

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, July 21, 2022

142nd year, 48th Issue — \$1



Bevy of books

Altrusa Club of Starke's support of education and literacy is funding back-to-school shopping trips for Bradford's elementary schools. Altrusa President Amanda Seyfang and Altrusan Cheryl Canova recently accompanied Starke Elementary School Principal Raymond Schaefer and first-grade teacher Nina Steinmeyer to Chamblin's Bookmine. They left with nearly 400 books and plenty left over to spend thanks to grants provided through Altrusa. Above left are Canova, Schaefer and Seyfang. Above right are Schaefer and Steinmeyer.

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WORTH NOTING

Food distribution Thursday

There will be a food distribution at Starke Church of God by Faith, 730 Old Lawtey Road, on Thursday, July 21, from 10 a.m. to noon. Distribution may begin earlier, depending on the arrival time of the FarmShare delivery truck.

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, July 26, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

Food boxes include a variety of nonperishable items and some meats. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Thursday, July 28, at 9 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

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

BHS to host parent night for 9th, 12th grades on July 21

Bradford High School will host a parent night on Thursday, July 21, in the school's auditorium at 6 p.m. for ninth grade and at 7 p.m. for 12th grade.

These opportunities allow parents to learn everything they need to know for their children's transitional years. Topics of discussion will include academic opportunities and advising, post-high school planning, graduation requirements, new resources, athletics and extracurricular activities.

Light Christian Academy open and planning to grow

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — Light Christian Academy is now offering Christian education in Lake Butler, filling a gap left by the closure of the Lake Butler Christian Academy a couple of years ago.

The Union Campus of the academy will be a part of a group of schools in North Florida, with the other two locations being in Ocoee and Gotha. The Ocoee Campus was the first to open, for the 2009-10 school year, with the Gotha Campus coming on board in the 2020-21 year.

The schools were started by Pastor Thomas Odom, Senior Pastor of The

Church of God in Ocoee. He and his wife (of 25 years this week), Wendy, have three children and wanted them to be educated in a Christian environment. All three attended the Ocoee school from the start and two have already graduated, with one still in attendance.

Odom said he was reading a publication listing the private schools in February of last year and discovered that there was not one in Union County. He said he developed a desire to have a school in the county and fed that desire by starting one.

Odom (46) is originally from Bradford County, where he graduated from Bradford High School in 1994.

In high school he participated in both band and chorus. He attended the Starke Church of God (now the River of Life Church), then later the Lawtey Church of God. It was the Lawtey church he felt his calling to the ministry and surrendered to it in 1995. After working for 17 years in healthcare and the medical equipment industry, he attended Lee University, a Church of God institution, in Cleveland, TN.

Odom relocated to Ocoee in 2002 and became Senior Pastor there in 2008.

"I came from an administrative, secular world and this has helped me in both the church and the schools,"

Odom said. "As a senior pastor and school administrator I find myself dealing with things like scheduling, budgeting and accounting and I can handle that because of my background."

Odom's children seem to be following in his footsteps. Oldest daughter, Cherith (23) (named after the River Cherith in I Kings 17) works in the ministry at the Ocoee Campus. Son, Titus (20) and his wife, Michaelyn, serve as student pastors at the Lake City Church of God and youngest daughter, Meariah (16) is still attending the Light Christian Academy.

See LIGHT, page 7

Bradford implements new plan for school improvement

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County School District has a new strategic plan in place that lays out its goals, strategies, expectations and activities moving forward.

Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley said the hard work that went into the document is evident. Placed in the hands of Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke, many administrators, teachers school employees and community groups had a hand in the plan, which sets goals for student success, talent management, school safety and security, fiscal and operational responsibility, and communication and community engagement.

From the one-page plan drafted in 2018, Hartley said the district now has a plan for the future to be proud of. The document in its final format was

designed by Matt Whytsell. Hartley said it will be a living and breathing document, revisited regularly to updates and expansion.

Clarke said the plan addresses some core areas and how the district can become great in these areas.

"Obviously, student success is at the top of that, but a lot of the things underneath contribute to that student success. So you want to make sure that you have that intentional effort towards those goals so we can become a premier school district," she said.

In some cases, strategies in progress were refined. In others, different ways were defined to attack some issues.

"A lot of this just goes into making sure that the community — all of our stakeholders, parents, students, staff members — know where we're headed and what those focus areas are," she said.

See PLAN, page 5



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County searching for experienced manager

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County commissioners recently painted a portrait of their ideal county manager candidate.

Assisting in that search is Alachua County Manager Michelle Lieberman and other professionals with the Florida Association of County Managers.

In discussing qualifications, commissioner mentioned:

—Education should include a bachelor's or master's degree in public administration or a similar area.

—At least five years' experience as a city or county manager. Experienced assistant managers seeking an opportunity to advance may also be considered.

—Strong background in financial management and budgeting.

—Having managed a budget and workforce equivalent in size

or larger than Bradford County.

—A background in economic development and growing the business community.

—Knowledge of public works and other services the county provides.

—Reputation for working well with commissioners and department heads.

—Good communication skills, but also integrity to stand firm in their position.

—Grant writing and administration experience

—Someone who is engaged and active in the community.

Commission Chairman Chris Dougherty admitted that looking for someone who perfectly matched the description was like hunting for "unicorn."

Lieberman said attracting a candidate with these strengths will depend on the salary Bradford County offers — more than \$100,000 a year, certainly.

According to Lieberman, smaller cities and counties tend

to attract two types of candidates:

those who have retired from larger governments and want to continue working in smaller places, and those who have not been able to move up the ladder because they are working for a larger government, so they seek out opportunities elsewhere.

She recommended Bradford advertise a salary range up to \$125,000. The final salary and benefit package will be the result of contract negotiations with the top ranked candidate.

The managers' association will draft an advertisement and make sure it appears in industry publications. The managers will vet candidates based on their applications, selecting the most qualified for commissioners to interview. The target number is three to five. If the first advertisement period doesn't net several sufficient applicants, the advertising period can be extended.

The target date for the report on candidates is Sept. 15.

More money for students, teachers in school budget

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The Bradford County School District is preparing for upcoming budget hearings, the first of which will take place on Aug. 1.

Prior to that, Finance Director Brandon Esposito will present the millage and budget information to the board at a special meeting on July 25.

Esposito reviewed the important dates and preliminary information with the board Monday night.

Bradford was still waiting for the state to report the district's required local millage rate as of July 18. A conference report the state issued in April projected state and local revenue at just under \$24.9 million.

Esposito said a \$214 increase in the base student allocation to \$4,587 would help offset the cost of raising the minimum wage. (The state has imposed a \$15 minimum wage for public employees, effective Oct. 1.)

Base student funding is increasing for the projected enrollment to \$13.8 million, which is up \$593,369. This does not include additional state money for categorical spending on school safety, mental health, reading, transportation,



Finance Director Brandon Esposito

instructional materials, etc. It also doesn't include money for federal programs such as Title I and food service.

According to Esposito, the conference report projects enrollment be up by approximately 35 students when compared to the final calculation for the 2021-22 school year.

The state budget also includes money for raising teachers salaries. Bradford schools received an increase in the teacher salary enhancement supplement of \$244,428, bringing the total to \$736,592.

Contributions to the Florida

Retirement System are also increasing by 1.09%.

The district is awaiting word on final approved allocation, but construction funding for the new school will be approximately \$16 million. Meanwhile, the district is saving massively on building supplies it is purchasing directly for the project. Its tax exemption has saved more than \$897,000 so far.

While working on the budget, finance is also busy working on issues revealed in prior audit reports, including timely bank account reconciliation. The consultant working with Esposito's office is currently caught up working on June of this year.

Esposito said there is also a great deal of cleanup to accomplish in the Skyward software. The goal is to have data entry complete by early August so everything is accurate for the annual financial report, which must be submitted by Sept. 12.

Esposito reported that the district's general fund balance was \$3.3 million, which is 13% of revenues. This will change as the financial transactions from the prior budget are posted.

The budget and millage will be presented to the board on July 25 at 5:30 p.m. The public hearing dates are Aug. 1 and Sept. 12 at 5:01 p.m.



Hello, I'm Daniel "Danny" Nugent and I am seeking re-election as your City Commissioner for District 1.

For the past 16 years I have been honored to serve as your City Commissioner, Mayor, and Vice-Mayor. I am a 1980 graduate of Bradford High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida. I work for the Florida Department of Corrections as a Senior Probation Officer and am also a Chief Warrant Officer with the Florida Army National Guard. My wife Missy and I have four children, Chelsea (John) Waters, Kayla (Matt) Pinkston, Ethan, and Connor, as well as five grandchildren.

During my tenure, I have worked closely with other City Commissioners and City of Starke personnel on many great projects. We have worked to repair roads, make improvements to the electrical systems throughout the city, and restructure the pension system for City of Starke employees. As a commissioner, I am working on projects to improve our city water systems by building new water treatment plant and making improvements to our city recreation facilities. Being a Starke native, I understand the importance of our local businesses and strive to bring in new businesses for our community. I currently represent the City of Starke in the Northeast Florida League of Cities where I serve as President and have also served on many boards within the city. I have always strived to do what is best for the City of Starke and its residents. If re-elected, I will continue to work for you, the citizens of Starke. Please feel free to reach out to me day or night with any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to meeting each of you soon.

Please remember to vote August 23rd and Re-Elect Daniel "Danny" Nugent as your City Commissioner for District 1!

Political Advertisement paid for and approved by Daniel "Danny" Nugent for City Commissioner District 1

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Correction

Last week's article on school grades contained a misprint. At Lawley Elementary School, 73% of third graders scored Level 3 or higher in math. We apologize for the error.



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Course	Instructor	Registration Begins	Course Dates	Day	Hours	Program Hours
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics - Adults Only	Snyder	Apply Now	August 10 - December 16, 2022	M, T, R	10:30AM to 1:30PM and 2:30PM to 5:30PM	Varies
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics - Adults Only	Snyder	Apply Now	August 10 - December 16, 2022	W & F	9:00AM to 12:00PM and 12:30PM to 3:30PM	Varies
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics - Adults and Underage Students (16-17 years old)	Snyder	Apply Now	August 10 - December 16, 2022	M, T, R	2:30PM - 5:30PM	Varies
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	August 11 - October 6, 2022	M - R	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320 & 150
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	October 13 - December 15, 2022	M - R	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320 & 150
Computer Systems and Information Technology	TBA	Apply Now	August 10 - December 16, 2022	M - F	Call School For Details	900
Practical Nursing (LPN)	Trimble		Call School For Details			1350
Welding Technology	Geiger	Apply Now	August 10 - December 16, 2022	M - F	9AM - 3:30PM	1050
Welding Technology, Advanced	Geiger	Apply Now	August 10 - December 16, 2022	M - F	9AM - 3:30PM	750

EVENING CLASSES

Nursing Assistant - Long Term Care (C.N.A.)	Call School For Details					120
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COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Hunter Education (Three separate course offerings) Call Mr. Davidson at (904) 813-0008 with course questions.	Davidson	Open	Call School For Details	R	6PM - 9PM	3
Spinning (Indoor Cycling) Call Ben Bridgman at 904-509-2828 with questions.	Bridgman/Ricker	Open	August 10 - December 16, 2022	T & R	5:15PM - 6:30PM	Varies

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Grace among 106 churches suing the Methodist Church in Florida

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Grace United Methodist Church of Lawtey is one of more than 100 churches that has filed suit against the United Methodist Church to leave the church conference.

Grace is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, which was filed in Bradford County.

According to a press release, the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is demanding a lump sum payment from Grace representing current and future liabilities of the conference before Grace is allowed to leave the conference.

"The lawsuit alleges that the [Florida] Annual Conference has taken the position that it is entitled to keep [Grace United Methodist Church's] property — which was owned and paid for . . . long before the UMC and the Annual Conference ever



existed — unless Grace . . . pays a substantial payment of money as unilaterally determined by the Annual Conference Defendants."

Grace was founded in 1888 as a Methodist Episcopal Church. A disagreement over doctrine is behind the attempt to leave the conference.

Schools still hiring teachers, staff

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

National and state teachers' unions have been saying for months that people are leaving the profession, resulting in thousands of vacancies across Florida that school districts have been hard at work trying to fill.

Positions are open for support staff and bus drivers as well. The Florida Education Association reported earlier this year there were more than 9,500 instructional and noninstructional positions open in Florida schools.

These jobs involve more educating students. School employees take care of children, help raise them and meet their needs. It is a stressful job, and easy to feel underpaid and underappreciated. Despite attempts to raise minimum teacher pay, in Florida, compensation still trails behind the national average.

Complaints about testing and standards persist, and classrooms have also become a battleground in the culture wars. Fewer young people are interested in entering the profession at all.

"Those who do become teachers are leaving the profession sooner," according to the FEA report. "Even before the Covid pandemic, 40 percent

of Florida's new teachers left the classroom within their first five years in the profession, state records show. This is 15 to 20 percent above the national average, depending on the year."

As of Monday, Bradford schools had 45 vacant positions advertised. Twenty-two were instructional positions, and there were five substitute positions. Twelve support positions were open for paraprofessionals, food service workers, etc. Three positions were vacant in transportation.

Human Resources Director Aimee Ferguson said some of the positions had been awarded and were in the preemployment process. The positions remain open until that process is complete. "Other positions we are advertising but may not be filling immediately until student enrollment is solidified," Ferguson said.

