

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, July 20, 2023

144th year, 47th Issue — \$1

Union Co. Soccer sign-ups coming in August



Treasurer Ashley Casey said the brand new Union County Soccer Club is thrilled with the support it has received. The premiere camp was fundraiser held this past week. It was a first for Union County, and interest was huge, she said. "We need all the support we can get, and want to show off what our town coming together for the kids was able to help pull off," she said.

The kids are eager for sign-ups in August. Follow the club on Facebook for information and updates. See inside for more photos from the event and information about sponsors and how to get involved. Photos by B.L. Smith Photography.



COMMUNITY STATE BANK
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Union County Backpack Bash

Union County organizations are currently prepping for a back-to-school backpack giveaway on Saturday, July 29, at the Lake Butler Hospital. The event will provide community outreach to children to promote effective academic performance.

The first 600 kids accompanied by an adult will receive a backpack full of school supplies. The event is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 850 E. Main St. A cookout lunch, sno-cones and popcorn will be served. Sponsors for the event include LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Lake Butler Rotary, Lake Butler Hospital, Lake Butler Women's Club and West Fraser.

There will also be a blood drive at the event to increase blood donations for the summer. For additional information, please contact Laura Bialeck at 352-359-0988 or lbialeck@lifesouth.org.

Backpack giveaway at BHS

Partnership for Strong Families will present a Back-to-School Giveaway at the Bradford High School bus loop on Saturday, July 29. This drive-thru event will begin at 9 a.m. and last until supplies run out.

The giveaway will include free backpacks, school supplies and information from community service agencies, including Bradford School District, Bradford Community Coalition, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and many more.

Food pantry and health fair in Hampton

Community health and wellness organizations are joining with the city of Hampton to promote a food giveaway and health fair at Bobby Sheppard Memorial Park, 10238 Prospect Ave. in Hampton. The event will take place Saturday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to noon.

A mobile food pantry will be on site along with organizations offering giveaways, free health screenings and information about community resources. This is a walk-up event.

Partners include Feeding Northeast Florida, Bradford Food Pantry, Bradford Health Department, UF Health, Meridian, Elder Options, Suwannee River AHEC, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Center for Independent Living and Fantastic Fire Brigade.

For more information, please contact Mary Lou Hildreth at 352-468-1201 or Iana Patterson at 904-964-7732, ext. 1600.

Democrats meet July 24

The Bradford County Democratic Party will hold its regular monthly meeting using Zoom on Monday, July 24, at 7 p.m. All Democrats are welcome.

Meetings are held the fourth Monday evening of each month. For the electronic link to this meeting, contact bradfordcodec@gmail.com or 904-526-2257.

Lawtey considers traffic cameras for school zones

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

LAWTEY — The Lawtey City Council meeting spotlighted a new program that will enhance the capabilities of local law enforcement with regard to speeding in the school zones.

Greg Parks, a representative from Redspeed International, was introduced by Police Chief Jerry Feltner. Feltner told the council that Parks had already presented the program to local law enforcement, and they wanted him to present his program to the council for its consideration.

Deserved or not, Lawtey has a reputation for being a speed trap. That hasn't deterred many drivers from speeding, even in the school zones.

The school zones occupy a large section of U.S. 301 in Lawtey and a small section of County Road 225.

The new Redspeed program will send citations of \$100 to anyone caught by camera speeding more than eleven miles over the posted speed during school zone hours. This citation is considerably less than the \$306 fine that can be issued by an officer.

Currently a law officer will write tickets for 15 miles over the posted speed, but this also comes with four points added to a driver's license. Unlike the traditional tickets, the Redspeed program will not go against your driver's license or insurance.

Parks shared the data from Georgia school districts that had implemented the program and saw a drastic decline of school zone speeding. Parks said the camera equipment will be free to

install and will help law enforcement with other important safety issues such as a license plate reader to alert to stolen vehicles, sex offenders and Amber Alerts. The program is only active during the school day and during school zone hours.

The money from each citation will be allotted for specific programs. The \$37 dollars that goes to the city of Lawtey must be for public safety funds. Five dollars per fund will also go to crossing guard funds. The Bradford County School District will receive \$12 per citation for school security. Parks said every penny is earmarked.

Thirty five percent of each citation does fund the actual program costs.

Councilwoman Virginia Warner asked if extra speed signs will be posted. Parks responded that there is

a 30-day warning period and there will be new speed enforcement signs posted. Warner also asked if there would be any out-of-pocket expense to the city and Parks assured her that the only cost would come out of the \$100 fines paid by speeding violations. Parks stated that the program would also handle maintenance on the equipment.

Chief Feltner discussed needing a magistrate to handle any arbitration requests. Parks said that only about 1% of violators usually request arbitration. Feltner pointed out this will also go into effect on C.R. 225 which is a frequently overlooked school zone. Feltner also stated that from his own research, this is the best program with the least cost.

See CAMERAS, page 2

Starke raising taxes while wrestling with budget cuts

3-2 split over tentative millage rate

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Discussing their budget dilemma last week, Starke commissioners ultimately cut spending while simultaneously proposing a tax increase.

These were split decisions that most affect the police and fire departments next year. Jobs were cut from both departments, but the additional tax revenue means the budget cut won't be quite as deep.

The decisions, however, did not address the city manager's concerns about infrastructure spending or his projections about funding deficits beginning in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

City Manager Drew Mullins pared down the budget from his previous presentation, eliminating 5% increases on sewer and water rates. This and the cost of the city's tank maintenance contract left only \$100,000 to transfer from utilities to the general fund unless the commission voted to raise customer rates or property taxes.

That decision was in the commission's hands, but City Clerk Jimmy Crosby said they needed a decision on the tentative tax rate so they could inform the state by Aug. 1.

Chief Jeff Johnson voluntarily cut another half-million dollars from the police department, leaving the tentative budget at \$1.1 million, down from \$2.08 million. The fire department would be funded at \$1.05 million, down from \$1.59 million.

Johnson said this was the bare minimum it would take to run his

department.

"There are going to be some services that are lost, I can promise you, but I'm going to put it together with my guys, and we're going to try to not lose as many services as we can. We're going to still be a police department. We're still going to protect you all. We're going to still answer calls, but there will be some sacrifices," he said.

Mullins once again presented projections for the coming fiscal cycles, and the news was not good. The year after next, the city could be facing a \$677,000 deficit with increases in expenses, including debt repayments, pushing the city's budget (without grants) to more than \$14.8 million. Two years later, the deficit could be \$1.3 million without additional revenue or spending cuts.

Some pointed out the projections don't take growth into account. A

voter referendum early next year could potentially eliminate the police department, reducing public safety costs. Crosby said the budget cannot be based on speculation about what might happen.

While Commissioner Danny Nugent said it was up to the city manager to "think outside of the box" and present solutions, Mullins was seeking direction from the commission.

Commissioner Andy Redding wanted to know why the city shouldn't move forward with sewer and water rate increases if there was only \$100,000 surplus, and it is being transferred from the enterprise to the general fund. The city needs the revenue and a spending plan to go with it, he said.

See TAXES, page 3

Questions about manager property swap, sick pay

Audit sent to state attorney

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — One item stands out as a clear expenditure that was not made in the public interest by former City Manager Dale Walker and was noted as such in the recent audit of his spending of city funds provided to the city commission at a special meeting. This was the property swap between the city and local businessman Johnny Welch.

From almost day one of Walker's tenure with the city he focused on beautification and the eradication of what he referred to as "blight" in the business district on Main Street.

While there were several problems he found on Main Street, his focus, along with then Mayor Jack Schenck, was Welch's Auto Repair and Welch's Tire. Walker finally dealt with this problem by arranging a property swap with Welch, trading the city public works facility for the auto repair business (which Welch owned) with the agreement that he would also move his tire business from the adjacent building, which he rented.

Apparently, the goal was more important than the numbers, as the public works site was property with a usable metal building, while the auto repair site was less than an acre with a very old, small block building. According to Union County Property Appraiser Bruce Dukes, the auto shop had a taxable value of only \$57,190

for its 0.241 acres, while the public works facility was valued at \$135,544 for its one acre — a difference of \$78,354.

During the audit, auditors found no documentation of the property values and no record of any tangible benefit to the city from the transaction. The transaction also did not follow established city purchasing policies.

At the time of the transaction, both Walker and Schenck made comments to the effect that the lost value was "well worth the price" of removing the "eyesore" from Main Street.

The transaction left the city with no public works facility, so then Walker purchased about 15 acres of land from a private party, with a building and pole barn on site, as a new home for public works. The building which, according

to Interim City Manager Richard Tillis was not appropriate for the purpose and which could not accommodate the department's vehicles, was then renovated extensively to prepare it for use.

It has not been completed, but the audit revealed that the money used for the purchase and renovation came largely from funds granted the city under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The city of Lake Butler had received the Federal ARPA Grant for \$903,540. The money was placed in the city's operating funds, rather than being placed in a sequestered fund as should have been done. The commission had informally agreed to reserve the money for replacement/

See AUDIT, page 3



CAMERAS

Continued from page 1

If implemented, the program would tentatively go into effect by Oct. 1. The council voted unanimously to proceed with the resolution for the Redspeed

program. City Attorney Aaron Dukes said he will further review the program for legal issues or hidden costs before moving forward with the ordinance.

Councilwoman Amy Blom presented streets and sanitation issues. They are currently still working on bids for the two bridges to be repaired. There has

been a temporary patch repaired by the county. Other requests were made by Councilwoman Warner for street repairs made on Carter Road and Jackson Street. Another \$599 was requested to purchase a self-propelled push mower and a \$1,200 request to purchase an ice machine. The ice machine will be for all city workers.

City Clerk Lisa Harley suggested \$600 but Warner requested \$1,200 because she said cheaper models would not last. Harley stated that currently the city workers have to go buy ice or get it from the fire department. Many times, the fire department is already out of ice. It was decided that there needed to be more research into which brands would be best for purchase, but the motion to approve the \$1,200 for an ice machine was approved.

Harley informed the council that she is still awaiting bids on the fire hydrant repairs. She has had a lot of no shows for meetings from contractors.

Feltner requested the purchase of speeding signs. These signs run on solar power and would be placed at east and west ends of Lake Street. These radar signs are currently being offered at less than half the usual price. Feltner stated that there's a

major speeding problem for the citizens on Lake Street and these signs will help deter speeders with flashing warning signs. No tickets will be issued but the safety warning will help speeding awareness. The cost of \$6,500 for two signs was approved.

Councilwoman Debra Norman discussed the recreation department and the need to appoint two new board members to fill the vacancies. These two positions will be held until the end of the year. Norman nominated Evan Baker and Vyunda Strong. Mayor Jimmie Scott approved the appointments.

The meeting wrapped up with a final mention of a new leak that has been detected at the fire department following one of the recent heavy storms. The fire department said this was a small leak and the first one detected since the most recent repairs. Harley said this was discussed with the county.

RJE reunion coming up

The RJE Alumni will be hosting its biannual school reunion beginning, Friday, Sept. 1. There will be a meet and greet at the Tiger's Place, 920 Florida St. in Starke, from 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, there will be a Purple and Gold Banquet. The social hour begins at 6 p.m. and the banquet at 7 p.m. (Location to be determined.) Tickets are \$35 per person, and you may mail fees for tickets to RJE Alumni, P.O. Box 159, Starke, FL 32091, or contact President Joann Jackson at 904-769-6963.

On Sunday, Sept. 3, there will be a church service at New Bethel Baptist Church, 901 Keller St. in Starke, at 1 p.m. There will be a barbecue luncheon after the church service at The Tiger's Place. Fees will be \$15 for this meal.

The deadline for ticket sales is Aug. 15. T-shirts are available to purchase. For sizes and orders, please contact Mildred Petteway at 904-964-2490.

Every alumnus who can is asked to pay an annual membership fee of \$25. RJE was the only High school in the county for African American students. The new school was built in 1909 and closed in 1969 due to schools being integrated.



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<p>THURSDAY 7/20 Kid Show: Elemental- 10AM & 1PM (Downstairs) Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning- 7:00 (Downstairs) Elemental- 6:45 (Upstairs)</p>	<p>FRIDAY 7/21 Barbie- 7:00 (Downstairs) Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning- 6:45 (Upstairs)</p>
<p>SATURDAY 7/22 Barbie- 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs) Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning- 3:45 & 7:15 (Upstairs)</p>	<p>SUNDAY 7/23 Barbie- 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs) Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning- 3:45 & 7:15 (Upstairs)</p>

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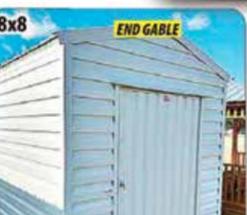
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\$7,895

\$110 PER SQ. FT.

8x8 END GABLE



\$2,145

\$74 PER SQ. FT.

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\$2,295

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\$3,060

\$106 PER SQ. FT.

12x14 SIDE GABLE



\$4,433

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\$7,515

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12x22 DBL LOFTED BARN



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12x15 60" DOOR



\$167

PER SQ. FT.

18x50 RV/BOAT COVER



\$6,035

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TAXES

Continued from page 1

"I don't want my water bill to go up. I don't want my taxes to go up. But this is a business for the people," he said.

Chief Johnson's budget cuts made it possible to eliminate the sewer and rate increases, according to Mullins. At least some of the additional utility revenue would have been needed to pay for public safety services in the commission's general budget without further cuts. Utility fees have supplemented funding on the general side, because \$1.2 million in property tax revenue doesn't come close to paying for both departments.

Commissioner Shannon Smith wanted the business side of the city's finances to stand on its own and earn money that can be reinvested in infrastructure, which has also been Mullins' goal.

"Enterprise has got to be a standalone, money making enterprise. If not, we all need to be gone, you need to be gone, and we got to start all over because that has to make money, period," Smith said. "Like Commissioner Redding said, I hate taxes, but numbers don't lie."

Mullins said he was caught in the middle and need the clear direction of the commission.

As presented, his proposal allows the enterprise fund to stand on its own, with the cuts to police and fire resulting from the underfunding of the general side of the budget. Or, the commission could raise sewer and water rates and transfer the profit to the general fund, raise taxes and continue spending as before.

"The hard part that we're all wrestling with — even the ones out there and ones up here — is when do we stop?" Mayor Scott Roberts asked. The commission could raise taxes and fees to fund services, but other needs are still being "painfully" underfunded. "I'm not here just to cut. I'm here to get the city back on its feet," he said.

"We can just go ahead and kick the can down the road and put a million here and a million there, and we all smile and go home. We're in trouble guys. The numbers don't lie," Roberts said.

