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GRAD 2022 HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, May 26, 2022

142nd year, 40th Issue — \$1

Honoring a hometown hero

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

One week before Memorial Day, members of the community turned out to line portions of U.S. 301 and Call Street as the body of Army Staff Sgt. Seth Plant was part of a procession that traveled through Bradford County and Starke on its way from Jacksonville International Airport to

St. Johns Family Funeral Home in St. Augustine.

The Florida Twin Theatre marquee read: "Our Hometown Hero, SSG Seth Plant." The son of Mike and Joy Plant was raised in Starke until his family moved to St. Augustine.

Plant, 30, died May 10 in Alaska as the result of injuries sustained during a bear attack while participating in

a training exercise. He served in 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment and had been stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage since July 2021.

Mike Plant, in a phone interview with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor on May 20, said, "When we started to sit down and discuss what we wanted to do and all of that, the first thing I said was, 'We have got to allow him to come through Starke one more time.'"

It was also important to do that for the benefit of the people living in Starke and Bradford County who might not be able to attend the visitation or funeral.

"If anybody wants to pay their respects to Seth, we're honored to bring our son through," Mike said, adding, "Our heart is here even though we live in St. Augustine. Our heart is with our family and friends in Bradford County."

A love of service to the United States

Mike said it almost seemed like his son was destined to join the Army or at least serve his country in some way. Joy was a full-time member of the Florida National Guard when she and Mike met. Her brother, Barry Carlton, served in the Army Special Forces.

"He grew up around it," Mike Plant



Army Staff Sgt. Seth Plant

said.

Mike shared a memory of how Seth had a BB gun when he was a child. He laughed when thinking about how Joy was worried, much like the mother in the "A Christmas Story" movie, worried about Ralphie shooting his eye out. Mike told his wife, "You've got to let the boy be a boy."

Seth was 8 years old when he greeted his dad's return home one day with the question, "Can you see the 3rd Battalion on the right?" Mike said he told his son he didn't know what he was talking about. Seth then aimed his BB gun and shot a toy Army man, which went flying into the air. It was then that Mike saw a bunch of Army men in the grass.

See HERO, page 3



A Florida Highway Patrol trooper and a Clay County Sheriff's deputy are pictured as part of the procession, which consisted of representatives from various law-enforcement agencies. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



WORTH NOTING

Bradford STEAM Camp

Bradford County School District has partnered with the Cade Museum to bring STEAM Summer Science Camp to students, and it completely free!

All students who will be in third, fourth or fifth grade next school year are eligible to sign up for this fun and creative STEAM Camp where they will participate in all sorts of activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

The camp will be held June 20-23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Southside Elementary. Parents, you can register your child online at <http://bit.ly/bradfordcamp>. Space is limited so register today.

Democratic Women to meet May 26

The Democratic Women of the Lakes Area will meet in person on May 26 at 7 p.m. Jyoti Parmar, founder of North Central Florida Indivisible, will be speaking on getting out the vote in a rural area.

Meetings are held at the Historic Melrose Homemakers' Club, 25728 Park St. in Melrose. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 352-235-4161.

Goodbye to BHS!



Members of Bradford High School's Class of 2022, including (front, l-r) Zachary Clayton, Kylee Davis and Amari Jones, toss their caps and celebrate as official graduates at the end of the May 20 commencement. See more inside. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

County gives \$500k to RJE gym renovation

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Concerned Citizens of Bradford County will receive \$500,000 in federal relief funding from the county to reroof and renovate the RJE gymnasium.

The group has had no luck seeking state grants and appropriations and has had to watch the gym continue to deteriorate. The most recent basketball season was hosted by Bradford Middle School because they are now afraid to be in the building, Concerned Citizens President Alicia McMillian told the board May 19.

The county commission has more than \$5.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding but had not committed to spending any of those funds until Concerned Citizens supporters filled the boardroom and McMillian stood before the board on a broken leg to make their case.

The organization was formed 45 years ago, and McMillian said their 61-year-old gym is more than just a gymnasium — it is a community center. It is part of the former RJE high school, important both culturally and historically to the citizens of Starke's northeast district. In addition to recreation for their afterschool and summer camp programs and sports leagues, the gym houses everything from bimonthly food distributions to town halls and other community gatherings.

The last major renovation was in the early 1980s thanks to a CDBG grant which repaired the roof and flooring. Today, despite attempts to patch it, the roof is failing, the ceiling is falling, and the floor has been damaged by water infiltration.

Time and again they have been disappointed by low scoring grant

See RJE, page 5

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Hawkins back as new BMS principal

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Ben Hawkins is coming back to the Bradford School District, this time in his first position as principal at Bradford Middle School.

Born and raised in Bradford County, Hawkins is a 1992 graduate of Bradford High and describes his youth as a typical small-town experience.

He went on to study psychology and sociology at the University of Florida with an eye to toward counseling. It was during an internship at a boys' youth ranch that he decided he would like to work with kids before they found themselves in that situation and steer them to a better path.

That turned him to teaching and coaching. He began at Bradford's former Renaissance Center before teaching intensive reading at the middle school. He also began coaching and transitioned to the high school where he taught American government and economics and served as a resource teacher for ESE students. Budget cuts took him back to the middle school where he continued working with ESE students and co-teaching social science before bouncing back to teach ESE students at the high school.

In addition to kids with physical or mental disabilities,

Hawkins said he feels an affinity for working with troubled students.

"No kid does anything for no reason," he said. "There's always a reason. It's just whether they trust you enough to share with you, or there's trauma or what have you. So, the first thing that most of these kids do is they act out or misbehave because they want people or expect people to just toss them aside and disregard them."

"That's never really worked on me because I know it's just a cloak, a shield. So that's when you kind of dig in. You've got to get in there to do the heavy lifting, and hopefully, you make a change."

Hawkins is grateful for second changes. Around 10 years ago, the district was projecting he would go into administration, but his life took an unexpected turn. He and his wife were on vacation when he was attacked verbally and physically in a casino by a man he described as intoxicated. Hawkins said he was struck multiple times, and when he retaliated with a single blow, it proved fatal. The teacher and future administrator was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 90 days in jail.

It was a life-altering event that showed Hawkins who in his life was genuinely there for him. It has also become a way of



Ben Hawkins, new Bradford Middle School principal

relating to kids when he speaks to them about the importance of life decisions and how five seconds can truly change your life and someone else's. He is living proof that it doesn't have to destroy you.

"If you are consistent, hardworking, and truly show people who you are, I would say you can come out of just about anything," he said. "How people are resilient and rebound from things, I think that's something a lot of our kids need to learn and see and experience, because a lot of them just give up."

Hawkins said it's just as important for adults to understand as well, which is why he is willing to talk about it with anyone who approaches in the right spirit, and not to interrogate

of judge.

"I think everybody's 1,000 times better than the worst thing that they have ever done or has ever happened to them," he said.

To this day only a handful of people are privy to all the details of what happened. Among them were the Department of Education officials who allowed Hawkins to retain his education credentials.

Hawkins returned to work in Hamilton County, again working with ESE students, but for the first time in an elementary school. That led to his first administrative position at a larger elementary school where he ran a lab and served as a part-time dean. He said he got used to being crawled on like a jungle gym and had a great experience

at the elementary level. He still preferred the heavy lifting and moved back into high school where he began writing a plan for an alternative school for the district.

While working with failing students to get them promoted, Hawkins was promoted to ninth-grade administrator. After a couple of chance encounters with someone from another district who had once tried to recruit him from Bradford, Hawkins — who said he doesn't believe in accidents — was hired by Levy County as a dean at Williston Middle High School. After two years, he was promoted to assistant principal. Now, coming full circle back to BMS, he will take on the role of principal for the first time.

Having had the opportunity to visit the campus, Hawkins observed disciplinary issues that could use some strategic work, but he also said it's to be expected with kids that age. It is a call for more structure and guidance.

"I'm a firm believer that you can curb a lot of discipline issues with consistency, structure and just your presence," he said. "I believe in being a creature of consistency and treating all kids the same."

It helps having a great staff, which comes with being someone they can rely on.

"You need to have your people's back. You need to support them. You need to make sure you're building them up because, the truth of the matter is, nothing moves on a school campus without the teachers and support staff. Without them, you're just a man on an island," he said.

Consistency, a strong work ethic, unique life perspective, and a love and concern for kids are all things Hawkins said he would bring to his new job at BMS. He intends to be an active problem solver.

"Versus having a phone call

with some people, I would prefer to knock on their door and sit down and at their dinner table and see if we can sort through things, you know, because, as I said, before, no kid does anything for no reason," he said.

"If a kid is hungry, or a kid didn't sleep last night, or doesn't have a place to sleep, obviously, some of the collateral damage is that when that kid comes to school, they're going to either sleep or they're going to do certain things. So having that background knowledge, that foundational knowledge, will help you put them in the best situation to be successful. And parents, adults, we all have our struggles, so trying your best to help facilitate them as well as their kids will help that situation out. I think that that's hugely important."

Hawkins, who lives with his wife, outside of Waldo, said he's looking forward to working in Bradford again.

"Some of the most imperfect people make the best educators, whether it's a teacher or not, because you're educating kids about life experiences. And they're more likely to accept that from someone that is battle tested, or that has gone through certain things, because it's a practical reference, it's more relatable," he said. "The days of you do this because I told you so are long gone. These days with kids, you're going to have to earn a level of respect and a level of legitimacy. I think you can do that by being honest with kids."

Hawkins said kids cannot be coaxed into compliance.

"Hey, if I need to 'pin your ears back,' I'll do that. But after that I'm going to brush you off, give you a hug and love you, same way I do my own kids. I think that helps build a young person and lets them see that someone can be hard on you and still care about you."

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The hearse carrying the body of Plant travels past a lot of U.S. flags and people paying their respects. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

Mike said he told Seth, "Son, let's just be an 8-year-old." Seth, though, responded by saying, "Dad, this is what I want to do."

"I knew from that moment on that it was inevitable that he was going to be a soldier," Mike said. In an interview with News4JAX that aired on May 12, Barry Carlton said, "He wanted to do everything I did. He followed in my footsteps, joined the Army and became a paratrooper. Ten years after I was in Afghanistan, he went to Afghanistan."

While in Afghanistan, as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Seth survived an improvised-explosive device and a rocket-propelled grenade as well as a machine-gun attack by four members of the Taliban that left others around him dead.

One day before the bear attack, Mike talked to his son. Seth's desire to be in the Army and to serve his country was as strong as it was when he was 8. Mike said his son told him, "I love what I'm doing. This is what I was meant to do."

Mike said Seth received "tremendous remarks" from captains, majors, colonels and generals who always said, "We know where your son stood."

It was an attribute instilled early in Seth. Mike said he told his son, "Don't mince your words. Say what you mean so everyone knows exactly where you're coming from."

Mike recalled an incident when Seth was preparing to talk with



Denise Spratlin (left) and Randy Pittman look on as the hearse and the vehicle carrying Seth Plant's parents and sisters go by. Spratlin used to go to church with the family when they lived in Starke. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

higher-ranking Army officials about the planned dismissal of four soldiers. Seth told his father, "Dad, I see potential in them that (the higher-ups) don't see. I'm going to fight it. I'm going to let them know they can transfer them to my command. I will make sure they meet the standards the Army's wanting." "He was a true leader," Mike

said. "I was very, very proud of the way he went about things."

Carried by God to the other side

In a statement, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game said a den with two brown bear cubs was located near the area



Doug Bennett, an uncle of Seth Plant's, displays a U.S. flag as he awaits the procession, which traveled from Jacksonville International Airport to St. Johns Family Funeral Home in St. Augustine. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

where Seth and soldiers were training. While investigating following the attack, the department said a brown bear approached the area. Cyndi Wardlow, a regional supervisor with the department, said information collected suggests "a defensive attack by a female bear protecting her cubs."

As Seth's family learned more of the details regarding the timing of the attack, Mike said he began thinking back to what he was doing the moment it happened. Mike, a photographer, was taking pictures at the time, so he began looking back at what he had photographed.

What he discovered was that within four or five minutes of the attack, he was photographing a waterfall that spilled into a pool and out into another waterfall. In between the two waterfalls was a bridge.

To Mike, that bridge seemed to be a sign from God. It represented a person going from one side (this life on earth) to the other (eternal life in Heaven).

That photo has been a comfort to the family. "It was kind of like God telling

me, 'I'm carrying him over to the other side.' That picture will be a part of the little things we hand out at the funeral," Mike said.

A love of life

Seth was devoted to the Army, but his life was so much more. In fact, you could say he was devoted to people and life itself.

His family will tell you that he never met a stranger. As part of the May 12 News4JAX interview, Joy Plant said, "He was the life of the party. He was loved by everybody in the community, his family and the military."

He and his sisters — Amber Hersey and Gini Solano — liked to joke that he was the "favorite child." The youngest of the three siblings enjoyed a strong bond with his sisters and enjoyed

playing with his nieces and nephew.

It is said that Seth loved to sing, dance and laugh. He enjoyed playing the drums, shooting guns and riding motorcycles. He loved to cook and eat.

He also enjoyed the outdoors. Mike said Seth wasn't wild about the idea of living in Alaska at first since that put him so far away from his family, but he embraced the beauty of his surroundings there. Mike said he and Seth talked once via Facetime when Seth told him he wanted to show him the view of the mountains from the back balcony of the apartment he was living in. As he showed the view to his father, Seth said, "Man, how cool is that?"

Seth's favorite holiday was Independence Day. He'd put on his most-patriotic attire and spend time at the lake with his family on July 4, which would end with enjoying the fireworks in downtown St. Augustine.

It seemed Seth made the most of life.

"He just did what he wanted to do," Mike said. "That was to serve his country, fight for those who are less fortunate, love his family and love his God. He lived completely with passion."

"Not a lot of us can say, 'I'm doing exactly what I've wanted to do all my life.' I'm just thankful he got to do that."

The perfect tribute to Seth would be to do the same.

"I was telling everybody here, if you ever want to honor my son, live life fully and live it with passion," Mike said. "That's the way he lived."

Mike said as he and his family were looking at family photos, they came across one of the family that was taken at the church they once attended — the Starke Church of God.

"We were all kind of smiling," Mike said, "but Seth — with his spiked hair — has this beaming, beaming smile. We were like, 'Boy, if that doesn't tell the story of Seth right there.'"

Christmas tree purchase splits commission

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Unlike support for the RJE gymnasium, commissioners did not come together over whether to help purchase a new Christmas tree for downtown Starke.

The Tourist Development Council forwarded the request to the county commission for approval. North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce President Pam Whittle explained the \$8,000 request was being matched by the city of Starke.

Whittle said the annual Christmas on Call Street event creates good will within the community and brings visitors to Starke. The Downtown Merchants make most of it happen by paying out of pocket.

Last year's tree was held up with string and duct tape, she

said. This \$16,000 metal tree can be reused year after year.

"It's for the community, just like we have all the other lights," Whittle said.

