

Bradford County Telegraph

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Thursday, June 23, 2022

142nd year, 44th Issue — \$1

HPS, Union County agree to dismiss \$300M lawsuit

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — It's been a long road. For more than six years the Union County Board of County Commissioners has been at odds with a group of four families who wanted to mine phosphate in Union and Bradford counties.

Since 2018 the county has been under the threat of a suit under the Bert Harris Act filed against it for nearly \$300 million for compensation for the restriction of mining activities — depriving HPS Enterprises II of its rightful use of its land and other related matters. Whether the issue of mining is now mute, or whether it may return, for now the county is out from under the onus of the suit after both parties recently agreed to “stipulate to the dismissal without prejudice of this action.” The agreement was announced by County Attorney Russ Wade at the regular June meeting (June 20) of the Board of Commissioners.

When the mining proposal first

came to the fore, commissioners did their due diligence and agreed that the mining operation would be a detriment to the county and its citizens if allowed to proceed as planned. They sought the aid of the North Florida Regional Planning Council to update the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to help protect environmentally delicate areas and to reduce the risk to county residents and their welfare. This began the run of three year-long moratoriums that prohibited the county from accepting any applications for mining permits until the new regulations could be put in place, which they were in mid-2018. In Oct. 2018, HPS II filed suit for \$298,750,000.00, plus attorney fees and court costs against the county for the “inverse condemnation” of its property, “restricting the development potential of the Property” and rendering HPS II unable to “attain its reasonable, investment-backed expectation for the existing use of the property.”

In the claim it was stated that the new LDRs would restrict HPS II to the use of only 341 acres of the 2,757.6 acres it had originally planned to mine — an 87% reduction. Also claimed was the loss of the “fair market value” of the property in the amount of \$298,750,000 and that the county's actions had “deprived the landowner of substantially all economically viable use of the property.”

The summons for this action was filed with the court on March 8, 2019 and served on the board on March 14, 2019 with no court date set. Also on March 8, 2019, the county filed a motion to dismiss the suit, citing seven defects it. HPS II filed an opposition to the county's motion to dismiss on April 16, 2019. The case was heard on June 26, 2019 by Eighth Judicial District Judge Denise Ferrero and she delivered her judgement on March 6, 2020 — she deemed the suit filed by HPS II was “legally sufficient”, which meant it would be heard, not that it was decided in their favor. She also

dismissed HPS II's claim of “inverse condemnation” as being “not ripe” — not ready for consideration because it depended on contingent events in the future that might not unfold as expected.

In February 2021 a case management hearing was held under the authority of Judge Robert Groeb. This was during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and the case was conducted as a ZOOM virtual meeting. Because of the judicial backlog caused by the pandemic, no definite date was set for the hearing of the case. Since that time the court ordered both parties to enter into mediation sessions to see if any or all of the problems could be worked out between them, allowing for a shorter and less costly trial. The result of these sessions has not yet been made available to the Times as public records, so it is not known what took place in the meetings.

See DISMISS, page 6



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WORTH NOTING

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, June 28, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. 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.

Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Thursday, June 23, at 9 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

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

Senior Food Program

Fellowship Baptist Church off S.R. 121 in Raiford has a new food program for seniors 60 and above beginning in July and taking place on the second Saturday of each month. Stop by the church to fill out a form, or get a copy by emailing fbcchildrendirector@gmail.com.

Starke to Walk

Join Starke SDA Church at Wainwright Park Sunday, June 26, at 11 a.m. for a timed community walk. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your water bottle. The park is located on Church Street.



Photo: Bradford County Fire Rescue

Fire destroys barn

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Bradford County Fire Rescue said it responded to a structure fire in the Strawberry Acres neighborhood around 6 a.m. Monday, June 20.

“First arriving units reported a large barn that was fully involved,” the agency said on social media. “Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire to prevent further spread to a nearby home.”

The State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the blaze.

SHOOTING: Self-defense

Man shot over football game bet

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

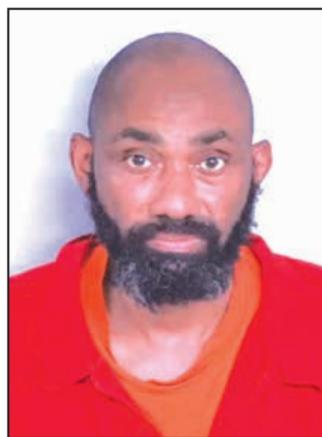
STARKE — Circuit Judge James M. Colaw dismissed a second-degree murder charge against Jimmy Lamar Hankerson, 55, during a June 15 hearing.

Hankerson was arrested for the Dec. 8, 2021, Lincoln City shooting of Jermaine Domonic Stewart.

According to court papers, the two men got into an argument over a bet they had on the Florida-Georgia football game. During the argument, the defendant drew a firearm and shot the victim three times.

During the June 15 evidentiary hearing, allowed under Florida's justifiable use of force statute, widely known as Stand-Your-Ground, Hankerson's attorney, Robert A. Rush, argued that his client acted in self-defense.

In his order dismissing the charge, Colaw wrote: “Defendant presented a prima facie claim of self-defense immunity from criminal prosecution,



Hankerson

thereby shifting the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence to the State. The State failed to overcome the immunity from criminal prosecution provided in (Florida Statutes).”

Hankerson still faces one felony count related to the Dec. 8 incident: possession of a weapon by a felon or delinquent.

District willing to sell campus to charter school

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford School Board members could sell the former Brooker Elementary School to a group interested in starting a charter school.

A group representing Brooker Community School Inc. has submitted a charter school application to the state and has previously expressed interest in the property.

The publicly funded charter school would be free to attend for K-5 students. Run by a governing board of directors with liberty to set their own curriculum, charter schools report to the state Board of Education through

the county school district. Florida Department of Education still sets the standards.

Supporters spoke to the school board June 13 requesting it consider a lease agreement that would allow them to begin evaluating and repairing the property.

Speakers included Sylvia Tatum, who told the school board they want to work as partners with the school district. While she lives in Lawtey, she said she is a supporter of community schools.

“My husband, Charles, and I, we really, really believe in community schools. We fought for our community

school on two occasions. And, by the way, Lawtey Elementary School is still there, and we're proud of that.”

Brooker needs a community school, too, she said, and the charter school group needs the building that is there.

“We're ready to go to work. I've got work crews. I mean, they're ready to move,” she said. “We're going to get that building up and going. It's something the community will be proud of, and you'll be proud of it. You're part of it.”

The country is built on choice, she added, and that is what they are offering, and not just to Bradford students; Tatum said the school would

draw and welcome students from Alachua and Union counties as well.

Suzanne McRee asked for access to the campus so they could assess what needs to be done and get started. McRee is Brooker's town clerk and board chairperson for the proposed school.

“We need to know what we have to do to make that ready for students,” she said.

The property is in a state of disrepair, McRee said.

See SCHOOL, page 3

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Qualifying closes leaving 5 local races

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — With qualifying

over, here is how races for Starke and Bradford County took shape.

Starke Commissioner Shannon Smith was unopposed for the District 3 seat, giving him a second term on the board. District 1 incumbent Danny Nugent will run against Michael Heeder, and District 5 is a race between

Randy Cres, Andy Redding and Lex Sanders.

These races are nonpartisan, as is the District 5 School Board race between incumbent Erica Reddish and Lynn Melvin. Board Members Sheila Cummings and Gayle Nicula in Districts 1 and 2 were unopposed.

County District 2 will see incumbent Commissioner Kenny Thompson face Larry Davis and Mark Williams. In District 4, incumbent Commissioner Danny Riddick will be running against Tom Germano, Christiann Hudson and Trish Tucker.

All these candidates are Republicans. Sherman Carnes, Oksun Burks, Amy Morie and Paul Still all qualified to serve on the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District unopposed.

The primary is coming up on Aug. 23. Early voting will begin on Aug. 8.

Bradley, Brannan reelected without opposition

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — State Senator Jennifer Bradley of Fleming Island and State Rep. Chuck Brannan of Macclenny were reelected without opposition after qualifying for state offices ended last Friday.

Bradley represents all of Clay, Bradford, Union, Baker, Columbia, Suwannee, Lafayette, Gilchrist, Dixie and Levy counties, and a small portion of southwestern Marion.

Brannan represents all of Bradford, Baker and Columbia counties and the northern portion of Alachua.

Rep. Bobby Payne, who represents all of Putnam County and parts of St. Johns, Clay and Marion counties, will be opposed by Luis Miguel in the Republican primary. No other candidate qualified for the seat.

Come Together Day

The Lawley-Peetsville Community Come Together Day on Saturday, July 30, will be a fun day of activities for the entire family. There will be games, music, vendors, a car show, food trucks and free food for children.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lawley Recreational Department on Middleburg Road.

Starke Splash Bash

Celebrate the Fourth on July 3 at the Starke Splash Bash, a first-time event sponsored by the city of Starke, Bradford School District and Funtastic Fire Brigade.

From 4-9 p.m. on Sunday, July 3, at Bradford High's David Hurse Stadium, there will be an afternoon filled with food and fun. The event kicks off with a

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Lightyear PG 7:00	Jurassic World: Dominion PG-13 7:15	Lightyear PG 4:30 & 7:15	JW: Dominion PG-13 4:00 & 7:30
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Meet the Candidates

Tucker running for county commission

The following is a paid announcement of intent to seek public office submitted by the candidate. Announcements may be sent to editor@bctelegraph.com. The deadline for all submissions is June 27 at 5 p.m.

Hello, my name is Trish Tucker, and I am announcing my intent to run as your Republican candidate for County Commissioner District 4.

I was raised on Little Santa Fe Lake by my parents Roger and Dorothy Hardy Jones. We moved to Starke when I was 13 years old. I graduated from Bradford High School in 1992, and I have been married to my husband Chris Tucker for 30 years. We raised our daughters in Lake Hampton Oaks subdivision, and they now have families of their own and they have blessed us with three grandsons ages 7, 3 and 2. We are currently building our home in Fox Hollow subdivision.

I have been employed with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office since 2007 in the finance office.



Trish Tucker

My current position for the last few years is as the Finance Administrator. I am an active member of the Woman's Club of Starke, Communities in Schools of Bradford County and Altrusa Club of Starke.

My message to the voters in District 4 is simple: We must stop spending more than we're bringing in. My plan is to do the same as I've done as the finance administrator for the Sheriff's Office. We have not spent more than we've been given, and most

years we return money back to the county.

The board has dipped into our "rainy day fund" and in a short number of years that will be depleted.

Fuel prices, food prices and inflation are at an all-time high. The last thing the working-class people of Bradford County need is having to pay more out of their pockets.

There are a lot of Republicans in this race. Some have recently changed to this party for political expediency as this county has gone from mainly Democratic to now more registered Republicans. I have been a lifelong Republican but I'm a conservative first.

I believe we need to look for ways to expand the tax base while keeping taxes low. I will not support creating a new or additional government body without having a plan or existing revenue to fund it.

I would be so grateful to serve this district and this county and be humbled and honored for your vote.

This announcement was paid by Trish Tucker, Republican, for County Commissioner

SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

"I would encourage you to look at it, see what's there, and then after you do that, understand that our community is willing, ready and able to take on that responsibility."

When the item came up for discussion, Superintendent Will Hartley told the board that allowing access to the property would require a lease agreement. But School Board Member Erica Reddish asked if they could sell the property to the charter school group. Given the issues that could come up with leasing such as a construction injury and school board liability, Hartley agreed it would be better to sell the property.

To take on the risk and allow the changes before application approval is putting the cart before horse, Chairperson Sheila Cummings said. She also asked about putting the property on the market.

Reddish said the group could

put as much time and effort into the property as they want if they owned it, resubmitting their application to the state until it is approved if necessary.

Board attorney Will Sexton confirmed that the charter group would prefer to purchase the property if given the chance, so the board directed Hartley to begin the process by having the property appraised.

Many familiar names complete the charter school board, including Randy Starling, director of a Gainesville charter school and former Bradford school employee, as vicechair and treasurer; retired county engineer Jerome Kelley as secretary; retired teachers Gail Cook and William Harrell as board members; and educational consultant Raquel Espinosa.

Their application discusses the "rigorous and engaging" academic program the school would provide, along with strong social and emotional skills.

From the application: "Adults and students will treat each other with respect. Students will learn to become

more resilient as they have opportunities to learn from their mistakes and personal reflection in a supportive environment. Through character education and a positive discipline approach, students will develop the skills and attributes needed to function as a productive, contributing members of society."

"There will be an emphasis on continuous improvement and high expectations among students and staff. ... The belief that 'every student can succeed' will be a key aspect of the school's culture. As stated in the school's mission statement, Brooker Community School will work in partnership with families and the community to provide a collaborative and supportive learning environment for all students."

They already have a website (www.brookercommunityschool.com) announcing that registration will begin in January 2023. Supporters can also learn more about the school's mission and donate.

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Carter focused on caring for employees and community

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Ben Carter said he is humbled to be named chief of Bradford County Fire Rescue, an agency he said is recognized statewide because of the foundation laid by former Director Allen Parrish and the late Dr. Peter Gianas, who served as medical director.

