

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, June 9, 2022

142nd year, 42nd Issue — \$1

(50 years)

Melrose's grocery store a community fixture

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

MELROSE — One of Melrose's iconic businesses turned 50 this month.

Romie Williamson and his wife Twila opened Williamson's Food Store in 1972, and the couple worked at the store daily, except Sunday, until Romie's death in 2016.

Mr. Williamson was raised in West Virginia and served in the Navy during the Korean War. Like many of his fellow West Virginians, he started off as a coal miner, but followed his family to Florida right after the war.

The couple's son Brian managed the business for a few years until his retirement, and now the grocery is run by the older son Bruce.

Both Bruce and Brian grew up in the store, bagging groceries, stocking shelves, sweeping and mopping the floor, anything that needed to be done. "If you were the cashier on

Saturday, you got more money," recalled Brian, "I think it was \$1.25 an hour."

Brian said the family moved to Florida from West Virginia in 1969. Romie worked at his in-laws' general store in Hawthorne for two years before purchasing what would become Williamson's at the corner of State Roads 21 and 26.

He added that the store was only about one-fourth of its current size and included a laundromat when his parents took



Williamson's Food Store founders Romie and Twila Williamson.

over. Romie spent most of his time behind the meat counter and excelled at connecting with customers with his plaid hats, folksy charm and disarming smile. Twila worked the cash register up front, and according to Brian still comes to the store about once a week.

Part of the community

The family weaved itself and the grocery into

the fabric of the Melrose community for a half century, participating in community parades and supporting youth sports activities.

Melrose returned the family's support in 2016 when Dollar General announced plans for a discount outlet across the street from Williamson's. Melrose residents packed Putman County Commission meetings and picketed the sidewalks at the town's main intersection to support their store.

Even though Dollar General did open in Melrose, Brian said the new competitor did not affect Williamson's core meat business. He added, however, that the new competition did impact sales of paper products and other packaged goods.

When asked if some customers buy meat from Williamson's, then drive across the street for other products that the family-owned grocery carries, Brian replied "definitely."

See MELROSE, page 4



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WORTH NOTING

Bradford Library launching summer kids program

The Bradford County Public Library will kick off its Summer Library Program for children ages 2-12 with the "Wild Wonders Animal Show" with Michael Rossi on Thursday, June 9, at 11 a.m. "Dinosaurs among Us" is an interactive and educational program that teaches and entertains children about the wonders of the Animal kingdom. See local and exotic animals that use music, story and humor to enhance understanding of the animal world. Space is limited, so please arrive early to ensure seating.

Book Bingo for children ages 4-12 will be on Friday, June 10. Bingo winners will be able to select a book to take home with them.

Children's book bags, for ages 2-12 years of age, will be available through the end of June or until supplies run out. Remember to turn in your completed Reading Logs to be entered into prize drawings.

All programs are sponsored by the New River Library Cooperative and Friends of the Library.

For more information call the library at 904-368-3911 or stop by the library for more information.

Parrish retiring as head of Bradford Fire Rescue

Ben Carter promoted to chief

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — After 14 years working for Bradford County, Allen Parrish will retire at the end of the week.

Parrish has worked for more than 25 years in public safety. In addition to leading emergency medical services in Bradford, Parrish oversaw the union of EMS and the county's fledgling fire department, establishing Bradford County Fire Rescue as a joint operation. He has been an advocate for the men and women who work for him as well as the families in this community who rely on all they do.

Commissioners took turns praising Parrish for his service. Commissioner Danny Riddick told him that fire rescue was working "flawlessly" thanks to his contributions.

"I can't thank you enough for that," Riddick said. "You're a true man of integrity. When you tell us something, I believe you."

"Mr. Parrish, words can't express what you have done for the people of Bradford County, and how much we appreciate everything that you've done — for being the man of integrity and a man of courage to stand up to things that you faced with dignity," Commissioner Diane Andrews said.

"I was impressed the first time that I heard you and (Rachel Rhoden, former county manager) lay out your plan for the department. Because everything was so well done and so set up for success," she said. Rhoden told the board there is no



Commissioners Carolyn Spooner, Kenny Thompson, Chris Dougherty, Diane Andrews and Danny Riddick recognized Allen Parrish (center), who will be retiring as director of Bradford County Fire Rescue this week.

one she would entrust her life with more than Parrish.

"Allen, you've done this county a great service, and you're going to be truly missed. Thank you for

everything you've done," she said.

See RETIRE, page 8

Union Commission approves FPL franchise fee

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — At its May 13, meeting the Union County Board of County Commissioners approved a franchise fee with Florida Power and Light that will bring the county needed funds for one or more new projects under discussion.

There were no public comments concerning the fee in the opening segment of the meeting and the fee had been discussed at previous meetings by the board. Representatives of Florida Power and Light (FPL) were on hand to answer questions and

present pertinent information.

The fee, which required and ordinance and a contract between the county and FPL. The ordinance states the in exchange for the county agreeing to grant FPL nonexclusive rights to supply electricity and offer electric services throughout the county free of competition from the county that FPL would provide the county a fee of 6 percent of the amount of electric bill payments it receives.

The City of Lake Butler has had such an agreement for a number of years and it brings in about \$120,000 a year to city coffers. The agreement that the county has entered into will

have no effect on residents of the city. Affected Union County citizens will be limited to those in the unincorporated areas of the county that are currently served by FPL. Resident served by other electric suppliers would not be affected. The franchise fee will raise about \$90,000 for the county.

Whether or not the electric bills of affected residents, and the amount they might increase is unknown, the county will garner about \$90,000 a year from the fee. The money has not been budgeted for as of yet, but the county has several projects under discussion that are being considered to be funded. One of these is the

hiring of a code enforcement officer — a need that Sheriff Brad Whitehead voiced at the April meeting of the board as being critical. Other uses under consideration include needed work, expansion and/or the hiring of a groundskeeping position at the R.J. Phillips Recreation Complex and the use of the money to make up matching funds for grants. Another expense looming in the near future for which some of the funds may be used in the state mandated increase in the minimum wage.

See FEE, page 7

Food Pantry dedication

The Bradford Food Pantry Board of Directors invites all supporters to the Bradford Food Pantry Building dedication on Thursday, June 9, beginning at 10 a.m.

There will be a short ceremony to recognize the many long-time volunteers and donors who have made it possible to continue feeding the deserving citizens in Bradford and Union counties for over 30 years. Without the continued financial and food donations of support from local churches and citizens, there literally would be no Food Pantry to serve thousands of families a year. After the ceremony, everyone is encouraged to come in and take a tour of the pantry and warehouse and enjoy refreshments furnished by Humana Health.

The Food Pantry is located at 2226 N. Temple Ave (U.S. 301) in Starke, (formerly the Gold Key building) next to the Farmer's Market.

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Juneteenth event on June 18

Freedom from slavery was proclaimed in Florida on May 20, 1865, nearly two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. One month later, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers finally arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and the slaves had been set free. Although May 20 has been Florida's traditional celebration of freedom, June 19 was proclaimed a national holiday last year. This year we celebrate and claim all the progress we have made while looking forward to creating more for future generations.

Join us for a Juneteenth Jubilee, in celebration of the official end of slavery and the beginning of a long Journey to Freedom on Saturday, June 18, from 2 to 6 p.m. at 920 Florida St. in Starke. There will be both inside and outside activities. We plan to have music, games, free food, family fun, vendors, and learning opportunities. For additional information, call 904-526-2257.

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Community services director sees bright future for Starke

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — In Brandon Ludwig, Starke has found itself a relentlessly optimistic cheerleader with ideas for fulfilling the city's potential.

The city's new community services director grew up down the road in Keystone Heights where he wrote for the Lake Region Monitor during high school and went on to earn his degree in multimedia journalism and communication from the University of North Florida. Graduating around the time COVID emerged killed a lot of job opportunities, so Ludwig unexpectedly began working on Congresswoman Kat Cammack's election campaign.

While technically the director of the Clay County campaign, Ludwig said he also spent a lot of time working in Starke and Lake Butler. Outreach included organizing events and knocking on doors. He had known Starke primarily from childhood visits like his family's tradition of dining at the Steakhouse twice a week. The campaign work provided an opportunity to get to know people and their concerns.

"To be honest, it was one of my favorite places to visit during the campaign," he said.

After Cammack's win, he served as her press secretary before taking a job as public information officer with the Clay County Sheriff's Office. On the side, he was also working on advertising and tourism development for Keystone Heights.

"Keystone has an absolutely wonderful city manager. Lynn Rutkowski is phenomenal, and it was an honor to get to be a part of that team and help promote events like Nitro Rallycross that were happening back in December and the recent one, MotoSurf," he said.

Ludwig would help find new ways to promote events, taking advantage of social media to attract bigger audiences.

"We saw without even having to spend money at that time that, organically, we could create that growth," he said.

While he loved his job, Ludwig became passionate about his side work, so when Starke City Manager Drew Mullins announced earlier this year that he was seeking a community services director, he applied and succeeded.

A first for the city, the position involves event promotion as well as promotion of the city generally, sharing information, engaging citizens to be active and supportive of local business and recreation, and drawing new people to the community, including tourists and new residents.

He began by pushing out more information via the city's social media outlets and updating the branding to create an online presence that people would want to follow to stay informed. The city has several recurring events, for example, with even more in the works, including the Starke



Brandon Ludwig

Splash Bash on July 3.

The city, school district and Funtastic Fire Brigade are cooperating on the event, which will take place at the high school football stadium. Beginning that afternoon at 4 p.m., there will be a golf cart parade, water slides, cornhole, food trucks and a car show. The event will culminate in fireworks at 9 that night.

The Great Pumpkin Escape and Christmas on Call Street will take place on schedule, and in addition to the Strawberry Festival, Ludwig said they would like to roll out something new in the spring.

Ludwig said new development is inevitable, and the city needs to be prepared. The city needs "smart development," or like other areas, it could become overwhelmed. Starke is generating a lot of interest for residential developers, he said, because it is centrally located between Jacksonville and Gainesville but doesn't have the higher taxes, the traffic or the crowding.

"We've had developers reach out with interest, but one of the biggest things that we want to focus on is doing it in a smart way. We've had folks reach out about doing a sustainable development and helping do things such as solar energy, which will help take some of the stress off of the city's power grid as well," he said.

Ludwig sees potential for housing developments north and south of the city that will allow homes to spread out and preserve the rural character of the community.

Central to whatever project he is working on is the development and strengthening of relationships from the local to the federal level that benefit the city of Starke. That includes being a sounding board for citizen concerns and ideas. For example, he has been approached about a regular food truck event downtown that would draw a crowd and drive more business to local merchants.

He said Starke, in fact, already has assets that could be a bigger draw if people only knew about them, such as Fun Point with its food, music and games. Ludwig said they are also working on attracting a travel softball tournament to the area that would invite 2,000 to 3,000 tourists. They would stay in hotels, shop and dine here, and businesses and government alike would benefit from the revenue.

"We want to do things differently. Starke is really trying to be that city of the future, honestly, and really set ourselves up for success," he said. "Florida is rapidly growing, and at some point, that is going to hit here. What we're trying to do is take advantage of it and do it in the right way."

Improving the quality of life for residents will always be the top priority. He doesn't agree with the Debbie Downers who see the city as perpetually stuck, and in meeting with local leaders and business owners, he has seen they want good things for the community.

"I know that there's been this attitude that Bradford County is not going to change, and that Starke is stuck and we're not going anywhere. Fortunately, we have a city administration that is really focused on that. We've got a great city manager, a great city clerk.

"The reason that I left my job, which was not something easy for me to do, is because I see a ton of potential here. I think Starke is very special."

While other communities may have exhausted their growth potential Starke has room to grow, welcoming development and tourism, he said.

"Starke was once known as the highway to Southern hospitality, and I really want to see that again where we're pulling people off the truck route because they want to come here. I think more than ever Starke has that chance right now."

Meet the Candidates

Williams running for Bradford County Commission



Mark Williams

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.

My name is Mark Williams, and I am running for District 2, Bradford County Commissioner.

I moved to Lawtey with my parents and brothers in 1973, attending Bradford Middle School and Bradford High School, graduating in 1981. I completed four years of the sheet-metal apprenticeship program, graduating number one in my class.

In 1986, I became the supervisor of a shop in Palatka before starting what is now known as M&R Construction in 1993.

I have been in the construction

business in Bradford County for more than 29 years.

In 2017, I became involved in another area of business as well with the opening of Dink's Place Frozen Treats in historic, downtown Starke.

During my 29 years in the construction business, I have completed many building projects for the county. I have worked hand in hand in some way with just about every county department, such as solid waste, SHIP (State Housing Initiatives Partnership), supervisor of elections, tax collector and

sheriff's office, just to name a few. I am very aware of how they all function.

I have also been involved in county commission meetings. It is well known that I have been very vocal about the way things have been handled in recent years. Commissioners are responsible for each county department's spending and are accountable to the people for that spending, which has exceeded the budget the past 12 years.

This must stop. We can no longer continue to spend money that we don't have.

In attending plenty of commission meetings, I have heard people say, "We can't continue to do this. We need to make a change."

I agree. We need new leadership on the commission. That is why I am asking for your support for District 2 county commissioner.

Over the next few weeks, I look forward to meeting each of you to talk about your concerns as well as laying out my plan to make "Everything Better in Bradford."

Letters

Gun culture or violent culture

Dear Editor:

I see the comments about America and gun culture at times. Guns are on many people's minds now as we try to recover from Buffalo and Uvalde. We grew up with westerns on the big and small screen. But they were bloodless during my childhood. You heard gunfire (usually lots of ricochets) and then the reaction of the person shot. No blood. Then the 60s came along and movies became more graphic. Now I turn on one of the very many cop shows and it's violence, guns, blood, etc. I refuse to watch them. Barney Miller was my favorite cop show and guns were rare on it.

I also hear video games are awash in guns and violence. I don't play video games anymore. Never played them much anyway. To me this is more of a violence culture than gun culture, but guns are definitely a big part of it.

I'm not suggesting a cause and effect here, but something is going on. America does not own

the franchise on mental illness, as many think it's all about deranged people causing all this violence. Guns seem easy for these unbalanced folks to acquire and then the gore begins.