The money wasn't coming out of the commission's pocket, but out of the Tourist Development Fund, which receives revenue from the "bed tax," a tax on overnight accommodations. Some commissioners questioned whether this was the best use of those funds, however.

"I'm being brutally honest with you, this will be the first time I think anything's come up from TDC that I'm not fully on board with," Chairman Chris Dougherty said, questioning how much tourism the Christmas event creates.

Since the RV park is generating more bed tax money, as will the new Holiday Inn Express, Commissioner Danny Riddick

said there was no sense in letting the TDC funds build up and not benefit from their use.

"I think this is something that we do for our community as well. I know it's for tourism, but there's a lot of people come down there and enjoy that," Commissioner Diane Andrews added.

Dougherty referred to the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, who were present to make a funding request of their own, saying the tournaments they have also bring visitors to the community. He found allocating \$8,000 of TDC funds toward a Christmas tree a "steep amount."

Whittle said it was a good deal considering many community trees start around \$40,000.

Andrews moved to fund the request, and she was supported by Riddick and Commissioner

Carolyn Spooner. Dougherty and Commissioner Kenny Thomas voted against the request.

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Lake Region

Keystone graduates thank teachers, parents

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Gratitude turned out to be the theme of the 2022 commencement exercises at Keystone Heights High School, with student after student expressing thanks to parents and teachers during the Friday, May 20 ceremony.

Several graduates singled out class sponsor Sally Jackson for gratitude, saying the school's Teacher of the Year was a constant presence at class events.

"You could find her at almost every school event, and she always had a smile on her face," said Class President Della Boyette. "Thank you for everything you have done to make our senior year unforgettable. We love you, Miss Jackson."

Boyette added that many of her classmates have known each other since kindergarten.

"We have grown up with the same people in the same town which we hold close to our hearts," she said. "Throughout these last six years at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School, we have made friends joined clubs been quarantined a time or two."



Everyday sacrifices

Valedictorian Caleb Moncrief devoted most of his speech to thanking teachers and parents for the everyday sacrifices that enabled his classmates and himself to achieve one of life's significant milestones.

"In the mornings they made sure that we were up for school and at night they tried to help us, with whatever homework they could understand," Moncrief said of parents and guardians. "They took us to early practices and took us home from late night games and events. They gave us

Valedictorian Caleb Moncrief devoted most of his speech to thanking teachers and parents for the everyday sacrifices that enabled his classmates and himself to achieve one of life's significant milestones.

their space in our houses so that we could have a place to hang out even if it was just to sit on our phones. They gave all that they could do so that we would have the opportunity to walk across the stage tonight."

Friendly and welcoming spirit

Salutatorian Bryce Couey

urged his classmates to keep learning and developing, even as they look back on the achievement of overcoming the difficulties of virtual learning, social distancing and masks to make it to graduation.

"This ceremony is both a celebration of what we have all accomplished and a challenge for us to strive for even greater heights, Couey said. "In the words of Benjamin Franklin:

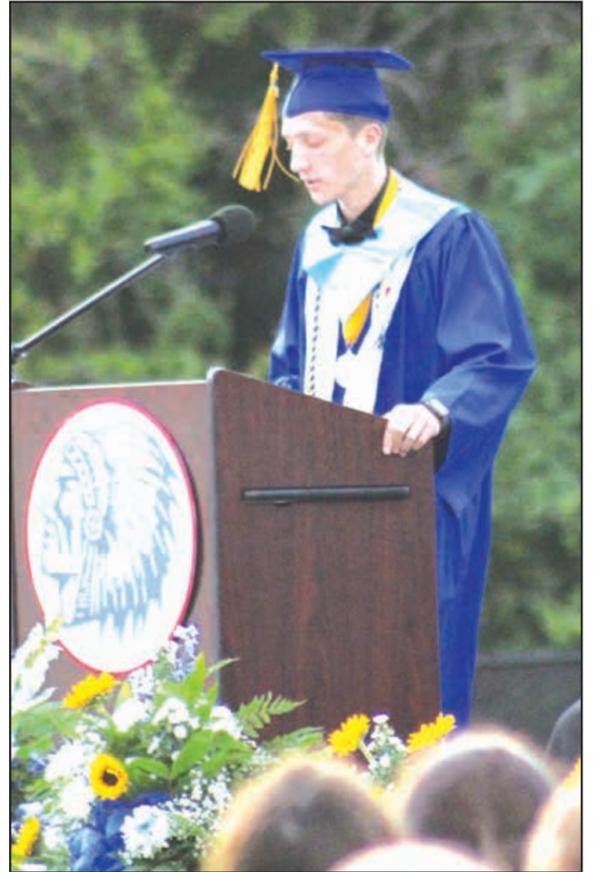
"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning."

Couey recalled that he transferred to Keystone halfway through his eighth-grade year from a small, private school and was terrified.

"It's the classic tale of a fresh-faced, introverted boy entering a big new environment where he could easily become overwhelmed," Couey recalled. "And I was at first: navigating hallways full of people, collaborating with other students, giving presentations in front of an entire classroom. I thought it would break me."

The salutatorian said that a female classmate named Brooke introduced herself to him during his first day at Keystone. He added that Brooke personified the friendly and welcoming spirit on the Orchid Avenue campus.

"She walked up to me in third period on my first day of school and wouldn't allow me to be shy," Couey recalled. "She herself introduced me to the whole class and even made her friends move seats so that I had somewhere to sit. Brooke embodied what it meant to be a student here at Keystone Heights High School."



Salutatorian Bryce Couey said a female classmate named Brooke introduced herself to him during his first day at Keystone and added that she personified the friendly and welcoming spirit on the Orchid Avenue campus.

Principal turns the tables

Vice Principal Barry Underwood told the crowd that Principal Laurie Burke was attending her own son's graduation at Clay High School in Green Cove Springs.

Underwood then introduced an audio recording Burke made to say goodbye to the Class of 2022.

"Although I am not here, I did not want to miss this opportunity to tell these fine young men and women how much I love this group," Burke said. "You all are amazing. I am proud to be your principal."

Burke said parents and guardians played outsized roles in their children's education that went far beyond the Three Rs.

"All of your hard work of teaching them right from wrong, how to work through struggles, how to take care of themselves, holding them accountable and so much more because you love them has made a difference and where they go from here," Burke said.

The principal told the departing graduates that the world is rapidly changing and that they should expect obstacles and difficulties beyond the campus in southwest Keystone Heights.

"When the world tells you to quit because it's too hard, don't listen," she said. "When the world knocks you down with a roadblock in your path, get up and go around it. When the world gives you a chance to do something nice for someone, do it."

Burke challenged the graduates to follow other Keystone Heights



Class President Della Boyette noted that many of the graduates have known each other since kindergarten.

alumni who have risen to become leaders in their communities.

"There are many great leaders out there that grew up right here in Keystone Heights," she said, "and it has come time for each one of you to find your opportunity and be the positive hard-working leaders of our future."

And while the graduates devoted much of the commencement ceremony to thanking the parents and teachers who supported them, Burke

turned the tables, thanking the departing seniors for enriching the lives of the adults at their homes and school.

"I want to thank this group of seniors for the fun you've given us,

the love and the respect you have always shown us and the hard work you have put in and the special bond we have created together," Burke said. "This truly is a special group and thank you for what you have taught us."

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Lake Region residents meet their neighbors

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The city sponsored its first Meet Your Neighbor Day at Keystone's Theme Park behind city hall on Saturday, May 21. Around a dozen organizations set up booths to highlight their services and ask members of the public to participate in their activities. Photos and story by Dan Hildebran.



Vice Mayor Steve Hart and Chrissy Huffman representing Lake Region Kiwanis.

At the Keystone Sports Association table: (L-r) Front: Jalyn Miller and Haisley Black. Back: Mindy Miller and Brianna Black.



Congressional candidate Erick Aguilar talks to Virginia Denmark of Hope Christian Academy.



Keystone Heights Rotary Club President Scott Kornegay with City Council Member Tony Brown.



Airport Manager Maria Searcy talks about her facility's services with a neighbor.

RJE

Continued from page 1

applications that were not funded and a complicated process for a USDA grant/loan that three years later is not complete and now offers an even lower grant amount than expected. Recently, a \$350,000 appropriation in state funding was also pulled from consideration.

While they have done their own fundraising, the failure to receive any of these awards has left them unable to repair the gym, and now the group fears losing its insurance because of the external and internal building damage.

McMillian asked the commission to consider giving \$500,000 — less than 10% of its ARPA money — to save the RJE gym. It was a larger amount than they have ever requested, but prices have gone up, and in addition to the repairs, she said they must make the building ADA compliant. They are not convinced that even half a million dollars will do the job.

Commissioner Kenny Thompson was the first to speak in support of the request.

"This has been kicked around, and all of us sitting up here knows it has needed work for years and years and years. If we don't do something with that building, it's going to deteriorate," he said.

Commissioner Carolyn Spooner reminded everyone that it also serves as part of an educational institution established by Concerned Citizens to tutor students who need additional help.

"Many of the kids were struggling, but this program has helped those children to exceed and excel and to be able to pass their schooling," she said, adding that the facility also generates revenue for the community

when Concerned Citizens hosts tournaments and families travel to Starke. There are also plans for a community garden that would offset food insecurity.

"You can't find a harder working group of people than the people who work with this group," she said.

Chairman Chris Dougherty asked Spooner to hold her motion to move forward for additional discussion. Past pandemic relief funding was used in part to help the community, he said. With the ARPA funds he saw an opportunity to expand utility infrastructure, encourage development and generate new revenue for the county while lowering the tax rate overall. Right now, he said, the tax rate is as high as it can go, and the board is still trying to figure out how to fund public safety.

Dougherty agreed with Commissioner Danny Riddick that Tourist Development Council funding might be able to offset some of what was being asked of the county. He also expressed worry that awarding funding to the Concerned Citizens would lead to other groups rushing in for a share of the funding.

"Do we say we're going to give X amount of dollars here, X amount of dollars here, X amount of dollars here, and in the end, everybody feels good, but what have we done to try to generate any more revenue to keep your taxes down?" he asked

"Whatever we've got to do, we've got to help them," Thompson said.

Concerned Citizens has been serving the community for years, Spooner said, and this is the perfect program and facility for the county to allocate ARPA funds.

There was further talk of delaying a decision, but McMillian urged the board to

decide that night, whatever the decision.

"We keep getting put off — wait until this time, wait until this time — and nothing gets done. We need you all to please tell us tonight what you're going to do, and we're just going to have to eat whatever you say and try something else. We need somebody to tell us something tonight, because I believe in my heart that the services that Concerned Citizens offer through that facility not only helps us; it helps you all and it helps everybody in Bradford County — everybody. And we're so proud to say the Bradford High basketball team went to state this year and won, and five of those players played in our program. So, with that we know we're doing something right."

Dougherty make his support clear for the program and what it has accomplished, adding what he said needed to be said and the board needs to be prepared to field other requests.

Spooner moved to grant the organization's request, and each of the commissioners in turn voted in favor. The decision was unanimous.

In other business: —Sitting as the Board of Adjustment, commissioners granted special exceptions for Timbuktu to continue alcohol sales and a concrete batch plant operated by Taylors Concrete Construction on Southeast 144th Street across from the new school.

—A parcel south of Lawtey on U.S. 301 was rezoned for commercial use. According to the Facebook site, Bradford Bamboo, owned by Paul and Robin Smith of Lawtey, will offer mining for gems, fossils and stones for parties and events and sell handmade arts, crafts and woodwork.



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<p style="text-align: center; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">Fresh Quality Meats</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$3.49 Lb.</p> <p>Fresh Lean N' Tender Small Pork Spare Ribs</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$1.99 Lb.</p> <p>Sanderson Farms Grade A • Family Pack Split Chicken Breast</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$2.29 Lb.</p> <p>Fresh Lean N' Tender • Family Pack Pork Steak or Texas Style Ribs</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$3.29 Lb.</p> <p>Lee Brand Hickory Smoked • Family Pack Smoked Pork Chops</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$3.99 Lb.</p> <p>USDA Select Angus Beef Boneless Chuck Roast</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$3.49 Lb.</p> <p>Fresh Lean N' Tender Fresh Pork Tenderloin</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$6.59 Ea.</p> <p>16 oz. Hog Sliced Bacon</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>99¢ Ea.</p> <p>16 oz. • Quality Regular or Thick Sliced Bologna</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>99¢ Ea.</p> <p>16 oz. • Sunland Jumbo Meat Franks</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$4.49 Ea.</p> <p>16 oz. • Sheboygan Assorted Varieties Italian Sausage or Brats</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$4.49 Ea.</p> <p>12-16 oz. • Curly's All Varieties Barbecue</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>\$10.59 Ea.</p> <p>Boudreaux 2 Lb. Bag BREADED OYSTERS \$19.99 or 3 Lb. Bag Cooked Crawfish</p> </div> </div>

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UNION COUNTY

UCHS graduation a little soggy but still special

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

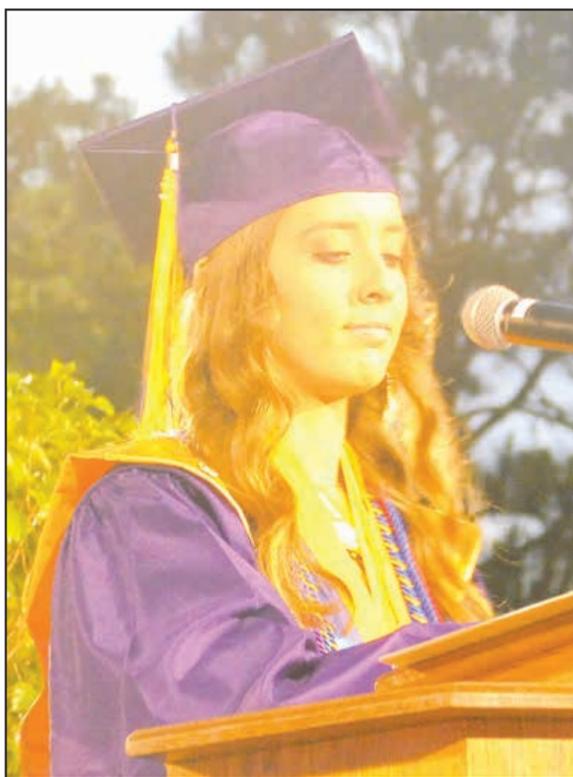
LAKE BUTLER — Despite an early lack of cooperation from Mother Nature, the 2022 Union County High School Graduation was held May 20 and was enjoyed by all.

The ceremony, which was supposed to begin at 7 p.m. was delayed by rain. When the scheduled time came and went, with little sign that the rain was letting up, Union County Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger decided that they would wait until 8:30 p.m. to begin, depending on the weather. Although there was a back-up plan to hold the ceremony in the UCHS gym, the graduating seniors had their hearts set on making their walk on the football field and they greeted Ripplinger's decision with a loud cheer.

