

Bradford County Telegraph

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142nd year, 41st Issue — \$1

Free felon sent back for 12 more years

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE— A Keystone Heights man who was released from prison last year after spending 14 years behind bars was sent back to the Department of Corrections for another 12 years after violating probation.

Joshua Antonio Dell, 34, was sentenced in 2008 for attempted second-degree murder and for shooting into an occupied structure.

According to an arrest report, on Sept. 14, 2007, Dell got into an argument with another person and fired four rounds from a semi-automatic SKS rifle into a home where the victim had fled. The shooting occurred near the Bradford-Clay County line, west of Bradford County Road 21B, north of Silver Lake.

Dell pleaded to the charges and was sentenced to 14 years in prison and



Dell

three years' probation.

The defendant was released on July 1, 2021, and was eight-and-a-half months into his three-year probation term when Starke Police said he sold \$40 worth of crack cocaine near the Orangewood Apartments on South Water Street to a confidential source on March 10. The following week, Starke Police Detective Hunter Redding supervised a second controlled \$60 purchase from the defendant, also known as "Leatherface."

Dell's April 5 arrest related to the two drug deals triggered a probation violation related to his 2008 sentence.

A probation officer wrote in a violation report that Dell also left the county of his residence: Clay without permission and failed to pay monetary obligations.

In a May 25 hearing at the Bradford County Courthouse, Dell made an

open plea without a plea agreement. He pleaded guilty or no contest to the probation violations and to charges related to the first drug deal. The State Attorney's Office dropped charges related to the second cocaine sale.

Circuit Judge James M. Colaw revoked the defendant's probation, then sentenced Dell to the maximum 25 years in prison for the 2008 charges, and one year for charges related to the drug sale. He gave Dell credit for prison time already served and left it to the Department of Corrections to calculate the defendant's credit for previous time served.

According to court papers, Dell's attorney and the State agreed that he previously served and should be credited for 13 years, 10 months and 29 days.

Cooper sentenced to 6 months and probation for fraud

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE— A former Starke lawyer pleaded to eight felony counts and one misdemeanor related to crimes committed while she practiced law in Bradford County.

Brittany Marie Cooper, also known as Brittany Loper, pleaded no contest to one count of committing a scheme to defraud, seven counts of grand theft and one count of petit theft.

Under a plea agreement with the State Attorney's Office, the 33-year-old was sentenced to six months in jail and 10 years' probation.

Circuit Judge James M. Colaw adjudicated Cooper guilty for the two misdemeanors and withheld adjudication for the felonies.

Cooper also agreed to pay \$15,412 in restitution to seven victims over the term of her probation. However, she is eligible to terminate probation after five years if she pays the victims in full.

Took money, didn't render services

According to court papers, Cooper failed to provide legal services to clients from which she had been paid.

According to one sworn complaint, a Lake City woman said she hired the defendant to help her become the administrator of her late husband's affairs.

"(The victim) stated that Brittany took all the paperwork she had in reference to the case and charged (the victim) \$600 as a retainer to begin working on the case," wrote Bradford Sheriff's Detective Michael Garmon in the complaint. "After two months, (the victim) still had heard nothing on the progress of her case, so she began to attempt to call Brittany."

Garmon added that the victim could not reach Cooper by phone and visited the lawyer's North Walnut Street office several times but found no one there. He wrote that as of Aug. 26, 2021, the victim still had not heard from Cooper.

See COOPER, page 9



Former Starke attorney Brittany Cooper listens as her lawyer Dan Sikes reads the terms of her plea agreement during a hearing at the Bradford County Courthouse.

Rotary Interact Club places crosses for Memorial Day

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — On May 13, 2022, for the second year the Lake Butler Rotary Club's UCHS Interact Club placed crosses along both sides of S.R. 121, from the intersection with S.R. 121 and S.R. 231 to well past Lake Butler Middle School.

The crosses, well over 100 in number, each carrying the name of a veteran, a flag and, if the veteran is deceased, a black stripe. The crosses were spaced 32 feet apart.

The display is called "Remembering Our Heroes." The crosses are all made in the UCHS woodshop and put out twice a year, for Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Most of the crosses bear the name of local veterans but anyone may purchase a cross and have a veteran honored regardless of where they are from. Currently there are a number of veterans from all over



The volunteers who worked to place the flags: (front row, l-r) Marvin Griffis, Nancy Griffis, Savannah Miller, Cuyler Collins, Shane Collins, Jody Read and Ted Barber; (back row (l-r) Sara Vaughn, Madison Garber, Kamryn Southerland and Gracie Mnnig. Not pictured: Sheriff Brad Whitehead and Brittany McGee.

the country represented in the display. Applications for having a cross placed for a veteran are available at the Union County Elections Office and are good

for two years. At the end of that time there is an option to renew or retire the memorial.

The crosses were displayed until

Memorial Day and then removed until being placed again a few weeks before Veteran's Day in November.

For more photos, see inside.



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WORTH NOTING

Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, June 8, at 8:30 a.m. at the RJE Complex in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. The inventory is subject to change based on availability. Tell a friend or a neighbor. The distribution is free and open to the public. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Get help quitting

Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. If you're ready to quit, join the next Tools to Quit Tobacco group Thursday, June 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Bradford County Health Department. Virtual options by computer and phone are also available.

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

This group more than doubles your chance of quitting for good.

Pre-registration is required. Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot.

Register for RJE Summer Camp

Concerned Citizens Of Bradford County is taking applications for this year's Summer Camp. Camp dates are June 6 to July 15, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$35 a week. Free breakfast and lunch provided by the Bradford County School Board Monday through Thursday.

The camp features reading and math labs, cooking classes, arts and crafts, weekly 4-H workshops, and Meridian and Lego classes.

Fee for first week and the \$25 application fee must be paid at registration. Register Wednesday and Thursday June 1 and 2, from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information, please contact Sherry Williams at 352-278-3540, Glenda Ruise at 904-7691691 or call the office at 904-964-2298 and leave a message.

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UC Livestock Assoc. to hold a Backyard BBQ Cook-Off June 17

LAKE BUTLER — The Union County Livestock Association will host a Backyard BBQ Cook-Off June 17, with the proceeds going to promote agricultural education for county young people.

Richard Kelley, a UCLA board member, spoke to the Union County Board of County Commissioners at their May 16 meeting, telling the board about the event and securing permission to hold it at the Agricultural Education Center near the O.J. Phillips Recreation Center. The board gave its permission for the event.

The event is open to amateur cooks only and they can compete as a single individual or as a team made up of a team captain with up

to three assistants. The entry fee is \$50 per team and the prize money will be taken from this. Meat categories include chicken, pork butt and brisket. Entries will be judged on appearance, taste/texture, moisture, tenderness/texture and overall impression.

Pre-registration is required. Competitors must provide their own means of cooking their meat and the utensils necessary to make/apply their sauce. The only cooking media allowed will be wood, charcoal or wood pellets. Use of sanitary gloves is required anytime the meat is handled. Setup will be Friday, June 17, at 5 p.m., with the judging set for Saturday, June 18, at 4 p.m. Plates will be available for sale after the judging.

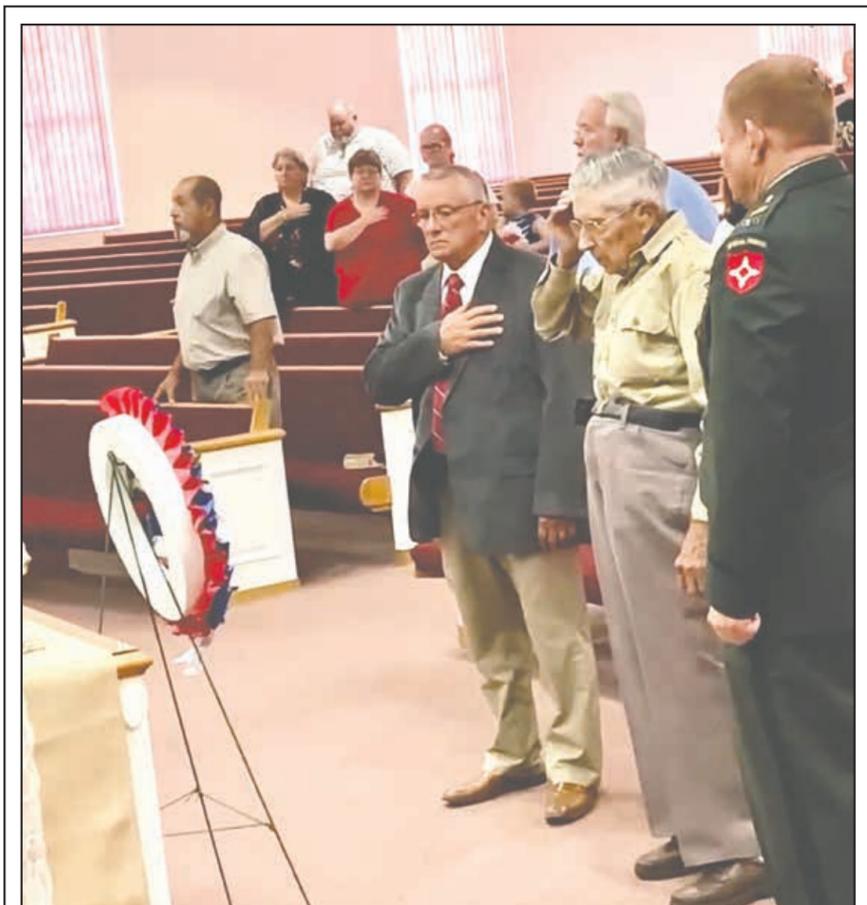
For more information or to

enter or sponsor the event, contact Richard Kelley at 352-519-9081 or at jdrkelley@hotmail.com.

Lake Butler text alerts

You can now receive text alerts from the city of Lake Butler about events and incidents that may affect you. Text the "Lake Butler" to 91896 to opt in.

You may also report issues to the city via text and even upload images of the problem. Text "Report" to 386-272-5227 about problems with streets, lighting and more.



John Britton, a member of Hope Baptist Church and 96-year-old World War II veteran, placed the wreath with HBC Pastor Dr. Larry Strickland (left) and Veteran Wayne McCarthy during a ceremony at the church. His family was in attendance for the occasion. Photo: Virginai Denmark.

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Wednesday MOVIES for KIDS! BOSS BABY PG 10:00AM & 1:00PM **\$5 EA, includes a small popcorn & drink for kids!**

June sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of June, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations: U.S. Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.

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Bradford Food Pantry plans building dedication, surprise

The Bradford Food Pantry is planning a dedication ceremony for their building on Thursday, June 9, starting at 10 a.m.

According to Food Pantry President Bob Milner, "We have been using the building now for several years since relocating from the original small building on Andrews Street across from Powell's Dairy Freeze. Although the building is owned by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, we have a perpetual lease thanks to State Representative Bobby Payne and former Senator Rob Bradley."

The ceremony will last only a few minutes according to Milner then attendees will go inside for a tour of the building and light refreshments furnished by

Humana Health representative Tara Singletary.