I know some facts and you can look for answers. We have the most guns on earth per population: 1.2 guns for every man, woman, and child. The next closest is half that: Falkland Islands with 0.6. So to say we need more guns is bizarre.

In terms of gun deaths per 100,000, we rank 10th with only South American countries ahead of us. But we crush them with over 10 times as many suicides with guns. But to me the most amazing statistic is our

incarceration rate. You would believe our violence with guns would be much lower with this many people locked up in our jails. We are number one in the world with people locked up. Over 600 per 100,000. Over 200 million total in our prisons and jails.

You wonder how the "greatest country on earth" could have so many violent deaths and with this many people in jail. Guns may not kill people, but the types of guns we have now in the hands of certain people makes me wonder how long "thoughts and prayers" are going to be our answer to the loss of innocent lives.

Steve Acree
Brooker



I'll bet you were hoping no one would notice you were turning 40. Well, No such luck!
Happy 40th Birthday Janet!
Love Always, Deda

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Lake Region

Planning and zoning green lights Country Meadows

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The city's planning and zoning committee approved a planned urban development for a 55-lot neighborhood near Paradise Point Drive and Sunrise Boulevard during a May 19 meeting.

Developer Jed Duckro showed his plans for his Country Meadows project to the city's growth management committee in April. The panel did not vote on the development, deferring to the planning and zoning committee.

Duckro told the planning and zoning committee he sought approval of the PUD because it allows for a lot depth of 110 feet rather than the 135 feet required by the city's residential zoning ordinance.

The committee also approved a 30-day variance from the city's prohibition on burning yard waste within the municipality, allowing the developer to burn debris on site using an incinerator with an air curtain that prevents most of the operation's smoke from escaping into the atmosphere.

However, the committee turned down a request for relief from the city's tree ordinance, which requires a tree survey and mitigation for any trees removed from the property.

One of Duckro's associates told planning and zoning committee members that the request to burn the debris onsite would benefit nearby residents and businesses because it would reduce the noise related to clearing the land, adding that the decibel levels created by a tub grinder would be much higher than the noise generated by the air curtain's diesel engine.

He added that he recently completed three subdivisions in the Orlando suburb of Oviedo.

"The burn variance was requested on the first subdivision," he said. "It was denied. (The debris) was ground and hauled, and (the burn variance) was unanimously approved on the second two."

"Upon approval of the second two," he continued, "we were questioned with regard to when we were going to start burning by the city officials and we were already done; no one knew it

(had already) happened."

Project engineer Mike Bell said that after applying for relief from the city's tree ordinance, the developer had a limited tree survey completed for the 13-acre site and created a plan that would preserve 600 of the current 2,000 trees on the land.

Committee member Bruce Harvin asked what assurances the city would have that the 600 trees would be preserved.

Bell said that when the project is platted, a tree-save area will be designated on the plat. He added that tree barricades will mark the trees to be preserved during construction and that homeowners' association documents will prescribe the preservation of the trees after construction.

The Country Meadows project is scheduled to go before the city council on June 6.



The planned unit development of Country Meadows is bordered by Keystone Heights's Sunrise Boulevard, Paradise Point Drive, the Clay-Bradford County line and a Clay Electric transmission line.

Free summer meals at area schools

Sponsored by Clay County District Schools Food and Nutrition Services, free breakfast and lunch is offered to anyone 18 years or younger from June 6 through July 28, except for July 4.

Breakfast is served between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and lunch is available between noon and 1 p.m. at Keystone Heights Elementary and McRae Elementary.

Meals will be served inside the schools' cafeterias for onsite consumption. There is no application process. Sites are subject to closure based on participation.

MELROSE

Continued from page 1

Paying attention to customers

Another staple of Williamson's over the past 37 years has been meat cutter Paul Seay.

Seay was in his 21st year working for Ward's Supermarket in Gainesville when a neighbor told him Romie was looking for a meat cutter.

"I went to see him, and he asked me if I could help find a good meat cutter," Seay recalled. "I said: 'I think you have found one, you just don't know it yet.'"

Seay added that he worked behind the Melrose meat counter for three days on a trial basis before giving his notice at Ward's.

He said he found the laid back, friendly atmosphere in Melrose irresistible.

And like the founder, Seay has a talent for connecting with customers and getting to know them, often taking orders from patrons holding up two or four fingers, instead of verbalizing their cuts.

"Sometimes a customer will go by, and they'll hold up two fingers and don't say anything. So, I go in and I get a tenderloin and cut a two-inch-and-a-half filet mignon or two ribeyes," he said.

Seay also said he gives customers advice on what to serve under certain situations.

"I pay attention to customers," he said. "Some customers say: 'I want this,' and I say: 'I can get that for you but you're not going to be happy with it. If you're not familiar with how to cook it, it's going to be tough.'"

He added that customers who ignore his advice often come back and tell him he was right.



The store's sign reflects the Williamson family's commitment to the Melrose community.

Looking for something quick and easy

Seay said he has seen customers' buying habits change over the years because of changes in family lifestyles.

Rare is the family that sits down around the dinner table to a home-prepared meal.

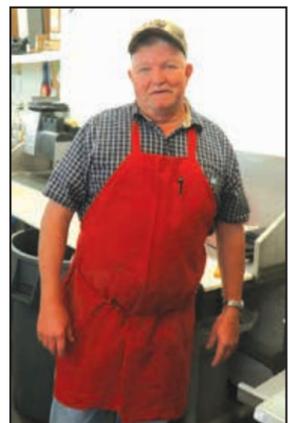
"People want convenience, and they are in a hurry, wondering around, and that filters back to how they buy," Seay said, adding that families eat out much more now than they did 40 years ago and when they do eat at home, they don't want to invest time into a traditional family meal.

"They're both working," he said of 21st Century parents. "they're going back-and-forth to Gainesville, most of them, and they've got to pick up the kids. They're looking for something quick and easy."

The grocery's slogan, prominently displayed in the sign in front is "Your Personal

Grocers, since 1972."

Family members and their workers say they plan on continuing the winning formula embodied in the slogan that has worked for 50 years: supporting the community and knowing their customers.



Paul Seay, 37-year Williamson's Food Store meat cutter.

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Emergency manager: prepare now for storms

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Emergency Management Director John Ward said now is the time to prepare for storms by assembling a family disaster kit and talking about how families will respond to an approaching hurricane.

Ward said on a video produced by his department marking the beginning of the 2022 Hurricane Season that information on how to prepare for storms is on the county's website: Alert.ClayCountyGov.com. He said the site includes preparation guidance for those with special medical needs.

The director added that evacuations zones in Clay County changed for the 2022 storm season, with Black Creek and the St. Johns River subject to storm surge.

Ward emphasized that



Clay County Emergency Management Director John Ward points out tabs on the county's disaster preparation website: Alert.ClayCountyGov.com. in a video produced by his department.

residents should take evacuation orders seriously.

"When we issue those evacuation orders," he said, "it's probably going to be sunshining out just like it is today. But I want to make sure that you heed those

orders when we do give them."

A recent AAA survey reported that 25% of people said they would ignore evacuation warnings, but 60% of people said they would leave if a hurricane reached Category 3, or higher.

Clay real estate values jump by 11.5%

Median sale price set record last year

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Property Appraiser Tracy S. Drake said in a May 27 news release that the county's real estate values increased by 11.5% or \$1.5 billion during 2021.

Drake said the valuation, with a date of Jan. 1, 2022, "is a reflection of the upward direction the real estate market has taken during 2021."

In his 2021 annual report issued last month, Drake reported that the median sale price for a Clay County single-family residence climbed 22.4% last year, the single biggest percentage increase in county history.

"Since reaching its bottom in 2011 at \$160,000," Drake said, "the median sale price for single-family homes has appreciated 88%."

Other news within the appraiser's 2021 annual report included:

Save Our Homes differential

Even though real estate values increased substantially in 2021, Florida law limits increases in assessed value to 3% a year or the increase in the consumer price index, whichever is smaller.

Since the consumer price index rose by only 1.4% in 2021, assessed value increases were limited to that percentage under Florida's Save Our Homes constitutional amendment.

Clay County's Save-Our-Homes differential, the difference between assessed values without the cap and assessed values limited by the amendment, grew from \$2.2 billion at the beginning of 2021 to \$2.6 billion at the end of the year.

Top 10 taxpayers

Clay Electric Cooperative retained its position as the county's number one taxpayer, contributing 1.68% of the county's taxable value. Orange Park Medical Center, the Orange Park Mall, Mid-America Apartments and TECO Pipeline Holdings rounded out the top five.

Mid-America Apartments

owns the Lighthouse at Fleming Island, a 47-acre apartment complex.

Vallencourt Construction, PC Parkland Florida, the Guidewell Group, Invitation Homes and Landmark at Vista Grande completed the top 10.

PC Parkland owns an apartment complex on Wells Road, as does Landmark at Vista Grande. Invitation Homes owns hundreds of rental houses in the county.

Transactions and parcels

Nearly 15,000 Clay County parcels changed hands during 2021, an 11% increase over 2020.

The county now has 95,271 real estate parcels, all of which are on the tax rolls of the county, the school board and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

The City of Green Cove Springs has 4,077 parcels on its roll, and the Town of Orange Park has 3,382.

Eight hundred, eleven parcels are within the City of Keystone Heights, while 128 are within the city's community redevelopment district.

Kiwanis Community Band plays at beach pavilion

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Lake Region Kiwanis Community Band played its summer concert to a packed crowd in the Keystone Beach Pavilion on Saturday, June 4.

The hour-long performance featured 14 tunes with a mix of pop and swing including "The Entertainer", "Five Foot, Two, Eyes of Blue", "The Bare Necessities" from the "Jungle Book" and Chicago's "Saturday in the Park."

Band Director Michael Raftice said the band was first formed eight years ago in response to a series of suicides at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School.

Keystone Heights Vice-Mayor Steve Hart proposed a summer band to then-principal Susan Sailor as a way to get students more involved in the community during the summers.

"It ended up being a mix of high school students and adults," Raftice said of the ensemble, dubbed the Summer in the City Band, "and we did that for two summers."

After a year off, Hart approached Raftice with the concept of a community band.

"I really was skeptical as to whether it would work," Raftice recalled. "So instead of asking for a 52-week commitment, we scheduled a fall season and a spring season, and I also said let's put a rhythm section with it because most big bands are only 19 people, and if you have 10 horns with a rhythm section it still works."

Raftice said the group has drifted toward swing tunes, songs from the 1970s group Chicago and pop artist Billy Joel.

"We were up to 28 members before the pandemic," he said, "two years later, we had some members that didn't come



Front: Band member David Vezzetti played in the St. Augustine symphony for around 46 years and taught middle school music in Putnam County for 30. Back: Community band organizer and Keystone Heights Vice Mayor Steve Hart takes a drink before the concert.



Alto Saxophone player Stephanie Chiappini also plays in the rock-and-roll band: "Easily Distracted."



Band director Michael Raftice speaks to the audience before the Lake Region Kiwanis Community Band spring concert.

back, one passed away, we're up to like 18 now. Slowly but surely, it's building back."

Band member David Vezzetti started playing clarinet in 1956 in Pennsylvania. His family moved to St. Petersburg, and he eventually earned a master's degree at the University of Florida.

"I was in military bands, and I played in the St. Augustine Symphony for like 46 years," he said.

The Palatka resident and 30-year middle school band instructor said he was playing with the Putnam County Community Band when some Lake Region musicians joined the group.

"They invited us to come up here," Vezzetti recalled. "So, we came up here to play with this group."

Alto Saxophone player Stephanie Chiappini said she first started playing at age 11 at C.H. Price Middle School in Interlachen.

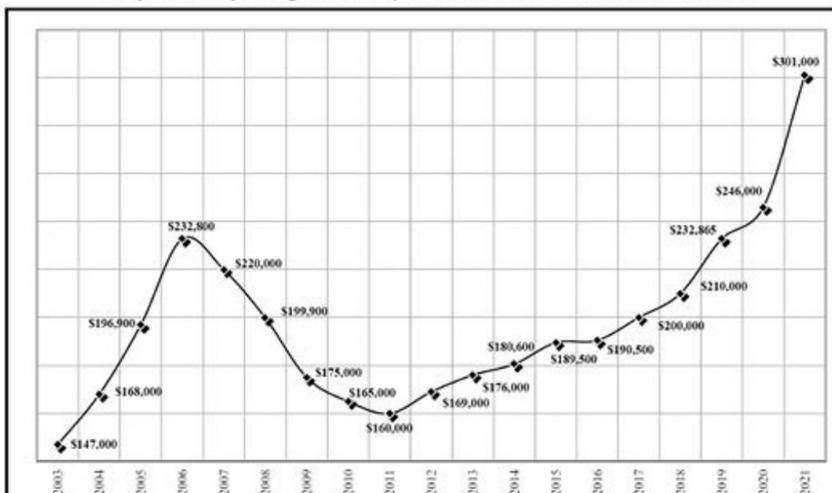
"I met Steve through a mutual friend, and he invited me here and here I am," Chiappini said. "I get suckered in every year."

Chiappini said she is also in a rock-and-roll band called

"Easily Distracted." Chiappini calls music her therapy.

"I live a busy life," she said. "I'm a caretaker for the elderly and this is my outlet."

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Union FFA hosts 81st annual awards banquet

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — The 2022 FFA Awards Banquet was held at the Union County High School Auditorium on May 12, 2022 with many awards and recognitions given and achievements recognized. There were 400 FFA members present at the event.

The event began after the dinner held in the UCHS Cafeteria, served by Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger and members of the Union County School Board. The crowd of parents, students and well-wishers then proceeded to the auditorium for the awards ceremony. Entertainment was provided, both prior to and at breaks in the event, by musician and singer Eli Rogers, who sang country music, both mainstream and is own original songs.

The UCHS JROTC's Color Guard provided the presentation of colors, after which Emma Jeffers sang the National Anthem. Jeffers also joined Rogers in presenting musical breaks during the program.

