

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, May 23, 2024

145th year, 45th Issue — \$1



AND THEY'RE OFF

Bradford High School graduates, including (l-r) Elisabeth Wilsey, Luke Stucky and Kamryn Aldridge, throw their caps into the air to conclude the May 17 commencement. See inside for more.



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WORTH NOTING

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith plans a food distribution on Thursday, June 20, from 10–11:30 a.m. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. This distribution may begin early depending on the arrival of the food truck.

Collection site closings

Bradford County Solid Waste Collection sites will be closed, Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day and will reopen Tuesday, May 28, at 10a.m.

Revival at True Vine

True Vine Ministry will be hosting a special two-night revival on May 30 and 31 with services beginning at 7 p.m. nightly. The guest speaker is Apostle Frankie Smith, senior pastor of True Vine World Harvest Center in Savannah, Ga. The public is invited to attend.

True Vine Ministry is located at 422 N. Saint Clair Street in Starke. For more information, feel free to call 904-964-9264 or visit the website www.truevinemin.org.

Republicans welcome leaders, public to dinner

Join the Bradford County Republican Party on Saturday, June 22, 2024 for an evening with Senator Rick Scott, Congresswoman Kat Cammack, State Senator Jennifer Bradley and State Representative Chuck Brannan at the Woman's Club of Starke beginning at 6 p.m. Location is 201 N. Walnut St. in Starke.

Dinner will include a 10 oz. ribeye, potato, green beans, roll, side salad and dessert, with tea, coffee and water. Tickets are \$65 and are payable by personal check, cashier's check or money order made out to BCREC. Mailing address is P.O. Box 213, Starke, FL 32091. If you mail a check your tickets will be available for pick up at the door.

Seating is limited. Purchase of a ticket is a donation to the Bradford Republican Party and is not refundable. For tickets contact BCREC Treasurer Donna Solze at 904-364-6076.

Solicitations in connection with this event are made by Bradford County Republican Party and are not made by any federal officeholder.

Fire assessment study complete, amount TBD

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The long-awaited results of Bradford County's fire assessment study were revealed last Thursday, and now it's up to commissioners to decide what to do with that information.

To raise more than \$4 million for the fire department budget, the annual fire assessment could be a maximum \$309 per residential household. Nonresidential building owners could pay as much as 20 cents per square foot, while owners of vacant parcels could pay \$73 a year.

Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner said there's "no way" commissioners would approve a \$309 fee per household, but setting an acceptable amount will require more discussion.

The May 16 presentation by consultants Bryant Miller Olive

and Stantec was meant to inform commissioners how they arrived at their numbers and provide options on how to proceed.

Some of the commissioners' questions during the presentation aimed to assuage previously presented public concerns, including how accessory structures on residential and commercial properties would add to the owners' annual costs.

Stantec's Jeff Rackley said it was not typical to include accessory structures such as sheds or pole barns when assessing the cost to the property owner unless the structure had been significantly improved to include utilities or climate control.

A special assessment is a non-ad valorem fee paid alongside annual property taxes to cover the cost of a public service. Bradford County only has a single special assessment

in place, and that is for solid waste. Revenue from that assessment can only be used for solid waste disposal costs, and a fire assessment fee could only be used to fund the fire department.

County commissioners have said that diversifying revenue sources could allow them to lower the property tax rate, which is currently set at 10 mills.

In addition to providing property owners with a special benefit (firefighting), the cost of the assessment must be fairly apportioned, Rackley said, explaining the methodology used to arrive at the maximum allowable rates.

As with the previous study in 2018-19, the current study looks at historic call data to fairly apportion the cost of the fire department budget among property owners. Using calls for

service is the most commonly used methodology in Florida and has been upheld in state courts, Rackley said.

As previously stated, residential properties are charged per dwelling unit (including multifamily dwellings and apartments), nonresidential properties including businesses, churches, etc., can be charged based on square footage, and vacant parcels pay a flat fee regardless of size.

The commission can exempt religious and other nonprofits entirely. (They pay the solid waste special assessment but are charged the flat \$125 residential rate.) Vacant agricultural land is also exempt by statute. Agricultural properties with residential buildings are only charged for those buildings.

See FIRE FEE, page 5

Board reviews midyear budget, plans pay raises

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County commissioners received a midyear budget update earlier this month, looking at three of the board's biggest departments.

Both the general fund and road department are expected to spend out of their fund balances to cover costs.

General Fund

The general fund began the fiscal year with a \$17.36 million fund balance. The county realized just over \$10 million in revenue during the first half of the year. Expenditures — including \$967,000 for personnel, \$1.63 million in operating costs and \$8.4 million in transfers — amounted to \$11.1 million, resulting in a \$1.1

million use of the fund balance.

If these trends continue, LaFollette has projected a nearly \$2.2 million use of fund balance, ending the year at \$15.2 million.

Bradford County Fire Rescue

Bradford County Fire Rescue has increased its fund balance during the first half of the year. Beginning the fiscal year with a \$806,000 fund balance, nearly \$281,000 was added to the account, for a total of nearly \$1.1 million. Revenue has outpaced expenditures so far this year, with \$3.99 million coming in and \$3.7 million spent.

Recurring revenue, including charges for service, accounted for

much of that revenue — \$1.46 million — but most of the rest was a \$1.95 million transfer of revenue from the general fund used to balance the budget. Personnel costs accounted for more than \$3 million of the \$3.7 million in expenditures.

LaFollette projected BCFR would end the year at \$1.3 million.

Public Works

Like the general fund, the road department has also used more than \$211,000 of its fund balance during the first half of the fiscal year, going from \$1.66 million to nearly \$1.45 million. Revenues of \$1.15 million were outpaced by \$1.36 million in expenditures.

Those expenditures included

\$619,000 for personnel, \$331,000 for operations and the remainder for gasoline, diesel and materials such as lime rock and asphalt.

The fund balance is expected to down to \$1.24 million by year's end.

Raises for employees

Commissioners approved adding a 5% pay increase for employees to the budget for 2024-25 on May 16.

Staff had asked for direction as they work on a spending plan to present to the board for consideration.

Staff calculated the cost of a 3%, 4% and 5% raise, which came to \$90,740, \$120,987 and \$151,233.

See BUDGET, page 4



Big check for Bradford High

Bradford High School was presented with a \$10,000 donation by Thermacell as part of the company's John Hainze Science Empowerment Fund. Pictured (l-r) are Thermacell's Jeff Hertz (formulation science and entomology manager), BHS science teacher William Vidal, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Karen Clarke, BHS Principal Chris Coffey and Thermacell's Fernando Castro (vice president of research, development and engineering), T.J. Fedirko (biological technician) and Becky Heinig (senior scientist-entomology programs).



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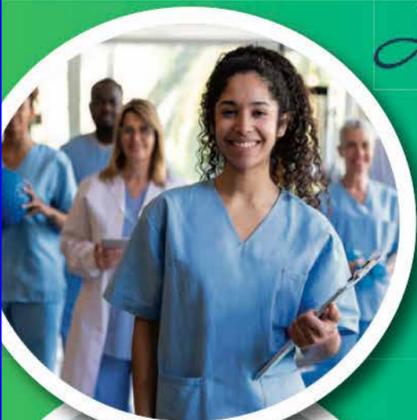
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Publication date: **May 31, 2024**

Lake Region Monitor

SPECIAL LOCAL NEWS

Ad Deadline: **Friday, MAY 24, 2024**
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Darlene: douglass80@embarqmail.com (904) 796-0781

PERMIT NO. 73
STARKE, FL 32091

Meet the Candidates

Milner to seek city commission seat

The following is an announcement of intention to seek public office paid for by the candidate.

Starke City Commissioner Shannon Smith has announced he will be seeking the County Commissioner District 1 seat in this fall's election which will require him to resign prior to the expiration of his City Commission term. Therefore, I'm taking advantage of this opportunity to inform the voters of the City of Starke that I will be seeking the office of City Commissioner for District 3 in the upcoming August 20 special election.

I truly believe that the City of Starke is facing the biggest crossroads it has faced in over 75 years and the voters and the City Commission must get these decisions right. For the first time in modern history, the city finds itself without an elected Clerk or elected Police Chief, both of which are called for in the City Charter. It's likely the commission will undertake a serious review of the City Charter in the next few months and then present their findings and recommendations to the



Bob Milner

voters who must decide the future direction of the city.

I have long supported the idea that both the Chief and Clerk positions should be appointed by the Commission and meet well established professional education and experiential qualifications. With the law enforcement services now being contracted to the Sheriff's Office and Police Chief Johnson's well-deserved retirement, the commission has time to make sure the recommendations to the voters for a change in the Charter are well reasoned and ensure the citizens will have confidence in the personnel responsible for the city's budget of over 40 million dollars.

The badly needed new

wastewater treatment plant will result in higher sewer bills and the same can be expected for water. Even a property tax hike (highly unfavorable) will not produce the revenue reasonably anticipated to be required to sustain the normal activities of the city, including the 3 separate retirement systems. What was one of the finest fire departments in any small city in the state of Florida has been cut roughly in half, which, in my opinion, poses serious dangers to the firefighters and the public.

Just as the city commission should be commended for taking appropriate action regarding our law enforcement services, they must address the critical matter of ensuring the residents and businesses of the city have 24-hour services provided by adequately trained firefighters. Similar to the contract with the Sheriff's Office, the citizens of Starke and all of Bradford County deserve an agreement with Bradford County Emergency Services that guarantees there is adequate coverage by the two departments working seamlessly and ensure these men and women are safe, have the proper equipment, are highly trained and treated with dignity and respect.

I am very pleased to see the cooperation and hopefully collaboration between the city and county commissioners on several subjects, none being more important than economic

development. Both entities must grow the number of businesses and residents to sustain the required services citizens have come to expect and for the most part deserve. That will be my priority if elected by the citizens of District 3 — to smartly grow our city and county to provide sustainable, well-paying jobs for our children and their children and establish affordable workforce housing. No subject should be off the table when it comes to finding meaningful ways to produce revenue and reduce expenses to make our wonderful city sustainable.

Carol and I have chosen to live in the City of Starke our entire 50-year marriage and I look forward to engaging in thoughtful discussions with all citizens and fellow commissioners as to ways to improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors. The last day to register to be eligible to vote in the August 20 primary is July 22.

With regards,
Bob Milner

Candidates may submit an announcement and photograph to run one time for \$50. The deadline to submit announcements is Monday, June 17, at 5 p.m. Email announcements to editor@bctelegraph.com and make arrangements to pay prior to publication.

Homecoming at Lifeline

Lifeline Ministries of Starke will hold Homecoming on Sunday, June 2, with the Rev. Mark Smith ministering at the 11 a.m. service. Lifeline Quartet (Jacksonville/ Callahan) will be the guest singers. The gospel singing begins at 2 p.m.

Lifeline Ministries is located at 325 N. Christian St. in Starke.

Summer day camp

Registration is now open for the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County's 2024 Summer-Day Camp. Applications are available at the following locations: Starke City Hall (207 Thompson St.), Bradford County Public Library (456 W. Pratt St.),

Meridian Behavioral Office (945 Grand St.) and the RJE Complex (1080 N. Pine St., Mon through Thursday from 2-6 p.m.).

The four-week camp runs from June 3-28 at the RJE Complex and includes meals, math and reading labs, behavioral health classes, arts and crafts, healthy cooking and baking classes, and athletics.

The camp is \$160 plus the \$25 registration fee. A limited number of scholarships are available to those who qualify.

UCHS Class of '74 reunion

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

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Free food for youth over the summer

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County School District will be serving free breakfasts and lunches to students over the summer at several locations throughout the county.

The schedules vary from site to site, but here is a roundup of what the district has to offer.

Bradford High School
581 N. Temple Ave. in Starke
Breakfast 7:45-8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m. to noon
Mondays-Thursdays
June 3-July 25
(Closed the week of 7/1)

Bradford Middle School
527 N. Orange St. in Starke
Breakfast 7:45-8:15 a.m.
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.
Mondays-Thursdays
June 3-June 27

Church of God by Faith Learning Center, 721 Old Lawley Road in Starke
Breakfast 7:30-8:30 a.m.
Lunch 12-12:30 p.m.
Mondays-Fridays
June 17-July 26
(Closed the week of 7/1)

Bradford Elementary School
3856 SE 144th St. in Starke
Breakfast 7:30-8:15 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to noon
Mondays-Thursdays
June 3-June 27

Watson Center, 4150 SE State Road 21 in Keystone Heights
Breakfast 8:30-9 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to noon
Mondays-Thursdays
July 15-25

Stump Center
520 W. Pratt St. in Starke
Lunch only 11-11:30 a.m. to noon

Mondays-Fridays
June 10-14

Rainbow Center
501 W. Washington St. in Starke
Breakfast 8-8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.
June 3-July 25
(Closed the week of 7/1)

RJE Complex
1080 N. Pine St. in Starke
Breakfast 8-8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m.-noon
Monday-Friday
June 3-28

Foster, adoption classes

Looking to make a difference in the community? Call Partnership for Strong Families today at 352-213-7219 to enroll in a foster and adoption class for parents.

Bradford County Eye Center would like to congratulate Dr. Minesinger on a wonderful career!

If Dr. Minesinger's existing patients would like a copy of their records, they are being stored at the Bradford County Eye Center.