Milner said there will be a surprise announcement that should please all supporters of the Food Pantry, especially those who served as volunteers during the early stages of the pantry.

Started in 1989 by several local churches, the name of the pantry initially was the Bradford Ecumenical Ministries but as pastors and volunteers aged out and moved away, the name was shortened to the Bradford Food Pantry. The name change helped in several ways according to Milner but the pantry still considers itself a faith-based organization operating under Biblical foundations.

"We are Christian-based and do not apologize for that — we

just do not operate under any particular denomination and serve all clients regardless of religious affiliation or the lack thereof."

Since the pandemic began in March 2020, the pantry operates as a drive-through only where clients receive their food without ever leaving their vehicles, thanks to dedicated volunteers. The pantry distributes food every Friday to an average of 140 vehicles and 165 families. Milner said food is received on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from committed organizations and other times as opportunity arises.

"The Bradford Food Pantry would not exist if not for the dedicated volunteers, local churches, regular financial and food donations from supporters



Ron Jackson and Shaniqua Arenas are pictured volunteering at the Bradford Food Pantry.

and committed food related organizations," he said.

Some of the organizations who donate nearly weekly are Walmart of Starke, Winn Dixie of Starke, Waste Not/Want Not in Orange Park and Davis Express transportation. The pantry also receives food from Feeding Northeast Florida and FarmShare, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Milner said the current Board of Directors and volunteers invite all supporters and former volunteers to attend the short ceremony in anticipation of the surprise announcement.

The Bradford Food Pantry is located at 2226 N. Temple Ave. next to the former Farmer's Market on the grounds of the Bradford Fairgrounds.



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Lake Region

2 KH charter amendments discussed

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — During its May 12 meeting, the city's Charter Review Committee dropped one proposal that would have loosened the requirements for qualifying in city council races.

The Charter Review Committee recommends changes to the city's governing document. All changes must be approved by voters during an April 11, 2023, election. Charter Review Committee members include airport board member Bruce Harvin, former City Council Member Larry Peoples, former Clay County Schools Superintendent Charlie Van Zant, Lou Mallory and Steve Starling.

Now, a person running for

the council must have been a qualified elector living within Keystone Heights for at least one year.

During the Charter Review Committee's April 14 meeting, the panel discussed dropping the one-year residency requirement or replacing it with a provision that potential candidates obtain 50 signatures to qualify.

However, during the May 12 meeting, Van Zant, who proposed the change, said he was not committed to the idea, and the committee discarded the proposal.

Two other proposals did move forward during the May meeting. One would establish a censor policy for city council members, setting procedures to file complaints against council members and outlining an

investigation, reporting, hearing and voting process for members accused of violating laws or city policies.

Committee Chair Larry Peoples said he modeled the proposed amendment after a similar ordinance in Stockton, California, where he used to live.

"It is not meant for getting rid of somebody," said Peoples. "It is meant to correct somebody and so I think it's appropriate for this town to have a censor policy for the city council. I think the best way to do that is to put it in the charter. That way the city council or future city councils cannot remove it by themselves. They would have to have the people vote to remove it."

The committee also discussed an amendment originally brought to it by City Councilman Tony Brown in March. That amendment would change the mayor's office from an at-large, elected council seat to an office appointed by the council.

"This would not kick the mayor out as some people may want to characterize it," Peoples said during the CRCs April 14 meeting. "Whoever it may be next year (that) wins Seat 4 is still the mayor for three years and then after the end of the three years then this kicks in."

During the May 12 meeting Van Zant announced that he was leaving the Charter Review Committee because he is moving outside the city.



Tea Room, Party Place and Learning Wheel owner Jennifer Ford cuts the ribbon on her business while her husband Bruce Ford holds the couple's 3-year-old granddaughter Piper Delotelle.

Learning Wheel, Tea Room, Party Place owner cuts ribbon

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Clay County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for three of the Lake Region's newest businesses.

Jennifer Ford opened her community enrichment center

called the Learning Wheel last year, and then followed that up with two additional enterprises within the same building next door to American Legion Post 202: The Tea Room and The Party Place.

After the ribbon cutting, Ford talked to the crowd from the Tea Room which she said can host parties from two to 22 guests. She then talked about the other side of the State Road 21 building.

"It's a brick-and-mortar space for people in the community and surrounding communities to come and teach a class, a craft or a skill," she said. "So basically, I provide the brick-and-mortar space. You come in and offer something to the community and give me a little something to keep the lights on and pay the insurance."

Ford added that the Tea Room arose from her original Learning Wheel concept. She also said when the enrichment center is not hosting classes, it doubles as a third enterprise: The Party Place.

"So, what we have here is a three-ring circus," Ford said, "or what I like to call: A business plan gone wild."

Shortly after opening her doors in October, Ford told *The Monitor* that for over 20 years, she had dreamed about opening something like a small café or coffee house, but the timing was never right. She homeschooled her daughters, who are now 23 and 30, and after moving to the Lake Region eight years ago, much of her time has been spent on her family's small farm.

In addition, she saw that the community already had a successful coffee house operating.

"I'm not about competition as I am about contributing to the community," she said.

Ford added that she thought she saw a need in the area for an

enrichment center, a place where independent instructors like music teachers, yoga instructors, and tutors could meet with students and hold classes. She christened the concept "The Learning Wheel" and began some market research on social media.

"Keystone didn't have an enrichment center, so I thought that might be a good fit for the community," she recalled, "I put it out on social media and got a lot of positive feedback."

However, Ford said she soon realized that most of the interest on social media was from people that wanted to take classes rather than from her potential customers: instructors to teach the classes.

"Without teachers or instructors, I don't have a business because obviously, there's only one of me and I can't teach all of the classes," she said.

From that point Ford began to look for a way to change the business model while retaining much of her original vision. The result was a meeting venue and Tea Room within the enrichment center.

During the ribbon cutting, Ford said the Tea Room's business has grown well beyond her expectations.

"I book a lot of parties with ladies in the five-to-10-person range," she said. "There are parties that come in the two-to-four-person range, but the reservations tend to be bigger with churches, book clubs and other groups."

Ford said recently a group of Mary Kay consultants met in the Tea Room for a party, then walked to the other side of the building and gave one another facials.

"That was a double-doozie, if you will, and that is exactly how I envisioned this place to be used," she said.

The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

KH man appointed to state board

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Steven Schoeff to the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board.

The board certifies the state's code administrators, plans examiners and building code inspectors.

Schoeff, of Keystone Heights, is currently the building official for the Clay County Board of County Commissioners. He has over 25 years of experience as a building inspector and is a member of the board's code interpretations committee.

DeSantis also appointed Charles Howe of Gainesville, Jane Decker of Miami, Mark Grenier of DeLand, Alexander Hernandez of Coral Springs and Peter Ringle of Lake Worth to the board.

Melrose Art Walk

Attend the Melrose Art Walk Friday, June 3, from 6-9 p.m. for the All-Artist's Summer Show: Blessings. Watch artists' interviews about what "blessings" means to each of them on the Mossman Hall YouTube channel.

June 3 is also the grand opening of Mossman Hall's Artist's Attic Treasures. The Artist's Attic, at the top of the stairs in the gallery, will be home to pre-owned artsy, vintage, unique and collectible items.

On the first Friday of every month, from 6 to 9 p.m., the Melrose Art Walk encourages patrons to visit exhibits at each of the town's galleries. The Art Walk is sponsored by the Melrose All Arts Council.

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Lake Region remembers the fallen on Memorial Day

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Lake Region residents gathered at Keystone Heights Memorial Gardens on Memorial Day to honor U.S. service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the nation's freedoms.

Mark Alexander of AMVETS Post 86 emceed the event, and the group's Chaplain Bill Hall led the invocation and closing prayer.

Phil Arango and Cindy Lee placed an empty chair in front of the podium at the beginning of the ceremony to honor prisoners of war and missing in action service members.

Alexander told the crowd that the empty chair represents 82,000 service members still unaccounted for. He added that the government and veterans are still looking for the remains of POWs and MIAs to bring closure to their families.

Alexander also said around 20 veterans each day lose their lives to suicide.

"They are carrying things in their minds they can't get rid of," he said. "They need our help. If you see somebody that's kind of withdrawn, and doesn't want to attend things, they possibly need some help."

Alexander encouraged the crowd to get veterans who may need such assistance in touch with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Get them to the VA," he said. "We can get them that help— back to being a whole person."

It's not a happy day

Joan Alexander laid a wreath on the cemetery's veterans' memorial pathway to honor service members who died while serving.

Post 86 Commander Bob Beinlich and Keystone Heights Mayor Karen Lake welcomed the crowd.

"It's not a happy day," Beinlich said. "I'm sure there's a lot of cookouts and stuff going on all over, but it's Memorial Day and we need to look at it that way and honor the men that have given their lives for this country."

Lake, representing Keystone Heights, welcomed the crowd to the city-owned cemetery, "where so many of our fallen heroes lay."

Lake also thank the AMVETS and American Legion posts for hosting the event and expressed appreciation to the city's staff for preparing the facility for the ceremony.

Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon said she was thankful to live in a community like Keystone Heights that appreciates the sacrifices of service members



Keystone Heights Mayor Karen Lake thanked the Lake Region veterans' groups for organizing the event. Also pictured is Mark Alexander.



The Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School color guard.



American Legion Post 202 Commander Betty Kendrick said small gestures of gratitude can yield enormous impacts.



AMVETS Post 86 Commander Bob Beinlich said when Americans exercise their rights and freedoms, they should appreciate veterans.



Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon: "I stand before you today humbled, because I'm the mother of one who served, and he got to come home."



Cindy Lee and Phil Arango place an empty chair in front of the podium in honor of prisoners of war and missing in action veterans.

who never returned home. "I stand before you today humbled," Condon said, "because I'm the mother of one who served, and he got to come home."

Condon said that when most people think of Memorial Day, they envision heroes from her own generation or from her parents' generation.

She added that last August, 11 Marines, one soldier and one sailor were killed in a suicide bombing at the Kabul, Afghanistan Airport.

"Most of them were around 20 years old she said."

Little gestures, big impact

American Legion Post 202 Commander Betty Kendrick said her grandmother had seven sons, six of which served during World War II or in Korea.

She recalled as a little girl, gazing on portraits of her uncles in uniform that her grandmother had hung in her sewing room.

"It was her wall of pride,"

Kendrick said. "I was in awe looking at those photos, and I think that was the seed that got me to thinking about going into the military when I got older."

Kendrick said that after she retired from the Air Force, she visited the Mississippi cemetery where her six uncles were laid to rest, placing American flags on each of their graves.

She said that while she was there, a newspaper reporter asked her why the American Legion did not put flags on the graves of the veterans in the cemetery.

"I'm ashamed to say as a member, I don't know," Kendrick recalled responding to the reporter, "I was even an officer, and I couldn't answer that question."

Kendrick said she went to the American Legion to repeat the reporter's question to her post's leadership and after a heated exchange between herself and an embarrassed post commander, the organization committed to honoring fallen veterans during future Memorial

Days.

"From that day on, our members put flags on all the graves," she said.