Nugent said the city manager was picturing a "dark cloud" in the city's future. Commissioner Janice Mortimer said any "doom and gloom" is reflected in the numbers.

"That's not his fault. Regardless of how long we've served, we've kicked the can down the road for too many years," she said. "Are we going to raise the rates?"

We've got to do something, because we can't keep doing what we've been doing for the last how many years. Now we see the hard numbers. We are in or will be in dire straits."

Mortimer moved to accept the changes proposed by the city manager, which was based on the current tax rate, yielding a projected \$75,000 increase revenue. Redding supported the motion for further discussion. Nugent said he supported a higher tax rate that would bring in more for both police and fire, but voted with Mortimer, Redding and Roberts to proceed with the city manager's budget..

Smith supported the cuts for the police department but not cutting the fire department to two-person shifts, so he voted against the motion.

Then the commission took up the tentative millage rate. Mortimer moved to retain the current tax rate. Mayor Roberts turned the gavel over to Smith as vice mayor so Roberts could second the motion, but the vote failed.

Smith moved to raise the tentative millage rate to 5.4935 from 4.8754 in order to bring in an additional \$230,542. Redding seconded the motion, and the vote was again 3-2, with Smith, Redding and Nugent voting for the tax increase, and Roberts and Mortimer voting

against it. This was a tentative decision that could still be reversed at the first public budget hearing, which will take place on Sept. 7. The commission will have an opportunity to lower the millage rate or continue to the final hearing with the proposed budget.

Crosby said the board would have to vote again on moving forward with the plan presented by the city manager, so the additional funding could be placed in the budget. The commission would have to decide where to spend the funding, otherwise the clerk said he would place the money in reserves.

That placed Roberts and Mortimer in an awkward position, since they did not vote in favor of the tax increase. Mortimer moved to place the additional revenue in reserves, which would not impact the spending cuts she and three others had previously approved. Roberts again relinquished control of the meeting to the vice mayor so he could second Mortimer's motion. Only they voted in favor of the motion, which failed 3-2.

Nugent wanted the money to be split between the police and fire departments to lessen the severity of the funding cuts. Redding said the money would preserve some jobs.

"Nobody wants higher taxes. Nobody wants higher water rates, and I might go home and tell my wife, and she says I got to sleep on the couch because I raised her taxes," Redding said, making a motion to split the additional revenue between police and fire. Nugent seconded the motion. The vote was 4-1, with Smith dissenting. He wanted the funding for the fire department.

Roberts and Mortimer offered clarification later, saying they did not support the tax increase. Mortimer said she was "totally floored" by the decision and called the nearly 20% increase in tax revenue unfair and contradictory to the direction the city should be headed.

According to information shared with the commission, including taxes, retirement and insurance, the least expensive employee in the fire department cost more than \$77,000 (\$47,752 in take home pay). The highest was nearly \$125,000 (almost \$81,000 in take home pay). The average cost per firefighter was just under \$96,956. The chief's total cost was \$99,999 (\$80,870 in take home pay).

The lowest cost per police officer was \$51,583 (\$33,019 in take home pay). The highest was \$83,649 (\$57,741 in take

home pay). The average cost per police officer was \$67,395. As for police administration, the least costly position was \$80,070 (\$54,982 in take home pay). The costliest was \$110,785 (\$78,662 in take home pay). The average cost to the city was \$93,136 per administrator, including the police chief.

Sheriff Gordon Smith's prediction that officers would begin leaving the police department have come true. Chief Johnson said the has lost both officers and administrators to multiple agencies. He anticipates losing more. Some are earning \$4 to \$5 more an hour, he said. Meanwhile, he has no applications to fill any vacancies.

Johnson said following the budget cuts would have 13 or 14 positions, including his own and his front office employee, down from 16.

The fire department has not lost employees yet. In fact, Chief Wise said there had been zero turnover during his administration outside of retirements. Positions will be lost to budget cuts, however. Two firefighters per shift would mean cutting positions from 12 to six, excluding the chief.

AUDIT

Continued from page 1

renovation of the city's lift stations to accommodate the new wastewater treatment plant, but never voted on the matter.

Commissioners never approved the spending of any of these funds, yet they were used to make the land purchase and the expense of the building renovation. Although the grant funds were under the management of a consultant, they were spent, and all funds were reported to the federal government

as being spent on allowable operating expenses.

According to the auditors, "these funds were not spent in compliance with the City Commission assignment and state budgetary requirements."

Another expenditure made by Walker benefited him directly. Walker had been discussing a payout program where city employees could redeem a large portion of the value of their accrued sick and leave time hours for cash, reserving a small number of hours for emergencies. With the approval of Schenck, by email, Walker surrendered 600 hours of accrued sick

leave at full value. On July 8, 2022, Walker received payment for the full value of these hours, as a "test case," in the amount of \$27,762.85.

The city commission never approved the buyout, and it was not specifically provided for in the manager's contract. It also did not comply with the executed personnel policy, substantially exceeding allowed payout amounts.

The auditors also noted several instances where the city's bidding policies were not followed for large purchases and could have resulted in "kickbacks and self-serving related party

deals occurring without detection."

The city of Lake Butler will have a great deal of financial cleaning up to do. The ARPA money will have to be replaced to cover the cost of the lift stations and the operating funds will require attention. Due to the potential for wrongdoing, the audit will be forwarded to the State Attorney's Office for review and possible charges. Only time will tell if the city can recoup part or all the funds in question.

Food distribution announced

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, July 26, at 9 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Food distribution at True Vine

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

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Letters

Water: The Ultimate Liquid Asset

Dear Editor:
The first requirement for a perfect day at the beach is not sand — it's water! Preferably healthy, clean water. Emerald-green sapphire-blue water, not blue green algae. Water with ordinary tides, not noxious red tide.

Unfortunately, Florida ranks number one in America for most acreage of lakes too polluted to swim in or support aquatic life. About 80% of Florida's 1,000 springs are impaired by excessive nitrogen. Red tide, blue green algae, fish kills,

wetlands decline and manatee deaths are increasing at an alarming rate.

Florida's number one economic driver is tourism. People from all over the world come to enjoy our beaches, springs and lakes. Tourism and the state's economy can be negatively impacted as water quality declines.

Clean and healthy water is not guaranteed by law. Since we all drink it; clean, healthy water should be a basic human right, regardless of political affiliation.

Various counties have tried to make the right to clean water part of their local charters, but on June 30, 2020, the Florida Legislature passed SB712 into law. This law preempted the authority of local governments to pass home rule laws

giving citizens "any specific rights relating to the natural environment not otherwise authorized in general law or specifically granted in the state constitution."

Fortunately, there's a grassroots, volunteer effort led by FloridaRightToCleanWater.org which is sponsoring the "Right to Clean and Healthy Waters" amendment to the Florida State Constitution. The first step is collecting the signatures of 900,000 registered Florida voters to put the proposed amendment on the November 2024 ballot. Once on the ballot, if 60% of Florida's voters vote "yes," the amendment will be added to the state constitution.

Here's how you can help protect Florida's waterways:

1. Stay informed by adding Right to Clean Water to your social media feeds.
 2. Sign the petition and ask friends and family to sign the petition.
 3. Become an ambassador for the Right To Clean Water.
- Visit the website for more information and inspiration on how you can help turn the tide in this watershed moment.

Sandra "Sam" Williams
RTCW Ambassador

Terry McCarthy

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Volunteer efforts and funding support Brooker school

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

BROOKER — Things are rolling along as the Brooker Community School gets ready to open the doors to students in August.

The preparation has been a labor of love from the board, the upcoming staff, and the community at large, who have contributed time, energy and funds. The room was filled with volunteers who were thrilled to take part in bringing the school to life.

Before the meeting, first grade teacher Karrie Kulbacki was setting up her classroom. Principal Felecia Moss said, "This is the kind of dedication we are seeing. These teachers are not even being paid yet."

When asked what excites her about opening this charter school, Moss said, "The people really, really want it here." She said what impressed her the most was that, Brooker is such a solid community. Coming from a small town herself (Jasper), Moss said she understands how essential a local school is to the community. She pointed out that local contributors have donated \$5,000 for each of the classrooms to be decorated and stocked with materials.

When the meeting began, Moss introduced teen volunteer Steven Hylek. Moss said he had been willing to tackle even unpleasant tasks with a smile on his face. She said one thing that greatly impressed her were Hylek's impeccable manners. His proud parents said the

Catholic school he attends in Gainesville requires 25 hours of community service, and Steven chose the Brooker school for his contribution. Moss presented him with a certificate of thanks for his service.

Staff positions are almost filled. The positions for a bus driver and custodian are still open, but Moss has a retired driver in mind as a candidate. Much to her relief, Principal Moss now has an administrative assistant, with Cynthia Simans joining the team.

So far there are 65 registered students with openings filling fast as the new school year approaches. As a public charter school, it is open to students from any locale, even outside the county. Moss has been visiting local churches in the area and making herself available on Wednesdays for parents to meet her in person.

Other logistics are falling into place. Moss said all the curricula have been ordered and came in substantially under budget. Lunches and snacks will be picked up from Bradford Middle School each day and served on site. Brooker Baptist Church donated a van, which can be used for that purpose.

The school has not been approved for free lunches for all students but expects that to be put in place for next year. Meanwhile, parents can fill out the form individually to see if they qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. A suggestion was made that donated funds be used to



Principal Felecia Moss recognizes teen volunteer Steven Hylek for his hours of community service.



Teachers are working well in advance of school opening to prepare for students.

assure no child goes without lunch. Chairperson Suzanne McRee said "All you got to do in Brooker is say some child's not getting fed and we'll get that done."

Some transportation is being

worked out and details will be fine-tuned once the number of students and areas of need are determined by registrations. A charter school cannot use a van for transportation, so to start with there will be one

bus that will make a circular six mile radius for pick-ups. Vice Chair Richard Starling pointed out that leasing a bus from the school district, rather than purchasing their own used bus, is likely the best option. A used bus could run upwards of \$70,000 and will come in as-is condition. FDOT requires an inspection every 28 days and the school would be responsible for any repairs. With a lease, the district will handle those details. It was confirmed that a leased bus would be approved to pick up out of county students as well Bradford students.

Starling, said the school is in the running for the Charter School Program grant "to provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools." The exact amount this year is unknown, but it is substantial. Starling said in a recent year the award was around \$700,000.

If granted, the items purchased must be tangible and transportable, should they ever need to be returned to the district. Every item purchased with the funds must be inventoried, labeled and tracked whenever it is moved. He said brand new school bus is a large ticket item they could consider. Laptops and other IT devices would also qualify.

There is a face-to-face interview process still ahead on July 28, and the responses need to be in keeping with the school's charter. The committee will

hold a workshop to prepare themselves for the interview process.

Lots of events are planned to introduce the public to the new school. Aug. 2 is the official start day for teachers and the school will host a breakfast and official ribbon cutting ceremony at 8 a.m. Honoring the dedicated volunteers and donors that made it possible will be a focus of the day. On Aug. 5 there will be a Back-to-School Bash and backpack distribution organized by third grade teacher Stephanie Nash, with items donated by community members. The backpacks will be available for all children in the community, not only incoming students at the charter school.

Nash was a student at Brooker Elementary herself and so was her dad, Eddie Barnes, who spent years organizing the fall festival. Nash is excited that her own children can return to school in Brooker. "There's been a lot of love poured into this school over the years."

Barnes was part of the volunteer team that took on the structural and physical activities at the new school. Thanks to those volunteers, the walls are freshly painted, the floors are buffed, and the grounds are neatly landscaped.

As the new school year approaches, the community excitement is building in anticipation of receiving smiling faced children who are eager to learn.

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Mayor recognized for 45 years

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

BROOKER — Mayor Gene Melvin of Brooker was given an award for 45 years of service as mayor.

Eryn Russell from the Florida League of Cities presented him with the plaque at the July town council meeting. The mayor thanked the League of Cities for offering assistance over the years. He expressed how fortunate he's been to have council members and staff, current and past, who each contributed their piece to keep things running in Brooker. And he thanked his wife, Lynn, who was in the audience, for putting up with him through it all.

Mayor Melvin recalled a special mentor in his life, former council member James Temple, who was a stickler of a teacher. Melvin credits Temple with making him a good student of math, because you wouldn't get recess if you didn't know your lessons. Temple, Melvin said, would take the kids out to Kingsley Lake and teach them how to swim.

When Melvin first took office in the 1970s, he thought he would give it a couple of years and then leave. But he realized how important the job was to the town. And he took James Temple's advice: Put people first; don't discriminate against anybody for race or wealth or any other factor; and spend the people's money very carefully. Melvin said they must be doing something right to have an A+ balanced budget each year.

Changes are in the works at the town clerk's office with Suzanne McRee taking a position at Camp Blanding. McRee said as much as she has loved her two and a half years on the job, this offering was too good to turn down. When asked what is the most important qualification for filling the town clerk's position McRee replied, "Aside from the usual skills that are advertised, the most important thing is to love the town of Brooker."

This was to be McRee's last meeting as clerk.

Meanwhile, former clerk and current accountant Charlene Thomas will take over as interim clerk. The council appointed a committee to look into options for replacing McRee. Thomas spent 32 years as Brooker's town



Mayor Gene Melvin is recognized by Eryn Russell from the Florida League of Cities for 45 years of service to the town of Brooker.

clerk and may consider filling the position once again, combining it, as before, with the accounting position.

Two sealed bids were opened for the annual grounds maintenance contract that begins in August. One was for \$14,600 and the other was for \$12,200. The council selected the lower bid with EMT Affordable Lawn Care. The council acknowledged that the current company has had the contract for a very long time, but the savings from the lower bid are substantial for the town.

At the June meeting, the council reviewed bids for repair of the "old park" city building and for interior painting of the community center and offices. Of the three bids received for the old park repair, V.S. Robinson Contracting LLC was selected. The \$16,650 will be paid from ARPA funds.

The same company was selected via sealed bid for the community center painting at a cost of \$8,750 to commence in September. The estimate from Robinson for repair of the door over well number two came in at \$1,560, which is under the \$2,000 threshold that requires a bidding process, and was approved.

Thomas suggested a \$25 increase for the meter reader from \$225 to \$250. She said he often has to deal with unusual circumstances and make multiple trips to get the job accomplished. She also suggested a 3% per year increase for the town clerk, starting with the October budget.

The painting and cleaning of the water tower will render it out of service for three weeks.

The residents will be notified in advance when a start date is determined. Melvin suggested notifying the DEP in advance of any repairs just to assure they are following all the requirements. The required triennial lead and copper testing of the water was completed and they are awaiting results from the lab.