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END TIMES

We've been discussing the Last Days in our previous articles and our focus has been on signs that Jesus said we should expect to see as we approach the last of the Last Days. Our text has been Matthew 24:4-8, events that Jesus called the "Beginning of Sorrows." Today I would like to point out the most significant event that will happen in these last days, the event of all events that will bring this dispensation to a close. That event is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior and King! The Bible, God's Word, tells us that Jesus is going to return for His people, and this event is referred to by most Christians as the Rapture, or catching away of the Church. The 2nd Coming of Jesus and the rapture of the Church are two different events. I'd like to focus on being ready for the rapture which will precede His 2nd Coming. Christians throughout church history have talked about the return of Jesus. Books have been written and thousands of sermons have been preached declaring the truth found in God's Word, Jesus is Coming back and He's coming soon. Yet, we have yet to see this miraculous event take place. Many Christians that have passed on to heaven believed they would be alive to witness His promised return and many today are saying the same thing. Many believe that they will be alive to witness the return of the Master. Be that as it may, no matter what you and I may personally believe concerning the duration of our earthly lives and His return, know this, Jesus is coming back. Be assured of this as well, the return of Jesus is closer today than yesterday and with every passing day we draw closer and closer to the event that will shake this world to its core. Jesus is coming! The signs that Jesus spoke of are the birth pangs leading up to and hopefully warning and preparing us for His return. Let's look at a couple of scriptures concerning His return because I want you

to be ready for His appearance. I want you to believe that the return of Jesus is imminent, not because myself or another preacher or anyone else for that matter believes it, but because the Bible says so.

Luke 21:25-28 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." **St. John 14:1-3** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

I don't want you to miss the rapture and it troubles me to know that millions of people are going to be left behind to go through what the Bible calls the Great Tribulation. Most people are not ready for the return of Jesus. I hope you are, but many people who think they are ready are not ready. We'll look at how to get ready and live ready for the greatest end time event ever... the return of Jesus Himself, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

Pastor Rick Norman
REVELATION CHURCH

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Brooker school appreciates volunteers with luncheon

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Special to the Telegraph

Brooker Community School would not exist without the local support required to get it up and running. Without the contributions of time and energy by volunteers, students at the small school would be missing out on a whole lot of local talent.

That was evident as Principal Felecia Moss called the names of volunteers and pointed out their areas of service to the school. Recipients were given a thank you card and a student-made book marker.

Jean Barnes, retired PE teacher, was honored for bringing physical education activities to the school. Another volunteer PE instructor is John Eagle, a former Brooker student from the 1990s who attended K-sixth grade. Pastor Singleton is a consistent helper with general office tasks and recruiting new students from the Montecocha area. Mr. and Mrs. Sowell were called Ghostbusters because they seem to appear out of nowhere to jump into action wherever needed. Master Mason Ted Barber of Pine Hill Lodge was praised for bringing civics lessons to the students. A couple of dedicated parents were given appreciation as well.

The lunch was a cold plate of sandwiches, chips, salad, fresh fruit cup and food service manager Dora Broome's famous desserts.

A special feature of the Brooker Community School is the intimate nature of a small school in a small community. As a public charter school, it is free and open to students from any district in Bradford County and even in neighboring counties. The school will be adding sixth grade in the coming year. There is plenty of space for new students. Registration is now open.



Master Mason Ted Barber of Pine Hill Lodge brings civics lessons to the school.



Former teacher Jean Barnes is a volunteer PE instructor.



The Sowells have been dubbed "Ghostbusters" for appearing out of nowhere to "fill holes" in volunteering.



Pastor Singleton bridges Alachua and Bradford counties as an office volunteer.

Grant would power Three Pipes gates

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Emergency Management Director Lt. Brad Witt has presented a possible funding source to update the flood control gates at Sampson Lake from a manual to electronically controlled structure.

According to Witt, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds became available through FEMA and the state of Florida because of the impacts of Hurricane Idalia last year.

The grant could help finally modernize the control structure gates. Crews currently must fight gravity, water pressure and any vegetative blockages in the canal in order to raise the gates with a chain and pulley.

One stumbling block would be the 25% county match required to help fund the cost of the project, which is estimated at close to \$1 million.

That match amount is prohibitive to financially constrained counties like Bradford for projects this size. But Witt offered hope, saying the state has set aside funding so those counties can request a waiver for the match. If Bradford submits a fundable project, it

could receive full funding to cover the cost.

That had him even more excited for the project to automate the box culvert structure, sometimes called Three Pipes. When water levels meet the threshold set by the water management district, the county will have a much easier and faster response to open the gates and release water to mitigate flooding at the lakes and upstream.

"Obviously, the quicker we can get those gates open when we meet those levels, the better we can manage those water levels and help to prevent flooding on that lake," Witt said.

"Upgrading these to a powered system will not only improve the efficiency of the gates, but also the effectiveness of our flood control measures," he said. "Our aim is to provide a more consistent and timely response to changing water levels. So once those levels are met, if that's in the middle of the night, if that's over the weekend, we're able to get those opened and let that water start draining out a lot quicker."

Witt asked for and received the board's blessing to apply for the grant and waiver.

Without the waiver for the matching funds — close to \$250,000 — Witt said the grant application is something the county could probably never consider. Because it is possible, they have hope.

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

After some discussion, commissioners chose to add \$151,233 for the 5% raise.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty voted in favor, but he also raised concerns about costs being up across the board and the commissioners' desire to lower property taxes.

"Let's consider cutting our millage back and then trying to figure out how we can live within it," he said.

Clerk of Court Denny Thompson said tax revenue should be more than enough to cover the cost of the wage increase.

Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner referred to it both as a cost of living adjustment for employees and a reward for their work.

The listed amounts cover the board's departments only and do not cover the cost of the raises the constitutional officers budget for their employees. It also doesn't include any increases for fire rescue, which are covered by the collective bargaining agreement with IAFF Local 4315.

STEM is for heroes

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

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

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

HONORS GRADUATE Class of 2024

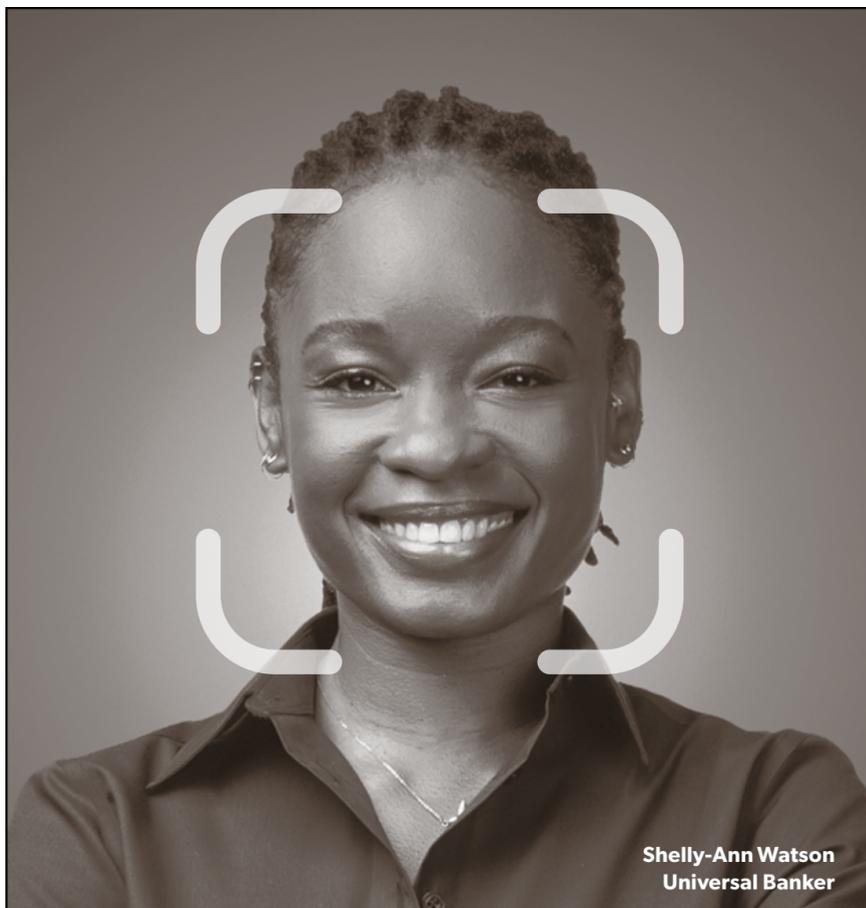
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BCSD TEACHER-EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Bradford County Education Foundation and Bradford County School Board members hosted a reception for the teachers and school-related employees of the year at First Baptist Church. Natalie Whytsell was recognized as the Bradford County Teacher of the Year and Katrina Griffis as the Bradford County School-Related Employee of the Year. Pictured are BCEF members Brenda Thornton, Christina Cornwall, Matt Dyal, Lila Sellars, Chrissy Thompson, Eugenia Whitehead, Cheryl Canova, Angel Autry, Sheryl Dixon, Vorease Jones and Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley.



TOP RIGHT:

Teacher of the Year honorees (l-r) Becky McCord, William Strayer, Tracy Dawson, Natalie Whytsell, Ashley Gunter and John Tinsler.



BOTTOM RIGHT:

SRE of the Year honorees (l-r) Aleta Durant, Tonya Hodges, Ami Griffis, Sarah Warren and Laquesha White. Not pictured: Katrina Griffis, Michelle Brooks, Joanna Smith and Tonya Barnhart.

FIRE FEE

Continued from page 1

In calculating the maximum allowable fire assessment, the consultants considered the historic calls for service, the cost of providing firefighting at the current level of service, and the number of billable units in the county.

They learned that 68% of the calls for services came from residential properties, 24% from nonresidential properties and 8% from vacant parcels. So, that is how the \$4.8 million-plus budget was divided among property owners. The budget includes nearly \$3.98 million in personnel costs, \$548,000 in operations and maintenance costs, plus money for collecting the assessment, contingency, etc.

Those numbers include the cost of Starke's fire department budget, which presumes city commissioners would also

approve the special assessment, allowing both boards to benefit from the residential and commercial revenue to be gleaned inside the city limits. Countywide, the total number of residential properties was 10,656, nonresidential space amounted to nearly 5.86 million square feet, and there were 5,180 vacant parcels.

The assessment amounts calculated are those the county would charge to fund 100% of the 2025 fire department budget — \$309 per residential unit, 20 cents per nonresidential square foot and \$73 per vacant parcel.

From the projected \$4.8 million fee collection, the consultants had to back out the cost of the agricultural exemptions, which was \$203,405. If the county exempted religious and other nonprofit groups, that would remove another \$442,749. That leaves around \$4.2 million for the county to charge on the next tax bill. If property owners take

| Category | 100% Cost Recovery | 80% Cost Recovery | 60% Cost Recovery | 50% Cost Recovery | 25% Cost Recovery |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Residential | \$309 | \$250 | \$186 | \$155 | \$78 |
| Non-Residential | \$0.20 | \$0.17 | \$0.12 | \$0.10 | \$0.05 |
| Vacant | \$73 | \$59 | \$44 | \$37 | \$19 |
| Revenue | \$4,039,000 | \$3,285,000 | \$2,424,000 | \$2,021,000 | \$1,017,000 |

Some options for funding the fire department through a special assessment, from 100% of the budget down to 25%.

advantage of the 4% discount for early payment, that would make the county's total revenue from the fire assessment just over \$4 million.

The consultants also provided cost recovery calculations lower than 100%. (See related chart.) For example, the residential assessment drops to \$186 per year and the nonresidential assessment to 12 cents per square foot to fund 60% of the fire department budget.

Based on Spooner's word, commissioners won't seek to fund 100% of the fire department

budget through a special assessment. What percentage, however, remains to be seen. The commissioners have some time to discuss this, but there is a timeline to get a new assessment on this year's tax bills and reflected in next year's budget.

According to Rackley, the commission should adopt an initial resolution with the proposed fee amounts by the end of July. That will provide time to notify the public of the final adoption date of the resolution, which includes mailing each impacted property owner 20

days before the final hearing. That hearing should take place in August, or at the very latest September, when the county adopts the 2024-25 budget.

While public comment was discouraged during the presentation, Spooner assured everyone that citizens would have a chance to speak during the public hearings.

Ambulance wait fees added

While a proposed assessment

for emergency medical services was not a part of the presentation, the county has found a new revenue source.

Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter said EMS services around the county are dealing with hospital waits that essentially turn ambulance stretchers into waiting rooms. To recoup money for the lost time, he proposed, and the commission approved, a new set of fees that would charge hospitals by the hour when paramedics must wait for a patient to be admitted.

The \$168 base rate will cover the first 20 minutes, plus \$63 every quarter-hour after that. The base rate will be repeated after each hour, with the quarterly charges continuing. BCFR would, for example, bill \$945 for a 125-minute wait.

Carter said hospitals, not patients, would be billed for the wait.

Letters

Not ready for the water

Dear Editor:

Bradford County does not appear to be ready for this year's predicted active hurricane season. Hurricane Irma in September 2017 could be used as a guide for determining if you and Bradford County are ready for a significant rain event.

It is interesting to note that the water levels in mid-May 2024 are about the same as they were in mid-May 2017.

Irma flooded many areas in Bradford County along its creeks, canals, and rivers and around its lakes. If you have moved to Bradford County or to a new location in Bradford County since September 2017, it is important to ask your neighbors if your location was flooded during and/or after Irma. If your home or apartment was flooded, have a plan and supplies like sandbags and ways to raise furniture 12 to 18 inches above the floor. Have a spot you can park your car, so it does not get flooded. Find out if the roads to get to and from your house flood.

The Heritage Village and Orangewood apartments along Alligator Creek and the Pine Forest apartments on the Pratt Street drain were flooded during Irma. Bradford County's drainage infrastructure is not in good condition, so Bradford County has very little time to address the key issues that follow and will need assistance from the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD).

There are trees across Alligator Creek in Starke, upstream of the 301 bridge, that could trap debris and trash and cause blockages that could cause upstream flooding. Large amounts of sediment have accumulated at the Laura Street Alligator Creek Bridge. Removing that sediment is important because once water levels reach the bottom of the bridge, it acts like a dam until water flows over the bridge like it did during Irma.