"So, one little thing made a world of difference," Kendrick continued. "I went there to honor my uncles, the lady took a picture of it and put it in the newspaper, it embarrassed the American Legion, and the American Legion now puts flags on all the graves in our town, including those

in a Civil War Cemetery."

Kendrick said her story is an illustration of how small gestures can yield big impacts.

"You never know who's watching," she said. "You need to get out there and say 'hello' to all those veterans. You need to honor them in any way you can. It's important to all of us."

Beinlich said he was also thankful for his family's

military background.

"When I go home today, I'm going to put my grandpa's picture out, my dad's picture out," he said. "My grandpa was World War II, my dad: Korea, both of his brothers: Vietnam, Army and Marine Corps. I came in on the tail end of Vietnam, '73."

Beinlich added that American should thank veterans for the freedoms they enjoy.

"Our First Amendment rights, freedom of speech," he said, "the right to bear arms, the right to practice whatever religious beliefs you have in a free and open country. Those are the freedoms and main things I focus my life on."

"This country is not free without us," he told his fellow veterans. "And let me tell you, if it goes to hell in a hand basket real quick, make sure you've got a veteran living next door to you because they've got your back."

The AMVETS commander led the crowd in a slow-hand salute to Gold Star families, those who lost family members to combat.

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UNION COUNTY



On the podium are (front-l-r) the Honorable Mitchell Bishop, Miss UCHS 2021 Carly Ann Raulerson and LTC (ret.) John Murdock USMC. (back) Brian Reagan.

Annual Union County Memorial Day observance well attended

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — On the morning of May 27 members of the American Legion, Rotary Club and the Union County Community came together to honor those who have passed.

The event was solemn, beginning with a selection or patriotic music and a selection of historical quotes. At 10 a.m. the American flag was raised, then lowered to half mast, with the colors presented by the Union County High School ROTC Honor Guard. American Legion Post 153 Commander Brian Reagan welcomed the 118 attendees and gave a talk about the history of memorial day. The invocation was offered by Post 153 Chaplain Gene Gordon. The Boy Scout Troop 140 and Cub Scout Pack then presented the Parade of Services and Eli Rogers played the National Anthem.

The Honorable Mitchell Bishop, Post 153 Adjutant, read the names of the Union County veterans and others to be honored by the ceremony. The annual Laying of the Wreath at the Union County Veteran's Memorial was done by Ted Barber and Shawn Newsome.

Reagan then held the POW-MIA service, followed by the guest speaker, LtCol. John Murdoch, USMC (ret), District 2 Vice-Commandant, Marine



Members of the UCHS JROTC Honor Guard presented the colors then raised and lowered them at the start of the program. Pictured are: Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Adam Ali, Cadet Sergeant First Class Brooke Burgess, Cadet First Lieutenant Alexis Cox and Cadet Captain Emma Fulton.

Corps League, Department of Florida. The ceremony concluded with final comments by Reagan and the playing of "Taps." Refreshments after the event were provided by the Lake Butler Community Page (Facebook).



Members of Lake Butler Boy Scout Troop 140 presented the military service flags.



Shawn Newsome and Ted Barber placed the wreath at the Union County Veteran's Memorial.

Below, one of the two trailer loads of flags made up for the event.



Lake Butler Rotary Club member and UCHS Interact Club sponsor Nancy Griffis spearheaded the flag placements and was out their working alongside the volunteers and club members.

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Communities in Schools an ongoing success story

Program seeking support to expand

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Don't call it a comeback. In fact, Communities in Schools of Bradford County has survived a pandemic and other challenges while maintaining its mission — to surround students with a community of support and empower them to stay in school and achieve in life.

The nonprofit's tiny staff has a giant heart for what they do, working with at-risk students one on one and recruiting dozens of other mentors, volunteers and donors to support its programs.

The staff includes Cindy DeValerio as executive director; Martha Boyette and Linda Bennet, who work with the Take Stock in Children program; Michelle Fox, a site coordinator managing numerous cases at Bradford High School; and Kris Dunfee, their financial director. Not too long ago, Candace Osteen was also added as a reengagement coordinator working to get students back in school.

Each of them knows there is so much more to what they do than improve grades, discipline and the graduation rate. Every time they reach a kid — and the success record is high — they are shaping that student's future for the better.

Visiting with them last week to share her story was Morgan Alvarez Winkler. Staffers fought



Martha Boyette, Michelle Fox, Morgan Alvarez Winkler, Linda Bennett and Cindy DeValerio.

back tears as she told her story.

"Without this scholarship, there is no way my family could have sent me to college. I'm one of three in a single-parent household. My mom worked multiple jobs. It was 'We have to eat,' not 'We have to go to school.' So, this was a huge opportunity for me, and I would not be able to do the things that I'm doing now to give back to our community without the scholarship," she said.

That scholarship was the one she earned by graduating high school as part of CIS's Take Stock in Children program. From the time she was in middle school, she was mentored by

volunteer Cheryl Canova and given the guidance she needed to get through high school and college and return to Bradford County as a teacher. Canova recently introduced Winkler at the annual CIS banquet, where she spoke about her experience, which includes watching one her own mentee graduate this year. Yes, when she joined the high school, Winkler said she reached out to Boyette about becoming a mentor.

"It's been very helpful for me, but also, ignites that passion where you do want to give back and you do want kids to have the same opportunity," she said.

As an intensive reading



Take Stock in Children mentors with their 2022 graduates: mentor Morgan Alvarez and Jaquan Bryant; mentor Melissa Reddish and Melanie Sammons; mentor Brenda Donaldson and Zaya Thompson; Ariana Covington and mentor Beverly Hardy; and Jada Harris and mentor Loretta Leverson.

teacher, she works with students who need both personal and financial support.

"We have a demographic here that is unfortunate, but with love and guidance and support from stable adults, I think that they understand that they have the same opportunities, and that people will do for them," Winkler said.

Boyette explained that in addition to the two-year Take Stock scholarship, they can connect students with other gap scholarships to fund a four-year degree. But the best part of the program is the mentorship from caring adults who often go above and beyond listening and offering advice to providing school clothing or help students through rites of passage like getting a driver's license. One student was surprised with a car this past Christmas.

"I'm in there working in the trenches, so to speak, but I get humbled every day just about by my mentors and the things that they give to these kids. The effort is just tremendous, and I don't think we'd be as successful as

we are without that mentorship program," she said.

Boyette worked with 32 mentors and students this past school year. All six seniors graduated, and the team is already on the lookout, evaluating new young recruits to join next year. The process includes meeting with parents, whose support is also important to student success.

The need for mentors is always there. The minimum commitment

is meeting with their student twice a month, usually for lunch. No special skills are required, although volunteers must clear a background check. They also receive training and staff support.

"This program, I just totally believe in it," Bennett said.

As the only site coordinator currently on staff, Michelle Fox works with dozens of

See CIS, page 8



Celebrating success at Wild Adventures are students Jaquan Bryant (front), Kaylee Page, Nicolas Jordan, Dale Herring, Breann Ponce and Dajhe Powell.

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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A reminder of what Memorial Day is about

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Monday, May 30, was a day off for many, providing families with the opportunity to enjoy time together. Perhaps they enjoyed a cookout or enjoyed boating or swimming.

However, the day signified so much more than simply being part of a three-day weekend.

Retired Maj. John Crews, the guest speaker at the annual Memorial Day observance hosted by Starke's American Legion Post 56 at Charles J. Schaefer Sr. Veterans Memorial Park, encouraged people to remember what the day is about.

"Take it upon yourselves to remind those you are in contact with today about the history behind the holiday," Crews said. "It isn't just a day for barbecues and picnics and a day off."

Crews, who is the Army JROTC instructor at Bradford High School, began his speech by saying, "Anybody who knows me knows you're going to end up with a history class."

With that being said, Crews shared how Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day, which honored those who gave their lives during the American Civil War. With the United States' involvement in other conflicts, the day, which was observed on May 30, eventually became a way of honoring those who lost their lives in any war.

"In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday and officially coined it as Memorial Day and determined it would fall on the last Monday in May in honor of all military personnel who served our country and made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation," Crews said. "This day of remembrance is marked by the placement of U.S. flags on the graves of our fallen in honor of their service and their ultimate sacrifice."

Crews, a Lexington, Missouri, native, began his career of service by enlisting in the Missouri Army National Guard at the age of 17. After his honorable discharge from the National Guard, he attended Wentworth Military Academy, where he received his associate's degree and Army Officer Reserve Commission in 1995 under the Early Commissioning Program.

After earning a bachelor's degree in history at the University of Central Missouri, Crews served on active duty and was stationed in Kentucky, Texas, Louisiana, Kansas, Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, South Korea, Germany, Qatar, Oman, Afghanistan and Iraq. He served



American Legion Post 56 Commander Lewis Turner welcomes the crowd.



Retired Maj. John Crews, who's the JROTC instructor at Bradford High School, was the event's guest speaker.



Bradford High School JROTC cadets (l-r) Xai Santos, Brianna Isaacs, Madison Miller and Tyler Shaffer post the colors.

on six combat deployments, earning two Bronze Stars for service in Iraq, two Army Meritorious Service Medals, an Iraq Campaign Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation from the Navy, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award and an Army Meritorious Unit Commendation along with other unit and individual awards from Army and joint military organizations.

As one who's served, Crews said of Memorial Day, "This day is also important to the veterans as it provides us the opportunity to mourn friends, family and fellow soldiers. In some cases, it provides us with closure for those we were unable to thank

for their service while they were alive."

Crews concluded his remarks by saying, "I would ask each and every one of you to take the time today to remember and honor those we have lost."

The Memorial Day observance included BHS JROTC cadets and members of Boy Scouts Troop 70 of Starke placing wreaths that represented various organizations paying their respects for those who gave all in service to this country.

JROTC cadets Hagen Kadlec and Lysa McKenzie participated in the lowering of the flag during the playing of "Taps."



Boy Scouts Troop 70 members (l-r) Logan Jackson, Enoch Durban, Wonderful West and Henry Baker participate in the ceremony.



Matthew Ruble of Boy Scouts Troop 70 places a wreath and gives a salute.



Bradford High School JROTC Cadet Monique Burr salutes after placing a wreath.

Soil and water group meeting

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet on Tuesday, June 7, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Extension Office. There will be reports on the status of district projects and activities.

These meetings are open to the public. Contact Paul Still

at stillpe@aol.com or call him at 904-368-0291 for more information.

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.

CIS

Continued from page 7

additional students on dropout prevention, addressing problems with attendance, discipline and academic performance.

"We set goals for those kids and help them to achieve those goals, in the meantime providing a lot of wraparound supports, because there are lots of things that get in the way of kids succeeding in school," she said. "It's not always willpower or things like that. If kids don't have clothes, they don't want to come to school. If they smell bad, they don't want to come to school. If they're having problems at home, they don't have a parent that will push them to go to school, then they have a lot of absenteeism. A lot of time that causes behavior problems. Anytime I see a kid that's getting into trouble a lot, I want to know why. What's making them tick? What's making that kid be a bully, or what's making that kid skip class, or what's making that kid sit and put their head on the desk instead of working?"