FFA Senior Chapter officers conducted the opening ceremony, with Senior Chapter President Jace Bielling taking the podium to welcome the crowd, introduce the guests and note some special recognitions. Recognized as an honorary member, by the LBMS Junior Chapter officers, was Kristi McCallister. Chris Stalnaker (of W.W. Gay), Johnny Welch and the Union County Livestock Association Board of Directors were then presented with Distinguished Service award Plaques. Retired Union County Forester Jay Tucker was

presented with the Blue and Gold Award and Avery Roberts was inducted into the Union County FFA Hall of Fame.

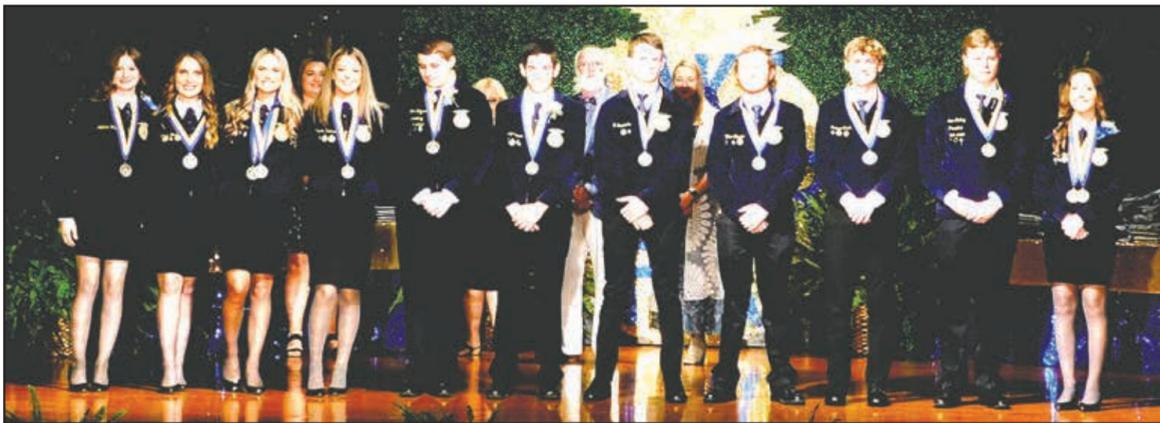
The first member awards of the evening were the degree presentations.

Students who earned and were awarded with the Discovery Degree pins were: Kristen Balkin-Gainey, Kimberlynn Beasley, Kendyl Brannen, Clayton Cason, Kierston Clemons, Naomi Coker, Austin Douglas, Case Elixon, Aubree Gay, Grace Hobson, Codi Huntley, Bella Johns, Landon Jones, Alexxis Lukatz, Parker Parrish, Vanessa Raymond, Jolena Rogers, Jacob Scott, Bayley Staier, Brian Starling, Kayla Thomas, Bailey Varnes, Eva Whitehead, Abigail Williams, Brayden Williams, Malia Williams, Graysen Willis and Miley Wilson.

Students who earned and were awarded with Greenhand pins (sponsored by Union County Farm Bureau) were:

Darby Andrews, Nolan Beighley, Rani Bell, Jena Bielling, Leah Brannen, Regan Broome, Beth Crawford, Colby Dukes, Kutter Durrance, Makenzie Flick, Brooke Goldie, Joseph Harris, Monica Lloyd, Savannah Miller, Jaylynn Moates, Grace Newsom, Kaycee Parks, Cayden Rayburn, Michael-Ann Smith, Ryley Suggs, Celeste Thomas, Ava Walker, Chamberlin Watts, Noah Williams, Bo Wilson, Tyson Woodland and Addison Worrell.

Students who earned and were awarded with the FFA Chapter Degree pins (sponsored by Shatto Heating and Air) were: Cailynn Boggs, Sydney Box, Tanner Connell, Ella Dicks, Grant Dicks, Colby Dukes, Lyndee Griffis,



Winners of the FFA Proficiency Award. Pictured are: Maegan Beatty, Jace Bielling, Jackson Crook, Will Harden, Eli Hendricks, Perry Johnson, Peyton Kilgore, Laura Park, Reagan Robinson, Ciara Woodall and Addison Wright.

Jordan Hendricks, Bobbie Jo Montford, Brailyn Rose, Kody Stalnaker and Celeste Thomas.

Next up were the presentation of Judging Team pins. Students earning these pins were: Proficiency Awards – Will Harden, Caleb Ripplinger and Laura Park received their national pins and each went on to earn a bronze ranking at the national level; Delaney Sweat received her Gold State Champion pin for employability skills and went on to earn a gold ranking at Nationals, placing 8th overall; the Conduct of Chapter Meeting team won their second state championship and received their gold state champion pins, they competed at Nationals and were named Reserve National Champions. Team members included: Perry Johnson, Kindall Johnson, Madison Johnson, Ella Dicks, Colby Dukes, Hannah Sherrod and Reagan Robinson. Dukes, Madison Johnson and Robinson were recognized for perfect exam scores and Robinson was also named the Outstanding Top Team Member in the Nation.

The Senior Chapter Parliamentary Procedure team won the district competition this year, qualifying them for competition at the state



Chris Stalnaker, representing W.W. Gay, with award recipients Ella Dicks, Caitlyn Boggs, Reagan Robinson, Lily French and Grant Dicks.

convention in June. Team members are: Jace Bielling, Reagan Robinson, Tanner Connell, Eli Hendricks, Ella Dicks, Perry Johnson and Joseph Harris. The Middle School Parliamentary Procedure team also won the district contest. Team members are: Kendyl Brannen, Carsyn Dukes, Peyton Kilgore, Cane Reddish, Hayden Robinson, Bayley Staier, Bailey Varnes and Maci Wilson. This team will also be competing at state this coming June. The Parliamentary Procedure awards were sponsored by Betsy Whitehead.

The middle school Opening and Closing Ceremonies team placed second in district competition. Team members were: Jamie Lynn Courson, Carsyn Dukes, Shayna Durrance, Peyton Kilgore, Hayden Robinson, Bayley Staier, Maci Wilson and Addison Wright.

The Agriculture Education contest was held at the University of Florida in December, with Ciara Woodall representing the chapter and placing fourth in the event.

The Forestry Team placed first in District Competition and third at State. Team members include: Eli Hendricks, Jace Bielling, Madison Johnson, Perry Johnson, Laura Park, Michael Young, Tanner Connell and Hannah Sherrod.

The Middle School Tool Identification team competed at state. Members of the team are: Shayna Durrance, Peyton Kilgore, Jackson Thames, Malia Williams and Maci Wilson.

The Middle School Poultry Team includes: Peyton Kilgore, Carsyn Dukes, Bayley Staier and Bailey Varnes.

The Tractor Driving contest was held in February with Will Harden representing the chapter and placing fourth at the state event.

The Meats Evaluation team qualified for state in February and placed fifth at state. Team members are: Madison Johnson, Perry Johnson, Jace Beiling, Maegan Beatty, Eli Hendricks,

Jackson Crook and Will Harden.

The Senior Conduct of Chapter Meetings team members are: Darby Andrews, Nolan Beighley, Kutter Durrance, Grace Newsom, Noah Williams, Tucker Williams and Adrienne Wolfe. The Middle School team consists of Kristen Balkin-Gainey, Kendyl Brannen, Carsyn Dukes, Grace Hobson, Bella Johns, Peyton Kilgore, Kayla Thomas, Bailey Varnes, Macie Wilson and Addison Wright.

The Middle School Chapter competed in Ornamental Horticulture competition with the following results: Jamie Lynn Courson placed second at the district contest in the area of Consumer Use; Carsyn Dukes won the District contest and place fifth in the state in the area of marketing; Kierston Clemons and Abigail Williams won the District contest in the area of Artistic Arrangement and Case Denson won the District Contest in the area of Landscaping.

The Agricultural Communications team qualified for state in a preliminary round and went on to place second in the state. Team members are: Maegan Beatty, Laura Park, Madison Johnson, Kindall Johnson, Perry Johnson, Ciara Woodall and Tucker Williams. Park was the third high individual.

The Ag Issues team will compete at state in June. Team members include: Laura Park, Perry Johnson, Maegan Beatty, Hannah Sherrod, Madison Johnson, Rylie Parrish, Tanner Connell, Abigail Gainey, Jordan Hendricks and Cailynn Boggs.

The Senior Poultry team won its first state championship in February. Team members (with their ranking at state competition) are: Reagan Robinson (sixth high individual), Maegan Beatty (fourth high individual), Laura Park (second high individual), Perry Johnson (third high individual), Kyla Boney, Jackson Crook and Darby Andrews. This team will be competing at the Nation Convention in October.

Proficiency Award medallions, sponsored by Farm Credit of North Florida, were given to the following members: Maegan Beatty (feeder swine and ag communications – state finalist), Jace Bielling (forage production), Jackson Crook (agriscience research and maintenance – state finalist), Will Hardin (ag mechanics: repair and maintenance – state finalist), Eli Hendricks (turfgrass management – state finalist), Perry Johnson (veterinary science), Peyton Kilgore (feeder swine), Laura Park (ag education and feeder swine), Reagan Robinson (feeder swine), Ciara Woodall (ag education) and Addison Wright (beef production placement and beef production entrepreneurship).

Sponsors for the Workhorse Award plaques were: Badcock Home Furnishings and More, Clay Electric and Spire IGA Grocery. Sponsors for the Workhorse cash awards were: Union Power, Allen Parrish, Hillandale, North Florida Custom Meats, Ashlyn Woodington, the Croft family, Brian Franzluebbers, Jared Beilling, Daryl Brewer, Avery Roberts, Andrea Andrews Szabo, Adam Burgess, Clay Electric, Community State Bank, Billy and Pam Woodington, Amanda James, Clint Williams, Ashley O'Steen, Parrish Nursing Service Inc., Old Providence Farms (Shawn and Emily Newsom), Kyle and Taylor Parrish, Abi Ripplinger and Nutrition Hideaway.

Members receiving the Workhorse award were: Natalie Waters, Ciara Woodall, Michael Young, Logan Richards, Eli Hendricks, Will Harden, Daniel Woods, Noah Williams, Cole Huntley, Jace Bielling, Karli Jenkins, Cailynn Boggs, Tanner Connell, Caleb Ripplinger, Tahj Merrixi, Emma Jeffers, Perry Johnson, Laura Park, Maegan Beatty, Madison Johnson, Reagan Johnson, Kindall Johnson, Hannah Sherrod, Jackson Crook,

See FFA, 7A

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Shadd Lodge to offer space for agricultural events and community gatherings

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — The Union County Board of County Commissioners, acting as the Board of Adjustments, held the required public hearing and, after no public comments for or against and board discussion, voted at its May 16 meeting to approve an application and grant a special exception to the county's Future Land Use Plan to allow the building of a conference center just west of the city of Lake Butler off C.R. 238.

The center will cover 15.91 acres and will feature a single story frame barn with metal roofing. Surrounding the structure where will be two

concrete patios and an open covered area along one side. The site plan calls for a parking area composed of asphalt millings that is designed to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant with appropriate signage. The outside areas will be lighted with LED flood lights.

The total area under cover at the structure, including patios, will be 8,485 square feet, with a floor area of 1,530 square feet in the main area, that will be closed in. The structure will be accessed by a lime rock surface road leading into a 25 foot wide grass surface road (Northwest 102 Trail) and this road will be marked by a sign at its intersection with C.R. 238 by

a wood and metal sign 49 inches by 36 inches in size.

The structure will be largely shielded from sight of CR-238 by a wooded area and the property will be appropriately landscaped.

The site plan for the project has been completed by an engineering firm and has been approved by both Union County Building Inspector Wilson Whidden and the North Florida Regional Planning Council. The motion to approve both the application/plan and the resolution needed to make the necessary changes to the county land use plan was made by Commissioner Lacey Cannon and approved unanimously by the board.



Lake Butler Middle School FFA members recognized at the award ceremony (shown with Chris Stalnaker from W.W. Gay) were: Case Denson, Kiersten Clemons, Abby Williams, Carsyn Dukes and Jamie Lynn Courson.

FFA Continued from page 6

Ella Dicks, Peyton Kilgore, Bailey Varnes, Macie Wilson, Case Denson, Carsyn Dukes and Shayna Durrance.

Top sellers from the 2021 Poinsettia Sale were: First Place, Peyton Kilgore – 238; Second Place, Anna Ward – 220; Third Place, Kindall Johnson – 150; Fourth Place, Bobbie Jo Montford – 134 and Fifth Place, Reagan Robinson – 133.

Outstanding middle school members and the sponsor from which they received a check were: Sixth grade – Jamie Lynn Courson, the Bishop family; Seventh grade – Bayley Staier, Badcock; Eighth grade – Peyton Kilgore, TL Squared Builders. Peyton Kilgore won the Elite Eighth Grader award, receiving a check from Allen and Carolyn Parrish.

The Outstanding Senior Members awards and the sponsors were: Ninth grade – Kutter Durrance, Sheriff Brad Whitehead; Tenth grade – Cailynn Boggs, Zeb and Georgie Howard; Eleventh grade – Perry Johnson, Zeb and Georgie Howard; and Twelfth grade – Laura Park, Zeb and Georgie Howard.

The Star Discovery Award plaque was sponsored by Emerson Nursery and Rental Plants and the cash award by Kyle and Taylor Parrish. The winner was Addisyn Wright.

The Star Greenhand Award was sponsored by Biellings Tire and Emerson Nursery and Rental Plants and awarded to Tanner Connell.

Pritchett Trucking and Emerson Nursery and Rental Plants sponsored the Star Chapter Farmer Award that was won by Perry Johnson.

The Star Agricultural Placement Award was sponsored by Roberts Land and Timber, Austin Dukes and Emerson Nursery and Rental Plants and won by Will Harden and Jace Bielling.

The Star Agribusiness Award was sponsored by The Lavender House and Emerson Nursery and Rental Plants and was won by Eli Hendricks.

The Star Agriscience Award was sponsored by the Michael Dukes family and Emerson Nursery and Rental Plants and was awarded to Jackson Crook.

The Chapter Scholarships for the middle school chapter



Emma Jeffers and Eli Rogers provided entertainment for the evening at the FFA Awards Banquet.

and the sponsor are: Peyton Kilgore, Pritchett Trucking; Macie Wilson, Terra Johnson and Shayna Durrance, Nutrition Hideaway. The high school chapter scholarship winners, along with their sponsor, were: Ciara Woodall, Clay Electric; Maegan Beatty, the Bishop family and Laura Park, Nutrition Hideaway.