When the time arrived the rain had stopped but the field was a little soggy. No one seemed to care and the ceremony was held as planned.

The UCHS Symphonic Band, led by Director Kelly Dorsey, played the processional as the soon-to-be graduates walked to their seats on the field. The opening prayer was offered by Senior Class Treasurer and Valedictorian Maegan Grace Beatty, with Senior Class Secretary Dezmond Yatil Edwards following to lead the Pledge to the Flag. Senior Class President Sierra Rose Garland then welcomed the graduates, their families and guests to the event. She spoke about the importance of the support all had received from their families and school staff in allowing them all to make it to this important landmark in their lives and thanked all those who had been there.

UCHS Principal Julie Denson



Class of 2022 Valedictorian Maegan Beatty

took the podium to recognize the honor students among the graduates. First listed were those graduating with Outstanding Honors, with a 4.0 grade point average or higher. Also recognized in this group were those who were being recognized for graduating with the Associate of Arts degrees from Florida Gateway College in the dual enrollment program (marked with a *). Receiving recognition and wearing their purple honor cords were:

Maegan Grace Beatty, Ciarra Dawn Woodall, Laura Ann Park*, Curran Daniel Webb, Natalie Jean Waters*, Andrew

Joseph Laux, Aidan Pearce Newsom, Jean Alexander Dure*, McKenzie Nicole Clemons, Gwennyth Whitney Parrish, Anna Jeanette Ward, William Aaron Harden*, Josie Elizabeth Croft, Kimberly Rose Palmer, Lauren Elizabeth Coleman, Landon Hunter Klein, Jackson Scott Crook*, Kyra Brook Jordan, Alaurie Nachelle McClellon, Devin Lee Simmons, James Wylard Rogers, Tahj Amaree Merriex and Summer Breann Bridges.

Next to be recognized were the graduates with High Honors, with a grade point average of 3.75-3.99, wearing their gold



Class of 2022 Salutatorian Ciara Woodall



Senior Class President Sierra Garland

(Army Reserve).

Next to speak was UCHS 2022 Salutatorian Ciara Dawn Woodall, who spoke about how her school years, beginning in kindergarten and then 12 year in school had seemed to take forever and fly by quickly at the same time. Woodall was followed by UCHS 2022 Valedictorian Maegan Grace Beatty who talked about the importance in life of expressing gratitude and not letting yourself be limited by your fears.

Senior Class Vice President Josie Elizabeth Croft then took the podium to lead the assembly in the singing of the Alma Mater.

Ripplinger, Denson and UCHS Zeke Scaff came to the fore to hand out diplomas, handshakes and the occasional hug as the graduates were called to walk across the stage. Each was called by Cody Tempest. Most of the graduates were quiet and solemn as they took their walk, but Trevor Nathaniel Holtzendorf paused to raise a thumbs up to the crowd in the grandstands and yell "I did it Mama!" In total, the Class of 2022 was totaled 133 graduates.

Ripplinger then spoke to the newly minted graduates, offering words of encouragement and advice for the future. The graduates then rose and took walked the Unite Circle, gathering together at the end to throw their caps and congratulate one another.

The Class Flower was the lavender rose, the Class Song was "Good Ole Days" by Macklemore featuring Kesha and the Class Motto was "We'll all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other," by Tim McGraw.

Senior Class Sponsors were Lindley Adkins, Bonnie Honour, Michael Howell, Anna Kirby, Liliana Perez, Ronny Pruitt, Wesley Smith, Debe Stephenson, Cody Tempest, Andrew Thomas, Jessica Wolfe and Elise Worthington.

Ushers were: Ian Brannen, Colby Dukes, Ayden Elixson and Demarius Williams. Usherettes were: Leah Clark, Jaycee Davis, Karly Ann Raulerson and Karly Shatto.



Senior Sponsors Jayce Davis and Aiden Elixson served as Usher and Usherette for the graduation event, helping to seat the graduates as they entered and reentered the seating area.

honor cords. They were:

Christopher Jackson Alvarez, Lilyanne Keirstyn French, Eli Langford Hendricks, Sabrena Danielle Howard, Victoria Ora Lee Polbos, Gracie Leann Kitchens, Alauna Kierstyn Brown, Avery Keith Murphy, Megan Kaleigh Parrish, Kyla Jai Boney and Krysta Pierce Wheeler.

The final group of honors graduates to be recognized were those who had earned the status of Honors Student, with a 3.5-3.749 grade point average and wearing their white honor cords. They were:

Simeon Lavarr McLeod, Logan Mitchell Richards, Hunter James Sherrod, Makayla Renee McKenzie, Reghan Therese-Lynn Dukes, Camrin Samuel Hillard, Cheyann Paige Leshuk, Ariana Violet Watts, Sierra Rose

Garland, Jakeb William O'Steen, Akira Brianna Jonas, Jaydn Arianah Starling and Hannah Rose Warren.

Denson then recognized one final group from among the graduating class — those who had already committed to serve in the military after graduation.

"These young men and women will follow in the footsteps many in our audience have taken and will soon join their brothers and sisters in arms as members of the United States Military. These graduates were:

William Lorenzo Alicea (Air Force), Alauna Kierstyn Brown (Army National Guard), Joseph Kleyten Kirby (Marine Corps), Zeb Daniel Raulerson (Army), Violet Dawn Romero (Army National Guard), Hunter James Sherrod (Air National Guard) and Krysta Pierce Wheeler

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UCHS honors outstanding 2022 seniors

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — On May 18, Union County High School honored its outstanding seniors with a special program recognizing their achievements.

“This morning we gather to celebrate many accomplishments earned by members of this graduating class,” said Union County High School Principal Julie Denson when opening the event. “These young men and women have worked hard and have invested many hours and today we celebrate them and this class.”

First was the presentation of the 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian, both of whom were said by Denson to have achieved high academically and in extensive extracurricular activities.

Maegan Beatty was named the Valedictorian. She achieved a weighted GPA of 4.5714 and participated in BETA, FBLA, volleyball, FFA, Tennis, Homecoming, dual enrollment and student government, where she currently serves as Senior Class Treasurer.

Ciara Woodall was named the class Salutatorian. She achieved a weighted GPA of 4.556 and participated in FFA, FBLA, cheer, volleyball, homecoming activities, dual enrollment, SWAT, golf and BETA.

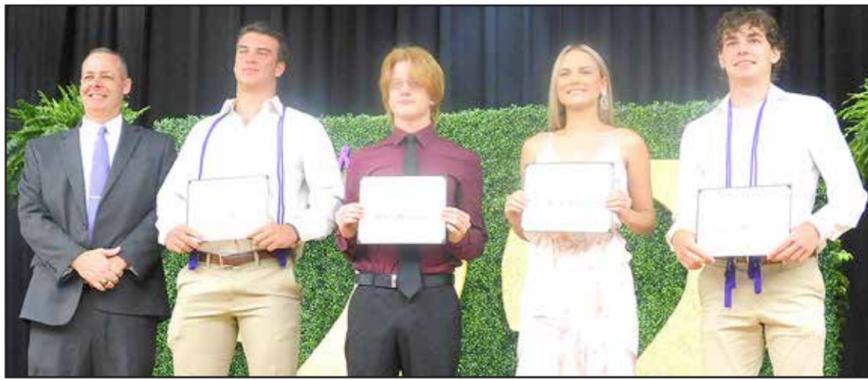
Next, the Top Ten ranked students were recognized by West Fraser. They were: Maegan Beatty, Ciara Woodall, Laura Park, Curran Webb, Natalie Waters, Andrew Laux, Aidan Newsom, Alex Dure’, McKenzie Clemons and Gwen Parrish. All of these students were presented with a backpack and a laptop.

The students earning Outstanding Honors, High Honors and Honors were recognized and each group was presented with the cord in the color for their level of achievement (the cords are worn along with their robes at the graduation ceremony).

Also recognized were the students who received the Superintendent’s Scholar Award, presented by the Union County Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger. These students were all graduating seniors with an unweighted GPA of at least 3.75 and either a SAT score of 1260 or higher or an ACT score of 26 or higher. Each has also earned at least 27 credits while at UCHS. These students are: Aidan Newsom, Laura Park, Devin Simmons and Curran Webb.

Ripplinger said of all of the award winners that “even when the world seems to be spiraling out of control it is wonderful to see good things happening today and I see that in these young people here.”

Ripplinger also presented the Esther King Scholarship.



Winners of the 2022 Superintendent’s Scholar Award (l-r) Aidan Newsom, Laura Park, Devin Simmons and Curran Webb with Union County Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger.



Maegan Beatty took home the “Top Tiger” award. She is shown here with Zeke Scaff and Julie Denson.



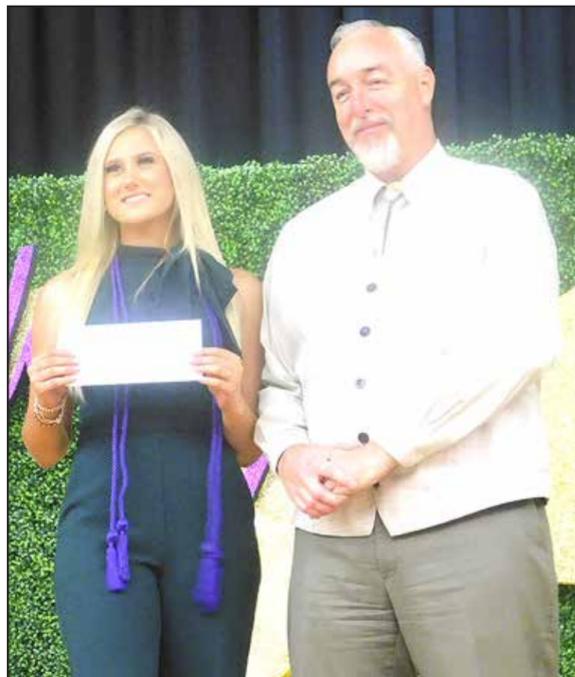
Winners of the Interact/Rotary Recognition were (l-r) Anna Ward and Josie Croft. They are shown here with Interact Club sponsor Nancy Griffis and Brian Reagan.

Students receiving this scholarship were: Maegan Beatty, Aidan Newsom, Laura Park, James Rogers, Natalie Waters, Curran Webb and Ciara Woodall.

Tahj Merriex was selected

to receive the Principal’s Leadership Award. This award goes to a senior who exhibits strong academics and outstanding citizenship. The individual is also to have demonstrated leadership among their peers

and represented Union County High School with honor and distinction.



McKenzie Clemons (left) accepts the Rotary/Florida Gateway College Scholarship from Rotary member Brian Reagan.

Anthony Clarke received the Assistant Principal’s Award, given to a student who has overcome obstacles in their life and who has persevered through struggles.

The next student recognized was Hannah Warren who was granted the “Fill the Gap Award.” This award, a new addition to the slate of recognitions honoring Pat Hayden, a longtime FLVS teacher who could always be counted on to see that things got done.

Maegan Beatty was chosen to receive the Top Tiger Award, “reserved for a member of the graduating class who best exemplifies the essence and characteristics of a great student.”

Several area organizations and clubs annually give scholarships to students and there are also a number of memorial scholarships. This year’s scholarships to Florida Gateway College and the winners of them were:

Scott Woodall Memorial Endowed Scholarship – Hannah Warren, Jerry Whitehead Memorial Endowed Scholarship – Summer Bridges, Lake Butler Rotary Club Scholarship – McKenzie Clemons, Union County Quarterback Endowed Scholarship – Jackson Crook, William Streicher Memorial Union County Endowed Scholarship – Kimberly Palmer, Kyra Jordan, William Mello and Timber Thiels, Ashlyn Hollingsworth Memorial Endowed Scholarship – Reghan Dukes, Chesley Hines Robertson IV Memorial Endowed Scholarship – Breanna Melton and the Hal Y. Maines Living Memorial Endowed Scholarship

– Anna Ward. Students were also awarded scholarships by the FGC Board of Trustees. Students receiving these scholarships were: Summer Bridges, McKenzie Clemons, Josie Croft, Lily French, Andrew Laux and Anna Ward. The Take Stock in Children Scholarships were awarded to Hannah Warren and Ethan Ali.

A number of private scholarships were also presented. They were:

Clay Electric – Ciara Woodall, New Millennium Building Systems Scholarship – Eli Rogers and Will Harden, Betty Jo Howard Nursing Scholarship – Reghan Dukes, Michael Fortner Memorial Scholarship – Reghan Dukes, Cheyann Leshuk, Breanna Melton and Quinn Robertson-Raulerson, Interact/Rotary Recognition – Josie Croft and Anna Ward, One Blood Donor Recognition – Ashlyn Anderson, Logan Nixon, Ja’Liah Hatcher, Alexis Lewallen, William Mello and Anthony Clark, American Legion Post #153 – Zeb Raulerson, Violet Romero, Alaina Brown, Joseph Kirby, Hunter Sherrod, Krysta Wheeler and Will Alceia, Junior Friends of the Library Scholarship – Jessica Brooks and Jody Dubose, Lake Butler Woman’s Club Scholarship – Natalie Waters, Pay it Forward – Hannah Warren, ACI Learning Center in Jacksonville – Simeon McCleod, Marine Corps Recognition – Joseph Kirby, Lori Nicole Anderson Scholarship – Ciara Woodall, Maegan Beatty and Anna Ward, Ellington Memorial Scholarship – Aidan Newsom, Turkey Federation Scholarship

See AWARDS, page 8

Letters

Gratitude for helping students

Dear Editor:

The Work-Based Learning Experiences program, commonly referred to as WBLE, helps serve qualifying students at Bradford High School and North Florida Technical College. WBLE services include career and interest assessment, job analysis, worksite development, employer assistance, learning and preparation activities, job placement, job accommodations, hands-on learning, and job-retention services.

The Transition and Employment Specialists at North Florida Technical College, Kim Paige, and Noele Miller, would like to thank the businesses that supported the Bradford County Schools’ Work-Based Learning Experiences program during the 2021-22 school year. We appreciate our partnerships with Bradford County Sheriff Dispatch, Gretchen Brooks and Marie Emery; Bradford Food Bank, Linda Markham; Bradford Middle School ESE, Wanda Middleton; Bradford Telegraph, John Miller, Connie Hurston and John Ryan Tillman; City of Starke Police Department, Capt. Barry Warren, Sasha Shreiner, Det. J. Guinn and others; Grooming By Sister, Madeline and Dawn Strickland; IHOP, Steven Ringbauer; Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Joe Gallagher, Austin and Larry; Kingdom Christian Academy, Terrie

Harrison; RK Stables, Richard Kirkman; Lawtey Elementary School Pre-K, Denise Hendrieth; North Florida Pharmacy, Bobby & Jim Autry; Parkside Assisted Living, Melissa Reddish; Rainbow Family Center, Jeannie Osteen and Anita Barr; Salvation Army Camp Keystone Camp and Conference Center, Monica Reifer and Kim McBride; Smooth Addiction: Beauty & Body, Emmali Blye; Starke Dance Academy, Kim Smith and Lani Rios; Starke Head Start, Dee Ransom; The Office Shop, CJ Greek and Jason Rose; and Walmart Supercenter of Starke, Stacey Stein.