Water rates came up for discussion and will be officially addressed at the next meeting. It was noted that the current rate is a flat \$24 per month for the first 3,000 gallons then \$1.75 per 1,000 gallons over that. It was suggested they consider raising the flat rate to \$25. Mayor Melvin said that would be an acceptable increase because it would not pose a burden, especially for seniors living on fixed income.

It seems that some people don't appreciate the fact that water, when pumped into a tower, purified to render it potable, and distributed through a series of pipes, is a commodity that comes with a price tag. There have been some "incidents" of tapping into sources that don't belong to them.

In other cases, Swamp Cutters was called on four occasions to deal with damaged valves when homeowners attempted to shut the water off to cut lines. This brought up the issue of aged valves, but also the need for cut-off valves at the home, and to find a means for preventing homeowner access to cut-offs at the street.

As a final note of good news Mayor Melvin noted that, for the first time, "All the streets in Brooker are paved."

Lake Region

More than 300 students receive school supplies

Community Church back-to-school event in 15th year

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Community Church held its 15th annual back-to-school supplies event for Lake Region students at its Southeast Palmetto Avenue campus on July 6 and 7.

Steering Committee member Jennifer Cumbus said students could pick up free shoes, socks, underwear, personal hygiene products and up to five changes of clothes.

“We just want to get students off to a good start and help families out,” she said of the event. “We just feel really, really passionate about showing love.”

Cumbus, who teaches special education at Keystone Heights Elementary School, added that the back-to-school event is an outgrowth of the church’s bimonthly rummage sales.

Cumbus said that, unlike the rummage sales, the annual school event is supported by a wide array of community groups, including Lake Region Kiwanis, area churches, and individual volunteers from Starke to Melrose.

She said around 100 volunteers supported the 2023 event, which would assist 321 students from 148 families.

Cumbus said the volunteers particularly appreciate the opportunity to pray with families during the event. She said that this year, the church is giving away new devotional books to students.

Another recent development for the event is its partnership with the Adidas outlet store in St. Augustine.

Cumbus said that throughout the year, the store’s manager alerts event organizers about



David Kirkland and Cathy Cross help a student try on a pair of shoes.



(Left) Tyanna Conant and Sylvia Schmidt help students pick out clothing.

upcoming deals and sales at what Cumbus describes as “ridiculous price breaks.”

“I know last year, right before Black Friday,” she recalled, “they said: ‘If you want to come over, I have a guy for you, and I’ll help you out. Get everybody loaded.’ All we had to do was pull out the sizes we needed.”

Cumbus said planning, purchasing and storing for the giveaway is a yearlong process.

She, along with Barbara Sullivan and Karen Powell, comprise the steering committee.

Cumbus said that the event is essential to her as a member of the Lake Region community.

“I’ve also taught at McRae Elementary,” she said. “I’m in year 22, and I’ve only taught in our town. I grew up here. I’ve been at Community Church since I was 16 and raised my family here.”



Volunteers (l-r) Sara Zipperer, Senior Pastor Ray Peters, Ann Prevatt, Lois Semanision, Grace Taylor and Joe Taylor.



Volunteers (l-r) Daine Harp, Maria Walker and Jo Ann Sayers.



Diane House passes out product bags with personal hygiene products.

Lake Region man leads Florida Young Republicans

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A 2018 Keystone Heights High School graduate was elected chairman of Florida Young Republicans during the organization’s state convention on June 23 in Sarasota.

Brandon Ludwig takes the reigns of the 400-plus-member group, whose ranks include Republicans aged 18 through 40.

Ludwig said he wants to improve the group’s relationships with other Republican organizations, establish a fundraising base and expand the Young Republican’s reach in Florida.

“One of the things that I campaigned on was building a much stronger relationship with the Republican Party of Florida,” the 23-year-old said, “establishing a fundraising presence that we’ve not previously had, as well as bringing rural counties to the table, coming from Keystone Heights.”

Ludwig said he also hopes to expand the Young Republican’s footprint in the Sunshine State during his two-year term. Florida YRs now have 13 active chapters, with



Brandon Ludwig at the Clay County Republican tent during Keystone Heights’s Our Country Day. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.

only three north of Daytona Beach: Clay, Duval and Leon. He said he also hopes to capitalize on recent GOP gains in South Florida.

Republicans flipped two Miami-Dade congressional seats from blue to red in 2020. Gov. Ron DeSantis followed up two years later with a three-point re-election

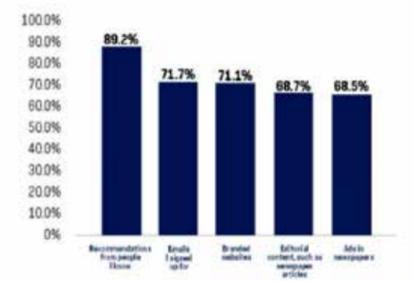
win in Palm Beach County and an 11-point blowout in Miami-Dade.

“A big focus of mine is expanding our reach in the panhandle,” Ludwig said, “as well as expanding into Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties in South Florida.”

CONSUMERS TRUST NEWSPAPERS

Top trusted advertising channels among U.S. consumers

Nielsen 2021 TA Study (51 Trust Completely/Trust Somewhat)



Special note: The Relevance Project thanks The Nielsen Co., a global leader in audience, measurement, data, ad analytics, for this excerpt from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 23 channels, a term to distinguish where ads show up or are referenced, in the study.



Here’s further proof that advertisers and marketers seeking a trusted media should hire newspapers. Newspapers show up as two of the Top 5 “trusted advertising channels” rated by U.S. Consumers in Nielsen’s 2021 Trust in Advertising Study. Seven out of 10 consumers said they either trust completely or trust somewhat four of the channels that included newspapers or products they offer advertisers. The top channel applies also to newspapers because their readers are informed consumers.



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UNION COUNTY

Union passes temporary ban on RV park applications

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — The Union County Board of Commissioners, at its July 17 meeting, has approved, on second reading, an ordinance declaring a moratorium on the acceptance of applications and the processing of special exception applications for travel trailer parks and campgrounds for one year to allow the county to look into developing and possibly adopting and/or regulations for such entities in the future.

The board has discussed several issues concerning campgrounds and travel trailer parks, including the possible adverse effects on county services such as law enforcement, fire and rescue, all are paid for with tax dollars or special assessments.

Also being looked into are such factors as roads and traffic, appropriate property tax determination for property which may serve as a “home base” for persons living in travel trailers — a growing trend. These land uses are businesses being run on a

for-profit basis, not single family homes on a lot.

Commissioners and County Coordinator Jimmy Williams are researching the issue, checking Florida statutes and talking with representative from other nearby counties to see how they are handling the issues and will discuss the options, advantages and liabilities over the year provided by the moratorium.

In other discussion and business, the board:

—approved a resolution enacting an agreement with

the Florida Department of Transportation for the maintenance and operation of specified traffic signals installed on the state highway system. FDOT will compensate the county for the work. This is an ongoing agreement between the county that has been in place for some time that must be renewed periodically.

—heard a presentation from the Thomas Howell and Ferguson Accounting Firm proposing an agreement where the firm would provide a monthly evaluation

of county financial reports, working with Union County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Kellie Hendricks Rhoades and her staff, to produce documents which are more accessible to commissioners understanding.

They will also assist with the generation of county policy documents, most notable the new procurement/purchasing policy that the board has been discussing for several months.

The firm has extensive experience working with state and federal grants. Their fee will

be hourly, but will not exceed \$2,000 per month and Williams told the board he thought he might be able to find a grant to help pay for the service.

“This is a step in the right direction,” Commissioner Channing Dobbs said as he made motion to hire the firm. Seconded by Commissioner Mac Johns, the motion passed unanimously.

Money for facilities, equipment and lost taxes added to county funding

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — Union County has received a grant from the Florida Fire Marshall’s Office, funded by an appropriation by the Florida Legislature, for \$305,000 for the purchase of needed firefighting equipment.

One purchase planned for these funds is the purchase and installation of a water storage tank, to be located at the intersection of C.R. 239A and C.R. 239, and the construction of a water recharge station to refill trucks should they need water. The land to be used for this project is owned by the county and is located near the Harmony Freewill Baptist Church.

Other items are also critically needed by the Union County Fire Department, including a new brush truck. The conditions of the grant that that all money much be spent within the state’s fiscal year and items needed be deliverable within that time span.

Both County Coordinator Jimmy Williams and EMS Director Toby Witt spoke to the board about the ongoing supply chain issues still being encountered with equipment. Appropriate equipment is hard to find, orders may take a year or more to be delivered and the limited availability makes

it difficult to acquire what is needed.

“When we find what we need, very often the seller will not hold the item to give us time to wait for the next board meeting for approval of the purchase,” Witt said. “We need flexibility to be able to jump on the purchase of this equipment as we find it.”

Williams and Witt asked the board to waive the usual purchasing policy, which requires getting bids and bringing each item before the board at its regular monthly meetings, just for the use of this grant. Motion was made by Commissioner Mac Johns to approve allowing Witt to purchase equipment as needed without waiting for the usual process, which may take more than a month.

One upcoming purchase discussed with commissioners at the July 17 meeting was the purchase of a new brush truck. Williams and Witt have located a suitable unit. It is a new Dodge Ram 3500 Crew Cab Mini Pumper Brush Rescue truck, fully outfitted and ready to work. The unit is a four-wheel drive and comes with all the equipment and safety features needed for such use, including a 13,000 lb. winch and 150 feet of hose.

The cost of the truck is \$139,500, plus registration and tags. With the commission’s

approval of the special waiver of the purchasing policy, they said they would be purchasing it (before someone else got it) the morning after the meeting.

The Florida Senate was good to Union County this session, including about half of the funds needed to construct the new jail/public safety complex (\$6.93 million) and \$374,000 for the historic restoration of the Union County Courthouse.

The courthouse was built in 1929 and has seen two renovations in its history — the addition of two wings to the structure in the 1960s and an addition to the rear of the building in 2000 — but little other renovation has been done, with work mainly being necessary repairs. The current grant will fund windows and general building rehabilitation and repairs.

In a boon to the county that Williams has been pursuing for several years is a payment in lieu of taxes from the Florida Department of Corrections. FDOC owns 29 properties in Union County that have a combined assessed value of a little under \$68.1 million which, if taxed as other properties in the county, would produce estimated annual taxes of \$1.15 million.

Besides the large areas of land used for the Regional Medical Center and its work

camp and West Unit, and the Union Correctional Institution and its work camp, FDOC also provides a total of 247 housing units for correctional personnel. The county with the next highest number of housing units provides only about 40 units. This means that the county and school district are missing out on about \$320,000 in estimated annual ad valorem taxes.

In addition, these properties pay no special assessments for emergency medical services, fire services, solid waste management or local law enforcement through the Union County Sheriff’s Office, but they still receive these services.

In the period from May 2021 to May 2022, the UCSO responded to 197 calls for service via 911 dispatch, EMS responded to 175 calls and fire services responded to two calls. Since response to 911 emergency calls in mandated by state law, and these services are paid for by special assessments, these calls cost Union County taxpayers about \$200,000 for the one-year period. In addition, Union taxpayers pay an estimated annual cost for waste management services for these properties of \$16,598.

FDOC is the largest employer in Union County and provides jobs for many people in the surrounding area as well.

Staff housing is provided at competitive rates to employees, but they still pay rent for the housing. The FDOC collects this as revenue. The upside is that families can have an affordable place to live, and the institutions have a reserve of employees on site should an emergency occur requiring people to be called in to work on short notice.

The county, on the other hand, loses about \$1.4 million per year due to the lack of ad valorem income and the cost to the county of the services it is required to provide. In a larger county, such a financial hit might be easier to work around, but in a county the size of Union it is a serious matter.

The payment in lieu of taxes approved by the legislature is \$300,000 a year. It is a recurring appropriation/grant, meaning that it will be sent to the county every year without going through a legislative process — in essence, it will become part of the state budget.

Another new grant the county is receiving is the Resilient Florida Planning Grant in the amount of \$300,000. This grant is to fund a study of flooding potential and flood mitigation in the county and its municipalities. The grant is being administered by Jones Edmunds Engineering firm. When complete the county

will know which roads are most likely to flood, which culverts need to be replaced and retention ponds in need of attention. Future grants may be available to finance mitigation of the mapped flooding.

Currently the county has 10 open/active grant projects in the works (not including the public safety complex or any funds from FDOT) totaling approximately \$3,409,000. These include projects like the courthouse restoration design, the addition to the Agricultural Learning Center, the federally funded broadband initiative and the Brownfield program. There are also a little over \$16 million in FDOT SCRAP and SCOP grants funding the needed paving of county roads.

Finding and applying for grants is a large part of Williams’ job, but he must be selective in those he applied for. With the county’s tight budget, grants that require matching funds are usually ruled out, as are many that only pay for the project when it is complete, with the county having to pay the costs of the work up front and then wait for reimbursement.

Williams said he had a “full plate” right now keeping up with schedules, deadlines and other requirements and will not be spending so much time looking for more grants in the near future.

Union County back to school information

LBES

Lake Butler Elementary School schedules will be released via Skyward at 5:00 PM on Thursday, July 20.

LBES Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 1, and Thursday, Aug. 3. Students and parents/guardians may visit to meet their teachers, pick up information and tour campus. Kindergarten teachers will be contacting parents during preplanning to schedule individual parent meetings to prepare for school.

Aug. 1: Pre-K, 6–7 p.m.

Aug. 3: 1st & 2nd grade, 6–7 p.m.

Aug. 3: 3rd & 4th grade, 7–8 p.m.

Students return to LBES Thursday, Aug. 10.

LBMS

Schedules will be released via Skyward at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 20. The schedule request window will open at 8 a.m., Monday, July 24, through Thursday, July 27, closing at 3 p.m. Be sure to check your schedule in Skyward on the schedule tab and request any changes before the window closes. If you miss this window, the next scheduled request window will be Aug. 14–17.

Please remember the following before you request a change:

—All schedule change requests must be completed through Skyward. Requests made through email will not be honored. This is because each schedule change request is date and time-stamped and is taken in the order they are received.

—Many sections of our courses are already full or near capacity so please make sure that your request is centered around a need.

—Please do not make multiple schedule change requests. Think about the changes you need/want (discuss with your parent/guardian) and then submit one change request. Multiple requests do not increase the speed in which your request is reviewed and only serve to make matters more complicated.

—Only students have access to

request schedule changes.

How to request a schedule change:

1. Log into Skyward.
2. Go to the upper right-hand corner of your screen and you will see District Links. Click on that and it will take you to Schedule Change Request. Fill out the form and submit it.