Middle School Chapter Leadership awards went to Peyton Kilgore, Paul and Anisha Waters of AFD; Carsyn Dukes, Austin Thomas and Shayna Durrance, Josh Thomas.

The Senior Chapter Leadership Awards went to Madison Johnson, Caleb Williams; Maegan Beatty, Becky Raulerson; Laura Park, Carlton Faulk and Perry Johnson, Jesse Bielling.

The winners of the Senior Emblem Awards (an FFA letter) were: Maegan Beatty, Jace Bielling, Kyla Boney, Jackson Crook, Lily French, Will Harden, Eli Hendricks, Laura Park, Anna Ward, Natalie Waters and Ciara Woodall.

The State FFA Degrees were sponsored by Scott and Kelly Register. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the state and is presented to graduating seniors. Winners received a blanket from the sponsor and a stole for graduation. The recipients of this year's State FFA Degrees were: Maegan Beatty, Jace Bielling, Jackson Crook, Will Harden, Eli Hendricks, Laura Park, Anna Ward and Ciara Woodall.

The Superior Senior Award, sponsored by Ashlyn Woodington and Hali Perryman and was awarded to Laura Park.

Aidan Newsome was the winner of the Harlis Ellington Memorial Scholarship of \$500 and a plaque. These were presented by members of the Ellington family.

The Lori Anderson Memorial Scholarships were presented

by Lori Nicole Anderson and awarded to Ciara Woodall, Maegan Beatty and Anna Ward.

The Wild Turkey Federation Scholarships was presented by Paul Waters and were awarded to Kyla Boney and Jackson Crook.

The Ford Scholarships, of \$1,000 each, given by Ford and Murray Ford of Starke were Ciara Woodall, Laura Park and Eli Hendricks.

The Shirley Kirby Memorial Scholarship was presented by Kevin and Keith Kirby to Josie Croft.

The Daniel Elixson Memorial Scholarships were presented by members of the Elixson family to Will Harden, Eli Hendricks and Ciara Woodall.

Jackie Fautt, mother of Ciara Kearns, presented the Ciara Kearns Memorial Scholarship to Tahj Merriex.

Members of the Crosby family and Kelley Lane presented the Summer Crosby Memorial Scholarships to Ciara Woodall and Will Harden.

The Hobo Tractor Scholarships were presented two \$1,000 scholarships to Laura Park and Will Harden.

The Workhorse Scholarship was presented by Audyn Woodington, Savannah Douglas and Andrew Worten and was granted to Will Harden.

The Legacy Scholarship was awarded to Jace Bielling.

The Bradford-Union Youth Show and Sale awarded a \$500 scholarship to Eli Rimes. The Union County Livestock Association also awarded scholarships.

For the evening a total of over \$13,000 in awards and scholarships were given out. The program concluded with a slideshow presentation of the many activities over the past year and a statement of the objectives FFA instills and represents.

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

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

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

event.

The event is open to amateur cooks only and they can compete as a single individual or as a team made up of a team captain with up to three assistants. The entry fee is \$50 per team and the prize money will be taken from this. Meat categories include chicken, pork butt and brisket. Entries will be judged on appearance, taste/flavor, moisture, tenderness/texture and overall impression.

Pre-registration is required. Competitors must provide their own means of cooking their meat and the utensils necessary to

make/apply their sauce. The only cooking media allowed will be wood, charcoal or wood pellets. Use of sanitary gloves is required anytime the meat is handled. Setup will be Friday, June 17, at 5 p.m., with the judging set for Saturday, June 18, at 4 p.m. Plates will be available for sale after the judging.

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

FEE Continued from page 1

"While it is true that FPL customers in the county may see a slight (up to six percent) increase in their electric bills, they will be no more affected by this than the residents of the City of Lake Butler are now," said County Coordinator Jimmy Williams. This will not affect all county residents and much of the area that is affected is the most expected to grow in coming years."

FPL representatives declined to comment as to what the effect on affected resident's bills could be but based on the agreement it should be no more than \$6 on every \$100, they are now paying.

In other discussion and action the Union County Board of Commissioners:

—Approved an offer made by resident Billy R. Elixson to install new asphalt paving on Southwest 150th Boulevard. Elixson offered to pave 3960 linear feet of the road, from the end of the existing pavement on C.R. 231A, continuing south down the road. The paving would be 16 feet wide and 1 1/2 inch thick and done with FDOT certified mix and construction would be done by an FDOT approved contractor. There would be no cost to the county for the work and Elixson stated in his letter to the board that the work would be a donation to the county to facilitate more road improvements in the county.

Also included in materials presented to the commissioners was a petition signed by all of the residents on the part of the road that would be paved, all of whom were in favor of the improvements and excited to see

the work done.

The letter stated that there was a precedent for the donation, as such projects had been completed in Alachua, Bradford and Taylor counties in the past. The board voted unanimously to accept the paving project as a donation with no cost to the county.

—Heard a request for confirmation from Williams on a previous discussion about using ARPA funds for the shortfall in the FRDAP grant funds granted the county for a perimeter fence for the ball fields at R.J. Phillips Recreation Complex. Williams reminded the board that since the time of the application the cost of the materials needed for the project had increased by \$30,000. In response to his request the board clarified that they had said the funds could be used and voted unanimously to approve it.

Reminder of changes to Starke election

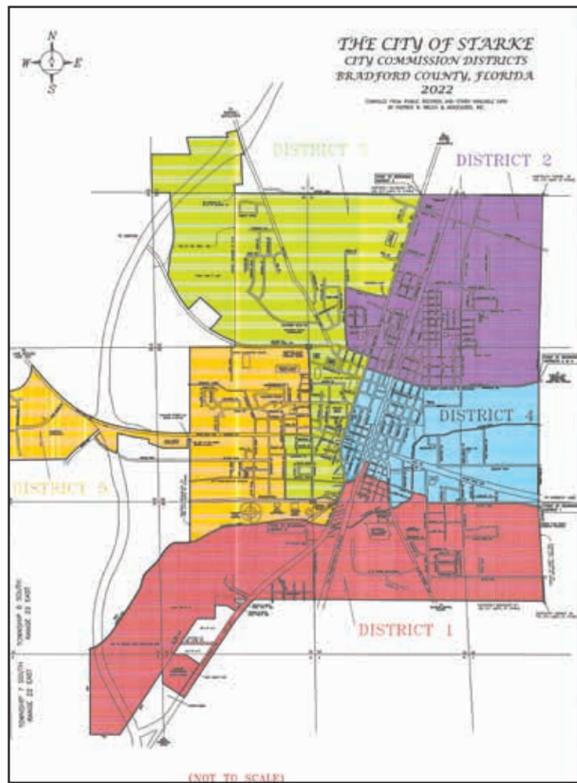
STARKE – Voters in Starke will see a new election day for the 2022 cycle, as well as changes to the city's commission districts.

In March, Starke's City Commission voted to move the city's Election Day to Aug. 23, the same day as the August Primary. The move, which is expected to increase voter turnout, allows the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections office to oversee city, county, and state elections at the same time.

City commission district lines have also been redrawn for the first time since the 1980s due to shifts in population. District 1 (south Starke) in particular has seen significant growth in recent years.

In the newly released map, approved in May, District 1 sacrifices territory to Districts 3, 4, and 5. In addition, District 2 (northeast Starke) adds territory east of U.S. 301.

The map changes are expected to play an important role in future election cycles, with City Manager Andrew Mullins saying, "We had districts that had big population variations. These



new maps help resolve those variations, and ensure each part of the city has equal representation once again on our city commission."

Qualifying to run for office in the city election will take place at the Bradford County

Supervisor of Elections office between June 13-17. The city commission seats on the ballot this August are for Districts 1, 3 (northwest Starke), and 5 (western Starke).

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

May 28 through June 3

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

Codie James Benton, 25, of Middleburg was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 1 for a probation violation.

Amber Dawn Coniglio, 42, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 31 for battery and aggravated battery.

Wesley Lee Fountain, 32, of Jacksonville was arrested by Starke police on June 2 for assault.

Lindsey Anne Freeman, 28, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on June 2 for destroying evidence.

Stephanie McCloud Goad, 37, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 30 for a probation violation, driving with a suspended license and possession of drugs.

Threw chair and missed

Gary Lee Hampton, 36, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 1 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant threw a chair at an individual he claimed was spreading rumors about him. The chair missed the victim.

The day following his arrest, Hampton pleaded no contest to the charge and was sentenced to two days in jail, six months' probation, and ordered to pay a \$25 fine.

County Judge D. Tatum Davis also ordered the defendant to enroll in a mental health evaluation-treatment program.

Shaunte Tracy-Shakia Hyman, 34, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

La'tavis Damario Jacobs, 19, of Pomona Park was arrested by Starke police on June 2 for aggravated assault and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

Lorraine Pearl Johnson, 57, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation and an out-of-county warrant.

Pinzon Nazario Maldonado, 22, of Jennings was arrested by Starke police on May 29 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Grandmother reports defendant's vandalism

Riley Slade Miller, 20, of St. Augustine was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 28 for burglary.

According to an arrest report, the grandmother of the defendant called the sheriff's office after

viewing a video Miller posted on social media of the defendant vandalizing a vacant building. The family member told dispatch that Miller appeared to have cut his arm during the incident. The defendant's family traced his location to U.S. 301 south of Starke.

Bradford Deputy Savannah Duncan contacted the defendant as he was walking along the highway and called EMS to transport him to a hospital. Duncan wrote in the arrest report that Miller was carrying an unopened can of Budweiser when she contacted him. A crime scene technician found empty Budweiser cans in the abandoned building that Miller broke into, in addition to a broken window, blood and shoe prints that matched the defendant's footwear.

Defendant calls police while watching investigation

Travis Lee Nelson, 49, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on May 28 for battery.

According to an arrest report, police responded to the Bradford Campground on North Temple Avenue where the victim told police she and the defendant had been drinking throughout the night and began to argue. She claimed Nelson then struck her in the left eye, causing it to swell and close.

While emergency medical services was treating the victim, Nelson called dispatch and asked to speak to an officer.

"While speaking with Travis on the phone," wrote arresting officer David Clancy, "I asked where his location was and Travis said (next door) at the Bradford County Health Department. Travis was watching myself and (the victim) on scene."

Clancy added that he drove to the health department where the defendant told him he and the victim frequently argue when they drink. However, he denied striking the woman.

Danielle Perez, 35, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 29 for a probation violation.

Colby G. Rhoden, 20, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for an out-of-county warrant.

Street argument leads to arrest

Anthony Lamar Beard Tyson, 30, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on June 2 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told police Tyson punched him in the left eye during an argument over which of the two men was stronger.

The incident occurred at the corner of Clark and Brownlee streets.

Officer Moses C. Bellamy located the defendant at a nearby Krystal's. The defendant first told officers he did not know the victim, but later admitted the two were friends.

Moses wrote that the victim's eye was discolored and appeared to be swollen. However, the victim refused EMS treatment and would not allow photos of his injury.

Taro Demon Ward, 22, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 31 for an out-of-county warrant.

William James Anthony Washington, 29, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 29 for carrying

a concealed weapon without a permit, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Union

Jerry Ray Bennefield, 46, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on June 2 for failure to appear.

Wayne Dalton Elixson, 21, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 28 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and resisting an officer.

Alissa Serenity Griffis, 29, of Live Oak was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Man attacks girlfriend, sister

Devon Alexander Smith Sr., 22, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 29 for aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery and destroying evidence.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim got into an argument over the father of the victim's children visiting for Memorial Day. The victim told deputies the defendant struck her in the face with a closed fist. She added that Smith hit her in the head with a pot and chased her with a knife until the victim's sister tripped the defendant.

Smith then knocked the sister into a wall, then onto the floor where he kicked her.

The defendant also took phones away from the sisters and fled into the woods when law enforcement arrived on scene.

Westley Thomas Watts, 43, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on May 30 for possession of a weapon by a felon or delinquent.

Sandra Irene Watts, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on June 2 for battery.

Joshua James Wyche, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for disorderly intoxication.

Clay

Charles Christopher Chamberlain, 49, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 2 for retail petit theft.

Kevin Matthew Craft, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 30 for aggravated battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant struck the victim in the head with a firearm during a family argument.

Allen Tereal Grimes, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on May 29 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, resisting arrest, a probation violation, and giving a false name or identification to a law enforcement officer.

Summer Michelle Shepherd, 36, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 1 for battery.

According to an arrest report, as the victim was exiting the Madness at McGees bar on State Road 21 north of Keystone Heights, the defendant walked over to the victim from the defendant's car, tackled the victim to the ground, got on top of her and struck her multiple times in the face.

Water/sewer lines, broadband study possible ARPA expenditures

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County has around \$5 million in uncommitted funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, and the best use of that funding was discussed during the commission's most recent budget workshop.

Rather than trying to check off deferred maintenance projects or filling budgetary gaps, Chairman Chris Dougherty is championing the use of those funds to support economic development. Chief among those ideas is working with the city of Starke to extend water and sewer infrastructure to the bypass exits or other areas businesses could develop.

"Not in the time that I've been in office, or any previous time, have I seen a surplus of money to be able to do something like this and create opportunities," Dougherty said.

He said further use of those funds should be frozen until there are projects ready to help expand the county's tax base, which is important to pay for government services while being able to lower the overall tax rate.

"If we start giving out a half million here, half million there, three quarters of a million here, in the end, we've certainly made a lot of people feel good, but we haven't done anything to advance as a county."

The board recently granted \$500,000 of ARPA funding to help restore and improve the RJE gymnasium so it can continue serving as a community center.

Another economic development initiative is the expansion of high-speed internet to serve both businesses and

residents. Commissioner Diane Andrews said Alachua County has hired a consultant to help it take advantage of state and federal funding to bridge the digital divide. The consultant could do the same for Bradford, compiling the county's needs and reaching out for grant opportunities. The county could even buy fiber to subsidize the cost of adding new infrastructure.