The career opportunities that have become possible for our students result from your support. The business partnerships help our students get excited about future careers and gain work readiness skills. In addition, the WBLE better equips our students to be contributing citizens and taxpayers to our local community, state, and country.

Mrs. Kim Paige and Mrs. Noele Miller
Transition & Employment Specialists

Memorial Day service May 30

Dear Editor:

Monday, May 30, is a national holiday officially proclaimed by Gen. John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic on May 5, 1868. It was first observed when flowers were placed on graves

of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. After World War I, the holiday changed from honoring those who died fighting the Civil War to honoring all Americans who died fighting any war.

Therefore, the last Monday of May has been declared as Memorial Day in order to recognize all servicemen and women who have served their country in an honorable and courageous manner.

An act of gratitude and memory by the family members and the public is observed on Memorial Day services to be conducted by American Legion Post #56. Flags have been placed on the gravesites of each and every service member buried in Bradford County and across the nation as well.

Memorial services will be conducted Monday, May 30, at 10 a.m. at Charles Schaefer Veteran’s Memorial Park on East Call Street in Starke. Wreaths placed at the ceremony were donated by the local Downtown Merchant’s Association.

Did you know? The Memorial Day Foundation sponsors holiday wreaths to honor American service members in overseas cemeteries each holiday season. The American Battle Monuments Commission maintains 25 permanent American burial grounds on foreign soil: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. They honor 124,908 US war dead; including 30,922 of World War I, 93,236 of World War II, and 750 of the Mexican War.

Raymund Hunt
Adjutant Post #56



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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

May 14 through May 20

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

Hit woman with stick

Dominique Dewayne Austin, 42, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 15 for battery and resisting an officer.

According to an arrest report, the victim and a witness told police Austin hit the victim with a stick and choked her. The victim added that the defendant was angry with her because she left him at a store, and he had to find a way home.

Deputy Paul King wrote in the report that he did not see signs of injury on the victim and that she refused transport to a hospital.

Sanya M. Bernal, 43, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 18 for battery.

Tiffany Anne Braddock, 30, of Newberry was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 18 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, smuggling contraband into a correctional facility and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jason Wesley Leonard Burnette, 32, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 18 for an out-of-county warrant.

Fought over bicycle

Termaine Alvin Byrd, 37, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 17 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim and defendant were arguing over a bicycle behind Starke's post office when the defendant punched the victim on the side of her neck, ripped her off the bicycle and later dragged her across the pavement.

Arresting officer Kaleb T. Dockery wrote in the report that Byrd denied the victim's claims and said that at the time of the alleged battery, he was at a residence near the intersection of Oak and Florida streets.

Dockery added that the victim had injuries to her knees and lower back that were consistent with her story and that the victim and defendant have been in a domestic relationship for four years.

Michael Anthony Fernandez, 44, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 19 for out-of-county warrants.

Jeremiah Le'Andrew Hernandez, 19, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 16 for possession of marijuana and possession of drug

equipment.

Third arrest in two months

Cody Michael Jones, 23, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies and Starke police on May 14 for a probation violation, resisting an officer and disorderly intoxication.

According to an arrest report, residents in the 600 and 700 blocks of Lafayette Street called police after hearing screeching tires and reckless driving outside their residences. After police stopped the suspected vehicle, the occupants: Jones, along with co-defendant Clifton Darrell Prevatt ran into nearby woods. Police later caught the pair and noted in a report that the defendants exhibited slurred speech, bloodshot eyes and the odor of alcoholic beverages.

Arresting officer Moses C. Bellamy wrote in the report that Prevatt was combative and had to be forced to the ground and tased.

"Clifton used vulgar language towards myself and Sgt. Gillick and made threatening statements saying he would kill my family," wrote Bellamy.

Jones was sentenced to five years of drug offender probation on April 27 after pleading no contest to an April 4 offense of aggravated assault.

On May 2 Jones was arrested again for a probation violation.

Mason Andrew Kent, 20, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 20 for possession or delivery of opium, possession of drugs, criminal conspiracy, and unlawful use of a two-way communications device.

Jennifer Lynatte Maschman, 31, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 18 for an out-of-county warrant.

Shawn Allen Matthews, 34, of Lake Panasoffkee was arrested by Starke police on May 19 for an out-of-county warrant.

Austin Lee Melville, 24, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 15 for failure to appear.

Norman Dewitt Newman, 45, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 17 for a probation violation and an out-of-county warrant.

Alexander Marco Palazzi, 31, of Pensacola was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 17 for a probation violation.

Clifton Darrell Prevatt, 35, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 14 for resisting an officer and disorderly intoxication.

Caressa Maire Simpson, 30, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 18 for failure to appear.

David Harold Steinmeyer, 59, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 19 for DUI.

Shawn Devon Steward, 43, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 20 for a probation violation.

Scholarship – Eli Rimes, Ciara Kearns Memorial Scholarship – Tahj Merriex, Daniel Elixson Memorial Scholarship – Will Harden, Eli Hendricks and Ciara Woodall, Legacy Scholarship – Jace Bielling, Shirley Kirby

Tried to cash worthless check

Maranda Ann Stewart, 25, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 19 for fraud.

According to court papers, on April 29 the defendant attempted to cash a \$600 check drawn on an account that had been closed. Police Sgt. Jeffery A. Smith wrote in a sworn affidavit that the owner of the account told him he knew the defendant but did not know how she obtained the check.

Amber Gray Tharpe, 35, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies for probation violations and for smuggling contraband into a correctional facility.

She felt she had been scammed

Derod Dewan Young, 31, of Tampa was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 17 for larceny and for being an out-of-state fugitive.

According to court papers, on Dec. 3, 2019 the defendant purchased a flat-screen television and a Tory Burch purse and wallet totaling \$2,569.96 from a Starke rental outlet.

Police Sgt. David Bukowski wrote in an arrest report that as soon as the transaction was complete and the defendant left, the employee felt she had been scammed and called police.

The business later received a chargeback from the credit card issuer and Bukowski wrote that the defendant had several warrants in other Florida counties for similar crimes.

Union

John Russell Eddy, 47, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 17 for dealing in stolen property.

Ryan Christopher Harris, 46, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 17 for an out-of-county warrant.

Tabitha Ann Johnson-Courson, 36, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on May 16 for possession of drugs, and possession of narcotics equipment.

Michael Brandel Kiser, 33, of Lawtey was arrested by Union deputies on May 19 for delivery or distribution of opium and unlawful use of a two-way communications device.

Jennifer Leigh Pilgrim, 35, of Starke was arrested by Union deputies on May 19 for failure to appear.

Milton Wade Platt, 47, of Steinhatchee was arrested by Union deputies on May 16 for possession of drugs and possession of narcotics equipment.

Brannon Leo Smith, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 16 for an out-of-county warrant and probation violations.

Clay

Scott Gene Ballou, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 20 for failure to appear.

Memorial Scholarship – Josie Croft, Summer Crosby Memorial – Ciara Woodall and Will Harden, Workhorse Scholarship – Will Harden, National FFA/Ford Scholarship – Eli Hendricks, Ciara Woodall and Laura Park

Graham guilty of molesting girl

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A Bradford County jury convicted a 31-year-old Lake City man of three felonies related to his molestation of a girl over a period of two years.

Larry Graham Jr. was found guilty on May 18 of lewd and lascivious molestation on a person under 12 years of age by a person 18 or older, lewd and lascivious molestation on a person 12 years of age or older but under 16 years of age by a person 18 or older and showing obscene material to a minor.

According to court papers, the victim reported the crimes to her mother after the mother kicked Graham out of the house.

She added that Graham claimed to have embarrassing information about the victim and threatened to relay the information to the girl's mother



Graham

if the victim told her mother about Graham's actions.

The victim described incidences where Graham groped her buttocks and breasts and on one occasion held her down to remove her undergarments in

order to assault her.

The victim added that she fought the defendant off and he later apologized to her.

The victim also said the incidents occurred when her mother was out of the house, either out of town or working overtime.

Bradford Sheriff's Detective Kimberly Mosley wrote in a warrant affidavit that the victim said she was cleaning the kitchen one day and Graham walked up to her and said, "I've been meaning to show you this."

The defendant then showed the girl a pornographic video.

Assistant State Attorneys Luis E. Bustamante and Shawn Thompson prosecuted the case for the state.

The defendant was represented by Lucas J. Taylor of Live Oak.

Circuit Judge James E. Colaw is scheduled to sentence Graham on June 8.

Ran stop sign on way to drug deal

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A Starke police officer set up an undercover drug buy at the Bradford County Fairgrounds, but the operation hit a road bump when the dealer ran a stop sign and was pulled over by another officer.

Mason Andrew Kent, 20, of Starke was arrested on May 20 for possession or delivery of opium, possession of drugs, criminal conspiracy, and unlawful use of a two-way communications device.

Starke police said on social media that they began investigating Kent after two April overdoses at Motel 6 revealed illegal narcotics the patients took were laced with Fentanyl, and that Kent was identified as someone who was selling drugs in the area.

According to an arrest report, Detective Christopher Keel had been communicating with the defendant over Snapchat about Kent selling Keel Percocet and Xanax pills. The pair negotiated a deal for 25 Percocet pills and 50 Xanax tablets for \$550, which Kent claimed included a \$25 discount in addition to his bulk pricing allowance.

But while the defendant was on his way to the Bradford County Fairgrounds to complete the transaction, he ran a stop sign at Clark Street and East Weldon Street, near Laredo's Mexican Restaurant. Starke Police Officer David Hall conducted a traffic stop on Kent's Acura.



Starke Police Detective Hunter Redding escorts Mason Andrew Kent from police headquarters. Photo: Starke Police Department.

Keel wrote that he relocated to the scene of the traffic stop and requested an open-air sniff of the vehicle by a police dog. The K-9 made two positive indications.

"After patting down Kent, I had Kent move to the sidewalk," wrote Keel in the report. "Once Kent made it to the sidewalk, he bent down and spontaneously uttered: 'My life is over.'"

Police found 25 Percocet

pills and 50 Xanax tablets in the vehicle, which matched the order Keel and Kent negotiated over Snapchat.

Keel added that officers field tested the pills for Fentanyl with negative results.

The detective wrote that he arrested the defendant for the four drug-related felonies.

Hall issued a citation to Kent for running the stop sign.



UCHS Principal Julie Denson with students who were awarded for outstanding artistic ability. Pictured left of Denson are: Camrin Hillard, Adiana Watts and Jessica Banks.

and HOBO Tractor Scholarship – Will Harden and Laura Park.

The total of scholarship and monetary awards given at the 2022 ceremony totaled \$62,095.60.

Departmental Awards were given by various departments and extracurricular activities. These were: Agriculture Program Completer Awards – certificates to all Seniors who completed their program, Academic Team Award – Avery Murphy, Art Award – Camrin Hillard, Band Award – cords to all senior band members, Science Award – Jackson Crook, BETA Club Award – Ciara Woodall, Student Government Award – Tahj Merriex, McKenzie Clemons, Sierra Garland, Josie Croft, Dezmnd Edwards and Maegan Beatty, FBLA Award – Tahj Merriex, Yearbook Award

– stole to all participating seniors, Celebration of Abilities Award – Camrin Hillard and Conner Williams, English Award – Reghan Dukes and Ethan Ali, Health Science Program Completer Award – Abi Andrews, Caleigh Avery, Kyla Boney, Reghan Dukes, Sierra Garland, Sabrena Howard, Akira Jonas, Gracie Kitchens, Cheyann Leshuk, Alexis Lewallen, Breanna Melton, Seleena Morris, Gwenth Parrish, Shamira Perry, Victoria Polbos, Alisa Ridgeway, Eli Rogers, Quinn Robertson-Raulerson, Morgan Seay and Jaydn Starling, Mathematics – Maegan Beatty and Curran Webb, Performing Arts Award – Landon Klein, Social Studies – Chris Alvarez, Gavin Barfield, Reghan Dukes, Gracie Kitchens, Alaurie McClellon, Tahj Merriex, Avery Murphy, Tenli Parrish and

Zeb Raulerson, Spanish – Devin Simmons.

The last group of awards were the Faculty Awards, voted upon by members of the UCHS faculty. These awards were: Achievement Award – Ja'Liah Hatcher and Caleb Crawford, Activities Award – Laura Park and Jackson Crook, School Spirit Award – Anna Ward and Dezmnd Edwards, Scholar-Athlete Award – Maegan Beatty and Curran Webb and the Citizenship Award – Makayla McKenzie and Alex Dure'.

Other awards and recognitions were given during the ceremony, many involving the granting of a stole or cord in recognition of participation.

AWARDS

Continued from page 7

– Tahj Merriex, Jackson Crook and Kyla Boney, Bradford-Union Cattle Show & Sale

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BHS graduation 2022: Take time to enjoy the present, keep striving for success

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Valedictorian Eden Chalker said she and her classmates have constantly been looking ahead, but she talked of the importance of enjoying the moment during her speech at Bradford High School's May 20 commencement.

"I know that it is not super likely that any of you will remember what I spoke about after tonight," Chalker said. "If you remember anything, remember this: Stop and smell the roses. We get so caught up in the stress of what is going to happen next that we forget to enjoy the present."

Chalker began her speech by asking her classmates to give a round of applause to parents, guardians, teachers and school staff members, and role models for positively impacting their lives.

"Without these people as our support systems, I can guarantee we would not be sitting here today," Chalker said.

Chalker then chronicled her and her classmates' lives up to that point, saying, "The entirety of our lives has been consumed by looking to the future."

As sixth-graders, they looked forward to the day when they would be eighth-graders. When they entered high school as freshmen, they looked forward to becoming seniors.

"However, I believe the most anticipated event was our graduation," Chalker said.

"What no one tells you about is the stress of planning your future after graduation. The stress of filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form or the many scholarship applications as well as college applications. Nobody tells you that on top of all these deadlines, you still have to make time to get good grades, go prom shopping, try to be involved in other class activities and spend time with the people that you love.

"That is the joy and stress of senior year — always looking to the future."

Chalker encouraged her classmates to not be fully consumed by what is yet to come.

"While it is good to be prepared for the future, stop and smell the roses," she said. "The future may not be here yet, but today is, so enjoy it."



Nolan Jennings hugs Assistant Principal Chris Coffey after receiving his diploma. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Addressing their fellow graduates are Valedictorian Eden Chalker (left) and Salutatorian Hannah Ferguson.



Defining 'success'

Salutatorian Hannah Ferguson focused her speech on the meaning of "success," saying, "I'm sure we all have our own definition of what the word 'successful' means, whether it's excelling in a career, a sport, a passion — whatever it may be.