The SRWMD Edwards

Bottomlands Project along Alligator Creek at the Edwards Road Sports Complex has accumulated trash and debris that slows flows. The secondary channel of the project was designed to allow high flows to pass through the project in areas where the straight canal was replaced with ox bows. That secondary channel has become overgrown with invasive and other plants that reduce flow. The large bunch grass called gamma grass the SRWMD planted through the project also reduces flow. The reduced flows may explain why nine of the highest levels of Alligator Creek have occurred since the SRWMD completed the Edwards Bottomlands project. The SRWMD should remove the trash and debris, mow the secondary channel, and mow the gamma grass they planted.

The SRWMD has killed camphor trees with herbicides and the beavers have damaged the large sweetgum trees on the north bank of Alligator Creek. The SRWMD should cut and remove the dead camphor and sweetgum trees to keep the dead or damaged trees from falling across Alligator Creek during a rain event with high winds.

Irma caused significant flooding around lakes Sampson and Crosby. At this point, the cattails and other aquatic plants are significantly reducing the flow out of Lake Sampson. The reduced flows mean Lake Sampson levels cannot be lowered in advance of a predicted storm. The unrestricted flow path has been reduced to a width of less than 10 feet. Bradford County should ask the SRWMD for funding to expand that width to at least 150 feet by removing the aquatic vegetation. If the SRWMD is not willing to fund the aquatic plant removal, Bradford County should try and find the funds in its current budget so the plants can be removed before the next major rain event.

Any blockages in the Sampson River Canal between CR 225 and the CSX trestle should be removed. Rayonier may be able to help with blockage removal. The large accumulation of sediment at the CR 18 Sampson River Bridge should be evaluated.

Water Oak Creek, Lawtey Alligator Creek, and the Santa Fe and New Rivers should be checked for blockages and sediment, particularly at road bridges and culverts. The Alto Canal needs to be evaluated to make sure blockages will not cause higher water levels in Lake Santa Fe. The Lake Hampton drainage canal needs to be checked to make sure blockages will not cause higher water levels in Lake Hampton.

The drainage canal that flows through the Pine Forest apartments needs to be evaluated for blockages and CSX should be asked to increase the capacity of the culverts under its rail line.

Chemours should be asked to make sure it has the capacity to hold the amount of stormwater required in its permits. A failure of the Industrial Wastewater Treatment ponds east of Starke could have a significant impact on homes in eastern Starke and eastern Bradford County. Failure of the perimeter berms at the new Chemours Trail Ridge South Mine could have impacts on homes along the northern part SE CR 100 A. The Chemours operations in Lawtey need to be evaluated for potential impacts in the Lawtey area.

Bradford County is planning to ask for \$900,000 from the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program for a new water-level control structure on CR 225 at Sampson City. Plans should be made now to tap this federal funding source for property acquisition, raising flooded homes, and, if allowed, purchasing equipment that could be used to maintain Bradford County's drainage system. Without system maintenance, we will be in a cycle of flooding and rebuilding. Preventing the flooding is the most cost-effective approach.

Sincerely,
Paul Still

Get involved and vote

Dear Editor:
I was so shocked when I heard that Keystone Heights' vice mayor, Christine Thompson, made a move,

at the May 6 city council meeting, to oust our new city manager, Charlie Van Zant. I wasn't at the meeting, so I watched it on YouTube. She must have been so focused on her move that she made it before the council had voted on the first move being discussed.

When asked by another council member what her reason was, she answered, "Just cause." It was difficult to decipher what that "just cause" was. The discussion that followed between the council and city manager exposed the state of affairs that Mr. Van Zant walked into when he took the job as city manager about four months ago.

After a healthy discussion, workshops were scheduled for budget planning and a general

reviewing of the city's administrative needs.

Mayor Rodenroth described the general state of affairs, in January, before Mr. Van Zant became manager. "There was nobody at the front desk. There was a lot of unhappiness in the community due to poor follow-up, phone calls not returned, people not treated politely when they walked in the door. I heard all kinds of comments." She went on to say that after Mr. Van Zant took over, there has been a very positive response in the community.

Councilmen Lewandowski and Kussler spoke highly of Mr. Van Zant. Mr. Lewandowski remarked about how hard the manager has been working. When Vivian Katz-James, president of Save Our Lakes

Organization, gave her report, she spoke very positively about her work with Mr. Van Zant, that he has been helpful and has represented the city well. The council's vote was 4 to 1 against the motion, Ms. Thompson's vote being the only one for.

Vice Mayor Christine Thompson ran unopposed for seat 2 on the Council in 2022. She is serving a three-year term that expires in 2025. It is unfortunate that the city should be jarred by such an unfounded attack on our new city manager. May it encourage residents to take a renewed interest in what is going on in the city, get involved, perhaps seek a seat on the council, and, above all, vote!

Rosemary Hyslop
Keystone Heights

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UNION COUNTY

Class of 2024 graduates

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

One hundred, twenty-five graduates were sent on their way out into the world at the Union County High Schools Class of 2024 Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 17, 2024.

The ceremony was held on the football field in the stadium – outdoors, despite the wet weather of the previous few days. Soon-to-be graduates filed onto the field to take their seats while the UCHS Symphonic Band, directed by Kelly Dorsey, played the traditional processional theme. Helping them find their seats, ushers Braden Adams, Layla Barber, Jesse Chaiken, Zoe Elixson, Devin Diggs, Brooke Goldie, Anthony Holmes and Ava Walker guided them to fill up the rows.

On the stage at the front, Union County School Board Members Curtis Clyatt, Russell Gordon, Chris Hodgson, Terra Johnson and Becky Raulerson were seated, along with Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger, UCHS Principal Julie Denson, Assistant Principal Zeke Scaff and Dean Barry Sams. Senior Sponsors also had their place in the assemblage; these were: Mark Harrison, Bonnie Honour, Maria Hurt, Jeffrey Jakubik, Edwin Johnson, Tammy Jo Montford, Erica Parrish, Tiandra Sirmones, Wesley Smith, Carlisa Stanteiski, Erin Waters, Jessica Williams and Elise Worthington.

The event opened with a prayer, offered by Senior Class Treasurer Bobbie Joe Montford, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senior Class Secretary Aliyah J'nae Smith. Senior Class President Rylie Grace Parrish then welcomed the students and crowd of friends and family in the grandstand. Parrish spoke of the challenges faced by the senior class and expressed gratitude for "the support of our families and past

and present staff members who have supported us during our time at UCHS."

UCHS Principal Julie Denson then came to the podium to recognize four special groups of students.

First, Denson recognized those students graduating with Outstanding Honors, who all achieved grade point averages of 4.0 or higher and thereby earned a purple honors cord. Students graduating with outstanding honors were: Jonathan Terry Edwards, Erich Fallschirmjager Seager, Rylie Grace Parrish, Jewel Anne Dekle, Kadence Marie Adams, Lyndee Elizabeth Griffis, Alec David Wheeler, Morgyn Amelia Kirby, Brooke Lynn Burgess, Tanner Dale Connell, Cailynn Brooke Boggs, Ashden Richard Johnson, Grant Cooper Dicks and James Stouten Cox.

The next group honored were students graduating with high honors, achieving a grade point average between 3.75 and 3.99, and earning a gold honors cord. Students graduating with high honors were Jurney Lynne Crim, Alec Dominick Van Dike, Karli Grayce Jenkins, Alexis Brook Panozzo, Jordan Bailee Henricks, Brycen Xavier Boney, Kayley Marie Tomlinson, Robert Konner Rossiter, Brooklyn Grace Bingham, Layla Elizabeth Piggot, Alena Aisha Boyer and Makayla Nichole Nelson.

The third group honored were students graduating with honors, achieving a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.74, and earning a white honors cord. Students graduating with honors were Dylan Zachary Lane, Bobbie Jo Montford, Lily Charlene Neal, Taliyah Laraye Harper, Mary Grace Crawford, Madison Nicole Locke, Bryson Thomas Huggins, Calli Jolee Morrow, Sydney Ann Box, Jacob Tyler Alford, Whitney Kay Scott and Kaylee Annette Thompson.

The final group honored were

those students who had made the choice to join the United States Military.

"These men and women have made the choice to support and defend this great nation against enemies foreign and domestic," Denson said. "They are willing to serve and defend so that we may enjoy the very freedoms we many times take for granted."

The graduates choosing to enter the military were instructed to stand and face the grandstands as their names and to remain standing until all had been called. They were Aidan Bell (USMC), Alena Boyer (Army NG), Brooke Burgess (USMC), Alex Cortese (Navy), Grant Dicks (USAF – graduating early and unable to attend because he was in basic training at Lackland AFB) and Mackenzie Ring.

Next, the Salutatorian of the graduating class of 2024, Rylie Parrish, gave her address.

Parrish said that when she was a freshman, she realized that she was one of the people at the top of her class and was terrified that she would have to give a speech. "I was so scared that I told my mom I had to get third in the class, so I was just below speech level." She went on to talk about the three lessons she had learned from FFA Advisor Tom "Bub" Williams. "Whatever you do, don't settle for a second; Think about all you have gotten from other people's generosity (be grateful) and find something you like doing and be the best at it." She expanded on these "Bubisms" by talking about all the support the students receive from local businesses and the community. Parrish concluded with an expression of faith and the assistance she and her fellow students had received from their belief in God and Jesus Christ.

Class of 2024 Valedictorian Erich Seager followed Parrish with his words to the graduating class. He quoted President John F. Kennedy, in a passage he said



Students move from the Unity Circle down onto the field to throw their caps, gathering in a circle to share their excitement at being official graduates with their friends and classmates.



Bobby Jo Montford offered the prayer at the beginning of the Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony.



Rylie Grace Parrish, Senior Class President and Salutatorian, welcomed her fellow students and their friends and family to the event.



Erich Fallschirmjager Seager, Class of 2024 Valedictorian.

guided him through his senior year. "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men." He then went on to recount the challenges, struggles and obstacles he and many of his fellow students had faced and overcome (despite moments of doubt) in their time at UCHS. He encouraged his classmates to approach this new phase in their lives with "courage and humility" and "to embrace the opportunities that await us, recognizing that each challenge comes from opportunity for growth and transformation."

The band then played the

Alma Mater, with the singing of the school song led by Senior Class Vice President Taliyah Laraye Harper, after which the graduates were called to the stage and introduced by Erin Waters before receiving the diplomas. Each received a handshake from Ripplinger, Denson, Scaff, and Sams, then posed for a picture as they exited the stage. Once all the diplomas had been distributed, the graduates resumed their seats to hear the statement that they had been waiting for all evening.

Like Dillard's with Lake Butler prices

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Growing up in a house where Lake Butler's McDonald's is now, Daphne Phillips watched her mother sell ladies' apparel from a dress shop in the family living room.

She said that her upbringing helped to motivate her to open her own women's store, Southern Goddess, at 40 East Main Street, near the corner of Lake and Main.

"So, I was like, when my kids get older and the grandkids are older, I'm going to open this store," Phillips recalled of her first thoughts of going into business. "Then I came up with Southern Goddess because we're in the South, and my name's Daphne, my younger sister's Diana. So, I was like, those are

goddess names. So, Southern Goddess."

"I'm the manager and the buyer," Phillips declared. "I go to all the apparel markets. Just went down to Miami in January. They have a big one in Atlanta. We went out to Vegas last August, and I got to see the merchandise and talk to the vendors, just to make sure it's good quality."

Phillips said maintaining quality helps her stay ahead of her primary competitors: Temu and Shien, two China-based e-commerce retailers.

"All that stuff is cheap," she said of the e-commerce competition. "It's just knockoffs. With us, you walk in, you see the quality. You try it on."

"I had somebody that walked in here and said, 'This looks like Dillard's but with Lake Butler prices,'" Phillips recalled of one

customer. "I was like, I like that. That's what I was going for."

Popular footwear at Southern Goddess includes Corkys tennis shoes and a HEYDUDE look-a-like called Kayaks. She said the Kayaks are popular with the women who work at the Union County Health Department and with nurses because of their comfort, and the shoes go with a wide variety of colored scrubs.

"The ladies tell me they like the ones with the shiny bling," she said of the glitter-covered footwear. "Yeah, that's what helps me. They come in, and they give me ideas and suggestions, and I shop for the store."

Phillips said that keeping in touch with her clientele and offering to help women put together outfits sets her apart from the internet retailers.

"Top, shorts, shoes, and

jewelry," she said. "Just put it all together in one stop."

Phillips said she features an outfit of the day and displays the ensemble on a mannequin in her store's front window. Many times, a customer will try the outfit of the day on and walk out with a new look.

Another popular line is Judy Blue Boutique brand shorts.

"They're on TikTok," she said of the shorts. "If you see something on TikTok, it sells."

Events are another feature of her marketing efforts with a Mother's Day sale, sip-and-shop events featuring a charcuterie board and refreshments, and other holiday specials.

"We do teacher appreciation and nurse appreciation," she said, plus we normally do 10% off to all healthcare workers, first responders, corrections, and military every day. If it's not a sale item, they get 10% off."

Phillips also has a Tiger Table featuring Union County High School gear for women: visors, t-shirts, shoes, and other items.

"We're doing baseball right now, and they actually have a game tonight," she said. "They're winning. They're in the championship. So, I get the baseball moms and the football moms coming and telling me they need something to wear while they're out there at the ball field. Like these visors, it's so hot out there with the sun on their faces and stuff. Purple and gold, and they like the bling shoes."

With high school graduation approaching, Phillips said she can anticipate what girls will be looking for.

"The white dress," she said, pointing to her left. "The girls wear that underneath their caps and gowns."

Phillips said her customer base includes healthcare workers, teachers, and courthouse employees. But mostly, her customers are her friends.



Daphne Phillips, owner of Southern Goddess in Lake Butler, shows off a pair of Judy Blue Boutique brand shorts. "They're on TikTok," she said of the shorts. "If you see something on TikTok, it sells."