LBMS Open House will be Monday, Aug. 7.

—5th & 6th grade 5–6:30 p.m.

—7th & 8th grade 7–8:30 p.m.

Everyone should report to the gym for a brief introduction. This year, parents/guardians and students will be rotating to each class period to meet the teacher and discuss expectations and procedures to help your child be successful this school year.

Students return to LBMS Thursday, Aug. 10.

UCHS

Schedules will be released via Skyward at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 20. The schedule request window will open at 8 a.m., Monday, July 24, through Thursday, July 27, closing at 3 p.m.. Be sure to check your schedule in Skyward on the schedule tab and request any changes before the window closes. If you miss this window, the next scheduled request window will be August 14–17.

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—Only students have access to request schedule changes.

How to request a schedule change:

1. Log into Skyward.
2. Go to the upper right-hand corner of your screen and you will see District Links. Click on that and it will take you to Schedule Change Request. Fill out the form and submit it.

3. If you are a freshman or a junior, your request will automatically be sent to Mrs. Beatty.

4. If you are a sophomore or a senior, your request will automatically be sent to Mr. Howell.

Parking permits: Please see the schedule below for the purchase of parking spots.

Note: All debt must be paid in full prior to purchasing a parking spot.

1. Pay off any outstanding debt. To find out your debt, please go to Skyward and it will be listed under Outstanding Debt. Debt may be paid to Mrs. Amy Stalnaker in guidance.

In order to purchase a parking spot the student will bring the following:

1. Valid driver’s license.
2. Vehicle registration.
3. Proof of insurance (must be current).
4. \$20 (cash only).

Mrs. Dawn Rizer will be handling all parking spots paperwork and payments. Please note, the student is required to purchase the parking spot unless approval is given by administration for a parent/guardian to purchase.

Lockers are \$10 for the year. UCHS provides the locker with

lock included.

Monday, July 24: Only seniors may purchase parking permits and/or lockers. Students may choose their parking spot in the designated parking lot for seniors.

Tuesday, July 25: Only seniors and juniors may purchase parking permits and/or lockers. Parking spots and lockers will be assigned by UCHS.

Wednesday, July 26: Only seniors, juniors, and sophomores may purchase parking permits and/or lockers. Parking spots and lockers will be assigned by UCHS.

Thursday, July 28: All students may purchase parking permits and/or lockers. Parking spots and lockers will be assigned by UCHS.

Parking space decorations: Only seniors may decorate parking spaces.

1. All decorations must be less than the width of the parking space.

2. Painting of any part of the parking space is not allowed.

3. Decorations may be put up no earlier than Wednesday, Aug. 9.

4. All decorations must be removed by Friday, Aug. 18, by 3:30 p.m.

UCHS Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 8. Students and parents/guardians may visit to meet staff, pick up information and tour campus. UCHS is excited to meet incoming ninth graders and parents and also catch up with 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and parents. Come out and meet your teachers and explore campus!

—9th grade orientation, 6–7 p.m.

—10th, 11th and 12th grades: 7–8 p.m.

Students return to UCHS: Thursday, Aug. 10.



Kim Bailey
Owner-Director

Kim Bailey, owner of Little Rainbow’s Learning Center in Lake Butler, Florida, recently participated in several early childhood classes such as *Cognitive Development, Instructional Support Strategies, Classroom Organization, Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Class Observations*. She dedicated several Saturdays and week-day evenings the last couple of months with her team at Little Rainbow’s to promote and achieve continuous education in the field of Early Childhood Education partnering with Early Learning Coalitions in the surrounding areas.

We encourage and congratulate Kim on renewing her *Director’s Credential for Little Rainbow’s Learning Center*.



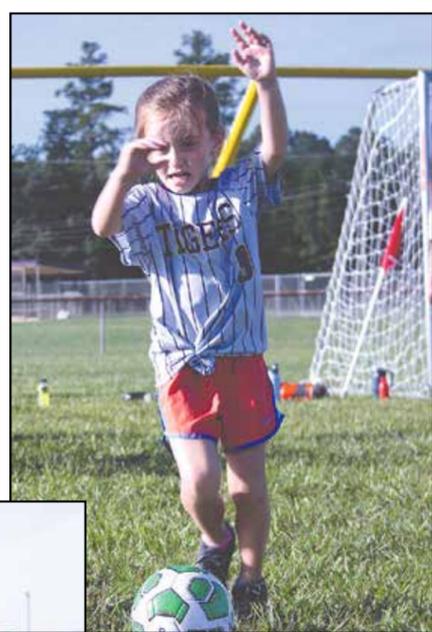
255 Southeast 6th Avenue
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(386) 496-8278
Owner/Director: Kim Bailey
LittleRainbowsLearningCenter.com



Pauline Smith

Pauline Smith, an employee at Little Rainbow’s Learning Center supports teachers, classrooms, and performs administrative duties to assist existing families and new enrolling families.

Recently Pauline has attended and completed classes such as *Cognitive Development, Instructional Support Strategies, Classroom Organization, Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Class Observations*. She dedicated Saturdays and evenings with her team at Little Rainbow’s to promote and continue her education in Early Childhood Education. Congratulations also to Pauline who is currently renewing her *Director’s Credential for Little Rainbow’s Learning Center*.



Sizzling start for soccer club

Follow Union County Soccer Club on Facebook for more information or call any of the board members above, including Jeff Casey at 912-433-4959. Also pictured, Ashlie Casey, Jeff Jankowski and Megan Mecusker.

Andrews Site Prep Septic and Well Drilling
Austin's Pro Concrete
Clyatt Well Drilling
Spires IGA
Team Alvarez & Hill with Engel & Volkers
B Squared
Ginger Willies Services LLC
B.L. Photography

Lunch provided by:
Kenneth and Lynda Parrish
Sardis Baptist Church
Welch & Sons Land Development

Vision for Starke's future requires investment

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Engineers for Starke detailed plans to revitalize the bypassed and overpassed city, but the financial commitment appears too large at this time.

"Painting a Vision for the Future of Downtown" was the title of Woodward and Curran's presentation by Justin deMello.

He said an estimated 24,000 vehicles are bypassing or overpassing downtown Starke every day. But, on the bright side, Starke has more than one million people within a one-hour radius to take advantage of a reinvented version of the city.

"Starke has an opportunity to reinvent their brand and really create a destination where locals and tourists say, 'Alexa, take me to Starke,'" he said.

They worked with local leaders on creating City Walk, deMello said, which envisions downtown as a central entertainment and business district that builds upon the city's old Florida charm.

"We've got brick-lined streets and pedestrian friendly

connectivity, unique shops and restaurants, food truck events, beautiful parks and flowering gardens, an amphitheater for hosting charming concerts and events, scenic walking trails along the restored and revived creek," he said of the vision.

There are also ideas for expanding the college campus and a training facility to work in cooperation with the hospital. DeMello talked about potentially working with the Florida Department of Transportation to transform U.S. 301 through downtown from a four-lane highway to a road with roundabouts, bike lanes and green spaces to slow traffic and get visitors to stop.

Nothing has been predetermined, and the possibilities are open for discussion. Concepts and renderings could be developed to engage the interest of the business community. A Community Redevelopment Agency could be recreated to steer future tax dollars toward downtown revitalization. The city's comprehensive plan should also be updated.

Projects and funding opportunities will be developed with a focus on:



Image of a revitalized downtown from Woodward and Curran's presentation.

- utility infrastructure.
- flood mitigation.
- stormwater collection and conveyance.
- complete streets and parking.
- landscaping.
- public and private development.
- existing façade improvements.
- park, memorial and recreational areas.

The engineers took Starke representatives to the city of Tavares, once closer to Starke in population. From a shuttered downtown where the only building in use was city hall, Tavares' rebirth demonstrates what can be accomplished when city

commitments are combined with infrastructure funding.

Tami Ray from Woodward and Curran was credited with successfully pursuing project financing. She tied that success to commitments of local dollars as leverage for awards of state and federal funding. For example, Bradford County committed \$4 million in ARPA funds to extend city utilities down State Road 16, and the state kicked in another \$2 million. Starke earmarked \$400,000 in ARPA funds for City Walk, and the state matched it with another \$400,000. The city agreed to a low-interest loan for collection system improvements that was

accompanied by a \$4 million grant.

That's how Tavares did it, Ray said. Through planning and the use of its CRA as a source of tax revenue, Woodward and Curran was able to help Tavares pull together \$57 million in grants to revitalize its downtown. This led to even more revenue for the city, which saw its CRA account grow from \$200,000 to \$2 million a year.

"Good, positive story there, but it took an investment. The city had to believe in itself and believe in its ability to accomplish all of these goals," she said.

On that point, to fully carry out the City Walk project would require an ongoing commitment from the city commission over five years in the amount of \$800,000 annually — \$300,000 from general revenue and \$500,000 from utility revenue.

That means the full vision for City Walk will be on hold as the city commission is struggling with raising revenue to fund police and fire services, which are facing severe cuts in the next budget.

Commissioners like Andy Redding still saw the promise

for how redevelopment could attract businesses, residents and other amenities that would grow the tax and customer base and help pay for essential services and infrastructure.

"If we sit on our hands and do nothing, nothing will ever change," he said.

"It really is about the return on investment," Ray said. "This is not just money to spend in the downtown on a particular improvement like a park area. This is really an investment over a period of time in your downtown corridor, which is going to have a return."

That includes opportunities for new jobs and higher-paying jobs," she said.

Mayor Scott Roberts said he had a remarkable visit meeting people in Tavares and discussing its transformation, and one thing in Starke's favor is it is not as far behind as Tavares was.

"It seems like a pipe dream, but really, it's not. It's something that can take place," he said. "It doesn't happen overnight, but it will happen."

Three-year plan submitted to upgrade water system

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — With work underway on the city's wastewater treatment plant and collection system, engineers for Starke have prepared a plan for the city's drinking water facilities.

Woodward and Curran's Justin deMello summarized the plan for city commissioners July 11, projecting the cost of all three included projects at \$14.3 million.

The projects in the plan could be eligible for funding through the State Revolving Fund, which provides partially forgiven loans for such utility infrastructure projects.

"The drinking water

facilities plan is a culmination over the last nine months where essentially Woodward and Curran, at the city's request, came in and evaluated the city's drinking water system, your treatment plant, your distribution systems, your meters, storage tanks, not only for its current population, but for its future growth as well," deMello said.

The study examined the city's needs and evaluated several project alternatives. In addition to considering the capital and ongoing operational costs, engineers looked at the long-term impact on ratepayers. According to deMello, no known rate

increase was required at this time.

Engineers considered water treatment plant upgrades for the first project, looking at both rehabilitation of the existing plant and total replacement. In the end, they decided on partial replacement. The existing facility is in pretty good shape, deMello said, but some equipment is beyond its useful life.

The second project addresses the distribution system and upgrades to stabilize system pressure. This project calls for a new elevated water storage tank, water mains and upgrades to the existing distribution system. Sites along the

bypass have been identified as possible locations for the new tank, which would help balance system pressure and support future growth, deMello said.

The final project would convert the city to an advanced meter infrastructure system to more efficiently and accurately measure water usage, something City Manager Drew Mullins has said could boost revenue without raising rates. Usage is tracked electronically versus manually by a meter reader. The system also helps identify water main breaks.

Construction costs for all three projects are projected at nearly \$12.3 million,

preliminary engineering costs are more than \$1.1 million plus \$559,000 during construction, and legal costs are \$335,500.

The commission approved applying for SRF funding for these projects. If approved, project design would begin in October. By October 2024, the city would begin advertising for construction bids, with the goal of awarding contracts in February 2025. A notice to proceed would be issued in April 2025, and construction would be complete by October 2026, three years later.

The city would have to begin repaying any unforgiven portion of the loan in July 2027. Water and sewer

revenue has been pledged to cover the cost.

In other business: —the commission approved a resolution seeking additional SRF loan funds from DEP to complete the first phase of the sewer collection system upgrades. The city was originally awarded \$5.358 million, which included a \$4 million grant and \$1.358 million loan. The project was bid three times, and the low bid still came in over budget at more than \$6.929 million.

Woodward and Curran submitted an application, and an additional \$1.571 million loan was secured to complete the project.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

The following individuals were arrested recently by local law enforcement officers in Bradford, Union or Clay (Keystone Heights-area) counties. All defendants are considered innocent until convicted in a court or until pleading guilty or no contest. Information in this report is from law enforcement agencies and court documents, which are public records.

Bradford

Mark Richard Affuso, 58, of Alachua was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 8 for failure to appear and possession of drug equipment.

Ruben Pena Andino, 53, of Humacao, Puerto Rico was arrested on June 9 for DUI.

Alton James Bowles, 73, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on July 13 for a probation violation.

Larry Lee Brooks, 51, of Hampton was arrested by Lawtey police on July 10 for battery and resisting an officer.

Angelica Beatrice Camacho, 21, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 12 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, selling marijuana, a weapons offense and larceny.

Alexander Gordon Cardenas, 61, of Keystone Heights was arrested on July 9 for fleeing and alluding, driving with a suspended or revoked license, resisting an officer, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and assault.

Cydney Doris-Laverne Collins, 22, of Ponte Vedra was arrested on July 8 for an out-of-county warrant.

Brittany Veronique Crawford, 32, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 13 for fraud-swindle.

David Lee Denmark, 24, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 13 for simple assault.

Freddy Lee Holmes, 29, of Gainesville was arrested on July 12 for an out-of-county warrant.

Richardlyn Bobbie Jamison, 29, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on July 8 for larceny and child neglect.

Calvin William Lane, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 14 for failure to appear, driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of marijuana.

Parviele Lashay Lee, 39, of Starke was arrested on July 9 for out-of-county warrants.

David Christopher Savory, 35, of Middleburg was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 9 for DUI.

Lindsey Deborah Scott, 23, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 12 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and selling marijuana.

Steven Alan Thornton, 51, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 13 for a probation violation.

Union

Drake Dragonfire Shingledecker, 23, of Fort White was arrested by Union deputies on July 11 for domestic battery by strangulation.

Chad Dean Smiley, 42, of Live Oak was arrested by Union deputies on July 11 for failure to appear.

Harriet C. Waldron, 40, of Starke was arrested by Union deputies on July 15 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Clay

Robert Fariel Browning, 50, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 8 for disorderly conduct, resisting an officer without violence and disorderly intoxication.

Lenorris Bernard Jackson, 48, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 12 for failure to appear.

John Jacob Thornton, 20, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 12 for vandalism.



Hamilton



Austin



Stewart

Former candidate accused of bouncing \$100k check

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Deputies arrested a former candidate for Bradford County's Supervisor of Elections on July 3 after victims in two separate incidents accused him of writing worthless checks.