"But what does it really mean? I believe success is creating a goal and going after it. This goal in particular doesn't have to be anything extravagant. It can be anything you want."

Ferguson said once a goal is set, the next step is to work toward achieving it and not letting anything get in the way of doing so.

"Life is hard, and there are going to be roadblocks,"

Ferguson said. "Don't forget that these roadblocks are only going to make your successes that much more spectacular. When hard times come, you have to learn to keep going."

Ferguson encouraged her classmates to use failure as a way of bettering themselves.

"It's OK to fail, but you have to make sure you don't let it tear you apart," she said "You have to get back up and learn from that failure. We have to learn how to pick ourselves up and look at things from a different perspective. There's always a good side."

So, you've set a goal, worked toward it and achieved it. Does that equate to success?

"Sure, you can say that, but you can't stop there," Ferguson said. "It's time to find something else to work toward. No matter what place we are at in our lives, there's always something else we can do to better ourselves, so don't stop there. Keep going. Find something that you love, and chase after it."

Departing advice

As part of her principal's address, Angela Ward said she couldn't have had a better graduating class in her first year as principal at BHS.

"I've enjoyed getting to know you all this year and will miss your dearly," Ward said. "Of course, before you leave, I've got to share some words of wisdom with you."

Ward then proceeded to recite a list of short pieces of advice, such as admit when you've

made mistakes, listen more and talk less, strive for excellence rather than perfection, be kind to others (including those who are unkind), learn from the past, plan for the future and live in the present, and asking yourself three questions before you say something out loud: Is it true, is it necessary and is it kind?

In closing, Ward said, "Remember this: Life is like a book. Some chapters are sad, some are happy and some are exciting, but if you never turn the page, you will never know what that next chapter in your life is going to look like.

"Today, we're closing this chapter of your book and beginning your next chapter. I encourage you to turn the page. Be the author of your future."

Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley said his advice to graduates was to be willing to leave their comfort zone.

"Throughout the course of your life, you will be blessed with opportunities," Hartley said. "Some you will be ready for, and some will force you to step out of your comfort zone. Do not miss those opportunities. Know that in the moment, you may not be ready, but do it anyway. I promise you that on your way to that success, you will exceed what you once believed was your potential.

"Enjoy your time together tonight. As you go out into this great, big world, go with confidence because you are smart, you are brave, you are capable and you are and always will be Tornadoes. Congratulations."



Kiwanis poker tournament benefits BHS academic team

The Kiwanis Club of Starke raised \$475 at its last Patsy Welch Memorial Poker Tournament, which it donated to the Bradford High School academic team. Katelyn Donovan (center) accepts a check from Kiwanis President Brad Smith (far left) and President-Elect David Kniseley.

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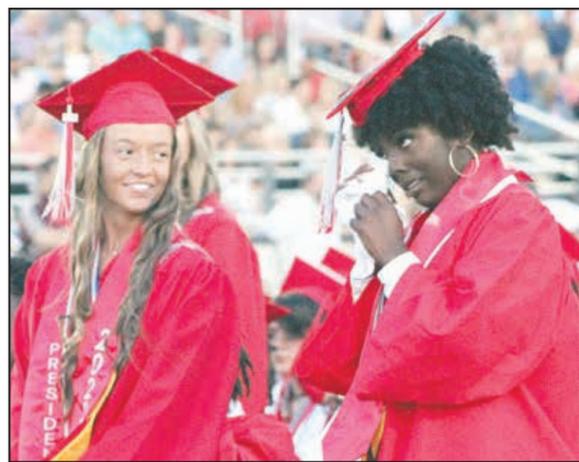
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Jaquan Bryant hugs Principal Angela Ward as he walks the stage to receive his diploma.



Raven Ford (right) wipes a tear from her eye as Hannah McFarland looks on.



They wanted to be identified as the "dream girls." Individually, you may know them as (l-r) Aaliyah Taylor, A'layia Cray, Ariana Innocent and Keyonna Holmes-Ansley



Seniors (l-r) Chase Bell, Nolan Jennings, Carson Knight, Jonathan Brugh and Grady Johns.

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Business Section Spotlight On Men's Health : June is Men's Health Month

You don't need statistics to tell you that men are more likely to avoid the doctor than women. Women are, in fact, 100 percent more likely to see a doctor for examinations, screenings, and preventive health consults, even though they're far less likely to die from one of the top 10 causes of death. "Many men are lost for the years in between their pediatrician and when they have their first health scare in their 50s," says Leslie Schlachter, director of the Mount Sinai Men's Health Program. "It shouldn't take a scare to get you to the doctor."

“Preventive health checkups are associated with healthier men. These visits also can lead to dangerous cancers being caught early enough to save lives.”

Here are the checkups you should be making time for now, so that you can have more time, period.

Every Year:

1. Blood Sugar Check

"Yearly checks for glucose levels are imperative for men to decrease their likelihood of significant cardiometabolic disease," says Schlachter. Diabetes, a chronic disease characterized by high blood sugars, greatly increases your risk of heart disease and other complications such as kidney damage and erectile dysfunction due to nerve damage. Annual glucose testing serves as the best method of diagnosing diabetes before it gets too advanced.

"Many men with the beginnings of diabetes and/or a diagnosis of diabetes can be managed appropriately with diet and exercise," Schlachter adds. "If lifestyle management with diet and exercise is not sufficient, there are oral medicines and/or insulin that can be used."

2. Skin Check

Men with a family history of skin cancer, or who had significant sunburns when they were younger, are at high risk for skin cancer. Schlachter says skin cancer can affect men of any age.

"It is very important to get yearly skin checks by a dermatologist. At home, men should keep a close eye on their moles and birthmarks, as slight changes can signify concerning etiology," she said. "Consistent use of sunscreen is paramount." Outdoorsy, sun-loving Floridians must pay special attention to these risks.

3. PSA Test

One in seven men will develop prostate cancer. Other than skin cancer, it is the most common form of cancer in American men. The prostate-specific antigen, or PSA blood level test, along with digital rectal exams (DREs), are the best way to detect prostate cancer.

"All men 50 to the age of 70 should be checked on a yearly basis," she said. "If a man has a family history of prostate cancer or an unknown history, PSA testing should begin at the age of 40."

Every 3 Years:

4. Colonoscopy

A colonoscopy is a rite of passage for men (and women) over the age of 50, as that's when colon cancer risk increases. Other risk factors include a medical history of inflammatory bowel disease or a diet high in animal fat.

"If a man has no family history of colon cancer, a screening colonoscopy should be done at the age of 50. Future colonoscopies are done every three to 10 years, based on the results of each colonoscopy," Schlachter says.

Every 4 Years:

5. Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Check

High blood pressure is the number one cause of stroke in men, and it is very serious if left unmanaged. High cholesterol can also lead to serious cardiovascular problems, like heart attack or stroke. "Get a thorough exam with basic blood work," says Schlachter. "Many local pharmacies are able to check your blood pressure with no appointment needed."

Men 20 and over should have their cholesterol checked every three to five years, and then yearly after the age of 50.

Every Chance You Get:

6. Echocardiogram

Many deadly cardiac risk factors are caught with simple cholesterol testing and blood pressure monitoring, as well as weight management.

But if there is a family history of cardiac disease, or if you already have known elevated cholesterol or high blood pressure, echocardiograms or cardiac stress tests can ensure that there is not significant heart damage, says Schlachter.

7. Liver Enzyme Test

Liver enzyme testing is part of standard blood work and looks for any damage to the liver that can come from various sources, including alcohol — men, after all, drink more alcohol than women, on average.

"It is important for men to have these enzymes checked, as they can run high due to over-the-counter medicines, alcohol consumption, inflammatory disorders, thyroid disorders, obesity, and some toxicities," Schlachter says.

8. TSH Test

Your thyroid helps every cell in your body by releasing hormones that regulate metabolism. Any changes in the hormones it produces can impact a man's life, and cause weight gain, lethargy, exhaustion, or fatigue. A blood test called a thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) test can be done by your doctor to check your thyroid's function.

"Many of the symptoms of an underactive or overactive thyroid unfortunately are symptoms that many men feel are 'part of life,'" Schlachter says. But if testing shows abnormalities, they can usually be fixed through medication.



John Ryan Tillman with his son Patrick who is almost a year old. "Living a healthy lifestyle and taking care of my own health has become even more important since my son came into our lives," says Tillman. "Taking care of his health and protecting him means I want to take better care of my own health so I can be around a very long time to see him grow up healthy, happy and strong." Tillman is the Director of Marketing and Operations at the Telegraph/Times/Monitor newspapers.

9. Lung Screenings

Lung cancer is the most preventable of all cancers. Ninety percent of the time, it is found in people who smoke. The rest are typically people with a genetic predisposition to developing it or people who've been exposed to secondhand smoke or caustic chemicals.

Prevention is key, says Schlachter: "Lung cancer is often an incidental finding on scans that are done for an alternate reason. Screening for lung cancer is controversial, as the well-accepted forms of scanning are high in radiation," she said. "Lung cancer experts are looking at lower-dose CAT scans, which may be the future of lung cancer screening." An annual chest X-ray is not recommended as a screening tool.

Live a Healthier Lifestyle

In between doctor visits, Schlachter says there are many different ways that men — well, everyone actually — can prevent disease.

Exercise: Work out three to four times every week, for 30 to 45 minutes. Include a mix of cardiovascular exercise and weight training. Balanced diet: Eat a balanced diet that's low in fat and includes a mix of vegetables, fruit, protein, fiber, lean meats, and complex carbohydrates, and limits processed foods and added sugars.

Water: Stay hydrated by drinking adequate amounts of fluids.

Don't smoke: Ninety percent of lung cancer diagnoses are in people who smoke. Smoking

also increases the risk of many other cancers and chronic diseases.

Limit drinking: Avoid excessive alcohol consumption.

Sleep: Adults need about seven hours per night at the very least.

Build caring, resilient relationships: Relationships that create love and trust, provide role models and offer encouragement and reassurance, help bolster a person's resilience. Supportive social relationships and loving family connections also build resilience. Resilience is associated with longevity, lower rates of depression, better health outcomes (mental and physical), and greater satisfaction with life according to the Mayo Clinic and other health research.

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Indians come up short in Region 1-3A championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights hit two home runs, but they weren't enough to

overcome host Baldwin in a 3-2 loss in the May 19 Region 1-3A softball championship game.

The Indians (19-10) had four

extra-base hits, including solo homers by Alaina Kinsal and Delia Johnson, but Keystone never had more than one hit in an inning except for the first. Keystone left five runners stranded in scoring position.

Baldwin (26-2) scored all of its runs in the fourth inning, getting a two-run homer from Piper Young.

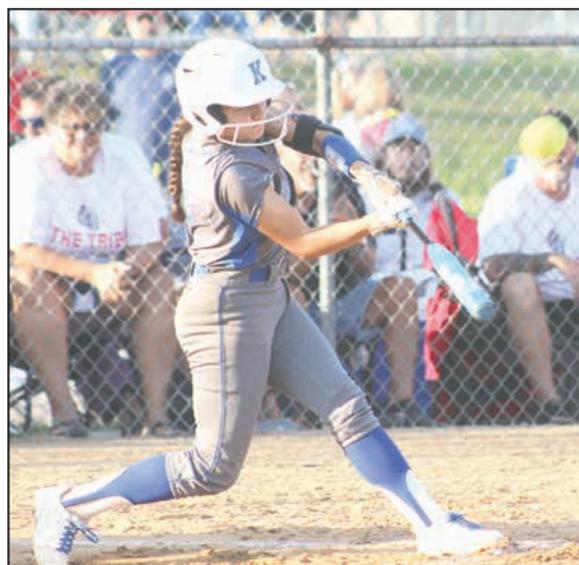
It didn't take long for Keystone to gain the upper hand, thanks to the bat of Kinsal. The second batter in the lineup took a strike on the first pitch she saw in the top of the first. She then drove the second pitch from Baldwin pitcher Young over the fence in left for a 1-0 lead. Abbie Roach was able to reach on a two-out infield single, but an infield pop-up ended the inning.

Baldwin put two runners on in the bottom of the inning. Cali Hartung and Jazmine Ramos-Merced hit singles with one out and two outs, respectively. The inning ended with pitcher Madi Mitzel recording a strikeout.

Mitzel was the first batter up in the top of the second, hitting a double on the first pitch she saw. After a strikeout and a fly out, Jaiden Robinson drew a walk. A ground out allowed Baldwin to get out of the inning.

Keystone got its leadoff batter on for the second straight inning when Kinsal drew a walk to start the third. Roach hit a one-out single that just sailed over the shortstop Olivia Hartung's head. Hartung would record the second out by catching a pop-up. Kinsal and Roach would execute a double steal, but a ground out ended the inning with them stranded on second and third.

Baldwin's Rylan Gray led off the bottom of the inning with a single. Keystone turned a double play on the next at-bat. Third baseman Kinley Carlton fielded a ground ball hit by Cali Hartung, throwing the ball to second baseman Kinsal to get Gray out. Kinsal fired a throw to first baseman Delia Johnson in time to get Hartung out. Chloe Gotto would hit a single in Baldwin's next at-bat, but a fly



Alaina Kinsal hits a solo home run in the top of the first in Keystone's 3-2 loss to Baldwin in the Region 1-3A title game. She finished 2 for 3. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Caitlin Frampton entered the circle with one out in the fourth. She gave up no hits in finishing out the game.



It was quite a day for Raiford Wreckshop weightlifters at the Powerlifting America TFX Open Championships, with all four participants placing first and earning the team championship trophy as well. Pictured (l-r) are Kaylee Wright, Courtney Comer, Coach Bryan Griffis, Brianna Jordan and Zeke Malphurs. Photo provided courtesy of Griffis.

Raiford Wreckshop has 4 champs at Orlando event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Four individual champions and a team championship trophy.

It was a good day for Raiford Wreckshop at the second annual Powerlifting America TFX Open Championships in Orlando on April 23.

"We owe all our success to God," said Raiford Wreckshop Coach Bryan Griffis.

It was no surprise three of the weightlifters won championships as Courtney Comer, Brianna Jordan and Zeke Malphurs have proven again and again to be the strongest in their age/weight divisions. However, Kaylee Wright, the fourth participant, has recently begun working out under Griffis' tutelage. She has weightlifting experience in high school — she's qualified for the

state finals each of the last two years for Keystone Heights High School — but this was Wright's first powerlifting meet.

"She's going to be a force to be reckoned with," Griffis said.

Wright (16 years old, 84-kilogram class) had a 168.5-pound bench press, a 273.5 deadlift and a 268 squat.

Griffis said Wright adapted well from what she does in high school competitions to what's done in powerlifting and said she had no nerves in her first meet.

The coach sees a bright future for Wright, not only in powerlifting, but in high school competitions. This past season, Wright, a junior, became the first KHHS girls weightlifter to earn a medal in state competition in nine years. She placed sixth in the 183-pound class.

