pitches to load the bases again. Avery Burgin hit an RBI single, while Nehemiah Flowers drew a bases-loaded walk.

The inning continued despite Bradford getting a second out on a strikeout. A balk forced a run in before a Parks single drove in another to tie the score at 6-6. Carter then hit a two-run double.

Pendarvis and Johnson singled and walked, respectively, to lead off the bottom of the fourth. Sapp hit an RBI single, followed by Burgin hitting into a double play that allowed Johnson to score. Flowers walked, while Ryder Thompson was hit by a pitch. Parks then hit a two-run double, giving Bradford a 12-7 lead.

It was 13-7 going into the sixth. The Broncos scored five runs, taking advantage of four hits, two errors, a passed ball and a walk.

Carter and Pendarvis tripled and singled, respectively, as each drove in a run in the bottom of the sixth, putting the Tornados up 15-12.

Middleburg's seven-run seventh included runs scored on two bases-loaded walks, a passed ball and a wild pitch.

Flowers put the final runs on the board with a two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh.

Pendarvis and Parks batted 3 for 4 and 3 for 5, respectively, with each driving in two runs.

Carter went 2 for 3 with three RBI, while Sapp was 2 for 4 with

two RBI.

Flowers finished with three RBI, while Burgin had one.

Bradford went 2-0 in its previous two games, beginning with a 15-4, five-inning win at Hamilton County on March 25.

It was a 3-3 game until the Tornados scored three runs in the second. Pendarvis and Rike each drove in a run, while another scored on an error.

Pendarvis, Rike and Thompson each drove in a run as part of a six-run third, which also had Jaron Hale and Matthew Stafford getting hit by pitches with the bases loaded and runs also scored on an error and a passed ball.

Burgin and Thompson each drove in a run in a three-run fifth and finished with two RBI each.

Pendarvis and Rike also had two RBI each, with Rike batting 2 for 4.

Stafford drove in one run.

Burgin pitched a complete game, giving up four unearned runs, six hits and no walks, while striking out eight.

On March 27, the Tornados hosted St. John Lutheran, winning 9-1 despite having only four hits.

Bradford scored five runs on passed balls and another two on an error.

Rike, who hit an RBI double as part of a three-run fourth, went 2 for 4.

Stafford, who had one RBI, started on the mound, allowing one run and four hits through 5.1 innings. He had eight strikeouts.

Taylor Bice threw the remainder of the game, giving up no hits and striking out three.

Bradford played Williston this past Tuesday and will travel to play Keystone Heights on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. The Tornados return home to play P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m.



Brezdyn Browning drove in the tying run against Cypress Bay before the Tigers lost 3-2 in extra innings as part of Prospect Select's High School Classic, a three-day tournament in Viera. The Tigers, ranked seventh in the Rural Class, are now 9-10.

Tigers go 0-3 against tough opponents in Viera baseball tournament

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's baseball team played the top team in Class 2A as well as a Class 7A school as part of an 0-3 outing in Prospect Select's High School Classic, a three-day tournament in Viera.

The Rural Class Tigers (9-10) began tournament play with a 13-2 loss to Cardinal Newman on March 24. The Crusaders were number one in Class 2A at the time and are currently third with the release of the new Florida High School Athletic Association/MaxPreps power rankings.

Union was held to two hits, one of which was an RBI single hit by Erick Lasseter.

On March 25, Union and 7A Cypress Bay were tied after seven, but the Lightning won 3-2 after scoring a run in the bottom of the eighth.

The Tigers scored first. Trenton Klein hit a single in the second inning, stole second and moved to third on Kendall Carter's ground out. He then scored on Fisher Thomassen's ground out.

Cypress Bay scored two runs in the third. Diego Baron's two-out single scored runners who

See UCHS, page 13

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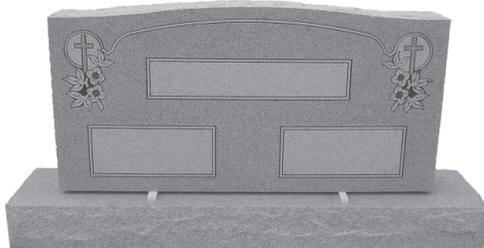
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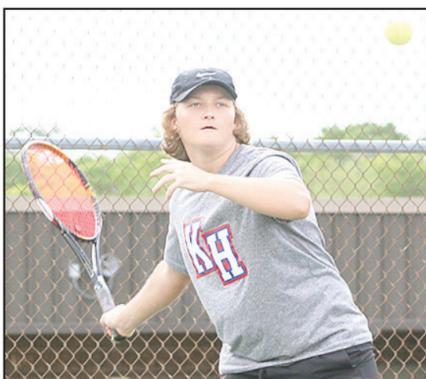
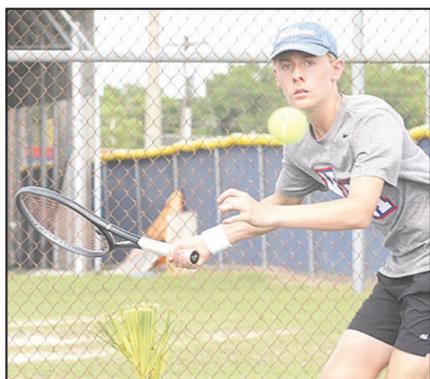
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Will Begue (left) and Beckett Capper earned singles wins for Keystone in its 4-3 win over Gainesville on March 27. The Indians also swept the two doubles matches.