Storm Zedra Hamilton, 30, of Starke was arrested for two counts of fraud-insufficient funds check.

In 2020, the defendant ran for the open seat of Bradford's Supervisor of Elections following the retirement of Terry Vaughan.

Hamilton, running with no party affiliation, lost to Republican Amanda Seyfang in the Nov. 3 general election, garnering 22% of the vote.

According to a sworn complaint, the victim and her attorney contacted Bradford Sheriff's Detective Michael Garmon on Aug. 15, 2022, claiming that the defendant persuaded the Wellington, Florida victim to invest \$100,000 in exchange for a one percent stake in Eastern MedWaste, Hamilton's upstart biomedical waste management business.

"After several months had passed with no dividends being received by (the victim) from Eastern MedWaste, she texted Storm in hopes of getting some

clarification," wrote Garmon. "After receiving several text messages which appeared to be non-committal on Storm's behalf, (the victim) requested a full refund of the money she invested."

The investigator added that after several more months, the victim received a \$100,000 check from Hamilton, but when she attempted to deposit the negotiable instrument at a credit union, she was told there were not enough funds to cover the check.

Garmon wrote that he obtained statements for Hamilton's account from August 2021 through August 2022, and at the time he wrote the check to the victim on Feb. 11, 2022, the balance of the account was \$162.97.

"Furthermore," Garmon wrote, "it was found that at no point in the one-year period of time was there ever sufficient funds in the checking account...to cover (a) check written for \$100,000.00."

In the second count, Bradford Union Cattle Show and Sale officers claimed the defendant wrote a worthless check for \$5,510.97 on Sept. 20, 2022.

"Surveillance footage from homes in that area captured a truck driving down roads with the passenger, later identified as Austin, and his co-defendant, Stewart, stealing mail from mailboxes," the office said. "On May 6, 2022, the Baker County Sheriff's Office arrested Austin and Stewart for their involvement with a fraudulent check. During the arrest, the BCSO conducted an inventory search of the truck used by them and located over 100 pieces of mail that had been stolen from various addresses in Clay County."

Investigators later determined that after stealing mail, Austin and Stewart used Austin's phone in an effort to deposit stolen checks into their bank accounts through mobile deposit. Law enforcement recovered mail that Austin and Stewart had stolen from Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, and Putnam counties.

Austin is currently serving a three-year sentence in state prison for grand theft and burglary convictions in Bradford County and grand theft and petit theft convictions in Union County.

Stewart is currently on drug offender probation.



Trice

She pulls out cell phone, he pulls out gun

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — A Starke man was sentenced to one-year probation after pleading to pulling a gun on a woman after she began video recording him with her cell phone.

Derek Joseph Trice, 26, was arrested on March 16 for felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He pleaded to improper exhibition of a dangerous weapon, a misdemeanor.

According to an arrest report, the defendant told Starke Police Sergeant Frank W. Krol that the incident began when he shined a green laser in the direction of two women in the parking lot of the Whiskey River Saloon.

"Trice advised he went back inside when he realized (the women) were not who he thought they were," wrote the officer.

Later, as the defendant was leaving the bar, one female, accompanied by another, approached the rear of his vehicle and began videoing him.

"Trice said he felt threatened," Krol wrote, "so he drew his pistol, keeping it at his side and only approached the female by a few feet."

"Trice advised he was threatened by the female with her phone..." the sergeant added, "so he was standing his ground and approached her with a gun in hand."

Judge D. Tatum Davis ordered the defendant to complete an anger management class and submit to a drug and alcohol evaluation.

He also prohibited Trice from carrying a firearm, contacting the victim or returning to the Whiskey River Saloon.



Shannon



Smith

Women bite each other in fight over man

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — A Starke woman was sentenced to 45 days in jail for fighting in the parking lot of North Florida Technical College.

During a hearing on July 11, Judge D. Tatum Davis credited Tatianna Latrice Shannon for 45 days already served and ordered the 25-year-old to pay a \$50 fine.

In a March 13 arrest report, School Resource Officer David Bukowski wrote that after being informed of a disturbance, he went to the parking lot, where he saw school staff members trying to separate the two women.

Shannon told the officer that she came to the campus to talk to her ex-boyfriend and her child's father, an adult student at the college.

When Shannon arrived at the school, she found the man's current girlfriend: Errica Chante Smith, 23, also in the parking lot. The two women began to argue, and the dispute escalated.

Shannon told Bukowski she was bitten in the facial area, and the officer noted visible marks on the woman's face.

Smith claimed she was bitten on the hand.

Both women, neither of whom were students at the school, were evaluated by EMS and arrested for fighting on the campus.

In June, Smith signed a deferred prosecution agreement. If she fulfills the terms of the contract, the State will drop charges against her.



Wright

Probation for fleeing after hitting cyclist

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — A Keystone Heights woman was sentenced to five years' probation after pleading to hitting a bicyclist in Hampton and fleeing the scene.

Kaylin Leigh Wright, 21, pleaded to the Feb. 22 offense of failure to stop after a crash involving serious injury.

In an arrest report, Bradford Deputy Brian Haddock noted that the victim was struck as he was peddling near the Hampton Sunoco.

"Upon my arrival, I observed the victim...who is autistic and can't speak, lying on the ground beside his damaged bicycle," wrote Haddock. "After acquiring a vehicle description from the witness...who observed the suspect's vehicle strike the victim and flee the area hastily, I endeavored to locate the vehicle in the area, with negative results."

The deputy added that after returning to the Sunoco, the witness pointed out a passing car that he said was the vehicle that had earlier struck the cyclist.

"Deputy Malley, who was assisting on this call, conducted a traffic stop and made contact with (Wright)," wrote Haddock. "Per Deputy Malley, the suspect spontaneously conceded to striking the victim on his bicycle and fleeing the scene. Moreover, Deputy Malley advised that there was damage to the front of the suspect's vehicle."

The victim was transported to HCA Starke Emergency due to possible injuries.

Judge James M. Colaw also suspended the defendant's driver's license for three years, ordered Wright to attend a driver improvement course and serve 120 hours of community service. The judge scheduled a restitution hearing for Aug. 16.

Charges dropped for 4

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — The State Attorney's Office filed case action reports of no prosecution for four defendants facing misdemeanor counts.

Neftaly Guevara Alacron, 27, Milthon Castillo Euceda, 26, and Terrence McClendon, 41, all had pending driver's license violation cases in process.

Dustin Alan Frazier, 33, of Gainesville successfully graduated from mental health court.

Frazier was arrested on Sept. 11, 2022, after breaking into a Hampton Lake Airbnb with two renters inside.

According to the victims, Frazier knocked on the door on two separate occasions, looking for the property manager, who was not in the residence.

The following morning, one of the renters awoke to find the defendant in the home's living room, wearing a pair of the victim's shorts and uttering incoherent statements.

The victim retrieved his firearm and ordered Frazier to leave.

Deputies later found the defendant walking near Hampton's Sunoco gas station.

Women's program at Greater Bethlehem

Greater Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church of Starke will be hosting its annual Women's Day program for the month of July. Please come and help support the women of Greater Bethlehem.

Friday, July 21, at 7 p.m. with Min. Gwen Williams.

Sunday, July 23, at 11 a.m. with Min. Carl Tyson Jr.

Family Day at Victory Baptist

Everyone is invited to Victory Baptist Church's Family Day. Saturday, July 29. Vacation Bible school is at 10 a.m. and family fun starts at noon. Free food and school supplies will be given out. The church is located at 5340 Pine St. in Hampton.

UCHS Class of 1974 reunion

Union County High School CLASS of 1974 will be gathering Saturday, Sept. 30, at 3 p.m. at Cedar River Seafood in Starke for a Dutch treat meal. Please RSVP by July 30, to Cathy Naracon at 850-556-8851 or bunolsecan@yahoo.com.

LB VFW hosts bingo

Lake Butler VFW Post 10082 has bingo on Thursdays at 7 p.m. The VFW is located off C.R. 231 just outside of Lake Butler. Look for the sign on the left (coming from town).



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(Across from Subway Plaza)

386-496-9656

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Looking back: BHS had 3 volleyball teams go 2-1 in playoffs

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

If new Bradford High School Head Volleyball Coach Chelsea LeMire could get the Tornadoes into the regional playoffs in 2023, it would mark the first playoff appearance in seven years and the second in the last 14 years.

Winning a playoff game would be even more impressive.

Only two coaches have taken Bradford past the first round of the playoffs: Inez Diggs in 1990 and Shari Bishop in 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2003. Bishop's 1996, 2000 and 2003 teams each went 2-1 in the playoffs, making her the only coach to have led a team to two postseason wins in a season.

Overall, Bishop guided the Tornadoes to the playoffs in 10 seasons. Bradford has qualified for postseason play only three times since Bishop, making it in 2005 under Coach Matt Moore, 2009 under Coach Tara Tomlinson and 2016 under Coach Robbie Best.

The Telegraph-Times-Monitor takes a look back at the three teams that won two playoff matches before their seasons ended one win shy of the Final Four.

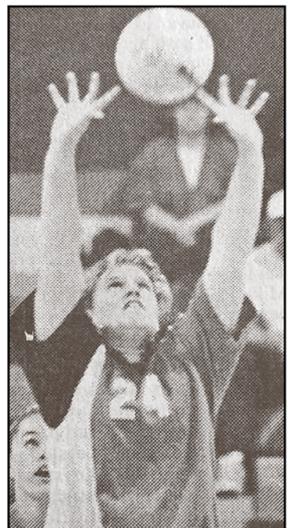
Note: Though Diggs' 1990 team went 1-1 in the postseason, it, too, was one win shy of reaching the state semifinals as the playoffs consisted of less rounds then.

Also, the 1996 and 2000 teams played under volleyball's old scoring system in which you earned a point only if you were serving. Those teams played a best-2-out-of-3 set format, with 15 being the number to reach to win a set.

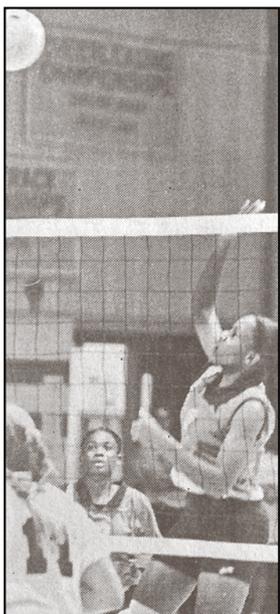
1996

Bradford compiled an 8-0 record against District 5-4A opponents during the regular season, earning the Tornadoes the number-one seed in the district tournament. The Tornadoes played Eastside in the semifinals, winning 2-1 (15-1, 10-15, 15-4).

Lane Tougaw had 26 assists, while Andrana Hamm had 19 service points, 10 digs and six kills. Shameka Walker and Salonika McNeal recorded nine and eight kills, respectively, while Mimi Blye had seven kills. McNeal and Charlene Wright



Lane Tougaw was a setter on the 1996 team.



Celacey Green (right) sends the ball over the net. She was a member of the 1996 team.

each had eight digs.

Bradford won its fourth straight district title by defeating North Marion 2-0 (15-2, 15-13). Hamm had 13 digs, while Tougaw recorded 18 assists. Blye and Walker had eight and seven kills, respectively, with Walker also adding eight digs and seven points. McNeal had 12 points.

The Tornadoes moved on to face Brooksville Central in the regional quarterfinals, winning 2-0 (15-11, 15-12). Bradford jumped out to a 9-2 lead in the first set and scored the first five points in the second set en route to building a 10-3 lead.

Tougaw recorded 18 assists and 11 digs, while Walker had 12 digs and 10 kills. Hamm had 14 digs, while Monica Tyson and Celacey Green had 11 and 10, respectively.

Blye had eight kills. The regional semifinals and championship game were all played in the same day at BHS. After Bishop Kenny defeated Pace in the first semifinal game, the Tornadoes defeated Eustis 2-1 (15-6, 10-15, 15-12). Bradford then had to turn around and play Bishop Kenny, which handed Bradford a 2-0 (15-8, 15-8) loss.

"I don't know who the genius is that sets up these schedules, but I don't know how you can expect play on this level to be fair under the current setup, with one team well rested and the other tired," Bishop said. "I think if the final had been held the next day, the outcome would have been very different."

In the win over Eustis, Tougaw had 24 assists, nine digs, six kills and two blocks. Hamm and Walker had 10 and eight kills, respectively, with Hamm adding 10 digs and Walker adding 17 digs and three aces.

Blye recorded seven kills, while McNeal had six to go along with 11 digs, 10 points and three aces. Green had 10 digs and five kills.

In the loss to Bishop Kenny, Hamm led the team in digs with 15, while Walker had nine. Green had seven, Blye and McNeal each had six and Tyson had five.

Walker also had six kills and two blocks, while Tougaw had

nine assists and two blocks.

Bradford finished the season 20-7.

2000

Though the Tornadoes posted a program-high 23 wins in 1999, they fell in the regional semifinals, ending their season with a 23-6 record.

The 2000 team went one round deeper in the playoffs in what was a 19-13 season. Bradford went 10-0 against District 3-3A competition during the regular season and was the top seed in the district tournament.

Bradford opened the tournament with a 2-0 (15-3, 15-13) semifinal win over West Nassau. Sherry Covington posted eight kills and five digs, while Candice Bennett had nine digs and six points.

JoJo Reddish and Lindsey Mains recorded 12 and nine assists, respectively.

Cena Anderson had eight points, while Alicia Paterson had five points and three aces.

The Tornadoes then won their third straight district title and their seventh in eight years, defeating Fort White 2-1 (13-15, 15-6, 15-8).

Bradford built an 11-2 lead in the first set before Fort White rallied for the win.

It was tied at 6-6 in the second set when the Tornadoes scored seven straight points with Erica Norman serving. The run included two aces by Norman and two kills by Covington. A Starr Pittman kill and a Bennett ace closed out the set.

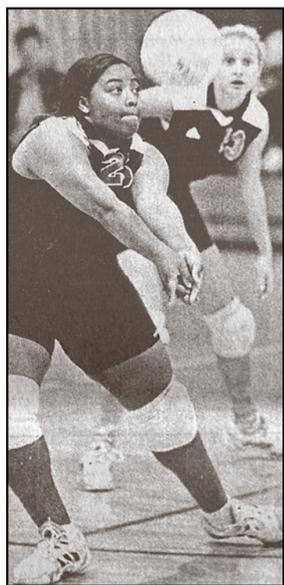
Bradford trailed 6-2 in the third set before scoring eight straight points with Anderson serving. Anderson had two aces during that span, which also included three kills by Covington. Bennett had the match-winning kill.