Attorney Will Sexton said the Department of Economic Opportunity is asking counties for information to prepare a report that will make Florida competitive in seeking billions of federal dollars for such a project. But he said he was concerned Bradford didn't have anyone who could tell the state which areas are underserved, supply connectivity rates, etc.

Commissioner Carolyn Spooner brought up the issue of road repair and its role in public safety. Dougherty said using the money for development would help generate revenue to take on those projects in the future.

Dougherty said consultants working for the city of Starke and Bradford County will be working together to create a master plan for infrastructure expansion.

"It's the only way this county is going to grow," Commissioner Kenny Thompson said. "We have to have infrastructure out there."

The least costly alternative extends water and sewer to the southern end of the bypass. At around \$2 million, that could leave the board with funds for other projects. At more than \$10 million, taking the infrastructure north requires more complex improvements to the city's system.

The city is interested selling

land at the southern end of the bypass for development, but the Florida Department of Transportation would have to be convinced to allow another intersection to the bypass, Sexton said.

FDOT has already discussed revisiting the design and eliminating the intersections in favor of a flyover design that would keep traffic moving, according to Dougherty. On State Roads 16 and 100, however, there are already interchanges that don't require modification.

Thompson said he has spoken to investors about an 800-job distribution center that could be located off Griffis Loop, and there was some consensus among commissioners about serving businesses who are already eager to locate here rather than expanding infrastructure and waiting for someone to show interest.

Another approach is to build infrastructure for new housing construction. One-hundred new homes would generate more tax revenue than a new business, and a growth in population could translate to new commercial development.

Sexton said they go hand in hand, because the employees of a distribution center would need housing, and people looking to relocate to the area would need jobs.

Spooner suggested they solicit ideas from the community, and Dougherty agreed. The commission set a July 21 town hall for new ideas to generate revenue with the ARPA funds. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the commission boardroom.

Bradford ends sales tax talk, searching for new ideas

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford Clerk of Courts Denny Thompson told commissioners May 31 that a previously discussed 1% sales surtax would result in no new revenue for the county.

Saying the finance office and legal office had received strong guidance against implementing the new tax, Thompson told the board it would actually be revenue neutral.

Thompson originally brought the tax to the board as a way of generating dedicated funding for fire rescue services while lowering the tax burden on property owners to pay for those services.

While the tax would do that, it would also tie commissioners' hands and create some administrative nightmares for the property appraiser's and clerk's

offices.

To collect an extra 1% on sales — generating an estimated \$2.6 million — the commission would have to roll back property taxes by the same amount. It now appears that the tax rate would be frozen, so the board could not raise revenue for other needs.

In addition, if the county collected more sales tax than anticipated, it would be required to issue rebates to taxpayers.

Chairman Chris Dougherty said that is why other counties have opted out. Thompson said Union County is pulling the referendum from its election ballot, and Liberty County, the only county to ever approve the tax, is repealing it.

Commissioner Danny Riddick made a case for the tax, saying it would at least lower property taxes from 10 mills to around 8. The county cannot go higher than 10 mills anyway, he said.

Crack down on noisy vehicles

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — That thump, thump, thump may be music to your ears, but if your playing it too loudly from your car, Starke Police Department will soon be issuing citations.

Police Chief Jeff Johnson told

the commission Tuesday night that with the governor's support, police across the state will be able to crack down on loud music from vehicles disturbing the peace.

While many communities have noise ordinances, this statute trades permissive time periods for 24-hour enforcement.

The law prohibits plainly audible music 25 feet or further from a vehicle.

It also prohibits loud music in

areas adjoining churches, schools and hospitals.

Violation of the law is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation.

Johnson said citations won't begin immediately. Officers will first begin with warnings. Commissioners, however, don't want the grace period to last too long, since they are the ones hearing residents' complaints.

RETIRE

Continued from page 1

On Parrish's recommendation, the commission promoted Deputy Director Ben Carter to lead Bradford County Fire Rescue, now under the title of chief instead of director. Parrish said he's been looking within the agency for his replacement since entering the DROP program.

"I will tell you that there is no one in Bradford County that's more qualified than he is to lead this organization. There's no one in this county that the men and women that work there will follow more than they'll him follow him. There's nobody within this county that has his credentials, that's more invested in Bradford County than he is," Parrish said.

To maintain continuity and stability, Parrish said the board should act as soon as possible, and it did. After some discussion of whether it should be an interim appointment, commissioners hired Carter as chief.

Carter said he was honored by

the decision.

A former volunteer firefighter, Carter began working for the county in 2007.

"Quite honestly, I never wanted to leave this this department, this community. I've had opportunities to go other places. But I love this this community," he said.

Another reason he never left was the leadership displayed by Parrish and the late Dr. Peter Ganas.

"It's been an honor to be mentored and trained by those two," he said. "I look forward to continuing the legacy."

A need for ambulances

Parrish's final report to the board included information on the state of the ambulance fleet, which includes two that could soon be taken off the road for significant repairs.

The county was able to purchase its most recent ambulance with CARES pandemic relief funding. Because of budget constraints, fire rescue hasn't been able to

follow the capital improvement plan to purchase or remount an ambulance each year.

Currently there are four in the fleet and two that can be used as backup if one of those four are pulled for maintenance. Of those four, Parrish said three were pushing 200,000 miles and the newest had run nearly 100,000 miles. This past month, he said, there were two ambulance breakdowns with patients on board.

The department has already pulled one ambulance off the road to cut the budget. Parrish said there was no money the department's budget to purchase a new unit.

Further complicating matters is the 18- to 24-month wait time to get a unit.

Parrish recommended two remounts at \$160,000 each versus a new unit for \$275,000.

The purchase could be made from American Recovery Plan Act funds, but finance will look for other areas in the budget to pull that funding. Discussion will be brought back to the board.



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Purple Day: appreciation for what makes each person unique

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Appreciate the individual. Arc of Bradford County's purpose is to provide services and support to those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, but it also helps others understand that a disability doesn't take away what makes us all human. We all have things we're good at. We all have likes that aren't necessarily the same as other people.

Every first Friday of June is a chance for the Arc staff to celebrate those traits that make their consumers (those who receive Arc services and support) who they are. The event, called Purple Day, recognizes how consumers "were individually and uniquely made, appreciating them for who they are," said Executive Director Sherry Ruzzkowski.

Purple is the chosen color as it represents royalty. Consumers do indeed receive the royal treatment on Purple Day — a day devoted to fun and games. This year, an inflatable water slide was available as opposed to the usual dunk tank, while a lunch of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs was served, followed by watermelon and cookies for dessert.

The highlight of the day, though, was the presentation of certificates, recognizing what makes each consumer unique. Robbie Pickering, for example, received a certificate for being the Biggest Marvel Fan, while Jimmy Archer received one for being Most Shy.

Kim Lee and Allen Sullivan each received a Newest Apartment Renter certificate, helping them celebrate the big step they're about to take together.



Chris Miller (right) receives a certificate from Arc staff member AyJay Pernell for being the Biggest Gigolo. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

If you're an Arc outsider, some of the certificates may seem a little strange. Chris Miller, for example, received one for being the Biggest Gigolo. It may be an inside joke among Arc staff and consumers, but if you were there during its presentation, you would've smiled and laughed just like the consumers because their good humor is indeed infectious.

In fact, if you'd like to learn more about Arc, you're encouraged to drop by. It's located at 1351 S. Water St.

The consumers love visitors, and you'll get the chance to see that they're unique, but also just like the rest of us.



LEFT: Richard Miller displays his Biggest Meat Lover certificate with Arc staff member Melinda Godwin. BELOW: Kim Lee and Allen Sullivan were awarded certificates celebrating the fact they'll be renting an apartment.



Marissa Allen (left) and Eric Miller take part in one of the favorite activities on Purple Day: dancing.



Jimmy Archer received a certificate for being Most Shy, but he's not camera shy.



Cindy Dipaolo is all smiles on Purple Day.

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Norman Dixon plays a game in which he has to find a balloon to pop while blindfolded.



Purple Day is about friendship as well, as demonstrated by Robbie Pickering (left) and Jessica Genosa.



Eric Miller enjoys the perfect way to beat the June heat.



Richard Miller (left) gets squirted by Arc staff member Melinda Godwin.



ABOVE LEFT: Andy Martinez enjoys a game of catch. ABOVE CENTER: James Spoon takes the time to read from his book of Bible promises. ABOVE RIGHT: Chris Ballance looks for someone to squirt with water. LEFT: Josh Adkins and Stacie Hallowell enjoy visiting with each other before lunch was served.

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Caleb Moncrief named Male Scholar Athlete of the Year

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Recent Keystone Heights High School graduate Caleb Moncrief was announced as the Ronald N. Davis Male Scholar of the Athlete of the Year by the Florida High School Athletic Association, which presented the members of the Florida Dairy Farmers Academic All-State Team on June 6.

Moncrief, the son of Helen Moncrief, graduated as valedictorian with a 4.0 grade-point average. He served as student-government president his freshman through senior years, was a member of National Honor Society, Key Club and Future Business Leaders of America, and compiled more than 500 community service hours.

Hannah Squier of Hobe Sound's Pine School was named the Female Scholar Athlete of the Year.

"The hardworking men and women of Florida's dairy

industry are honored to recognize the significant accomplishments of Caleb and Hannah," Florida Dairy Farmers CEO Michele Cooper said. "They've demonstrated a work ethic and drive that is second to none, and we're proud to help them take the next step toward their amazing futures."

Moncrief was one of 24 student-athletes named to the Academic All-State Team. Each member received a \$1,700 scholarship and a commemorative medallion.

As a Scholar Athlete of the Year, Moncrief received an additional \$4,600 in scholarship monies as well as a trophy.

To be eligible for selection to the Academic All-State Team, a student-athlete must be a graduating senior, have a cumulative unweighted GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and have earned a varsity letter in at least two different sports during each of his or her junior and senior years. Members were selected

based on academic record, athletic participation, non-athletic activities, community service and an essay.

In a Telegraph-Times-Monitor story that was published April 21, 2022, Moncrief said, "Whenever I wrote the initial paragraph of the essay, I didn't really know if I was going to get it. When they told me, it was really cool. I was so happy."

Moncrief, who was named to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program during his senior year as well, was one of 51 male nominees for the Academic All-State Team.

The recent graduate, who took dual-enrollment courses through



Caleb Moncrief
Photo by Colby Grant

Santa Fe College, was accepted into Harvard University, though his plans are to attend the University of Florida and

eventually attend its College of Medicine.

It was quite a senior year athletically for Moncrief as well. He was a tight end/lineman on the football team, which had its best season in school history. The Indians went 10-2 and won the program's first-ever playoff game.

Moncrief was a member of the weightlifting team that won its second straight state championship in the traditional event (bench press and clean and jerk) as well as Class 1A's inaugural snatch championship. He was the runner-up in the 238-pound class in the traditional event and placed third in the

238-pound class snatch event.

Prior to state, Moncrief won the traditional and snatch championships in his weight class at both the district and regional levels.

Moncrief also participated in track and field, winning district championships in both the discus and the shot put. He automatically qualified for the state finals in the discus by winning the event at the regional level, while also earning an at-large state berth in the shot put with a fifth-place finish at regionals.

At state, Moncrief earned a medal in the discus with a seventh-place finish. He finished 12th in the shot put.

Applications being accepted for pine beetle assistance

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program for non-industrial, private-forest landowners through July 1. The program is limited to Bradford, Clay, Union and 41 other northern Florida counties — the known range of the southern pine beetle.

The southern pine beetle is one of the most economically devastating forest pests in the southeastern United States, with periodic outbreaks destroying thousands of acres of pine timber. The last major outbreak in Florida (1999-2002) caused an

estimated \$59 million in timber losses on 24,000-plus acres.

"Pine forests are one of the most vital natural resources for Florida's ecosystem — from clean air and water to sequestering carbon and providing home goods and other wood products," Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried said. "Sixty-five percent of Florida forests are privately owned, so supporting our landowners is critical to not only reducing the risk of forest-pest outbreaks, but protecting livelihoods and protecting a natural resource that protects and provides for us every day."

The Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program, supported through a grant by the U.S. Forest Service, provides incentive payments for landowners who have overstocked pine stands and need to conduct a first thinning. In addition, it offers

partial cost reimbursement for activities that can mitigate beetle activity, such as prescribed burning, mechanical underbrush treatments and the planting of longleaf or slash pine rather than loblolly pine, the beetle's preferred species. All qualifying applications received during the submission period will be evaluated and ranked for approval.

The Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program promotes forest-management practices that reduce the risk and impacts of infestations. Since it was first offered in 2005, the program has been implemented on more than 205,000 acres and helped thousands of landowners.

To obtain an application or to learn more about the Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program, visit FDACS.gov/SPBPrevention.

Freshwater fishing is license-free June 11-12

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission invites residents to take advantage of a license-free freshwater-fishing weekend on Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12.

License-free fishing days provide a fun opportunity for new anglers to try fishing for the first time or for experienced anglers to introduce a friend or family member to a new hobby.

License requirements are waived for all recreational anglers this weekend, though other rules, including bag and size limits will still apply.

For more information on fishing in Florida, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing.



LOCAL GIRL WINS PLATINUM PLUS IN DANCE COMPETITION

Trinity Brown won multiple awards at the Platinum National Dance Competition in Daytona Beach Florida.

She received 1st place in Jazz Category, 1st overall, and the only Platinum Plus out of 26 girls. She also earned the highest scoring routine for the entire competition weekend.

Trinity dances with the Starke Dance Academy.

Trinity Brown

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Saying goodbye to a long, unplanned career

Sherry Ruskowski will retire from Arc of Bradford in October

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Retirement for Sherry Ruskowski, as it is for so many, will be a chance to spend more time with family.

However, Ruskowski will also be leaving family behind when she retires as the executive director of Arc of Bradford County, which provides services and programs to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"These guys are my family," Ruskowski said of the clients who benefit from Arc services. "They really are my family. When they have troubles, they come to me."

Ruskowski, whose last day is Oct. 25, said she has as many photos on her phone of Arc clients as she does biological family.

Speaking of her phone, Ruskowski's number is known by all the consumers. She told her husband, Mike, that she's going to have to change it.

They call me. They text me," Ruskowski said. "Mike and I were watching TV the other night. I got a text. It was from

one of the clients in a group home telling me, 'Good night. I love you. I just wanted you to know how much I love you.'"