KHHS boys improve to 8-1 in tennis, while girls team is 6-4

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School won its seventh straight match in boys tennis, defeating host Gainesville 4-3 on March 27.

The Indians (8-1) suffered losses in the top three singles slots, though Evan Booth's number-three match was close with a score of 9-8. Will Begue earned an 8-4 win at the number-four spot, while Beckett Capper

won 8-1 in the fifth slot.

Keystone swept the doubles matches, with the Dalton Moore-Ethan Teague and Booth-Begue teams each winning by a 6-4 score.

The Indians entered the match off a 5-2 win at Middleburg on March 25.

Moore and Teague won by scores of 8-1 and 8-6, respectively, at the top two singles spots. Booth won 8-2, while Begue won 8-5.

The doubles team of Moore and Booth won 8-3.

Keystone also played a girls match at Middleburg that same day, with the Indians winning 6-1 and improving their record to 6-4.

The Indians swept singles play. Whitnee Buchanan won 8-0, Addison Smith won 8-3, Kaiya Thompson won 8-1, Avrylle Wilson won 8-4 and Rachel Blank won 8-1.

Evie Hallberg and Alli Tisdale teamed up for an 8-3 win at number-one doubles. The team of Kherrington and Aryiah Wilson played a close match before losing 9-7.

Both boys and girls teams played Ridgeview this past Tuesday. The girls team will host Newberry on Thursday, April 3, at 4 p.m.

On Monday, April 7, the girls team travels to play Eastside at Gainesville's T.B. McPherson Center at 4 p.m.

The boys team plays Eastside on Tuesday, April 8, at 3:30 p.m. at Gainesville's Tom Petty Park.



Ethan Teague (above) and Dalton Moore teamed up for a win at number-one doubles against Gainesville. Their effort helped Keystone win its seventh straight match. Keystone hosted Ridgeview this past Tuesday.



BHS rolls to big win over KHHS in flag football

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ar'Nayshia Griffin threw five touchdown passes and rushed for another score in the Bradford High School flag football team's 45-12 win over visiting Keystone Heights on March 27.

Griffin completed 19 of 29 passes for 335 yards and rushed for 60 yards on eight carries as the Tornados, who are ranked fifth in Class 1A, improved to 8-0.

Based on stats that have been uploaded to MaxPreps, Griffin is ranked second in Class 1A in passing yards.

Nichelle Brown and Rhianna Davis each had two touchdown receptions, with Brown catching eight passes for 175 yards and Davis catching six for 70 yards.

Cherish Bing caught three passes for 45 yards and a touchdown, while Kaylee Devore had one reception for 30 yards.

Brown is the state's leading receiver (regardless of classification).

On defense, Griffin intercepted two passes, while Brown intercepted one.

Griffin's 15 interceptions this season have her tied for second in the state (regardless of classification).

Alee Horton rushed for 76 yards and two touchdowns on six carries for Keystone (6-6), which entered the game having won two in a row.

Horton, who is the fourth leading rusher in Class 1A rushing and ninth out of all classifications, is seventh in Class 1A in passing yards. Against Bradford, she completed 17 of 27 passes for 78 yards and a touchdown, with Aubre Miller catching four passes for 69 yards and Ashlyn Brown catching five for 63 yards.

Alex Papaianou had three receptions for 28 yards.

The Indians' defense got five tackles from Horton and four each from Brown and Alyssa Sanford.

Bradford entered the game off

a 32-0 win at Baker County on March 26. Griffin completed 14 of 25 passes for 180 yards and three touchdowns.

Brown caught all of the scoring tosses and finished with seven receptions for 145 yards.

The Bradford defense got two interceptions each from Brown and Griffin.

Bradford played Buchholz this past Tuesday and will travel to play Middleburg on Thursday,

April 3, at 6 p.m. The Tornados then play road games at Taylor County on Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. and at Florida High on Tuesday, April 8, at 6 p.m.

The Tornados return home to play Ed White on Wednesday, April 9, at 6 p.m.

Prior to playing Bradford, Keystone defeated host Palatka 18-0 on March 25. Horton rushed for 58 yards on five carries and completed 15 of 20 passes for 226 yards and three touchdowns.

Riley Shuford, who is second in receiving in Class 1A, caught all of the touchdown passes and finished with five receptions for 169 yards.

Miller caught four passes for 40 yards.

Sanford recorded a team-high six tackles, while Miller had four sacks.

Keystone's defense got two interceptions from Brown and one each from Shuford and Teilah Hall.

The Indians travel to play Columbia on Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. and return home to play Fleming Island on Monday, April 7, at 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 8, Keystone hosts Interlachen at 6 p.m.



ABOVE LEFT: Bradford quarterback Ar'Nayshia Griffin threw five touchdown passes and rushed for a score in the win over Keystone. LEFT: Keystone quarterback Alee Horton rushed for both of the Indians' scores in the loss.

The Arc of Bradford County will host a food distribution in partnership with Feeding Northeast Florida at their Hampton Location (Formerly Hampton Elementary) on Saturday, April 5th from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon.

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

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KHHS' Griffin, Thomas earn runner-up finishes at Clay County meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Olivia Griffin and Ryder Thomas each placed second in two events for the Keystone Heights High School track and field teams at the Clay County Championships, which were held March 25 at Middleburg High School.

The girls team was runner-up in three events overall, with Xana Briley also earning a second-place finish.

Griffin ran a second-place time of 1:02.52 in the girls 400m, finishing behind only Kayleana Henry of Orange Park, who had a time of 57.61.

It was the same order of finish in the 800m, with Henry running a time of 2:29.81 to Griffin's 2:41.60.