"We have received a steady but slow stream of applications. This year we have advertised through Skyward online, Facebook, job fairs, a web-based employment site, Career Source, and by contacting colleges throughout the state," she said.

Of the 38 positions posted in Union County, 22 were instructional, three were

maintenance, two were transportations and four were aides. The district was also looking for a dean.

In Clay County, hundreds of positions are posted, and around 90 of them are for teachers. Only six teaching positions were vacant in Keystone Heights schools, however.

FEA's solution involves raising pay to meet the national average, hiring and developing new teachers, and awarding longer contracts to experienced and well performing teachers.

Florida Department of Education reports these are the top teacher shortage areas:

- English
 - Exceptional Student Education
 - Science—General
 - Reading
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages
 - Math
 - Science—Physical
- "The shortage areas above represent certification areas where substantial proportions of teachers who are not certified in the appropriate field are being hired to teach such courses, where significant vacancies exist and where postsecondary institutions do not produce enough graduates to meet the needs of Florida's K-12 student population," according to FDOE's report.

Drive-thru backpack giveaway

Partnership for Strong Families will be conducting a Back-to-School Giveaway at the Bradford High School bus loop on Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m.

to noon. The drive-thru giveaway will provide free backpacks, school supplies and important resource information from community agencies.

Participating agencies include UF MIECHV, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare,

One More Child, Bradford Community Coalition, Bradford County Health Department, Alachua WIC, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Hanley Foundation, and Florida Department of Children and Families.

Complete student registration online

Summer days are counting down to Aug. 10, the first day for Bradford County School District students.

New students to the district and first time kindergarten students are encouraged to complete registration as early as possible. Many enrollment steps can be completed online at www.bradfordschools.org.

On the website, choose "Student Registration." Scroll down to "New to District: Create FOCUS Account and Enroll PK - 12 student". If parents already have a FOCUS account, choose "Existing FOCUS Account with District: Enroll Additional PK-12 student."

Don't be overwhelmed. Help is available at all school sites Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for questions and guidance.

Currently, 178 kindergartners have completed the registration process including summer VPK students. VPK prepares 4-year-old early learners for success in kindergarten and beyond. VPK helps build a strong foundation for school using educational material corresponding to various stages in a child's development. VPK provides opportunities for social skill development and getting along with others. Students who turn 4 before Sept. 1 can enroll in free VPK by calling 904-966-6896.

Kindergarten (Child is age 5 by Sept. 1, 2022)

Students who turn 5 before Sept. 1 will become the Class of 2035 as they start kindergarten in August. School offices are open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through July 28.

Florida law specifies that children who have attained the age of 5 years on or before Sept. 1 of the school year are eligible for admission to public kindergarten during that school year based on rules prescribed by the school board. Students are eligible for kindergarten attendance provided they meet the age requirement.

The following information is required to enroll a student in a Florida school:

—Proof of age. A certified birth certificate for US citizens may be requested online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>. If a birth certificate is not available refer to 1003.21, FS, for other acceptable documentation.

—A Florida Certificate of Immunization, Form 680 (blue card), completed by a Florida physician or by a Florida county



Kairi Eubanks and Landon Prevatt discuss the importance of washing their hands. Wet, squirt, wash, rinse, dry!

health department. Parents should obtain a copy of their child's complete immunization history before leaving their current residence, as this form is not available to the general public. Information on Florida school immunization requirements is available at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/school/parent/parent_info.html.

—Evidence of a medical exam completed no less than 12 months prior to the child's school entry date. As long as the medical exam meets this 12-month requirement, parents may submit this information on the School-Entry Health Exam Form (DH 3040) or provide a copy of the exam obtained from their current physician before

moving to Florida. This form and the accompanying guide are available online at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/school-health/documents/school-health-entry-exam-form-dh3040-chp-07-2013.pdf>.

—Official documentation that the parent(s) or guardian(s) is a legal resident(s) of the school district attendance area.

Fellowship Food Pantry

Fellowship Baptist Church off S.R. 121 in Raiford opens its food pantry on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 11 a.m.

LOST CAT Hampton; lives on Short Street. Please Help Us Find THOMAS!

Thomas is a very special HAIRLESS cat, 3 years old, male, not neutered. He is medically fragile & an indoor cat. Often tilts head to left due to ear infection. Blonde/ORANGE hairless; two patches of darker colored fuzz on each side of his hips; the mark on his forehead & his spots or ear tips are pinkish. He 'sings at night' and 'howls like a dog.' His brother & family miss him very much.

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VOTE: TOM GERMANO FOR BRADFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4!



Hello...my name is **Tom Germano**.

Many of you will remember me from my run for County Commissioner for District 4 in 2018. While I did not win that election, I felt a strong responsibility to stay deeply involved with the community, county, and state, that I love. I have attended and participated in countless County Commission meetings, workshops, and budget meetings, as well as many other community workshops and events.

For the past 5 years, I have served with several community organizations and boards. A few examples include representing Bradford County as State Committeeman for the Republican Party of Florida, Chairman of the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District, Chair of Staff Parrish Relations at Keystone United Methodist Church, Board Member of the Melrose Volunteer Fire Department, Member of the FDOT (Bradford) Community Traffic Safety Team, Board Member of the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association and the Past-President of the Melrose Business and Community Association.

I have worked towards keeping our county safe; our waters clean and protecting us all from a potential Phosphate Mine that will have far-reaching effects on our beautiful landscape and aquifer. These are not things I plan or promise to do, these are things I have done!

I could tell you that all we need to do is fix our budget and our county would be ok. Unfortunately, that is not true. Yes, our budget needs work but there is so much more that can be done with the right leadership. We need to stop wasteful spending. A good example is a Fire Station that cost close to \$1 million dollars, 3

times what was initially budgeted, and has sat empty for almost 3 years because it failed its state inspection. The designation had to be changed to a "warehouse."

Finally, just a couple of months before election time, Fire Trucks appeared in the warehouse during the day. Unfortunately, since there is no sleeping quarters, they must return to Theresa at 5:30 p.m. Those of us who live in the area were told that we would save money on our insurance. That has never happened; instead, we are faced with throwing more money, in the form of our taxes, at the warehouse to make it usable as a fire station.

We also need revenue for the county! Revenue that does not burden our citizens with additional taxes in the form of assessments and surcharges! We must have new and creative ways to support our Fire/EMS, Sheriff's office, and Road Department, 3 of the most critical departments in our county.

I am not related to anyone in the county, I have never been paid to work for the county, I will only collect one salary from the county and most importantly, I am not beholden to any individual, department, or business in the county. I will work for all Bradford residents. I have been a part-time resident of Bradford County since I was 5 years old, I purchased a home here in 2004, and my wife and I moved here full-time as soon as we were able. I chose to live here!

I encourage you to allow me to keep my work moving forward in the county. Early voting is from August 8th to August 21st, and this is an open election, all parties may vote! Election day is August 23rd. There is no General Election for the Commissioner races in Bradford. Please remember... your vote counts!

Please contact me at tom@tomgermano.com, should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. I would like to hear from you!

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AD PAID FOR BY TOM GERMANO, REPUBLICAN FOR BRADFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4.

Lake Region

KH back-to-school event helps 300 students

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Community Church operated its 14th annual back-to-school giveaway from Thursday through Saturday at the church's Palmetto Avenue campus.

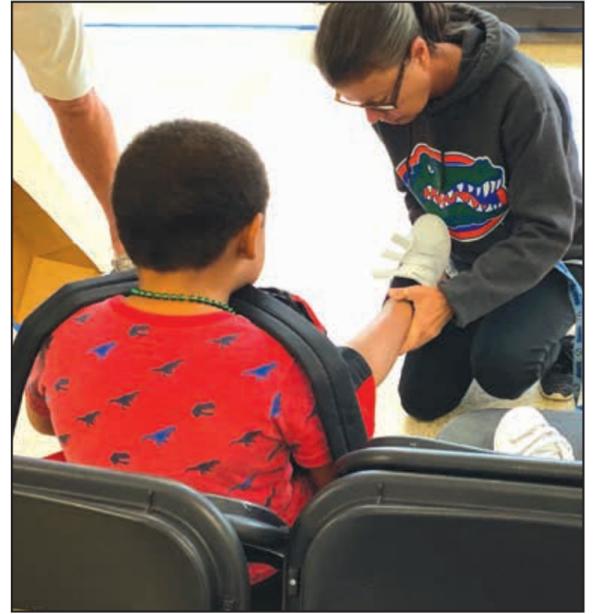
Event organizer Barbara Sullivan said around 40 volunteers supplied nearly 300 children with shoes, clothing, Bibles, school supplies, backpacks and other products.

On Friday morning Sullivan said 175 children came through the doors of Community Church on Thursday, July 7, for supplies. Other students were scheduled to pick up supplies at the church on Friday and Saturday mornings.

This is the second year students were allowed to attend the event following the COVID-19 Pandemic. Sullivan said that in 2020, only parents were allowed



(L-R) Volunteers Randy Davids, Betina Davids, Jamie Maxfield, Joyce Murphy, Pam Connolly, Robin Dooley and Marcus Dooley.



Volunteer Karen Lake helps a student try on a pair of shoes.

to come. "It was so sad," Sullivan recalled, adding that volunteers and parents highlights the event. say that praying with the students



Handing out school supplies were (l-r) Diane House, Marcia Martin and Audrey Stovall.



With jeans that students could select from (l-r) Kelly Cunningham, Jennifer Cumbus and Kim Nugent.

Brooklyn water level still dropping

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The director of the St. Johns River Water Management District's Division of Water and Land Resources told the district's governing board during its July 12 meeting that water levels on Lake Brooklyn dropped by 0.4 feet during June.

Erich Marzolf said the average rainfall throughout the district during June was 4.34 inches, which is 2.4 inches below the average for the month.

The report marked the second consecutive month the district noted a drop in Brooklyn's water level. In May it dropped 0.2 feet, following a 0.8 feet increase in April.

Marzolf said Indian River County had the most rainfall



Indian River County had the most rainfall during June, with a countywide average of 9 inches. Duval County received the least amount of precipitation with only 2.2 inches.

during June, with a countywide average of 9 inches. Duval County received the least amount of precipitation with only 2.2 inches. Districtwide, the

cumulative rainfall total for the past 12 months is 50.40 inches, which is 0.61 inches below the long-term average.

School improvements revealed

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — An architect hired by Clay County District Schools briefed the Keystone Heights City Council on his plans for improving the school's campus.

Paul Stresing said he was hired by the district to update the campus's master plan and to implement the first phase of improvements, which is to build a new cafetorium, convert the current cafetorium into a media center and convert the current media center into a six-classroom suite.

Stresing said the school's cafetorium is now within the campus's administration building. He is proposing to build a new combination cafeteria and auditorium to the southwest of the current administration building, in the vicinity of current

hardcourts, playground and the Gary Ray Cooper Memorial.

Stresing added that he would like to move the Gary Cooper Memorial to a more visible location at the school.

"Now, when you drive by there, with the trees and everything, you almost don't even see it," Stresing said of the memorial, which honors the 1967 Keystone Heights High School graduate who was killed in the Vietnam War the following year. "We'd like to put it in a higher-profile area in order to pay homage to the veteran."

Stresing told council members that by relocating the cafetorium next to Southwest Peach Street and beside one parking lot, and by moving the media center from the middle of the campus to the administration building, also near a service driveway and parking lot, that school security will be improved.

"A lot of times, cafeterias and media centers, typically on a school campus have weekend and evening activities," he said, "So, by bringing the media center back up to the front, we can lock down the (rest of the) campus completely and there's no reason for anybody to be in the campus."

"You've got parking right here," he continued, pointing to a map of the campus. "You utilize the cafetorium for performances, and the media center will be accessed through the admin. area. The rest of the campus is completely locked down."

Stresing said the new cafetorium will have a capacity of 1,200 students, allowing the school to increase its enrollment from the current 850.

See REVEAL, page 5

20% OFF back to school **SALE**
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SALE ENDS 8-12-22 at 5pm

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Pump and intake for Black Creek project approved

First step in restoring KH lakes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board approved a bid for the first stage of the Black Creek Water Resource Project during its July 12 meeting in Palatka.

The entire project consists of a 17-mile pipeline, pumps, and a water treatment facility designed to recharge the Upper Floridan Aquifer. The project is also the central component of the Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva Minimum Flows and Levels Recovery Strategy.

The board awarded a \$15.9 million contract to Wharton-Smith Inc. to build the project's intake apparatus and pump near the creek's north fork intersection with State Road 16 between Camp Blanding and Penny Farms.

The district's Director of Projects, Dale Jenkins, said the pump station includes a building to house the pumps and a second structure for electrical and controls. He added that Wharton-Smith will use micro-tunnel technology in laying the pipe between the creek and the pump station.

"Using micro-tunnel technology is the best technique in this case for tunneling under wetlands and avoiding wetland impacts," he said. "In fact, by using this micro-tunneling technology, we are avoiding about two acres of wetland impacts."

The pump station includes four two-and-a-half-million-gallons-per-day vertical turbine pumps and will be located outside the creek's flood plain.

"The pump station is designed to run at various capacities based upon water availability in the creek," Jenkins said, "with a maximum capacity of 10 million gallons per day, achieved when all four pumps are running."