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The district issues more than 120 permits for the construction of domestic self-supply wells each month, and approximately 5% of the district's total water use comes from domestic self-supply wells and small public supply systems.

For more information, visit www.MySuwanneeRiver.com org.

—maintain a watertight seal at

Councilwoman wants city records about her

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

The May Lawtey City Council meeting covered various points of concern for citizens and council members, all of which led back to issues of policies, procedures and possible rule changes needed for many of the proposed topics.

The biggest issue of the night was a public records request by Council Member Emily Hoffman. Hoffman, who has been requesting information from the city for months with no results, has hired Attorney Bobi J. Frank to represent her. Frank has sent a Chapter 119 public records request to the city to receive the following: "All emails, telephone records, written notes, memorandums, calendar entries, digital correspondence, written correspondence, incident reports, complaints, and text messages—including messages sent via any and all electronic platforms; mediums—relating to Emily Hoffman, between any member of the City of Lawtey."

The requested information covers more than 16 months of records. To this request, City Clerk Lisa Harley said she will "have to close city hall down for at least three days."

City Attorney Dan Sikes said that the cost for this request would need to be stated and a request for reimbursement is in line with previous cases he has handled. Sikes also warned the city and the clerk that "this could be very expensive for the citizens and people can try to ruin government with this kind of request." He suggested shutting the cost up front before getting down the city to complete the request.

Hoffman interjected with a few questions and statements of her own. She wanted to know why a public records request was brought to a council meeting because it had never been done before. Sikes said because it has never been on such a large scale and the citizens needed to be informed of any possible costs.

Hoffman said, "This stems from the whole thing with the trash, the truck, and the warden. I never got one report that I have asked for in regard to that." Hoffman continued by addressing her concern that Sikes is currently representing an opposing side in a personal lawsuit against her, and she does not understand how he can represent her as a council person. Sikes said he "represents the council as a body, not an individual."

Hoffman and Sikes continued to discuss his partiality for several minutes, with Hoffman holding to her stance that she doesn't understand the legality of Sikes serving as the city attorney when there is a conflict of interest. Sikes held firm to his commitment to offer fair, legal counsel to members of the board as a body, not an individual. Sikes said, "My job is to represent the

city of Lawtey."

The discussion came to a temporary conclusion with Sikes telling Hoffman to call the Florida Bar, to which Hoffman said, "I did." Sikes said he is not withdrawing as city attorney and told Hoffman she can file a bar grievance regarding this issue. Sikes later clarified that he will also call the bar to ensure he is not in conflict of interest.

Hoffman also addressed the cost and time it will take to send the records to her lawyer. Hoffman said it should not take that long because it "should not be creating records, it should be making copies." Hoffman also suggested most of these records should be in QuickBooks and should not require paper copies. Hoffman said she will be responsible for all the costs incurred.

Clarification on Brandon Road

Brandon Road is a private road within the city limits of Lawtey. The legality of who maintains the road has been a source of frustration. The residents on the road are currently receiving public trash pickup and water services from the city, but many residents do not want to give the city an easement and are very protective of the road's private ownership status. This leaves the city without the right to maintain the road, but residents expect city services.

Councilwoman Amy Blom revisited the issue because the road is in such disrepair that the city's dump truck can no longer drive down the road without damage. Blom said the post office had to start putting the resident's mailboxes at the end of the road for the same reason. She asked if this was a possibility for the trash, too. Her only concern is that if the trash gets knocked over or wildlife gets into it, that will cause more problems. The council suggested suspending trash pickup service for the residents of Brandon Road until repairs are made.

Members asked Sikes what they can do legally, but he told them they are entitled to decide with regards to trash pickup. As far as further road maintenance, Sikes said he will investigate the issue for further clarification and asked Blom to set up a meeting with him to discuss it and to help establish a solution.

Policies for special recognition

Blom also discussed the request previously made to the city for a special road sign to recognize actor Tory Kittles. She said after researching, they have discovered they need to make a resolution for the city to approve, but she was still unsure about several issues, including criteria needed and the costs.

Blom addressed Sikes for

clarity on these issues. Sikes said if the city wants to "they can approve these types of requests on a case-by-case basis" or the city can create a resolution that spells out what is required for a person to receive such an honor. Sikes said the city doesn't have to legally change the name of the road; they can put up a dedication sign on the road. He said ultimately it will be up to the city's discretion.

After much discussion, council members decided to set up a workshop to create policies and procedures for special honors requests regarding road signs and other special recognitions.

Recreation board at a standstill

Councilwoman Debra Norman has consistently asked for clarification on the city ordinance regarding recreation board members. Currently the city charter requires seven board members to be appointed to the recreation board. For business to be discussed and approved, at least five members must be present at recreation meetings. Norman has complained that this has been a problem for a long time because most of the meetings can only be attended by three to four members at a time.

She asked Sikes if she could receive clarification on the requirements. Sikes told Norman to set up a meeting with him to go over all these topics. Council member Hoffman commented that the "rec board has been a wreck" before she suggested they have a workshop with Sikes to create a clear understanding of the recreation board's rules.

In other business: —the council approved the \$13,500 cost for the annual audit by Reddish and White.

—Norman requested city hall office hours be adjusted one day a week for the clerk to prepare for audits, work on grants or handle other city business without interruption

—\$2,942.93 was approved to repair the city's backhoe.

—Harley said the new computer system is in the process of being installed and it should allow for the city to begin taking credit card payments.

—a workshop is needed for an economic council to be formed.

—the fire department agreement between the city and the county is under final discussion amongst council members and will be sent to the city attorney for final review.

—inspection of the park and rec center on Middleburg Road has been completed and the city is awaiting the results.

—four crossing guards are needed.

—the police department opened two new bank accounts for RedSpeed Camera funds disbursement.

The next council meeting is June 3 at 7 p.m.

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

Gregory Deatrick Beard, 46, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 15 for possession of a weapon by a felon and a probation violation.

James William Dixon, 53, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 14 for larceny.

Yaharrie Jeremiah Deon Edwards, 28, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 14 for a conditional release violation.

Christopher Richard Kimbrell, 29, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 17 for possession of drug equipment, intimidation, resisting an officer, possession of marijuana, and assault.

Rebecca Karene Kinnaird, 38, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 14 for failure to appear.

Brenda Faye Lewis, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 16 for burglary and criminal mischief with property damage.

Mark Howard Myers, 54, of Green Cove Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 13 for possession of drugs, destroying evidence, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug equipment.

Miguel Angel Rodriguez Gonzalez, 42, of Hampton, was

arrested by Bradford deputies on May 12 for battery.

Paul Raymond Smith, 50, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 12 for DUI.

Madison McKenzie Taylor, 20, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 14 for an out-of-county warrant.

Ernest Steven Varnes, 43, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 16 for resisting an officer and larceny.

Union

Matthew Aaron Dover, 31, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 16 for a probation violation.

Daryll Wynn Gatlin, 39, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 17 for a probation violation.

Gary A. Harris, 23, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on May 14 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Robert Thomas Kingsbury, 17, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 13 for an out-of-county warrant.

Miles J. Ward, 31, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on May 14 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Clay

Garrison James Crowell, 19, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 17 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill, simple domestic battery, and vandalism resulting in \$1000 or more in damage.

Blaine Ernest Rivera, 59, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 16 for possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana.

Joshua Aaron Soto, 28, of Keystone Heights, was arrested

by Clay deputies on May 13 for fleeing and alluding and trafficking in methamphetamine.

Ronda Louise Stringer, 56, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay Deputy on May 16 for simple battery.

10 days for speeding

A South Carolina man spent 10 days in the Bradford County Jail after troopers caught him driving 37 mph over the speed limit.

In Florida, motorists driving 30 mph or more over the speed limit may be charged with a misdemeanor. Those exceeding the limit by 50 mph could be charged with a felony. FHP troopers arrested 63-year-old John Thomas Allen Jr. for reckless driving on May 7. At his first appearance the following day, the Williston, South Carolina resident pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor and was sentenced to 10 days in jail by County Judge D. Tatum Davis.

In an arrest report, troopers said they clocked the defendant at 97 mph in a 60-mph zone on U.S. 301 near Lawtey.

"We made contact with the driver/suspect, and he stated he was on his way back to Maryland but had no explanation for why he was driving so fast," wrote Trooper B.J. Archibald in the report.

Accused of shoplifting baby items

Bradford deputies arrested a 20-year-old Lawtey woman after a Walmart employee accused her of stealing \$463.58 worth of baby items.

A'nyiah Nicole Carroll was arrested for petty theft.

According to an arrest report, a loss prevention officer told deputies he witnessed the 20-year-old take merchandise from the store's infant department, remove the price tags from the items, and walk past all points of sale without paying for the goods.

Honor Society welcomes first members

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School and the North Florida Technical College's newly formed National Technical Honor Society chapter welcomed its first members during a ceremony on April 18.

North Florida Technical College Director Brad Bishop said the new members have demonstrated good citizenship, high moral character, and a superior work ethic.

"They must maintain an average of 90% in all of their CTE programs," he said. "The National Technical Honors Society does not look at your academic courses. However, it does focus on career and technical education."

Bishop said that since 1984, over a million members of the National Technical Honor Society, like the Bradford students, have been recognized, and the national organization awards nearly \$300,000 in scholarships annually.

The college's digital design instructor, Steven Djavaheri,



North Florida Technical College Director Brad Bishop (left) and Digital Design Teacher Steven Djavaheri explained the benefits of National Technical Honor Society membership.

introduced the new chapter officers: Treasurer Levi Lowe, Governor Jake Gegeus, Historians Elizabeth Wagner, Christine Reaves, Kiley Boulris and Cameron Newman, Vice President Martin Reaves, and President Paige Steed.

The four students said the national society fosters academic excellence, leadership, and service among its members.

They said the organization helps students who are passionate about healthcare, criminal justice, culinary arts, digital design, information technology, and other fields.

"It serves as the starting point for progress," Newman said of the organization. "In our ever-evolving society, NTHS not only prepares us for successful careers



(L-R) Kiley Boulris, Jake Degeus, Jayden Daugherty, Levi Lowe, Jackson Miller, Koen Reddish, Christine Reaves, and Paige Steed recite the pledge for new National Technical Honor Society members.

but also helps us with the tools to become leaders in our respective industries."

Steed and Martin Reaves then led the new inductees in a candlelight ceremony where members simulated passing a flame from one candle to the next using battery-powered candles.

The candles represented the attributes of society members: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership.

The other members of the

new chapter include Landon Coleman, Jayden Daugherty, Koen Reddish, Hayden Paris, Jackson Miller, and Victoria Gonzalez.

After the ceremony, the chapter president and vice president, both digital design students, said that although they did not plan to make digital design a career, both felt the skills gained through the curriculum would help them advance in their chosen vocations.

Steed said she planned to

work for her father, a painter, immediately following graduation and then study psychology. She added that she might use her design skills to build her father's business website.

Martin Reeves said he planned to study engineering beginning at Santa Fe College and continuing at the University of Florida. He added that he loves working with Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to improve photos and communicate concepts.

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Obituaries

Charlotte Austin

Charlotte Louise Austin was a remarkable woman who touched the lives of everyone with her vibrant personality and unwavering dedication to her friends and family. She was born on June 11, 1972, in Orlando and sadly departed from this world unexpectedly on Thursday, May 9, 2024, in Lake Butler. She was a lifelong resident of Lake Butler and the proud owner of a successful house-cleaning business. Described as feisty, greathhearted, and loyal, her presence lit up every room she entered. She considered friends family and loved hard on the people in her life. Her love for crafts, cooking, and adventure reflected her joyful spirit and willingness to embrace all that life had to offer. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard Ray and Peggy Stanford Dees.

She is survived by her loving husband of nine years, Seneca "Buddy" Austin, who stood by her side through thick and thin; her cherished daughters, Erika Michelle Horton, Ashley Nicole (Richard) Lynch, and Kristen Anne Horton; stepchildren, Travis (Melissa) Stephens, Seneca Justin (Angie) Austin, and Tammy Shealy (Holland); and grandchildren, Hailey, Amber, and Brandon Mullen, Alona Davis, Leah Lynch, Jimarion Simmons, Darrion Simmons, Keaton Horton, Derez Parker, Matt Stephens, and Dylan Stephens. She is also survived by her sisters, Helen Crews, Victoria Dees, and Stephanie Dees; along with numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A visitation to honor her life took place on Tuesday, May 14, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler. The gathering was followed by a Celebration of Life ceremony at the same location. Her final memorialization will be by cremation under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home.



PAID OBITUARY

Marlene Connor

Mrs. Marlene Connor, 85, of Starke passed away at her home Monday, May 20, 2024, following an extended illness. She was born Oct. 7, 1938, in Starke to Newn D. and Gladys (Parmenter) Burney. She was known for driving a school bus, selling life insurance, and working at the Handy Way convenience store. She was a member of Cross Church, loved traveling to the Smokey Mountains and taking care of her cat, "Fluffy," but, most of all, she loved her church and her family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Connor; son, Ty Clemons; and a brother, Bobby Hutcheson.

Left behind to cherish her memory are three children, Ricky (Wanda) Clemons, Victor Clemons, and Kim (Richard) Wimpy, all of Starke. She was lovingly called "Mema" by six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Sunday, May 26, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. A Celebration of Life will follow at 2 p.m. with Mr. Justin Durrance and Mr. Jason Crawford officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Community Hospice.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Marjorie Dobbs

Mrs. Marjorie Wilkinson Dobbs, 86, of Raiford, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. She was born on Feb. 24, 1938, on a farm in Raiford, to Rev. Maxie Wilkinson and Effie Mae (Harris) Wilkinson. She was a lifelong resident of Raiford and a 1957 graduate of Union County High. Growing up and working on a farm were very influential on her life. It taught her humility, a strong work ethic, and appreciation, but it also provided a way to meet her future husband, Michael "Bud" Dobbs. It was in the middle of a pea patch where they first met and went on to enjoy 55 years of marriage before his passing in 2012. Simple, sacrificial, and spiritual would best describe her. Her family and faith were her world and the Christ-like love and example she displayed will be imitated for generations to come. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Raiford. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bud; both parents; and her siblings, Audrey Cawthon, Lula Mae Crawford, John "J.L." Wilkinson, Rev. Kenneth Wilkinson, Gloria Dean Hickman, and Jo Ann Wilkinson.