Briley was the runner-up in the javelin with a distance of 80-10. That left her only 1 inch behind Middleburg's Layla Manis.

On the boys side, Thomas earned his runner-up finishes in the 1600m and 3200m. His time of 4:43.96 in the 1600m left him trailing only Luke Janke of Oakleaf, who had a time of 4:42.32, while in the 3200m, St. Johns Country Day's Arlo Kistner ran a time of 10:51.76 to Thomas' 11:04.15.

Luke Lewis earned a fourth-place finish for the boys team

with a distance of 110-5 in the javelin.

The Indians had two fifth-place finishes in relay events: the 4x400m team of Baylor Ford, Jamari Turner, Ryeland Wahl and Aaron Wiley had a time of 3:52, while the 4x800m team of Mason Gray, Oliver Miller, Jason Parales and Eli Rabe had a time of 11:15.

Turner placed sixth in the 400m hurdles with a time of 1:05, while Tyler Kerner was sixth in the javelin with a distance of 96-5.

The boys team also earned points with eighth-place finishes from Turner in the 100m (11.77), Wahl in the 800m (2:11), De'Shawn Williams in the 110m hurdles (20.38) and Clark Byrnes in the long jump (18-6).

Keystone had two third-place finishes on the girls side: Kaylee

Park in the 100m hurdles (17.18) and the 4x400m team of Griffin, Christine DJavaheri, Ashly McCarthy and Kenslee Phillips (4:33).

Park also took fourth in the 400m hurdles with a time of 1:16 and fourth in the long jump with a distance of 14-3. She teamed up with DJavaheri, McCarthy and Alexis VanNordstrand to run a fourth-place time of 53.01 in the 4x100m.

Djavaheri placed seventh in the 200m with a time of 28.10, while Melody Tyre was seventh in the 1600m with a time of 6:26.

Also adding to the team's score were McCarthy, with an eighth-place time of 28.22 in the 200m, and Tyre, with an eighth-place time of 2:56 in the 800m.

The girls team posted the following results as well: 100m — VanNordstrand 14.40,

Laila Briseno 14.52, Sophia Moses 14.67, Laura Herndon 14.72; 200m — Briseno 31.08, Jayla Jamison 32.55; 400m — Phillips 1:10, Raven Bastin 1:16, Madylinn Michaud 1:23; 800m — Bailee Morris 3:14; 1600m — Morris 7:20; 100m hurdles — Cali Chamberlain 20.54; 400m hurdles — Chamberlain 1:25; high jump — Chamberlain 4-2; long jump — Jasmine Walls 11-2.25, Bastin 10-10.5; shot put — Briley 24-0.75; discus — Briley 77-1, Taegen Gubics 29-1; and javelin — Gubics 26-2.

Keystone placed sixth in the girls team standings. St. Johns Country Day and Ridgeview were first and second, respectively, followed by Middleburg, Orange Park and Oakleaf. Clay and Fleming Island finished behind Keystone.

The boys team also had the following results: 100m —

Byrnes 11.94, Mason Clark 12.55, Carter Andrews 13.52; 200m — Clark 27.02, Williams 27.11; 400m — Ford 54.41, Wiley 57.55, Judah Moses 60.23, Clark 61.29; 800m — Hunter Sheppard 2:15, Gray 2:52, Miller 2:52; 1600m — Sheppard 5:17, Parales 6:04, Alex Mahaffey 6:32; 3200m — Hunter Gray 13:04, Rabe 13:59; pole vault — Lewis 6-4.75; long jump — Williams 17-4.75, Moses 15-6.75, Clark 14-11.5; triple jump — Ford 37-11.5, Williams 33-1.25; shot put — Ricardo Rosario 35-2.5, Kerner 32-9, Moses 26-4.5; discus — Rosario 76-11, Kerner 62-0, James Carsey 42-1; and javelin — Carsey 37-11.

Oakleaf was the top boys team, followed by Orange Park, Ridgeview, Middleburg, Clay, Fleming Island, Keystone and St. Johns Country Day.

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2025

Adams, Yowell go yard for BHS in 14-5 win over Buchholz

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keegan Yowell hit two home runs, while Regan Adams hit a grand slam in the Bradford High

School softball team's 14-5 win over visiting Buchholz on March 31.

It was the third win in four games for the Tornadoes (5-5), who were scheduled to play at

Bishop Snyder on Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m.

Buchholz took a 3-0 lead, but Bradford scored seven in the bottom of the first. Amber Wynn, Kallie Yowell and Addyson Hinds all walked to load the bases with one out, with Summer Sutton then hitting a single to drive in a run. After Tayrn Flowers ground into a fielder's choice, which resulted in Yowell being put out at home, Adams stepped up to bat. She fell behind 0-2 in the count, but worked it to a full count before blasting a pitch over the fence in left to put the Tornadoes up 5-3.

The inning continued, with Bradford loading the bases again. Kolee Lemire and Kingslee Phillips singled and walked, respectively, while Keegan Yowell was hit by a pitch. Wynn then hit a single that plated two and made it a 7-3 game.

A four-run third for Bradford began with Phillips walking. Keegan Yowell then hit an 0-2 pitch over the fence in left. Wynn, who followed with a triple, scored on a Kallie Yowell single. Yowell later scored on a ground out by Flowers.