Fox said they spend time asking questions and trying to get to know the students and help them make achievable goals — academic and behavioral goals, but also social and emotional goals.

"We end up working very closely with the guidance office, with Meridian at the school, any local resources," she said.

CIS forms the connection between the students and the



CIS site coordinator Michelle Fox with graduate Clarence Nightingale.

many resources available to help. More help is always appreciated. Fox wanted people to know that in addition to being a mentor with Take Stock, there are other ways to volunteer with CIS, such as being a tutor,

or offering apprenticeships or

internships to students who are not collegebound

"There's lots of different paths, and we work with students on trying to discover who they are and what they would want to do. What's their dream in life? How to work hard and have integrity

and achieve the goals they've set for themselves," she said.

DeValerio said it could be a school or program alumnus who comes to speak with students during a lunch meeting.

"One of my goals is more career shadowing, getting our students out — not out of school, per se — but out of what they think life has to be like based on their past history or generational curses and bondages," she said.

DeValerio said one of the resources they created this past year is a room called The Hangar stocked with hygiene products, clothing, shoes and school supplies — all free for any student who needs them. They go on field trips to places like Santa Fe College, the zoo and theme parks that are both rewarding and experience expanding. They learn about educational and financial aid opportunities. CIS advocates for students and gives parents the tools they need to be more involved. And they celebrate their achievements, including the 15 seniors Fox worked with this year, all of whom graduated.

Fox said students are referred to her by teachers, administrators and guidance, but the biggest support of referrals is from other students who recommend their peers go speak with her. Those 15 graduates were just a fraction of the 100-plus cases she worked on this year.

DeValerio said Osteen has done a phenomenal job in just six months as reengagement coordinator, reaching out to families to get students back in school or ready to take the

GED exam. Her position is grant funded.

"This grant provided an opportunity for staff to reach out to students that had either not enrolled in school since COVID, had truancy concerns, or needed support to find an effective pathway to achieve their educational goals," Osteen said.

"I had the privilege of working with district staff and Bradford High School administration to identify the initial list of students to contact. This opened doors for CIS to work with seven students to provide support and resources for their educational success. Students ranged from 10th to 12th grade, and we had a lot of learning opportunities together. It has truly been a rewarding, challenging and overall great experience to help students find their pathway to educational success."

Following the pandemic, when campuses were closed completely or closed to outside visitors and CIS staff and volunteers had to work with students from a distance, DeValerio said the organization has been in a rebuilding phase and is once again looking to expand. That means calling upon new sponsors and donors for support. Whether it's a one-time donation or a continuous sponsorship, or a donation of time and experience as a mentor, tutor, etc., all gifts benefit the students and community at large.

"We're building upon what's already here and trying to sustain and strengthen the program. We're kind of open to what

people would want to give and do for us," DeValerio said.

To get in touch with Communities in Schools of Bradford County, call 904-966-6004, or visit www.cisbradford.org.

CIS wants to recognize its donors over the past school year, including Kiwanis of Starke, Capital City Bank, Bradford County commissioners, Clay Electric, Teal Tile, Downtown Grill, Communities in Schools state office, United Methodist Women, Murray Ford, Santa Fe College, Bradford County School District, Woman's Club of Starke, First Baptist Church of Starke, Linda Lee, BHS resource officer, Lifespring Church, Bradford County Sheriff's Office, local golf sponsors, Edward Jones Financial, Hailey McElhenny and the Blue Ribbon 4-H Club.

Thanks also go to local board members and volunteers, including board President Cheryl Canova, Vice President Shannon Smith, Secretary Linda Johns, Treasurer Pat Mundorff, Austin Carter, Courtnee Douglas, Dawn McKinley, Will Sexton, Julie Johnson, Noele Miller, Kim Paige, Chrissy Allen Thompson and Trish Tucker.

They especially wanted to thank the staff and administration at the middle and high schools as well as Superintendent Will Hartley for accommodating CIS in so many ways and helping make the connections that allow them to do their important work.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

May 21 through May 27

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

Cheryl Lynne Birk, 58, of Lawtey was arrested by Lawtey police on May 26 for disorderly intoxication.

Kristen Leigh Clements, 40, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 26 for failure to appear.

Brandon Joseph Croft, 38, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 21 for a probation violation.

Brandon Austin Elam-Gamble, 24, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 25 for possession of drugs, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Amber joy Engwiller, 31, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 24 for a probation violation.

Linda Denise Hankerson, 41, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 23 for selling cocaine and possession of cocaine.

Cassandra Lynn Hengl, 42, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 27 for possession of cocaine, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Christopher Robert Hill, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 24 for an out-of-county warrant.

Christian Devone Lee Kates, 30, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 27 for aggravated battery.

Molly Elizabeth Kent, 18, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 25 for sale or delivery of opium and possession of opium.

David Lee Nazworth, 38,

of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 22 for battery.

Charles Ronald Paterson, 21, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 26 for battery.

Dana Louise Richey, 41, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 23 for DUI and possession of marijuana.

Morgan Riley Tindall, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 27 for failure to appear.

Rebecca Lynn Wheeler, 50, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 27 for fraud, illegal use of credit cards and illegal use of a two-way communications device.

Nicole Elizabeth Young, 28, of Middleburg was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 24 for a probation violation.

Union

Tabitha Gloria Lee, 48, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 27 for possession of drugs.

Brian Angelo Ribot, 22, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on May 25 for an

out-of-county warrant.

Rachel Lee Williams, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 24 for a probation violation.

Brother and sister arrested for theft

Kyle Mitchell McSpadden, 29, and his sister Kassie Lynn Reid, 32, both of Lake Butler were arrested by Union deputies on May 25 for vehicle theft. McSpadden was also arrested for possession of a weapon by a felon or delinquent, burglary, and larceny.

According to an arrest report, a fish and wildlife officer asked for sheriff's office assistance in approaching a suspicious white, Ford F-150 parked in the woods off Southwest 89th Street between Lake Butler and Providence.

When officers approached the truck, a man fled from the F-150 on foot. A tracking dog was unable to locate the suspect and deputies discovered that the truck had been stolen from a parking lot at Union County High School.

A witness identified the suspect as Kyle McSpadden to arresting officer Charles Townsend, and said he was picked up by a silver

car.

"This writer is familiar with Kyle," wrote Townsend in the report, "and knows his sister drives a silver car."

The deputy added that officers relocated to the sister's home and obtained permission from her to search the residence for two firearms the victim said were in his truck.

Deputies found the two pistols in an air conditioning duct and a laptop computer within a wall of the master bedroom. Townsend wrote that he believed the computer was also stolen from the truck.

The school resource officer at the school reviewed surveillance video of the campus parking lots and viewed a man and woman entering the truck and driving off.

Townsend wrote that Reid admitted being the woman in the video, however, she denied knowledge of the weapons or the laptop being in the truck.

Clay

Scott Gene Ballou, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 25 for trespassing.

Jerry Ray Bennefield, 48, of Keystone Heights was arrested

by Clay deputies on May 26 for contempt of court- refusal to answer questions and driving with a suspended or revoked license- habitual offender.

Mary Grenstiner, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 24 for introducing contraband into a correctional facility, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Debra Michelle Kemp, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 23 for driving without a license and resisting an officer.

Ronnie David Smith, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 26 for aggravated assault and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

James Benjamin Stephens, 39, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 22 for burglary of an unoccupied dwelling.

Morgan Riley Tindall, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 26 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

COOPER

Continued from page 1

In a second complaint, a Starke man said he hired Cooper on Aug. 16, 2020, for help with a divorce and child support case.

"Brittany charged him a total of \$2,000 and accepted his case," wrote Garmon in a sworn complaint.

The victim was later contacted by a legal assistant and asked to complete a financial affidavit.

"The victim completed the financial affidavit and then began attempting to contact Brittany's office to turn it in," wrote Garmon, who added that the victim eventually drove to Cooper's office and delivered the affidavit to the attorney.

The victim added that after several unsuccessful attempts to contact the lawyer, he asked for a refund and filed a complaint with

the Florida Bar.

Garmon wrote that in her response to the Florida Bar complaint, Cooper claimed she never received money from the victim, that the victim never complained to her about the case and that Cooper's actions related to the divorce were delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and other personal issues.

"Also included in her response is an offer to refund (the victim) his money," wrote Garmon. "However, to date, no refund has been issued."

In a third complaint, a Hampton man said he sought legal advice from Cooper on Dec. 15, 2020, for which he wrote a check made out to Cooper for \$3,000.

"The check was written as a retainer fee for services which were to be rendered by Brittany Cooper," wrote Garmon.

After being unable to reach Cooper, the victim contacted the

Bradford Sheriff's office on Jan. 28, 2021.

"During this initial investigation," wrote Garmon, "contact was made with Brittany who stated that her office had been hit hard by COVID-19, but that she would get in contact with (the victim) and update him on the status of the case."

The victim said that after law enforcement contacted Cooper, he spoke on the phone with the attorney and received a text message from her. The victim added that Cooper twice rescheduled meetings with him.

The victim reported that he and Cooper finally agreed on a June 28, 2021, meeting at her office.

"(The victim) arrived at Brittany's office on June 28," wrote Garmon, "to find that the office had been closed, looked empty and was up for rent."

'Did she make mistakes? Yes.'

After the change-of-plea hearing, Cooper's attorney Dan Sikes blamed an unmanageable caseload on Cooper's failure to render legal services to paying clients. He added that the 33-year-old's caseload stretched beyond her capacity after she took on her father's cases who was himself arrested in 2020 for crimes related to his law practice.

"When John Cooper: her father got in trouble, his caseload ended up getting dropped on her lap," Sikes said. "When you're a small-town attorney, it's already hard to keep up with your own workload. Brittany, all of the sudden, is put in a position where she is not only handling whatever caseload she already had, but her father's caseload gets dropped on her."

"Frankly if you ask my

personal opinion, I would tell you I think that she collapsed under the weight of all the pressure that she had," Sikes added.

During the hearing, Colaw asked if any victims wanted to address him regarding the plea.

Assistant State Attorney Lua Lepianka told Colaw two victims expressed interest in addressing the court, but they were not at the hearing. She added that all the victims agreed to the plea agreement she negotiated with Sikes. The assistant state attorney added that Ms. Cooper has already repaid some of the victims.

Sikes said after the hearing that had the case gone to trial, he could have potentially won, based on his assertion that Ms. Cooper's actions were made without criminal intent. He added, however, that from the moment he took on the case, the State was threatening to send Ms.

Cooper to prison for the rest of her life.

"Did she make mistakes?" Sikes said. "Yes. "This is a triable case, but when you have the State threatening that they're going to send your client away to prison for the rest of her life, do you risk that?"

In March, Ms. Cooper pleaded guilty in Lake City to forging a judge's signature and a notary's signature on official court documents. For those cases she was sentenced to 90 days in jail, five years' probation and was ordered to pay \$6,000 in restitution.