"If she keeps working and doing like she should, she's going to win a state championship," Griffis said.

Comer (18, 76-kilogram class), a Bradford High School junior who's coming off her second straight state championship in high school competition, was the pound-for-pound strongest lifter at the TFX Open Championships. She did 262.5 in the bench press, 403.5 in the deadlift and 345.5 in the squat.

"This was her best meet as far as all three (lift events) combined," Griffis said.

Griffis said he had been working with Comer on perfecting her form in the deadlift. His tutelage paid off.

"When she did (403.5),

See REGION, page 14

See LIFT, page 16

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a procedure that is done when a person's heart stops pumping blood, and it can be a life saver. That's because it can keep blood flowing and increase the likelihood of successful revival when medical help arrives.

Recognizing the signs of cardiac arrest are important to knowing when CPR is necessary. These include: sudden collapse, lack of breathing, lack of heartbeat/pulse, loss of consciousness, lack of responsiveness. The most important step when someone is having a cardiac arrest is to call 911. If you are CPR trained and are willing to help, then send someone else to call 911.

CPR is not administered like on TV anymore. The guidelines have changed to what is known as chest compression only CPR. It is similar to traditional CPR, but there are no mouth to mouth breaths involved.

It is also important to know the difference between a heart attack and cardiac arrest. A heart attack is due to a loss of circulation to the heart and the patient may experience chest pain or shortness of breath. However, they usually stay conscious and the heart still continues to work to pump blood throughout the body. Cardiac arrest is a situation in which the heart is unable to pump blood any longer. Without blood flow to the heart or brain the person becomes unresponsive and death will likely occur. Both cases require a call to 911, but only in cardiac arrest is CPR necessary.

Courses are available for those interested in CPR training. These include in-person teaching with a certified instructor. Passing the course will give you two years of CPR certification. Your knowledge could save a life. require a call to 911, but only in cardiac arrest is CPR necessary.

Courses are available for those interested in CPR training. These include in-person teaching with a certified instructor. Passing the course will give you two years of CPR certification. Your knowledge could save a life.

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Obituaries

Roy Earl Green

Homegoing services for Roy Earl Green will be held at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Waldo on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 11 a.m.



Earl Griffis

Earl Vasco Griffis, 94, died Sunday, May 15, 2022. He was born Jan. 24, 1928 and raised in Bradford County.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel; sons, Richard Moore, Kenney Moore, Kevin Moore, Raymond Moore, Rodger Moore; and a daughter, Susan Herndon Wilkerson.

Funeral services were held at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral home. Burial followed at Lawtey Cemetery.

Winifred Howard

BROOKER Winifred Crosby Howard, 94, of Brooker died Saturday, May 21, 2022, at North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rudolph C. Howard; her parents; and a brother, James P. Crosby.

She is survived by her children, Gene (Anne) Howard of Winter Park, Bob (Rhonda) Howard of San Antonio, Texas, Diane Alderman of Atlanta, Terri Howard of Brooker, and Elaine Howard of Brooker.

Her funeral will be held on Thursday, May 26, at 10 a.m. at Brooker Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Dedan Cemetery in Brooker.

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

Hilda Mock

LAKE BUTLER Hilda Terrell Mock, 82, of Lake Butler, died Friday, May 20, 2022, at the Haven Hospice in Lake City. She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Allie (Bryd) Terrell; her brothers, Walter Clyde Terrell; and sisters, Gladys Lee and JoAnn Mayo.

She is survived by her husband, Ezra Mock of Lake Butler; and her children, Deborah (Buddy) Broughton, Gene Mock, and Leslie (Robert) Fillyaw, all of Lake Butler.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, May 27, at 4 p.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. The family will receive friends for a visitation beginning at 3 p.m. at the funeral home. Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008. www.ArcherFuneralHome.com

Seth Michael Plant

Seth Michael Plant, 30, the cherished son of Michael and Joy Plant tragically lost his life on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 while stationed in Anchorage, Alaska at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. He was born on Nov. 16, 1991 in Jacksonville and was raised in Starke before moving to St. Augustine, where he lived the remainder of his life. He graduated from Pedro Menendez High School in 2010 and enlisted in the United States Army immediately afterwards. Serving his country was a lifelong dream for him, and the zeal he pursued his dream with was unmatched. During his time in the Army, he served in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom with the United States Navy SEALs. He was a decorated soldier and received the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Service Ribbon; Combat Infantryman's Badge; the Parachutist Badge; and, most recently, the Arctic Tab. At the time of his passing, he had recently been promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in Company C, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Arctic Airborne unit. He was a decorated war veteran, a leader, a fighter, and a hero. He was also a hard worker in the service industry for many years while serving the locals and tourists of St. Augustine. During this time he made a multitude of friends, and everyone knew him. He never met a stranger. He was a true Momma's boy. His father's pride and joy. Seth and his siblings always joked that he was the "favorite child." The bond between Seth and his sisters is rare and special. He adored being called "Uncle Bubby" by his nieces and nephew. He was also a loyal and beloved grandson, nephew, and cousin. He loved being outdoors, playing the drums, shooting guns, motorcycles, and spending time with his family and friends. Even though he was a tough military man, he loved to sing, dance, laugh, rough house with his nieces and nephew, visit the beach, hike mountains and be with his family and friends. He never missed an opportunity to be home with the people he loved so dearly. He loved to cook. He loved to eat. He loved the holidays, especially Thanksgiving. But his favorite holiday of all was the Fourth of July. He loved to don his most patriotic attire, visit the lake with his family and then downtown St. Augustine for the fireworks. He wouldn't miss it. He had a host of nicknames including Bubby, Budders, Rooney, Self, Man Cub, Sathy Poo, Sergeant Self, Seffers, Shaggy, Big Smoke and, of course, "The Favorite Child." He was preceded in death by his older brother, Cade Plant; paternal grandfather, Kenneth Plant; and maternal grandfather, Martin Carlton; niece, Mila Hersey; and nephew, Holden Hersey; uncle, John Plant; cousin, Clint Moore Jr.; and his many fallen brothers in arms.

He is survived by his father, Mike; mother, Joy; sisters, Gini Solano and Amber Hersey; nieces, Sophia and Gabriella Hersey; and nephew, Jaxon Hersey; paternal grandmother, Carol Plant; uncle, Paul Plant; aunt, Vickie Daniel; uncle, Jeff (Anna) Plant; maternal grandmother, Sharon Carlton; uncles, Barry Carlton, Daniel (Michelle) Carlton, Matthew (Hollie) Carlton; his beloved Black Sheep; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

While comforting a fellow fallen soldier's family member, Seth said, "Unfortunately, that's how life works, it takes the most shining lights away from us. You just have to remember him and everything about him and don't let him be forgotten." The family invites you to honor his life, his service and his memory. Today and all days. Never forget him.

Visitation will be Friday, May 27, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at St. Johns Family Funeral Home, 385 State Road 207, St. Augustine. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 28, at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 SR-A1A, St. Augustine. Interment with full military honors will follow at San Lorenzo Cemetery. Flowers are gratefully declined. Those wishing may make a contribution in his memory to the Junior Service League of St. Augustine, P.O. Box 244, St. Augustine, FL 32085.

Arrangements are by St. Johns Family Funeral Home, 385 State Road 207, St. Augustine, 32084.



Esther Sapp

Esther Griffis Sapp, 95, of Tallahassee died on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at Centre Pointe Health and Rehabilitation in Tallahassee. She was born in Starke, on May 1, 1927 to the late Gadson E. Griffis and Pearl Prevatt Griffis. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Vernon E. Sapp Jr.; her daughter, Susan Carol Whitaker; and brothers, William E. Griffis, James E. Griffis, and John L. Griffis.

She is survived by her son, Donald (Edith) V. Sapp of Tallahassee. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke, 904-964-5757.



Michael Strayhorn Sr.

STARKE Michael "Mike" Thomas Strayhorn Sr., 77, of Starke, died on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Strayhorn of Starke; and children, Gwen (Dave) Werner of Gainesville, Jimmy (Amy) Long of Keystone Heights, Amie (Robert) Cox of Windermere, Michael Thomas Strayhorn Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia and Jade Gaelyn-Ledai of Tampa.

A reception will be held on Tuesday, May 31, in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m.

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

Jean Thomas

Jean Dugger Thomas passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, May 14, 2022 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born on Oct. 17, 1941 to Lawrence and Cora Dugger in Jacksonville. She was the oldest of five children and resided with her family in Raiford until graduation from Bradford High School in 1959. She attended the St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing program and was a dedicated registered nurse for over 30 years. In addition to being a caring nurse, she was a loving mother, wife and grandmother. She enjoyed summers on Lake Swan and many weekends traveling to Gator games with her husband, James, and friends. She was an avid reader, talented painter and, in her younger years, an excellent water skier. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Cora Dugger; her brothers, Leonard Dugger and Richard Dugger; and her sister, Mary Stephens.

She is survived by James, who was her high school sweetheart and, eventually, her devoted care-giver. She and James were to celebrate 60 years of marriage the week of her passing. She is also survived by her daughters, Susan (Michael) McConnell, Leslie (David) Ramshaw; and her son Kevin Thomas; sister, Peggy Dugger; sisters-in-law, Kathy Dugger and Emma Dugger; grandchildren, Alex (Callie) Passwater, Allison (Justin) Nappy, Ashley (Steven) Hinson, Kyle Thomas, Jack Ramshaw and Eli Ramshaw; great-grandsons, Gaige, Judson, Logan and Wells; and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank all of her caregivers; especially Tony, Edna and Julianna. And also share their appreciation for the love and support from friends and neighbors during her long illness. Memorial donations in her name can be made to the Alzheimer's Association Central and North Florida Chapter, 1410 Roosevelt Blvd #709, Clearwater, FL 33762 or www.alz.org/cnfl.

PAID OBITUARY

Edna Underwood

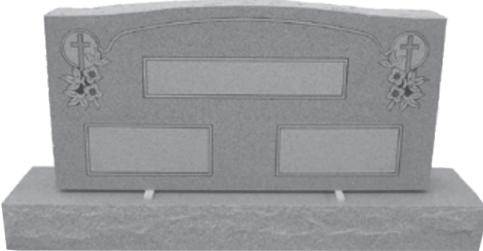
STARKE Edna Leneur Underwood, 85, of Starke passed away on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

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

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Are you ready to plant pine trees this winter?

With the start of summer being around the corner, it's time to start getting ready for site preparation and tree planting. Whether you have a few acres or even 100 acres that you are planning to plant this winter, now is the time to prepare.

In North Florida, tree planting season runs from December to early March. For increased survival and growth rates, it's better to plant the trees at the beginning of the planting season.

These are some of the questions you need to ask yourself. What kind of site preparation is needed? Will I need to hire a contractor? Am I able to do some or all the work? What species and how many do I plant? Lastly, if you are planting

pinces, have you ordered pine seedlings?

Site preparation

A leading cause of seedling mortality is poor site preparation. Controlling undesirable brush, weeds, grasses and invasive plants prior to planting is necessary.

Ideal conditions for newly planted seedlings are often ideal for weeds and other plants that compete for sunlight and water. If young trees must compete for water or sunlight and limited room to grow, then soil conditions will make trivial difference.

Site preparation often involves mechanical or chemical treatments or a combination of the two.

Most site preparation is done well in advance to planting. Therefore, planning is essential.

The condition of your site will determine what site preparation treatments you'll need. If you're unsure of what site preparations you may need, contact your county forester. In Bradford and Union, contact Holly Tucker at 386-496-2190 or holly.tucker@fdacs.gov. In Clay, contact Jon Johnson at 904-966-1124 or jonathan.johnson@fdacs.gov.

Find a contractor

If you haven't already, go ahead and line up site-preparation and planting contractors to do your work. Don't wait. Their schedules can fill fast. Finding one early can make the difference in getting your trees planted or having to wait until next season.

For smaller planting sites, consider planting trees yourself. For a nominal fee, landowners can lease tree planters and scalpers through the Florida Forest Service.

For assistance finding contractors, contact either Tucker or Johnson.

Ordering trees

Nurseries take orders on a first-come, first-serve basis. To ensure availability, don't wait. Order your seedlings early. Before you place your order, you'll need to know what species and how many seedlings you need.

In Northeast Florida, the three most-planted pine species are slash, loblolly and longleaf. Which species you select should be based on soil type and your forest-management objective. On poorly drained flatwoods sites, slash pines are generally

recommended. On sites with clay soils close to the surface (within 20 inches), loblolly pines would be the choice. On well-drained sites, you may want to consider longleaf pines.

Today, there are several genetically improved varieties available at local private nurseries and Florida Forest Service. These trees have improved resistance from Fusiform Rust disease, increased growth rates and desired traits, such as stem straightness and wood quality.

In recent years, we've learned a great deal regarding planting and managing longleaf pines, making them a more viable option for some landowners. While seedlings and establishment costs are higher compared to those of slash and loblolly pines, longleaf pines have a naturally higher resistance to insects and disease. With proper site preparation and management, they're capable of producing a higher-quality product. Longleaf stands can be burned starting as early as the first year after planting, resulting in improved understory vegetation control, tree growth and wildlife habitat values.

When selecting your tree seedlings, you should purchase the best seedling available. When ordering slash or loblolly pines, always ask for rust-resistant seedlings. Seedling cost is a small part of your establishment cost. A poor choice in seedlings could cost you in productivity, timber quality and value in the long run and possibly have the potential to cause outright failure of the stand.

If you'd like more information on tree planting, site preparation or other forestry related matters, or you'd like to set up a site visit, contact Tucker or Johnson.

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Jesus answered, "I am the way
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 one comes to the Father except
 through me." John 14:6

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Indians fall 28-6 in spring game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Quarterback Baylor Ford's touchdown run on the final play of the game prevented the Keystone Heights High School football team from being shut out in its spring game by visiting Middleburg, which won 28-6 on May 23.

"I saw a lot of positives," Keystone Head Coach Chuck Dickinson said. "We had some things we didn't do right, but that's part of the spring. We've just got to continue to work hard."

For Dickinson, the spring game is just another opportunity for his players — especially the inexperienced ones — to continue to learn. Dickinson said he had to get onto quite a few players on offense, for example, because linemen are still not fully understanding the team's blocking schemes, or backs are not understanding which holes to run through.

"We can't have that. For us to be successful, all 11 guys have to execute," Dickinson said, but he added, "They'll get it."

The game got off to a positive start for the Keystone offense as the first two plays were 5-yard carries by Landon Hovsepian and Bryar Schenck. The next two run plays, however, netted 1 yard. Quarterback Ben Ulsch's pass attempt on third-and-9 was batted down at the line of scrimmage, forcing the Indians to punt.

Middleburg running back Mike Mitchell had a long run for a first down on the Broncos' first offensive play, but the play was negated by a holding penalty. Mitchell was later tackled for a 3-yard loss by Schenck, forcing Middleburg into a third-and-7 play. The Broncos converted when quarterback Jaydan Jenkins completed a 19-yard pass to Joseph Forte. Mitchell then scampered for a 46-yard touchdown, but another holding penalty brought the play back.