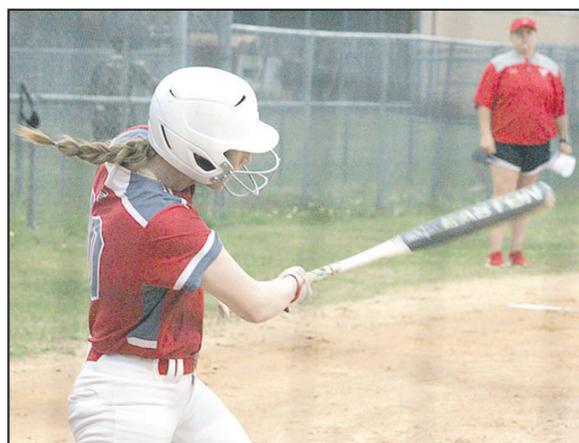
The Bobcats put two runs on the board in the top of the fifth on a Jordyn Cooper home run with no outs. Pitcher Bailey Smith got out of the inning, catching a pop-up from the next batter and



Kolee Lemire (right) steals second in the first inning. She would go on to score one of Bradford's seven runs in the inning.



Regan Adams (right) rounds third and is congratulated by Head Coach Ashley Yowell after hitting a first-inning grand slam.



Keegan Yowell takes a swing on what would be a two-run homer in the third inning.

causing two of the next three batters to hit infield pop-ups that were caught by Keegan Yowell at shortstop and Sutton at first base.

Bradford scored two runs of its own in the bottom of the fifth. Hinds and Sutton were both hit by pitches, while a walk drawn by Flowers loaded the bases. Adams hit an RBI single, followed by a Lemire ground out that allowed another run to score.

Keegan Yowell, who finished 3 for 4 with three RBI, hit a solo homer to lead off the bottom of the sixth for the game's final run.

Adams batted 3 for 4 also and had five RBI, while Wynn went 2 for 4 with two RBI.

Hinds and Kallie Yowell batted 3 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively, with Yowell driving in one run.

Flowers, Lemire and Sutton each finished with one RBI. Smith pitched a complete

game, giving up 10 hits and just three walks.

The Tornadoes host North Marion on Friday, April 4, at 7 p.m. and will travel to play Newberry on Monday, April 7, at 6 p.m. Bradford returns home to play Toco Creek on Wednesday,

April 9, at 6 p.m.

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KHHS drops 5-3 baseball game against Palatka

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School fell behind 5-0 in an eventual 5-3 loss to Class 3A Palatka in a March 28 baseball game in Palatka.

The Class 2A Indians (13-5) were attempting to win their fourth straight.

Palatka took advantage of two singles, a two-run double and a sacrifice fly to score three runs in the first and then benefitted from two errors to score two runs in the third.

Aiden Wossilek put Keystone on the board with an RBI double in the fourth that scored Tallon Campbell, who reached on a two-out walk.

Destin Harnage, who went 2 for 2, and Andrew Wilson both singled to lead off the Indians' half of the fifth. They scored on Aiden Screen's sacrifice fly.

Guage Barry pitched a complete game, giving up two earned runs, five hits and no walks.

The loss was part of a 2-1 week for the Indians with the first win coming by a score of 13-5 against Class 3A Paxon on March 25 in Keystone.

Wilson and Ty Mitzel each hit an RBI single as part of a fourth-run second that put Keystone



Aiden Screen had a total of five RBI in the Indians' last three games. Keystone, which won two of those games, is now 13-5.

ahead 5-1.

Keystone increased its lead to 8-1 with a three-run third that included an RBI double by Wossilek. Harnage and Wilson each batted in a run as well.

A five-run fifth included RBI singles hit by Aiden Screen and Brock Screen.

Aiden Screen finished 3 for 4 with two RBI, while Wilson batted 2 for 4 with two RBI.

Mitzel went 2 for 3 with one RBI.

Wossilek and Brock Screen each finished with one RBI.

Starting pitcher Ethan Franklin allowed three runs (two earned), four hits and one walk through 3.1 innings. He struck out four.

Mitzel pitched 2.2 innings,

giving up two runs (one earned), four hits and no walks, while striking out two.

Aiden Screen allowed no runs, no hits and no walks in the final inning, striking out one.

On March 27, the Indians got a complete game out of pitcher Mitzel in a 4-1 home win over Class 3A Middleburg.

Mitzel gave up just two hits and one walk, while striking out nine.

Aiden Screen drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the first, while Harnage, who went 2 for 3, hit a two-run single in the second.

Barry, who batted 2 for 2, drew a bases-loaded walk in the fourth for the final run.

Keystone played Fernandina Beach this past Tuesday and will host Bradford on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. The Indians travel to play Fleming Island on Friday, April 4, at 7 p.m. and then play a road game against North Marion on Monday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 8, Keystone hosts Eagle's View at 6:30 p.m.

KHHS softball team loses to 2 top-5 teams

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Columbia, the fifth-ranked team in Class 4A, took advantage of an error in the bottom of the seventh to score two runs and defeat the Keystone Heights High School softball team 5-4 on



Kaleigh Marquart had two RBI in the Indians' 5-4 loss to Columbia.

March 28 in Lake City.

It was the fourth straight loss for the Indians (4-7), who are ranked 18th in Class 2A.

Bailey Amato and Chloe Still singled and doubled, respectively, and scored on a Kaleigh Marquart single to put Keystone up 2-0 in the top of the second.

Columbia answered with two runs of its own in the bottom of the second, taking advantage of a single and two straight doubles.

The Indians trailed 3-2 before scoring two runs in the sixth. With two on and one out, an Amato ground out scored Amanda Wagner. Still, who batted 2 for 3, then hit a line drive into right field to score Audry Cisco, putting Keystone ahead 4-3.