“I definitely want to keep that legacy going with Dr. (Matthew) Odom,” he said. “I think Dr. Odom and I are on the same page as far as keeping Bradford County on the map when it comes to being at the forefront of medicine.”

The young group of men and women working for fire rescue likewise want to be at the top of their game, he said. He wants the least tenured among them to feel empowered and know they can affect change within the department.

Carter said he also wants them to feel supported, which is why a peer support team is in training. The course teaches how to recognize when someone is struggling with the mental health stress of being a first responder and how to support and connect that person with resources. The chief wants to take that knowledge and draft

an Employee Assistance Plan that could serve his department and all county employees.

First responders and law enforcement officers in particular are expected to be strong enough to deal with everything they see and experience, but those experiences take a toll. If someone comes to him seeking help, Carter wants to be able to get them treatment immediately and skip the search for professionals who work with first responders. That information will be at the ready.

Carter also wants to introduce a cadet program for youth ages 14 to 20. The Florida Fire Chiefs Association has a cadet program that can be tailored to Bradford County. Among other things, it would allow students in the fire program and North Florida Technical College to participate in ride alongs and spend time at the stations. He compared it to the learning and disciplinary opportunity he experienced as a young volunteer.

“It’s a big part of why I’m here today. I’ve been on the receiving end of the benefits of programs similar to the cadet program, so it’s definitely



Chief Ben Carter (Photo: Matt Whytsell)

something I’m passionate about,” he said.

He also looks forward to getting fire rescue even more involved in the community, so people know them by face and name. Showing up at ball games, volunteering in concessions, helping establish a community garden — anything that supports the youth and missions of the community.

“I want to make Bradford County Fire Rescue a staple in this community,” he said. The public shouldn’t only feel their presence when it’s time to call 911. “That is really one of my biggest goals — to

strengthen our presence and our relationship within the community, even when there’s not an emergency.”

The public knows it can rely on the agency’s service, but Carter said he wants the public to realize its full investment in the men and women who serve them.

Fire rescue does get a lot of attention because its funding needs. The lack of a dedicated funding source for the fire department and proposals for how to raise that money have been controversial, with some saying a county this size and this poor cannot afford a full-

time paid fire department. Criticism has been brought upon salaries and the presence of an employee union. Some question the need for the fire department at all, but Carter said the fire and medical divisions each have a purpose and support one another. Lifesaving medical care isn’t possible if you cannot extricate the patient from the wreckage of a vehicle or building.

Earlier this year, rumors were circulating about Carter’s qualifications to serve as chief of the fire division. Carter met with the safety program manager for the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training within the Division of State Fire Marshal to verify what he and Parrish already knew.

“While Director Parrish and I were already well aware of the statutory requirements, I wanted to dispel any rumors and get the facts directly from the source,” Carter wrote in an April letter to county commissioners. Commissioners got the message but talk in the community persists since the commission promoted Carter to agency chief.

Statute sets two requirements for supervisory positions: that the individual be a certified firefighter through completion of fire school, and that the supervisor receive more comprehensive training and education than that provided to general firefighters.

Carter became a volunteer firefighter in 2005, and in 2009 he completed Fire I and Fire II courses, providing him with his certificate of compliance. He received an Associate of Science degree in emergency medical services from Santa Fe College and was certified in EMS education at Florida Gateway College in 2017.

Over the years, he has

completed 11 courses through the FEMA Emergency Management Institute’s Independent Study Program, including courses in incident command and multiagency coordination. He recently received a certificate for completing a FEMA National Fire School incident command training. Carter’s training continues through fire officer courses he intends to complete by the end of the year.

In addition to working with the commission on funding, Carter has bigger questions to answer than those about his resume. Bradford County Fire Rescue is minimally staffed, he said, and that means that during peak call times all units are too taxed to respond. One shift may receive 16 calls, but the next could have 30.

They are learning to navigate the demand as they go because of the department’s dedicated employees, he said. It’s a young group whose possibilities are only limited by financial resources. With the support of its medical director, the commission and the community, Carter said he is excited to see where the department is headed.

Change and transition can lead to uncertainty, but the amount of support has been wonderful.

“The outpouring of support I’ve seen from the community has been the biggest encouragement for me,” Carter said. “Alan, he always told me that if you take care of the people, the people will take care of you. And so, everything we do is going to be focused around providing the best care and the best fire response that we can for the people in this county.”

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Starke celebrates Juneteenth

BY KATE ELLISON
Bradford Democrats

STARKE — It was very hot and breezy Saturday afternoon when the Juneteenth Jubilee took place in Starke. Balloons and bright colors decorated the entrance to the RJE Alumni Hall, and bright canopies brought some shade and transformed the basketball court where vendors were selling shaved ice, jewelry, a local 7-year-old author’s book, and more. There were games for the kids, a DJ, and voter registration for the adults.

Inside, a free meal was served, and the program began with Iana Patterson welcoming about 40 people to celebrate and take notice of where we are on the long Journey to Freedom for Black people in this country. She asked the question, “What does freedom look like to you?” She reminded us that Juneteenth commemorates the day the last slaves were officially informed of their freedom in Galveston, Texas. It had taken nearly two years for the news to reach Florida on May 20, 1865, and Galveston a month later, that slaves in the states that had seceded had been set free.

County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner read out the full text of the Emancipation Proclamation, and the proclamation of June 19 as a federal holiday. “It is important to remember today that we should never take our freedom for granted,” she said, “and Juneteenth is a celebration of Freedom for African Americans, and it serves as a reminder that we are equal to all other human beings. There are no superior human beings in this race, the human race.”

Other public servants in attendance included Starke City Clerk Jimmy Crosby, City Manager Russell Mullins, Lawtey Mayor Jimmie Scott and his wife Olivia, and Starke Mayor Janice Mortimer.

AuBroncee Martin, a judicial candidate, told stories from his experience as a public defender, and we heard from an advocate for living a healthy lifestyle. There was even a magician to entertain the crowd.

Patterson summed it up saying



County Commissioner and author Carolyn Spooner is pictured with author Luke Davis after she purchased one of his books, “God with Me.” This was his first book signing. The book encourages others to know they are never alone.



Juneteenth Jubilee organizer Iana Patterson

that to honor our ancestors and the sacrifices they have made, we need to be active citizens of democracy and exercise our right to vote.

Lake Region

Clay kills proposed business tax

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County commissioners voted to end work on a proposed business license that would require all businesses within the county to register and pay an annual licensing fee.

The vote to halt staff work on the proposal came at the end of the county commission's May 24 meeting, after Commissioner Kristen Burke said she had

changed her position on the issue.

Burke, who previously supported the proposal, said she was now opposed to the concept because she realized the benefits she thought would come with the license would not occur.

"I spoke to numerous organizations that deal with businesses, and they felt it was a waste of our money and time," she said of the license. "We will have to hire more employees for

it: just on and on. There were no positives."

During previous meetings on the proposed business tax, Commissioner Betsy Condon was the sole opponent of the annual registration and license, saying that the tax offered no benefits to Clay County businesses.

Commissioner Mike Cella joined Burke and Condon in voting to halt staff work on the project.

Ferreira appointed to state board

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE— On May 6 Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed V. Todd Ferreira to the State Board of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services.

Ferreira is a Kingsley Lake resident, serves as treasurer of the Kingsley Lake Property Owners Association and chaired the association's second annual block party earlier this year.

Ferreira's company owns funeral homes in Starke, Lake Butler, Macclenny, Jacksonville, Callahan, Atlantic Beach and Lake City. Ferreira is also an advisor for the Florida State College at Jacksonville's funeral services education program.



Ferreira

Ferreira said, "because we want to do everything with excellence. We do not half-way anything. We don't cut corners. My standard is: Is this the way we would treat my mom or dad? And if it doesn't fit that standard, we don't do it."

Ferreira said another challenge is customizing consumer expectations between different markets, noting that the expectations of families in Lake Butler are vastly different from those in Atlantic Beach.

Kingsley Lake

Ferreira said that his move to Kingsley Lake was much like his ascent in the funeral profession: starting off small and slowly working his way up.

He said that around 13 years ago, he rented a two-bedroom cabin on Kingsley Lake's Townsend Street.

"Years went by, then my mom and dad moved into another little cabin next to us," he recalled. "Then we had an opportunity to rent the house, so we rented a house on the water there for five or six years."

In 2020, Ferreira purchased the home of longtime Starke optometrist Dr. Len Schlofman.

Since then, he has served as treasurer for the Kingsley Lake Property Owners Association and organizes the group's annual block party.

"It's like a summer kickoff," Ferreira said of the April event. "We'll have 400, 500 folks and we'll have food trucks, we'll have a good time."

Enforcing the law

The State Board of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services approves licenses for funeral directors, funeral homes, cemeteries, monument sales agents, preneed sales agents, cremation cinerators and other facilities. The board also approves continuing education courses and providers, internships and changes in ownership.

The board also makes the final decisions on disciplinary matters that may result in the revocation of a license.

Some complaints that have been recently filed with the board include a claim that a Riviera Beach funeral home failed to preserve the remains of an 11-year-old girl, complaints that an online cremation service failed to deliver on promised services, including applying for death certificates, and the refusal of a cemetery to let the buyer of a plot transfer ownership to a family member.

to Naval Station Mayport, it gave him the opportunity to serve the nation's veterans. Second, his grandfather, whose passing inspired him to join the profession, was the principal at nearby Fletcher High School for 15 years. Sidney G. Friend was awarded "Beaches Man of the Year," prior to his retirement from the school.

In 2020 the company added three more locations, buying the property of Nassau Funeral Home in Callahan and opening locations in Lake Butler and on Jacksonville's westside.

This year, Ferreira added a seventh community when it purchased the Sherrill Guerry and Dees Parrish Family Funeral Home in Lake City.

In addition to growing his own business, Ferreira has emerged as a leader in Florida's funeral home profession. He was elected as the 2022 President of the Independent Funeral Directors of Florida but resigned that position to avoid potential conflicts of interest while serving on the state board.

Changing consumer tastes

Ferreira said that when he first started in the profession, the only choice families made when planning a funeral was which casket and vault to select. Now, consumers have a wide range of options including burial, cremation and different types of memorial services.

Combining the wide range of choices families may select with the fact that now, those options are decided upon by several family members who may not always agree, planning a funeral can get complex.

"That's the challenge,"

Started out weed eating

Ferreira said he got his start in the profession by mowing the grass at Oak Lawn Cemetery in Jacksonville.

"I started at 14 years old," he recalled. "Basically, had a weed eater with my name on it. That's all I did: weed eat graves and markers and under bushes."

In 1989, Ferreira graduated from high school. That same year his grandfather died, and he said that while watching his family prepare for their loved one's funeral, he realized he was called to serve families during their times of bereavement.

A mentor recommended he work in the profession for one year before leaving for college. Ferreira heeded the advice and worked at Arlington Funeral Home while attending classes at what is now Florida State College at Jacksonville.

From there he continued his training in Miami while living and working at Fred Hunter's Funeral Home in Hollywood.

Upon returning to Jacksonville he reconnected with Arlington, until the business was purchased by another company.

In 2002, after working for a family-owned funeral home in Macclenny, Ferreira purchased a Live Oak mortuary and renamed it Suwannee Funeral Home.

One year later, he expanded into Baker County and the following year purchased the 36-year-old Fraser Funeral Home in Macclenny.

In 2008 the company expanded to Starke with the purchase of Archie Tanner Funeral Home. Eight years later the company acquired Beaches Memorial Park and Funeral Home in Atlantic Beach.

Ferreira said the Beaches acquisition was an emotional one for him for two reasons. First, because of the facility's proximity

Lake Region candidates challenged

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — County Commissioner Betsy Condon and School Board Member Tina Bullock will face challengers in the Aug. 23 primary.

Bullock will face Michele Hanson for the District 4 school board seat. This is a county-wide race.

Dale Carter has qualified to challenge Condon for the District 4 county commission seat. Only voters residing in District 4 may

vote in this race.

District 4 covers western Clay County from the Putnam County line in the south to Duval County in the north.

Melrose Art Walk

Mossman Hall's featured artists for the July 1 Art Walk are Jerry and Amy Stringham. There will be live music and vendors outside, with a chainsaw sculpting demonstration at 7 p.m.

The Artist's Attic Treasures upstairs has been expanded and features a Christmas in July room, plus other preowned artsy and vintage collectibles.

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.

Film and poetry nights

Melrose's Mossman Hall is hosting summer family movie nights on Saturdays July 16 and Aug. 20 at 8 p.m. Come see Indiana Jones in July and Back to the Future in August. The movies and popcorn are free.

An open mic poetry night will take place Saturday, July 9, at 5 p.m. hosted by Nicole Goff. The theme is Poetry for Freedom. Refreshments available.



(L-R) Shannon Hodges, Abby Luck, Olivia Votava and Cat Kivett-Smith stop in front of the Library of Congress during Clay Electric's Washington Youth Tour, Photo: Clay Electric Cooperative.