1 bid, 16% over cost estimate

Jenkins told the board that the sole bid from Wharton-Smith is 16% higher than the engineer's cost estimate. "We don't think the number submitted by Wharton-



Celebrating the approval of a \$15.9 million bid to build the intake and pump station for the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project are (l-r) Lake Region Development Corporation Executive Director Scott Kornegay, St. Johns River Water Management District Chair Rob Bradley, Save Our Lakes President Vivian Katz James and Keystone Heights City Manager Lynn Rutkowski.

Smith is out of line, considering the current economic climate we are in," he said.

Jenkins added that Wharton-Smith was the only firm to submit a bid, even though 10 contractors and subcontractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

"We expected three to five bids," Jenkins said. "When we received only one, we reached out to the potential respondents and inquired why they did not submit a bid. In general, it's all about timing. Contractors are having a difficult time getting subcontractors to commit to their projects. There's a lot of work out there, and the result was that the contractors that did not bid said they're being very selective on the projects they're bidding on or extending their resources."

"We feel very fortunate that Wharton-Smith did consider this project," he continued. "This project is in their wheelhouse. They're very experienced constructing surface water intakes and associated cofferdams, as well as pump stations for this particular type of project."

Jenkins said the district is working with Wharton-Smith on reducing costs, adding that if the project can utilize electrical instead of diesel pumps, the pump station's price tag can be

reduced by \$200,000.

Board Vice-chair Maryam Ghyabi-White, a civil engineer, told Jenkins she did not consider the over-budget bid a deal breaker. She said that in her field of road construction, bids are coming in 40% to 50% higher than cost estimates.

Decades of effort

Save Our Lakes President Vivian Katz James told the board that the Black Creek project is the result of decades of effort and determination, starting with citizens like Rob Bamford and Chester Moody organizing the Lake Brooklyn Civic Association in 1988.

She also pointed out that Ghyabi, who as a board member during a previous term, stopped the issuance of a Minimum Flows and Levels standard that would have politically crippled lake advocates' efforts. James also thanked Board Chair Rob Bradley for his leadership in getting the project funded and approved in the legislature when he was a state senator. She added that Board Member Gen. Douglas Burnett's enthusiastic advocacy for the project kept it moving at the district.

New preserve planned near Melrose

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Alachua County leaders are meeting with local residents to discuss the development of a new county preserve near Melrose.

In June Sallie Carlock and Jacqueline Williamson of Santa Fe Audubon attended the county's first public input meeting for the Black Lake Preserve. The county recently acquired the 288-acre site west of the county's Santa Fe Lake Park.

Carlock said meeting attendees discussed possible entrances into the preserve, public recreation amenities like bike and horse paths, and parking and restroom facilities. The group also discussed balancing public recreation and resource preservation.

"We first heard about this around the time of the 2021 Christmas Bird Count," said Carlock, "and we were very excited about it."

Carlock added that she disagreed with the county's concept of building an entrance into the preserve from State Road 26, arguing that an entrance from



Northeast 225th Street, also known as Totem Pole Road, would be a safer alternative.

Carlock said she also had reservations about the idea of building horse trails within the preserve.

"Nothing more than bike paths," she said.

Carlock said the group discussed building a grass corral for parking with a paved pad for handicapped parking.

She added that Santa Fe Audubon representatives advocated building observing bird blinds within the preserve,

so visitors could observe birds without disturbing them.

The 40-acre Black Lake is south of 5,850-acre neighboring Santa Fe Lake. With a maximum depth of around six feet, the smaller water body is surrounded by a 360-acre wetland.

Carlock said kayakers can navigate between the two lakes, but passage by anything larger is prohibited by shallow water and vegetation.

A second public input meeting is scheduled for August.

for Alachua County," he told the council. "We did two-story classroom buildings. You put the younger kids on the first floor, the older kids on the second floor, but in doing that ... ultimately, we'd like to try to eliminate all these portables."

Stresing said the current space now occupied by the portables, along Orchid Avenue, could be used for additional playing fields or for high school special events that occur after school.

The master plan also outlines drainage improvements that will eliminate standing water on the campus after storms. Council member Tony Brown said minor flooding on the campus after rain plagued the school even when he was a student decades ago.

Stresing said that by replacing buildings instead of building an entire new campus, the district

can eliminate a third of its construction costs.

"Literally, for \$40 million you could have a brand spanking new campus, versus 60 to 65 million dollars if you start from scratch," he said, adding that he is the architect for a new elementary school in Bradford County that has a \$60 million budget.

School board member Tina Bullock, who brought Stresing to the council, emphasized the importance of insisting that the district continue to fund future components of the master plan.

"I want you to say out loud, so everybody can see this on air that you want us to make sure we finish the job," Bullock told the council, "not just finish phase one but phase two and the completion of this project. That's what I preach at every board meeting."

School tax holiday begins Monday

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Whether it's your student's first year or final, Florida's Sales Tax Holiday beginning next week is the perfect time to stock up on supplies and grab the latest fashions.

The tax exemption holiday lasts from July 25 through Aug. 7. The first day of school for public school students is Aug. 10.

Sales tax will not be collected on the following categories:

—certain clothing, footwear and accessories selling for \$100 or less per item.

—certain school supplies selling for \$50 or less per item.

—learning aids and jigsaw puzzles with a sales price of \$30 or less.

—personal computers and related accessories purchased for noncommercial home or personal use with a sales price of \$1,500 or less.

Items exceeding these prices are not eligible for full or partial



tax exemption.

A full list of exempt items is available at floridarevenue.com/backtoschool/Pages/default.aspx. For example, general sports equipment, duffle bags and umbrellas are not exempt, but backpacks, baseball cleats and bicycle helmets are. Exemptions for school supplies do not include printer paper or correction tape/fluid/pens. They do include binders, calculators, crayons,

glue, markers, notebooks, pencils and pens, rules and scissors.

There are some overlapping exemption periods to be aware of. The exemption on children's book for ages 12 and under, which began May 14, will extend through Aug. 14.

Sales tax on children's diapers, baby and toddler clothing, apparel and footwear will not be collected through June 30, 2023.

Spooner completes advanced commissioner training

ORANGE COUNTY

Commissioner Carolyn Brown Spooner was presented with the Advanced County Commissioner Level I (ACC I) designation from the Institute for County Government at an award ceremony held at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference and Educational Exhibition in Orange County, Florida on June 30.

The ACC I designation signifies the commissioner's completion of a comprehensive study program designed by the Institute for County Government. The ACC I education program, consisting of three two-day seminars and 27 hours of total coursework, focuses on leadership development with an emphasis on the future of Florida. Commissioners are given the opportunity to participate following their graduation from the Certified County Commissioners program.

"As an optional program, it takes a commissioner who is truly dedicated to serving their community to pursue this designation and it speaks volumes about those who do," shared the Institute for County Government's executive director, Eric Poole. "This program brings

together commissioners who are committed to facing Florida's greatest challenges and allows them to collaborate and grow as they learn new strategies, which they may use to better their communities."

"It was a great pleasure and honor to participate in this educational program to learn more in government and to network with other commissioners around the state to better serve my beloved community of Bradford County and the state of Florida," Spooner said.

The ACC I education program was launched in 2006 and commissioners must fully commit to the coursework to graduate from the program. Participants are challenged to act, think and lead during times of uncertainty and adversity. Alongside Commissioner Spooner, 17 commissioners earned the designation at the 2022 award ceremony and a total of 285 commissioners have earned the designation since the inception of the program.

The education program is made possible in partnership with the University of Florida/IFAS Extension, who has sponsored this program for the last fifteen



Bradford County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner

years and has offices in all 67 Florida counties.

To learn more about the ACC program and other education programs offered through the Institute for County Government, please visit flcig.org.

Letters

Good folks out there

Dear Editor:
My sister-in-law had come for a visit and, while on her way home, her car died on State Road 100 near the Keystone Heights Airport road. I wasn't able to come to her rescue, but a nice, young man stopped to help her. He checked her car out and determined it needed a belt. He

brought her back to my house, where we called an auto parts store to make sure they would have the part for her car. He then took her from my house into Keystone, got the part, took her back to her car, and fixed her car.

The only thing I know about this young man is that his name is Justin. He refused any monetary offers for his time and effort. The only thing he asked in response was for us to pay it forward.

So, the next time I'm in a

drive-through, I'll see if I can't lighten the next person's load by picking up their tab. If I'm not able to help in cash, I can look around and see if someone is coming behind me and hold the door for an extra few seconds. Or give a genuine smile to a cashier or someone who may need it.

This young man sure did brighten our day!

Jo Young
Keystone Heights

PLAN

Continued from page 1

Goals include increasing the number of students scoring at or above grade level on required assessments; increasing acceleration opportunities for students; providing training and development to increase retention of high-quality employees; recruiting a more talented and diverse pool of applicants; and improving behavioral support and social-emotional learning for all students. They also include improving the district's financial position, enhancing financial transparency, and improving communication within the district and with the community.

A copy of the strategic plan will be made available online at www.bradfordschools.org.

Admins tasked with problem solving

The strategic plan update began as a project Hartley was completing for a Northeast Florida Educational Consortium program. Improvement in Starke Elementary School's science

scores by 13 percentage points was a project completed by Principal Raymond Schaefer for a leadership program he recently completed.

With that in mind, Hartley said he is asking all administrators to take up a project based on what they see as their biggest need. When completed, those projects will be presented to the school board with a plan to tackle that need. That will be followed by a midyear update and a final report at year's end.

"I'm excited about this because I know this forces you to be very intentional about a specific need that you have. And just like Mr. Schaefer, you see the end result of that," Hartley said.

Grants, curriculum focus on early readers

Clarke also discussed a High Impact Reading Grant the district has received to boost reading performance in early elementary grades. The grant will allow the district to hire a reading intervention teacher for Southside Elementary School and reading tutor paraprofessionals for Starke

and Lawley Elementary schools. This is the second such grant, with the prior funding two additional positions.

On top of that, the district will be implementing a supplementary reading curriculum from the University of Florida known as UFLLI Foundations. It is simple to implement with clear lesson plans for teachers and targets grades K-2, Clark said.

"What we're finding is that while in kindergarten I think we're doing a pretty decent job, we're seeing drop-offs at first and then again at second. So, we get the third grade where students need to really read to learn, and there's big gaps in foundational skills," she said.

UFLLI touts itself as a curriculum developed for teachers, by teachers and with teachers. It includes opportunities for professional development, but using the lessons is enough for teachers to learn more about the process of "reading acquisition, key linguistic elements necessary for reading, and evidence-based instructional methods that promote reading proficiency."

REVEAL

Continued from page 4

Replace classrooms, eliminate portables, improve drainage

Stresing said future components of the master plan include replacing the campus's 65-year-old classroom buildings and getting rid of the school's portable classrooms.

He added that by replacing the current one-story buildings with two-story structures, additional classroom space can be created without additional acreage.

"We just did this over at Howard Bishop Middle School

UNION COUNTY

UC Library hosting Senior Social Club

BY MARY BROWN

Union County Public Library

The Union County Public Library is now in its second year of hosting the newly formed Senior Social Club programs.

The programs take place on the first and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. The bi-monthly programs consist of a wide variety of crafting projects, informational speakers and interesting activities.

Most recently, the group enjoyed a "Cooking for Two" presentation by professional chef and author, Warren Caterson. Chef Warren will return to the library and present his "Decadent Dessert" program for the Senior Social on December 6, 2022.

During the springtime, the Senior Social Club had fun at their outdoor picnic event sharing yummy dishes, relaxing in lawn chairs and even learning how to play disc golf and corn hole games.

The next senior event on Tuesday, August 26 will feature a luau party with lots of food and fun! All seniors are welcome to



Union County Public Library Director Mary Brown (left) hands Monica Bayer the equipment to play disc golf during an outside activity for the Senior Social Club at the library.

join in these free programs. For more information about these and other programs, call the library at 386-496-3432 or visit the library's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/unioncountylibrary.



A group of Senior Social Club members relaxing in the shade last Spring after an outdoor picnic event. Pictured are (l-r): Deborah Carter, Donna Godwin, Gerda Godwin, Wanda Godwin, Jean Estes, Nell Carter, Jane Russell and Carrie Ford.



Professional Chef and author Warren Caterson giving a presentation on "Cooking For Two" at the Senior Social Club meeting at the Union County Public Library. He will return to the library on Dec. 6, 2022 and give club members a program on "Decadent Dessert."

Free backpacks, supplies at LBES

The Lake Butler Women's Club, in partnership with the Lake Butler Elementary School PTO, will be holding a Back-to-School Bash at the Lake Butler Elementary School cafeteria on Saturday, July 23, from 9 a.m. until noon. Free backpacks and school supplies will be given away.

Vote Lawtey

There will be a voter registration drive with refreshments provided on Friday, July 22, at 6 p.m. at Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church on Lake Street in Lawtey.

Bring someone who needs to register or needs encouragement to vote. This is a nonpartisan event to encourage voting, and all are welcome to attend.

July 25 is the last day to register to vote in the August primaries. For further information, please call 352-283-5536.

Woman's Day at Greater Bethlehem

Greater Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church of Starke will hold its annual Woman's Day Program on Sunday, July 24, beginning at 11 a.m. Guest speaker is Prop. Beatrice Belford of Lake Butler. Lunch will follow the service. All are welcome.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Union County School District will soon consider a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy **\$ 1,841,498**

B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes..... **- \$ 133,945**

C. Actual property tax levy..... **\$ 1,975,443**

This year's proposed tax levy \$2,007,830

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law for the school board to receive **\$ 1,927,518** in state education grants. The required portion has **decreased** by **3.93** percent, and represents approximately **six tenths** of the total proposed taxes.