Bennett finished with 14 digs and 11 points, while Khiana Williams had 12 kills, 13 digs, eight points and three blocks.

Anderson and Pittman each had 11 digs, with Anderson adding six points.

Covington recorded 11 kills and eight digs, while Mains and Norman each had six digs. Mains added 24 assists, while Norman added nine points.

The Tornadoes began the



Starr Pittman makes a play on an opponent's serve during the 2000 season.



Candice Bennett played on the 2000 team, which won a school-record 23 matches.

regional playoffs with a 2-1 (15-5, 7-15, 16-14) quarterfinal win over Bartram Trail.

Bradford appeared as if it was on its way to a sweep, building a 6-1 lead in the second set. The Bears rallied and scored the final eight points of the set to take the win.

The Tornadoes scored the first 10 points of the third set, with seven coming with Mains serving. Bartram Trail rallied again to tie the score. The Bears later led 14-12 before Bradford scored four straight points to close out the match.

Covington and Williams each had nine kills, with Covington adding three blocks and Williams adding 15 digs and six points.

Anderson had nine points, while Bennett and Mains each had eight. Mains also had 15 assists.

In the regional semifinals, the Tornadoes defeated Pensacola Catholic 2-1 (15-11, 13-15, 15-13). Bishop said the team had its "typical lapses," but added, "We

played the best defense we've probably played all year."

Bennett and Mains each had three service points to help Bradford build a 7-1 lead in the third set. Pensacola Catholic rallied to tie the score. The Tornadoes later trailed 13-12 before scoring three straight points with Williams serving. Covington and Pittman each had a kill before a Pensacola Catholic error resulted in the winning point.

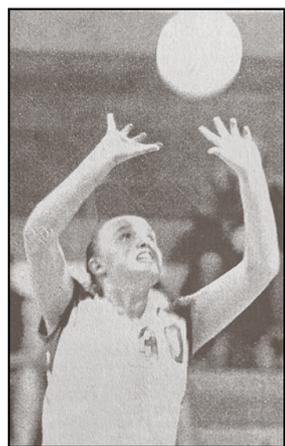
Mains finished with 23 assists, 15 digs, seven points and five kills, while Anderson had nine digs and eight points.

Williams recorded 18 digs, 10 kills, nine points and three blocks, while Kiley Alvarez and Pittman (who returned from a thumb injury in the second set) had 15 and 13 digs, respectively.

Covington added nine kills and eight digs, while Bennett had 15 points, four aces, eight kills and four blocks.

The Tornadoes' season came to an end with a 2-0 (15-7, 15-3) loss to Bolles in the regional finals. Bishop though her team came out flat, saying, "Bolles is just a great team. We were mediocre against them."

Bradford got two kills from Williams in building a 4-1 lead in the first set, but Bolles was able to put together an 11-0 run



Christina Lopez, who played on the 2003 team, sets the ball.



Katlyn Hartley was a member of the 2003 team.

en route to the win.

Bolles scored the first 10 points of the second set.

Mains had eight assists and five points, while Williams had six kills. Bennett recorded eight digs, with Anderson and Pittman each adding five.

The Tornadoes finished the season at 19-13.

2003

It had been two years since Bradford won a district title after winning eight straight (1993-2000). The Tornadoes also missed out on qualifying for the regional playoffs in 2002.

The 2003 team changed all that, winning the District 4-3A tournament and advancing to the regional finals before ending its season with a 16-13 record.

Bradford defeated Keystone Heights 3-2 (25-21, 25-23, 19-25, 24-26, 15-13) in the semifinals of the district tournament.

The Tornadoes avoided dropping the first set after trailing 20-10.

After winning two of the first three sets, Bradford couldn't close it out in the fourth, despite leading 23-19.

Bradford built a 10-5 lead in the fifth set. Keystone rallied, but Christina Lopez had two late kills, including the match winner.

Lopez finished with 14 kills, 16 digs, 20 assists, 19 points and six aces. Roxann Jackson had

See VOLLEY, page 12

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Bryan Kirkland, APRN: "It is almost time for back to school and sports. Make your appointments early for pre-participation sports exams."

Gayle Nicula, APRN: "Moms, be sure to make time for your annual exams to stay on top of your health."

Dr. Kevin McBride: "Controlling high blood pressure can prevent a host of more serious health conditions. Follow up with your physician to discuss the best approach to blood pressure management."



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Obituaries

Kenneth Cole Sr.

Mr. Kenneth "Kenny" D. Cole Sr., 65, of Callahan died at his home Tuesday, July 11, 2023. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Kenny Cole Jr.; and a brother, Jesse Huey Cole Jr.

Survivors are his son, Levi Cole of Callahan; siblings, Nancy Hollingworth of Fernandina Beach, Larry (Rita) Carter of Starke, and Cliff (Buddy) Summerville of Jacksonville.

There are no services scheduled at this time.

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

Marsha Dudderar

Marsha Dense (McElhenny) Dudderar, 61, of Starke passed away on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at E.T. York Haven Hospice in Gainesville. She was born in Jacksonville on Aug. 31, 1961, to her loving parents, Leonard Coleman McElhenny and Alice Jane Williams. She was a lifelong resident of Bradford County. She also lived in St. Augustine, Ocala, West Palm Beach, and Parkers Lake, Kentucky. She always returned to her hometown of Starke. She will always be remembered for her loving heart, her love for animals, and her love for her friends and family. She loved and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Leonard Coleman McElhenny; and her mother, Alica Jane (Williams) McElhenny.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Greg Edward Dudderar of Parkers Lake, Kentucky; brothers, Leonard Neal (Kimberly) McElhenny and Justin Troy (Jessica) McElhenny, both of Starke; nieces and nephews, Jessica Marie (Travis) Witt of Gainesville, Brandon Kyle Waters of Starke, Dusty Lee (Brittani) McElhenny of Starke, Bryson Reed McElhenny of Starke, Haily Elizabeth McElhenny of Starke, and Allyson Danielle McElhenny of Starke; and great-nieces and nephews, Taylor Madison Witt, Jordyn Makayla Witt, Tristan Julius Witt, and Brooklyn Marie Witt.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 22, at 3 p.m. at Morgan Road Baptist Church, 3784 N.W. C.R. 233, Starke, with Pastor Gerry Hunter.

PAID OBITUARY

Murric Ebling

Mr. Murric Earl Ebling, 85, of Melrose passed away at Roberts Care Center on Sunday, June 25, 2023. He was born Jan. 3, 1938, in Menomonic, Wisconsin to the late Erwin and Jenny (Gear) Ebling and had proudly served in the United States Army. He was an entertainment gaming and equipment business owner and owned Lee's Bar with his wife, Barbara, in Melrose. He was an active member of AMVETS Post 86 and American Legion Post 202. He enjoyed life, having fun, and joking around with everyone.

His survivors are his wife, Barbara Deschamps; two children, Shawn Ebling of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Colleen Burrow of Keystone Heights; along with Barbara's two sons, Frank Battista of Coloma, Michigan, and Robert Battista of Ft. Lauderdale. Also left behind are granddaughters, Carol, Catherine, Hailey; and grandsons, Conner, Ethan, Matthew, and Frank.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, July 30, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at AMVETS Post 86. Private interment was at Eliam Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Gerald Guynn

Gerald Walter "Buddy" Guynn passed away peacefully at the Lake City VA Hospital on Friday, July 14, 2023, leaving behind a legacy that will be cherished by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Born on Jan. 6, 1942, in High Springs, he lived a life dedicated to service and hard work. He was the co-owner and operator of Kountry Boys Tire. His tireless work ethic combined with his warm personality endeared him to the community he served. After the tire shop, he embarked on a new venture with the Department of Corrections where he worked for many years. Gentle, kind, and sweet natured, he possessed a genuine love for people and always sought to bring joy into the lives of others. During his free time, he enjoyed anything outdoors. Whether it was hunting, fishing, or mowing the grass, he found solace and peace in the beauty of nature. He also proudly served in the US Navy. His military service further exemplified his selflessness and commitment to protecting others. His greatest joy was his grandchildren. "Papa Buddy" took pride in his grandchildren and enjoyed being a part of their lives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Luther and Lenora Guynn; and his brother, Bryant Guynn.

In addition to his loving wife Donnie Guynn of 56 years, he leaves behind a daughter, Connie (Riley) Rhoden of Macclenny; and three adoring grandchildren, Makenzie, Abbie, and Riley Rhoden. He also leaves behind his siblings, Donald (Bonnie) Guynn and Patsy Booth both of Ft. White.

A service was held to honor his life on Tuesday, July 18, at Sardis Baptist Church in Worthington Springs. Following the funeral service, he was laid to rest at Elzey Chapel Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Sarah Hesters

Mrs. Sarah Virginia Bryant Hesters, 76, of Keystone Heights died at her home Thursday, July 6, 2023. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Jake C. Hesters and Charles L. Augustine Jr.; and a sister, Peggy Elaine Bryant.

Survivors are daughters, Victoria Augustine (John R.) Saunders and Jennifer Augustine (Pete) Roman; a brother, Charles (Kathy) Bryant; two grandsons, a niece; and a host of friends.

There are no scheduled services at this time.

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

Jackob Houdershelt

Mr. Jackob J. Houdershelt, 39, of Keystone Heights died Saturday, July 15, 2023. He was born Sept. 2, 1983, in Gainesville and worked for Lake Area Landscaping.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday, July 22, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

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

Anne Prevatt

Mrs. Anne Marie Page Prevatt, 65, of Lawtey passed away Saturday, July 15, 2023, at Community Hospice in Jacksonville. She was born Aug. 14, 1957, to George and Betty (Mullins) Page in Jacksonville and graduated from Bradford High School. Prior to retirement, she was employed by Dupont, then finished her working career with Noegel's. She was a parishioner at St. Edward Catholic Church in Starke. She enjoyed traveling, taking cruises, and being outdoors fishing along with taking care of and riding horses. She was known for her artistic skills and love of reading, but, most of all, she loved spending time with her family and especially, playing cards with her three precious grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, T.J.

She leaves behind her high school sweetheart and husband of 48 wonderful years, Travis Prevatt of Lawtey; two siblings, Bill Page (Steve Braxton) of Tampa and Lynne (Randy) Gibson of Middleburg; daughter-in-law, Shirley Prevatt; and sister-in-law, Gail Wilkinson, both of Lawtey. She was lovingly called "Nana" by Hayden, Gunner, and Seren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 20, in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with Father Jan Ligeza presiding. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Joseph Shuler

Joseph "Joe" A. Shuler went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, July 16, 2023, at his residence in Brooker surrounded by his cherished family. He was born on April 26, 1959, in Gainesville to Audie and Shirley Shuler. He possessed an indomitable spirit that resonated with all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He dedicated a significant portion of his life in service to his country as a proud member of the United States Army. He served for four years, including a tour in Korea. Following his honorable military service, he embarked on a distinguished career spanning 34 remarkable years with the Department of Corrections. Beyond his professional achievements, he was known for his vivacious personality and endearing character. Outgoing by nature, he effortlessly gravitated towards creating meaningful connections wherever he went. Friends sought solace in the genuineness of his friendship, while strangers became fast friends under his warmth and openness. He never turned down an opportunity to travel. Whether it was a cross-country or international trip, he enjoyed seeing new places and experiencing new adventures. He was a devoted family man and a long-time member of Sardis Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his father, Audie Shuler; and wife, Terri Fraser Shuler.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories his wife, Dana Scaff Shuler of Brooker; children, Jeremy (Brittney) Shuler of Seattle, Washington, Zeke (Sunshine) Scaff of Worthington Springs, Christopher (Tara Godwin) Shuler of Worthington Springs, and Hannah Scaff (Jonathan Taylor) of Brooker; his heart, three beautiful grandchildren: Jayden, Carson, and Ellianna; his siblings, Elizabeth Shuler and Richard (Dottie) Shuler; and a host of extended family and friends.

A visitation service will be held on Thursday, July 20, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Archer-Milton Funeral Home. On Friday, July 21, at 11 a.m., a funeral service will be held at Sardis Baptist Church after which he will be laid to rest at Elzey Chapel Cemetery with military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to one of the following: Moffitt Cancer Center for pancreatic cancer research at give.moffitt.org; Haven Hospice at beourhaven.org; or Autism Speaks autismspeaks.org.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Dillard Stills

Dillard "Ray" Stills, 31, of Keystone Heights, died on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at his residence.

Survivors are his parents, Vincent "Vince" Stills and Carlene Stills; brothers, William (Amy) Stills, Vincent Stills Jr. and Thomas (Matt Lee) Stills; sister, Sara Stills; and numerous extended family members.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 21, at 3 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel. Interment will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery in Hampton. The family will receive friends on Friday from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

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



Betty Jo Thomas

Betty Jo Thomas, passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the age of 82 at Haven Hospice in Lake City. She was born on Dec. 12, 1940, in Lake Butler to her loving parents, Fred and Bernice Thomas. She grew up alongside her siblings, Leon Thomas, Jeanette Bonilla, and Ray Thomas. During her remarkable life, she embarked on a fulfilling professional journey. She dedicated over 20 years of her career to General Electric (GE), where she made a lasting impact with her hard work and dedication. Later on, she pursued her passion for beauty and obtained a cosmetology license, enabling her to thrive as a talented beautician. Eventually, she transitioned into the real estate industry as a broker before concluding her professional endeavors. Her warm personality endeared her to everyone she encountered. Known for her friendliness and talkative nature, she had a remarkable ability to make people feel at ease in her presence. She had an innate talent for hosting friends at her house and creating a welcoming atmosphere that made gatherings truly memorable. She found solace in the pages of books and magazines. Reading provided her with both entertainment and an opportunity to expand her horizons.

She is survived by her children: Kathy (Ronnie) Ford, Dorothy Park, and Albert (Renae) Smith, all of Providence; her sisters, Louise Rogers and Marjorie Smith; and sister-in-law Diana Thomas. She had the joy of being a grandmother to six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind her beloved cat, Bootsie; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

On Saturday, July 15, family and friends gathered to pay their final respects to her during a funeral service. The service was held at New Zion Cemetery in Lulu.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Natalie Wood

Natalie M Wood, 89, of Orange Park went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. She was born on April 12, 1934, in Jacksonville. She was a very friendly and caring person who always had a smile on her face and put the needs of her children and family ahead of her own. She loved being with friends and helping them out any way she could. She was very active in her church, loved playing the piano, and loved to travel. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family. She was preceded in death by husband, Russel L. Wood; her grandson, Kevin C. Porter; her parents, Lonnie and Annie Marlowe; her sister, Mae Thomas; and her brother, Woodson Marlowe.