Washington youth tour resumes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Four high school juniors from Clay Electric's service area toured Washington as part of the co-op's youth tour.

The program is returning

this month after a two-year suspension because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Shannon Hodges of St. Johns Country Day School, Abby Luck of Fleming Island High School, Cat Kivett-Smith of Ridgeview High School and Olivia Votava of Oakleaf High School won the

trip to Washington in February by scoring well in a test and speech competition at the Florida Youth Tour in Tallahassee.

Clay Electric has sponsored the Youth Tour program since 1966.

The program is returning

Freedom 5K will be held July 2

For the third year, the Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund will present the Freedom 5K run in Keystone Heights on Saturday, July 2, at 8 a.m. The run will start and finish at City Hall, located at 555 Lawrence Blvd.

Registration can be done in person at Firepower Coffee and Genesis Fitness in Keystone Heights or online at runsignup.com. Click on "Find a Race" and enter "Freedom 5K" and the 32656 zip code for a link.

The cost to enter is \$40 through July 1. Race-day registration, held on site, costs \$45.

Participants will receive finisher medals and performance shirts.

The race is provided with the support of the city of Keystone, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Fire Department and Florida Department of Transportation.

This year's platinum sponsor is Lake Area McDonald's, while the gold sponsors are Firepower Coffee, Genesis Fitness, Clay Electric, Santa Fe Title and Keystone RV Resort. Silver sponsors are Johnny's Bar-B-Q, Keystone Plumbing, Cody West Construction, Hatch Realty Services, Fryer's Chicken, Cedar River Seafood of Keystone, Lee's Discount Beverages, American Gutter Inc., Brighter Day, Capital City Bank and Kelly Education.

The Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3), all-volunteer, non-profit organization, which was formed to honor the memory of Jordan Cooper, who died in 2017 at the age of 25. The organization primarily supports local students with scholarships, including graduating high school seniors from Keystone Heights High School, where Cooper was an alumnus. In addition, it

also advocates and promotes anti-bullying education for all students in Keystone Heights and Clay County schools. Please visit jordancooperscholarship.org for more information.

In conjunction with the Freedom 5K, Keystone Heights' Our Country Day festivities will begin the same day at 9 a.m. with arts and crafts, and food and beverage vendors, as well as a baby crawl and watermelon eating contest. Please visit ourcountryday.com for more information on how to obtain a vendor booth.

In addition, the Our Country Day parade, sponsored by Lake Region Kiwanis, begins at 11 a.m., traveling its traditional route on Lawrence Boulevard.

Fireworks will be at Keystone Beach Park at dusk, with a required wristband entrance. See ourcountryday.com for more information.

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UNION COUNTY

Slate set for Aug. 23 primary

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — Qualifying is over and the slate of candidates running for county offices is set. Some local races have only single candidates and will therefore not appear on the ballot, while others have two or more candidates. All of the local candidates qualified to run by the petition method, with no one using the alternate method of qualifying by paying a qualifying fee (a percentage of a year's salary for the position they are seeking).

In the City of Lake Butler races all had been decided before the election so none was held, with incumbents Annette Redman (Seat 3) and Fred Sirmones (Seat 5) running unopposed. Only one candidate ran for the District 4 seat, vacant due to the retirement of City Commissioner Jimmy Beasley and took the seat automatically as there was no competition for it. Melissa Hendrix will take her place on the city commission on June 21, 2022. New City Commissioners are paid about \$9,500 plus benefits starting salary.

Participation in the county races is more active, but light compared to many previous years. Union County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Osborne noted the general decline in citizens interested in running for office.

"In 1992 we had a total of 48 local candidates," Osborne said. "The numbers seem to have been in a fairly steady decline since then. Less and less people are interested in running and people in general just seem not to be as interested in participating in local government as they used to or cannot afford the cost associated

with running for office."

Since 1992 the number of candidates for county office, including the constitutional officers in the appropriate years, has fluctuated greatly, according to Osborne.

As a rule, years where the primaries and general election include the Presidential race, the numbers are higher than in the midterm primaries and election. Despite the COVID-19 frenzy, 2020 saw a total of 18 local candidates in the county, as opposed to nine in 2018. Between the high count of 1992 and the low count of nine running in 2018, the number of local candidates ranged from 13 to 36.

For the three seats on the Union County School Board the situation is much the same as with Lake Butler. Incumbents Curtis Clyatt (Seat 3) and Terra Johnson (Seat 5) are running for reelection unopposed, while the seat being vacated by the retirement of Allen Parrish (Seat 1) will be filled by the only candidate running for it, Chris Hodgson. None of the school board races will appear on the primary ballot. All candidates are non-partisan. All board members are given a starting salary of \$28,057.

Candidates for the Union County Board of Commissioners are a little more numerous. District 2 incumbent Channing Dobbs is challenged by fellow Republican Casey Clark, while District 4 incumbent Lacey Cannon is facing three challengers, fellow Republicans Mac Johns and James Rooney and Independent Eric Martin. The District 2 race will be decided in the primary, while the field running for the

District 4 seat will be thinned to two candidates for the General Election on Nov. 8, 2022, where only one Republican candidate and Independent Martin will be on the ballot. A county commissioner earns a starting salary of \$30,228.

Osborne wanted to make sure all citizens who desire to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming Primary and General elections note that they must insure that their registration is current before 5 p.m. on July 25 when the books close at 5 p.m. Early voting is set for the primary election from Sat., Aug. 13, 2022 through Sat., Aug. 20, 2022 at the Office of the Supervisor of Elections at 175 W. Main St. in Lake Butler. Hours for early voting will be from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. every day except Sunday, when the hours will be 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Early voting dates and time, as well as polling locations will be published closer to the Tues., Nov. 8, 2022 General Election.

Although the ballot has not been set for the state candidates for the August Primary, a number of office are up for election or retention. These include U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, Governor and Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture and Circuit Judge. The names and party affiliations of the candidates to be on the ballot for the primary will be provided to Times readers as soon as that information is finalized and released.

Rotary's Independence Day plans

Lake Butler Rotary Club's Independence Day Celebration is just around the corner, offering fun and entertainment on a day celebrating our nation's freedom.

The celebration is set for Saturday, July 2 at the Lakeside Park in Lake Butler.

If you want to enter the annual fishing contest you had better be up early, as registration is set for 4 a.m. for the Tommy Spires Memorial Bass Fishing Tournament, hosted by the Lake Butler Rotary Club. Boats will launch at daylight and weigh-out is set for 10 a.m. Registration is on-site prior to the beginning of the tournament and the fee is \$50 per fisherman. Prizes include: First Place - Largest Bass (Lbs.) - \$1,000; Second Place - Second Largest Bass (Lbs.) - \$500 and Third Place - Largest Trash Fish or Others - \$250. A number of

items, such as a cooler, tackle, gift certificates and more, will be raffled at weigh-in.

The popular foot races will be held early, before it gets as hot as it is promised to be. Competitors in both races may register to compete prior to the event on site. The Fun Run will begin at 7 a.m., followed by the 5K at 8 a.m. Also starting early will be the Lake Butler Rotary Club 4th of July Car Show, that begins at 9 a.m. (and will run through 1 p.m.). Registration is on site prior to the show. Prizes will be awarded based on popular vote and will include: First, Second and Third Places in the Best of Show Category, with additional awards for the Best Antique, the Best Muscle Car and the Best Truck. Entry fee is \$20 per vehicle.

Vendors will be allowed to

start setting up at 5 a.m. and will be on hand until after the fireworks. Vendors will include food trucks, food booths, local arts and crafts vendors and other types of retail booths. There will also be a number of booths manned by event sponsors, non-profit organizations and a Craft Fair at the Hal Y. Maines Community Center. There will also be a bandstand with live entertainment set up at the big pavilion in front of the community center.

Of course, there will be fireworks to conclude the day. The show will start at twilight and will be put on by the same sky painters that did the show for the Union County Anniversary Celebration. It promises to be a fun day for all ages and, as always, one of the key events in the Union County calendar.

DISMISS

Continued from page 1

Now that the suit by HPS II has been dismissed it is really not known what will happen next. The matter could be resolved with no mining to take place, mining could be conducted on the 341 acres of Union County

allowed by the LDRs and the property in Bradford County included in the original plan or HPS II could come back and file suit against the county again. Only time will tell what will come next, but commissioners and Union County residents are breathing a little easier for now with the threat of the lawsuit off the table.

There is still a great deal that is not known, such as what occurred in the mediation sessions and what the thoughts are of the participants on both sides throughout the past years. The Times will attempt to gather this information and fill in the rest of the story in the near future.

Letters

Family dinners at American Legion

Dear Editor:
American Legion Post 56 will resume its monthly dinner (last Friday of each month) for veterans and their families this Friday, June 24 at 6 p.m. at the post home at Edwards Road, Starke.

This month's dinner will consist of fish, with the post providing the main dish. Covered dishes relating to a fish dinner are requested to be furnished by attendees.

Attendees are not required to be a member of the post to attend. This is a family gathering of veterans and their families to fellowship and have a pleasant evening together.

Raymond Hunt

Reuniting children and parents

Dear Editor:
June is National Reunification Month, which recognizes the people and efforts around the country that help children in the state child welfare system and their families stay together. When children must be removed from their families to ensure their safety, the first goal is to reunite them with their families as soon as possible. Safe and stable reunification can happen with the right services and support in place.

which the Guardian ad Litem Office helps to achieve.

The Guardian ad Litem office represents abused and neglected children in Florida's dependency courts with the help of trained volunteers who get to know their assigned children and visit and support them throughout the case. Volunteers work with Child Advocate Managers and Guardian ad Litem attorneys to provide judges with first-hand accounts of the child's situation, information gathered about the case, the child's wishes and recommendations about what is in the child's best interests.

In court, the focus of Florida Guardian ad Litem is on the child, whether it is advocating for family time with parents, visits with siblings who are placed in different homes, stability in placements or schools, and services for the child. When a judge appoints Florida Guardian ad Litem, every child gets the benefit of a Guardian ad Litem attorney and a multidisciplinary team representing the child's legal interests and best interests.

Volunteer responsibilities include contact with parents and observations of parent visits with their children so the volunteer-parent relationship starts early in the case. When a child is reunified with a parent, the Guardian ad Litem remains appointed and continues to visit the family for at least six months. The multidisciplinary team can be a source of support to a parent before and after reunification.

The Guardian ad Litem office is able to provide assistance to children and their families through

each circuit's non-profit. Thanks to funding from The Guardian Foundation Inc., which provides resources to children represented by the Eighth Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem, a mother who was recently reunified with her children was able to get furniture for her newly rented apartment. The furnishings enabled the mom and her children to gather comfortably in the living area for family time.

We know children do best when they can safely remain with their parents or other family members - or when they can safely return home. You can help during National Reunification Month, help a child in foster care. Visit <https://www.ga8circuit.org>.

Angela Armstrong

School board slam dunk

Dear Editor:
School board elections are coming soon. The signs, like the weeds, will be all over the sides of the roads. One in particular is my focus.

Lynn Melvin is running for District 5 school board seat. There are few slam dunks when it comes to elections and qualifications, but this time all the boxes are checked. Lynn has worked at every level in her career when it comes to schools-the classroom for many years and also as principals in both rural and Starke schools. Her children all attended Bradford County schools and her investment in our school system is second to none. I can only recall one other board member I would recommend as highly as Lynn, and that would be Vivian Chappell. Lynn will bring the same dedication and attention to detail as Vivian along with all of her experience in leading schools and teaching the curriculum. I worked with Lynn as a colleague and also with her as my principal. My observations are that she knows what our children need and how to support our staff and personnel in our county. The qualities and qualifications she would bring to our school board can only help our school system and children. I have to admit I am prejudiced for Lynn because having been around her the last 20 years I see her for the wonderful human being she is.

Steve Acree
Brooker

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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JUNE 2022						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29

2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Starke PWS # 2040211

We are pleased to present to you this year's 2021 Annual Water Quality Report for the City of Starke PWS # 2040211. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water sources are three groundwater wells that are drawn from the Floridian Aquifer. Treatment processes for the Starke WTP includes aeration for hydrogen sulfide removal, fluoridation for dental health, and disinfection for control of microbial contaminants. We aim to provide the best quality water to you, the customer, at the lowest possible cost.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact City Hall at (904)964-5027. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the commission room at the City Hall, 209 N. Thompson St Starke, FL 32091.

2021 Source Water Assessment

In 2021 the Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system and search of the data sources indicated 3 potential sources of contamination near our wells with low – moderate risk. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp>.

Water Quality Test Results

This report shows our water quality results and what they mean.

The City of Starke Plant routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2021.

Data obtained before January 1, 2021 and presented in the report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations. As authorized and approved by EPA, the State has reduced the monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of our results, though representative, is more than one year old.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA):** the average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** – one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l)** – one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.
- **Picocurie per liter (pCi/L)** - measure of the radioactivity in water. (*See first table*)

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	9/2017	N	2.8	2.2 – 2.8	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium 226 + 228 or combined radium (pCi/L)	9/2017	N	0.9	0.8 – 0.9	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits

Results in the Level Detected column for radioactive contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	9/2020	N	0.0013	0.0110 – 0.0013	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	9/2020	N	0.39	0.32 – 0.39	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Sodium (ppm)	9/2020	N	13.0	12.0 – 13.0	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion, leaching from soil

Results in the Level Detected column for inorganic contaminants are the highest average at any of the sampling points or the highest detected level at any sampling point, depending on the sampling frequency.

Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	01/2021 – 12/2021	N	0.93	0.8 – 1.42	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

For chlorine, the level detected is the highest running annual average (RAA), computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. The range of results is the range of results of all the individual samples collected during the past year.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	9/2021	N	8.75	5.39 – 8.75	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppb)	9/2021	N	26.75	23.1 – 26.75	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90 th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	9/2019	N	0.1740	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	9/2019	N	2.7	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Starke Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

On March 11, 2020, the Department of Environmental Protection conducted a routine sanitary survey inspection and noted a significant deficiency on one of our Ground Storage Tanks. Specifically, the tank has holes causing leaks and bio-growth has accumulated around those areas. (*report continues in column above right next to first table.*)

Continued from bottom left text

The City of Starke is currently requesting quotes to repair deficiencies in the ground storage tank noted in the 2021 FDEP sanitary survey inspection. Starke Water department is waiting on approval from the City Council to make the necessary repairs. The plant operators are doing daily inspection of tank to make sure the drinking water quality is safe for its consumers.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply it may be necessary to make improvements in your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

We at the City of Starke would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

June 11 through June 17

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

Anthony Joe Akin, 48, of Starke was arrested by an out-of-county agency on June 15 for an out-of-county warrant.

George Allen, 71, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 12 for selling cocaine, possession of cocaine, selling marijuana, possession of marijuana and using a two-way communications device to facilitate a felony.

Kristy Nicole Alvarez, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 17 for failure to appear and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Ebony Melina Butler, 45, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 16 for a probation violation.

Oscar Wesley Davis, 42, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 12 for resisting an officer, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and an out-of-county warrant.

Robert Howard Day, 50, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on June 12 for battery.

Joshua Scott Dyess, 44, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 11 for DUI and fleeing and eluding.

Terrell Eugene Gilmore, 39, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 14 for a conditional release violation.

Adam Anthony Hall, 39, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jason David Hamilton, 24, of Seffner was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 11 for trespassing.

Hit mailboxes, kicked deputies

Arthur James Harris, 57, was arrested by Bradford deputies on

June 13 for hit and run, DUI and battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant hit several mailboxes on U.S. 301 near Hampton Lake. Officers found the man on the side of the highway attempting to change a flat tire.

After the defendant failed field sobriety exercises, deputies placed him in a patrol vehicle where he banged his head against the car. When officers attempted to subdue him, he kicked them.

Ashely Marie Luther, 37, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 12 for resisting an officer, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Matthew Jessy Merriweather, 44, of Ocala was arrested by Lawtey police on June 14 for out-of-county warrants.

Joseph Lee Mitchell, 53, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 14 for conditional release violations.

Robert Samuel Phillips, 43, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on June 16 for battery.

Benjamin Cornelius Reaves, 31, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for a probation violation.

Russell A. Rizzolo, 61, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 16 for an out-of-county warrant, criminal mischief with property damage and resisting an officer.

William Walter Strickland, 45, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 15 for possession of obscene material.

Toby James White, 28, of Milton was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for fraud-impersonation, resisting an officer, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Rudolph Williams, 46, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 16 for a probation violation.

Subway employee buys homeless man sandwich, he steals her phone

Charvonta Oashawn Wingfield, 22, was arrested by Lawtey police on June 12 for grand theft.

According to an arrest report, the defendant walked into the Lawtey Subway restaurant, sat down and rested his head on a table. An employee of the store, concerned about the stranger's health, bought the man a sandwich. Video surveillance showed that while the employee was serving other customers, the defendant took the woman's phone, which she had placed on

a nearby table and walked away. The phone was valued at \$1,200.

Officer Robert T. Jordan wrote in the report that he located the defendant walking north near the southbound lanes of U.S. 301, and while conducting a search for officer safety, discovered the phone in the defendant's right pocket. Jordan added that when he told Wingfield he was being arrested for grand theft, the defendant replied: "Grand theft, man I just took the phone off the table."

Union

Robert James Bellamy, 32, of Lake City was arrested by Union deputies on June 14 for failure to appear.

Thomas Daniel Clarke, 39, of Lawtey was arrested by Union deputies on June 17 for an out-of-county warrant.

Mark Corwin DeFriest, 61, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies for attempted second-degree murder of a correctional officer, aggravated battery on a correctional officer, resisting an officer with violence using a weapon, resisting an officer without violence, possession of a weapon by a state inmate and three counts of battery of a facility employee by throwing certain fluids.

Shane Christopher Hendricks, 44, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on June 13 for a probation violation.

Jennifer Leigh Pilgrim, 35, of Starke was arrested by Union deputies on June 14 for an out-of-county warrant.

Clay

Jason Travis Cross, 40, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 16 for a probation violation.

Jeremy Bailey Foye, 28, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 13 for possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Edward Terrell Lindsey, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 11 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Joshua Caleb Reed, 34, of Melrose was arrested by Clay deputies on June 11 for possession of a weapon by a felon or delinquent.

Christopher Gene Williams, 26, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 11 for aggravated assault, child neglect and cyberstalking.

Crime down, crashes up

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon said complaints of excessive speeding have increased in the Keystone Heights area, with the county engineer and sheriff's office noting many complaints about excessive speeding on County Road 214 in the McRae area. Condon said during the May

24 County commission meeting that Sheriff Michelle Cook set up a speed enforcement operation on the road and is also increasing traffic enforcement throughout the county in response to speeding drivers and the resulting crashes.

"She's not sharing locations," said Condon of the sheriff, "but they are stepping up their speed patrols through the summer. People are driving excessively all over the county and they are seeing crashes go up. (The sheriff) said while crime is down crashes are going up."

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.

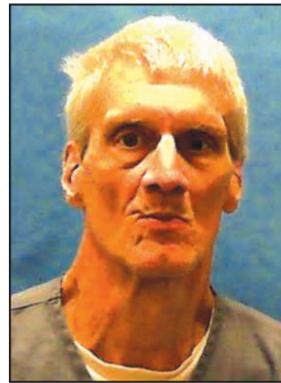
'Florida's Houdini' arrested for attempted murder

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

RAIFORD — A Union Correctional Institution inmate who has escaped from Florida jails and prisons seven times was arrested for the attempted murder of a correctional officer last week.

Mark DeFriest has attempted 13 escapes from Florida correctional facilities since he was first arrested in 1979 at the age of 19.

On June 13 Union deputies arrested the inmate for the Oct. 8, 2021, offenses of attempted



DeFriest

second-degree murder of a correctional officer, aggravated battery on a correctional officer, resisting an officer with violence using a weapon, resisting an officer without violence, possession of a weapon by a state inmate and three counts of battery of a facility employee by throwing certain fluids.

According to court papers, DeFriest attempted to stab one correctional officer in the neck with a metal tube, stabbed another with the tube and threw urine or feces at three more officers.

Former officer blames Trump for arrest

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

RAIFORD — A former Union Correctional Institution officer said President Donald Trump bears some of the responsibility for his arrest at the U.S. Capitol last year.

Jonathan Daniel Carlton pleaded guilty in March to misdemeanor charges related to his participation in the Jan. 6, 2021, capitol riot.

In a memorandum sent to the court before his sentencing, Carlton's attorney Richard Landes wrote that his client "was one of the many manipulated and used by Mr. Trump for his own selfish purposes." Landes added: "While Carlton accepts responsibility for his actions, he was guided and urged by no less of an authority than the president of the United States and a majority of Republican senators and congressmen that continued



Jonathan Daniel Carlton pictured at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The FBI used the photo in its case against the former UCI officer.

for his client, wrote that after Carlton pleaded guilty, the Department of Corrections terminated his employment at UCI. "Carlton is now not only unemployed, but he will lose his subsidized housing that was provided as part of his employment," Landes wrote. "He will be forced to uproot his family; his children may need to attend new schools because of where Carlton may need to move to seek new employment. As a corrections officer, if Carlton is sentenced to any term of incarceration, he would necessarily need to be housed in protective custody, essentially locked down for 23 or more hours a day, as he would be a target in jail. A sentence of incarceration would be unduly harsh considering Carlton's actions, and not necessary to serve the ends of justice."

Landes, arguing for probation

3 years for neglecting child's treatment

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Circuit Judge James M. Colaw sentenced a 37-year-old Starke woman to three years in prison for failing to secure needed medical treatment for her child.

Sara Anne Peebles of Starke pleaded on June 15 to child neglect with great bodily harm. The defendant also pleaded to the Nov. 23, 2021, offenses of selling methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell.

According to court papers, Peebles's child was born with a critical heart condition. A child protection team investigation revealed that of 22 medical appointments scheduled for the boy between Sept. 10, 2020, and Aug. 18, 2021, the defendant



Peebles

failed to show up for seven and canceled an additional six appointments.

Bradford Sheriff's Detective

Kimberly Mosely wrote in a sworn affidavit that because of the missed medical appointments, the child was in heart failure at the time of the mother's arrest.

"Had Peebles provided the proper medical care, attending medical appointments as scheduled, (the victim) would not be in heart failure at this time," Mosely wrote.

Deputies originally investigated the mother after an anonymous tip claimed the child suffered a burn on his pinky finger and the mother did not seek treatment for the injury.

"It was noted that Peebles stated the injury came from a toy pinching (the boy's) finger which medical staff disagreed, stating it was a burn," wrote Mosely.

Man arrested for child pornography

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A man who told a Bradford detective he thought he was watching child pornography legally was arrested for viewing the outlawed material.

Bradford deputies arrested William Walter Strickland, 45, of Starke on June 15 for possessing, controlling or intentionally viewing child pornography.

According to an arrest report, two witnesses told Bradford Sheriff's Detective James Crews that the defendant views



Strickland

child pornography regularly. In addition, another officer within the agency received an anonymous phone call making the same claim.

Crews wrote in the report that while interviewing Strickland about the allegations, the defendant admitted to having "an embarrassing porn addiction."

"William continued to refer to not downloading the videos or pictures," Crews wrote. "William believed if he did not download videos or pictures of underage females to his phone, then it was not a crime."



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Keystone Heights youth anglers win tournaments

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Ashton Alday and Jacob Beach won the South Region Qualifier of the Florida BASS Nation Junior/High School Series in the Kissimmee chain of lakes during April. The pair weighed in at 18.17 lbs. on the best-of-five-fish weigh-in.

The pair also took first place in the Harris Chain of Lakes competition last October. Alday claimed the Junior



Ashton Alday and Jacob Beach display their winnings after the Florida BASS Nation South Trail Qualifier at the Harris Chain of Lakes near Leesburg last October.

Division singles title at the Harris Chain of Lakes near Leesburg with a 13.49 lbs. weigh-in.

Alday and Beach are members of Keystone Heights Junior Bass Masters.

Nearly 60 flags collected at Starke Flag Day event

The city of Starke, partnering with Funtastic Fire Brigade and Bradford high School's JROTC program, were able to collect nearly five dozen flags as part of a Flag Day (June 14) event before storms rolled in.

Organizers said the event, held at Charles J. Schaefer Sr. Veterans Memorial Park, brought a steady stream of people bringing tattered and torn flags to be properly retired. They included American flags and flags from the different branches of the U.S. military. In total, 58 flags were presented.

Everyone bringing flags received new flags in return, courtesy of Bryan's Ace Hardware of Starke.

"I was very pleased to see such a great turnout," event organizer Michael Heeder said. "Having the ROTC out to help was a big help, and I am honored to have been able to help make this happen in time for the upcoming 4th of July holiday weekend."

An actual flag retirement ceremony was planned at sunset, in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code, but evening storms canceled the program. Starke's American Legion Post 56 will handle the proper disposal of the flags by fire.

Another flag collection is planned for Veterans Day.



Bradford High School JROTC cadets Hagen Kadlec (left) and Madison Miller fold a flag during a Flag Day event in Starke.

Justin Waters (far right) brings in an old flag and receives a new one in return from BHS JROTC cadets Hagen Kadlec (far left) and Madison Miller. New flags were provided courtesy of Bryan's Ace Hardware of Starke.



Iris and Edwin Bennett

Bennetts to celebrate 70 years

Edwin and Iris (Raley) Bennett of Keystone Heights will celebrate 70 years of marriage on July 4, 2022.

The couple met in Keystone Heights and married in Folkston, Georgia, in 1952 while Ed was on leave after basic training. Ed and Iris moved back to Keystone Heights after his service in

the Army to raise their family. They are still involved in the community. Both worked for Clay Electric until Iris retired in 1988 after 30 years and Ed retired in 1994 after 32 years.

The couple have two children, Terri and Mark, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

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Jack Stack stands behind his parents, Clay and Sonya, on March 29, the day of his latest surgery. They're all dressed in blue, the color of Perthes Awareness. Photos provided by the Stack family.