The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on

July 26, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

at The Union County School Board Meeting Room located at 55 SW 6th Street, Lake Butler, Florida.

A **DECISION** on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The School Board of Union County will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a 1.500 mill property tax for the capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed tax of 4.0620 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

**THE PROPOSED COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOWN IN THE ADJACENT NOTICE

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$519,827 to be used for the following projects:

CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

- Re-roofing Districtwide
- Remodeling Classroom Space Districtwide
- Remodeling/Repair of District Owned Buildings Districtwide

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR

- Districtwide Roof Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Plumbing Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Electrical Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide HVAC Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Flooring Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Structural Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Walkway Covering Replacements, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Sidewalk Repairs
- Districtwide Repaving
- Reimbursement of the maintenance, renovation, and repairs paid through the General Fund as permitted by Florida Statute

MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

- Lease Purchase of six (6) School Buses
- Purchase of Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB) (1)
- Purchase of District Vehicle
- Purchase of Maintenance Vehicle
- Purchase of Vocational Vehicle

NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER AND DEVICE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE NECESSARY FOR GAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE

- School Furniture and Equipment
- Fire Alarm Systems - Districtwide
- Intercom Systems - Districtwide
- Purchase of New Computers
- Purchase of New Tablets
- Software
- Digital Instructional Content
- Infrastructure Hardware - Digital Classroom Plan Implementation
- Enterprise Technology

PAYMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND SITES DUE UNDER A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT

- TD Bank - Annual Lease Payment for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds for Various Facilities

PAYMENT OF COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

- Removal of hazardous waste

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Insurance premiums on district facilities

PAYMENT OF COSTS OF LEASING RELOCATABLE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

- Leasing of Portable Classrooms

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing to be held on **July 26, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. at the Union County School Board Meeting Room, 55 SW 6th Street, Lake Butler, Florida.**

A **DECISION** on the proposed **CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES** will be made at this hearing.

Union Commissioners and County Coordinator stand out at FAC Convention

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

Two Union County commissioners and the county coordinator recently attended the annual conference of the Florida Association of Counties in Orlando, June 28 – July 1, 2022, and brought home honors as well as valuable information to benefit the county.

Commissioners Lacey Cannon and Ryan Perez, along with County Coordinator Jimmy Williams, attended the convention, with the commissioners having to take time off from the jobs to attend – for Williams it was part of his job to attend. The convention offered the advantage of contact, conversation and programs on diverse topics and also the opportunity for the UC representatives to attend a meeting of the Small County Coalition as well.

Topics of workshops attended by them included the current program to provide broadband Internet service to all areas of the state, rural infrastructure, new state grant programs, economic development, cybersecurity, healthcare and retirement for small counties, disaster recovery and the opioid settlement received by the state. Both commissioners attended as many of the workshops as their time would allow, as well as participating in meet-and-greets and other events where they met counterparts from other counties and from several corporations represented there.

In addition to gaining knowledge to help them do their jobs well, all three collected certifications and one award at the event. Perez and Cannon both received their designation as



Union County Commissioners Ryan Perez and Lacey Cannon with their certificates proclaiming them as Certified County Commissioners.

Certified County Commissioners – a recognition requiring both online coursework and live instruction to ensure that lives participants in the program in being effective in their position.

“The training for certification took about a year,” said Commissioner Lacey Cannon. “It was real work, taking hours of the online classes and then on-site training as well. I think it will be worth the effort, though.”

Williams was honored with an award for Outstanding County Manager, by the Small County Association, one of only two people recognized this year for the award. Although Williams is technically a county coordinator, rather than a manager, his job description met the criteria for the award.

“Attending these conventions is a great way to acquire a great deal of information in a short period of time,” Williams said. “It was very educational and also gave us the opportunity to meet with other county officials from demographically similar

counties to discuss common issues, explore problems and possible solutions. It was a great opportunity to compare notes and see what other counties are doing and learn from their experiences.”

“I think the conference gave us the opportunity to learn about ways to nurture economic development in our county and deal with a variety of issues that are important to our citizens, like Internet access (broadband). The meetings and other events also gave us the opportunities to make connections with officials from other counties and corporations. It was a great opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and initiatives from around the state.”

All three Union County representative said they were glad they attended the conference and were eager to share the information they gathered with other county officials and discuss ways to put some of what they learned into action to benefit the county and its citizens.



Pastor Thomas Odom

LIGHT Continued from page 1

The Union Campus actually opened in Sept. 2021 with a single group class for grades 1-5 with a single teacher, but things are now in place for the school to begin developing and expanding what it offers. Currently, the Union Campus will only offer classes in grades K-5, but plans are underway to expand to a full K-12 program in the future. A second teacher has been added for the new school year, with plans to add more teaching staff as needed. Odom noted that he was interested in hiring as many local teachers as possible.

The kindergarten will be using the Abeka curriculum – one well known among home schooling families. Grades 1-5 will be using the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to compete in two academic competitions as well – the Church of God Academic Bowl in the Spring and Church of God ACE Junior Student Convention competition. Students in the competitions will compete in the areas of math, spelling, poetry, creative writing and other subjects.

At this time the school will not be offering an athletic programs, but it is a possibility in the future.



Kylie Touchstone, Grayson Touchstone, Jason Lee and Mason Lee recieved medals for making it onto the A Honor Roll in the 2021-22 school year. The four also all won in competition at the Church of God Association of Christian Schools Elementary Academic Bowl that same year - Kylie taking first in first grade color photography, Grayson taking second place in second grade color photography, Mason taking third place in fourth grade 2-D drawing and Jason taking second place in third grade color photography.

Secondary level students at the Ocoee campus participate in conference sports.

With all the recent problems around the work, many parents may be concerned about the security of the school campus. Odom said the schools all have a risk management plan, including the operation of a locked campus.

“It is a sad day we live in and it hurts my heart, but the safety of all children is of great importance,” Odom said.

Currently the Union Campus has seven students who have completed the registration process, but there are several more in process and they are still taking applications, but time is short, classes start at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 10. Parents who are interested in learning more about the school or are ready to enroll their children can call the school office at (386) 291-3100 or visit the Light Christian Academy website at www.mylcac.com and clicking on the “Union” button on the homepage. The school accepts state scholarships, and information and application for

these may be found at www.sufs.org.

“One of the things that often deters parents from putting their children in a private school is the cost,” Odom said. “The state scholarships is one way to take away this hurdle and let parents see to their child’s education as they would like.”

Odom said he and his staff are all excited about the Union Campus and are looking forward to the coming school year. The school is located in the same building as the former Lake Butler Christian Academy at 475 SW Third St. in Lake Butler, across the street from the Lake Butler Church of God, which rents the property to Light Christian Academy.

“I want to make clear that our school is not here to compete with the Union County schools, which offer an excellent secular education” Odom said. “We just want to give parents another option in the school they choose for their child or children. It is up to them where they choose to send them.”

Union releases back-to-school information

Schedules: Schedules will be released via Skyward at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20. The schedule request window will open at 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, through Tuesday, July 26, closing at 3 p.m. Be sure to check your schedule in Skyward and request any changes before the window closes. If you miss this window, the next scheduled request window will be Aug. 12-16.

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 the 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 righthand corner of your screen and you will see “District Links.”

Click on that and it will take you to the 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 Mr. Howell.

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

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. 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:

- Valid driver’s license.

- Vehicle registration.
- Proof of insurance (must be current).
- \$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. Please remember there is no overflow parking on campus. If all spots are filled, a student will be put on the waiting list.

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

On Monday, July 25, only seniors may purchase parking permits and/or lockers.

On Tuesday, July 26, only seniors and juniors may purchase

parking permits and/or lockers.

On Wednesday, July 27, only seniors, juniors and sophomores may purchase parking permits and/or lockers.

On Thursday, July 28, all students may purchase parking permits and/or lockers.

Parking Space Decorations: Only seniors may decorate parking spaces.

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

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

—Decorations may be put up no earlier than Tuesday, Aug. 9.

—All decorations must be removed by Friday, Aug. 19, by 3:30 p.m.

Union County High School open house is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 2. Students and parents/guardians may visit meet staff, pick up information and tour campus. UCHS is excited to meet incoming freshmen and their parents, and also catch up with our current 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and parents.

Come out and meet your teachers and explore campus. Freshman orientation: 6–7 p.m. Tenth–12th grades: 7–8 p.m. Students return to UCHS: Wednesday, Aug. 10.

Back-to-School Splash: Free school supplies

Looking for something to do with your family this summer? Have children going to school this fall? Come enjoy a day full of fun and games at Faith Presbyterian Church of Melrose’s 4th annual Back-to-School Splash event Saturday, July 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will be fun for the whole family as children play games to win school supplies, create imaginative crafts, run through sprinklers and slide down a 20-foot water slide. Breakfast bites and lunch will be available for purchase, as well as a variety of different items from the weekly farmers’ market. Faith Presbyterian Church is located at 2738 Southeast County Road 21 in Melrose.

Come Together Day

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

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

SCHOOL BOARD OF UNION COUNTY BUDGET SUMMARY FY 2022 - 2023

PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVY	
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	3.314
BASIC DISCRETIONARY OPERATING	0.748
DEBT SERVICE	0.000
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.500
TOTAL	5.562

REVENUES	SPECIAL REVENUE - CARES,				TOTAL ALL FUNDS
	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	ESSER & ARP	CAPITAL PROJECTS	
Federal Sources	70,000	2,230,001	4,533,393	0	6,833,394
State Sources	17,734,870	0	0	42,000	17,776,870
Local Sources	1,450,484	761,750	0	530,656	2,742,890
TOTAL REVENUES	19,255,354	2,991,751	4,533,393	572,656	27,353,154
Transfers In	150,000	0	0	0	150,000
FUND BALANCES - 7/1/22	3,834,081	1,240,932	0	570,345	5,645,358
TOTAL REVENUES & FUND BALANCES	23,239,435	4,232,683	4,533,393	1,143,001	33,148,512
EXPENDITURES					
Instruction	11,745,116	1,863,628	2,099,644	53,000	15,761,388
Pupil Personnel Services	1,148,300	41,000	97,650		1,286,950
Instructional Media Services	174,070				174,070
Instructional & Curriculum Development	306,940				306,940
Instructional Staff Training	242,500	46,273			288,773
Instructional Related Technology	165,750				165,750
Board of Education	260,450				260,450
General Administration	506,275	13,000			519,275
School Administration	975,650				975,650
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	35,250			250,000	285,250
Fiscal Services	535,500				535,500
Food Service	0	1,464,500			1,464,500
Central Services	315,500	3,000			318,500
Pupil Transportation Services	1,061,500	200		122,832	1,184,532
Operation of Plant	1,945,100				1,945,100
Maintenance of Plant	925,750		2,336,099	42,000	3,303,849
Admin. Technology Services	215,500				215,500
Community Services	345,000				345,000
Debt Service	0			146,885	146,885
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	20,904,151	3,431,601	4,533,393	561,717	29,483,862
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	150,000
FUND BALANCES - 6/30/23	2,335,284	801,082	0	431,284	3,567,650
TOTAL EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS, AND FUND BALANCES	23,239,435	4,232,683	4,533,393	1,143,001	33,148,512

THE TENTATIVE ADOPTED BUDGET AND OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO UNION COUNTY CITIZENS & VOTERS

Voter Registration Books Close Monday, July 25, 2022, for the August 23, 2022 Primary Election. All party changes and new registrations must be in by 5:00 pm on July 25th to the Union County Supervisor of Elections office.

Deborah K. Osborne
Supervisor of Elections
Union County
Unionflvotes.com
386-496-2236

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

July 9 through July 15

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

Jordan Tyler Altstatt, 22, of Fernandina Beach was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 11 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Connor Lee Austin, 27, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 15 for burglary and larceny.

According to a sworn complaint, Lawtey police reported that on April 20 a resident claimed seeing the defendant leave his residence with two chainsaws. The victim then confirmed the two power tools were missing from his home.

Wouldn't help with chores

Cynthia Odom Barnum, 59, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 12 for battery.

According to an arrest report, witnesses told arresting officer Jacob Desue that the defendant screamed at them for not helping with household chores, then lunged at a male family member, putting her hands around his neck. Another family member pulled Barnum off the victim.

"During my initial interview with Cynthia," Desue wrote, "she appeared severely intoxicated... and stated she was not the

primary aggressor."

Gerald Jermaine Brabham, 50, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 14 for manufacturing synthetic narcotics.

Charles James Eskew, 59, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 13 for a probation violation.

Terry Ray Gaskins, 53, of Lawtey was arrested by Starke police on July 13 for an out-of-county warrant.

Dylan Craig Hurt, 23, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 13 for failure to appear.

Antonio Antwayn Lott, 29, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on July 14 for battery.

Brandon Andrew Mitchell, 24, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 14 for interfering with child custody.

Kenny Allen Moore, 58, of Douglas, Georgia was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 10 for battery and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Derrick Byron Nicholls, 21, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Starke police on July 14 for possession of marijuana, larceny, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and possession of drugs.

Chadly Derick Richey, 41, of Waldo was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 12 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Stanley Keith Varnum, 46, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 15 for possession of drugs, driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of drug equipment.

Union

Ya'ta Aeisha Brown, 31, of

Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on July 14 for possession of cocaine, possession of synthetic narcotics, trafficking in drugs and possession of narcotics equipment.