RIGHT: Bryar Schenck (far right) sacks Middleburg quarterback Jaydan Jenkins in the Indians' 28-6 loss. Also pictured are Trey Jeffries (far left) and Cartez Daniels (background). BELOW RIGHT: Trey Jeffries fights for yards on a run play. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Despite the penalties, the Broncos continued to move downfield. Mitchell had a 12-yard carry to the Keystone 15 when he spun his way out of a tackle in the backfield. Jenkins capped the drive with a 12-yard touchdown run with 4:01 remaining in the first quarter. Wade Mathis added the PAT for a 7-0 Broncos lead.

The Indians went three-and-out on their next two offensive series. Middleburg had its own three-and-out series, but capitalized on its first drive of the second quarter. Jaden Boyd and Jenkins each had a run of 19 yards to pick up first downs. Jenkins also had an 11-yard run to set up first-and-goal from the 4. Mitchell scored from there at the 7:32 mark of the quarter as the Broncos, after Mathis' PAT, took a 14-0 lead.

Keystone picked up its initial first down on the following series when Ulsch was able to draw the Middleburg defense offside. An unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty on the next play, however, put the Indians in a long-yardage situation they



couldn't overcome, leading to another punt.

Middleburg's offense took over with 3:41 left in the first half. That proved to be plenty of time to tack on another score. A

9-yard run by Jenkins resulted in a first down at the Keystone 43, while a 20-yard carry by Boyd moved the Broncos to the 23.

See KHHS, page 14



Keystone Heights Junior High School was represented at the FLYRA Middle School State Track and Field Championship by Ryder Thomas (front) and (back, l-r) Alexis Taylor, Bryce Mille and Alyssa Sanford. Photo by Jessica Thomas.

Keystone's Miller is a runner-up at middle-school championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bryce Miller tied for second in the high jump, while two other Keystone Heights Junior High School students tied for seventh in the girls high jump at the Florida Youth Running Association Middle School State Track and Field Championship, which was held May 21 in Bradenton.

Miller and Suwannee Middle School's Lou Jack Smith both cleared 1.72 meters to finish as the runners-up to Emerald Coast Middle School's Brody Troutt, who cleared 1.77 meters.

The high jump was one of three events Miller, an eighth-grader, competed in. He ran a 14th-place time of 15.69 seconds in the 100m hurdles and had a

20th-place distance of 5.3 meters in the long jump.

Alyssa Sanford (seventh grade) and Alexis Taylor (eighth grade) also made it to the medal podium with their seventh-place heights of 1.37 meters in the high jump.

Ryder Thomas (seventh grade) also competed, running a time of 4:54 in the 1500m.

Coach Jessica Thomas said, "I am very proud of them for their accomplishments all season to get to this level as seventh- and eighth-graders. I am looking forward to next year and taking more athletes."

Keystone Heights' Ryleigh Thomas, a third-grader, also took part, winning her heat and finishing with a 16th-place overall time of 5:55 in the elementary school girls 1500m.

Legal Notices

Bradford

BUDGET WORKSHOP

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a budget workshop on May 31, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

The public is encouraged to visit www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting.

5/19 2tchg 5/26-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 06/03/2022 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N. THOMPSON ST. STARKE FL, 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

1GKEC13Z74J332972 2004 GMC 1YVFP80C655M71654 2005 MAZD

This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 05/26/2022.

5/26 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. announces the availability of \$350,000 of State Housing Initiative Program Plan funds for Union County, FL for the fiscal year 2022/2023. Application packets are available on our website at www.srecinc.org, programs, or you may contact our SHIP Administration office via email at sbarrington@suwanneec.net to have an application emailed to you. Applications will be accepted beginning August 1, 2022 and will continue to be accepted until June 30, 2023 or until funds have been exhausted. For additional information please contact Stephanie Barrington, SHIP Director, 386-362-4115 extension *242, or sbarrington@suwanneec.net

5/26 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County

Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a meeting on June 6, 2022 at 9:30 AM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The public is encouraged to visit www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting.

5/26 1tchg-BCT

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, Petitioner vs. EDWARD O. SMITH, JR., Case #46827 Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: EDWARD O. SMITH, JR. Residence Unknown YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an Administrative Complaint has been filed against you seeking to revoke your CORRECTIONAL Certificate in accordance with Section 943.1395, F.S., and any rules promulgated thereunder.

You are required to serve a written copy of your intent to request a hearing pursuant to Section 120.57, F.S. upon Dean Register, Director, Criminal Justice Professionalism Program, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489, on or before July 17, 2022. Failure to do so will result in a default being entered against you to Revoke said certification pursuant to Section 120.60, F.S., and Rule 11B-27, F.A.C. Dated: May 17, 2022 Dean Register, Professionalism Director FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT By: -s- Mehgen Peoples, Division Representative

5/26 4tchg 6/16-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801 - 83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Starke will sell for cash to the highest bidder on storageauctions.net for location at 1630 North Temple Ave, Starke, County of Bradford, FL, at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, the 8th day of June, 2022 and continuing day to day thereafter until sold: the household goods and misc. contents of the following:

0B009 Krystal Dennis
0J086 Lauren Miller
5/26 2tchg 6/2-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801 - 83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Waldo. Will sell for CASH to the highest bidder on Storageauctions.net

For location at 15540 NE HWY 301, Waldo, County of Alachua, Florida, ending at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, the 8th day of June, 2022, and continuing day to day thereafter until sold: the household goods and misc. contents of the following:
0A015 Catalina Deford
5/26 2tchg 5/2-BCT

Union

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 22000012CAAXMX

MIDFIRST BANK Plaintiff, v. CURTIS LEE MITCHELL A/K/A CURTIS L. MITCHELL A/K/A CURTIS MITCHELL, ET AL. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: VALERIE LYNN MITCHELL A/K/A VALERIE L. MITCHELL A/K/A VALERIE MITCHELL Current residence unknown, but whose last known address was: 6212 SW 61ST ST, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054-7376 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Union County, Florida, to-wit:

LOTS 10 AND 11, OF CAROLINE CREEK ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 34, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA. TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME LOCATED THEREON AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AND APPURTENANCE THERETO, DESCRIBED AS: A 2018 DESTINY DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME BEARING IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS DISH08446GAA AND DISH08446GAB AND TITLE NUMBERS 131076686 AND

131076727. SAID MOBILE HOME TITLES HAVE BEEN RETIRED, AS EVIDENCED BY THAT CERTAIN AFFIDAVIT RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 388, PAGE 677, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to an eXL Legal, PLLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 12425 28th Street North, Suite 200, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, on or before June 15, 2022 or within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 55 West Main Street, Union County Courthouse, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint petition. WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court on this 16th day of May, 2022.

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, CPA Clerk of the Circuit Court By: Crystal Norman Deputy Clerk 53873 072821

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

5/19 2tchg 5/26-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION Case No.: 63-2022-CP-0021 IN RE: ESTATE OF

LORRINE NELSON WOTT, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of LORRINE NELSON WOTT, deceased, is pending in the Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, 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, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate, including unmaturred, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD 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 26 May, 2022.

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Russell A. Wade III Florida Bar No. 251460 wadelaw@gmail.com P.O. Box 172 Lake Butler, FL 32054 Telephone: 386.496.9656 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: JEFFERY WOTT 8776 SW County Road 796A Lake Butler, FL 32054 5/26 2tchg 6/3-UCT

Lake Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS City of Keystone Heights 5/26 1tchg-LRM

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

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\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
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P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
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Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628
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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:

Subscription Rate in Trade Area
Area \$52.00 per year:
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year:
\$26.00 six months



Delia Johnson bats in the second inning. She'd hit a home run later in the game to make it a one-run game.

REGION

Continued from page 11

out ended the inning.

Caitlin Frampton hit a one-out double for Keystone in the top

of the fourth. She advanced to third on Robinson's ground out, but the Indians couldn't bring her home, with Baldwin's Young catching a line drive for the third

Kayla Robinson led off Baldwin's half of the fourth with a walk. Young then drove a 1-0 pitch over the fence in left to put the host team up 2-1. Chloe Stepherson later hit a one-out double and scored when Keystone committed an error on a bunt by Riley Page.

Baldwin wouldn't come close to scoring again, with Frampton pitching a no-hitter in 2.2 innings of relief.

Johnson pulled Keystone to within one when she hit a one-out solo homer in the top of the sixth, making the score 3-2.

Keystone put two on with one out in the top of the seventh. Kinsal singled, while Kiley Channell reached on an error. A fly out and a line out ended the game.

Keystone had seven hits, with Kinsal and Roach going 2 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively.

Starting pitcher Mitzel went 3.1 innings, giving up two earned runs on seven hits. She and Frampton had three and two strikeouts, respectively.

KHHS

Continued from page 13

After a 9-yard carry by Jenkins, Schenck and Trey Jeffries teamed up to tackle Boyd for a 2-yard loss. Mitchell carried the ball for an 11-yard gain on the next play to set up first-and-goal at the 5. Jenkins, who rushed for 93 yards on 10 carries, scored on a run from there with 14 seconds on the clock. Mathis kicked the extra point for a 21-0 Middleburg lead.

The second half, which was played with a running clock, saw Middleburg punt on its first series. Keystone got big defensive plays out of Ulsch and Jeffries. Jeffries had a quarterback sack for a 4-yard loss, followed by a tackle by Ulsch that held the Broncos to a 1-yard gain. On third-and-13, Jeffries tackled Terrance Thomas for no gain.

Keystone's first series of the half appeared as if it was heading toward another three-and-out, but Ulsch completed a 24-yard pass to Garrison Teague on third down to set up first down at the Indians' own 38. An 8-yard run

by Schenck resulted in another first down, while a roughing-the-passer penalty helped the Indians move to the Middleburg 27. Keystone eventually went for it on a fourth-and-4 play at the 21, with Cartez Daniels being brought down 2 yards shy of the first-down marker.

Middleburg responded with an 81-yard drive that consisted of just three plays. Thomas broke free along the Broncos' sideline for what would be a 66-yard touchdown run as Middleburg went up 28-0.

Thomas finished with 106 yards on six carries.

Daniels got the bulk of the work on Keystone's final offensive series, finishing as the team's leading rusher with 42 yards on seven carries. A 23-yard run by Daniels gave the Indians a first down at the Middleburg 48. After Jeffries was dropped for a 1-yard loss, Daniels had runs of 4 and 5 yards, leaving Keystone facing fourth-and-2. Ford, now in at quarterback, rolled to his left on a keeper that saw him sprinting his way down the sideline for a 40-yard touchdown. Daniels was held up short of the goal line on

the two-point conversion attempt as the final seconds expired.

Keystone finished with 124 rushing yards on 32 carries. Ford was the team's second-leading rusher on just the one touchdown carry. Schenck and Jeffries rushed for 25 and 21 yards, respectively.

Ulsch completed 2 of 3 passes for 27 yards.

Teague was Keystone's leading receiver with the one catch for 24 yards.

"I thought the kids played hard," Dickinson said. "We've got a lot to work on. I think right now we've got to get more physical, but we were starting a bunch of young guys up front."

The spring game, of course, isn't an indicator of how the season will go in the fall. You only have to go back this past season when the Indians went 10-2 and won the program's first-ever playoff game.

"Last spring, we got beat 21-0 and had a successful year, so hopefully these guys will do what they have to do in the summer," Dickinson said, alluding to the work done in the weight room. "That's the key for us."

Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County
Telegraph
Lake Region
Monitor
Union County
TIMES

Classified

INDEX

40 Notice	57 For Sale
41 Vehicles Accessories	58 Building Materials
42 Motor Vehicles	59 Personal Services
43 Rv's & Campers	60 Secretarial Services
44 Boats	61 Scriptures
45 Land for Sale	62 Vacation/Travel
46 Real Estate Out of Area	63 Love Lines
47 Commercial Property Rent, Lease, Sell	64 Business Opportunity
48 Homes for Sale	65 Help Wanted
49 Mobile Homes for Sale	66 Investment Opportunity
50 For Rent	67 Hunting Land for Rent
51 Lost/Found	68 Rent to Own
52 Animals & Pets	69 Food Supplements
53 Yard Sales	70 Money to Lend
54 Keystone Yard Sales	72 Sporting Goods
55 Wanted	74 Computers & Computer Accessories
56 Trade or Swap	

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40 Notices

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tion 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

47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

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53 A Yard Sales

YARD SALE; little bit of everything. Tools, household stuff, fishing poles, some furniture. Friday, Sat. & Sun. 8am-4pm. 20932 NE 20th Lane, Lawtey. YARD SALE -Sat 5/28/22 @8816 SE SR 100, Starke, FL 8:00-2:00, home decor, furniture, few antiques, lots of fabrics and more. Everything needs to go!

65 Help Wanted

STATEWIDE Guardian ad Litem Office. Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Manager I. Part-Time Position Salary: \$17,659.92 - Starke Office. IMPORTANT! - Please navigate to the following website: WWW.GUARDIANADLITEM.ORG to apply for this position: ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION. The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program is Florida's award winning, state-funded, child advocacy organization. ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY. The Child Advocate Manager I position offers an extremely interesting and challenging opportunity for job-seekers engaged in a career of social work and family service. The Child Advocate Manager supervises a group of GAL child advocate volunteers to advocate for children's best interests. ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES. The following are desirable knowledge, skills, abilities and traits for prospective Child Advocate Manager I position candidates: Self-motivated and achievement oriented, Strong desire to learn and pursue personal development, Ability to take direction and work as part of a team, Ability to effectively interact with and/or influence people of diverse backgrounds, Ability to exercise discretion, respect privacy and maintain confidentiality, Strong organizational/time management skills and ability to meet deadline, Excellent oral, written and computer literacy skills, Able to maintain a professional and effective demeanor in emotional or traumatic situations, Ability to coach, instruct and motivate volunteers, Knowledge of case management, social support services and concepts of child development, Knowledge of the dynamics of child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health, Knowledge of the Florida State Courts System, Knowledge of Florida Statutes relating to child welfare and protection ABOUT THE EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS. The following are education and experience requirements for prospective Child Advocate Manager position candidates: Must possess a valid Florida Driver's License. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in sociology, social work, psychology, child de-

velopment, education, juvenile justice, communications, or a related social science. Two years of experience in a program focusing on child welfare, social service, counseling, teaching, or supervising volunteers. All individuals hired after February 1, 2020, must obtain a Child Advocate Manager Certification offered by the Florida Certification Board within 12 months of hire date. Maintain certification during the duration of employment. Agency pays costs of certification.