Columbia had one out and no one on in the bottom of the seventh before loading the bases on two singles and a walk. An error on a ground ball allowed the tying and winning runs to score.

Besides Still, Keystone also got multiple hits from Kadence Massey, who went 2 for 4.

Massey pitched a complete game, giving up five runs (three earned) and seven hits, while striking out seven.

The Indians entered the game off a 5-1 loss to visiting Fort White on March 25.

Fort White, which is ranked fifth in the Rural Class, held a 1-0 lead until Keystone tied the score in the sixth inning. Cadie Bowles singled, followed by a Massey double. Amato then hit a single to load the bases for Wagner, whose sacrifice fly scored a run.

Adisynne O'Quinn reached on an error to lead off Fort White's half of the seventh. Kadence Compton, who hit a solo home run in the second, then drove a 2-2 pitch over the fence in center to put Fort White up 3-1. Two singles and two errors allowed Fort White to add an additional two runs.

Keystone, which had six hits, failed to put anyone on in the bottom of the seventh, which consisted of a strikeout, a pop-up to second and a fly out to center.

Massey batted 2 for 3, but the rest of the team was a combined 4 for 23.

In a complete-game effort in the circle, Massey allowed two earned runs, four hits and no

walks, while striking out 11.

Keystone will compete in the Roger Jones Kissimmee Classic, starting on Thursday, April 3, with a 4 p.m. game against Florida Christian.

The three-day tournament bracket can be viewed on the "Roger Jones Kissimmee Classic Softball Tournament" Facebook page. Keystone is playing in the Gold bracket.

Following the tournament, the Indians will host Oakleaf on Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m.

12 from KHHS earn All-Clay Co. honors in winter sports

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Clay County coaches released their All-County teams for winter sports, with Keystone Heights High School senior Aaron Wiley earning first-team honors in boys soccer.

Wiley, a forward/midfielder, scored a team-high 33 goals and was second in assists with 13. He ranked first in all of Class 3A in goals scored among players whose stats were uploaded to MaxPreps, while he was tied for sixth in 3A in assists.

Two of Wiley's teammates earned second-team All-County honors: senior midfielder Luke Brunt and junior forward/

See ALL-CLAY, page 13

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of April 3, 2025

BRADFORD

IN THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. DIVISION: PROBATE DIVISION. CASE NO.: 2025-CP-000030

IN RE: The Estate of BEVERLY CREIGHTON, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (Formal Administration) TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the Estate of BEVERLY CREIGHTON, deceased, whose date of death was November 14, 2023, and whose social security number is ***-**-3153, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North Temple Avenue, 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 WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE

DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITH 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.

A Personal Representative or curator has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this Notice is March 27, 2025. Attorney and Personal Representative Giving Notice:

/s/ Steven E. Gurián STEVEN E. GURIAN, ESQ., Attorney for Personal Representative, EASY ESTATE PROBATE, PLLC 2601 South Bayshore Drive, 18th Floor Coconut Grove, Florida 33133 Tel: 1-833-973-3279

Fax: 1-833-927-3279 E-mail: SG@EasyEstateProbate.com

Florida Bar No. 101511 /s/ Christine Taylor CHRISTINE TAYLOR, As Personal Representative

3/27 2tchg 4/3-BCT

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

CASE NO.: 2024 CA 000274 PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, VS. RACHEL PARSONS; et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION (Publish in Bradford County Telegraph)

TO: Unknown Spouse of Rachel Parsons Last Known Residence: 615 North Church Street Starke, FL 32091

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in BRADFORD COUNTY, Florida: **LOTS 12, 13, AND 14, BLOCK 11, LIVINGSTON, TRUBY AND COMPANY'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF STARKE, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiff's attorney, at 5300 West Atlantic Avenue Suite 303 Delray Beach, FL 33484, on or before

and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated on March 14, 2025. As Clerk of the Court By: KANETRA JENKINS As Deputy Clerk

3/27 2tchg 4/3-BCT

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION TAKEN BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Notice is given that the following authorization was issued on February 28, 2025:

Osceola Land & Timber Co., LLC, P.O. Box 238, Lake Butler, FL 32054, Authorization #244690-2. This authorization is the Formal Wetland Determination (FWD) of the landward extent of wetlands and other surface waters as determined by the District pursuant to 62-340, F.A.C., and as depicted on the certified survey submitted to the District on February 25, 2025, for the combined approximate 1.046-acre water system parcel and 0.752-acre public utilities easement known as Starke Water Tower FWD, located in Section 17, Township 6S, Range 22E, Bradford County. This FWD does not authorize construction on the subject property. A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right

to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the Suwannee River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40BB-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the Resource Management Business Resource Specialist at District Headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak FL 32060 or by e-mail to tjm@srwmd.org, within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of intended District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., is not available.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Live Oak, FL during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the next regular District business day.

The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40B-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.). If you wish to do so, you may request the Notice of Rights for this permit by contacting the Business Resource Specialist in the Division of Resource Management (RM), 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060, or by phone at 386.362.1001.