Frankie Lavone Davis, 29, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on July 14 for improper exhibition of a firearm and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

According to an arrest report, the defendant told deputies he went to his child's mother's house to repair a door and while there, got into an argument with residents. He then retrieved a 9 mm Smith and Wesson handgun from his vehicle and returned to the home. The defendant denied firing the gun, only pointing it at one of the house's residents. The two residents refused to supply sworn statements to law enforcement. However, several neighbors reported hearing gunfire.

Sylvester Warren Jr., 45, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on July 13 for trespassing and petit theft.

According to an arrest report, the defendant took a \$3.50 bag of chips off the shelf of a Dollar General and fled.

Clay

Charles Christopher Chamberlain, 49, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 14 for failure to appear.

Kady Leigh Freeman, 29, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 9 for trespassing.

Kyle Gregory Ploe, 29, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 15 for attempted second-degree murder.

as he drove into oncoming traffic into a residential area with several people attending local holiday festivities present and no regard for their safety," wrote Riley, adding that Ray stopped the fleeing defendant and detained him.

Accused arsonist competent for trial

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A 43-year-old Atlantic Beach man accused of burning down Lawtey's Economy Inn last year will now face charges for the incident.

On July 13, Circuit Judge James M. Colaw ruled Christian Singleton competent to proceed in the state's case against him.

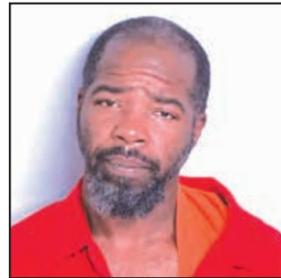
The defendant was arrested on May 20, 2021, for battery on a law enforcement officer, making a false report of a bomb threat, arson and resisting an officer without violence.

One month after Singleton's arrest, Colaw ruled the defendant incompetent to proceed, based on a report by a forensic and clinical psychologist who determined Singleton suffered from an unspecified disorder on the schizophrenic spectrum and another psychotic disorder.

Singleton has been receiving treatment and underwent additional evaluations at the Florida Department of Children and Families' North Florida Treatment Center in Gainesville.

According to an arrest report, the defendant told an employee of the Lawtey Community Store that he started a fire at the Economy Inn.

Bradford Deputy Michael Garmon wrote in an arrest report that when he arrived at the Economy Inn, the structure was fully engulfed in flames and that deputies and Lawtey police officers were trying to get control of the defendant while Singleton was in the back of a patrol vehicle.



Singleton

The lawman added that he believed Singleton to be under the influence of a narcotic and appeared unphased when Garmon touch-tased him.

Garmon wrote that during the struggle, Singleton kicked him in the face. He added that the defendant also bit another lawman and kicked a third in the testicles. A fourth officer suffered a back injury during the fight.

The clerk told officers that Singleton also claimed to have bombs in a backpack lying in the store's parking lot, and in his truck parked at the motel.

Bradford Fire Rescue Director Allen Parrish said firefighters had the blaze under control within 12 minutes of arriving on scene.

"Initially our crews were able to knock down the fire," he said, "where most of the heavy flame and extension is controlled. They were in the process of mopping that up when it was reported by law enforcement that there was a device of some type in the vehicle that was parked immediately in front of one of the rooms. So, we had to pull everybody back."

Parrish provided a timeline that showed crews paged to the fire at 7:40, firefighters on scene at 7:44, water on the fire at 7:49 and the fire under control or "knocked down" at 7:56.

At 8:11, fire rescue was advised to cease operations due to an unknown explosive device, and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office bomb squad deemed the area safe at 9:16. That allowed the fire to rekindle and spread for over an hour while firefighters were forced to stand by and watch.

Man arrested for threatening physician

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Alachua deputies arrested Jarod Benton Amburgey, 52, of Keystone Heights, on Thursday, July 14, for stalking and sending death threats to a doctor at UF Health Shands.

According to a sworn complaint, Amburgey is a former patient of the doctor and has sent at least 36 emails to the physician since May.

Alachua Deputy Michael T. Moore reported a sample of the



Amburgey

emails in the sworn complaint, which include:

"I will...kill you if you do not kill me. Arm yourself."

"If I were you, I would take the day off and hide."

"Hey (Victim), I'm going to kill you."

In one email, the defendant claimed that after living for 49 years without mental health issues, he has suffered from psychosis, mania, and insanity due to medications the physician prescribed over the past three-and-a-half years.

KFC worker sentenced to 77 days

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A former KFC employee was sentenced to time already served and to five years' probation for photographing credit cards of drive-through customers and then making purchases with those cards.

Marquerva Tytianna Latoré Lumar, 19, of Starke was arrested in April for fraud, identity theft and fraudulent use of credit cards.

In a sworn complaint, Bradford Detective James Crews



Lumar

wrote that "Lumar stated that she

only took a picture of a few cards but only tried two of the cards for online purchases."

Crews added that Lumar claimed she attempted to buy a necklace from a company on Instagram, clothes from Ralph Lauren and hair supplies from the Gainesville retailer Dynasty Boutique using the stolen information.

Circuit Judge James M. Colaw also ordered the defendant to write letters of apology to the victims. A restitution hearing is scheduled for Aug. 10.

Keystone man attacks victim with ax

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Kyle Ploe, 29, was arrested by Clay deputies on Friday, July 15 for attempted second-degree murder after witnesses said he attacked a victim with an ax.

Clay County Fire Rescue reported that it transported the victim to a hospital with serious injuries.

Deputies said the victim and defendant knew each other. The incident occurred near Keystone Heights High School.



Ploe

Blows probation, sent to prison

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A Starke man initially sentenced to six months in jail and probation was sent to prison for 13 months after he failed to report to his probation officer.

Bryce Daryl Bolinger, 35, of Starke was sentenced in April to 180 days in jail and three years' probation for the Dec. 18, 2021, offense of battery on a person 65 years or older.

According to an arrest report, the defendant told Starke police he and the victim were arguing over "something stupid" at an Andrews Street thrift store and started fighting.



Bolinger

The victim and another witness said Bolinger approached the victim, punched him in the face, and put him in a headlock while repeating, "go to sleep."

The victim said he tried to fight off Bolinger because he has a history of strokes and can't tolerate any constriction of his neck.

On June 23, a probation officer reported that after the defendant served his jail sentence, he failed to report to probation and changed his residence without notifying the officer.

On July 13, Circuit Judge James M. Colaw revoked and terminated Bolinger's probation and sent the man to state lockup.

Lake Butler man accused of sexual assault

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Bradford deputies arrested a 26-year-old Lake Butler man after a girl claimed he forced her to engage in sexual activities with him on three occasions.

Matthew Winford McSpadden was arrested on July 8 for the December 2021 offenses of lewd and lascivious behavior and sexual assault.

Starke Police Department Detective Hunter Redding wrote in a warrant affidavit that McSpadden denied the allegations and claimed one of the witnesses hates him. He



McSpadden

further stated that he and the victim have never been alone.

When Redding informed McSpadden about a Child

Protection Team interview with the victim that concluded she was a victim of sexual abuse, the defendant replied that the victim is sexually active with other people, not him.

One witness that Redding spoke to backed up the defendant's claim that the victim and the defendant have never been alone and that McSpadden and one of the witnesses have a "rocky" relationship.

Redding also noted inconsistencies in witness statements regarding the timing of the crimes, the locations of the incidents, and some of the defendant's physical characteristics.

Caught with drugs, 35 needles

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Tiffany Renate-McElroy Butcher, 39, of Ocala was sentenced to 13 months in prison after pleading to possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment in Bradford County.

On April 1 Starke police said they were helping a person gather her belongings from a Temple Avenue motel room when they discovered illegal drug activity had occurred inside the room. After obtaining a search warrant,



Starke police arrest and photograph Tiffany Renate-McElroy Butcher

officers seized 35 empty and used hypodermic needles, seven baggies containing methamphetamine or residue, four loaded syringes containing methamphetamine, 0.3 grams of powder Fentanyl and a digital scale.

After the search, Butcher and co-defendant Nichole L. Stroup were placed under arrest for drug-related charges.

Butcher also faces probation violation charges in Marion County.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

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

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate

Obituaries

Frankie Brookshire

Frankie L. Brookshire, 90, of Keystone Heights passed away Sunday, July 17, 2022, at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born May 21, 1932, in Merrimac, West Virginia to Chester and Hazel Murphy. She was a homemaker and a good, Christian woman. She attended Bethel Holiness Church in Jacksonville. She loved going to church and had previously taught children's Sunday school. She was known for the kindness and compassion she showed everyone; and had a talent for painting and a gift of singing. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three children, Randolph "Randy" Brookshire, Sandra Adams, Wade Brookshire; and a sister, Imogene Blankenship.



She is survived by three children, Don M. Brookshire of Keystone Heights and Rachel (Jim) Alewel and Barbara (Stanley) Perry, all of Jacksonville; along with a brother, Ted Murphy (Ann Pitts) of Columbus, Ohio. She was also lovingly called "Me-Maw" by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At her request, there are no services scheduled.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Sherri Campbell

Sherri Chandler Campbell of Starke died on Sunday, July 10, 2022 at North Florida Regional Hospital, Starke Campus, in Starke. A lifelong resident of Starke, she was a member of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where she served as a Deaconess and in the church choir. She attended the local schools of Bradford County and attained her bachelor's degree. She was employed by New Perceptions. She was a giver, caretaker, and activist, and she loved her family and friends.



She is survived by her husband: Deacon Allen Campbell; daughter, Darnettia Campbell; son, Marcus Campbell; her mother, Amandalene Chandler; four grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, in-laws, cousins and sorrowing friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 24, at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 901 Keller St., Starke, with Rev. Alvin Green, eulogist, conducting the services. The Repose will be held on Saturday, July 23, at New Bethel Baptist Church Starke. Family hour will be from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. Visitation for friends will be from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. The Cortège will form at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 24 at the home of Mrs. Amandalene Chandler (her mother) at 4493 SE 143rd Terr., Starke, 32091. Interment will be held at Oddfellow Cemetery in Starke under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091, 904-964-7905.

All attendees are asked to practice social distancing measures and urged to please wear a face mask.

PAID OBITUARY

Marshall Carlton

Marshall Lawrence Carlton went to meet Jesus and his Heavenly home on Wednesday July 13, 2022, while in residence at Haven Hospice in Gainesville. A devoted family man, devout Christian, entrepreneur and business owner are only a few of his many beautiful qualities. He was born in Wimauma to James and Ruby Carlton, the youngest of nine children. They divided their time between that location, with Marshall spending the majority of his childhood in Starke. He enjoyed many years with his siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins, consisting of one of the largest family groups in Bradford County. He began his career in the trucking industry, then was encouraged by a family member to go into business with them as a barber. He received his barber certification in May of 1964, and his master stylist certification several years later from Jacksonville Community College in Jacksonville. In 1974, he opened Marshall and the Hairbenders, being the first salon to open in Butler Plaza. It was the premier salon in Gainesville and served many clients in the Gainesville community and beyond. He joined the Regis Hairstylist team in the early 1990s and was instrumental in mentoring and training future stylists. He followed his dear friend and business partner, Kim Cross, to Charisma for Hair in 2003 and spent 15 successful years there until his retirement in 2018. He enjoyed hunting, was an avid fisherman and loved biking the Rails to Trails system in North Central Florida with his wife, Sandy, and their adored dog, Chloe, in the bicycle basket right along with them. He loved spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at every outing, birthday and holiday that was possible to attend. He was devoted to his Lord, and a strong mentor at his church, serving in the choir, countless prayer groups, and the greet team. He stood behind his hairstylist chair for 54 years and ministered to many people as a true "man of God." He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruby Rowena Newsom and James Henry Carlton; sisters, Marjorie Mobley, Sadie Simmons, R. Nanette Hughes, and Mary J. Green; brothers, J. Monroe, William I. and Martin H. Carlton; and his daughter, Grindl Pearl Walden.



He will be deeply missed and is survived by his wife, Sandra L. Carlton; daughter, Anita K. Cacciotti-Thal (Martin) of Gainesville; son, Raymond Douglas Carlton of Pensacola; stepson, Daniel A. Liezert of Denver, Colorado; four grandchildren, Christopher S. (Lisa) Cacciotti, Jason A. Cacciotti, Amber N. Walden, and Autumn M. Tompkins; seven great-grandchildren, Ria Emma Cacciotti, Dawson Walden, Alexis Lentz, Zachary Walden, Legend Dhar, and twins Stico and Cyrene Tompkins; and sister, Carolyn Holmes of Starke; and sister-in-law Patti (Richard) Thomas of High Springs. He loved and highly valued his niece, Joy Plant; nephews, Barry, Daniel and Matthew Carlton, often referring to them as his "second" set of kids. He often used to say, "If you have Jesus, you have it all, because Jesus paid it all." That legacy will live on, as he will live on in our hearts, forever.

The family will receive friends at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones Gallagher Funeral Home on Thursday, July 28, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, July 29, at First Baptist Church of High Springs at 11 a.m. with Pastor Gary Crawford officiating.