She is survived by her children, Paula (Dale) Traylor of Starke, Michael Alton Dobbs of Raiford, Rhonda Shealy of Lake Butler, and Larry Earl Dobbs of Raiford; her seven grandchildren, Daniel (Kate) Traylor, Mark (Cheree) Traylor, Mathew Tomlinson, Michael (Allison) Cochran, Channing (Kayla) Dobbs, Kyle Shealy, and Kaylee Shealy; 12 great-grandchildren, Aubree, Emily, Molly, Nathan, Ela, Raelynn, Ramsey Kay, Madeline, Bud, Stetson, Emerson, and Jasper; her brother, Doug (Anita) Wilkinson of Raiford; and numerous extended family also survive.

A funeral to honor her life will be held on Friday, May 24 at her church, Fellowship Baptist Church, at 11 a.m. The family will receive friends for a visitation beginning at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Haven Hospice of Gainesville. www.beyourhaven.org/donate.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Kesha Johns

Kesha Lynn Johns was born on Aug. 23, 1978, in Jacksonville and unexpectedly passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2024, in Starke at the age of 45. She was known for her warm heart and sharp mind, qualities that defined her both personally and professionally. After graduating from Bradford County High School, she pursued further learning and obtained her associate's degree from Santa Fe College. Throughout her career, she worked diligently as owner and property appraiser for Outlook Endeavors. More recently she transitioned into a role of an office manager. Her dedication and work ethic left a lasting impact on all those she encountered. One of her greatest joys in life was her family. Her children, Jadon Hudson Johns and McKenzie Rose Sorrell, meant the world to her. She poured her love and devotion into their lives, shaping them into the remarkable individuals they are today. She was preceded in death by her father, Donald Wilkes; and her brother, David F. Rogers.

Other than her children, she leaves behind her mother, Clara Dean Clark Wilkes; and special family members, Deborah Phillips and Pat Lawhorn.

A graveside service was held at Evergreen Cemetery in Raiford on Thursday, May 16.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Leslie Johnson Sr.

Leslie Gordon Johnson Sr., 86, affectionately known as "LG," passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 19, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was a lifelong resident of Bradford County. He was born in Starke on Nov. 25, 1937, to the late Anthony Johnson Sr. and Phyllis Roberts Johnson. After school, he worked at his father's feed store, Johnson's Feed, for many years with his father until starting his career at Dupont. He served as a bagger and worked several years to become a welder. After many dedicated years at Dupont, he retired and pursued his passion for farming. He loved tending to his cattle, being on his farmland, fishing, traveling, and going on cruises. More than anything, he loved his family and enjoyed making special memories with them, but especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will always be remembered for his kind heart, love for his family, and being a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was certainly a treasure and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Johnson; son, Adro Johnson; grandchildren, Bug, Tiffany and Leslie Ann Johnson; four brothers; and four sisters.

LG is survived by his children, William L. "Billy" Johnson of Starke and Leslie (Priscilla) Johnson, both of Starke, and Debbie (Tony) Berrios of Tampa; daughter-in-law, Linda Johnson of Starke; along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, May 24, at 11 a.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Pastor Roger Worten officiating. Interment will follow at Dyal Cemetery in Starke. The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 23, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

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

PAID OBITUARY

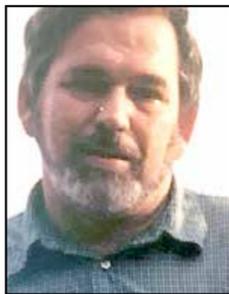
Walter Little Sr.

Walter "Walt" Chester Little Sr., 75, of Starke died Monday, May 20, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jim Little; and daughter-in-law, Kathy Little.

Survivors are his children, Walter "Chet" Chester (Angela) Little Jr., David Little, and Jessica (Steven) Page; brother, Larry Little; sister, Ann (David) Cline, sister-in-law, Celia Little; six grandchildren; and extended family members.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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



Jacqueline Michaud

Mrs. Jacqueline "Jackie" Ann Michaud, 58, of Keystone Heights died at her home Thursday, May 16, 2024, following an extended illness. She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, James Michaud.

Survivors are children, Jack Bennett, Matthew Michaud, and Katherine Michaud; brother, John L. Bennett; niece Valerie Ann Bennett; nephew, John Luther Bennett Jr., and additional family members and friends.

There are no scheduled services at Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

David Murr

David Lee Murr, 65, of Starke, died Saturday, May 18, 2024, at his residence surrounded by his loving family. He was preceded in death by his mother; and loving wife of 28 years, Susan Murr.

Survivors are his father, Danny Lee Murr of Jacksonville; children, Maegan Isip and Zachary Radcliff; sisters, Tracee (Russell) Kellar and Nancy (Robert) Smallwood; Kathy (Jimmie) Avant; six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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



Barbara Porter

Barbara Masters Porter, 75, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born Aug. 6, 1948, to the late Arthur W. Masters and Julia Winkler Underhill in Gainesville. She grew up in Starke, where she attended the Bradford schools and graduated in 1966. She helped her mother, Julia, start the family floral business, Julia's Florist, in 1973. Her talent was a blessing to the business and, after working alongside her mother for 10 years, she decided to go back to college and earn her nursing degree. She served as an RN for 30 years before retiring. She enjoyed gardening, softball, her pets and spending time with her family. She always loved telling jokes and making people laugh.

She will be missed by her husband, William "Bill" Porter; her children, Julie Hollingsworth Padgett, Elissa Jo Hollingsworth, Alexis (Bre) Carter, Billy (Kimmie) Porter; her siblings, Dorothy Masters Starling, Arthur Masters, Brenda Matthews, and Buddy Ruis; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and family friends that she loved.

A celebration of her life will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024, 11 a.m. at Airpark Baptist Church 521 N. Orange St. in Starke.



PAID OBITUARY

Gary Teate

Our beloved Gary William Teate, 72, of Starke, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at his home with his family, and with Jesus in his heart. He was born Feb. 11, 1952, in Jacksonville to the late Jacob and Myrtice (Barrett) Teate. He was an eighth-generation Floridian. He grew up on the Ortega River, where he found a love for fishing and just being on the water. He was an athletic, creative, and talented young man. One of his many talents was refurbishing antique and special-interest cars, a passion he shared with his best friend, Eddie Weldon. Eventually, the two would turn their skill set into a business on the west side of Jax called "Total Performance." Many of the cars they restored, engine to body, would go on to be displayed in car shows. Not being relegated to just one set of skills, the two friends found themselves making routed wood signs for local businesses and doing fiberglass repair and motor work on boats at Julington Creek Marina. He was a very skilled builder/craftsman and he always had a project he was working on. Gary would later take a job with the COJ Public Works Department, which would eventually become JEA's Project Engineering Dept., working as a plan reviewer and assisting engineers and developers with countless development projects over many years, where he would ultimately retire.

He was also a skilled writer and poet, often moving his loved ones to tears with his craft. He was a dedicated father who was always active in his children's sports (among other hobbies), either as a coach or as a passionate parent awaiting his likely ejection by an umpire. He had an affinity for history and "old Florida." He loved a good Western, his sweet tea, and some good southern cooking. His family will especially remember with great fondness all of the times spent together at Lake Kerr, Fernandina Beach and Crescent beach. They will remember how he was always sure to make the holidays fun and special, his great sense of humor (of course), how his unique laugh could fill all of the space within a room. And most of all, his deep, deep love for them.

He is survived by his wife Donna (Torrent) Teate; his children, Lorrie (Buster) Morgenstern, Casey (Hope) Teate and Shelley (Phil) Moody; as well as his sister, Patti (Don) Priest; stepchildren, Michelle (Robert) Walker and Christian (Cassandra) Kornegay; he left behind 17 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and his beloved dogs, Pickles and Peanut.

Gary's graveside service will be Thursday, May 23, at Jacksonville Memory Gardens in Orange Park on Blanding Boulevard. The viewing and book signing starts at 10:30 a.m., with the service following at 11 a.m. with Pastor Terry Blakesley.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke, 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

In Memory

In Memory Of

D. D. "Mont" Cadle

5/4/1934 to 4/5/2022

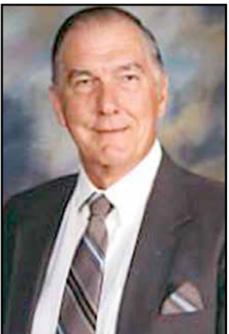
In memory of our Dad,

who went on ahead.

Our trip is yet to be -

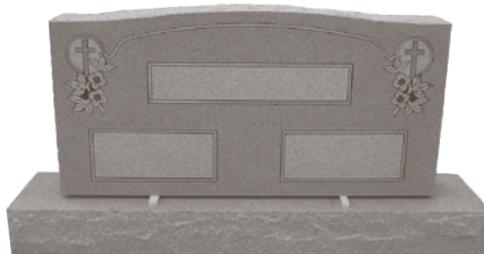
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Forever your sons, Dale & Bob



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STARKE US-301S 964-6078 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6
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BHS grads have 'foundation to pursue our life goals'

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Members of Bradford High School's Class of 2024 graduated on May 17, ready to assume their roles of young adults, continuing their education, serving in the military or entering the workforce.

Valedictorian Jack Hendrix said whatever the graduates achieve in life, they will have done so because of the preparation they received at BHS.

"Our lives here at Bradford High School have provided the foundation for us to pursue our life goals," Hendrix said.

Hendrix, who's already graduated from Santa Fe College with his AA degree and plans to attend the University of Florida to major in Computer Science, opened his commencement speech with a round of thanks.

"I would first like to thank everyone for attending this ceremony to honor the hard work of all the students and staff members here today," Hendrix said. "I would also like to thank my family members and peers for supporting me throughout my high school career, to help me get to where I am standing right now. I certainly couldn't have made it this far without them."

Hendrix told his classmates that while they were congratulating each other, they should also congratulate themselves.

"Graduating high school isn't an easy achievement. It's the culmination of years of dedication and effort, and each and every one of you deserves to be recognized for that achievement. Be proud that you have the ability to say that you are part of the 2024 graduation class of Bradford High School. You've earned it."

The last four years went by quicker than he would've imagined, even though people told him it would, Hendrix said. During that whirlwind, he said the education he and his classmates received included more than the subjects that were taught in their classes.

"You didn't just learn how to find the sides of a triangle or how photosynthesis works," Hendrix said. "You learned more about yourself. Discovering not only what you want to be, but who you want to be is one of the most important parts of your high school career."

"Your experiences here have and will continue to shape the person you are and will become. Not only have we matured as students, but as people as well. Most of us learned how to apply

for a job, how to do interviews, how to handle a bank account and how to drive. I'm still working on parking, though, so watch out."

Hendrix told his classmates that he hoped they'd "continue to embody the strength and perseverance" they exhibited in high school and encouraged them "to grow and never stop your lifelong endeavor to learn."

In closing, Hendrix said, "Surround yourselves with those who encourage you to grow as a person, and I guarantee you will go far."

Salutatorian Adrian Cadle Olvera has completed the certified-nursing course at North Florida Technical College and plans to continue study nursing at Santa Fe College. He said he made memories at BHS, including "long nights of studying for an AP test or, more recently, my dire case of senioritis."

"Overall, we made it through high school," Olvera said. "I think that, alone, is great, and you should be proud of it."

Olvera said next up is "filling out W2 forms, making a resume and worrying about a 401K." Before that, though, he encouraged his classmates to recognize and show respect to the teachers and staff who helped them discover their life goals.

Teachers, staff, friends and experiences at BHS all "shaped us into who we are now and will be a part of us as who we will be for the rest of our lives," Olvera said.

In closing, Olvera quoted a line from "Mortal Man," a song by Kendrick Lamar: "Although the butterfly and the caterpillar are completely different, they are one and the same."

"I believe all the graduates have the potential to reach the highest distinction in whatever they do," Olvera said.

The commencement began with seniors Abigail Casey (class secretary) leading the pledge of allegiance, Destiny Lauramore singing the national anthem and Elisabeth Wilsey (class chaplain) providing the opening prayer.

Principal Chris Coffey then delivered his address, saying that the last four years quickly came and went.

"Now, here we are, just a few minutes before you walk across stage and launch yourself into the real world," Coffey said. "First and foremost, I would like to let you know how proud I am of each and every one of you."

Coffey talked of being amazed by the students' resiliency during trying times and, their



Valedictorian Jack Hendrix



Salutatorian Adrian Cadle Olvera

academic success and by their accomplishments in athletics and extracurricular activities.

"Beyond the academic growth and extracurricular activities, what set you all apart is your undeniable bond and the love that you have for one another," Coffey said. "I have watched you pick each other up in the midst of personal heartaches and the loss of two of your classmates (Laci Laycock and Nicholas Sapp)."

Coffey said the class demonstrated how special it was during senior year highlights, such as the awards ceremony, baccalaureate and the graduates' return to the elementary schools they attended for senior walks.

The penultimate event, of course, was graduation.

"As you prepare for this next chapter," Coffey said, "I urge you to continue exemplifying the BHS pillars: Present, Respect, Responsible, Productive and Safe."

"Understand that there will be challenging days ahead, but the good thing about life is not we are not defined by those challenging days, but how we respond and grow from those times."

"Take time to identify your gifts, abilities and passions and find a career that aligns with those."