Ruskowski has been the executive director at the Arc of Bradford since 2005. She worked there previously in another capacity from 1986 to 1989 before leaving to take a job at Arc of Putnam County, where she worked for 16 years before returning to Bradford.

It adds up to a lot of years in a career field Ruskowski never envisioned herself working in.

Finding a purpose

It seems Ruskowski had a friend who knew her better than she knew herself. That's what led to Ruskowski even working in a career devoted to the disabled.

"This is not a job I went looking for," she said.

Ruskowski, who lived in Indiana before moving to Florida, had a friend there who had a child with Down syndrome. While the child was involved in an early infant stimulation program, the mother worked as a volunteer in a day program devoted to those with disabilities. She called Ruskowski and said she knew of a job that she would be perfect for and that she had to apply for it.

Ruskowski had no background in working with the disabled. She admitted she didn't think she was as perfect for the job as her friend thought.

See RETIRE, page 13



Bradford High School Class of 1950 reunites

Eight members of Bradford High School's Class of 1950 attended its 72nd reunion on May 21 at Cedar River. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Dolores McKnight Koretz, Jean Parker Misner, Peggy Tilley Godwin, (back, l-r) Manez Dodd Priest, Bob Stefanelli, Ray Griffis, Paul Carter and Grace Dickinson Malone.



Arc of Bradford Executive Director Sherry Ruskowski (left) is pictured with Eddie Brown at the organization's annual Purple Day on June 3. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

Visit Arc of Bradford — you might be surprised

Editor's note: The following is an edited version of a story that was originally published March 29, 2018.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

You've probably seen the building on S.R. 100 and may even know it is the Arc of Bradford County, but do you really know what occurs there?

Sherry Ruskowski, the executive director, believes too many people don't fully understand what the Arc is. She wants to change that and extends an invitation to anyone who wants to drop by and learn more.

"We want to bring people in hours and let them know what occurs here in this building on 100," she said.

Ruskowski said the Arc's mission is to help people with disabilities "plan for their dreams and future direction." In other words, "We're here to help people be all they can be."

One way the Arc does that is to provide jobs for the people it serves — its consumers.

Consumers enjoy the chance to work

Under the title of Sunshine Industries, a section of the facility consists of bustling, noisy activity as more than 10 consumers operate nail guns and

a variety of saws in constructing wooden pallets, picnic tables and survey stakes. The Arc purchases the wood and sells the finished products to customers in Bradford, Alachua and St. Johns counties as well as in Jacksonville.

"We have plenty of orders coming in," Ruskowski said. "We've tried to expand our customer base and will continue to do so."

Ruskowski said Sunshine Industries disproves what she's sure is a common misconception — that people served by the Arc can't do such work. She'll tell anybody — and, of course, welcome them to visit and see for themselves — about the strenuous work the consumers do in the woodshop all day long.

"All of the products are manufactured by our program participants, people with disabilities," Ruskowski said.

What's to be admired more than the physical labor they're performing is their attitude toward work. Ruskowski said the consumers want to do it and look forward to it. More importantly, they see it as their responsibility.

"Do some of them have bad days? Yeah, they do, just like the rest of us," Ruskowski said, "but for the most part, you will see smiling, happy faces and very positive attitudes about their work."

Staff member Tony Sellars, who helps supervise the woodshop, said the consumers love coming to work because they love making money, but he also believes they love just being there.

"Basically, I think they enjoy the atmosphere of each other and all of us," Sellars said.

That seems to sum up consumer Robbie Pickering's feelings. When asked what he likes most about working in the woodshop, he said, "Making friends and money." He also described his fellow consumers and Arc staff members as another family.

If he wasn't working in the woodshop, Pickering said he'd just be "bored at home." He hopes the experience helps prepare him to get a job outside of the Arc. He'd like to work at Walmart.

Ruskowski said the Arc can help consumers who are able to do so be able to integrate into a job outside of the Arc.

"That's part of what we're here to do, to make sure they understand the importance of good work habits and good work skills," Ruskowski said.

Meaningful activity, quality of life

Not all Arc consumers choose

See ARC, page 12

Starke, local businesses partner to host Flag Day event

The city of Starke, Funtastic Fire Brigade and Bryan's Ace Hardware are hosting a community flag-retirement program on Flag Day (Tuesday, June 14) from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Charles J. Schaefer Sr. Veterans Memorial Park, located on Call Street in downtown Starke.

Representatives from American Legion Post 65, Bradford High School JROTC battalion and Boy Scouts Troop 70 will receive worn and tattered flags to be retired. The first 50 people who bring a flag will receive a brand-new replacement, compliments of Bryan's Ace Hardware.

"This is a great program by the city to support our community and patriotism," said Michael Heeder, owner of Funtastic Fire Brigade. "It's a great example

to our youth of the importance of caring for and respecting our flag, which represents honoring and respecting our nation."

According to the American Legion, the Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags is outlined in Resolution No. 440, passed by the 19th National Convention of The American Legion in New York, Sept. 20-23, 1937. According to the U.S. Flag Code, June 14 is the most appropriate day on which to annually hold this ceremony.

For more information about the Starke program, please contact Heeder at heedermg@gmail.com or 904-290-1010.

Keystone's Freedom 5K to be held July 2

Keystone Heights' third annual Freedom 5K, presented by the Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund, will take place on Saturday, July 2, at 8 a.m. The run will start and finish at city hall, located at 555 Lawrence

Blvd. Prizes will be awarded as well as medals for top finishers.

Registration forms are available at Firepower Coffee and Genesis Fitness in Keystone 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.

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 students at Keystone Heights High School with scholarships for graduating seniors. In addition, it also advocates and promotes anti-bullying education for all students in Keystone and Clay County.

Please visit jordancooperscholarship.org for more information and to learn more about this organization.




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Obituaries

Eddie John Allen

Eddie John Allen, 28 of St. Petersburg passed away on Thursday, May 20, 2022 at his residence. He was born in Gainesville and was a resident of Bradford County before moving to St. Petersburg. He attended the local schools of Bradford County and was of the Christian faith. He was employed with the Floral Company of St. Petersburg.

He leaves to cherish his memories his father, Eddie John Allen Jr.; a host of sisters and brothers; his grandfather, Calvin (Junior) Whitfield Jr.; great-grandmother, Bobbie Jean Martin Franklin; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, cousins and sorrowing friends.

Memorial services will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, in the Oddfellow Cemetery in Starke with Rev. Alvin Green, eulogist, conducting the services under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St. Starke, 904-964-7905. Family and friends will form at the home of Mrs. Bobbie Jean Martin Franklin at 12 p.m. for the cortege. The repast will be held immediately following the services at the Mt. Moriah Community Church, located at 803 N. Oak St., Starke, directly across from Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke.

PAID OBITUARY

Ruthie Barber

Ruthie Delores Barber gained her wings and went home to be with our Lord on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. She was born on Jan. 24, 1949 to Ruthie Mae and Charles Edward Ross. She earned a master's degree in Biblical studies and a Ph.D. in theology. She began her pastoral career in California and ended it in Florida. She was a faithful and devoted servant to the Lord, ministering for many years. She was happily married to Earl Barber for the past 24 years. She enjoyed traveling, spending time with her husband and family, and spreading the gospel. She was a strong and steadfast prayer warrior and was loved by all who were blessed to know her.

She is survived by her daughter, Tracee McCreary and son-in-law, Randall McCreary; three sons, Shaun, Mark, and Barry Grant; three stepchildren, Keith (Rolonda) Barber, Carmen Barber-Jamison, Dominic Barber; 15 siblings; and a host of grandchildren; great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and more.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, June 17, at 11 a.m. at Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church, 2496 Lake St., Lawtey.

PAID OBITUARY



Mary Lou Black

STARKE Mary Lou "Edwards" Black, 79, of Starke passed away on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at Riverwood Health and Rehab Center in Starke. She was born on Sept. 3, 1942, in Gainesville to the late Merrill and Louree "Howard" Edwards. She was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She enjoyed spending time with her family, collecting Elvis Presley memorabilia, reading, baking, recipe books, western movies, and selling Avon. She was preceded in death by her parents, Merrill and Louree "Howard" Edwards; and brothers, Jerome Edwards and Richard Edwards.

Survivors include her children, Christine (Dale) Bedford of Starke, David Black of Starke, Karen (Daniel) Carver of Hampton, and Wallace (Melissa) Black of Hampton; brother, Stephen Edwards of Starke; grandchildren, Cazz, Skye, Blaze, Blake, Ashley, Samantha, Maverick, Race and Ryder; seven step-grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1305 Raiford Road, Starke on Wednesday, June 8, at 11 a.m.. A visitation will precede the service beginning at 10 a.m. Burial will take place at Rock Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Bishop Stephen Barber officiating.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Ellen Harvey

STARKE Ellen Carolyn Harvey, 77, of Starke passed away at her home Saturday, June 4, 2022. She was born Oct. 5, 1944, in Jacksonville, to Millard and Doris (Griffis) Strickland. She owned and operated the Maxville Countyline Bar before retiring and enjoyed being with her family and friends. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her niece, Doris I. Manning; and siblings, Edward Buddy Clark, Joe Morris, and Juanita Clark.

She leaves behind nieces and nephews, Ted E. Manning, Randall E. Manning, Carol S. Parrish, Priscilla Manning and Alan Manning; along with siblings, Carl "Wayne" Morris, Debra Branch, and Linda McCormick.

The family will receive friends in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel, Thursday, June 9, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. The family will have a graveside service at a later date. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Supporters of Sheltered Animals, Inc., 1228 Blanding St., Starke, FL 32091.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Larry Spillman

Larry (Bub) Edward Spillman passed on to be with the Lord on Tuesday, 17 May 2022. He was 85 years old. Larry was born in Hitchens, Kentucky on 9 November 1936 to Alonzo and Truby Stanley Spillman. Larry was a U.S. Army retiree and veteran of the Korean and the Vietnam conflicts. Larry retired as a Sergeant First Class in 1972. He was a police officer in Grayson and Olive Hill Kentucky, a deputy sheriff for Carter County Kentucky, and was inducted into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels on 31 May 1984 by Gov. Martha Layne Collins. Larry was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and a founding sponsor of the National Museum of the United States Army. Larry was preceded in death by his wife, Celia Katherine (Doverspike) Spillman, his eldest son, Michael R. Spillman, his father and mother and his three brothers: Lloyd, Gary and Barry Spillman. He leaves behind four children: Cheryl Craig of Grayson, KY; Gayle May of Middleburg, FL; Katherine Spillman of Keystone Heights, FL; and Stephen Spillman of Middleburg, FL. Surviving grandchildren include, Robert Michael Adkins, James Michael Spillman, Soner (Stephanie) Acar, Hakim Acar; Zachary (Tiffany) Craig, Caleb (Alexis) Craig; C Sean May; Craig Spillman, James Spillman, Ben Ackman, Sarah Ackman, Hannah Ackman. Great Grandchildren include: Caroline Craig, Everly Craig, Laney Craig, Adalyn Craig, Riley Craig, Lucas Xavier Barfield, Anastasia Raye Spillman, Zandria Ackman, and Brantley Permenter. Larry and Celia were married on June 9th, 1958. They were married for 63 years until Celia passed away on 29 March 2022. He was a kind and loving husband as well as a great father and grandfather. Prior to his health declining, he enjoyed wood working and traveling. Aside from his wife and family, Larry was most proud of being a Soldier, a Veteran and his service and retiring from the military. He will be sorely missed by all who loved and knew him. He lived life to its fullest and would tell you that he never was bored at any time while living it. This isn't goodbye though, Larry Spillman was a born again Christian and he, his family, and his friends will be reunited one day in the Kingdom of Heaven. In lieu of flowers, it is requested that donations be made to a national or local veterans organization or, the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. 352-473-3176 www.jonesgallagherfh.com



PAID OBITUARY

ARC

Continued from page 11

to work. Some aren't capable of working. That doesn't mean they spend their days doing nothing.

"We have a lot of seniors in our program that don't want to work, and that's OK," Ruskowski said.

"That doesn't mean they have to sit at home without something to do."

Consumers can take part in such activities as arts and crafts or play games and puzzles as a means of keeping them engaged.

Ruskowski said Arc organizations have helped improve consumers' quality of life, whether it's giving them work to do or just having them participate in activities. When people with certain disabilities were confined to institutions, they'd live to be about 35, Ruskowski said.

Today, the Arc of Bradford is serving consumers who are in their 70s and 80s and active and vibrant, Ruskowski said.

Aside from offering consumers a place to go to for work and activities, the Arc of Bradford also operates three group homes that provide around-the-clock care every day of the year. Each home has no more than six people.

"We're there to take care of their daily living needs and to make sure they're healthy and that they're well cared for," Ruskowski said.

The Arc provides transportation for all of its consumers, whether it's taking them to and from the main building for work or activities or meeting the medical needs for group home residents.

"That component — transportation — is vital to what we do here," Ruskowski said. "There are a few people here who do drive themselves — they drive themselves to work — but that

Emilie Wahl

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Emilie Cooper Wahl, 96, of Keystone Heights passed away Thursday, June 2, 2022, at Shands Hospital in Gainesville. She was born Nov. 13, 1925, in Trenton, New Jersey to Roy and Mary (Wilson) Cooper. She had been a longtime resident of Keystone Heights and a homemaker. She was a parishioner of St. William Catholic Church where she was active with the Woman's Guild. She was a member of D.A.R., Red Hats Society, Keystone Heights and Melrose Woman's Club, the Smokey Mountain Historical Society, and was a proud Republican. She enjoyed traveling and, especially, visiting with family and friends. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, William L. Wahl Jr., and their daughter, Ruth Mary Gardner.

She leaves behind her son William "Bill" (Brenda) Wahl III of Keystone Heights; and was lovingly called "Grandma" and "Great Grandma" by three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Her viewing will be Thursday, June 9, from 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside services will begin at 11 a.m. with Father Mike Williams presiding. Interment will be at the Keystone Heights Cemetery with a reception following at St. William Catholic Church.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Landon Wilkerson

Landon Lane Wilkerson, 13, of Melbourne, died on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at UF Health Shands Children Hospital. He was born in Gainesville on June 11, 2008.