You may kindly donate florals of your choosing or donate to the ET York Haven Hospice Center, 4200 N.W. 90th Blvd., Gainesville, 32606. (beyourhaven.org)

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

PAID OBITUARY

Zoltan Jakab

Zoltan Jakab, 85, of Brooker passed away Tuesday, July 19, 2022, in Gainesville. He was born March 26, 1937 in Dudar, Hungary to John and Elizabeth (Kish) Jakab. In 1956, at the age of 17, he immigrated from Hungary to the United States and farmed in Pennsylvania. Later he moved to Florida where he met his wife. Teaching himself English he became a U.S. citizen and began his 43-year career with the University of Florida as an electrician. He was a member of Smyrna Baptist Church in Starke, where he was their choir leader for many years. He was a devoted Deacon and loved the Lord. He never missed an opportunity to discuss the Bible and tell others about Jesus. He was loved by many and helpful to everyone. According to his grandkids there wasn't anything he couldn't fix! In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 61 years, Nancy Jakab; and a sister, Elizabeth Jakab Nagy.



He leaves behind three daughters, Doreen (Harold) Myers of Sevierville, Tennessee, Penny (Chuck) Banning of Williston, and Terri Jakab-Barker of Gainesville. Also left behind is a daughter of the heart, Barbara (Ralph) Gilpin of Keystone Heights. He was lovingly called "Papa" by Amy Arrington, Kyle (Jessica) Barker, Bailee Barker, Kaleb Myers, Marley Myers, and Emma Banning, along with her great-grandson, Braxton Barker.

Funeral services will be held Friday, July 22, at 1 p.m. with Brother Charles Starling officiating. Visitation will begin at 12 p.m. Interment will follow at Dedan 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

Shirley Johnson

Shirley M. Johnson, 72, of Glen St. Mary, passed away on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born in Moniac, Georgia on Oct. 17, 1949, to the late Emory Otis McDaniel Sr. and Ruby Raulerson McDaniel. She was a lifelong resident of Baker County. After high school, she enjoyed a long, successful career at Northeast Florida State Hospital as a dietitian service technician, where she proudly served for 30 years until retirement. She enjoyed tending to her flowers, rocking on her front porch, cooking, family meals on Sunday, and most of all, spending time with her precious family. She was loved by all who knew her and will be greatly missed. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emory Otis McDaniel Sr. and Ruby Raulerson McDaniel; her sister, Ester Mae Stansel; and brother, Emory Otis McDaniel Jr.



She is survived by her loving children, Marcus Gene (Gwyn) McDaniel of Lake Butler and Julie (David) Presley of North Carolina; brother, Clarence McDaniel of Lake Butler; grandchildren, Austin, Emily, Everly, Collin, Camellia, Calvin, and Brooklyn; two great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held on Friday, July 15, at Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel with Pastor Gene Burned officiating. A private interment will be held at Moniac Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, 250 N. Lowder St., Macclenny, 32063. 904-259-5700. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

In Memory

Frank,
The 10th of July was your birthday. You would have been 80. The 14th of July makes 14 years you've been gone. I miss your smiling face when I would say something funny.



Love,
Caroline and Family

Card of Thanks

Our Sincere Gratitude

The family of Hazel Hoffman Wall wishes to express its sincere gratitude to everyone for their kindness during this difficult time. Your words have comforted us, your support has strengthened us, and your love has sustained us.

We would also like to thank Archer-Milton Funeral Home staff for all they did for us. No request of ours was too much. You and your staff did an exemplary job in working with us through this difficult time. For that we are truly grateful and very appreciative of how much you and your staff care. Thank you again.

We would also like to thank Pastor Mike Divine and the Morningstar Baptist Church for wonderful tribute to our mother and grandmother, Hazel H. Wall. We thank you for your loving memories, prayers, love, support and the delicious meal you prepared for us. We appreciate it more than words can express and it will always be remembered.

We would also like to thank Pastor Rick Jackson for his kind words and loving support for the family at the burial service. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the wonderful people who were there and helped during our period of mourning. There are no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy and support you have given. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part. Keep us in your prayers as we recover from this great loss.

With love,
The Family of
Hazel Hoffman Wall
June 25, 1918-June 10, 2022.

Jim Gibson

Jim Gibson, 76, peacefully passed away surrounded by family on Thursday, July 14, 2022. He was born in Jacksonville on Aug. 16, 1945 to the late Ida Maude Fowler. He was a lifelong resident of Florida having lived in Jacksonville, Glen St. Mary, and Keystone Heights throughout his life. After attending Paxon High School, he married his first love, Cathy Gibson, who passed away in June 2002. He graduated from UNF and had a variety of occupations over the years, ranging from corrections officer, realtor, and social worker before his retirement. He was a regular attendee at Keystone United Methodist Church and held down the back pew. He was a lover of animals, nature, and art.



He will be dearly missed as he leaves behind his wife, Marilyn Martin; daughter, Karen (Rober) Conner; granddaughters, Kelsey and Cassidy Conner, who lovingly called him "Paw Paw"; and brothers, Barnie (Kay) Barnauskas, Keith Barnauskas and Josie (Ralph) Crapps.

A private service will be held at a later date.

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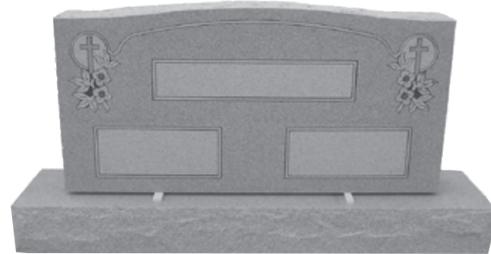
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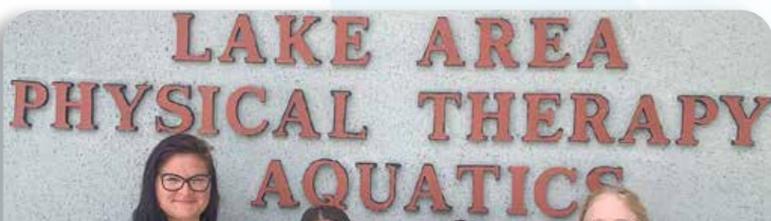
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Obituaries

Freddie McCullough

Freddie Joe McCullough, 67, of Lake City, passed away on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Bedrock Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Lake City. He was born in Gainesville on Oct. 28, 1954, to the late Edgar Joe McCullough and Lois Marie Dormety McCullough. He was raised in Ocala and attended Marion County High School until he enlisted in the United States Army. He proudly served his country until he was discharged. When he was 17, he helped his father build a family home in Starke. He grew up earning a living at a young age by working on horse farms, and he carried a love for that into his adulthood. Later in life he enjoyed doing construction, cooking, being a mechanic, and working as part of the tire center team at WalMart in Starke, where he worked until his retirement. He moved back to Lake City in 1992, where he met his wife, Lorrie, in 1996. He married the love of his life on Jan. 7, 1997. They have spent 25 years together. They relocated to Starke in 2000, where they lived for 12 years before returning to Lake City in 2012 and making it their forever home. He enjoyed building model cars, fishing, attending car races, car shows, and going to flea markets. More than anything else, he loved his family and will be missed by all that knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Stanley McCullough and Darrell McCullough; and stepdaughter, Lindsay Beck.

He is survived by his wife, Lorrie Ann Highsmith McCullough of Lake City; children, Robert McCullough, of Ocala, Kristopher McCullough of Gainesville, Dena (Clint) Hersey of Interlachen, Joseph (Heather) Lasick of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, John G. (Megan) Beck II of Melbourne, Cheyenne McCullough of Birchriver, West Virginia, Scott McCullough of Lake City; sister, Patricia (Keith) Jones of Keystone Heights; grandchildren, Nathaniel McCullough, Angela Eggeman, Dakota Wilson, Jo Dee Wilson, Suzie Hersey, Joel Gardner, Emily Gardner, Kody Lasick, Aubrey Beck, Emery Beck, Ashton Beck and Adley Beck.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, July 21, at 2 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Chaplain Jim Cox officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. The family will receive friends an hour prior to the funeral service.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke 904-964-5757. Please visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Michael Rathman

Michael Lawrence Rathmann, 72, of St. Augustine passed away on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at the Bailey Family Center for Caring. He was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, where he graduated from St. Patrick High School. After graduation, he served his country for five years in the US Air Force as a police officer. He continued his professional career working for the Florida Department of Corrections. He started as a corrections officer and worked his way to become the Assistant Secretary of Prisons with his last assignment being as the warden of Florida State Prison. He retired after more than 30 years of service in the Florida Department of Corrections, and then went on to serve an additional six years with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office as a lieutenant. He served many years as a member of FCCD, including serving as past president. He was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. In 2013, he retired and moved to St. Augustine. He was a member of the Elks Lodge and served as the lodge secretary for the past eight years. He was an avid reader, loved electronics and technology, and was a fan of all types of movies, especially sci-fi fantasy. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore Rathmann and Mercedes LaPointe; and his aunt, Evelyn Krupske.

He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Debra Sheets; children, River Noah Rathmann Sheets, Eric (Madelin) Rathmann, Jason Rathmann, Teddy Sheets, and Patiana Sheets; grandchildren, Ethan Matthew and Emeline Mae; and nephews, Danny and Kenny Krupske.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at St. Johns Family Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Elks Lodge, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine, FL 32080, or FCCD, P.O. Box 399, Orange Park, FL 32067-0399. Please note that donations are in the name of Michael L. Rathmann.

Arrangements were by St. Johns Family Funeral Home, 385 S.R. 207, St. Augustine 32084.

PAID OBITUARY



Deborah Watson

Deborah Lynn Watson, 62, of Starke, passed away on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born in Jacksonville on Sept. 25, 1959, to the late Donald Dukes and Carol Thomas Wehling. She was raised in Jacksonville and graduated from Temple Christian High School in 1977. On Sept. 11, 1982, she married the love of her life, Leland C. Watson Jr.; together they spent 39 wonderful years and raised two beautiful daughters. She has been a resident of Starke for the past 34 years, where she made many beautiful memories with her family. She enjoyed going to the movies, shopping, traveling to the mountains and going on cruises. Most of all, she loved her family; especially her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; and daughter Ashley Watson.

She is survived by her loving husband, Leland C. Watson Jr. of Starke; her daughter, Jennifer (Ryan) Reddish of Starke; her grandchildren, Alyssa Reddish, Brooklyn Cooper, Sabella Reddish, and Liam Reddish; and many other close family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 15, at 11 a.m. at the Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Pastor Ken Weaver officiating. The family will receive friends an hour prior to 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. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

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George Winkler

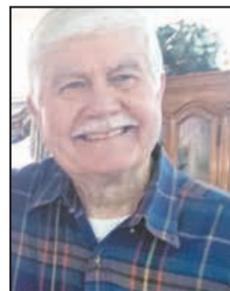
George Austin Winkler, 90, of Starke passed away Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at his residence. He was born in Starke on July 19, 1931 to the late Edwin Austin Winkler and Bessie Marie (Ferguson) Winkler. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1949 where he was a class officer and athlete. He played both football and basketball. During his senior year he was captain of the basketball team that participated in the 1949 state tournament. He attended the University of Florida from 1950 until 1951 and, in 1952 he began military training in electronic maintenance and soldiering at Fort Benning, completing the program in 1953. He retired from Federal Civil Service after working at Camp Blanding for over 35 years. His position at retirement was Electronic Maintenance Supervisor. He also retired with honors as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 from the Florida Army National Guard with 42 years of service to his country. He was an active member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Starke and served in many leadership positions and assignments in the church. He was an avid Gator fan and a member of the Gator Booster Club. His other memberships include the Military Officers Association of America and the National Guard Officers Association. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Burney (Rowsey) Winkler; daughter, Rebecca Eugenia Winkler; brothers, Warren Winkler and Edward Winkler; sisters, Julia Underhill, Merry Shepherd and Martha Smith; granddaughter, Megan Jackson; and son-in-law, Gene McCam.

Survivors are his daughters, Melissa Winkler Stringer of Dahlonaga, Georgia and Clare Winkler McCam of Ludowici, Georgia; grandchildren, Rileigh Alyssa Stringer, Rhett Austin Stringer and Colton Garrett Infinger; great-grandsons, Colt Thomas Stringer, Kayden Lane Kareklas and Charlie Paul Stringer; sister-in-law, Sue Winkler of Starke; along with several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life took place on Tuesday, July 19, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church with Reverend Atkinson officiating. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Building Fund for St. Marks, 212 N. Church St., Starke, 32091.

Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke. 904-964-6200

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Do you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks to submit? Please email socials@bctelegraph.com.

KHHS camp teaches volleyball to 'Little Indians'

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

It serves as an early introduction to the sport, but Keystone Heights High School's annual Little Indians Volleyball Camp also helps some children discover a love for the sport.

KHHS Varsity Head Coach Kaitlyn Cline said it's a joy to watch children develop a passion for volleyball and celebrate their successes. She mentioned one child who upon finally being able to serve the ball over the net turned to varsity player Kadence Carlton and shouted, "I did it, Coach Kadence!"

"They're starting to love the game as much as I love the game and (Assistant Coach) Jordan (Jennings) loves the game and all these varsity girls love the game," Cline said. "It's exciting to see that."

The camp, open to children going into third-sixth grade, was held June 20-22. Cline, Jennings and several varsity players work with the children on setting, attacking and serving, while also making sure the "Little Indians" have an enjoyable experience.

"Our goal here isn't for them

See CAMP, page 16



Austin Baldwin practices her setting skills by tapping a ball against a wall. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

KHHS' Moncrief is a Sun 1st-team all-area pick in track and field

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Caleb Moncrief, a recent Keystone Heights High School graduate, earned first-team honors with the release of the Gainesville Sun's all-area boys track and field teams.