4/3 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on April 21st, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. 2010 FORD Vin#1FTFW1E1V9AF48470

4/3 2tchg 4/10-BCT

NOTICE TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Florida Department of Health in Bradford County will receive sealed submittals for Construction Services at 1801 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091, Project No. DOH 72204100. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. (local time) at the project site: 1801

N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091. Attendance is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Only sealed responses will be accepted, delivered to Amie Oody at the address above, prior to May 6, 2025, at 2:00 PM EST. Late submittals will not be accepted. All inquiries related to this project must be directed to Ken Tilbury at kenyon.tilbury@flhealth.gov or (850) 294-6290. Bid and project documents may be obtained from: John Lenti, Architect, CPH, 5601 Mariner St., Suite 105, Tampa, FL 33609 | Email: jlenti@cphcorp.com | Phone: (813) 288-0233 x2412. All bids must include a 5% bid bond (or equivalent). Performance and Payment Bonds will be required in accordance with Section 60D-5.004(2)(b)1c, F.A.C. Vendors must be prequalified through the Florida Department of Management Services. Proof of current DMS biennial prequalification must be submitted no later than five (5) calendar days prior to the bid opening. The Notice of Intent to Award will be posted electronically at: <https://vendor.myfloridamarketplace.com/>. The Florida Department of Health reserves the right to reject all submittals as deemed in its best interest.

4/3 1tchg-BCT

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

File No. 04-2024-CP-000095-CPAX-MX

PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF CHRISTINE KNIGHT, also Known as CHRISTEEN KNIGHT,

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of CHRISTINE KNIGHT, also known as CHRISTEEN KNIGHT, deceased, Case No: 04-2024-CP-000095-CPAX-MX, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 945 Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091.

The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this

Notice is April 3, 2025. Personal Representative LATASHA LURIE GORDON 4124 Dellwood Drive, Macon, Georgia 31204 Attorney for Personal Representative CURTIS A. "LEX" SANDERS 407 West Georgia Street Starke, Florida 32091 (904) 964-2020/fax: 964-9400 Florida Bar No: 0625647

4/3 2tchg 4/20-BCT

UNION

ADVERTISEMENT FOR SALE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The City of Lake Butler is accepting **SEALED BIDS** for the purchase of a 27.6-acre parcel with (1) partially completed steel building and one (1) fully enclosed storage building which are located on parcel #36-05-19-000-000-0190-0, address 9422 SW SR 121 Lake Butler, FL 32054. Improvements to the property will be sold in "as is" condition. The zoning of the property is COMMERCIAL GENERAL (CG) and future land use classification is COMMERCIAL. The City Commission has established a minimum bid of SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$700,000) which **MUST** be made in U.S. Dollars. The survey description, utilities information, and photos of the exterior and interior may be viewed on the City's website at www.cityoflakebutler.com. The City will host a **SITE INSPECTION/TOUR** of the subject property on THURSDAY, MAY 1st, 2025 at 10:00AM. The address of the property 9422 SW SR 121 Lake Butler, FL 32054. Sealed bids will be received until 3:00pm on THURSDAY, MAY 15th, 2025, at which point the bids received will be opened publicly and read aloud. Only one bid per entity or person bidding will be accepted. Closing of the sale of the property shall occur within **SIXTY (60) DAYS** of bid award or bid will be disqualified automatically unless an extension granted by the City Commission. The City shall issue a warranty deed at its expense, with other costs to be paid by the successful bidder. Contract for sale and purchase **MUST** be executed within SEVEN (7) DAYS of bid award. The City has the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason.

4/3 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: MISSION AVIATION RESOURCES LLC, 7695 Rose Lane, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 SOLE owner, doing business under the firm name of: KEYSTONE EQUIPMENT RENTALS, 7695 Rose Lane, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 31st day of MARCH A.D., 2025, in CLAY County.

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KHHS wins both District 8-1A trophies

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School took first in five weight classes in traditional and first in six classes in Olympic in winning the championship trophy in each at the March 26 District 8-1A meet at KHHS.

The Indians have been district champs every year since the Florida High School Athletic Association began employing the district-region meet format in 2016.

Every lifter qualified for the Region 2 meet in Olympic, traditional or both. Earning automatic bids as class champions were Colton Hollingsworth, Elijah Mize, Kyle Perkins and Brayden Wester in both traditional and Olympic, Clark Byrnes, Jackson Herman and Trase Wooden in Olympic and Damien Dunlap in traditional.

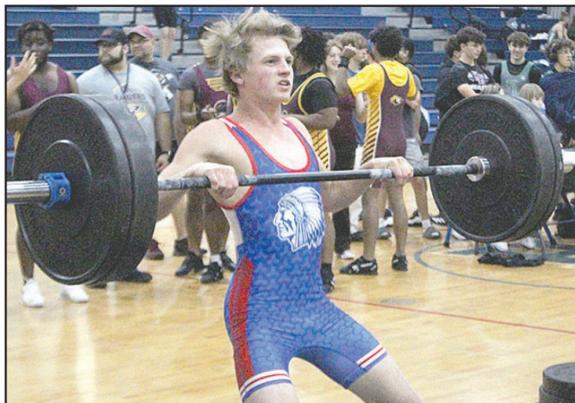
At-large qualifiers in both Olympic and traditional were Brodyn Adams, Pete Bostic, Hunter Crumpton, Dylan Currington, Zane Leger, Talon Lybarger, Logan Madden-Moore, Aiden Nobles and Layton Wright.

Caleb Alvers, Brayden McCall, Connor Mooneyham and Andrew Snider also received at-large Olympic berths, while Herman, Wooden and Jagger Lancaster earned at-large traditional bids.

Keystone will host the Region 2 meet on Friday, April 4, at 4 p.m.



Elijah Mize won the Olympic and traditional titles in the 119-pound class and was the traditional event's top pound-for-pound lifter.



Colton Hollingsworth was the Olympic and traditional champion in the 129-pound class.