He is survived by his parents Gary (Jennifer) Wilkerson of Lake Butler, and Sarah (Donny) Galorneau of Melbourne; brother, Christopher Taylor of St. Augustine; sisters, Savana and Scarlett Wilkerson, both of Melbourne; stepsister, Summer Galorneau of Melbourne; paternal grandfather, David Wilkerson of Lawtey; and stepgrandparents, Don (Lori) Galorneau of Melbourne

A graveside Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, June 7, Highland Baptist Church Cemetery in Lawtey, with Chaplain Jim Cox officiating.

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



David Wilkinson

David Noah Wilkinson, 64, of Clay Hill passed away on Saturday, June 4, 2022, at the Haven Hospice Care Center in Orange Park. He and his twin brother, Alan, were born on April 23, 1958, in Jacksonville to John "JD" and Millie (Starling) Wilkinson. He spent his whole life living in Clay Hill and working in Clay County. He graduated from Orange Park High and immediately went to work on the family farm raising chickens commercially, as well as helping to manage the family's cattle business. He was dedicated to his family and especially the children in his life. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, Kole and Kylan Wilkinson, as well as his many nieces and nephews who loved their "Uncle David." He was a private person who had a generous and caring heart to all he loved. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed spending time with his brother, Alan, taking care of the family farm and riding trails on his UTV, and fishing. He worked for the Clay County Road Department for 20 years and was of the Baptist faith. He was truly a devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend who loved his family with all his heart. He was preceded in death by his mother, Millie Wilkinson; and infant sister, Elizabeth.

He is survived by his father, JD Wilkinson of Clay Hill; his loving wife of 16 years, Donna Fay Wilkinson; son, Kyle Wilkinson; brothers, Alan (Cindy) Wilkinson of Clay Hill, and Glen (Laurie) Wilkinson of Brooks, Georgia; grandchildren, Kole and Kylan Wilkinson, and their mother Mandy Taylor of Lawtey; along with his many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation with the family will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, June 10, at Blackburn-Curry Funeral Chapel. He will be laid to rest in Long Branch Cemetery at a private family graveside service.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Blackburn-Curry Funeral & Cremation, 380 N. Lowder St. Macclenny, 32063. 904-259-2806. Please share your condolences with the family online at www.blackburncurryfh.com.



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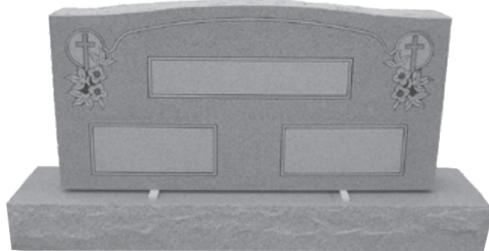
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RETIRE

Continued from page 11

"I reluctantly went and made an application because I cared that much about my friend," Ruzzkowski said.

Ruzzkowski hoped she wouldn't receive a call after submitting her application, but she did. She got the job.

The first few weeks were shaky, but after that, Ruzzkowski discovered that she indeed was working in a job she was good at.

"I settled in. I got to know the people I was working with," she said. "It made all the difference in the world."

God's timing

Ruzzkowski enjoyed working at Arc of Bradford County during her first stint there. She was first a workshop supervisor before being promoted to program director.

Regarding her time as workshop supervisor, Ruzzkowski said, "I remember specifically Winkler Products out of Jacksonville. They make the plastic spoons and forks and knives. We would get them in bulk. Then we would put them in boxes for them and ship them back to them. That was one of the big jobs we had."

Arc of Bradford is located at 1351 S. Water St., but when Ruzzkowski first started working there, it was located on S.R. 16. In an interview that was published in the Nov. 9, 2006, issue of the Telegraph-Times-Monitor, she said, "The building on 16 was very cold. There was wind blowing through the doors and just one large space heater

that blew all over the shop. Unless you were standing right in front of it, you were usually cold. We really had to bundle up to work there."

In October 1989, Ruzzkowski left to take a job as a residential director at Arc of Putnam County. She was a supervisor of group homes and later became a supervisor of two adult day-training programs.

Arc of Bradford was looking for a new executive director during Ruzzkowski's first year in Putnam County. Families she knew called her and asked her to apply for the position.

"I really wanted to do that," Ruzzkowski said. "That had always been in my heart."

She received an application and filled it out.

"As I was putting it in the envelope to mail it back to them, the Lord told me it wasn't the right time," Ruzzkowski said, adding, "I was upset, but I knew very strongly that He didn't want me to come here then."

Remaining in Putnam proved to be a benefit, as Ruzzkowski described it as an extended training period that prepared her for her eventual return to Arc of Bradford as executive director.

"I would learn a lot of what I needed to know to be able to come (to Starke) and run this place," she said. "To me, it was all about God's timing."

When Ruzzkowski heard that Arc of Bradford Executive John Conneeley was retiring, the timing was right. She interviewed for his position and was hired.

She apparently made an impression on Conneeley when she came on board.

"When I came down here, John was going to stay on for another three years," Ruzzkowski said,

"but he decided that after I was here the first year, he needed to go ahead and retire."

Helping others accomplish goals

Ruzzkowski has a lot of fond memories she can look back on during her time at the Arc organizations in both Bradford and Putnam counties. Most of them involved helping Arc clients to get what they wanted in life and to be what they wanted to be.

She remembers helping one client buy his own house, while two clients are getting ready to move into their own apartment and live independently.

"Those are milestones," Ruzzkowski said. "When I first started in this business, that was not even a consideration. They had to be taken care of. They had to live in a home where somebody would be looking after them all the time. It was unheard of to think somebody could do that."

"In Palatka, we grew the supported living program. I think by the time I left, we had 32 people living in either a rented apartment or owning their own homes."

Really, if a person is able to live independently and buy or rent a home, then why not? For Ruzzkowski, working with those who are disabled has always been about focusing on what they can accomplish, not on what they can't do. That was one of the reasons she got such joy when clients — especially those in the Kiwanis Club of Starke-sponsored Aktion Club — participated in community service endeavors, such as

working at the Bradford Food Pantry or holding fundraisers to assist needy families during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"It allowed everyone in our community to see it's not about a disability," Ruzzkowski said. "It's about what they can do. They are able to function and contribute to our society."

"If you really want to get honest about it, we're all flawed somehow or someday, whether we admit it or not, so why is it we focus on people specifically who have disabilities? These guys have a lot of heart, they want to help and they enjoy being a part of their community."

If Ruzzkowski and the staff at the Arc of Bradford needed any reminding that their clients are able to do a lot, they got it during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic when the governor mandated that Arc shut down as a facility that provided non-essential services. Sunshine Industries is an on-site woodshop where some of the clients work and earn money, manufacturing products such as pallets and survey stakes. With the clients unable to work there because of the closure, Ruzzkowski and her staff worked in the woodshop to fill customers' orders.

"It's very hard work," Ruzzkowski said.

Yet anytime Ruzzkowski walks into the woodshop, she's greeted by nothing but smiles. The clients enjoy the work. They want to work. That's why the closure during the pandemic was so hard on them. Ruzzkowski said clients called every day, asking if they could come in. They didn't understand why they weren't being allowed to do their job.

"Everybody wanted to come

to work," Ruzzkowski said, adding, "We have a very unique workforce here."

Over the years, the Arc has faced state budget cuts, doing their best to meet the same requirements, but having less money to do so. Ruzzkowski said she's grateful to the support of the Bradford County Commission, Rep. Bobby Payne, Sen. Jennifer Bradley, former Sen. Rob Bradley and the local community as a whole for their support in helping the Arc continue to help its clients accomplish their goals.

Ruzzkowski is also thankful for her staff, which consists of some who've worked there for more than 10 years. They haven't received a lot of pay increases as a thanks for the jobs they do, but Ruzzkowski said she believes that's going to change. She has applied for Federal Medical Assistance Percentage payments.

"We actually are supposed to be getting close to \$1 million to reward and to acknowledge all of the people who worked during COVID," she said. "They were in the (group) homes with sick people. They were getting sick. Some would get better, and then they would get it again."

"It's to reward them for putting themselves in harm's way."

Looking forward to what comes next

As the days go by, Ruzzkowski has experienced a number of events for the final time, such as the Arc Christmas party and, most recently, its annual Purple Day event.

"In many respects, it makes me sad, but I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life," Ruzzkowski said, adding, "I've

really been praying about the next stage of my life and what God would have me do. That excites me."

Ruzzkowski knows that some of the first things she'll do during retirement is spend time with family. That'll include a trip to the mountains in North Carolina this Christmas and a trip to Kentucky, where her daughter lives as well as her brother and sister.

"Just because of COVID, we haven't seen them hardly at all," she said.

The trip to Kentucky is planned to last a week, but that could change. As Ruzzkowski said, "I'll have the freedom to stay longer if I want to."

Ruzzkowski doesn't imagine she'll be one who'll just sit at home. She'll find things to do, including possibly remaining involved in some way with Arc of Bradford.

"I really might look at coming back as an Aktion Club sponsor," she said.

Ruzzkowski still has a little over four months left before retirement officially begins. Until then, she'll be around her Arc family and welcome in John Williams as the new director. Williams, a Keystone Heights resident, has been working at the Arc of Putnam.

"He has a lot of new ideas and wants to start some new programs," Ruzzkowski said, adding, "He's real excited. He's young and ambitious."

So, what does Ruzzkowski expect her final day on Oct. 25 to be like? Easy and relaxing.

"I'm not going to do anything but be here," she said. "I think I've earned a day of rest. I'm going to just be here and spend time with my guys."

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40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising

for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

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53 B Keystone Yard Sales

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57 For Sale

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Legal Notices

Bradford

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

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: EDWARD O. SMITH, JR.
Residence Unknown
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an Administrative Complaint has been filed against you seeking to revoke your CORRECTIONAL Certificate in accordance with Section 943.1395, F.S., and any rules promulgated thereunder.
You are required to serve a written copy of your intent to request a hearing pursuant to Section 120.57, F.S. upon Dean Register, Director, Criminal Justice Professionalism Program, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, P. O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489, on or before July 17, 2022. Failure to do so will result in a default being entered against you to Revoke said certification pursuant to Section 120.60, F.S., and Rule 11B-27, F.A.C. Dated: May 17, 2022
Dean Register,
Professionalism Director
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
By: -s- Mehgen Peoples, Division Representative

5/26 4tchg 6/16-BCT

PUBLIC AUCTION

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

6/2 2tchg 6/9-BCT

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. Defendants.

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 Southwest Quarter of Section Six (6) South, Range Twenty-two (22) East.

Parcel 2
Start at the Northeast Corner of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest 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

INVITATION TO BID
SEALED BIDS will be received and accepted by the Town of Brooker, Florida, until 1:00 pm on Friday, July 8, 2022 for the roof repair of the Brooker Water Works Building. The bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the regular Town Council meeting. Bidders should contact Gene Melvin via the Brooker City Hall office at 352-214-9603 for more specific information or questions.

Bid:
1. Repair/Replace metal roof on the Water Works building of Brooker City Hall, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue in Brooker, Florida. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Equal Opportunity Employer, Fair Housing, Handicap Access Jurisdiction

6/9 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA,

CASE No. 20000463CAAXMX
WELLS FARGO BANK N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL OR BANKING CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR GREEN TREE 2008-MH1, Plaintiff,

vs.
MARION H. BRIGHT AKA MARION HOLLENSWORTH BRIGHT, et. al. Defendants.

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in Case No. 20000463CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for BRADFORD County, Florida, wherein, WELLS FARGO BANK N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL OR BANKING CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR GREEN TREE 2008-MH1, Plaintiff, and, MARION H. BRIGHT AKA MARION HOLLENSWORTH BRIGHT, et. al., are Defendants, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Denny Thompson, will sell to the highest bidder for cash at, the Bradford County Courthouse lobby, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091, at the hour of 11:00 AM, on the 30th day of June, 2022, the following described property:

THE NORTH 102.53 FEET OF THE SOUTH 334.53 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT AN IRON PIPE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 25 AND RUN N 01 DEG 23 MIN 59 SEC W, ALONG THE

WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 25, A DISTANCE OF 232.05 FEET TO AN IRON ROD FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE N 01 DEG 23 MIN 59 SEC W, ALONG LAST SAID WEST LINE, 102.53 FEET TO AN IRON ROD; THENCE RUN N 89 DEG 46 MIN 25 SEC E, 270.00 FEET TO AN IRON ROD; THENCE RUN S 01 DEG 23 MIN 59 SEC E, 102.53 FEET TO AN IRON ROD; THENCE RUN S 89 DEG 46 MIN 25 SEC W, 270.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH A 30 FOOT WIDE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS AND ACCESS BEING IN THE SE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, LYING 30 FEET TO THE LEFT OF A PARALLEL TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE IRON PIPE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 26 (ALSO BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 25) AND RUN N 01 DEG 23 MIN 59 SEC W, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 26, A DISTANCE OF 232.05 FEET TO AN IRON ROD FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF SAID EASEMENT; THENCE CONTINUE N 01 DEG 23 MIN 59 SEC W, ALONG THE SAID EAST LINE, 337 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO AN EXISTING FENCE POST AT THE NEW CORNER OF THE SE 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4;

THENCE RUN S 89 DEG 29 MIN 35 SEC W, ALONG THENORTHER LINE OF SAID SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT; THENCE RUN N 01 DEG 22 MIN 58 SEC W, 671 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTHERLY R/W LINE OF COUNTY ROAD N.E. 216TH STREET, AND THE END OF SAID EASEMENT LINE. TOGETHER WITH A 2003 FLEETWOOD MANUFACTURED HOME: BEARING SERIAL#: GAFL234A75913CY22, AND GAFL234B75913CY22; TITLE#: 89154327 AND 891544986

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, must file a claim per the requirements set forth in FL Stat. 45.032.