Coffey told the graduates to remember they will have

"the belief, love and support from your family, friends and teachers" as they continue their life journey.

He also stressed that they will forever be part of BHS.

"Although you are leaving Bradford High School, you will always be a member of the Tornado family," Coffey said.

Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley spoke after Coffey, telling the graduates he was honored to share the stage with them during "one of life's greatest milestones."

Hartley said during his time as superintendent, he has "truly learned that it takes a community of students, families, teachers and all other school staff for our students to successfully reach this goal of graduation."

"Parents and other family members, we appreciate your commitment to your child's education, working with us hand in hand to ensure their success," Hartley said.

Hartley then asked every school district employee in attendance to stand, saying, "This is the day we've all worked for, that we would help our students reach this goal that sets them up for lifelong success. Thank you for everything you do day in and day out for our students."

In turning his focus to the graduates, Hartley reminded them that everyone goes through hard things in life.

"Embrace the challenges you will face along the way and look at them as opportunities," Hartley said. "Remember, failure is only a reminder to try and try again. Never allow setbacks to stop you from achieving your goals."

In closing, Hartley told the graduates, "Constantly seek new opportunities that will allow you to grow into your limitless potential."

Class President Samuel Williams stepped up to the podium next, sharing an emotional story about how he passed up a chance to see his ailing grandfather on the night of prom, telling himself he would make that visit the following day.

"After a long night of having fun, I went home to get some rest



Turning their tassels are (front, l-r) Samuel Williams, Kencie Wainwright, Abigail Casey, (back, l-r) Christyanna Burch and Troy Burdick.



Harley Smith (left) and Chloe Anderson are feeling ducky about graduating. If you'll look closely, each is holding a tiny, plastic duck. Just to have some fun, each graduate presented a duck to Principal Chris Coffey when they walked across the stage.

so I could be up in the morning to go see my granddad," Williams said. "Around 6:30 that morning, my dad woke me up. I asked him, 'What's wrong?' He said, 'Son, your granddad passed away.'"

Williams said his reason for telling that story was to let everyone know that "as long as we have breath in our lungs, get up and do what you have to do."

The focus of Williams' speech

then turned to the future. He told his classmates that whatever they do in life, they should do so with purpose and with heart. He said to treat others the way you'd want to be treated and to never give up.

"Remember, you are in control of your life, so make the best of it," Williams said.

See BHS, page 10



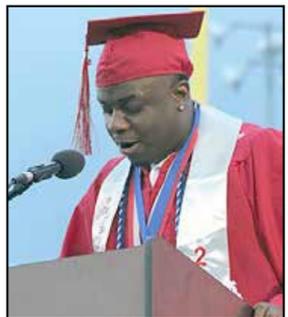
Class Secretary Abigail Casey leads the pledge of allegiance.



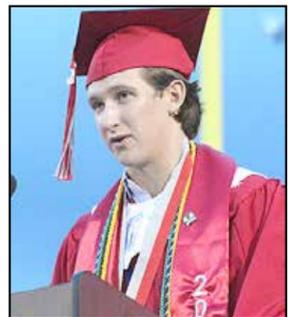
Destiny Lauramore sings the national anthem.



Class Chaplain Elisabeth Wilsey provided the opening prayer.



Class President Samuel Williams performs the senior class greetings.



Executive Board President Luke Stucky acknowledges faculty and staff.



Class Senator Chloe Anderson presents the class flower: yellow rose.



Class Senator Emma Mueller presents the class motto: You've seen the best, so look no more; Class of 2024.



Class Senator Harley Smith presents the class song: "Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield.



Class Vice President Kencie Wainwright presents the class verse: Timothy 4:12.

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Testimonial:

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There are many reasons I love my job. It's allowed me to expand my view on the communications world. Through my job I've been able to have new experiences, meet new people, and have had the opportunity to expand my skill set beyond what I believed was possible.

2. Can you tell me what benefits from the Florida Air National Guard have helped you the most?

I would say that the education benefits have been the most helpful. Prior to enlisting I was having trouble finding somewhere I could study and get Certifications without spending vast amount of money. Since enlisting I've been able to take several classes and I am preparing to take multiple certifications and commence my first year on college.

3. Can you talk about some of the new skills you have learned in the Florida Air National Guard that have helped you in the civilian work force?

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

Respectfully,
XXXXXXXXXX,XXXX
Xxxx XXXXXXXX, XXXXXX,XX
202d RED HORSE | Camp Blanding, FL

Call the Recruiting Office to get more information:
5629 SR 16 West BLDG 4200, Starke, FL 32091
Office 904-741-7756 • Cell 904-955-4066



HCA baseball team wins school's 1st-ever SECC title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Hope Christian Academy's baseball team defeated High Springs' First Christian 13-1 on May 11 to win the Southeastern Christian Conference tournament championship, giving Hope its first-ever SECC title winner in any sport.

The Lions finished the season with an 11-3 record.

"They achieved what they wanted to do," Hope Coach Brent Hanson said, adding, "I couldn't be more happy for them."

Hope had another tournament highlight in that its softball team received the Christian Character Award.

The baseball team, which entered the SECC tournament off a division championship, ended the season on an eight-game win streak, scoring a total of 67 runs during that span, while opponents scored just 16 runs.

"Every game, they got better," Hanson said. "They improved all year."

Though he was confident about his team's chances in the tournament, Hanson admitted he was anxious prior to the Lions' first game, which was against Brunswick Christian. He said Brunswick probably had the best pitching staff in the conference.

Hanson said Hope, though, probably led the conference in hits and runs scored. He felt his team could come out on top if it got just a few hits, saying that the Lions were also the conference's best defensive team.

Four players finished with at least two hits in a 6-2 win over Brunswick on May 11 that put the Lions into the championship game.

Dalton Thomas went 3 for 3 with a double and was also 3 for 3 on stolen-base attempts.

Walker Munroe went 3 for 4, while Noah Gaffney and Ty Briscoe were 2 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively.

Briscoe, Marcus Chever, Zach Hansen and Jackson Jones each went 2 for 2 on stolen-base attempts.

That win set up a final-game matchup against a First Christian team that swept Hope in the regular season. First Christian defeated the Lions 5-3 in the season opener on March 7 and 3-2 on April 1.

The Lions wanted the chance to play First Christian again.

"That's kind of what we were hoping for," Hanson said.

Briscoe and Thomas went 3 for 3 and 3 for 4, respectively, with each hitting a double in the Lions' 13-1 championship win. Briscoe was 3 for 3 on stolen-base attempts, while Thomas went 2 for 2.

Munroe and Wyatt Gauthier each went 2 for 3, with Gauthier hitting two doubles.

Jude Hanson was 2 for 2 on stolen-base attempts.

Hope's eight-game win streak began with an 11-4 win over Southside Christian on April 9. Thomas hit two home runs and finished with three RBI, going 2 for 4 at the plate.

Briscoe and Munroe each went 2 for 3, with Briscoe driving in two runs and Munroe driving in three. Briscoe was also 2 for 3 on stolen-base attempts.

Hanson had one RBI and was 2 for 2 on stolen-base attempts.

Hansen and Jones each hit a double.

Briscoe pitched a complete game (five innings), giving up



Hope Christian Academy's baseball team won the Southeastern Christian Conference championship, becoming the first Lions team in any sport to do so. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Walker Munroe, Jackson Jones, Gage Burnett, Lucas Grider, Julio Casielles, Colton Davis, Mason Masciocchi, (back, l-r) Noah Gaffney, Landen Perry, Jude Hanson, Marcus Chever, Dalton Thomas, Wyatt Gauthier, Zach Hansen and Ty Briscoe. Not pictured: Danilo Benetti. Photo by Malena Hanson.

seven hits and three walks, while striking out eight.

The Lions clung to a 3-2 lead against host Brunswick Christian before scoring seven runs in the final three innings to win 10-2 on April 12.

Hanson had three RBI, going 2 for 4 with two doubles.

Briscoe, Munroe and Thomas each had two RBI. Thomas went 4 for 5 with two doubles and a triple, while Munroe was 2 for 4 with a double. Munroe was also 4 for 4 on stolen-base attempts, while Thomas went 2 for 2.

Hansen, who had one RBI, pitched two innings, giving up no runs, no hits and three walks, while striking out five. Briscoe allowed two runs, three hits and one walk in two innings, while

Thomas gave up no runs, two hits

and no walks in three innings. Thomas had six strikeouts.

On April 15, Hope hosted Open Bible, with Briscoe going 2 for 3 and driving in three runs in an 11-1 win.

Hanson was 3 for 3 with two RBI, while Thomas went 2 for 4.

Jones, who had two RBI, and Chever each went 2 for 2 on stolen-base attempts.

Hansen and Munroe each had one RBI.

On the mound, Hansen allowed one run, three hits and one walk, while striking out four in four innings. Briscoe gave up no hits and no walks, with one strikeout in two innings.

The Lions traveled to Valdosta, Georgia, to play Open Bible again, with Hansen and Munroe each driving in two runs in a 10-2

win on April 19.

Hanson and Jones each had one RBI, with Jones going 3 for 4. Jones was also 2 for 2 on stolen-base attempts.

Briscoe, who was 4 for 4 on stolen-base attempts, pitched two innings, giving up two runs, two hits and three walks, while striking out three. Thomas allowed no hits and one walk in four innings, striking out six.

Hope got two RBI from Jones in a 4-3 win over visiting Corinth Christian on April 23.

Jones finished 3 for 4, while Thomas went 2 for 4 with a double.

Briscoe and Munroe each had one RBI, with Munroe successful on two stolen-base attempts.

On the mound, Briscoe gave up four hits and one walk, while

striking out four in six innings. Thomas threw one inning, giving up no hits and no walks.

Jones drove in the winning run in a 2-1 win over visiting Brunswick Christian on April 26.

It was 1-1 entering the bottom of the seventh. Landen Perry singled, while Thomas walked. Jones hit a ground ball to the shortstop to score the winning run.

Jones drove in the Lions' first run as well off a single in the first inning.

Briscoe pitched five innings, allowing one unearned run, three hits and no walks. He struck out 11.

Thomas threw the final two innings, giving up one hit and no walks, while striking out five.

BHS

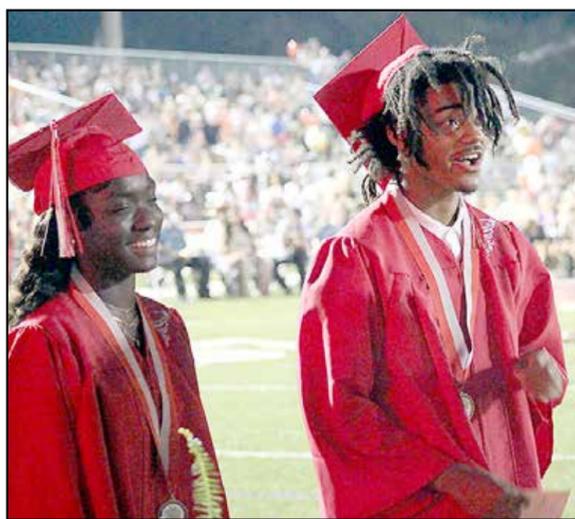
Continued from page 9

Williams believes he and his classmates will benefit from the experiences they had at BHS.

"This place has prepared us for a new chapter of life," Williams said.

Executive Board President Luke Stucky acknowledged BHS faculty and staff, saying, "My most heartfelt gratitude goes to our teachers, who have taught us everything we know and helped us get to where we are now. As a teacher's son, I know how much hard work and dedication each and every teacher puts into their work and how much love they have for their students. The countless hours and planning and preparation don't go unnoticed.

"At some point in our lives, every one of us has been impacted



Jada Hankerson (left) and Damarion Hankerson are excited as they prepare to walk across the stage and accept their diplomas.

by one of those teachers, who took the time to teach and care about us."

Stucky didn't pass up the opportunity to offer some words of advice to his classmates, starting with telling them to trust God.

"God has big plans for each and every one of us," Stucky said. "When we experience highs and lows throughout life, remember that it's all part of His plan and to trust Him in the process."

His second piece of advice was for his classmates to continue to be there for each other.

"One of my favorite things about this class is that we all care for each other and get along," Stucky said, adding, "Make sure that never changes."

Lastly, Stucky told his classmates to never forget their roots.

"I know that many of you are going to go on and do amazing things in your life," Stucky said, "but remember who you are and know where you come from."

Class Vice President Kencie Wainwright and senators Chloe Anderson, Emma Mueller and Harley Smith presented the class verse (Timothy 4:12), flower (yellow rose), motto (You've seen the best, so look no more; Class of 2024) and song ("Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield).

Senior Teagan Bradley shared the remembrance of deceased classmates Laci Laycock and Nicholas Sapp.

"Nicholas loved band and was very talented at playing the saxophone," Bradley said. "There is no doubt he would've been a part of our Scarlet Storm marching band.

"Laci was a sergeant in the



Luke Stucky and Abbigale Moore share a hug as official graduates.

sheriff's Explorers program, where she was pursuing a career in criminal justice."

Honorary caps and gowns were presented to the families of the deceased students.

Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call
does it all!



Class Ads 05/23/24

40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it

illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people

securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

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47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

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GREAT LOCATION, Hwy Frontage SR 100 Keystone Heights, Two Buildings, multiple uses, former pawn shop & auto sales. Consider lease option to buy with owner financing. Short on cash? Trade your home or rental proper-

ty... Call for more info 904-613-5715

50 For Rent

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

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55 Wanted

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57 For Sale

PLEASE BUY my old 1998 3/4 ton 4 wheel drive Chevy. It runs and everything works. The body is no good, but what do you expect for \$1,600.00. 904-966-1287.