Sikes, who also represented Mr. Cooper said the 62-year-old is completing the remainder of his 21-month prison sentence in a halfway house. He is scheduled to complete his prison term on Sept. 29 and will remain on probation for 10 years.

Letters

When Florida's stores are the front lines of tobacco control

We as Floridians are encountering something that kills an average of three Floridians an hour, every hour of every day. It kills an estimated total of 32,300 Floridians each year. It's being colorfully promoted and is readily available at a place you visit frequently - your local convenience store or gas station. It's tobacco products like cigarettes, dip and chew. And tobacco companies spend billions of dollars a year to market these addictive products at the "point of sale" - retail locations where tobacco products are sold. They increased advertising dollars at the point of sale by more than 28% in just one year. When it comes to recruiting new youth to use tobacco, studies show this tactic has been effective - the likelihood of starting can more than double for youth who visit a store with point-of-sale tobacco ads at least twice a week.

Tobacco executives view youth as "replacement smokers," the next generation of customers replacing those lost by the leading cause of preventable death in our state and our nation. To attract new youth smokers the tobacco industry continues to evolve the market with new products, like electronic cigarettes and heat-not-burn devices.

E-cigarettes are not safe, especially for youth and young adults. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, a dangerous and addictive chemical. E-cigarette

companies market their products by promoting flavors, including many that are especially appealing to youth. According to the 2016 Surgeon General's Report on e-cigarette use among youth and young adults, flavors were the leading reason for youth e-cigarette use. Though the Food and Drug Administration banned the sale of flavored pod or cartridge-based e-cigarettes, new, disposable products (like Puff Bars, Stig and Smok) popular among youth are not covered under that policy. By evolving product design to get around FDA regulations, the e-cigarette industry is continuing to disregard the best interest of communities. Further, while the FDA policy bans mint flavored e-cigarettes, menthol flavored e-cigarettes can still be sold.

The frontline in the ongoing work to save these lives is at the point of sale. What is the Tobacco Free Partnership of Union County doing to counter act the millions of dollars being spent marketing cigarettes and other tobacco products, often at retail locations next to our schools? In partnership with Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Youth, we are addressing Big Tobacco's marketing tactics at the point of sale with awareness activities in our community. This includes community education through presentations, gathering data through store surveillance and educating the community via ads in local media outlets. SWAT's 'Not A Lab Rat' campaign on e-cigarettes gives youth a voice to educate and raise awareness about the long-term effects that marketing, and advertising has at the point of sale. In Union County, about 1 in 4 youth (ages 11-17) currently vape or use

another toxic tobacco product. Through our education efforts, we hope to gain champions to ensure our youth are not lab rats and that their health is not an experimentation with new emerging products. If you'd like to learn more or join and be a champion for change for Tobacco Free Union or Union County SWAT Chapter, call Jenna Jewett at 904-769-9647 or email at jenna@civcom.com.

Jenna Hewett
Tobacco Policy Manger



Russ WADE

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PD BY CSTF

Tornadoes get 3 TDs from Shanks in 31-14 win over Oakleaf

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Quarterback Dae'Jon Shanks accounted for 175 total yards and three touchdowns as the Bradford High School football team defeated visiting Oakleaf 31-14 in a May 27 spring football game.

New Head Coach Jamie Rodgers was pleased with his team's performance against a much bigger school. Oakleaf was in Class 8A in the former classification system and is now a Class 4 Suburban school. The final numbers on the scoreboard were nice, but the point differential wasn't the focus.

"What was important was doing what we learned in spring practices and doing it with great effort," Rodgers said.

The coach, of course, will have a better evaluation when he and his staff watch video of the game.

"Some of the things won't be as good as we thought they were, and some won't be quite as bad as we thought they were,"

Rodgers said, "but I think the effort was good."

Shanks' effort resulted in rushing for 59 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries. He completed 6 of 9 passes for 116 yards and a touchdown.

It was a standout game for another quarterback as well. Jeremiah McKenzie, who played the majority of the second half for Bradford, led the team in rushing, gaining 74 yards on eight carries.

The two quarterbacks accounted for all but 78 of the team's 211-yard rushing total.

"You're going to see both of them on varsity football on Friday night," Rodgers said. "There's not a question about that. Jeremiah just gives us a little bit of a thunder element to Dae'Jon's lightning, but I'm not scared to put Dae'Jon in there and let him put his head down and run that thing, either."

The offense got off to a slow start with a three-and-out series to open the game. Oakleaf responded with a seven-play,

66-yard scoring drive. The drive appeared as if it would go nowhere at first. The Tornadoes' Torin Brazell tackled Devin Outlaw for a 5-yard loss on the first play and then had the initial hit on the following play, which resulted in Outlaw being gang tackled for a 2-yard loss. Chalil Cummings then intercepted a deep pass by quarterback Drew Ammon, but Bradford was penalized for roughing the passer, giving the Knights a first down at their own 43.

Outlaw ripped off an 18-yard run on the next play and followed that with a 5-yard carry. On second-and-5, he was dropped for a 6-yard loss by Bryson Bowen. Ammon completed a pass for 4 yards, leaving the Knights facing fourth-and-7. Taylor Bradshaw was able to reach around the defender in front of him and catch a pass from Ammon in the end zone, putting Oakleaf on the board at the 5:58 mark of the first quarter. Ammon kicked the extra point to make the score 7-0.

Rodgers admitted his offense's snap timing and other things were off during the Tornadoes' initial series. Any problems were corrected on the team's second series.

"We knew we were going to be able to move the ball," Rodgers said.

The Tornadoes did just that, marching 70 yards on five plays. After a 7-yard run by Willie Pollard, Shanks completed a 13-yard pass to Gavin Cook. Shanks then scrambled for a 40-yard gain to the Oakleaf 10. Running back Manny Covey got two straight carries, with the second resulting in a 2-yard touchdown with 4:23 remaining in the first quarter. Hayden Hughes' extra-point kick was no good, leaving Bradford trailing Oakleaf by one.

The Knights drove inside the Bradford 40 on their next possession. Two straight receptions by Bradshaw for 20 yards helped Oakleaf overcome



Quarterback Dae'Jon Shanks (far left) follows the blocking of Torin Brazell on one of his first-half carries. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Manny Covey (far left) makes a tough catch for a second-quarter touchdown.

a third-and-15 situation, while a pair of runs by Machi Martin moved the Knights to the Bradford 35. Bradford's Jarrin Alexander put an end to the threat, intercepting a pass at about the 25-yard line and taking it back to the Oakleaf 4.

Two plays later, Shanks carried the ball into the end zone for a touchdown. Bradford went for two, but Shanks' run was stopped short of the goal line, leaving the score at 12-7 in favor of Bradford approximately two minutes into the second quarter.

Tackles by Cole Crosby and Chason Clark helped Bradford force the Oakleaf offense to go three-and-out on the following series. Bradford then put together its third straight scoring drive, which began with Cummings catching a 37-yard pass that moved the Tornadoes to the Oakleaf 39. A defensive holding penalty gave the Tornadoes another first down. Covey,

who had a 6-yard run that set Bradford up inside the red zone, caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Shanks with 3:01 left until halftime. The extra-point kick was no good, but the Tornadoes had extended their lead to 18-7.

Oakleaf's Ammon completed 4 of 6 passes for 42 yards on the ensuing series, which saw the Knights drive 70 yards for a score. A personal-foul facemask penalty aided Oakleaf, which capped the drive with Outlaw's 5-yard touchdown run with 40 seconds remaining in the half. Ammon's PAT made it an 18-14 ball game.

The Knights had the first possession of the second half, but on their first play, Bowen stripped Jamaal Gibbons of the ball. The Tornadoes' Devon McBride recovered the fumble, giving Bradford's offense the ball at the Oakleaf 23.

A 14-yard run by Shanks set up first-and-goal at the 3, but

Bradford turned the ball over on a high shotgun snap.

Oakleaf fumbled the ball away on the first play following the change of possession. Trente Jenkins caused the turnover, with Tray Schmitt recovering the loose ball to set up first-and-goal at the 1. Shanks scored on a run from there. Hughes added the PAT to make the score 25-14.

Bradford's defense finished the night with three turnovers. Rodgers said what he saw was a carryover from turnover-circuit drills in practices.

"I saw balls being ripped at. I saw balls being tipped in the air," Rodgers said. "I saw all the things we worked on in practice. I'm real proud of that."

The Tornadoes added the final score in the fourth quarter on a 10-play, 75-yard drive. Brandon Williams had an 11-yard carry on the first play. McKenzie

See BHS, page 11



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Tornadoes of the present meet Tornadoes of the future



On April 20, prior to its game against Toco Creek, the Bradford High School varsity baseball team hosted Bradford County Sports Inc. youth organization players as part of Little League Night. The young players watched the high school players warm up prior to the game, shook hands with them and followed varsity players onto the field during a pre-game ceremony, with youth players lining up at the defensive positions they play. ABOVE: Bombers Landon Lewis, Jensen Shuford, Kalem Free, Prestin McIntosh, Bentley Collins and Logan Lewis follow Brady Pearson into the outfield. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

LEFT: Foster Smith slaps hands with Eagles Journey Reed and Kandan Crawford. RIGHT: Jase Nichols of the Dirt Devils throws out the ceremonial first pitch.



LEFT: BHS second baseman Luke Stucky (far right) is joined by Suns Braves and Red Hot players (l-r): Mason Poole, Kristopher Griffis, Ryleigh Boles, Konnor Boles, M.J. Young and David "Emrys" McKinney. RIGHT: Cason Pilcher greets Diamondbacks Asher Phillips and Pierce Phillips.



Cason Pilcher greets Diamondback players Asher Phillips and Pierce Phillips after BHS players complete warmups. Later, all the young players got to line up at the positions they play with BHS starters.



Standing with BHS third baseman Mattox Burgin (far right) are Dirt Devils Anderson Griffis, Colton Pilcher, Stephen Reyes and Carson Covington.



LEFT: BHS player C.J. McKinney meets Rage players Jaxson Strickland, Dawson Hedrick, Chance Reed and Easton Wiseman as he goes down the line. RIGHT: Brayden Smyth slaps hands with Outlaw players Cayden Coffey, Carter Reddish and Dusty Tabet.

BHS Continued from page 10

picked up first downs on runs of 24 and 12 yards, while a pass-interference penalty set up second-and-1 at the Oakleaf 14. Bradford would eventually gain a first down on a McKenzie run

before Williams took a pitch and found the end zone on a 13-yard run to make the score 31-14 with 6:49 remaining. The PAT was no good.

Williams finished with 29 yards on four carries.

All but two of Shanks' pass completions went to Cummings and Covey. Cummings caught

two passes for 76 yards, while Covey caught two for 22 yards.

Bradford finished with 327 total yards, which was approximately 100 yards more than Oakleaf's total.

The Tornadoes' defense held the Knights to less than 70 yards in the second half.