Starke teen takes rare disease in stride

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

It was hard at first for Clay and Sonya Stack of Starke to see what a rare disease took away from their youngest son, Jack, but they're now grateful for what he does have.

Jack Stack, a 16-year-old soon-to-be-junior at Bradford High School, has Legg-Calve-Perthes disease, or simply Perthes disease. It has limited what he can do physically, but he can walk (when he's not recovering from a surgery), but it won't limit the amount of time he gets to spend on this earth and with loved ones as it's not terminal, which would be a parent's concern upon hearing the word "disease."

Clay admitted that when he first heard of his son's diagnosis, he was upset. "I cried, but it could've been worse," Clay said. "That's what we thought. It's terrible, it's bad, it's unfair, but you know what? It could've been 100 times worse. Don't feel bad. Don't feel sorry. Let's be thankful it's just this, and we'll get him through it."

For his part, Jack just takes it in stride, although he's recently coming off his third surgery to address Perthes' effect on his body.

"I just wake up and live my life," Jack said. "I go back to sleep, wake up and live my life."

Sonya said, "He's been living with this for so long, that's all he can do."

Perthes diagnosis

Jack was 7 when he began complaining about pain in his legs.

"It was a sharp, stabbing pain," he said.

Clay said he and Sonya chalked it up to growing pains, but it was obvious something else was going on when Jack played in his first little-league baseball game that spring of 2013.

"He hit the ball to the outfield, and he limped to first base," Clay said. "That wasn't Jack. Jack was high-strung with speed. He could've gotten to second if he didn't limp. We

See STACK, page 13

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Raiford Wreckshop's Bryan Griffis (second from right) is pictured with his lifters who placed first and second at the Powerlifting America Classic Sub-Junior, Junior and Master Nationals: Zeke Malphurs (second from left), Mahailya Reeves (center) and Courtney Comer (far right). Also pictured (far left) is an international judge who praised all the lifters and told them the sky's the limit as far as what they can accomplish in the sport. Photo provided by Griffis.

Raiford Wreckshop lifters impress at nationals event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Raiford Wreckshop lifters Courtney Comer and Mahailya Reeves won their weight classes/age divisions, setting multiple records and qualifying for world-level competition in the process,

while 14-year-old Zeke Malphurs earned a second-place finish at the Powerlifting America Classic Sub-Junior, Junior and Master Nationals on June 18 in Orlando. "It just sends chills all over you when you see what these kids can accomplish," Raiford

Wreckshop Trainer Bryan Griffis said.

Reeves set new U.S. records in her class/age division on each of her lifts, with totals of 369.5 in the bench press, 485.5 in the squat and 485 in the deadlift. She was the meet's overall number-one lifter.

Comer broke the U.S. and world records in her class/age division in the deadlift with a 409.5 total.

"She smashed it," Griffis said. Comer had a perfect day, going 9 for 9 on her attempts. She finished with a 251.5 total in the bench press and a 335.8 total in the squat.

Malphurs was the youngest lifter at the meet. He had a 245.5 total in the bench press, a 325.5 total in the squat and a 385.5 total in the deadlift. He was close to doing better in the deadlift.

"He got the last (attempt), but he hitched just a bit at the top,"

See LIFT, page 12

Terry McCarthy

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Bradford 4-H gives out awards at June 2 banquet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Regan Broome, Ayanna Deary, Shayna Durrance and Ryleigh Rhoden were recognized as Outstanding 4-H Members during the Bradford County 4-H awards banquet, which was held June 2 at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center in Starke.

"These individuals have risen to the top, are actively involved and are a great representation of what Bradford County 4-H is all about," said Samara Purvis, the Bradford County Extension director who's also the county's 4-H agent.

The presentation of the Outstanding 4-H Member awards was just one of many highlights on the evening, which consisted of several other "outstanding" award winners.

An outstanding member was recognized in each age division: Rhoden in the senior division, Jeffrey Eaves in the intermediate division and Emma Griffis in the junior division.

A new award category recognized an outstanding member in each 4-H club. Sadie Tew and Julian Rhoden received those awards in the GRITS and Young Bucks clubs, respectively. "Sadie had perfect attendance," Purvis said. "She's a big helper, always willing to step up in her club. She definitely exemplified true leadership."

In talking about Rhoden, Purvis said, "Julian was quite the helper in his club, willing to always participate and work really hard."

Eaves, who was visibly excited each time he was called upon to



Alana Borgner (left) and Ayanna Deary received Workhorse Awards. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

receive an award, was recognized as the outstanding member of the Little Rascals club.

"He has a lot of energy, as you can see," Purvis said of Eaves. "He brings that energy to the club. If you ever come into the office, and you're feeling kind of down, and Jeffrey's there...he's going to give you a hug, and he's going to flirt a little bit."

Purvis also added, "Sometimes when kids are new to 4-H, and they don't have any friends or don't know anyone, it's good to have a Jeffrey in your club."

In presenting Allie Gray as Club Bunny's outstanding member, Purvis said, "Allie just always brought very positive energy to the club. She was always the bit of sun in the club."

Edrick Hamilton, who is the 12 Guys in Bow-Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls club leader, announced that Jordan Brown

was its outstanding member, saying that Brown exhibited the kind of traits he's looking for in children who want to be a part of the community leadership organization.

"He showed to be that role-model kid who we're looking for and that we're trying to get kids to transform into," Hamilton said, adding that Brown has been coming out of his shell, transforming from a quiet and shy kid to someone who takes on leadership roles instead of staying in the background.

Lucas Grider was named the outstanding member in the Blue-Ribbon Swine club. Purvis referred to a presentation given by Grider on average daily gain, saying, "In his presentation, you could tell he knew exactly what he was talking about. It

See AWARDS, page 14



Outstanding 4-H Member Awards were presented to (l-r) Regan Broome, Shayna Durrance, Ayanna Durrance and Ryleigh Rhoden.

Legal Notices

Lake Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

City of Keystone Heights
The Keystone Heights City Council will hold PUBLIC HEARING on July 11, 2022 at 6:00pm, or as soon thereafter as can be heard, to consider Ordinance 2022-595. The PUBLIC HEARING will be held at City Hall, 555 South Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 in the Council Meeting Room.

Ordinance 2022-595
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY ZONING MAP BY AMENDING APPROXIMATELY 13.87 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY

DUCKRO DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC., FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY (RSF) TO A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD); PROVIDING FINDINGS BY THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS FOR RECORDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. Please be advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made to any matter considered at such hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceeding for such purpose. He or she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, a person deciding to appeal

any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting or at any subsequent meeting to which the Board has continued its deliberations is advised that such person will need a record of all proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of all proceedings is made, which must include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact the City of Keystone Heights City Manager by mail at Post Office Box 420, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, or by telephone at number (352) 473-4807, no later than five (5) days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been given.

6/23 1tchg-LRM

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(833) 949-2995

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* - A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Legal Notices

Bradford

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 04-2022-CA-000206

JOE C. HARMON,
Plaintiff,
vs.

WALTER V. HENDERSON, if alive, and if dead, his unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, administrators, creditors, assigns, and all other persons and parties claiming by, through, under or against Walter V. Henderson or any of the foregoing unknown persons or parties; and LUDIE HENDERSON, if alive, and if dead, her unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, administrators, creditors, assigns, and all other persons and parties claiming by, through, under or against Ludie Henderson or any of the foregoing unknown persons or parties.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: WALTER V. HENDERSON, if alive, and if dead, his unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, administrators, creditors, assigns, and all other persons and parties claiming by, through, under or against Walter V. Henderson or any of the foregoing unknown persons or parties; and LUDIE HENDERSON, if alive, and if dead, her unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, administrators, creditors, assigns, and all other persons and parties claiming by, through, under or against Ludie Henderson or any of the foregoing unknown persons or parties.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title to the following described property in Bradford County, Florida: See Exhibit A attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Katelyn T. Hardwick, plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, on or before 30 days from date of first publication and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated on May 25, 2022.
DENNY THOMPSON
CLERK OF THE COURT
BY: L. Brannon
Deputy Clerk
EXHIBIT A
A parcel of land lying in the West half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, in the City of Starke, Bradford County, Florida. Said parcel being more particularly described as follows:
Commence at the Northeast Corner of said West Half of Northeast Quarter of Southwest quarter of Southwest Quarter and run South 03 degrees 08 minutes 47 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 22.61 feet to a 1/2" iron rod (LB 4012) set at an Intersection with the Southerly boundary of the right of way of Estelle Street for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 03 degrees 08 minutes 47 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 77.39 feet to a 1/2" iron rod set at the Northeast corner of Lot 7 of Denny Heights Subdivision (Unrecorded); thence South 88 degrees 29 minutes 39 seconds West, along the Northerly boundaries of said Lot 7 and Lot 8 of Denny Heights Subdivision, 175.24 feet to a 1/2" iron pipe found at the Northwest corner of said Lot 8, also being on the Easterly boundary of the right of way of Charles Court; thence North 03 degrees 00 minutes 07 seconds West, along last said Easterly boundary, 74.90 feet to said Southerly boundary of the right of way of Estelle Street; thence North 87 degrees 40 minutes 57 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary, 175.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 0.31 of an acre, more or less. Previously described as:
Parcel 1
Start at the Northeast Corner of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East and run South One Hundred (100) feet; thence run West Fifty (50) feet to a Point of Beginning; thence run West Twenty-five (25) feet; thence run North One Hundred (100) feet; thence run East Twenty-five (25) feet; thence run South One Hundred (100) feet to Point of Beginning, lying and being in the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-Two (22) Township Six (6) South, Range Twenty-two (22) East.
Also
Parcel 2
Start at the Northeast Corner of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East for a Point of Beginning; Thence run South One Hundred (100) feet; thence run West Fifty (50) feet; thence run North One Hundred (100) feet; thence run East Fifty (50) feet to Point of Beginning, tying and being in the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-Two (22) Township Six (6), South, Range Twenty-two (22) East. Also

Parcel 3
Commence at the Northeast Corner of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East for a point of reference; thence run South One Hundred (100) feet; thence run West Seventy-five (75) feet for a Point of Beginning; thence run West One Hundred (100) feet; thence run North One Hundred (100) feet; thence run East One Hundred (100) feet; thence run South One Hundred (100) feet to the Point of Beginning, lying and being in the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-two (22) Township Six (6) South, Range Twenty-two (22) East.
6/9 4tchg 6/30-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No# 04-2021-CP-78

IN RE: ESTATE OF
ESTATE OF CHARLES LEE MORGAN,
PROBATE DIVISION
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of CHARLES LEE MORGAN deceased, whose date of death was September 3, 2019, and whose Social Security Number is XXX-XX-6595 is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE 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 June 16, 2022.
Attorney for Personal Representative:
ADAM LEE LAW PLLC
Adam J. Lee, Esquire
FL Bar No.: 0072083
4735 NW 53rd Ave, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32653
Email: adam@adamleelaw.com
Email: legalassist@adamleelaw.com
Telephone: (352) 373-5500
Attorney for Petitioner
LAUREN MORGAN
199 South Lakewood Drive
Starke, FL 32091
Petitioner
6/16 2tchg 6/23-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 04-202 1-CP-78
IN RE: ESTATE OF Division:
CHARLES LEE MORGAN
Deceased.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
The administration of the estate of Charles Lee Morgan Deceased, File Number 04-2021-CP-78 is pending in the Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
All persons on whom this notice is served who have objections that challenge the validity of the will, the qualifications of the personal representative, venue, or jurisdiction of this Court are required to file their objections with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claim with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Name Adam J. Lee, Esq.