She is survived by her children, Wanda (Charles) Porter, Ronald Wood, Cathy Wood, Wayne (Cathy) Wood; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral will be Monday, July 24, at First Baptist Church of Orange Park, 1140 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park. The family will greet friends in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. David Tarkington will be officiating the Celebration of Life at 11 a.m.

PAID OBITUARY

VOLLEY

Continued from page 9

18 digs, while Melissa Hale and Katlyn Hartley had 14 and 13, respectively. Jackson also added 16 points and four aces, while Hale and Hartley each had three blocks.

Paris Bennett and Tamala Bennett contributed 10 and nine digs, respectively, with Paris Bennett adding eight points and three aces.

Tosha Newman had 10 kills and four blocks.

Bradford defeated Santa Fe 3-1 (25-20, 25-22, 17-25, 25-23) to win the championship.

Newman and Lopez had 12 and eight kills, respectively. Newman added six blocks, while Lopez added 26 assists, 13 digs and eight points.

Jackson and Paris Bennett each had 17 digs, while Hartley had 11. Jackson also had 13 points, while Bennett had 12.

Tamala Bennett and Hale had 10 and nine digs, respectively. Hale also had seven points, as did Shaunté Carter.

Bradford began the regional playoffs began with a 3-2 (25-18, 25-13, 17-25, 10-25, 15-10) win over Episcopal in the quarterfinals.

The tiebreaker set was a close affair, with Bradford holding an 11-9 lead. The Tornadoes then scored four straight points with Carter serving.

Carter finished with 13 points. Hartley also had 13 points, while also adding 19 digs and nine kills.

Lopez recorded 28 assists, 12 digs, seven points and six aces, while Paris Bennett had 22 digs.

Newman added nine kills. The Tornadoes advanced to the semifinals, where they defeated Wakulla 3-2 (22-25, 25-22, 22-25, 25-16, 15-12).

Lopez tallied 23 assists, 22 digs, 18 kills, nine points and four aces, while Paris Bennett had 20 digs and 13 points. Hartley added 18 digs, eight kills, seven points and five blocks.

In the regional championship game, Bradford fell 3-0 (25-7, 25-20, 25-11) to Bolles.

Lopez and Hale had seven and six digs, respectively.

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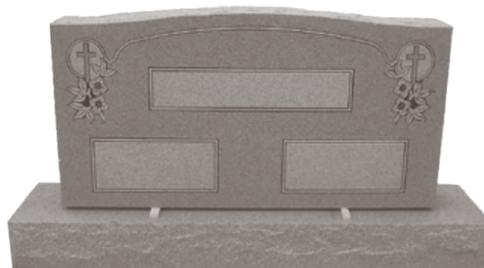
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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of July 20, 2023

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA A HEARING REGARDING THE BELOW RULES WILL BE HELD
 July 24, 2023
 5:01 P.M.
 Bradford County School District Office
 501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091
POLICY NUMBER: 5.034
POLICY TITLE: Athletic Participation by Transfer Students
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To follow the rules and regulations of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA), Florida Statutes, and this policy when making a determination on eligibility for a transfer student to participate in interscholastic athletics
SUMMARY: NEW: To comply with all rules and regulations of the FHSA.
POLICY NUMBER: 5.130*
POLICY TITLE: ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SCHOOL RELATED CRIMES
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: New language - Pursuant to 790.115(2) (a)3, Florida Statutes, students are prohibited from carrying a firearm or weapon in a vehicle on school property or at a school-sponsored event.
SUMMARY: REVISIONS: To Enforce Zero Tolerance and School Related Crimes and The Florida Statute Regarding Firearms.
POLICY NUMBER: 6.104
POLICY TITLE: PROBATIONARY STATUS FOR NONINSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Probationary period
SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Clarify Probationary Period of Noninstructional Personnel
POLICY NUMBER: 6.120*
POLICY TITLE: Year of Service Defined for Administrative and Instructional Personnel
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Clarification on revisions to the contractual period of service required for the position
SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Information on participation in state funding program, absence without leave and recruitment or retention and prior experience.
POLICY NUMBER: 6.520

POLICY TITLE: SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: New language - Pursuant to 790.115(2) (a)3, Florida Statutes Firearms on school property
SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Clarifications on firearms on employees, vehicles and school property.
SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION: The School Board has determined that this policy will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the policy.
 A statement of estimated regulatory costs ("SERC") has not been prepared by the School Board. The School Board has determined that the proposed policy is not expected to require legislative ratification based on no SERC being required at this time by F.S. 120.54 or F.S. 120.541. In the event a SERC becomes required, the School Board will promptly prepare one.
 Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.
RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.
THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: For information regarding the proposed rule, how to present evidence and argument as to the proposed rule, and how to obtain a copy (at no charge) of the proposed rule, please contact: Lila Sellars, sellars.lila@mybradford.us and 904-966-6018. Any request to present evidence and argument must be received within twenty-one (21) days after the date of this notice.
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT: April 10, 2023, 5:00 P.M. Bradford County School District Office 501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091 All policies can be found on the Bradford County School District web page @ www.bradfordschools.org - 6/29 4tchg 7/20-BCT

SOLUTIONS INC the holder 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 names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate Number: 777
 Year of Issuance: 2021
 Parcel Number: 04440-0-00000
 Case Number, 04-2023-TD-0010
 Description of Property: Commence at the NW corner of the SW 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 6 South, Range 22 East and run thence South 364 feet to iron stob for point of beginning and thence continue South 142 feet along State Highway, thence run East 616 feet, S.A.L. ry right of way line and thence run North along S.A.L. ry Right of Way line 182 feet, thence run West along old fence 611 feet to iron spike, thence run Southwesterly 90 feet to point of beginning.
 Name in Which Assessed: ROBERT J BLAINE
 Name on last tax roll, if different: ROBERT J BLAINE ET AL
 All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/16/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
 Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
 BY: Kanetra Jenkins
 Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
 DATED: June 30, 2023
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 6, 2023; JULY 13, 2023; JULY 20, 2023; JULY 27, 2023
 7/6 4tchg 7/27-BCT

Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0011
 Description of Property: BEGIN AT THE NW CORNER OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST AND RUN EAST 520 FEET TO NE CORNER OF MARY TATE LOT AND THENCE SOUTH ALONG EAST LINE OF MARY TATE LOT 100 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE WEST 50 FEET ALONG SOUTH LINE OF MARY TATE LOT, THENCE SOUTH ALONG EAST LINE OF ROSE COX LOT 100 FEET, THENCE EAST AND PARALLEL WITH QUARTER SECTION LINE 50 FEET, THENCE NORTH 100 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING IN SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST.
 Name in Which Assessed: STEPHEN SINGLETON JR
 Name on last tax roll, if different: STEPHEN SINGLETON JR (DEC) %RUTH HOLLAND (HEIR)
 All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/13/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
 Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
 BY: Kanetra Jenkins
 Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
 DATED: June 30, 2023
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 6, 2023; JULY 13, 2023; JULY 20, 2023; JULY 27, 2023
 7/6 4tchg 7/27-BCT

Begin at the NE Corner of SW1/4 of SE1/4 Section 30 Township 6 South, Range 22 East, run South 670.6 feet to Iron Post, Thence Run West 401.9 feet to Iron Post, thence run North 670.6 feet to Iron Post, thence run East 405.8 feet to Place of beginning in SW1/4 of SE1/4 Section 30 Township 6 South, Range 22 East. Cont. 7 Acres, more or less. (Per Quit-Claim Deed - ORB 140, P 63)
 Begin at Southeast Corner of East half of Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter (E 1/2 of NW 1/4 of SE 1/4), Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, run North 79.5 feet to South right of way line of county graded road, thence in a Northwesterly direction along said South right of way line of county graded road 155 feet for point of beginning; thence continue Northwesterly along South right of way line 75 feet, thence run Southerly parallel to East line of Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter (NW 1/4 of SE 1/4) 90 feet, thence run Southeasterly parallel to road right of way line 75 feet, thence run North 90 feet to the point of beginning, lying and being in East half of Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter (E 1/2 of NW 1/4 of SE 1/4) of Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East. (Less and Except: Stipulated Order of Taking and Order of Distribution ORB 1554, P 48)
 A Part Of The Southeast 1/4 Of Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, Being More Particularly Described As Follows:
 Commence At A Found Railroad Rail (Set Vertical) Marking The Southeast Corner Of Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; Thence South 88°41'46" West, Along The South Line Of Said Section 30, A Distance Of 1,087.65 Feet To A Point On The Baseline Of Survey Of State Road No. 223, (A Variable Width Right Of Way, As Per Florida Department Of Transportation Right Of Way Map, Section 28125, F.P. No. 2080014), Said Point Also Being On A Curve To The Left, Having A Radius Of 5,000.00 Feet; Thence From A Tangent Bearing Of North 06°48'41" West, Northerly, Departing Said South Line, Along Said Baseline Of Survey And The Arc Of Said Curve, Through An Angle Of 06°02'34", An Arc Length Of 527.34 Feet To The Point Of Tangency; Thence North 12°51'16" West, Along Said Baseline Of Survey, A Distance Of 160.72 Feet

To The Point Of Beginning; Thence South 89°47'05" West, Departing Said Baseline Of Survey, A Distance Of 217.93 Feet; Thence North 11°47'05" West, A Distance Of 775.95 Feet To The Beginning Of A Non-Tangent Curve To The Left, Having A Radius Of 10,906.00 Feet, A Chord Bearing And Distance Of North 17°39'21" West, 282.11 Feet; Thence Northerly Along The Arc Of Said Curve, Through An Angle Of 01°28'56", An Arc Length Of 282.11 Feet To A Point On The Southwesterly Existing Right Of Way Line Of County Road S.W. 155th Street (A.K.A. Butter Road); Said Point Being On A Curve To The Left, Having A Radius Of 1,925.00 Feet, A Chord Bearing And Distance Of South 58°11'50" East, 559.53 Feet; Thence Southeasterly, Along Said Southwesterly Existing Right Of Way Line And The Arc Of Said Curve, Through An Angle Of 16°42'47", An Arc Length Of 561.52 Feet; Thence South 00°21'38" East, A Distance Of 416.14 Feet; Thence South 01°59'54" East, A Distance Of 316.69 Feet; Thence South 89°47'05" West, A Distance Of 27.22 Feet To The Point Of Beginning.
 Containing 6.370 Acres, More Or Less.
 Together With All Right Of Ingress, Egress, Light, Air And View Between The Grantor's Remaining Property And Any Facility Constructed On The Above Described Property.
 Name in Which Assessed: DAVID GUNTER & EUNICE GUNTER
 Name on last tax roll, if different: EUNICE GUNTER (DEC) % DEBORAH PATTERSON
 All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/13/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
 Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
 BY: Kanetra Jenkins
 Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
 DATED: June 30, 2023
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 6, 2023; JULY 13, 2023; JULY 20, 2023; JULY 27, 2023
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CONTINUE on page 14



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Free Trading Post

FOR SALE BY OWNER
FREE ADS

Starting **April 6th**, the Bradford County Telegraph will run your for sale by owner ad for **free**.

★ ★ ★ If interested, email up to 20 words to classads@bctelegraph.com by 12PM every Monday.




★ use **SUBJECT LINE: TRADING POST fsbo**

Your ad will run for **2 weeks only**.
AVAILABLE TO REGIONAL RESIDENTS ONLY
 you must include your contact info, name, phone, location.
 To re-run your ad, you must email again.

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- LAND
- HOMES

For more information, contact us at **(904)-964-6305**.
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Tri-County Classifieds



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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

47 For Sale

RENTAL SPACE on Walnut Street near Post Office. \$675/mo. 1st, last & security. Call 904-364-9022 for appt to see.

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bed-

room MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323

NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW Lake Butler, 3BR/2BA DW, Starke, 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

53 A Yard Sales

HUGE YARD SALE with items for everyone. Women's clothing for every occasion, size xs-2x; (Lululemon, Buckle, Lilly Pulitzer,

Nike, Patagonia, Banana Republic, Chico). Men's clothing size s-xxl (Wranglers, Columbia, Nike, Reebok, Costa, Ralph Lauren to include men's professional attire/suits); men's /women's swimwear; household items & decor; yeti cooler; bedding/pillows/sheets/linens (Pottery Barn) table decor, women's She outdoors waders (new) and much more.

57 For Sale

POOL FOR SALE.

16x30 oval. Included steps, pump, filter and frame. Will need a new liner. \$1300. Call after 2pm and before 9m. 352-363-9397.

65 Help Wanted

LPN/RN 2 PART-TIME positions needed for Lawtew home health client. Experience is a plus. Will take new grads. Call family at 904-964-2747 for details.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Southern Villas of Starke

Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.

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OUT OF AREA CLASSIFIED ADS

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 Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drug store prices! 50 Pill Special-Only \$399! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 866-259-6616

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HOME IMPROVEMENT/SERVICE
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OTHER
 DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST! FREE! PICKUP: 24-hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576

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 Leading smart home provider Vivint Smart Home has an offer just for you. Call 833-303-0851 to get a

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STATE LICENSE #1305

DURRANCE PUMP



Starke camp offers STEM education and more

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

In his quest to help prepare children for future success,



Gavin Libby (left) and Erin Nichols create an ocean and its lifeforms as part of a STEM experiment. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

Edrick Hamilton believes on focusing on the whole child, which is why the annual I AM STEM camp he provides

each summer (with the help of generous community donations and support) is more than just teaching the concepts of science, technology, engineering and math.

Hamilton is the behavioral-resource teacher at Bradford Elementary School and has been involved in a long-running after-school mentoring program (12 Guys in Bow Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls). This is the third year he's offered the camp at the Starke Church of God by Faith Community Learning Center. The camp, which began June 20 and runs through July 21, is for children in grades 2-8.

Children have been and will continue to participate in hands-on activities that incorporate the concepts of STEM education. Hamilton said research has shown that children are more

engaged in learning when they can use their hands in what are called project-based learning projects. A summer camp provides more time to devote to such activities than is available during a jam-packed school day.

Project-based learning not only engages children. It allows them to learn from their mistakes.

"Make the mistake and figure out why the mistake happened and how you can fix it," Hamilton said. "That's where the learning comes from."

Some activities get their start via a virtual classroom, such as when students created their own oceans, using water, blue food coloring and tiny, plastic toy animals. Vegetable oil was added to the water as students learned about how oil spills affect the



Bruce Griner assists Jazari Randolph with a computer program. Jaslene Coley (seated, left) is also pictured.