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Obituaries

Starke native Davis ready to impact the world through God

Pauline M. Griffis

Our loving mother, Pauline M. Griffis, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at E.T. York Care Center of Haven Hospice in Gainesville. She was born in Metter, Georgia on Oct. 26, 1919, to Clemmie E. and Annie Lou Griffin Mosley and moved to Starke in 1956. She was preceded in death by her parents; three spouses; two sons; three grandsons; two sisters; and a daughter-in-law.

She is survived by her four sons, John Sanford, Donny (Colleen) Evans, Danny (Christie) Griffis, and Robert (Katrina) Griffis; daughter-in-law, Darlene Evans; 17 grandchildren; and several great- and great-great grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at Sampson City Church of God on Wednesday, June 1. She was laid to rest immediately following the service at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Services were officiated by Brother Johnny Frampton.

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

PAID OBITUARY

June Robinson

MELROSE June G. Robinson, 83, of Melrose died Wednesday, Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Raymond E. Robinson; and three children, Paul E. (Ellen) Robinson, R. Mark Robinson, and Penny S. Robinson, all of Melrose; and her brother, James Lariscy, of Jacksonville.

Visitation and funeral services were held Tuesday, May 31, in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at the Keystone Heights Cemetery.

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

William Singletary Sr.

LAWTEY William Samuel Singletary Sr., known to many as "Sam," of Lawtey passed away peacefully surrounded by family at home on Thursday, May 26, 2022. He was born on Jan. 29, 1947, the son of William Oscar Singletary Jr. and Mollie Lewis Singletary of Cordele, Georgia. Born the son of South Georgia sharecroppers, he had varied professional experiences, but farming was always his passion. He was a self-employed construction subcontractor for most of his professional career. He was also employed by Hubbard Construction Company for a period prior to his retirement. In his retirement, he combined his entrepreneurial and farming roots in an enterprise serving many. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Mollie; his son, Sam Jr.; brothers, Raymond and James Singletary; sisters, Vonnie Lewis, Epsie Carpenter, and Edris Clifton.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sandra Singletary of Lawtey; son, Doug (Charlotte) Singletary of Orange Park; daughter, Kim (Charles) Christmas of Americus, Georgia; daughter-in-law, Angie Singletary of Panama City Beach; grandchildren, Caleb (Liz) Singletary, Ashton (William) Tatum, Justin and Jake Hood, and Logan, Ethan, and Reagan Singletary; four great-grandchildren; sisters, Mary (Charles) Perry and Nina (Kenny) Starrett of Cordele, Georgia; and brother, Herschel (Lori) Singletary of Eastland, Texas.

Rainey Family Funeral Services of Cordele, Georgia was entrusted with graveside services that were held in his honor on Sunday, May 29, in the Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery, Cordele, Georgia. Along with any flowers you may choose, the family requests that you please consider a donation to your local 4-H/FFA Chapter, "In memory of William Singletary Sr." An online register book is available at www.raineyfuneral.com

PAID OBITUARY

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

It wasn't the path Ashleigh Davis thought she'd be on after graduating from Bradford High School in 2011, but it's the path she was meant to be on and the path she wants to be on, taking her from darkness into the brightness that is God's light.

It's a light Davis is eager to share after going through a life transformation at the Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Kona Campus in Hawaii, which has prepared her to go out into the world and help others transform their lives.

"I've been through a lot in life," Davis said. "I just want nothing more than to share the love of God with other people."

Davis, the daughter of Brian and Lori Davis, has participated in mission-outreach opportunities in Columbia and Mexico and will soon leave for another opportunity throughout eastern Europe.

She said what she's doing now wasn't even on her radar as a youth growing up in Bradford County, but then again, it really was in a way.

"I remember as a young girl just having this passion in my heart of wanting to change the world," Davis said. "I remember vocalizing that, but I didn't know what that meant until recently, really."

She's eagerly awaiting her upcoming trip, knowing that it'll benefit her as well as others.

"I'm excited to see what God is going to do, not only in the people there, but in my life," Davis said. "I believe that He has something special even for me on this healing journey as well."

Out of the darkness

Davis remembers a time when she was standing in her kitchen crying. She had moved back home after living in Canada, where she was attending college, and was simply feeling helpless about the state of her life and



Ashleigh Davis is pictured in Kona, Hawaii, where she's been living and attending Youth with a Mission. Photos provided courtesy of Davis.

the decisions she had made that brought her to that point.

"I fell into a lot of sin. Drug abuse, sexual immorality — all the things, really," Davis said, adding, "I moved back home to Florida because of some of the choices I was making."

She was seeking help.

Jesse, who's a good friend of Davis', kept in contact, asking Davis how she was doing and sending her scripture. One day, during a FaceTime chat, Jesse had her mother talk to Davis. That was the start of a mentorship that still exists today.

"I kind of told her briefly what was going on," Davis said. "From that day on, we've been talking every day. She's just been there for me, to help me along this journey and to ultimately point me toward Jesus."

Jesse's mother was the one who told Davis about YWAM.

A move to Hawaii

Davis moved to Kona, Hawaii, last year after being accepted at YWAM, which is a

nonprofit. She participated in its Discipleship Training School, which consists of a three-month training phase, followed by a three-month outreach phase.

"The first three months, you're getting to know God more," Davis said. "They bring in a lot of guest speakers with different topics. It was really hard because it got to the root of some things that you didn't realize were there, but it was also this growing experience, which is super fruitful in the long run."

One of her favorite weeks during the training phase was hearing a speaker talk on "the father heart of God" and how He allows us to overcome difficulties through a personal relationship with Him and through the healing power of His love.

"I feel like that week really resonated with me," Davis said. "I feel like there was some healing in my heart that took place that week."

The outreach phase took Davis, as part of a team, to Cartagena, Colombia.

Davis also participated in a

School of Worship at YWAM, which, like Discipleship Training School, consists of a three-month training phase and a three-month outreach phase. The School of Worship's purpose is to train worship leaders, musicians, singers and producers.

As part of the outreach phase, Davis and a team went to Mexico.

Besides having her relationship with God strengthened, Davis' YWAM experiences rekindled her interest in music. She said the School of Worship brought back a passion for songwriting she first exhibited at the age of 12. Davis believes she can use music as part of her future work in missions and sees it as being a part of her upcoming trip to Europe.

"I'm excited to get to do music and to even have the opportunity to write songs — to share those with the people there and just to bring hope."

Unplanned trip

If Davis needed an example of how God works, she got it with the fact she's going to Europe. Such an opportunity wasn't even on her horizon as she was in the midst of her School of Worship outreach phase in Mexico.

"I actually ended up leaving that outreach a few weeks earlier than my teammates," she said. "There was this big event coming up called Carnival. I wasn't sure that I would be able to handle that stuff because I'm really sensitive to things like that, especially right now, because I haven't really been walking with Jesus until recently."

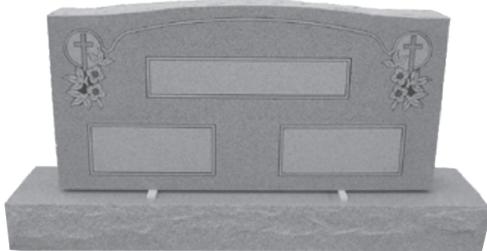
Though she felt it was in her own best interests to not be around that kind of environment, it wasn't an easy decision to make. She enjoyed being with her teammates and didn't want to leave them behind, but she felt like God wanted her to return to Kona.

She did, without any thoughts

See DAVIS, page 15

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Ashleigh Davis (fifth from right) prays over people at a rehab center in Mazatlan, Mexico. The outreach opportunity also allowed her to share her testimony and how she used to abuse prescription drugs.

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More scenes from spring: BHS, KHHS and UCHS football games



Bradford's Devon McBride (left) attempts to bring down Oakleaf's Devin Outlaw. All photos by Cliff Smelley.



Bradford's Jarrin Alexander intercepts a pass in the second quarter in the 31-14 win over Oakleaf.



Keystone's Bryar Schenck (right) and Cartez Daniels (center) give chase to Middleburg's Jaden Boyd.



Keystone's Landon Hovsepian runs for tough yardage in the 28-6 loss to Middleburg.



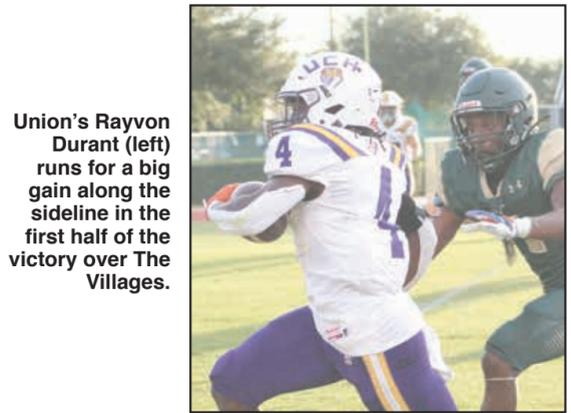
Union's Phil Jackson (right) puts the heat on Villages quarterback Josh Ivan.



Union's Thomas Williams runs for a 32-yard touchdown in the 42-20 win over The Villages.



Keystone's Sam Ulsch (left) looks to bring down Middleburg's Jaden Boyd.



Union's Rayvon Durant (left) runs for a big gain along the sideline in the first half of the victory over The Villages.



Bradford's Quarterback Jeremiah McKenzie (far left) carries the ball. Dayton Roberts (center) is also pictured.



Keystone Heights High School's Lantz Lowery (right), pictured talking with Landon Hovsepian, was voted as Florida Dairy Farmers Boys Weightlifting Coach of the Year. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

Lowery is Florida Dairy Farmers Coach of the Year

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School's Lantz Lowery has been named Florida Dairy Farmers Boys Weightlifting Coach of the Year.

The Indians won their second straight Class 1A state championship this year as well as earning the championship trophy in the inaugural snatch event. Keystone had two individual champions in the traditional event (bench press and clean and jerk) and two individual champions in the snatch event. Keystone also earned six

individual runner-up finishes in the traditional and snatch events combined as well as 12 additional medals for individuals placing third through sixth.

Weightlifter Ulysses Freed, who won the 154-pound championship in both the traditional and snatch events, was a finalist for the Florida Dairy Farmers Weightlifter of the Year award.

This year marked the third team state championship Keystone has won under Lowery. The Indians also won state in 2014.

The weightlifting program is responsible for the only boys team state titles in school history.

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KHHS earns 3 best-overall Clay County athletic awards

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School received three best-overall individual/team awards at the annual Clay County Athletics Awards Show, presented by Jaguars PREP and Dream Finders Homes, which was held May 11 at Orange Park's Thrasher-Horne Center.

It was probably no surprise that the boys weightlifting team,

which won its second straight state championship in the traditional event (bench press and clean and jerk) as well as the championship in the newly added snatch event, received the award for Clay County Male Athlete of the Year.

Weightlifter Ulysses Freed, who won his weight class at state in both the traditional and snatch events, was named the Clay County Male Athlete of the Year. Golfer and track and field

athlete Candace Jackson was named Clay County Female Sportsmanship Athlete of the Year.