65 Help Wanted

WRITER POSITION OPEN- News & event coverage in Bradford, Union & Keystone Heights. Writing experience necessary, must

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Southern Villas of Starke

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

have good transportation. Assignments are all office based and often require night meeting and activities. Not

a part-time gig. Call for appt. at 904-964-6305 or send resume to P.O. Drawer A, Starke, FL. 32091.

Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County Lake Region UNION COUNTY
Telegraph Monitor TIMES

Classifieds

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Call 904-964-7295
TDD/TTY 711
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of May 23, 2024

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinances, which titles hereinafter appear, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at public hearings on June 4, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. A copy of said ordinances may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinances. The title of said ordinances read, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-09
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, 1S240328A, BY THE CITY COMMISSION, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM PUBLIC TO HIGH DENSITY, RESIDENTIAL (MORE THAN 8 AND LESS THAN 20 UNITS PER ACRE) ON CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10
 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, 2S240328B, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM MEDIUM DENSITY, RESIDENTIAL (MORE THAN 2 AND LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 8 UNITS PER ACRE) TO HIGH DENSITY, RESIDENTIAL (MORE THAN 8 AND LESS THAN 20 UNITS PER ACRE) ON CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearings, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

water management system on 212 acres for Tom's High on the Hog Real Pit BBQ, Inc. known as Keystone RV Resort Phase 4. The receiving water body is Santa Fe River. 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 40B-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 trm@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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on June 19, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on June 12, 2024 and end at 2PM on June 19, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com.
 KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121
 Time: 02:00PM CST
 A45, Hurlbert, Monica, B23, Shell, Curtis, B46, Blake, Alfreda, B57, Bowen, Shaundolin
 Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FITTICIOUS NAME
 Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: JOHN MARK KUKAN, P O Box 451, Worthington Springs, FL 32697, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: ANNIE'S THRIFT & GORIZIA, 3737 SW State Road 121, Lake Butler, FL 32054 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 16th day of May A.D., 2024, in UNION County.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
 Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on June 1, 2024 at 12:00 am on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.
 Unit #82 Daffaney Jones \$335.60
 Unit #48 Shannon Hill \$436.76
 Unit #999 Sherrie Anderson \$295.00
 Unit #12 Kathryn Morabito \$276.56
 Unit #14 Kristin Parker \$115.10
 Unit #54 Kiara K. Randolph \$205.88
 Unit #27 Tashona Jackson \$115.10
 Unit #24 Ana Wise \$161.02
 All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details.

RE-NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated January 17, 2024 and an Order Resetting Sale dated May 08, 2024 and entered in Case No. 23000011CAAXMX of the Circuit Court in and for Union County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST IS Plaintiff and LLOYD S. HEDMAN, JR. A/K/A LLOYD S. HEDMAN A/K/A LLOYD SONDEE HEDMAN, JR.; TAMMY J. HEDMAN A/K/A TAMMY B. HEDMAN A/K/A TAMMY HEDMAN; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION
 TAKEN BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
 Notice is given that the following permit was issued on May 20, 2024: (Name and address of applicant) Tom's High on the Hog Real Pit BBQ, 1177 SE Keystone Ave., Keystone Heights, FL 32656 permit# ERP-007-231354-4. The project is located in BRADFORD County, Section 11, Township 8 South, Range 22 East. The permit authorizes a surface

participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337-6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org
 Published in: Union County Times
 On (dates): 5/16, 5/23, 5/30 and 6/6/2024

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Family Law Division
 Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
IN RE: THE MATTER OF: THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR BRAXTON WESLEY DAVIS

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION
TO: BRIAN WESLEY DAVIS
ADDRESS UNKNOWN
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Termination of Parental Rights has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Brian M. Monk, Esq., of Monk Law Group PLLC, Petitioner/Mother's attorney, whose address is 1102 South Florida Avenue, Suite 111, Lakeland, Florida 33803, on or before June 17, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this court at Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street #1654, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, either before service on Petitioner/Mother's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. **WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.**
 DATED this 9th day of May, 2024.
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 C. NORMAN
 Deputy Clerk
 For Publication in:
 Union County, Florida
 Bradford County, Florida
 Gilchrist County, Florida

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.
 CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO. 23000011CAAXMX
 U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 LLOYD S. HEDMAN, JR. A/K/A LLOYD S. HEDMAN A/K/A LLOYD HEDMAN, JR.; TAMMY J. HEDMAN A/K/A TAMMY B. HEDMAN A/K/A TAMMY HEDMAN; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNION COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS
 BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Union County Land Development Regulations, as amended, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Union County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Union County, Florida, at a public hearing on June 4, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, County Courthouse, located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The amendment was

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 PROBATE DIVISION
 File No. 63-2024-CP-018
 Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF NANCY VANESSA SOWDERS
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of Nancy Vanessa Sowders, deceased, whose date of death was August 2, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
 All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
 All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION

OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
 The date of first publication of this notice is May 23, 2024.
 Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Norm D. Fugate
 Norm D. Fugate
 Attorney
 Florida Bar Number: 044458
 Post Office Box 98
 Williston, FL 32696
 Telephone: (352) 528-0019
 Fax: (352) 528-4919
 E-Mail: norm@normdfugatepa.com
 Secondary E-Mail: lilyya@normdfugatepa.com
 Personal Representative: Steven Sowders

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 at Union County Housing Authority (UCHA), 715 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054. In accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements, the UCHA will conduct a public hearing to receive comments concerning its Five (5) Year Action Plan for 2023-2027, and the 2023 and 2024 Annual Plans. The hearing will take place on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 4:00 pm at the office located at the above address. Copies of the documents are available for review May 23, 2024 to July 8, 2024 at the above address during regular business hours. Comments may be submitted in person or by mail to the address above no later than 4:00 pm, July 8, 2024 or attend the Public Hearing. The location of the meeting is accessible. If anyone needs a reasonable accommodation, please contact UCHA at (386) 496-2047.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No.: 63-2024-DR-0062 and 63-2024-DR-0063
 Division:
SCOTT THOMAS,
 Petitioner
 and
CRISTINA THOMAS,
 Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER IN UNION COUNTY, FL CASES 63-2024-DR-0062 AND 63-2024-DR-0063
 12137 NE SR 121, RAIFORD, FL 32083
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on SCOTT THOMAS, whose address is 1660 S JEFFERSON AVE, CLEARWATER, FL 33756, on or before JUNE 25, 2024 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at: UNION COUNTY CLERK OF COURT, 55 WEST MAIN STREET, ROOM 103, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office. **WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.**
 Dated: MAY 21, 2024
 KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 BY: C. Norman
 Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNION COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS
 BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Union County Land Development Regulations, as amended, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Union County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Union County, Florida, at a public hearing on June 4, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, County Courthouse, located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The amendment was

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Family Law Division
 Case No.: 2024-DR-0029

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Family Law Division
 Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
IN RE: THE MATTER OF: THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR BRAXTON WESLEY DAVIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Family Law Division
 Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
IN RE: THE MATTER OF: THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR BRAXTON WESLEY DAVIS

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FITTICIOUS NAME
 Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: JOHN MARK KUKAN, P O Box 451, Worthington Springs, FL 32697, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: ANNIE'S THRIFT & GORIZIA, 3737 SW State Road 121, Lake Butler, FL 32054 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 16th day of May A.D., 2024, in UNION County.

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
 Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on June 1, 2024 at 12:00 am on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.
 Unit #82 Daffaney Jones \$335.60
 Unit #48 Shannon Hill \$436.76
 Unit #999 Sherrie Anderson \$295.00
 Unit #12 Kathryn Morabito \$276.56
 Unit #14 Kristin Parker \$115.10
 Unit #54 Kiara K. Randolph \$205.88
 Unit #27 Tashona Jackson \$115.10
 Unit #24 Ana Wise \$161.02
 All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details.

RE-NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated January 17, 2024 and an Order Resetting Sale dated May 08, 2024 and entered in Case No. 23000011CAAXMX of the Circuit Court in and for Union County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST IS Plaintiff and LLOYD S. HEDMAN, JR. A/K/A LLOYD S. HEDMAN A/K/A LLOYD SONDEE HEDMAN, JR.; TAMMY J. HEDMAN A/K/A TAMMY B. HEDMAN A/K/A TAMMY HEDMAN; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION
 TAKEN BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
 Notice is given that the following permit was issued on May 20, 2024: (Name and address of applicant) Tom's High on the Hog Real Pit BBQ, 1177 SE Keystone Ave., Keystone Heights, FL 32656 permit# ERP-007-231354-4. The project is located in BRADFORD County, Section 11, Township 8 South, Range 22 East. The permit authorizes a surface

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 Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
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previously noticed for a public hearing on May 30, 2024.
 Z 24-01, an application by Justin C. Howard, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district from AGRICULTURAL-4 to COMMERCIAL, NEIGHBORHOOD (CN) on property described as follows:
 A parcel of land lying in Section 16, Township 6 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southwest corner of said Section 16; thence North 00°08'51" West 1,310.83 feet, along the West line of said Section 16 to the Southwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 16; thence North 89° 48'26" East 830.26 feet, along the South line of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 16 to the intersection with the West line of the East 508.86 feet of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 16; thence North 00°13'30" West 1,077.28 feet, along the West line of the East 508.86 feet of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 16; thence North 86°58'53" West 73.13 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence South 89°50'38" West 156.85 feet; thence North 00°13'30" West 272.11 feet to the South right-of-way line of County Road 239-A; thence North 89°50'38" East 12.22 feet, along the South right-of-way line of said County Road 239-A; thence South 00°09'22" East 5.00 feet, along a jog in the South right-of-way line of said County Road 239-A; thence North 89°50'38" East 186.61 feet, continuing along the South right-of-way line of said County Road 239-A; thence South 33°13'05" West 63.88 feet; thence South 01°35'22" West 213.86 feet to the Point of Beginning.
 Containing 1.01 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, at a public hearing on June 4, 2024 at 3:35 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, County Courthouse located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:
AN ORDINANCE OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 95-4, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 24-01, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE UNION COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM AGRICULTURAL-4 TO COMMERCIAL, NEIGHBORHOOD (CN) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
 All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decisions made at this public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).

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 Family Law Division
 Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
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 Unit #999 Sherrie Anderson \$295.00
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 Family Law Division
 Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
IN RE: THE MATTER OF: THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR BRAXTON WESLEY DAVIS

Bradford County Telegraph
 USPS 062-700
 Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Bradford County Telegraph
 131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
 Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
John Miller, Publisher
 Editor: Mark J. Crawford
 Sports Editor: Cliff Smalley
 Advertising: John R. Tillman
 Typesetting: Mary Goodge
 Advertising & Newspaper Prod.: C. Hurston
 Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
 Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge
 Front office Asst:

Lake Region Monitor
 USPS 114-170
 Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lake Region Monitor
 P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091
 131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091
 Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628
John Miller, Publisher
 Editor: Dan Hillebrand
 Sports Editor: Cliff Smalley
 Advertising: John R. Tillman
 Typesetting: Mary Goodge
 Advertising & Newspaper Prod.: C. Hurston
 Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
 Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge
 Front office Asst:

Union County Times
 USPS 648-200
 Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: UNION COUNTY TIMES
 131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
uctimeseditor@gmail.com
 904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628
John Miller, Publisher
 Editor: Mark J. Crawford
 Advertising: John R. Tillman
 Typesetting: Mary Goodge
 Advertising & Newspaper Prod.: C. Hurston
 Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
 Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge
 Front office Asst:

Tornadoes go 1-1 in spring jamboree

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's football team displayed some of the stingy defensive play fans have become used to in a spring jamboree at Suwannee High School on May 16, with the Tornadoes defeating the host Bulldogs 20-3 in two quarters and then losing 7-6 to Buchholz in two quarters.

The Tornadoes had a chance to defeat Buchholz, but officials ruled that P.J. Lee didn't complete the process of a catch in the end zone on a two-point conversion attempt with 16 seconds remaining.

As far as Head Coach Jamie Rodgers is concerned, his team beat the Bobcats.

"It was 8-7, for sure," he said. "That was a completion."

Still, Rodgers said "it was a heck of an effort by our guys" against Buchholz, which, as a Class 6A school, has more than 2,000 students.

"We were a little gassed in the third quarter (after playing Suwannee), but man, we showed



Jordan Cason (right) runs after intercepting a pass against Suwannee.

some great grit," Rodgers said. "We had a lot of kids playing both ways. It's muggy out here. A lot of these kids haven't been in this situation, under these lights."

Each opposing offense gained 75 yards on its first possession

against Bradford, with Suwannee kicking a field goal and Buchholz scoring a touchdown. The Tornadoes, though, held Suwannee to 3 yards and one first down the rest of the way, creating two turnovers as well. Buchholz gained 10 yards and just one first down on two possessions following its touchdown before crossing midfield again on a 58-yard drive that ended with a missed field goal.

"We talk about it all the time," Rodgers said. "There's a standard here. It doesn't matter who's playing."

Rodgers said now's the time for players who watched their older counterparts and who got numerous scout reps to shine.

"They deserve to be out here on the field playing," Rodgers said. "It's the next person up. We lost a great senior group last year. There's no question about that, but that's what happens. They move on. They do more great things."

"We've got some younger people who'll step up and do great things."

BHS 20 Bulldogs 3

Bradford and Suwannee played each other to start the

jamboree, with the Bulldogs getting the ball first. A couple of runs by Lou Jack Smith resulted in a pair of first downs, while a 20-yard pass from Thomas Sikes to M.J. Rossin moved Suwannee to the Bradford 26. Bradford's Brian Cliffin tripped up Smith for a 3-yard loss, but a 13-yard run by JaDarius Horne gave the Bulldogs another first down at the 17. Two plays later, Sikes connected with Rossin in the corner of the end zone for a touchdown, but a holding penalty negated the score. The Bulldogs eventually settled for A.J. Hitt's 38-yard field goal with 5:50 remaining in the first quarter.