Moncrief earned a medal at the Class 2A state finals by placing seventh in the discus with a throw of 142 feet, 4 inches. He

qualified for state with a personal record of 149-8 in winning the Region 1 championship.

Prior to the Region 1 meet, Moncrief won the District 3 championship with a throw of 144-8.

Moncrief also won the district title in the shot put with a distance of 48-4.5. He went on to place fifth at the Region 1 meet with a distance of 47-4.5, which qualified him for state, where he was 12th with a distance of 46-1.25.

7 BHS, KHHS, UCHS softball players earn all-area honors

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford, Keystone Heights

and Union County high schools had 11 softball players included in the Gainesville Sun's all-area big-school and small-school teams.

The Indians had three receive first-team, big-school honors, including recent graduates Madi Mitzel and Emma Rogel.

Mitzel, a pitcher, was named to the team as a utility player. She pitched 101.1 innings with an ERA of 2.14, striking out 78 batters and walking just 11. Offensively, she batted .349 with two doubles, one home run and 13 RBI.

Rogel, a catcher, batted .444 with three doubles and 17 RBI.

Infielder Kiley Channell, who'll be a senior this coming year, was a first-team selection as well after batting .419 with seven doubles, one home run and 29 RBI.

Two Keystone players were named to the second team: rising juniors Alaina Kinsal and Abbie Roach. Kinsal, an infielder, batted .345 with nine doubles and 20 RBI, while Roach, an outfielder, batted .314 with four doubles, one home run (a grand slam) and 27 RBI.

Bradford and Union each had two players earn first-team small-school honors.

The Tornados' first-team picks were Takeirra Bakken and Hannah McFarland, who were selected at infield and outfield positions, respectively. Bakken, a rising senior, batted .456 with five doubles, four triples, eight home runs and 29 RBI, while McFarland, a recent graduate, batted .544 with four doubles, four triples, two home runs and 21 RBI.

Rising seniors Leah Clark and Angela Tucker were the Tigers' first-team selections. Clark, an infielder, batted .397 with six doubles, five triples, one home run and 33 RBI, while Tucker, an outfielder, batted .493 with two doubles, two triples and 21 RBI. Riley Blankenship, a rising junior for Bradford, and Tamia Young, a rising senior for Union, were named to the second team. Blankenship batted .456 with five doubles and 16 RBI, while Young batted .433 with eight doubles, two triples and 24 RBI.

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Local travel-ball team wins Southeast NSA World Series

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Takeirra Bakken and Leah Clark each hit a two-run double as Team Florida EvoShield-Taylor 18U — a travel softball team

composed mostly of Bradford and Union County high school players (former and current) — defeated Velocity Elite 18U 7-2 to win the Southeast National Softball Association World

Series on July 16.

The team, which has now won three tournaments with a combined record of 14-1, is coached by BHS Head Coach Kaylan Taylor, BHS assistant coaches Joey Taylor and Vince Tucker, and Fort White Head Coach Chad Padgett.

“It was such an amazing experience,” Kaylan Taylor said of the World Series win. “They’ve worked so hard this summer.”

Clark, a rising UCHS senior, batted .533 in six games and shared the team of five RBI with Bakken, a rising BHS senior who batted .412.

Masey Padgett, another BHS senior-to-be, batted .500 with four RBI, while former UCHS player Starla Vaughn batted .400 with three RBI.

BHS players Chrissy Samons and Blakeleigh Smith each had three RBI as well.

The team entered the World Series (which was played in Clearwater) with a 9-0 record, but lost its first game against Guardians Gold 18U on July 13 by a score of 2-1. Pitchers Madelyn Jones (Columbia) and Megan Sullivan (a recent UCHS graduate) combined to give up just one hit, but the team’s only run was a solo homer by Carter Gore (recent Madison County graduate).

Taylor said the coaches’ message to the players was that it was OK to lose the first game. The goal was to advance and not lose the last game.

“After that loss, they didn’t let it get them down,” Taylor said.

Later that same day, the team bounced back with a 4-1 win over Kaos Fastpitch. It was a 1-0 game in favor of Kaos until Vaughn hit a two-run double as part of a four-run third inning.

Until that inning, the team had managed just three hits in seven innings.

“It did take a little while to warm our bats up,” Taylor said.

Team Florida finished with 51 total hits in the World Series, with 19 going for extra bases.

In the win over Kaos, Smith led off the top of the third with a single. One out later, the bases were loaded after singles by Clark and BHS graduate Taylor Reddish. Vaughn then hit her double off an 0-2 pitch with two outs to push two runs across. Padgett reached on a ground-ball error that allowed another two runs to score.

Jones, who started in the circle, gave up one run on three



Team Florida EvoShield-Taylor 18U went 5-1 in winning the Southeast National Softball Association World Series. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Starla Vaughn, Megan Sullivan, Cassidy Spratlin, Blakeleigh Smith, Chrissy Samons, (back, l-r) Coach Joey Taylor (holding son Easton), Leah Clark, Takierra Bakken, Masey Padgett, Taylor Reddish, Coach Vince Tucker (behind Reddish), Madelyn Jones, Madison Highland, Carter Gore and Coach Kaylan Taylor.

hits in two innings. Sullivan gave up two hits in three innings.

On the tournament’s second day (July 14), Team Florida celebrated two back-to-back no-hitters by its pitchers.

“That was amazing,” Taylor said.

The bats were on fire that day as well, generating three home runs and six doubles in two games.

Jones threw the first no-hitter in a 13-0, four-inning win over Velocity 16U that saw Clark and Gore each hit a home run.

Clark hit a three-run homer as part of a seven-run second inning that also featured an RBI single by Smith and two errors that scored three runs.

Gore led off the top of the fourth with a solo homer. Padgett and Madison Highland (a rising BHS junior) hit one- and two-run singles, respectively, while Smith drove in a run on a sacrifice fly. Clark also scored a run on a wild pitch.

Clark, Padgett, Reddish and Cassidy Spratlin (a recent BHS graduate) each went 2 for 3, while Gore went 2 for 4.

Jones gave up just two walks, while striking out four.

It was Sullivan’s turn next. She gave up four walks and struck out five in pitching a five-inning no-hitter as Team Florida defeated Velocity Elite 18U 4-0.

Bakken, who went 3 for 3, drove in the team’s first and last runs. The first occurred in the first inning off the first of her two doubles. She then hit a single in the fifth inning to score Gore,

who doubled.

Padgett, who went 2 for 2, hit a solo homer, while Smith drove in a run on a second-inning single.

On July 15, Samons and Spratlin combined to drive in five runs as Team Florida defeated Brownnett-Bartlett 10-2.

A six-run first inning began with Gore hitting a leadoff double and scoring on a Reddish single. After loading the bases on singles by Bakken and Vaughn, Padgett was hit by a pitch to force the second run in. Spratlin and Samons hit back-to-back singles, with Spratlin’s hit scoring one run and Samons’ hit scoring three.

Clark singled and stole second and third before scoring on a wild pitch in the second inning.

The fourth inning included RBI doubles by Bakken and Vaughn, while Spratlin drove in a run on a ground out.

Bakken and Vaughn each went 2 for 3. Jones and Sullivan threw two innings each, with each giving up two hits and one run.

Team Florida advanced to the championship game, scoring the first six runs en route to the 7-2 win over Velocity Elite 18U.

Smith drew a walk to lead off the third. Gore and Clark hit back-to-back doubles, with Clark’s hit scoring Smith and Gore. Clark later scored on a passed ball.

The fourth inning began with a single by Samons. After Gore reached on an error, Samons scored on a steal of home. Clark

reached on a double before Bakken, with two outs, hit a double of her own, scoring two runs to make it a 6-0 game.

Padgett added the last run on a solo home run in the fifth.

Clark and Padgett finished 2 for 2 and 2 for 3, respectively.

Sullivan started in the circle, giving up no runs on four hits through three innings. Jones gave up two hits in two innings.

Can Team Florida EvoShield-Taylor 18U win another championship? Perhaps. Taylor said the team’s going to try to get into one more tournament.

“They’re not ready to end the summer yet,” Taylor said of her players.

The team wishes to express its thanks to the following sponsors whose monetary support covered the World Series entry fee as well as other costs, such as team dinners: AAA Bail Bonds, the Bakken family, Brian’s Sports, Charnelle Whittemore Realty, Complete Comfort Air Conditioning, Denmark Mini Storage, Florida Twin Theatre, Hometown Electrical LLC, Raiford Wreckshop, Rock Contractors, Rountree Moore Ford, Speedy Floor Removal, Spratlin Site Prep, Teal Tile Carpet One, Thompson’s Garage, Townsend’s Timber and Trent Giebig’s Construction.

Taylor said the support was a tremendous surprise, adding, “I wasn’t sure how it would work out with it being a travel-ball team, but (the community) really exceeded our expectations.”



Starke Kiwanis supports CIS of Bradford County

The Kiwanis Club of Starke continued its support of Communities in Schools of Bradford County with its recent \$2,500 donation. Cheryll Canova (right), a club member who’s on the CIS board, accepts a check from Club President Brad Smith.

Alday, Hardy to be honored at Aug. 18 Leave a Legacy event

The Bradford County Education Foundation’s annual Leave a Legacy event will honor Linda Alday and Don Hardy on Thursday, Aug. 18, at Madison Street Baptist Church at 6 p.m.

Tickets, which can be purchased at Capital City Bank or from any Bradford County Education Foundation board member, are \$30 and include dinner. Leave a Legacy is a fundraiser for the Bradford County Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization that was established in 1990 by citizens who saw a need for more public involvement in Bradford schools. Through various fundraisers — and sometimes supported by matching grants or local civic organizations — the foundation has done such things as create an endowed Santa Fe College scholarship that is presented every other year, purchase

classroom furniture for Bradford High School (2018) and provide \$25,000 in support of the BHS and Bradford Middle School band programs (2019).

The foundation hosts the district spelling bee every year, providing T-shirts, gift bags, trophies and teacher sponsor gifts, as well as paying for all of the schools’ registration fees and the cost for the winner and his or her parents to attend the state competition. BCEF also hosts the Welcome Back Breakfast for school staff each August, which includes gift bags with supplies for teachers and gift cards for staff, and the Teacher of the Year/School-Related Employee of the Year Appreciation Banquet, which includes dinner, cash gifts and all of the recipients’ awards.

To learn about other BCEF projects or how to become involved, visit the organization’s Facebook page.

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40 Notices

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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,

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08/01/2022

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Legal Notices

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case #: 2016-CA-000264

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Plaintiff,
-vs.-

Danny A. Collins, Jr.; Kandace N. Collins; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Unknown Parties in Possession #2, If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-000264 of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff and Danny A. Collins, Jr. are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Denny Thompson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN THE LOBBY AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 945 NORTH TEMPLE AVENUE, STARKE, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA AT 11:00 A.M. on August 25, 2022, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: LOT 25, GENEVA OAKS, A SUBDIVISION AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 47, PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED.

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; 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, Florida 32601 (352) 491-4490 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Denny Thompson
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Bradford County, Florida
Lisa Brannen
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Submitted By: ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
2424 North Federal Highway, Suite 360
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
(561) 998-6700
(561) 998-6707

7/14 2tchg 7/21-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: SHANNON N. BELCHER, 6461 BROOKLYN BAY ROAD, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656 sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: ALPHAMARE METALWORKS, 6461 BROOKLYN BAY ROAD, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 13th day of July A.D., 2022, in Bradford County.

7/21 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 21000355-DRAXMX
Division: FAMILY

CADY JOY SPENCER, Petitioner/Wife and JUSTIN GABRIEL CHAMBERS, Respondent/Husband.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
TO: JUSTIN GABRIEL CHAMBERS 402 Palm Boulevard Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage with Minor Child has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Cady Joy Spencer, Petitioner/Wife, c/o Attorney Curtis "Lex" Sanders, 407 West Georgia Street, Starke, Florida 32091 on or before June 24, 2022, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at Clerk of the Circuit Court, Eighth Judicial Circuit, 945 North Temple Street, Starke, Florida 32091, before service on the Petitioner/Wife or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: July 11, 2022
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Lisa Brannon
Deputy Clerk

7/21 4tchg 8/4-BCT

PUBLIC MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a meeting on August 1, 2022 at 9:30 AM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The public is encouraged to visit www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting.

7/21 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 08/05/2022 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N. THOMPSON ST. STARKE FL, 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.
1FTDX1769VNA22019 1997 FORD 1HGJ146W119313 1998 HOND 3VWCS21C31M418902 2001 VOLK 4V4NC9E4MN274556 2021 VOLVO
This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 07/21/2022.

7/21 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Jason G. Sherman
Last known address of:
715 W Market Rd
Starke FL 32091
You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph.

Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
P. O. Box 58
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
Starke, FL 32091
Date: July 18, 2022

7/21 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an

ordinance with the title hereafter provided will be enacted by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida at their regularly-scheduled meeting on Monday, August 1, 2022 at 9:30 AM or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the office of the County Clerk, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Courthouse North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. The title of the ordinance reads as follows: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2022-07; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO STAFF; PROVIDING TO THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ARTICLES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision(s) of the Board of County Commissioners, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceedings should participate in the proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 by 5:00 PM at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service (800) 955-8770 or (800) 955-8771.