At each awards show, a Hero Award is presented to a student-athlete from each Clay County high school, recognizing someone who's overcome adversity while participating in athletics. As John Sgromolo, Clay County's coordinator of district athletics, described it in the past, the award goes to students who "are great role models and inspirations to all of us of how to have grit and resilience in tough times."

Weightlifter Zach Glover was KHHS' Hero Award recipient this year.

Besides the KHHS student-athletes who earned best-overall awards, Caleb Moncrief received recognition as a Three-Star Athlete — someone who's excelled in three sports. Moncrief was on the football, weightlifting and track and field teams.

The awards show also recognized the student-athletes who earned Clay County Coaches All-County honors in every sport.

In football, Keystone had two first-team selections in Luke Snider at offensive line and Dalton Hollingsworth at running back. Mason Dicks and Caleb Moncrief were second-team picks at offensive line and defensive line, respectively, while Logan Williams earned honorable mention at both running back and linebacker.



Boys weightlifter Ulysses Freed (right) accepts the award for Clay County Male Athlete of the Year from John Sgromolo, Clay County's coordinator of district athletics. Photo by Aaron Berkshire.

(183) and Trey Jeffries (219).

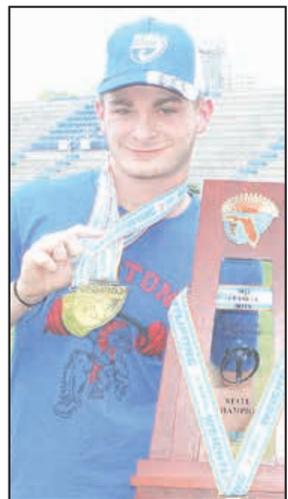
Receiving honorable mention in the traditional event were Declan Shine (119), Reid Begue (129), Bryson Wester (199) and Luke Snider (unlimited).

The weightlifting snatch event saw Keystone produce six first-team selections — Van Zant, Freed, Bryar Schenck (183),

See AWARDS, page 17



LEFT: Candace Jackson was named the Clay County Female Sportsmanship Athlete of the Year. Photo provided courtesy of the Jackson family. RIGHT: Zach Glover, pictured in 2021 showing off his boys weightlifting state medals and the team's state-championship trophy, received a Hero Award as one who excels despite adversity. File photo by Cliff Smelley.



Caleb Moncrief received recognition as a Three-Star Athlete due to his participation in football, weightlifting and track and field. Photo by Colby Grant.

UCHS grad Cohen earns postseason all-tourney honors for CF

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kamaya Cohen, a 2020 Union County High School graduate, was named to the Florida College System Activities Association Region 8/State All-Tournament Team as an outfielder after her College of Central Florida (Ocala) softball team won the junior college state championship with a 10-2 win over Seminole State College of Florida on May 8.

Cohen, a College of Central Florida sophomore who

graduated on April 29, went a combined 6 for 10 in the Patriots' three games.

On May 6, Central Florida defeated St. Petersburg College 7-4. Cohen went 2 for 3 with two RBI and scored a run as well. She drove in the game's first run with a double in the bottom of the first and drove in the final run with a double in the sixth.

Cohen went 2 for 3 again in the Patriots' 6-1 win over Pensacola State College on May 7. She scored one run.

In the tournament's championship game, Cohen went



Kamaya Cohen

2 for 4 with a double and scored two runs.

Central Florida advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Tournament in Yuma, Arizona. Cohen went 2 for 2, scoring a run and stealing a base in a 7-3 win over Butler to open tournament play on May 24.

Cohen went 3 for 4 with a double and an RBI in the Patriots' next game, but the result was a 5-4 loss to Paris on May 25. Central Florida trailed 3-0 before Cohen's RBI double in the top of the third.

The Patriots' season came to an end with a 5-1 loss to Seminole State (Oklahoma) on May 25. They finished with a 46-18 record.

Cohen played in all but three of the team's 64 games. Her batting average of .420 was third-best on the team, while her 38 RBI placed her at fourth. She was second on the team in doubles with 18. She also hit two triples and a home run and led the team in stolen bases with 50.

Some of her regular-season highlights included a 4-for-4

performance in a 15-10 win over Miami Dade on Feb. 4. She hit three doubles and stole three bases.

In an 8-0 win over Hillsborough on March 14, Cohen went 2 for 2 with four RBI, a run scored and a stolen base.

Cohen went 4 for 4 with two doubles, three RBI and three runs in a 10-2 win over Lake-Sumter State College on March 26, while on April 5, she went 4 for 5 with three RBI and two runs in a 9-0 win over Daytona State College.

Legal Notices

Bradford

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 Delford
5/26 2tchg 6/2-BCT

PUBLIC AUCTION
Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on the following unit at 10:00 am on Friday June 10th 2022 at 2117 N Temple Ave., Starke, FL. On the following units containing personal items:
#166 Belonging to K. Dugat
#72 Belonging to M. Finley
#13 & 28 Belonging to S. Douglas
#44 Belonging to A. Miller
#158 Belonging to L. Mason
#110 Belonging to V. Atkinson
6/2 2tchg 6/9-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a variance, as described below, will be heard by

the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on June 16th, 2022 at 6:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. V.22-08, an application by Dean Ward, to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.7.7, "RE", Residential Estate, Minimum Yard Requirements of the Bradford County Land Development Regulations from Ten (10) feet from the Southerly property line to a requested Five (5) feet of the property being described as follows;

p/o Lot 23, Indian Beach Unit 3, according to plat thereof recorded in the public records of Bradford County, Florida in Plat Book 2, Page 42 and being Bradford County Parcel Number 06196-0-00100
The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the variance. Copies of the variance application are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the

proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
6/2 1tchg-BCT

City of Starke Citizen Advisory Task Force Meeting Notice
The City of Starke will conduct a meeting of its Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) at the City of Starke City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091 on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The CATF will meet to discuss project options for the Community Development Block Grant program. For more information concerning this meeting, contact Ms. Lisa Heeder, Deputy Clerk at (904) 964-5027.
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City of Starke Commission Workshop and Regular Meeting Time Change
There will be a workshop of the City of Starke Commission on June 7, 2022 at 5:30 pm to discuss the recommendations by the Ad Hoc Committee on Ethics and Discipline. The meeting will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in Starke. The regular commission meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.
6/2 1tchg-BCT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CLOSING AND ABANDONING ROADWAY
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at a duly advertised public hearing held on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. and pursuant to the authority provided by Chapter 336, Florida Statutes, exercised its authority to close and abandon an opened platted street, Bedford Street, as per Plat of

Bedford Oaks recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 71 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.
A copy of Resolution 2022-02 may be obtained by any member of the public at the Office of the County Clerk, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, exclusive of holidays, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.).
6/2 1tchg-BCT

Union

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.
6/2 2tchg 6/2-UCT

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

their claims with 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 6/2-UCT

NOTICE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE
In Person Preview Day - One Day Only Monday, June 6, 2022 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The Union County School District Sealed Offer Surplus Property Sale Beginning, Tuesday, June 7, 2022 - Tuesday, June 21, 2022 For More Information Please Visit: WWW.Union.K12.FL.US Telephone Inquiries: 352-448-5087
6/2 1tchg-UCT

FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice is hereby given that MICHAEL ALLEN COX, OWNER, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of THE HEARTLANDS HANDYMAN located at 8429 SW 44TH AVE, LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA 32054 intends to register the said name in UNION county with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.
6/2 1tchg-UCT

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Ashleigh Davis (far right) prays with flight attendants after landing at Los Angeles International Airport on her way to an outreach in Cartagena, Colombia.

DAVIS

Continued from page 12

of what was next for her. That's when she met Graham, who would become a friend. He mentioned that God had led him to take an outreach trip to Europe. Graham invited Davis to be a part of that.

"If I had never gone home early from Mexico, I probably never

would've had this opportunity," Davis said, adding, "Now, looking back, it's like, 'Wow. It is cool how God works.' I'm so grateful that I was obedient. He honors obedience."

This upcoming trip is to assist people who've been affected by the situation in the Ukraine. Davis and her team won't actually be going to Ukraine, but she said they'll get as close to the country as they can.

Ukraine will be just one area of focus.

"A team of four others and I are going to be touring the eastern side of Europe, going to places such as Romania and Poland just to help refugees and wherever there's a need," Davis said. "We're going to be helping in the Red Light District as well."

Davis said she looks forward to opportunities to help those who've been victims of sex trafficking, but added, "Ultimately, I just want to help wherever there's a need. I just have a heart for broken people, in general."

Going forward with all-knowing God

Approximately two years ago, Davis had no idea of the things she would do in life — how she would draw closer to God and eagerly seek opportunities to make Him known to others. However, God knew. It is His intimate knowledge of her life and His continual presence that inspires her, which is why Psalm 139 (New Living Translation) is such a source of inspiration for Davis. The first five verses are: "O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. You go

before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head."

Even when Davis was making the wrong choices in her life, God was there. As verses 11-12 of Psalm 139 read: "I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night — but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you, the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you."

Davis is thankful for the truth in those verses.

"I fell so far into darkness, it felt like there was no way out," she said, "but here I am two years later by the grace of God. I'm so grateful for all that He's done in my life and what else He has in store for me moving forward."

One thing God had in store for Davis was a return to Canada, where she had the opportunity to finally meet her mentor in person.

"That was a really special moment," Davis said, adding, "She is overjoyed at the work God has done in my life and is continuing to do in my life. There's still a lot I have to work through, but it's so cool she and her family are sticking by my side through the good and the bad."

It costs money to be able to travel to places such as Europe in order to help people and share with them the love of God. Davis, who has complete faith that God will provide the means, said it can be hard asking others to help support her financially, but said it's easier if she reminds

herself that it's giving people of like mind an opportunity to be a part of what she's doing as a missionary.

If you'd like to support Davis, you can do so through Venmo (@ashleighdavis), PayPal (paypal.me/AshleighDavis749) or CashApp (\$ashleighdavis).

You can also write her a check, contacting her through Facebook (Ashleigh Davis) or Instagram (ashleighdavismusic).

Davis also welcomes the opportunity to chat with people and tell them more about what she's doing.



Ashleigh Davis (foreground) helps with a garden on an impoverished island called Bocachica in Colombia.

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Classified Advertising should be paid in advance unless credit has already been established with the newspaper. A \$3.00 service charge will be added to all billing to cover postage and handling. All ads placed by phone are read back to the advertiser at the time of placement. However, the classified staff cannot be held responsible for mistakes in classified advertising taken by phone. The newspaper reserves the right to correctly classify and edit all copy or to reject or cancel any advertisements at any time. Only standard abbreviations will be accepted.

40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

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DWMH 3BR/2BA for rent. Call 904-796-1088.

53 A Yard Sales
SPRING CLEAN Out this Saturday Morning Only 8:00 AM till 12:00. Lots of clothes and house items, 22434 North West State Road 16 Starke.

53 B Keystone Yard Sales
2-FAMILY YARD SALE: Keystone behind Wendy's. June 3rd-5th and June 10th-12th 9am-until.

57 For Sale
TEETER FITSPINE LX9, new inversion table. Paid \$450, ask-

ing \$200 obo. Invert, stretch the spine, relax and feel good. 386-496-0016.