Address 4735 NW 53rd Ave, Suite A, Gainesville FL 32653
Telephone: 352-373-5500
Florida Bar No. 72083
E-mail: adam@adamleelaw.com
Personal Representative:
/s/
Lauren Morgan
c/o 4735 NW 53rd Ave, Suite A, Gainesville FL 32653
6/16 2tchg 6/23-BCT

BRADFORD COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING
BOARD
BUSINESS MEETING

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited.
DATE AND TIME: July 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located in the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, Florida
DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008
CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.
Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, to reduce the risk of becoming infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and potentially spreading it to others, fully vaccinated people should wear a mask indoors in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission; if someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease; or if someone in their household is unvaccinated.
For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfprc.org or 352.955.2200. The meeting agenda and supporting materials will be posted at https://www.ncfprc.org/transportation-disadvantaged.
Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the business meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfprc.org.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).
If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
6/23 1tchg-BCT

CONFERENCED: 864 183 272
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.
Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, to reduce the risk of becoming infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and potentially spreading it to others, fully vaccinated people should wear a mask indoors in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission; if someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease; or if someone in their household is unvaccinated.
For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfprc.org or 352.955.2200. The meeting agenda and supporting materials will be posted at https://www.ncfprc.org/transportation-disadvantaged.
Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the business meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfprc.org.
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If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
6/23 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 07/08/2022 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N. THOMPSON ST. STARKE FL, 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.
1C4NJPB3GD584102 2016 JEEP
4V4NC9GH76N425597 2006 VOLV
6/23 1tchg-BCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on May 20, 2022:
Max McBrayer of Del Lago Ventures, Inc., 200 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 900, Atlanta, GA 30339 has submitted an environmental resource permit (ERP) application number ERP-007-243030-1. The project is located in Bradford County, Section 7, Township 7 South, Range 22 East, and includes 7.5-acres.
Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.
No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.
6/23 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Christina Anderson, 6797 NW 219th Terrace, Starke, FL 32091, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: GINGER CUSTOMS, 6797 NW 219th Terrace, Starke, FL 32091, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 1st day of April A.D., 2022, in Bradford County.
6/23 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Starke 301 U-Stor LLC, pursuant to SECTION 83.801-809 Florida Statutes "Storage Facility Act" will sell to the highest bidder the contents of the following storage units located at 1650 S. Walnut Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Said contents consisting of personal property, household and other goods, furniture, etc., or as otherwise indicated. Sale will take place July 16, 2022 @ 11:00 am. This sale is being made to satisfy a statutory lien. Registration will begin at 10:15am.
A-32- Lora Vaughn
C-9 - Heather Olin
Entire contents of the following units will be sold to satisfy a lien & other charges according to Florida Statutes 83.806. Seller reserves the right to reject any bids and to withdraw any unit from such sale. Open bids only. CASH PAYMENTS ONLY All Sales Are Final. 10% Buyers Premium. Contents must be removed by close of business 7/16/2022. For any winning bid the buyer must present a \$50.00 cleaning fee for each winning
6/23 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF BROOKER
This notice is to inform anyone that may not receive a monthly water bill from the Town of Brooker, but
6/23 1tchg-BCT

consumes water from the system. The Annual 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report is available to anyone who may have need for a copy. A copy may be picked up at the City Hall/Community Center during regular office hours. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The report will be available for pickup on/after Monday, June 27th.
6/23 1tchg-BCT

CITY OF STARKE FL –
WASTEWATER TREATMENT
FACILITY UPGRADES
LEGAL NOTICE

City of Starke, Florida (Owner) will receive sealed Bids for Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Upgrades, until 3:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, August 4, 2022 at City of Starke Florida, City Manager's Office, City Hall, P.O. Drawer C, Starke, FL 32091. Bids received will then and there be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany the Bid. This Project consists of constructing improvements to the City of Starke's existing Wastewater Treatment Facility which includes, but is not limited to, upgrades to the influent screen, biological treatment system, secondary clarifiers, disk filters, disinfection, aerobic digester improvements, and other components that support treatment processes and all materials, equipment, services and construction inherent to the Work. The Project has an expected duration of 660 days.
A Pre-bid Conference for the Project will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Starke City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street. A site walk will be conducted upon completion of the pre-bid conference at the WWTF (WWTF site address: 602 Edwards Road, Starke, FL).
Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically at no cost on or after 10 a.m. on June 24, 2022, by registering with the Issuing Office via email only. Please email Olga Mikhailchishina at Omikhailchishina@woodardcurran.com (and a copy to Tom Herer at THerer@woodardcurran.com) with the subject line "Starke FL – WWTF Upgrades" to obtain the Bidding Documents and other related public information. Printed copies will not be made available.
The Project being bid is subject to Section 255.20 Florida Statutes and other applicable Laws. The Project is financed in part by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), administered through the USDA Rural Development (RD) office (or "Agency") pursuant to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 USC Section 1921 et seq. Compliance with Agency requirements and Federal requirements is required. Concurrence by Agency in the award of the Contract is required before the Contract is effective. Applicable requirements include and compliance with following is required as a minimum: the American Iron and Steel requirements per Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017).
6/23 2tchg 6/30-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY gives notice that on 07/19/2022 at 09:00 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 10875 US HWY 301 S HAMPTON, FL 32044 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.
1G2WP52K73F156012 2003 PONTIAC
6/23 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Starke 301 U-Stor LLC, pursuant to SECTION 83.801-809 Florida Statutes "Storage Facility Act" will sell to the highest bidder the contents of the following storage units located at 1650 S. Walnut Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Said contents consisting of personal property, household and other goods, furniture, etc., or as otherwise indicated. Sale will take place July 16, 2022 @ 11:00 am. This sale is being made to satisfy a statutory lien. Registration will begin at 10:15am.
A-32- Lora Vaughn
C-9 - Heather Olin
Entire contents of the following units will be sold to satisfy a lien & other charges according to Florida Statutes 83.806. Seller reserves the right to reject any bids and to withdraw any unit from such sale. Open bids only. CASH PAYMENTS ONLY All Sales Are Final. 10% Buyers Premium. Contents must be removed by close of business 7/16/2022. For any winning bid the buyer must present a \$50.00 cleaning fee for each winning
6/23 1tchg-BCT

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6/23 1tchg-BCT

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6/23 1tchg-BCT

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6/23 1tchg-BCT

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A-32- Lora Vaughn
C-9 - Heather Olin
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6/23 1tchg-BCT

unit and is refundable upon returning the unit broom swept by close of business 7/16/2022.
6/23 2tchg 6/30-BCT

Notice of Meeting
The City of Lawley, City Council will be conducting a special meeting to discuss the maintenance position on Wednesday, June 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. or soon thereafter, at Lawley City Hall, 2793 Lake Street Lawley, FL. 32058. All interested parties are invited to attend.
6/23 1tchg-BCT

Union

Notice of Application for Tax Deed
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that J. R. Davis, Jr., as Trustee of the J. R. Davis Trust the holder(s) of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE #: 249
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2015
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 34-04-21-00-000-0011-00
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
A parcel of land lying in the NE 1/4 of Section 34, Township 4 South, Range 21 East, Union County, Florida, said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a concrete monument found at the Northeast corner of said Section 34 and run South 89 degrees 47 minutes 13 seconds West, along the Northerly boundary thereof, 624.93 feet; thence South 07 degrees 07 minutes 15 seconds East, 19.20 feet to an iron rod found on the Southerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 125 for the Point of Beginning, from Point of Beginning thus described, continue South 07 degrees 07 minutes 15 seconds East 466.96 feet to a found iron rod, thence South 00 degrees 39 minutes 43 seconds East, 277.48 feet to a set concrete monument; thence South 89 degrees 41 minutes 23 seconds West, 310.37 feet to a set concrete monument; thence North 00 degrees 42 minutes 48 seconds West, 743.29 feet to an iron rod set on said Southerly boundary; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 20 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary 258.53 feet to the Point of Beginning.
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: James W. Barton and Lisa D. Barton Said property being in the County of Union, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 21st day of July, 2022.
Dated this 6th day of June, 2022.
Kellie Hendricks Rhoades
Clerk of Circuit Court
Union County, Florida
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.
6/9 4tchg 6/30-UCT

UNION COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING
BOARD
BUSINESS MEETING
The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited.
DATE AND TIME: July 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: Union County Transportation Facility located at 255 SW 9th Avenue, Lake Butler, Florida
DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008
CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.
Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, to reduce the risk of becoming infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and potentially spreading it to others, fully vaccinated people should wear a mask indoors in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission; if someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease; or if someone in their household is unvaccinated.
For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfprc.org or 352.955.2200. The meeting agenda will be posted at https://www.ncfprc.org/transportation-disadvantaged.
Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfprc.org.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).
If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
6/23 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 63-2022-CP-0024
DIVISION: PROBATE
IN RE: ESTATE OF
JULIA M. STEWART
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of JULIA M. STEWART, deceased, whose date of death was March 10, 2022; is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 63-2022-CP-0024; the address of which is 55 West Main Street Lake Butler, Florida 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, who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, 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.
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ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS: June 23, 2022.
Personal Representative:
MITCHELL L. STEWART
14841 NE 22ND RD
Raiford, Florida 32083
Attorney for Personal Representative:
M. Aaron Dukes, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 124394
Dukes Legal, P.A.
Post Office Box 3208
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386-269-2394
6/23 2tchg 6/30-UCT

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Obituaries

Marion Davis

Marion Florence "Florrie" Davis, 88, of Hampton Lake passed away Thursday, June 16, 2022 at Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. She was born on May 26, 1934 in Starke to the late James and Marion (Jones) Gnann and was a lifelong area resident. Prior to retirement she worked as a secretary in the family trucking business. She was a member of Madison Street Baptist Church. For many years her mission was to coordinate and work with children in after-school Bible clubs. She enjoyed growing and working with her flowers, but her greatest joy was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Jimmy Gnann.

Survivors are her husband of 67 years, James A. Davis; children, Jimmy (Dorene) Davis, Beth (Len) Moore; siblings, Mary (Norman) Redding, Plen (Cherrie) Gnann; and grandchildren, Casey (Denise) Moore, Joshua (Samantha) Davis, Kayla (Daniel) Sistrunk, Drew (Kristyn) Moore, Joel (Lauren) Davis, and Ethan (Brandi) Moore. Also left are her great-grandchildren, Wyatt Thomas, Tyler Thomas, Lane Sistrunk, Jesse Davis, Caleb Davis, Brantley Moore, Weston Moore, Blakeley Moore, Arie Kate Moore, Dalton Moore, and Olivia Moore.

The family received friends at Madison Street Baptist Church on Monday, June 20. Funeral services followed the visitation. Interment was private at Santa Fe Cemetery. Pastor Richard Cason officiated all services.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Roger Haller

Roger Jack Haller passed away on June 18, 2022, after a short illness. His passing from this earth to Heaven, however, is a transition that he has looked forward to for many years. He is now in the presence of Jesus and is walking hand in hand with Him. Roger honorably served his country as a medical specialist in the Army from 1966-1969, stationed in Japan. His lifetime work and love was enjoyed as managing, advertising, buying, and selling furniture. He had his own furniture store in Tallahassee many years ago and participated in making his own commercials. He would be the Hulk or Spiderman, ride bulls, climb on top of buildings, etc., and has many videos that share these awesome memories of his younger days. He was employed by Morrell's in Lake City for many years, leaving there for a couple of new adventures that finally led him to Jacksonville to Circle K Furniture in 2006. He was employed by the Kittrell's until they sold and worked for another couple years under new management until retiring after 40 years in the furniture business in 2013. He loved sports. He was a pool shark in his early years, and a ping pong player. After becoming a Christian while in Tallahassee, he began a softball team at church in order to bring young people and older folks together for enjoyment. His love for God and his church became evident to all who knew him. After retirement, his love for the game of golf grew like none other. He would say, "I wish I had started doing this in my younger years. I love it and would have had the opportunity to have gotten better." He was predeceased by his parents, Henry Jacob and Katherine Karbner Haller; grandparents, John and Elizabeth Schiller; father-in-law, Randall Pike; and brother-in-law, Glen Pike.

He leaves behind a loving wife of 28 years, Judith (Judy) Lynn Pike Haller; and family members on both sides who love him dearly, Kelly Rae Dukes, Jarrod Scot (Wendy) Dukes, and Christopher Bret Dukes, are children whom he loved like his own. Their children, Wesley Parrish, Reghan Dukes, Trevin, Brayden, Caleb, Gavin, and Carsyn Dukes were very special to him, along with two great-grandchildren, Claire and Holden Dukes. Also, he was truly loved by his surviving mother-in-law, 99-year-old Frances Pike; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Chuck Lauer; brother-in-law, Randy Pike; and sister-in-law, Jill Pike; plus several nieces and nephews. He also leaves his precious daughter, Kerrie Leigh (Brock) Johnson; and one whom he loved, raised, and considered his daughter, Kelli (George) Lane. His two girls brought him so much happiness and he put his life on hold in order to raise them. This is who he was. He loved, he gave, he was appreciative of everyone around him, and cared for people. His kindness and love were genuine. This love extended on to his grandchildren, Madison (Todd) Spires, Brooke (Matt) Rolfe, Jacob Johnson, Luciana Johnson, Sarah and Gaby Lane, and Shelby Burriss. Providing even more people for him to love and to be proud of were his two great-grandchildren, James Rolfe, and Emerson Spires. He is also survived by his brother, Dale (Jeanne) Haller and sister, Sharon (Sam) Pennica; four nephews, along with their spouses; and several great-nephews and nieces.

Services were held Tuesday, June 21, at Wellborn Baptist Church in Wellborn with interment following at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens, Lake City. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to BVSA (Buena Vista Sports Academy), 2200 C.R. 210 West, Suite 108, Box 303, Saint Johns, Florida 32259; Memo: Rolfe Family Support or online at www.bvboys.com/our-academies/ guatemala /rolfe-family and click on "donate".

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

PAID OBITUARY

Christina Muro-Noah

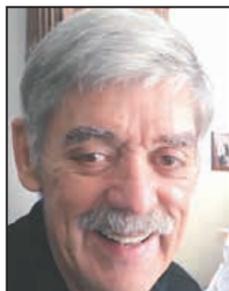
Christina Lynn Muro-Noah, 45, of Auburndale passed away Friday, June 17, 2022, following a brief illness. She was born Oct. 25, 1976, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and was a homemaker. She enjoyed cooking, baking, and spending time with her family and friends.