See STEM, page 15

Legal Notices

CONTINUED from pg 13

Legals for the week of July 20, 2023

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 04-2023-CP-55 Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF VIRGIL EUGENE WALKER Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of VIRGIL EUGENE WALKER, deceased, whose date of death was April 17, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, P.O. Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is July 13, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative: ROBERT G. HICKS Florida Bar No. 398100 P.O. Box 491634 Leesburg, Florida 34749 Telephone: 904-234-3198 Email: robertghicks@embargmail.com

Personal Representative: MARY KAY UNKELBACH 1064 Emlyis Walk Lane East Jacksonville, Florida 32221 7/13 2tchg 7/20-BCT

in this proceeding shall contact the individual or agency sending notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on notice. Telephone: (904) 966-6380 7/20 4tchg 8/10-BCT

IN THE COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA JUVENILE DIVISION CASE NO. 04-2022-DP-83

IN THE INTEREST OF: F.-H., S. (F) DOB: 7/15/2022 Minor child

NOTICE OF ACTION TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

STATE OF FLORIDA TO: ANTHONY DALE FARINEAU ADDRESS UNKNOWN

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights and permanently commit the following child(ren) for adoption: S. F.-H., born on 7/15/2022. A copy of the Petition is on file with the Clerk of the Court. You are hereby commanded to appear on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 9:00 AM, before Honorable George M. Wright, at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091, for a CONTINUED ADVISORY HEARING.

*****FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED HERETO.*****

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court at Starke, Bradford County, Florida, on this 13th day of July 2023. Denny Thompson Clerk of Circuit Court

By: Ramona Jefferson Deputy Clerk

Special Accommodations. Under the American with Disabilities Act, 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@circuit8.org.

7/20 4tchg 8/10-BCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on August 1, 2023 at 9:30 AM, at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center, 1610 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured - no firearms or weapons are permitted. 7/20 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 04-23-CP-56

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES LUTHER SANDERS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of JAMES LUTHER SANDERS, deceased, whose date of death was March 1, 2023; 1File Number 04-2023-CP-56, is pending in the Circuit Court for BRADFORD County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North Temple Avenue,

Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: July 20, 2023. Signed on July 12, 2023. Sean F. Bogle, Esq.

Attorney for Personal Representative Email: sean@boglelawfirm.com Florida Bar No. 0106313 BOGLE LAW FIRM

101 S. New York Ave., Suite 205 Winter Park, FL 32789 Telephone: 407-834-3311 Fax: 407-834-3302 SANDRA SANDERS Personal Representative 7/20 2tchg 7/27-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 04-2023-CP-000067

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBERT SHELLEY BLOUNT, III, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of ROBERT SHELLEY BLOUNT, III, deceased, whose date of death was May 26, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE 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 July 20, 2023. Personal Representative Andrea Hardy Blount, 126 NW 76th Drive, Suite B Gainesville, Florida 32607 Attorney for Personal Representative HOME TOWN LAW, P.A. /s/ Sabina Tomshinsky

Sabina Tomshinsky sabina@hometownlawfirm.com Florida Bar No.: 0012188 126 NW 76th Drive, Suite B Gainesville, Florida 32607 Voice: 352/505-5878 Facsimile: 352/505-5713 7/20 2tchg 7/27-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 08/04/2023 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.

1JJV532D3PL383392 2023 WANC 3B7HF13Z51G200080 2001 DODG This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 07/20/2023. 7/20 1tchg-BCT

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

CASE NO.: 04-2023-CA-250 CITY OF STARKE, a Florida municipality Petitioner, vs.

ESTATE OF HILDA DEKEYZER; ESTATE OF ELEAZER OLIVO; heirs of ELEAZAR OLIVO; ALONZA S. OLIVO; JOHN CLARKE;

ESTATE OF MELY CLARKE; heirs of MELY CLARKE, known and unknown; MIKIAS S. OLIVO; TERESA G. PHILLIPS, Bradford County Tax Collector Defendant,

NOTICE OF ACTION IN EMINENT DOMAIN AND NOTICE OF HEARING FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE OF PROCESS

STATE OF FLORIDA TO: To all said defendants who are living, and if any or all defendants are deceased, the unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, lienors, or other parties claiming by, through, under or against any such to seize defendant or defendants, if alive and, if dead, they're unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, legatees, grantees, creditors, lienors, or other parties claiming by, through, under, or against any such deceased defendant or defendant, and all other parties having or claiming to have any rate, title or interest in into the property described in a petition to wit: A portion of Lot 14, Block C, Blanding Sub-Division, according to the Plat or Map thereof as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 58, Public Records of Bradford County, Florida, Less and Except the West 150 feet of said Lots 13 and 14, and Less and Except the lands described in Deed Book 85, Page 352, Public Records of Bradford County, Florida; Section 28, Township 06 South, Range 22 East, lying in Bradford County, Florida;

For a POINT OF REFERENCE commence from the Northeast corner of North St. Claire Street and East Call Street, thence South 73°34'28" East, a distance of 217.36 feet, along the North Right of Way of East Call Street to the POINT OF BEGINNING, thence departing said North Right of Way North 16°39'20" East, a distance of 40.00 feet, thence South 73°34'28" East, a distance of 76.50 feet, thence South 16°39'20" West, a distance of 35.00 feet, thence South 73°34'28" East, a distance of 136.14 feet, thence South 16°26'06" West, a distance of 5.00 feet, thence North 73°34'28" West, a distance of 212.66 feet, along said North Right of Way, to the Point of Beginning. Contains 3,740 sq. ft., more or less. A petition in eminent domain has been filed to acquire certain property interests in Bradford County, Florida. Each Defendant is required to serve written defenses to the petition on Petitioner's attorney, whose name and address are shown below, on or before July 30, 2023, and

to file the original of the defenses with the clerk of this court either before service on the Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter, showing what right, title, interest, or lien Defendant has in, on, or to the property described in the petition, and to show cause why that property should not be taken for the uses and purposes set forth in the petition. A default for the relief demanded in the petition will be entered against any Defendant who fails to do so. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a declaration of taking has been filed in this cause and that Petitioner will apply for an order of taking and any other order the court deems proper before the Honorable Judge George M. Wright, one of the judges of this court, on August 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. (1 hour reserved), via zoom (information below). All Defendants in this action may request a hearing at the time and place designated and be heard. Any Defendant failing to file a request for hearing shall waive any right to object to the order of taking. Platform: Zoom: www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 4632424846 Password: 8675309

Dial by your location +1 786 635 1003 WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on 30 day of June, 2023. DENNY THOMPSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA BY: /s/ Lisa Brannon Deputy Clerk 7/20 1tchg-BCT

NEW RIVER BOARD MEETING The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet Thursday, July 27th, 2023 at the Community State Bank Board Room, 811 South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. 7/20 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS AND ANTENNAS SPECIAL PERMITS

BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, an ordinance declaring an extension of the moratorium on the acceptance of applications and processing of applications for telecommunications towers and antennas special permit approval and issuance of telecommunications towers and antennas special permits, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of City of Starke, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on July 31, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

Ordinance No. 2023-06, an ordinance by the City Commission, amending Ordinance No. 2023-02 to extend the existing moratorium on the acceptance of applications and processing of applications for telecommunications towers and antennas special permit approval and issuance of telecommunications towers and antennas special permits for an additional period of 60 days. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to Ordinance No. 2023-06, adopting said extension of the telecommunications towers and antennas special permits moratorium on the date, time and place as stated above. Copies of the Ordinance No. 2023-06 are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they

decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing. 7/20 1tchg-BCT

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UNION

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: HANNAH ELIZABETH TUCKER, 4857 SW 82nd Dr., Lake Butler, FL 32054, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: BEYOND BRAINS AND BEAUTY, 4857 SW 82nd Drive, Lake Butler, FL 32054, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 11th day of July A.D., 2023, in UNION COUNTY. 7/20 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.2300004CPAXMX Division:

IN RE: ESTATE OF GILES ELWYRN ORCUTT, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of GILES ORCUTT, deceased, whose date of death was November 7, 2022, and whose Social Security Number is ***-**-8135, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main St. #103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE 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 July 20, 2023, 2023. Steven K. Schwartz Attorney for Pers. Rep. Florida Bar No. 187976 7700 Congress Ave #1104 Boca Raton, FL 33487 Telephone: 305-563-2739 Ext 101 E-mail: steve@stevenschwartzpa.com Gail Culp 11621 Bridgeport Rd Taneytown, MD 21787 Personal Representative 7/10 2tchg 7/27-UCT

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
John Miller, Publisher
Editor: Dan Hildebran
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
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Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
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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

UNION COUNTY TIMES
USPS 648-200
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
UNION COUNTY TIMES
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
uctimeseditor@gmail.com
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628
John Miller, Publisher
Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
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BHS, KHHS, UCHS athletes honored by Sun

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Gainesville Sun released its All-Area teams for spring sports (though the paper didn't publish teams in boys weightlifting and flag football), with Keystone Heights and Union County student-athletes earning first-team honors in baseball and softball.

Keystone had two softball players named to the first team in the Big School category: senior infielder Kiley Channell and junior infielder Alaina Kinsall. Channell led the team with a .943

batting average, while Kinsall's .458 average was the next highest. Channell recorded team highs in doubles (8), triples (4), home runs (8), runs scored (25) and RBI (32). Kinsall was second in doubles (8) and RBI (15).

The Indians placed two on the second team: junior outfielder Abbie Roach and freshman pitcher Kadence Massey-Hoadley. Roach batted .323 with six doubles, three triples, 24 runs and 15 RBI. Massey pitched 102 of the team's 170 innings, striking out 93 batters and finishing with an ERA of 2.75.

Bradford had four players

named to the second team: senior infielder Takeirra Bakken, junior outfielders Rylie Blankenship and Kirsten Hodges and freshman infielder Addyson Hinds. Bakken batted .460 with team highs in home runs (5), doubles (8) and RBI (25), while also scoring 21 runs. Blankenship batted .462 with 16 RBI and team highs in triples (3) and runs scored (31), while Hodges batted .383 with 15 RBI and 11 runs. Hinds led the team with a .517 average and shared the team high in doubles with Bakken. She hit two home runs, scored 22 runs and drove in

18 runs.

Union senior outfielder Angela Tucker was named to the first team in the Small School category. She batted .321 with a team-high four doubles. Tucker had scored 12 runs and had seven RBI.

Senior infielder Leah Clark and senior catcher Tamia Young were second-team selections for the Tigers. Young led the team with a .409 average and had team highs in home runs (3), runs scored (20) and RBI (21). Clark batted .400 with nine RBI and 11 runs. She led the team in triples

with four.

The Tigers had one first-team selection in Small-School baseball: senior outfielder Ayden Elixson, who led the team with a .415 average. He drove in 22 runs and had team highs in doubles (9), home runs (4) and runs scored (34).

Union senior infielder Tre'Von Lee was named to the second team after batting .351 with six doubles, 25 runs and 20 RBI.

In boys tennis, Keystone sophomore Ethan Teague was named to the second team after going 7-0 in singles matches.



Dakota Thacker

Thacker is Franklin Scholarship recipient

Dakota Thacker has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious Ben Franklin Scholarship, awarded annually to a dedicated student in recognition of academic excellence, leadership potential and community involvement.

"I'm honored to have been selected for the Ben Franklin Scholarship," Thacker said. "It's a testament to the hard work and dedication that I've put into my studies and my community, and I'm grateful for the recognition."

The Ben Franklin Scholarship, which covered \$3,500 of tuition and fees for the 2023 school year at North Florida Technical College for the licensed practical nursing program, is awarded to only a handful of students each year, based on a rigorous selection process that includes academic achievement, leadership potential and community involvement.

"We're thrilled to have Dakota Thacker as the recipient of this year's Ben Franklin Scholarship," said scholarship donor Shirley Johnson. "We're confident that Dakota Thacker has the skills, dedication and passion to make a real impact in nursing and in the world beyond."

Thacker plans to learn and grow in the nursing field after graduation and continue her dedication in the future by obtaining her registered nursing degree.



LEFT: Edrick Hamilton (far right) provides the "oil spill" in the ocean created by Gabrielle Hill (far left) and Sophia Burley.

BELOW: Khalid Hankerson (far left), Jazari Randolph (center) and Edrick Hamilton ponder how to clean up an oil spill in the ocean.



In keeping with the I AM STEM theme, based on the movie "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," Haiyden Chase, Khalid Hankerson and Jazari Randolph show off the Kimoyo-bead bracelets they made.



Jaden Hendrieth works on his Kimoyo-bead bracelet.



Aarion McNeal (left) and Dre'shaun Mack string together Kimoyo beads for bracelets.



Lyla Libby displays her Kimoyo beads.

"Explain it to them early. Let them know what the consequences could be," Hamilton said, adding, "That's what we're supposed to do as a community — pour into our kids as much as possible."

Those are just a few examples of what has been taking place at the camp, both STEM-related and not. In essence, the STEM camp is an extension of what Hamilton provides students through his mentoring program and in his school position. He wants to help children do well in school and life.

"I always try to focus on the whole child," Hamilton said.

STEM

Continued from page 14

water and the life within it. They were then tasked with coming up with a solution to remove the oil, given such items as sponges and dishwashing detergent.

Bruce Griner of the Department of Defense's STARBASE program has also been teaching children in person, leading them through experiments that cover such things as chromatography (separating mixtures into their components) and teaching such things as a computer coding.

STEM2 Hub personnel will also visit the camp, as they did last year, to work with the children on how to operate drones.

Yet the camp offers learning opportunities outside of STEM. For example, Bradford County Fire Rescue personnel, as they did last year, paid a visit to teach children about CPR and the Heimlich maneuver. Hamilton said some of the children may be too young to remember all the steps they're learning, but they may be inspired to want to learn life-saving skills as they get older.

Also, the children can pass on their knowledge to adults.

"We don't know what the kids are going to retain," Hamilton said, "but if you give them that, that's a seed that you're sowing. They may not be large enough or strong enough to provide a service for an adult, but if they learn it, they can teach it to an adult next to them who doesn't know how to do it and could help save a life just by having that knowledge."

Personnel with Meridian Services are teaching children

about their emotions and how to deal with them in certain situations. A fun way of learning about emotions was to watch the Disney Pixar/Disney movie "Inside Out."

Lindsey Rozar, through the Florida Department of Health and the Hanley Foundation, is providing education about drinking alcohol, smoking and vaping.



LEFT: Lyla Libby (far left) and Jaslene Coley (center) have fun cleaning up the oil spill in their ocean as Felicia Tabouret looks on.

BELOW: Edrick Hamilton Jr. (right) gets help from his father in creating his Kimoyo-bead bracelet.



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