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: http://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 KNOWL-

EDGE, 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, Knowl-

edge 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 development, 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

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Altrusa of Starke installs officers at May 26 banquet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Starke's Downtown Grill was transformed into Hawaii briefly on May 26 as members of Altrusa International of Starke were adorned with colorful leis during the club's installation of officers.

Club member Dimple Overstreet, who is the incoming governor for Altrusa District Three, performed the installation duties, with each office represented by a specific color.

First, Overstreet presented outgoing President Hilma Gaskins with a purple lei.

"Hilma, we want to thank you for your time and service to the club, but your service has not ended," Overstreet said. "As past president, you shall serve as adviser to the president as needed."

Pink leis were presented to board members Paula Register, Rachel Rhoden and Brenda Thornton.

"You shall attend all board meetings and assist the president and the president's work," Overstreet said. "You will also assume such other

responsibilities as directed by the club board of directors. That means you girls are going to be busy."

In presenting Treasurer Tiffany Rees with a green lei, Overstreet said, "As treasurer, you have the responsibility of collecting all the money payable to the club. You'll report all this to whoever wants to hear it and especially at board meetings."

Gale Trotter, as recording secretary, received a blue lei.

"As secretary, you shall keep a record of attendance at all of the meetings, keep the minutes of each meeting and keep a permanent file of all important papers and perform such duties as may be assigned to you by the board of directors."

After presenting Second Vice President Kim Roberts with an orange lei, Overstreet said, "Your responsibility is for membership — that means bring them in the door — and the installation of new members. You shall attend all the board meetings and shall take the responsibility as directed to you by the president."

Sarah Long was installed as first vice president. Her color was yellow.



Altrusa International of Starke's newly installed officers (l-r): First Vice President Sarah Long, Second Vice President Kim Roberts, Recording Secretary Gale Trotter, Treasurer Tiffany Rees, Directors Paula Register, Brenda Thornton and Rachel Rhoden, President Amanda Seyfang and Past President Hilma Gaskins. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Sarah Long (left) is presented with the Altrusan of the Year Award by Gale Trotter.

"You are responsible for the programs," Overstreet said. "You will attend all the meetings of the club board, become acquainted with and assist the duties of the president and assume the office of president in case she can't show up."

It was then time to install Amanda Seyfang as the club's new president. Overstreet presented her with a multi-colored lei.

"You will be the liaison between the district and international and the club," Overstreet said. "You shall be chairman of the board. You shall also attend all the meetings. You shall appoint committee chairs."

Seyfang's multi-colored lei represented the fact that as president, she's the leader of all the other officers and their colors. Yet it was also a picture of her being the leader of the entire club.

"You will make sure that with these multi-colors that you have accepted, you will be in charge of not only these people, but all these other people," Overstreet said, gesturing first to the officers and then to the other members present.

After the ceremonial passing of the gavel, Seyfang said, "First, thank you all so much for your vote of confidence in me. I look forward to this coming year and

working with each and every one of you to help make our community better. I know that everyone will participate.

"I just wanted to start by saying please just view me as a facilitator. I'm just here to support the club and get us to where we want to go in this next year."

Seyfang then presented a commemorative gavel to Gaskins, saying, "I do want to recognize Ms. Hilma because she has, as we all know, gone above and beyond. Not only was she president for her required term, but she served for more than that. She was actually president for two and a half years. God bless her. During that time was the pandemic, and we know how that affected our club.

"I wanted to recognize you a little bit. I know you've given me a gavel, but you should always have one."

Before the installation of officers, Trotter, last year's Altrusan of the Year, presented the award for this year's Altrusan of the Year to Long.

"When I think of all she does to exhibit true Altrusan spirit, these things come to mind: She always has a smile, she's quiet and unassuming, she's welcoming and friendly to the members at



New President Amanda Seyfang (left) accepts the gavel from Past President Hilma Gaskins.

the meetings and our events, she volunteers for projects within the club and shows up to support our efforts, such as at the food bank and the library," Trotter said.

Gaskins informed the club of the awards it had received during the District Three conference, which was held April 28-30 in Charlotte, North Carolina. (District Three is made up of the clubs in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.)

Altrusa of Starke received an Outstanding Community Service Award, which is presented to every club that meets certain criteria, as well as the first-place Cassie S. Dollar Rehabilitative Service and Governor's Outstanding Club awards.

The Starke Club also received a second-place Newsletter Award and third-place Greatest Net Gain in Membership, Ernestine Milner Program Excellence and Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations awards.

Gaskins said the awards reflect how members pour their whole hearts into the club and its various projects. When others see that, Gaskins said, "what other choice do they have but to give us an award?"

Club member Cheryl Canova reported that the club received a \$500 literacy grant from District Three.

"I wrote another grant for the International for \$4,000," she said. "We got notice this week that we've received that, too."

The banquet also included the installation of new member Lucy Montford, who was sponsored by Sylvia Reddish and Sylvia Tatum, while Mary Kramer presented a gift of appreciation to Linda Johns.

"This lady has been very welcoming to me since I started in Altrusa, which will be 10 years in December," Kramer said. "When I was president, she was a big help with the tickets for the gala.

"Just two weeks ago, I couldn't come to the meeting, so I didn't RSVP, which I normally do... This lady called me to make sure everything was OK because she didn't hear from me. That was just so sweet. I was telling everybody, 'I had the nicest thing happen to me today.'"



LEFT: Linda Johns (left) received a gift of appreciation from Mary Kramer. BELOW: Lucy Montford (center) was installed as a new member. She's joined by her sponsors, Sylvia Reddish (far left) and Sylvia Tatum.





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Learn more about SF Achieve at sfcollege.edu/Achieve.




Minimize hurricane damage with tree preparedness

One of the most important steps homeowners can take to minimize potential damage during a hurricane is to maintain trees properly.

During a storm, overgrown or neglected trees can become tangled in utility lines, leading to power outages. Weak branches and leftover fruits can turn into projectiles, causing serious damage to people and property. Trees themselves can blow over if their roots are too shallow for our climate or if the tree is diseased or damaged.

Be cautious in the reduction of branches to prevent stressing the tree.

—Make sure any hanging plants and potted plants are moved indoors and that outdoor furniture/items are secured.

Plan ahead

Each spring, property owners and renters should check the condition of nearby trees. Be on the lookout for broken branches, dead limbs, root rot and trunk decay. Also look for trees that grow close to power lines, windows and structures.

Also consider hiring a licensed tree service company and certified arborist. These professionals can provide advice and assistance with quickly removing already damaged or potentially dangerous trees, and they can prune healthy trees to maintain their strength and form, but to allow the wind to pass through easily.

If you are planting trees in advance of the rainy season, be sure to select the right tree for the right place to ensure that you plant a tree that can withstand our

climate and storms. Select native species when possible. Think about the tree's mature size and form, and be sure to place it so that it doesn't become a future hazard. By properly planning, caring for and maintaining your trees, you can minimize storm damage, avoid potential safety and utility hazards and ensure a healthy and beautiful landscape.

Pre-storm preparation tips

—Shut down thinning operations that are underway — or scheduled to begin — when a hurricane is projected to make landfall in your area. Thinning operations that open the stand structure can leave the stand more vulnerable to windthrow and damage if the trees have not had time to respond to the new open conditions.

—Do some pruning. Prune trees (especially those over structures and fences) regularly to reduce broken or dead limbs that could cause damage.

—Fill the tanks. Top off tanks and containers containing

drinking water, gas, diesel, propane, chain saw fuel and other materials to ensure availability during post-storm recovery.

—Keep culverts and ditches clean. Open drainages ensure excess storm water doesn't back up and cause flooding.

—Check emergency equipment. Make sure that all emergency equipment — including generators, chain saws, air compressors and other tools — is on hand and in good working condition.

—Check communications equipment. Have cell-phone chargers in all vehicles and charged backup cell phone batteries. If you have them, ensure that hand-held radios are charged and in good working order.

—Secure hazardous materials. Ensure that hazardous materials are stored safely. Shut down gasoline pumps before the storm.

—Lock your gates. Keeping your gates locked will prevent unauthorized individuals from damaging wet roads and reduce liability.

—Take photos of your stands and/or fields before the storm so you can have a record of the condition of these areas before damage occurs. This could help with records needed for insurance claims and/or government assistance programs.

—Time for harvest. If in line with your management plan and objectives, consider selling your mature timber stands in a lump-sum sale (vs. pay as cut) before hurricane season to capture the full market value of the products you have. A salvage sale of a storm-damaged stand will only yield 10 to 15 percent of the normal market value. See "Steps to Marketing Timber" at edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr130 for important considerations for selling your

timber. Whether you are working with a consultant to market your timber or doing it yourself, we recommend doing business with qualified, trained loggers who are certified in the Master Logger Program. The Florida Forestry Association provides an online tool to help you find a certified Master Logger in your county at floridaforest.org/programs/master-logger/.

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

Identifying hazards

Below are some tree hazards that are to be addressed if they haven't already.

—Branches. Inspect the branches on all trees on your property. If there are any twisted, dead or broken limbs, remove them to minimize waste post hurricane.

—Staked/braced trees. If the trees had braces installed on them after Hurricane Irma, let them remain to be re-evaluated after the hurricane passes.

—Dense canopy.

Starke Kiwanis supports classroom literacy at Starke Elementary School



Earlier this year, the Kiwanis Club of Starke donated \$1,000 to Starke Elementary School for its books-in-the-classroom literacy program. Kenny Clark, the club's past president, is pictured presenting a check to Melissa Hines (far left) and Pamela Campbell.

AWARDS

Continued from page 14

Jeffries, Moncrief and Dicks.

Shine, Begue, Glover, Sam Ulsch (154), Tisdale, Jayden Goodman (199), Anthony-Rozier, Jackson Herman (238) and Snider received second-team snatch honors, while the following received honorable mention — Jed Tisdale (119), Davin Adams (139), Ben Ulsch (169) and Jacob Andrews (199).

The softball team produced first-team selections in Delia Johnson and Emma Rogel. Kiley Channell and Abbie Roach earned second-team honors, while Alaina Kinsal received honorable mention.

In baseball, Dalton Hollingsworth was a first-team pick, while Connor Guy and Ryan Jones received honorable mention.

Moncrief earned second-team boys track-and-field honors in both the discus and the shot

put. Kendall Gagnon received girls track-and-field honorable mention in the javelin.

Gagnon was a first-team pick in flag football, while Ella Hutchins was named to the second team. Dezaray Bright and Lindsay Hovsepian earned honorable mention.

The girls tennis team had two receive honorable mention — Rebecca Lasca and Tara Tarvit.

Evan Booth received honorable mention in boys tennis.

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If you are not offered the Healthy Start screen — ask for it! Pregnant women and parents/caregivers of an infant under age 3 can also call Connect toll-free to enroll by phone in the Healthy Start program.

www.HealthyStartNCF.com includes Union and Bradford counties.

Meet Your Local Healthy Start Program Staff:

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386-853-6317

Bradford County Health Department



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