Olympic

The Indians took a big win in Olympic, finishing with 104 points to runner-up Father Lopez's 63. Pierson Taylor was third with 22 points, followed by Trinity Christian (9) and Hawthorne (5).

Mize and Currington were the only two competing in the 119-pound class, finishing first and second, respectively. Mize had a 315 total (135 snatch, 180 clean and jerk), while Currington had a 290 total (110, 180).

Besides Mize, Keystone

lifters who placed first were Hollingsworth, with a 350 total (145, 205) in the 129 class, Byrnes, with a 400 total (170, 230) in the 154 class, Perkins, with a 505 total (215, 290) in the 199 class, Wooden, with a 465 total (215, 250) 219 class, Wester, with a 460 total (185, 275) in the 238 class, and Herman, with a 535 total (230, 305) in the unlimited class.

Perkins was the second-strongest pound-for-pound Olympic lifter (as determined by the Schwartz Formula).

Hollingsworth, Byrnes, Perkins, Wooden and Wester all had teammates placing second behind them: Nobles, with a 290 total (115, 175) in the 129 class, McCall, with a 390 total (165, 225) in the 154 class, Leger, with a 430 total (175, 255) in the 199 class, Madden-Moore, with a 400 total (155, 245) in the 219 class, and Bostic, with a 425 total (180, 245) in the 238 class.

Perkins and Leger were well ahead of the competitors in their class, with Leger's total being 110 pounds better than third-

place finisher Brandon Gilber of Father Lopez.

Likewise, Wester and Bostic had no trouble taking the top two spots in their class, with third-place finisher Max Walter of Father Lopez finishing 80 pounds behind Bostic.

Also finishing as runners-up in their classes were Wright, with a 415 total (175, 240) in the 169 class, and Lybarger, with a 375 total (160, 215) in the 183 class.

Two lifters had third-place finishes: Alvers, with a 260 total (105, 155) in the 139 class, and Snider, with a 375 total (160, 215) in the unlimited class.

Placing fourth were Mooneyham, with a 250 total (105, 145) in the 139 class, and Adams, with a 325 total (135, 190) in the 169 class.

Crumpton added to the team's score with a sixth-place finish in the 183 class. He had a 320 total (125, 195).

Traditional

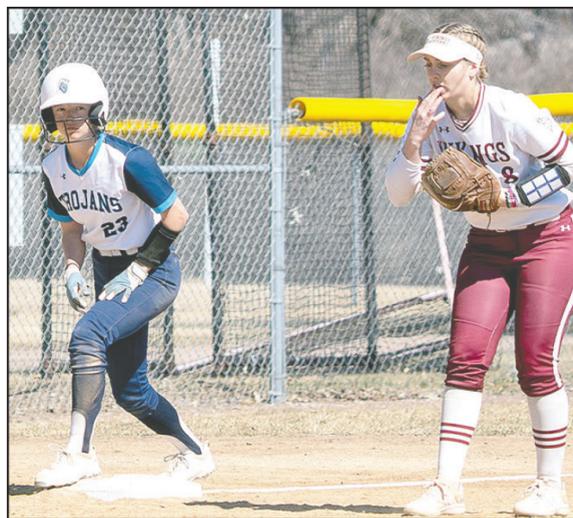
Keystone earned 82 points as a team, finishing ahead of Crescent City, which had 41 points. Father Lopez was third with 34 points, followed by Pierson Taylor (30), Interlachen (17), Hawthorne (12) and Deltona Trinity Christian (1).

Mize, in winning the 119-pound class, was the top pound-for-pound traditional lifter. Weighing in at 117.6 pounds, Mize had a clean and jerk of 180 and a bench press of 235 for a 415 total. That put him 75 pounds ahead of Currington, who was runner-up with a 340 total (180 clean and jerk, 160 bench).

Currington's total had him 120 pounds ahead of third-place finisher Matthew Loranger of Interlachen.

Hollingsworth, who was the traditional district champ last year, won the 129 class again this year by 45 pounds with a 420 total (205, 215), while Dunlap took first in the 154 class by 35 pounds with a 480 total (230, 250).

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Dakota State junior Hannah McFarland (left) waits for an opportunity to run from third base as part of her team's recent double-header against Valley City State. McFarland, who stole a total of three bases in the two games, is Dakota State's career leader in stolen bases with 58. Photo provided courtesy of Dakota State University Athletics.

McFarland sets career stolen-bases record at Dakota State University

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Hannah McFarland, a 2022 Bradford High School graduate, is the Dakota State University softball program's record new career leader in stolen bases.

McFarland, a junior outfielder who broke the record by stealing three bases in her team's 14-10 loss to Waldorf on March 18, currently has 58 stolen bases for her career — 15 as a freshman, 26 as a sophomore and a team-leading 17 this season.

The previous record of 53 stolen bases was held by Lori Olen (2004-07) and Carrington Entringer (2022-23). Entringer is a graduate assistant on this year's team.

Through 25 games, McFarland also leads Dakota State in hits (27), doubles (9) and batting average (.365).

McFarland is second on the team with a .447 on-base percentage and third with a

slugging percentage of .486.

The former BHS Tornado earned second-team North Star Athletic Association All-Conference honors her freshman season. McFarland played in all 49 games for the Madison, South Dakota, school, batting .338, which ranked her sixth on her team. She hit two triples and eight doubles, driving in 25 runs and scoring the second-most runs on the team with 45. Her on-base percentage of .418 was fourth best on the team.