Survivors are her children, Haile Swingle Muro of Keystone Heights, and Devon Muro of Pennsylvania; her husband of four years, Shayler Noah, and his son Curran Noah, both of Atlanta; her mother, Rhonda Brown of Auburndale; father, Gerald Swingle II and a brother, Gerald Swingle III, both of Pennsylvania.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, June 22 at Keystone Heights Cemetery with Pastor Justin Brown officiating.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Ronald Wayne Nugent, 64, of Starke died in Gainesville on Thursday, June 16, 2022. He was born in Syracuse, New York on April 13, 1958, to the late Paul Clayton and Vera "Starling" Nugent.

Survivors include his siblings, Diane (Mike) Tierney of Starke, Linda (Larry) Roberts of Brooker, James Nugent of Starke, Glenda (Marty) Padgett of Starke, Elaine (Buddy) Collings of Debarry, Richard Nugent of Starke and Daniel (Missy) Nugent of Starke.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 24, in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. A visitation will precede the services beginning at 10 a.m.

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

Alma Stephens

LAKE BUTLER Alma Jean Stephens of Lake Butler passed away Saturday, June 4, 2022. She leaves to cherish her memories the love of her life of 34 years and married for 26, Roy Stephens; her children, Leonard Dix, Terrance (Nicole) Dix, Shantana Paige, Whitney Johnson, Royell Stephens and Ke'Andre Stephens; 14 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; her siblings; and a host of other relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, June 18, at Union County High School Auditorium, 1000 S. Lake Ave., Lake Butler. Her place of eternal rest is Fort Call Cemetery. Public visitation was held Saturday one hour prior to the service.

PAID OBITUARY



Charles Dykes

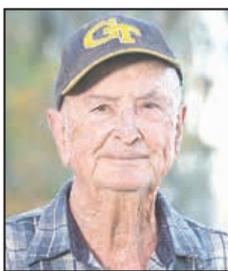
EARLETON Charles Herbert (Herb) Dykes, 91, a longtime resident of Earleton, passed away peacefully Saturday, June 18, 2022, at his home on Little Lake Santa Fe. Mr. Dykes, or "Papa" as most people called him, was born June 19, 1930, in Toombs County, Georgia to William Thomas and Mary Inez Dykes. He met his wife, Irene Floyd Dykes, when he was working as a butcher in his brother's grocery store in Hinesville, Georgia. It was love at first sight and they were married on Dec. 31, 1950. They enjoyed 69 beautiful years together prior to her death on Jan. 15, 2020. He served several years in the U.S. Army where he was a cook. After the Army, he earned an undergraduate degree in industrial management from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. He had a longtime career working in engineering with Southern Bell Telephone Company/AT&T until his retirement. He loved Jesus and was a dedicated servant of God and a faithful Christian. He made a profound impact on many lives. Most recently, he was a member of Cross Point Church and, for years, hosted a church community group with his belated wife at their home on Wednesday nights. For most of his adult life, he served as a deacon and taught Sunday school. He was always willing to share whatever he had with others. If you came to visit, he'd pick a bag of oranges off his trees and send it home with you. As a young man, he took dancing classes at Arthur Murray and was an impressive dancer. He took pleasure in gardening and was also an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and just spending time in the woods or on the water. For many years, he was involved in a family hunting camp in South Georgia and was the designated butcher when a deer was brought into camp. He vacationed with his family every year at Crescent Beach, where he loved to fish for flounder and sheepshead. He enjoyed annual excursions to Alaska for more than 20 years, fishing for halibut with his wife, other family members and friends. He always appreciated the beauty of nature and traveled often with friends in the fall to see the changing leaves. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Dykes; his eldest son, Gary Dykes; four brothers; and two sisters.

His survivors are his three children, Mark (Nancy) Dykes and Mike (Kim) Dykes, all of Keystone Heights, along with Nandra (Rick) Weeks of Jacksonville. Also left behind is his brother, Otto Dykes of Hinesville, Georgia, along with his 10 precious grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. The passionate love and faithfulness shared by Granny and Papa is an inspiration to us all.

The family will receive friends and family on Friday, June 24, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 25, at the Park of the Palms Chapel, 753 Hebron Ave., Keystone Heights, with Rev. Rick Ergle officiating. Interment will follow at Eliam Cemetery, 821 S.R. 21, Melrose, followed by a barbecue lunch and fellowship in the Park of the Palms cafeteria, 702 Palms Circle. Flowers are welcome or memorial contributions may be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, 32606.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Edith Wolfe

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Edith Marie Wolfe, 109, of Keystone Heights, died on Sunday, June 19, 2022 at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born Sept. 19, 1912 in Aurora, Illinois and Ida (Nelson) Hansen. She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Verne Wolfe.

Her survivors are her children, Kathryn Wolfe Pennington of Melrose, and J. Verne Wolfe II of Sugar Grove, Illinois; six grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

Interment will be private on Thursday, June 23, at Greenwood Cemetery in Eustis.

Arrangements were under the care of Jones-Gallagher funeral home of Starke 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

Starke Kiwanis poker tourney is on June 24

The Kiwanis Club of Starke's next scheduled Patsy Welch Memorial Poker Tournament is Friday, June 24, at The Downtown Grill. Registration begins at 6 p.m., followed by play at 6:30 p.m.

Buy-in is \$60, which includes high hand.

Cash prizes are awarded for first, second and third places.

Proceeds will go toward the 12 Guys in Bow-Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls mentoring program.

LIFT Continued from page 10

Griffis said. "He just missed 405."

As it was, the performance had many people telling Griffis that Malphurs was the strongest 14-year-old they'd ever seen.

Brianna Jordan also competed for Raiford Wreckshop, but she had an off day, scratching on all three of her squat attempts. Griffis explained that she missed her commands in the event as she was looking at the wrong person. "All the other numbers were right," Griffis said, alluding to Jordan's 225.5 total in the bench press and 371.5 total in the deadlift.

Griffis said Jordan told him afterward she wouldn't let him down again. His reply was that she didn't let him down, but she had an eye-opening experience that demonstrates how quickly you can lose what you've gained in the past. The end result was that it's lighted a fire under Jordan to get back after it in the weight room and train for her next opportunity.

That's what it's all about. Griffis may be the one who tells the lifters what to do and the one who challenges them, but ultimately it's up to the lifters themselves. That's what leads to their success.

"It's the hard work," Griffis said. "It's the dedication."

Griffis' lifters caught the attention of so many people. International powerlifting officials told the lifters how impressed they were. One even took a photo with each lifter.

The meet director told Griffis his lifters were the "most impressive group of young people they've ever seen." A representative from Ottawa (Kansas) University made offers to all four lifters.

"These kids have a chance to make a career out of it," Griffis said.

Griffis not only likes the dedication he sees from the lifters in the gym. As a Christian, he likes the dedication they have to Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior and how they're not ashamed to show that publicly. The lifters and Griffis pray before and after every competition. They've adopted Philippians 4:13 as their motto: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

A number of sponsors supported the lifters, allowing them and Griffis to focus solely on training for the event as opposed to trying to raise funds. Griffis expressed his thanks to Big Dawg Bail Bonds, Complete Comfort Air Conditioning and Heating, GRRRL Clothing, Marris Bar, Nutrition Escape, Nutrition Hideaway, Primo Chalk, SBD and Zone Smelling Salts.



Meeting to make plans for community garden to be held June 28

A Unity Community Garden planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 28, at the Bradford County Extension office in Starke.

The purpose of this meeting is to plan and execute a community/learning garden at RJE Community Center. Help lay the foundation for a youth- and community centered garden.

If you have an interest in gardening and community service or want to learn, please attend.

RSVP by calling 904-966-6224.

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

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Ronald Nugent

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V. TODD FERREIRA



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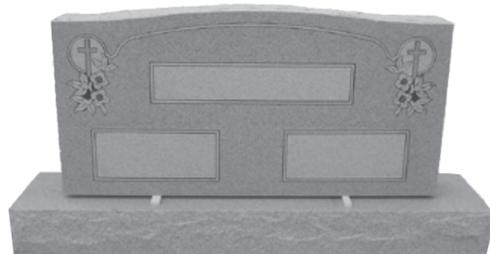
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Jack Stack is pictured after his first surgery in 2013. He had to wear Petrie casts to keep his legs apart as he healed.

STACK

Continued from page 9

were like, 'What's wrong?' He just said, 'My leg's hurting,' but he wouldn't come out of the game. He played the whole game limping."

Jack said, "It was like you had a leg, but it didn't work. I'd go to walk on it, but it wouldn't hold my weight."

Sonya took Jack to the emergency room in Starke. That was the beginning of several visits to different places, including Nemours Children's Health in Jacksonville, with doctors at each place they went saying the same thing. They thought Jack had Perthes, but they didn't have the know-how to help him.

Ultimately, Jack and his family wound up at Nemours in Orlando.

As for the diagnosis, Perthes was something Clay and Sonya had never heard of. It's a rare hip disorder in young children that affects less than 1 percent of the population and is more common in boys.

The hip is composed of the femoral head (also known as the ball) and the acetabulum, which is the "cup" that fits around the femoral head. In Perthes, the blood supply to the head of the femur is interrupted, which weakens the bone and causes it to deteriorate.

"They don't know when it happened," Sonya said, referring to the interruption of the blood supply to Jack's hip.

As rare as the disease is, the family was surprised that two Starke families they're friends with had children diagnosed with

Perthes. "They helped us out a lot," Clay said. "Those two families helped us understand what he was in store for."

Some children can return to normal activities following treatment. Such was the case with the children of Clay and Sonya's friends.

"Jack's been fighting it now for 10 years," Sonya said.

Surgical procedures

Surgery to correct the problem is invasive and involves cutting the bone. Jack's parents didn't want him to have to go through that if he didn't have to, so the first surgery he underwent was a tenotomy — an outpatient procedure that loosens a tendon in the hip joint. He had to wear Petrie casts — a cast on each leg with a bar in between to hold the legs apart. That took place at Nemours in Orlando in 2013.

"He had to wear that for six to eight weeks," Sonya said, adding, "He learned to walk on his hands because he couldn't walk on his feet. He was doing handstands and everything else."

The tenotomy didn't fix the problem, which meant Jack had to have an osteotomy, or surgery in which his misshapen bone was reset and secured within his hip socket. That surgery, which occurred in 2018, took the Stack family to Tampa and Shriners Children's Hospital.

"We have some great friends who got us connected with Shriners," Clay said. "That was a godsend."

The goal was that the surgery would be Jack's last until he became an adult.

"One day, he'll have to have a full hip replacement," Clay said. "Every Perthes kid, no matter what — when they're adults, they generally have to have a hip replacement around the age of 30."

However, what happened after the 2018 surgery was that the ball of Jack's femur mushroomed and grew outside of the hip socket, which led to Jack being in tremendous pain.

"He started missing a lot of school," Sonya said. "He couldn't get up and go. The days he was going, I was having to take him ibuprofen to get him through the day."

The Shriners doctors referred the family to Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children for Jack's latest surgery, which occurred this year on March 29. The surgeon shaved

the misshapen bone and placed it back in the hip socket, while also removing scar tissue.

Jack admitted that the surgeries have been no big deal for him, saying, "You go to sleep, and you wake up."

Of course, there's more to it than that for his parents.

"I wish it was that simple for me," Clay said. "When your kid goes under, you just want to make sure he gets awake."

What has been hard for Jack is the non-weight-bearing restrictions placed on him following surgery. He doesn't like sitting still and not being able to get up on his feet.

"I don't like watching TV," Jack said. "I don't like playing video games. I don't like sitting inside."

Clay said, "He's so go, go, go. Then you have to watch him lay in bed. That's the hardest thing for me. You know he's just miserable."

Perthes itself has placed so many restrictions on Jack's life, but he hasn't let it get him down. He's not able to play baseball, which he would love to do, but he's found other interests, such as fishing — specifically bass fishing.

"He has about 20 fishing poles," Clay said. "He's the fisherman of the family."

Clay said Jack's older brothers, Tucker and Trae, will go fishing with Jack and tease him about the fish he catches, saying things like, "That's a baby." In reality, though, they're amazed at the success Jack has.

"They'll go fishing with him, and he'll be catching fish after

fish," Clay said. "They're like, 'How do you do it?'"

Jack will shoot a basketball in family games of H-O-R-S-E. He also plays golf, which doesn't bother him as long as he has a cart to ride.

"He played golf his ninth-grade year for the high school," Clay said. "At the end of the season, it was getting rough on him with all that walking."

The fact that Jack takes Perthes and everything associated with it in stride makes it easy for his father to crack a joke.

"That's why I let him have the long hair," Clay said. "I don't want to take everything from him."

Great support

Prior to Jack's latest surgery, Clay created a Facebook event: Wear Blue for Jack. It encouraged people to post photos of themselves wearing blue on the day of the surgery and adding the hashtags #JackStrong and #PerthesStrong.

Clay, a diehard Georgia Bulldogs fan, noted that blue is the color that represents the Perthes awareness, adding, "It's not because he's a stinking Gator."