The Suwannee defense intercepted Bradford quarterback Zack Paulk on the Tornadoes' first offensive series, giving the Bulldogs the ball at the Bradford 35. The Tornadoes' Duke Lewis recorded a 10-yard sack on the first play following the turnover. Suwannee punted after three plays.

Bradford's second possession got off to a fast start, with Paulk completing a 17-yard pass to Elijah Lawrence. Gino Addison had runs of 7 and 12 yards to move the Tornadoes to the Suwannee 39. Jeremiah McKenzie entered the game at quarterback and ran for a 13-yard gain, followed by a 5-yard run by Addison. Iyen Addison then broke through several tackles on a 21-yard touchdown run that put Bradford up 6-3 with 56 seconds left in the first quarter. Paulk's pass on the conversion attempt was incomplete.

Suwannee's next two drives resulted in minus-3 yards, with making two tackles for loss.

The Tornadoes went three-and-out on their first series after their touchdown, but found the end zone again on the following drive. The second play of the series had to be replayed four times due to penalties on Bradford and Suwannee, but finally a play was run without a flag being thrown — a 49-yard reception by Jordan Cason to the Suwannee 16. Branden Williams had a 10-yard run before Gino Addison had consecutive carries of 4 and 2 yards, with the second taking him across the goal line with 4:14 to play. Williams then took a direct snap and ran into the end zone on the two-point play to make the score 14-3.

Bradford's Michael Oliver came up with an interception on the Bulldogs' first play following the score, setting the Tornadoes up at the Suwannee 35. Oliver promptly caught a 21-yard pass from Paulk, while Gino Addison bulled his way to the 1-yard line on a 13-yard run. Paulk scored on a run from there to make it a 20-3 game. The conversion attempt was no good.

Two plays after the score, Cason had a pick-six, but a penalty on the return nullified the score. Bradford's offense ran out the remainder of the clock on three Jarrel Harris runs that netted 19 yards.

Gino Addison had 43 yards on seven carries against the Bulldogs, while Paulk completed 5 of 10 passes for 108 yards. Cason had one catch for 49 yards, while Lawrence had two for 32 yards. Oliver finished with one reception for 21 yards.

Though they struggled to run in their next two quarters against Buchholz, Bradford gained 129 yards on 16 carries against Suwannee.

"One of our strengths is going to be our offensive linemen," Rodgers said. "I'm just very, very happy with them. They've been getting better and better since year one. This should be the best year."

Buchholz 7 BHS 6

A fresh Buchholz team needed just 58 seconds to put its only score on the board. Daionte Hicks broke free on a 45-yard run to the Bradford 30. Quarterback Trace Johnson then hooked up with Keil McGriff for a touchdown. Jay Giunta kicked the extra point for a 7-0 Bobcats lead.

Bradford was able to cross midfield on its first series, with a 15-yard penalty helping its cause, but the drive stalled at the Buchholz 48 before the Tornadoes punted.

A holding penalty backed the

Tornadoes' Kellum wins state title

Union County's Amia Bethea also competes

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's Elijah Kellum and Union County High School's Amia Bethea competed at the May 16 Class 2A track and field state finals at the University of North Florida, with Kellum winning the championship in the triple jump.

"It felt good to finally win," said Kellum, who was a state runner-up in the triple jump when he was a sophomore at Santa Fe High School.

Kellum earned medals in two events overall in becoming the first state track and field champ for the Tornadoes since Brandon Bass won the 100m in 2004. Kellum is one of just four to win individual boys titles for Bradford in the last 60 years.

Bradford had 10 individual boys champs in its history prior to Kellum winning his title, with most coming between the years of 1955 and 1964.

Kellum jumped 45 feet, 9.75 inches in the triple jump, which put him ahead of Calvary Christian's Stone Bureau, who jumped 45-8.5.

"I kind of knew I was going to



Bradford's Elijah Kellum won the triple jump championship at the Class 2A state track and field finals and earned two medals overall.

win," Kellum said. "I just had to make sure I did it."

In the long jump, Kellum placed fourth with a distance of 22-7.75. That left him trailing Palm Bay's Camren Williams (23-7.5), Titusville's Ralphe Smith (23.25) and Florida High's Micah Danzy (22-8).

"I thought I was going to do a little better (in the long jump)," Kellum said, "but I was just thankful to be there."

Union's Bethea competed in the 100m, running a 15th-place time of 12.44, concluding a season in which she broke existing school records and then broke her own records in both the 100m and 200m.



P.J. Lee (right) appears to have a catch on this two-point conversion attempt against Buchholz, but officials ruled he didn't possess the ball long enough before the ball was knocked from his grasp by Christopher Johnson.



Drew Simmons (center) hits paydirt in the Tigers' spring game against University Christian. Also pictured is lineman Maddox Wheeler (far right).

Union County pass defense shines against University

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Jesse Chaiken grabbed two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown in Union County's spring scrimmage against Jacksonville's University Christian on May 16.

Drew Simmons also picked off a University Christian pass while Ibn Williams recovered a fumble, and Connor Bresee sacked the opponent's quarterback twice, once with the assistance of Anthony Holmes.

Wyatt Elixon and Drew Simmons also grabbed interceptions.

Each team scored twice in the scrimmage format, giving each team a predetermined number of snaps and no kicks.

Coach Andrew Thomas said he was pleased with the defensive performance.

"We forced five turnovers on defense," he said. "Not really keeping score in the format we were in, but we moved the ball offensively."

Thomas added that quarterback Trenton Klein missed virtually all of spring practice because he was on the baseball team.

"We had a few screw-ups here and there, but for a spring game and only having our quarterback a few days — he did pretty well. So, it was a good night for the most part."

Thomas added that his primary

See UCHS, page 13



Anthony Holmes (center) and Connor Bresee (far right) close in on the University Christian quarterback for an eventual sack.

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See SPRING, page 13



Quarterback Zack Paulk (right) scrambles away from pressure in the game against Suwannee.

SPRING

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Bobcats up to their 6-yard line on the following series. McGriff caught a 19-yard pass for a first down, but after a 4-yard run by Jassaiah Powell, Johnson threw two incompletions, with the second almost intercepted by McKenzie.

Following a punt, the Bradford offense got a spark with two runs for 10 yards by Iyen Addison. The next three plays netted 3 yards as the Tornados punted.

A 14-yard sack by Lewis forced Buchholz into a third-and-18 play on the Bobcats' third possession. A holding penalty against Bradford resulted in turning that into a third-and-6 play, but Cliffin tackled Hicks for a 5-yard loss to force a punt from inside the Buchholz 20-yard line.

The Tornados' offense went three-and-out, punting back to Buchholz, which began a drive at its own 12. The Bobcats picked up first downs on a 13-yard pass by Johnson and a 1-yard run by Powell. McKenzie dropped Hicks for a 4-yard loss on a pass play, but a 12-yard reception by McGriff would set Buchholz up for a fourth-and-2 play at its own 43. The Bobcats lined up to go for it, drawing Bradford offside and gaining a first down at the Tornados' 48.

Two straight incomplete passes followed, with McKenzie breaking up one that almost led

to an interception by Williams. Johnson then found McGriff for a 16-yard gain to the Bradford 32. After two incompletions, Hicks caught a pass and was tackled for a 3-yard loss by Cliffin. The Bobcats' Giunta attempted a 52-yard field goal, which was no good with 4:41 to play.

Bradford picked up its initial first down on what would be its final drive on an offside penalty and a 5-yard pass by Paulk. On a third-and-11 play, Paulk scrambled for a 7-yard gain. He then threw a pass to Williams for a 16-yard gain on fourth down, resulting in a first down at the Buchholz 43. Buchholz was flagged for a personal foul on a 5-yard run by Paulk, moving the Tornados to the 21-yard line. Paulk then found Williams in the end zone for a touchdown pass with 16 seconds left to play. McKenzie lined up at quarterback on the two-point play, throwing the ball into the end zone to Lee, who was ruled to have not completed the catch.

Paulk went 8 of 12 for 56 yards, with Williams catching two passes for 37 yards.

The Tornados now focus on getting better for the season ahead.

"We saw some really good things and saw some things we need to work on, but that's what summer's for," Rodgers said, adding, "We'll build off the positives and work on the negatives."

BHS receives \$10K from Thermacell

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Mosquitoes may not like Thermacell, but Bradford High School does.

The school received a \$10,000 John Hainze Science Empowerment Fund, donated by mosquito-repellent company Thermacell, to be used toward its science program. Thermacell is in the process of opening a research facility in Hampton.

"It's incredibly exciting," BHS Principal Chris Coffey said. "Anytime we can partner with local businesses to help support what's going on here in the schools is always appreciative. A donation of \$10,000 is very significant for us and our budget here at the school. For the science department to receive this has opened a lot of opportunities for our students, which is exciting."

Thermacell Formulation Science and Entomology Manager Jeff Hertz talked of the fund's namesake, John Hainze, saying, "He's one of our entomologists who has been around the company for a really, really long time. He recently retired. He basically led our science and research program up until recently."

Hertz presented the check to Coffey during a May 10 ceremony in the BHS media center, with students in the first-year Cambridge Advanced

International Certificate of Education Program in attendance.

Also in attendance were Thermacell was also represented by Fernando Castro, vice president of research, development and engineering, Becky Heinig, senior scientist-entomology programs, and T.J. Fedirko, biological technician.

Hertz told the students that the Hampton facility will hopefully be completed by July or August.

"Like you, hopefully, we always want to learn more," Hertz said. "There are many, many questions in science. That's why the company is building this facility. We're going to look at mosquito behaviors, specifically against our devices."

William Vidal, a science teacher at BHS, described his feelings as "pure excitement" when he thinks of the opportunities the \$10,000 donation will create.

"I think it'll make a huge difference, giving us a little bit more of a means to provide more of those experiences that we should be (providing), being a science department," Vidal said.

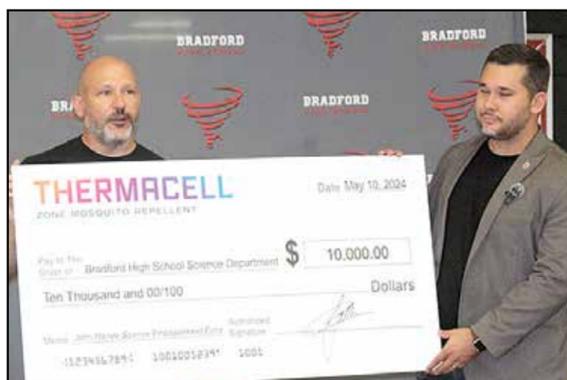
Vidal said the money will help build a laboratory curriculum and fund field trips.

"We're trying to find appropriate ways to use the money and make it last and go as far as we can with it," Vidal said.

Amy Prescott, who is one of BHS' Cambridge AICE students, said science and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) courses are her passion, so knowing that the science program at BHS is getting \$10,000 is "very, very exciting."

"We're so incredibly grateful for this opportunity to grow our science program and to help further our academic experience here at BHS," Prescott, a sophomore, said. "We're so excited to see what the future will hold."

Coffey said the future should have more opportunities for Cambridge AICE students, thanks to Thermacell's donation. He said students have taken a field trip to the University of



Jeff Hertz (left), formulation science and entomology manager for Thermacell, presents the \$10,000 John Hainze Science Empowerment Fund to Bradford High School Principal Chris Coffey on May 10.

Florida and have an upcoming field trip to Florida State University.

"That's been exciting, but it's also been challenging because we don't have a lot of money to be able to do different things," Coffey said, adding, "To get this (John Hainze Science Empowerment Fund) is going to help us provide some more opportunities next year, to really be able to branch out and do some cool stuff."

That's great news to someone like Prescott, who has already enjoyed her time as part of the Cambridge AICE Program.

"I've been given an opportunity to grow more than I would have without the Cambridge Program and to just gain some knowledge I wouldn't have gotten otherwise," Prescott said.

Hertz told the students that the Thermacell research center in Hampton may be able to provide volunteer opportunities and lab experiences in the future.

"You think of science being some big opportunity at other places, and you have to go away from home to learn these big things," Prescott said. "Seeing how close (the Thermacell research center) is just changes that perspective."

What Hertz said he'd really like to see is Thermacell helping students on their educational journeys and some of those

students then working for Thermacell one day.

"Maybe we can make it full circle," he said.

Hertz said if students gain lab experience at Thermacell, but do not go into a science-related field in college, they'll still have received a benefit.

"Lab skills actually help for life," Hertz said. "They teach you organization. They teach you to write clearly, to think clearly and to question things and find solutions. There are a lot of life skills in science that a lot of people don't appreciate."

Bradford County Assistant Superintendent of Schools Karen Clarke thanked the Thermacell representatives, saying, "Anytime we can develop business partnerships and collaborations within the community is just phenomenal and exponentially improves the experiences for our kids."

Clarke said the school district strives to give its students "the latest and greatest kinds of things." Having a business support that endeavor helps create more opportunities.

"You may not recognize it or realize it now," Clarke told the Cambridge students, "but the benefit you guys will get from this \$10,000 is going to be just amazing and provide an amazing experience for you."

UCHS

Continued from page 12

goal for the spring was to get his squad more physical.

"The biggest thing was just trying to get more physical," he said of the afternoon sessions, "and we banged it hard for the past couple of weeks and felt like we did that. But we can still get tougher, and we'll keep working at that."

Union County's offense put together an eight-play, 75-yard drive during the first half, highlighted by a Klein to Gavin Jenkins 39-yard pass. Four plays later, with fourth-and-goal from the 4, Simmons finished off the drive with a run.

The Tigers' second offensive TD came with Jason Buie catching a hard-to-reach ball thrown by Klein. The 22-yard reception capped a 10-play, 80-yard drive.



Quarterback Trenton Klein (far right) looks for yardage after being forced out of the pocket, while Reece Hendricks (far left) makes room for the QB's escape.

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