As a sophomore, McFarland earned first-team all-conference honors as well as receiving a Gold Glove Award for her perfect fielding percentage, 79 put-outs and three assists.

McFarland led Dakota State in 2024 in batting average (.387), on-base percentage (.497), slugging percentage (.478), walks (23), runs scored (35) and stolen bases (26). She also hit nine doubles, which was second on the team.

ALL-CLAY

Continued from page 12

midfielder Noah Jaramillo, Brunt, who scored 15 goals, led Keystone in assists with 16, which had him tied for third in all of Class 3A. Jaramillo had 11 goals and six assists.

Soccer players Landon Spence, a junior defender/midfielder, and Sammy Wach, a junior midfielder, received

honorable mention. Spence had one goal and two assists, while Wach had eight goals and nine assists.

Keystone had seven other student-athletes named to All-Clay County teams, including four from the girls soccer team. Earning second-team honors were Kayden Huntley, a sophomore forward who scored a team-high 27 goals, and junior midfielder Halea Lam, who was second in goals with 21 and

second in assists with 10. Junior defenders Kayle Buchanan (one goal, seven assists) and Alyssa Townsend (four goals, six assists) received honorable mention.

In girls basketball, Keystone had a second-team selection in sophomore guard Riley Shuford, who was the only Indians player to average double digits in points per game. She led the team with approximately 250 points and was one of the steals leaders along with junior forward

Kadence Massey. Massey received honorable mention after averaging approximately 10 rebounds per game.

Chloe Still, a junior, received honorable mention in girls weightlifting (traditional). Competing in the 139-pound class, she won the District 6-1A championship with a 310 overall total and was the Region 2 runner-up with a 305 total. She qualified for state, placing eighth with a 315 total.

UCHS

Continued from page 8

reached on a single and an error.

Union tied it in the fourth. Carter walked, advanced to second on Thomassen's ground out and then scored on Brezdyn Browning's two-out single.

The Tigers had just one hit and one base runner in the final four innings.

Union finished with four hits overall. Cypress Bay loaded the bases

with a walk, a single and a hit batter with no outs in the eighth. The winning run scored on a bunt by Marshall Persteins.

Starting pitcher Kacen Thomassen gave up two unearned runs and four hits in four innings. Fisher Thomassen and Ayden Androleovich each allowed no runs and one hit in one inning of work each.

The Tigers' final game was a 7-1 loss to Chaminade-Madonna on March 26. The Lions were ranked 11th in Class 2A at the time and have since moved up a

spot to 10th.

Union, which trailed 7-0, had a chance to score multiple runs in the bottom of the seventh. Jeffrey Brugh singled, Devin Diggs walked and Jake Walker singled to load the bases with no outs. After a strikeout, Foster Smith ground into a fielder's choice in which Walker was put out at second. Brugh scored on the play, though.

Bo Wilson drew a walk to load the bases again, but a strikeout ended the game.

Brugh batted 2 for 4, but the

rest of the team combined for three hits.

The Tigers, who are ranked seventh in the Rural Class, return to action with a road game against Baker County on Tuesday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. They then travel to play Santa Fe on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play West Nassau on Friday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Union hosts Lafayette on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. and then hosts The Villages on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.

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DISTRICT

Continued from page 13

Perkins and Leger, as they did in the Olympic competition,

dominated the 199 class. Perkins had a winning total of 590 (290, 300), while Leger was second with a 550 total (255, 295). The next-best total was 390 by Pierson Taylor's Jayce Inabenett.



Brayden Wester was the Olympic and traditional champion in the 238-pound class.



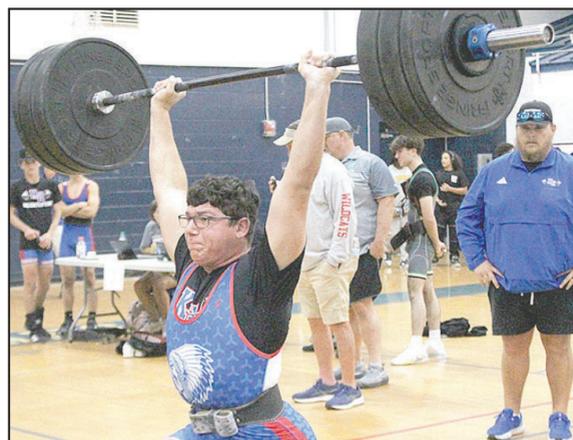
Keystone won the District 8-1A team championship trophies in both Olympic and traditional. The two trophies are held by individual champions Trase Wooden (bottom row, fifth from left) and Kyle Perkins (bottom row, fourth from right).

Keystone's two lifters in the 238 class also finished well ahead of the field. Wester won the class with a 560 total (275, 285), while Bostic was second with a 510 total (245, 265). Third-place finisher Trent Millic of Interlachen had a 470 total.

Joining Bostic, Currington and Leger as runners-up were Wright, with a 475 total (240, 235), Lybarger, with a 455 total (215, 240), Wooden, with a 500 total (250, 250), and Herman, with a 590 total (305, 285).

Three lifters placed third: Nobles, with a 345 total (175, 170), Lancaster, with a 445 total (200, 245) in the 154 class, and Madden-Moore, with a 475 total (245, 230).

Keystone also had the following totals: Alvers, seventh place, 305 (155, 150); Mooneyham, eighth place, 295 (145, 150); Adams, seventh place, 405 (190, 215); Crumpton, eighth place, 385 (195, 190); and Snider, 10th place, 430 (215, 215).



Kyle Perkins won the Olympic and traditional titles in the 199-pound class.

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