In all seriousness, Clay said, "I knew he was going to be sad and hurting for a while. I just wanted him to see how many people loved him."

As it turned out, a lot of people love him and were thinking of him on the day of his surgery. Clay said approximately 250 people posted photos of themselves wearing blue.

"I had so many people," said Jack, who spent his five-day hospital stay responding to every post.

Some of those people who posted pictures and words of encouragement have never met Jack. For example, Clay said some of his friends got all their co-workers to wear blue.

"They don't know this kid," Clay said. "We had 20 people at this business office in Jacksonville wearing blue for him."

A woman who's a friend of the family is a house mom at a University of Florida fraternity. She posted a video of all the fraternity members wearing blue.

"It was amazing," Sonya said of all the posts. "It gave me chills. It was more than I ever thought would happen. We're just from this little community, but it turned into this huge ordeal, with everybody supporting us."

"It meant more than you can put into words."



Jack Stack, despite being confined to a wheelchair following his second surgery, finds an outdoors activity as he practices casting. He's become quite the fisherman.

Clay said, "I was really taken aback. It really helped take my mind off the surgery, too. Those pictures and comments were coming in while we were waiting to hear (of the outcome). I was like, 'Man, I'm glad I did this just for me.'"

It's just one example of how so many have kept Jack and his family in their thoughts and prayers. The family's church, United Methodist of Starke, has been a big support and "helped us through this last surgery majorly," Clay said. A local motorcycle club heard about Jack and raised money to help the family pay for the surgery.

"We didn't ask for it," Clay said. "They heard of Jack's story and knew we were fixing to have to come out of pocket with some major money."

"It felt pretty good. People went out of their way to raise money for us."

In one instance, support was shown by taking an opportunity to educate others about Jack's condition. As a fourth-grader at Southside Elementary School, Jack had days where he needed to be in a wheelchair to get around, but he also had days where he seemed just like any other kid.

"When he didn't need a wheelchair, he could run faster than all the other kids," Clay said, adding that would result in his classmates accusing him of faking it when he was in a wheelchair.

Jack's teacher, Shannon Hughes, held a kind of show-and-tell day devoted to Jack, inviting his parents to participate.

"She had me and Sonya come and — in the front of class with Jack — explain what the disease was and why some days he runs and why some days he has to be

in a wheelchair. "I still love that woman to death. I think she was the greatest teacher ever."

When Jack had to resort to being in a wheelchair, he would come up with ways of entertaining himself. The wheelchair itself became an activity since other activities were denied him. Clay said Jack would do wheelies and became quite adept at catwalking.

"He's pretty talented on the wheelchair," Clay said, adding, "He was having fun with it at least."

Jack wants nothing to do with a wheelchair now, saying, "I'm in pain, I'm staying home. I'm not going to high school in a wheelchair."

Clay said it was kind of cool for Jack to be in a wheelchair in elementary school because he'd have buddies who'd want to push him. In high school, though, Jack said he'd be nothing but a "sitting duck."

"Now, I'm pretty sure I'd get shoved into the lockers," Jack said.

Perhaps Jack is misjudging how mischievous his classmates would be. A lot of them have grown up with Jack and know he has Perthes, but in Jack's mind, he's just a high school student. He isn't defined by the rare disease he has.

"I'm very proud of him," Sonya said. "He doesn't let it get him down."

Jack's not one to dwell on how Perthes will affect his life in the future. As he put it, "I don't really think about tomorrow."

"He's a pretty tough kid," Clay said. "I'm proud of him for that. He's never really shown any fear at all."

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Receiving awards for having 25 or more community service hours were (l-r) Auston McKenzie, Kaitlyn McKenzie, Payton McKenzie, Kierstyn McKenzie, Hailey Griffis, Ansley Ward, Ally McElhenny, Hunter Brewster, Ryleigh Rhoden, Shayna Durrance, Regan Broome and George Wyatt Folsom. Not pictured: William Hamilton.



The following 4-H members (l-r) were recognized for having 10-24 community service hours: Maddison Lee, Raegan Luke, Saylor Rhoden, Emma Griffis, K.J. Odom, Jeffrey Eaves, Harley Smith, Caleb Griffis, Marissa Justice, Adaleigh Wainwright, Beaux Hunter, Kylee Wright, Jaden Hendrieth and Jordan Brown. Not pictured: Taelynn Brazell, Hunter Brekke, Anna Conner, Lily Conner, William Conner, Ryder Detweiler, Caden Eison, Raekwon Givens, Lucas Grider, Jordan Hamilton, Mauriya Hankerson, Tymber Harper, Aiden Jackson, Levi Jeffrey, Grant Lawson, Taylor Mikkelsen, Amir Montaser, MacKenzie Phillips, Brett Polk, Nicholas Rentas, Raegan Robinson, Chase Small, Nolan Stokes, Sydney Todd, Khamari Wilson and Jerzy Wright.

AWARDS

Continued from page 10

wasn't something that he just put together. He had his heart in that. It showed how dedicated he is to his club."

In announcing that Raegan Luke as the outstanding member in Horsing Around, Purvis said, "She had some bad days that were pretty tough, but she never gave up. She persevered. Sometimes it's hard to do that."

Madelyn Ballard was the outstanding member of the Warriors for Clovers club. Purvis said she displayed a good spirit and always lent a hand to assist other club members.

"She just really showed what true leadership is," Purvis said.

Purvis announced Regan Broome as named the outstanding member of the Green Acres club, saying, "You don't have to ask her to be places. She's just there. That's rare because teenagers could do a lot of other things instead of coming and hanging out with us old people at the Extension office."

The last outstanding member announced was Peyton Norman, who's in the Crafty Clovers club.

"She has a little entrepreneur spirit," Purvis said. "I hear she makes soaps. She's always at every meeting, and she encourages all the other club members, but I like Peyton because she has a craft, and she's going to develop that craft."

Purvis said she could see Norman being an eventual winner of the Rising Entrepreneurship Award, which was a new award created this year and presented to Kaitlyn McKenzie and Kierstyn McKenzie. Purvis noted that both participated in the Very Berry Bakeoff and made some of the desserts at the banquet.

"They have amazing desserts and have hopes of one day opening a baker," Purvis said.

Alana Borgner and Ayanna Deary, whom Purvis described as "handy and hard-working youth," were the recipients of Workhorse



Receiving the newly created Rising Entrepreneur Awards were Kaitlyn McKenzie (left) and Kierstyn McKenzie.



Recognized as outstanding members in their respective age divisions were (l-r) Jeffrey Eaves (intermediate), Emma Griffis (junior) and Ryleigh Rhoden (senior).

Awards. Of Borgner, Purvis said, "She was always there early in the morning and stayed late, just like all of us employees did. She accomplished anything we asked of her, and she almost outworked us all. Her dedication to helping others doesn't go unseen."

In talking about Deary, Purvis said she's "always willing to lend a hand at any event we have."

"She's worked very hard at camps, assisting in the office, setting up with the fair and being very supportive of all the 4-H youth," Purvis said.

Raegan Luke, K.J. Odom, Ryleigh Rhoden and Saylor Rhoden received Busy Horse Project Awards for their participation in the North Area District Horse Show. All

qualified to compete at the state show in July.

Luke, Ryleigh Rhoden and Saylor Rhoden were also recognized for their participation in Florida 4-H Day at the Capitol.

Performance-Standard Awards were presented to youth in each age division. Youth earned gold, silver or bronze status based on establishing a project plan, attending club meetings, giving presentations, attending, participating or competing in club-, county-, district- or state-level activities, completing service projects and completing project books.

In the senior division, Ryleigh Rhoden earned gold, while Auston McKenzie and Payton McKenzie earned silver. Anna

Conner, Jordan Hamilton, William Hamilton, Ally McElhenny and Harley Smith earned bronze.

The intermediate division had five earn gold: Shayna Durrance, Jeffrey Eaves, George Wyatt Folsom, Hailey Griffis and K.J. Odom. Regan Adams, Hunter Brewster, Regan Broome, Kaitlyn McKenzie, Kierstyn McKenzie and Maddison Lee earned silver, while Lily Conner and Lucas Grider earned bronze.

Raegan Luke and Ansley Ward received gold in the junior division, while Saylor Rhoden earned silver. Bronze winners were William Conner, Caleb Griffis, Emma Griffis, Levi Jeffrey, Brett Polk and Adaleigh Wainwright.

Cloverbuds — the youngest 4-H members who participate in events for experience — were recognized for performance standards, too: Jackson Brewster, Eva Rose Folsom, Easton Griffis, Allie Griggs, Lane Hartley, Wayne Hartley, Remington Jeffrey, Garrett Lee and Clairabelle Martin.

Youth were also recognized for community service hours.

"One of the criteria for minimum standards is for 4-H members to be involved in 10 or hours of community service, with 50 percent of those hours being directly related to their 4-H project or other 4-H events and activities," Purvis said.

Recognized for having 10-24 hours of community service were Taelynn Brazell, Hunter Brekke, Jordan Brown, Anna Conner, Lily Conner, William Conner, Ryder Detweiler, Jeffrey Eaves, Caden Eison, Raekwon Givens, Lucas Grider, Caleb Griffis, Emma Griffis, Jordan Hamilton, Mauriya Hankerson, Tymber Harper, Jaden Hendrieth, Beaux Hunter, Aiden Jackson, Levi Jeffrey, Marissa Justice, Grant Lawson, Maddison Lee, Raegan Luke, Taylor Mikkelsen, Amir Montaser, K.J. Odom, MacKenzie Phillips, Nicholas Rentas, Saylor Rhoden, Raegan Robinson, Chase Small, Harley Smith, Nolan Stokes, Sydney Todd, Adaleigh Wainwright, Khamari Wilson, Jerzy Wright and Kylee Wright.

Those who had 25 or more community service hours were Regan Adams, Hunter Brewster, Regan Broome, Shayna Durrance, George Wyatt Folsom, Hailey Griffis, William Hamilton, Ally McElhenny, Auston McKenzie, Kaitlyn McKenzie, Kierstyn McKenzie, Payton McKenzie, Ryleigh Rhoden and Ansley Ward.

Livestock Agent Lizzie Whitehead recognized the 14 youth who participated in livestock judging: Regan Broome, Shayna Durrance, George Wyatt Folsom, Jordan Hamilton, Koy Hartley, Auston McKenzie, Kaitlyn McKenzie, Kierstyn McKenzie, Payton McKenzie, Jackson Thames, Natalie Thames, Bailey Varnes, Adaleigh Wainwright, Kate Wainwright and Ansley Ward.

Whitehead said most of the youth had never judged livestock before. Still, the senior team ranked as the sixth-highest team at the state event, while also earning first- and second-place finishes at the Bradford event and second-place finishes at the Alachua, Putnam and Union events. The intermediate team had a first-place finish at the Clay event and first- and third-place finishes at the Bradford and Putnam events, while the junior team placed first at the Union event. Folsom was the first-placing intermediate individual

at the Clay event.

Most 4-H programs don't have as many youth participating in livestock judging as Bradford did, Whitehead said, adding, "To have 14 who are competing against each other and practicing together and bonding was really fun to watch. I'm proud of all of their accomplishments."

Whitehead also presented the Community Award winners, saying, "When there is a need, they fill the void with their time and support. One of our biggest fundraisers would not have been as successful without their help. We were able to raise over \$6,000 to go toward all the events that we do throughout the year."

Those receiving the awards were 3RD Cattle, A&D Recovery, C&S Site Prep, Hamilton Custom Services, Hamilton Farms, Jessica Lee, Pat Mundorff, Suburban Carpet Cleaners, Ward Timber, Whitehead Family Cattle and Carnell Williams.

Four individuals were recognized as volunteers who've devoted 15 or more years toward supporting 4-H: Liz Burris, Tamara Dinkins, Kim Griffis and Teresa Jerrels.

Another 10 volunteers were recognized, with Purvis saying they "hit the ground running and really exemplified mentorship to our youth this past year." They were Kristin Cannon, Phillip Crawford, Ayanna Deary, Courtney Finley, Edrick Hamilton, Kyle Jerrels, Haley McElhenny, Kara Rhoden, Miranda Sellers and Laura Sirak.

"4-H really wouldn't be what it is in Bradford County if we didn't have our volunteers," Purvis said.

The last honorees of the night were Ayanna Deary and Ally McElhenny — program completers who are now preparing to go to college. Deary will attend Advent Health University in Orlando to pursue a degree in nuclear science. McElhenny will go to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, to pursue a degree in agricultural communication.



Ayanna Deary (left) and Ally McElhenny were recognized as program completers, who are now set to begin college.



An outstanding member was recognized from each 4-H club. Pictured (l-r) are Regan Broome (Green Acres club), Sadie Tew (GRITS), Jeffrey Eaves (Little Rascals), Julian Rhoden (Young Bucks), Jordan Brown (12 Guys in Bow-Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls) and Raegan Luke (Horsing Around). Not pictured are: Madelyn Ballard (Warriors for Clovers), Allie Gray (Club Bunny), Lucas Grider (Blue-Ribbon Swine) and Peyton Norman (Crafty Clovers).

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