INMATE SQUAD Leader - The City of Starke has an opening for a supervisor of the brush and right of way inmate squad. This employee provides direct supervision of one of three squads consisting of 8-12 minimum custody inmates from a DOC facility. The successful candidate should have a minimum of 2 years of demonstrated experience in supervising and interacting on a daily basis with inmates. The employee must have general knowledge of building and grounds maintenance, use and servicing of yard tools, mowers and materials, safety precautions and occupational hazards. The successful applicant must have a HS Diploma or equivalent, must pass a background check and drug test, have a valid Florida driver's license, and complete the required DOC Inmate Supervision course within 90 days of beginning employment. This position requires considerable physical agility of moving, bending and getting in and out of a vehicle daily. Starting

salary \$12- \$16 hourly range DOQ. Applications may be picked up and returned to the City Manager's office at City Hall 209 N Thompson St Starke. You may also email Drew Mullins, City Manager at dmullins@cityofstarke.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES-The Arc of Bradford County full-time positions available. Pay based on experience/negotiable. One year experience required. Resident Assistant (direct care in a group home setting). Please fill out an employment application at 1351 S. Water St. Starke, FL 32091. EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT Court Administration Court Program Specialist II - OPS. Salary: \$20/hr. For information, visit our website <http://www.circuit8.org/employment>

SEEKING Part Time and Full time Funeral Service Assistants, with the ability to lift over 150 pounds, at our Lake Butler and Starke Office's, please call 904-964-5757 for more information.

SEEKING TALENTED RELIABLE STUDENT who wants to write for local newspaper, cover T-Ball, kids sports, special summer assignments, has iPhone or digital camera for good photos, Mac capable/compatible, good keyboarding/word or word-processing and other Mac programs. Come by the Telegraph 131 E. Call Street, Starke or email letter of inquiry/interest and qualifications to accounting@bctelegraph.com.

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Transition Academy students help out at clothes closet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford Transition Academy continue to work to serve their community as they recently began helping out at Madison Street Baptist Church of Starke's Clothes Closet.

Transition Academy students, who are developmentally disabled, had already been

assisting at the Bradford Food Pantry, something they've done for a number of years. Lisa Gault, the Transition Academy instructor, said she heard of the clothes closet from someone at the food pantry. She called the church and asked Lisa Butler, who's involved with the clothes closet, if they could use any help. Gault said the reply was, "We'll

take any help we can get." The clothes closet is open on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Transition Academy students Elijah Alexander, Summer Crews and Tyler Williams are taken to the church at 10 a.m. every Tuesday and work before the clothes closet opens to the public. (Student Sai Ruiz also helped before moving out of



Summer Crews (foreground) and Richard Platt, a paraprofessional who works in the Transition Academy, sort clothes hangers. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Bradford Transition Academy students (from far left) Tyler Williams, Summer Crews, Elijah Alexander and (kneeling) Sai Ruiz stand by the donation box made for the North Florida Technical College campus by Lawtey Correctional Institution. The collected clothing and shoes are donated to Madison Street Baptist Church's clothes closet. Please note that donations are collected from the drop box only during the school year. Photo courtesy of Lisa Gault.

4-H volunteer: being a part of something bigger than yourself

BY SAMARA DEARY
Bradford 4-H Extension Agent

Approximately 7,050 youth between the ages of 5 and 18 live in Bradford County. The county has various activities that youth and families can participate in, but we could never have enough programs that address youth's interest and allow them to be creative and explore, while also developing critical life skills.

4-H is one of the largest youth-centered organizations that focuses on developing strong leadership skills. 4-H teaches young people important skills for life. This is made possible by the support of talented and resolute people in the community who volunteer. Remember the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child?" 4-H (Head, Heart, Hands, Health) is one component in the village. The hands that go into that village are community members who care about the growth and development of our youth.

Are you interested in learning more about how to get involved or if you have the qualifications to do so? Leadership in 4-H does not depend on your knowledge of a certain area; it relies on your willingness to help youth learn. No matter what project youth have, volunteer leadership is about building a partnership, helping youth pave the road to success in creating experiences for them to learn.

There are numerous ways 4-H volunteer leaders — youth or adults — can help. The time is up to you as well, whether it's working year-round, for a brief period of time or just for specific events. There are many ways to get involved.

4-H club projects provide leadership to club members, parents and the 4-H agent and teaches members about a specific project, such as animals, cooking or sewing, just to name a few.

Activity leaders help to plan and execute activities such as community service or fundraising.

In school, enrichment reaches youth in the classroom through various projects.

Teen or junior leaders help 4-H youth develop leadership skills and work with adult leaders in all the above.

Short-term volunteers or SPIN (special interest) can teach a special program, such as first aid, table setting, wood working, cake decorating or how to plant seeds.

Chaperones lead a group of 4-H youth to conferences, contests or trips.

There are many opportunities that adults (young and older) can get involved.

If you're asking why you

should get involved, the answer is simple. 4-H provides youth with opportunities to gain experience and grow into leaders who contribute in many ways to our communities. 4-H provides a learn-by-doing approach. It's an environment where learning and growing constantly happens. You, as a volunteer, can choose how you will be involved.

If this sparks your interest, the process is simple. If you have a desire to work with young people and help them develop skills, contact Bradford County

Extension to get the process started. There is a volunteer application, background screening and orientation. The process is quick. Volunteers have an abundance of support along the way.

If you have an idea for a project, workshop or activity that you would like to present to youth, contact 4-H Agent Sam Purvis to discuss and put that vision into action. You can email her at sdeary@ufl.edu, or call 904-966-6224.

the state.) Gault said students separate hangers and hang clothing up.

Some of the items students hung up came from the North Florida Technical College campus (where the Transition Academy is housed), which has a donation box courtesy of Lawtey Correctional Institution. Gault said the box, which is red and features a tornado, is always full.

"It's been amazing. Overwhelming," she said of the community's response. "All we did was just put it on Facebook."

Butler said the clothes closet is never lacking in donations.

"Every week, we're slammed with people coming in with clothes."

The Transition Academy has also helped get the word out about the clothes closet while working at the food pantry.

"We've been taking a flyer and going to every car on Fridays," Gault said. "We figure those are good people to see it. We go out there and introduce ourselves and say, 'Hey, do you know about the clothes closet?'"



Tyler Williams hangs up men's pants. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

Butler said, "That has increased our numbers as far as new families."

Normally, 20-25 families visit the clothes closet each

week, Butler said, explaining that anyone can come in once a month. People don't have to meet any requirements as far as income, etc.

Each person receives two plastic shopping bags to fill.

"They do their own shopping," Butler said.

The clothes closet has been in existence for more than 10 years.

Besides helping out in the form of community service, Transition Academy students learn life skills, such as how to follow directions and working with and communicating with others.

Working at the food pantry gives them the opportunity to interact not just with food pantry volunteers, but with the people who come for food.

"I make them go from car to car with me," Gault said.

Gault said she's heard people at the food pantry say, "Wow. I didn't realize your kids could do so much."

"A lot of these young people can do a lot," Gault said. "We just don't give them the credit or the time. Just take the time and show them. They can do it."

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UCHS grad Howard earns 2 player-of-the-year honors

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

University of West Florida senior softball player Teala Howard, a 2018 Union County High School graduate, recently earned two Player of the Year awards and was also named to the Schutt Sports/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II Player and Pitcher of the Year Top 25 list.

The Gulf South Conference announced that Howard was its Player of the Year on May 4.

"Honestly, I was kind of shocked," Howard said. "I wasn't so impressed with the way that I was playing this year. I was doing good, but it just wasn't



Teala Howard capped her first season at UWF by being named GSC Freshman of the Year. Now, she's ended her career as the GSC Player of the Year as well as the D2 CCA South Regional Player of the Year. Photo by UWF Athletic Communications.

how I thought I could do." Howard explained that she thought she could've been a more well-rounded player, especially when it came to how she approached batting. She said she got into "weird, mental places" where she would either just bunt, hit from a stationary position or slap without mixing it up.

She also felt like she was inside her head too much since it was her final season. Howard said instead of worrying about being the best, she wished she enjoyed the moment more and just had fun.

Still, she doesn't take the award lightly. Howard said, "Honestly, I feel honored to be able to get that and to know that even though I don't feel like I'm doing my best, people still look at me, and they're like, 'Oh, she's doing all that she can.'"

Howard hopes that the honors she's received will inspire the players coming behind her.

"I just hope for the next group of girls, it fires them up and makes them want to play that hard so they can get awards like that, too."

Howard received another surprise when she was named the Division II Conference Commissioners Association South Region Player of the Year on May 11.

"I was shocked about that, too," she said. "I can't say I was expecting that one."

The former UCHS Tiger led the Gulf South Conference in three categories: batting average (.435), triples (6) and stolen bases (33). Her 73 hits ranked her second in the GSC, while her 46 runs scored ranked third.

Howard had at least one hit in 41 games. Out of her team's 45 total games, she had at least two hits in 25.

It has been quite a ride at UWF for Howard, who made

an impact immediately. During her freshman season, she led the GSC in batting average (.469), hits (97), runs scored (66), stolen bases (53) and stolen-base attempts (57). She was third in total bases (113) and fourth in on-base percentage (.502). Howard's play resulted in her being named the GSC Freshman of the Year.

She tied the UWF single-season batting record that same year with a .464 average, which also ranked her in the top 10 in GSC history.

Howard will always remember that season fondly.

"I think I'll just never forget my freshman year when we went all the way to the World Series," she said. "That's probably one of my favorite memories from being here, when we played in Denver, even though it didn't work out for us."

The Argonauts' run to the Division II Women's College World Series began with winning the GSC Tournament. Howard went 8 for 14 with five RBI and four runs scored in the team's 4-0 showing.

In the NCAA South Regionals, Howard went 3 for 3 with a double, three runs and two stolen bases in a 4-0 win over Spring Hill, but West Florida then lost 1-0 to Tampa. The Argos bounced back to defeat Valdosta State 4-3 before beating Tampa twice by scores of 1-0 and 2-1. Howard went a combined 8 for 17 in the tournament.

In the South Super Regionals, UWF swept Florida Tech by scores of 6-3 and 7-1. Howard went a combined 4 for 7 in the series.

In the World Series, the Argos defeated West Chester 5-1 before being eliminated with losses to Augustana by a score of 4-2 and to Grand Valley State by a score of 3-2. Howard went 3 for 4 with a triple, a run and two stolen

bases in the loss to Grand Valley State.

"Just being with my team and just traveling to Colorado and playing by the Rocky Mountains — it's just a memory I don't think I'll ever forget," Howard said. "That team was special."

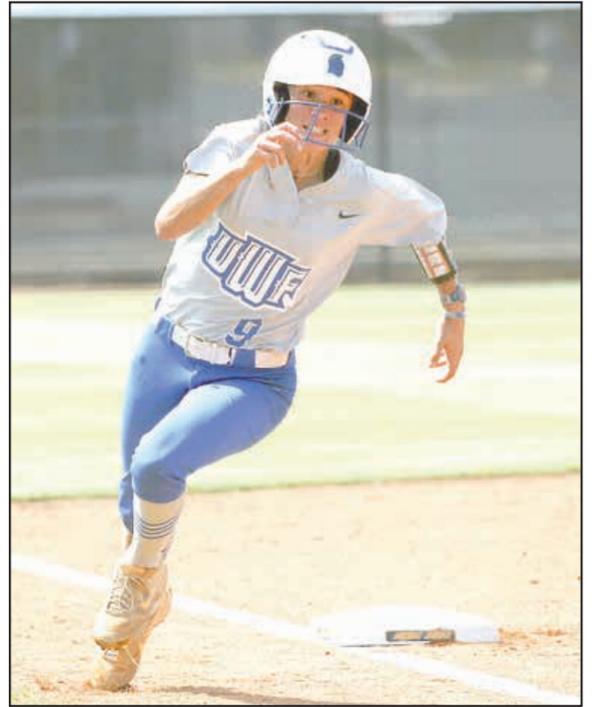
In 2020, following the cancellation of her sophomore season due to COVID-19, Howard received first-team honors as a utility player as part of the GSC All-Decade (2011-20) Awards. She was leading the GSC in batting average (.500), hits (46), triples (5), runs scored (32) and stolen bases (20) before the season was canceled.

Howard led the GSC in batting average (.448) and hits (69) her junior season, which resulted in her earning first-team All-Conference honors. She also had the conference's second-highest marks in runs scored (50) and stolen bases (27).

The Argos didn't receive a bid to this year's NCAA Tournament, so Howard's final career game was a 7-4 loss to Valdosta State in the GSC Tournament. She went 2 for 3 with a triple, a stolen base and two runs scored.

UWF went 0-2 in the GSC Tournament, with their first game an 8-7 loss to Montevallo. In that game, Howard went 3 for 5 with a stolen base and two runs scored.

"It was probably one of the worst, weirdest feelings, knowing that I was done," Howard said. "I was pretty upset, but now I'm kind of excited for what's next. I majored in Healthcare Administration. I just graduated a couple of weeks ago. Now I'm trying to find an internship to try to get some experience so I can try to find a job, I guess. It's kind of weird to say that because I have been playing softball my whole life."



Teala Howard rounds third base in West Florida's May 4 Gulf South Conference Tournament game. Photo by Michael Wade/Wade Event Photography.

As she looks back on that life of softball, Howard appreciates the commitment her parents, Shands and Danielle Howard, and coaches put into helping her maximize her potential.

"I don't think I'll ever forget how much time my parents and my coaches put in to make me better," she said. "Obviously, in the moment, like as a 10- or 12-year-old, I didn't really understand why I was going to all these hitting practices. At the time, I did pitching lessons, too. I had never really understood the point of doing all that, but looking back, I'm thankful that

my parents and my coaches drove me to do that. Obviously, it ended up working out for me." Howard expressed her appreciation to UWF also, saying, "I'm honestly so thankful for this opportunity I was given. I've made some of the best friends and the best memories here. I'm just thankful for the education I got and how this university has worked with me and all of my other friends."

"It's definitely nice having these softball awards, but I think my greatest accomplishment is graduating."

LIFT

Continued from page 11

everybody went crazy," Griffis said.

Jordan (17, 69-kilogram class),

a BHS junior who's coming off her first state championship in high school, showed great improvements in her totals. She did 368.5 in the deadlift, which was a 40-pound jump, while her 345.5 in the squat was a 20-pound jump.

The squat total could've been even more.

"She should've gone up," Griffis said. "I was mad at myself for not moving her up."

Jordan also had a bench press of 227.5.

Malphurs (14, 74-kilogram

class), an eighth-grader at Lake Butler Middle School, did 254.5 in the bench press, 368.5 in the deadlift and 331.5 in the squat.

"His total went up over 100 pounds," Griffis said, adding that based on body weight and size, Malphurs lifts more weight than

any other boy he's trained.

"He's making really, really good gains," Griffis said.

The coach said he viewed this meet as basically kind of a warmup for Comer, Jordan and Malphurs, a chance just to get them used to competing in

powerlifting again. Their totals, though, showed him they are already in top form and ready to make noise at the next level in competition.

"If they look like this at Junior Nationals — oh, my goodness," Griffis said.

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