DATED this 2nd day of June, 2022.
GREENSPOON MARDER LLP
TRADE CENTRE SOUTH, SUITE 700
100 WEST CYPRESS CREEK ROAD
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309
Telephone: (954) 343 6273
Hearing Line: (888) 491-1120
Facsimile: (954) 343 6982
Email 1: Karissa.Chin-Duncan@gmlaw.com
Email 2: gmforeclosure@gmlaw.com
By: Karissa Chin-Duncan, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 98472

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@court8.org

6/9 2tchg 6/16-BCT

City of Starke, Florida
Second Public Hearing Notice

The City of Starke plans to apply to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for a FFY 2021-2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$700,000 in the Neighborhood Revitalization category. The grant project activities, estimated dollar amounts, and estimated percentage benefit to low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons are as follows:
Water Main Replacement: \$530,000 (+51% LMI benefit); Fire Hydrant Installation: \$25,000 (+51% LMI benefit); Engineering Design and Preliminary Engineering: \$47,700 (LMI benefit is not applicable); Engineering Inspection and Construction Contract Administration: \$25,900 (LMI benefit is not applicable); Grant Administration: \$56,000 (LMI benefit is not applicable); Additional Engineering such as Surveys, Geotech and related: \$15,400 (LMI benefit is not applicable). Total grant amount: \$700,000. In addition, \$50,000 will be contributed to the project by the City to be used as local match to further and enhance the CDBG funded activities. The location of the proposed project activities include:

Service Area #1: (Brownlee Road/Old Lawtrey Road Area) CDBG funded improvements will include the construction of 2,525 LF of water main to replace the existing water main that is located on Brownlee Road between Oak Street and Old Lawtrey Road and along Old Lawtrey Road between Brownlee Road and North Street. In addition, five fire hydrants will be installed that will serve the same area as the replacement water mains. The service area of the fire hydrants and replacement water mains is a residential area that is bounded by Brownlee Road and the Pecan Tree apartments to the south, North Road to the north, Oak Street to the west and Old Lawtrey Road to the east.

The City of Starke does not expect that anyone will be displaced as a

result of CDBG-funded activities. If any persons are displaced as a result of the planned activities, the City of Starke will assist them as described in the City's anti-displacement and relocation policy, which is available for review at City Hall.

A public hearing to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the application will be held at Starke City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091 on June 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. A draft copy of the application will also be available for review during normal business hours in the Clerk's Office at City Hall by noon on June 15, 2022. Persons wanting to submit written comments on the application should send them to Lisa Heeder, Deputy Clerk, by e-mail at LHeeder@cityofstarke.org or by mail to 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091 no later than June 30, 2022. Questions and/or comments may also be provided by phone. Ms. Heeder can be reached at (904) 964-5027.

A copy of the final application will be available for review in the Clerk's Office at City Hall no later than July 15, 2022. The application will be submitted to DEO on or before July 21, 2022. To obtain additional information concerning the application and the public hearing, contact Lisa Heeder, Deputy Clerk, at (904) 964-5027 or by e-mail at LHeeder@cityofstarke.org. The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the hearing is asked to advise the City at least five days before the hearing by contacting Lisa Heeder, Deputy Clerk at (904) 964-5027. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the City using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Lisa Heeder, Deputy Clerk at (850) 962-4611 at least five days prior to the hearing and an interpreter will be provided.

A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION

6/9 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a meeting on June 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

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

6/9 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 04-2022-CP-0062
DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOAN J. DYAL Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of JOAN J. DYAL, deceased, whose date of death was December 14, 2021; is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 04-2022-CP-0062; the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioners and the Petitioners' 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 THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME 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 9, 2022.
Attorney for Personal Representative:
M. Aaron Dukes, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 124394
Dukes Legal, P.A.
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386-269-2394
Petitioner:
George Dyal
12546 SW 85th Terr
Lake Butler, Florida 32054

6/9 2tchg 6/16-BCT

City of Lawtrey
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The City of Lawtrey is considering applying to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award under the combined FY2021 and FY2022 funding application opportunities. The City is eligible to apply for up to \$600,000 in the neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization or housing rehabilitation

categories and up to \$1.5 million in the economic development category. Construction activities funded through the CDBG Program must meet one of the following National Objectives:

1. Provide benefit to low- and moderate-income persons;
2. Prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions;
3. Meet a need of recent origin having a particular urgency.

The types of activities that CDBG funds may be used for include constructing stormwater ponds, paving roads and sidewalks, installing sewer and water lines, building a community center or park, making improvements to a sewage treatment plant, and rehabilitating low-income homes. Additional information regarding the range of activities that could be funded will be provided at the public hearing.

In developing a CDBG application, the City of Lawtrey must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of the activities. In addition, the local government is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons.

The public hearing to obtain citizen comment concerning the Local government's economic and community development needs will be held at 2793 Lake Street, Lawtrey FL 32058, on June 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. For information concerning the public hearing, contact Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by e-mail at cityoflawtrey@embarqmail.com

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the hearing is asked to advise the local government at least five days before the hearing by contacting Lisa Harley at (904) 782-3454.

Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Lisa Harley at (904) 782-3454 at least five days prior to the hearing and an interpreter will be provided.

A Fair Housing Workshop will be conducted immediately after the public hearing on the same date and at the same location.

THE CITY OF LAWTREY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT, HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE AND FAIR HOUSING JURISDICTION. THIS LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE EMPLOYMENT OF SECTION 3 & WM/BE PERSONS.

6/9 1tchg-BCT

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF PERMIT ISSUANCE

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department), gives notice of permit issuance for a State 404 Individual Permit (ST404 137482-022) to The Chemours Company FC, LLC, 5222 Trent Road, Starke, Florida 32091, Clay County. The Permit is for an Individual 404 Permit for an existing heavy minerals mine in Bradford and Clay Counties. The project has an associated Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) No. MMR_137482-018. The project is located south of State Road 230 and east of State Road 100, approximately four miles southeast of downtown Starke, in Sections 12, 13, and 24, Township 7 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, and Sections 6, 7, 18, and 19, Township 7 South, Range 23 East, Clay County, Florida, within the Santa Fe River basin, at latitude: 29.883858 and longitude: -82.051777.

On June 6, 2022, the Department issued the State 404 Individual Permit. The Permit was granted pursuant to Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 622-331, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

The permit is available online and can be accessed through the Department's Information Portal at: [https://depdepms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=getEntity&guid=45.55751.1\]&\[profile=Permitting_Authorization\]](https://depdepms.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=getEntity&guid=45.55751.1]&[profile=Permitting_Authorization])

If you have any questions or are experiencing difficulty viewing the electronic permit, please email to MiningAndMitigation@dep.state.fl.us or call 850.245.8634.

Petition for Administrative Hearing
A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the

agency's proposed action; (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

Time Period for Filing a Petition
In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant and persons entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. You cannot justifiably rely on the finality of this decision unless notice of this decision and the right of substantially affected persons to challenge this decision has been duly published or otherwise provided to all persons substantially affected by the decision.

The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

Extension of Time
Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us, before the deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation
Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

6/9 1tchg-BCT

ABANDONED EQUIPMENT
Abandoned equipment was located at 20716 US 301 N., Lawtrey, FL. Equipment owner needs to contact Randy Kerr at 904-591-4191 no later than 30 days from June 9, 2022. The property is being cleaned up.

6/9 1tchg-BCT

Notice of Meeting
The City of Lawtrey, City Council will be conducting a special meeting to discuss the maintenance position on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. or soon thereafter, at Lawtrey City Hall, 2793 Lake Street Lawtrey, FL 32058. All interested parties are invited to attend.

6/9 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:
Regina R. Johnson
Last known address of:
1757 N Temple Ave
Starke FL 32091

You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
P. O. Box 58
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
Starke, FL 32091
Date: June 7, 2022

6/9 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 06/17/2022 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.

1D8HB48P97F528232 2007 DODGE
1G1NE52J92M692497 2002 CHEVY
3N1AB61E97L664325 2007 NISS
4F4CR16X6RTM23892 1994 MAZD

6/9 1tchg-BCT

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Bradford County Telegraph

131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod.: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:



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

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Lake Region Monitor

P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628

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Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:



Subscription Rate in Trade Area
\$52.00 per year:

Legal Notices

Bradford

SPECIAL MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a special meeting on June 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.
The public is encouraged to visit www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting.
6/9 2tchg 6/16-BCT

Union

ORDINANCE 2022-04
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LEVY OF AN AD VALOREM TAX NOT TO EXCEED ONE HALF (½) MILL TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF THE UNION COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
WHEREAS, the board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida has created a Union County Special Library District by Ordinance 88-3, and
WHEREAS, it is necessary to fund the Union County Special Library District by levy of up to and not exceeding one half (½) mill of ad valorem taxes; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, as follows:

SECTION 1, FUNDING
A. The Board of County Commissioners herein directs the Union County Supervisor of Elections to place upon the First Primary Election Ballot, to be held August 23, 2022, the following:
For the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District by taxation of up to (½) mill of ad valorem taxes.
Against the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District of taxation of up to one half (½) mill of ad valorem taxes.

B. The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby directed to forward a certified true copy of this Ordinance to the Union County Supervisor of Elections upon its final adoption.

C. If the majority of the qualified electors voting in the referendum election, called for and provided in Section 2(A) above, vote in favor of the funding of Union County Special District, then, in that event, the funding of the Union County Special Library District for fiscal years October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025, will be taxation of up to (½) mill of ad valorem taxes, and all property subject to assessment of ad valorem taxes shall be taxed accordingly.

D. If the majority of qualified electors voting in the referendum election, provided for in Section 2 (A) above, vote against the funding of the Union County Special Library District, then, in that event, this Ordinance shall be automatically repealed.
SECTION 3, DISPOSITION OF

PROCEEDS
Those funds obtained from the levy of the ad valorem taxes on all real and tangible, taxable property within the boundaries of Union County Special Library District, shall be used solely for the purpose of construction, operating and maintaining the Library facilities to the citizens of Union County, Florida and for no other purpose.

SECTION 4, COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE UNION COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
The herein provided for the ad valorem tax shall be levied and collected in the manner provided for the levy and collection of the County ad valorem taxes. The Union County Board of Commissioners shall certify annually to the Property Appraiser of Union County, Florida the millage to be levied for the Union County Special Library District. Taxes collected shall be remitted by the Union County Tax Collector to the Clerk of the Court in and for Union County, Florida who shall be the Ex-Officio Clerk and Treasurer for the Union County Special Library District.

SECTION 5, REIMBURSEMENT FOR FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE BY COUNTY OFFICERS

All cost and expenses incurred by a Constitutional Officer of Union County, Florida in performing any of the provisions of this ordinance may be reimbursed by the Union County Special Library District to said Constitutional Officer; said reimbursements however, shall not collectively exceed ten percent (10) of the revenues collected within the Union County Special Library District in any budget year.

SECTION 6, CONSTRUCTION
This Ordinance shall be liberally construed in order to effectuate the legislative intent of the Board of County Commissioners, Union County, Florida.

SECTION 7, SEVERABILITY
It is declared to be the intent of the Board of County Commissioners, Union County, Florida, that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or provision of the Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional such invalidity unconstitutional shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8, EFFECTIVE DATE
This Ordinance shall become effective by law.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of County Commissioners, Union County, Florida this 20th day of June, 2022.

ATTEST:
James Tallman, Union County Board of County Commission, Chairman
Kellie H. Rhoades, Union County Clerk of Courts

6/9 2tchg 6/16-UCT

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

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#: 139
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2015
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 20-06-19-47-000-0210-0
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
WORTHINGTON SPRINGS PLANTATION, SECTIONS 17, 19 AND 20, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST.
PARCEL NO. 21
COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SE 1/4 OF THE SE

1/4 OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, AND RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 46 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4 A DISTANCE OF 1327.98 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD NO. S-238-A AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID POINT LYING ON A CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 11,419.2 FEET AND BEING CONCAVE TO THE EAST, THENCE RUN SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY CURVE AN ARC DISTANCE OF 150.05 FEET (THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 10 SECONDS) THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST 303.30 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 4 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 39 SECONDS WEST 150.2 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SE 1/4 OF SE 1/4, THENCE RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 46 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID, NORTH LINE, 300 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING AND LYING IN SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DONNIE L. CRAWFORD

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

Lake Region

PUBLIC AUCTION
An auction pursuant to statute #713.78 to be held June 21, 2022 at 10:00 am at 7333 Kyle Street, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 for the following vehicles:
1FAFP34N67W256329 2007 Ford Focus
KMHWF35H34A956657 2004 Hyundai Sonata
1N4AL21E17N457131 2007 Nissan Altima
1G6KS52Y8VU842462 1997 Cadillac

Seville
1NXBR12E3WZ062082 1998 Toyota Corolla
1HTSCZWM4LH252549 1990 International Truck
1J4FJ68SOTL301719 1996 Jeep Cherokee
1FTYR44U52PA37228 2002 Ford Ranger
1FDKE37M6KHA09922 1989 Ford Truck
3GCPKPEA3BG247448 2011 Chevrolet Silverado
2G1WF55E539322002 2003 Chevrolet Impala
1FTCR10U1NNTA15074 1992 Ford Ranger
1J8HS58288C228654 2008 Jeep Cherokee
6/9 1tchg-LRM

Notice of Public Auction
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Units# 255, containing misc. household items.
6/9 2tchg 6/16-LRM

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Our Home Visitors provide one-on-one support by phone, at-home visits or another convenient location.

The Healthy Start program is designed to meet YOUR needs. Learn about our free services and how you can enroll in **Healthy Start**.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES YOU CAN RECEIVE

- **Home Visiting**
- **Prenatal Education & Support**
- **Breastfeeding Education & Support**
- **Newborn Care**
- **Parenting Education & Support**
- **Access To Mental Health Services**
- **Health & Well-Being**

Connect with us

800-678-9355

How to Enroll in Healthy Start

Healthcare providers are required to offer the Healthy Start screen to ALL pregnant women on their first prenatal visit and to newborns at the hospital or birth center.

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

www.HealthyStartNCF.com includes Union and Bradford counties.

Meet Your Local Healthy Start Program Staff:

Union County Health Department

495 East Main Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386-853-6317

Bradford County Health Department

1801 N Temple Ave
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-7732



Melissa Johns
LPN, CLC, LCCE



Cynthia Kent
CLC, LCCE



Maricelis "Cely" Wood
LPN, CLC

Call Connect to Enroll & Get Started! 800-678-9355