7/21 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 04-2022-CP-0021
DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM WEBSTER

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of WILLIAM WEBSTER, deceased, whose date of death was April 2, 2021; is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 04-2022-CP-0021; the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioners and the Petitioners' attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS: July 21, 2022.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
M. Aaron Dukes, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 124394
Dukes Legal, P.A.
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386-269-2394
Petitioner:
Colton Poulett
7538 SW 130TH ST
Starke, Florida 32091

7/21 2tchg 7/28-BCT

Meeting Notice
Bradford School Board Meeting
Monday, July 25, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
Special board meeting to discuss

the tentative budget for 2022-23 and other pertinent items.

7/21 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Samantha Bakken, 19616 NW CR 235, Lake Butler, FL 32054 and Heather Dodd, 1650 W. Madison Apt N-1, Starke, FL 32091 joint owners, doing business under the firm name of: SHEAR SISTER'S HAIR CO., 237 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 18th day of July A.D., 2022, in Bradford County.

7/21 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File# 2022-CP-27

IN RE: STATE OF JOHN D. RIMES, JR.

Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JOHN D. RIMES, JR., deceased, whose date of death was April 8, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for UNION County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W. Main Street, Room 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 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 14, 2022.
Attorney for Personal Representative:
HARRISON, ESTATE LAW, P.A.
McCabe G. Harrison
Florida Bar Number: 96805
Email: mccabeg@harrisonestatelaw.com
Attorneys for Personal Representative
6224 NW 43rd Street, Suite B
Gainesville, FL 32653
Tel: (352) 559-9828
Fax: (352) 559-0880
Secondary Email:
connie@harrisonestatelaw.com
Personal Representative:
TAMMY LYNN RIMES
305 South Ridge Street Unit 301
Breckenridge, Colorado 80424

7/14 2tchg 7/21-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR

UNION COUNTY
CASE NO. 63-2022-CA-000024
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF LSRMF MH MASTER PARTICIPATION , TRUST II Plaintiff,
VS
JENNIFER DAWN SOUTHERLAND, et. al
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s): ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN E. SOUTHERLAND JR., WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING

A TOTAL AREA OF 10.4 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (NOT LABELED) IDENTIFYING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, AND RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 1029.05 FEET TO FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (LABELED B.R. WATTLES, RLS 1443), AND TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 684.70 FEET TO A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (NOT LABELED); THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 661.01 FEET TO A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (NOT LABELED); THENCE RUN NORTH 04 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 691.01 FEET TO A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (NOT LABELED) AT THE INTERSECTION WITH THE AFORESAID NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 268.65 FEET TO A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (LABELED); H.R. WATTLES, RLS 1443); THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING NORTH 89 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTH LINE A DISTANCE OF 391.21 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO THE PRESCRIPTIVE RIGHT OF WAY OF A COUNTY MAINTAINED GRADED ROAD, OVER AND ACROSS THE NORTHEAST CORNER THEREOF.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Sara Collins, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 155, Orlando, FL 32801 on or before August 17, 2022, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the Union County Times and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demand in the complaint.
WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court 18th day of July, 2022.
Clerk of the Court
By: Crystal Norman
As Deputy Clerk

7/21 2tchg 7/28-UCT

PUBLIC MEETING
The Union County Board of County Commissioners will have a budget workshop on Tuesday, August 2nd at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the Union County Courthouse.

7/21 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Probate Division
File # 2022-CP-026
Division PROBATE

IN RE ESTATE OF THOMAS MICHAEL HOLMES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:
You are hereby notified that an Order of Summary Administration has been entered in the estate of Thomas Michael Holmes, deceased, File Number 2022-CP-026 by the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054; that the decedent's date of death was November 16, 2021; that the total value of the estate is \$2,266.67 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:
Name/Address
Melisa J. Ward
796 Lake Shore Terrace
Interlachen, FL 32148
Gloria Lynette Holmes
9539 SW 146th Lane

8139 SW 146th Lane
Lake Butler, Florida 32054
Joseph M. Holmes
15337 SW 91st Way
Lake Butler, Florida 32054
William D. Holmes
14749 SW 85th Trail
Lake Butler, Florida 32054
Desiree N. Smith
1262 NE 237th Place
Raiford, Florida 32083
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, 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 21, 2022.
Attorney for Person Giving Notice
R. Kevin Sharbaugh, Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 86240
DOUGLAS LAW FIRM
117 N 2nd Street
Palatka, FL 32177
Telephone: (386) 530-2955
Fax: (386) 385-5914
E-Mail: kevin@dhclawyers.com
Secondary E-Mail: amandah@dhclawyers.com
Person Giving Notice:
Melisa J. Ward
796 Lake Shore Terrace
Interlachen, Florida 32148

7/21 2tchg 7/28-UCT

LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Units# 203, containing misc. household items.

7/7 2tchg 7/14-LRM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
KEYSTONE HEIGHTS
COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL
SERVICE

City of Keystone Heights, FL
The City of Keystone Heights is soliciting proposals for commercial solid waste collections, hauling and disposal for the city of Keystone Heights. Sealed proposals for the above named RFP are due on or before 10:00 am on August 23, 2022. Sealed Proposals shall be delivered to City of Keystone Heights, FL 32656, City Hall located at 555 S. Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. After closing of the submission period, proposals will be opened and reviewed.
The RFP can be found on the City of Keystone Heights' website, www.keystoneheights.us or by emailing a request to assistant@keystoneheights.us.
There will be a mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference at 10:00 am on August 2, 2022 held at the Keystone Heights Historic Beach Pavilion located at 565 S. Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Please submit all questions by email only to assistant@keystoneheights.us. All questions must be submitted by 4:00 pm on Monday, August 8, 2022.

7/21 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC AUCTION
An auction pursuant to statute #713.78 to be held August 4, 2022 at 10:00am at 7333 Kyle Street, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 the following vehicle:
2GCEK19T831341478 2003 Chev Silverado

7/21 1tchg-LRM

PUBLIC AUCTION
An auction pursuant to statute #713.78 to be held August 12, 2022 at 10:00am at 7333 Kyle Street, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 the following vehicle:
1ZVFT82H655197976 2005 Ford Mustang

7/21 1tchg-BCT

Bradford County Telegraph
USPS 062-700
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Lake Region Monitor
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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
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131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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Melrose 15U All-Stars make history, win state title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Gage Barry, Cason Pilcher, Aiden Screen and Clayton Screen each drove in at least two runs, while pitchers Aiden Screen, Clayton Screen and Austin Musgrove combined to allow just five hits as the Melrose 15U Baseball All-Stars won the state championship by defeating Debarry 15-4 on July 17.

It was the first-ever state championship for a District 5 team, let alone the first for a Melrose team. Coach Dale Yarbrough said the state champ is usually a team from north Jacksonville or Tallahassee.

As for Yarbrough, he's been coaching in Melrose for 23 years. His teams have been state runners-up three times.

"I've got a good group of kids," Yarbrough said. "It was pretty awesome."

What's also awesome is the Melrose team now gets to play in the Southeast Regionals in Williamsburg, Virginia. The team will be conducting a helmet fundraising drive at the intersection of S.R. 21 and S.R. 26 this weekend to help pay for its costs. Binczak's Healthy Lifestyle in Starke is collecting donations as well, either at 417 Edwards Road or via Cash App (\$ABinczak10).

You may also call Yarbrough at 352-235-7453 to make a donation.

Yarbrough said defense and pitching have carried his team, adding, "Every kid I've got can pitch other than two. They can throw hard, and they've got control."

The pitchers gave up a total of nine runs on 15 hits in five games.

It's a plus when the team's bats are hot, and they were on fire to start the state tournament on July 14 in Lake City. Melrose faced Oakleaf, getting three RBI each from Barry, Tyler Brinson and Brayden Smyth in an 18-0 win in four innings.

Melrose pushed 12 runs across in the second inning to go up 14-0. The highlights of the inning were Barry and Smyth driving in three runs each on a single and a double, respectively. Brinson hit a run-scoring double, while Clayton Screen and Andrew Wilson each hit a run-scoring single. Brinson also drew a bases-loaded walk, while Smyth scored a run on a passed ball. An error allowed another run to score.

Musgrove and Clayton Screen went 2 for 2 and 2 for 3, respectively, with Musgrove

driving in one run and Screen driving in two. Wilson went 2 for 4 with two RBI, while Aiden Screen had one RBI.

Pitchers Barry (1.1 innings) and Clayton Screen (2.2 innings) each gave up one hit, while also recording three strikeouts each.

In Melrose's next game, Barry, Musgrove and Pilcher combined to throw a one-hitter in an 11-1 win over Fort Caroline.

Pilcher, in 1.2 innings, gave up one run on one hit and one walk, striking out two. Musgrove (2 innings) and Barry (1.1 innings) each gave up no hits, with Musgrove striking out two and Barry striking out three.

The pitchers got plenty of run support right out of the gate as Melrose scored six runs in the first inning. Smyth reached on an error and scored on a Musgrove single. Melrose loaded the bases after Wilson singled and Aiden Screen walked. Barry hit an RBI single, while Pilcher drew a walk to force a run in. Aiden Screen and Barry scored on a passed ball, with Pilcher later scoring the inning's final run.

Barry, Musgrove and Pilcher each had one RBI, while Wilson went 3 for 4 with a double.

Melrose reached the July 15 semifinals, with three pitchers combining to give up two hits in a 6-1 win over Debarry.

Barry hit a double to lead off the second inning and eventually scored on a passed ball.

Smyth reached on an error in the third inning and scored on a Musgrove double. Wilson, who reached on a fielder's choice, scored another run on a ball put into play by Aiden Screen.

Melrose plated its final three runs in the fifth. Musgrove, who went 3 for 3, and Wilson doubled and singled, respectively, with Musgrove scoring on an Aiden Screen double and Wilson and Screen both being driven in by Barry.

Aiden Screen pitched the first 1.2 innings, giving up no runs on no hits, with two strikeouts. Clayton Screen gave up a run on two hits, with two strikeouts in 2.1 innings, while Pilcher closed it out, giving up no hits and striking out three in three innings.

Melrose moved to the championship round, where it would face Debarry again. Debarry would have to beat Melrose twice to win the championship since Melrose was undefeated.

Debarry got one win, defeating Melrose 3-1 on July 15. Brinson drove in the lone run as Melrose managed only three hits.

Yarbrough said the Debarry pitcher didn't throw with much velocity, but it seemed to him that his players were trying to hit every pitch they saw out of the ballpark. The results, instead, were a lot of pop-ups and balls hit straight into the dirt.

On the mound, Musgrove gave up two runs on four hits in two innings, striking out three. Pilcher threw five innings, giving up one run on one hit and striking out eight.

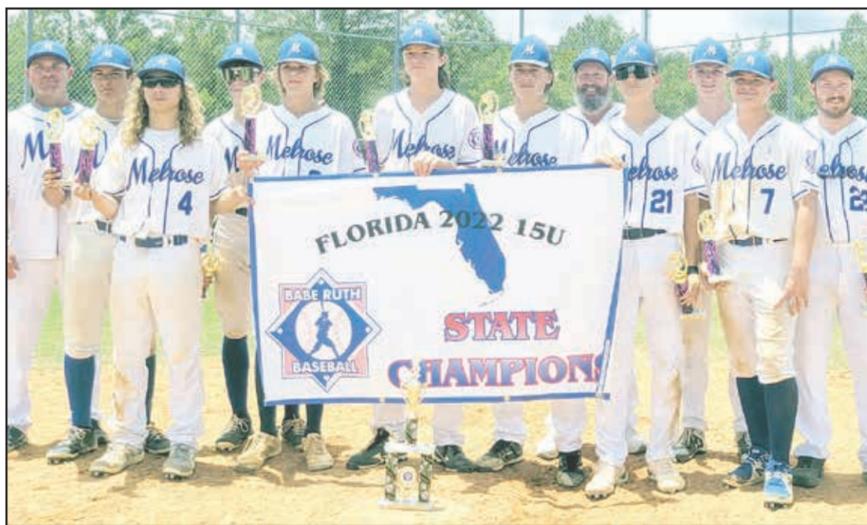
"We practiced that night (after the game), and afterward got it going," Yarbrough.

They got it going in a big way. The bats didn't struggle this time around as Melrose had 20 hits in the 15-4 championship win.

"That's the best I've seen them hit," Yarbrough said.

A four-run inning saw Barry and Pilcher each hit a two-run single, while Brinson, Wilson and Clayton Screen each had an RBI single in the third as Melrose took a 7-2 lead.

Smyth reached on an error and scored on an error in the fifth before Melrose scored seven runs in the seventh. Aiden Screen and Clayton Screen each hit a two-run single, while Tyler Holman hit a one-run single. An error allowed a run to score as well.



The Melrose 15U All-Stars brought the first-ever state championship to Melrose as well as the first-ever title for a District 5 team. Melrose will now play in the Southeast Regionals in Williamsburg, Virginia. Pictured (l-r): Coach Mark Musgrove, Aiden Screen, Brayden Smyth, Andrew Wilson, Austin Musgrove, Gage Barry, Clayton Screen, Coach Dale Yarbrough, Cason Pilcher, Tyler Holman, Tyler Brinson and Coach Chris Trull. Not pictured: Austin Smith, Foster Smith and Kacen Thomassen, who were unable to play in the tournament. The three will rejoin their teammates for the Southeast Regionals.

Pilcher went 3 for 4 with two RBI, while Brinson, Musgrove and Smyth each went 3 for 5. Brinson and Musgrove each had one RBI.

Barry and Clayton Screen each went 2 for 5, with Screen driving

in three runs and Barry driving in two.

Holman, Wilson and Aiden Screen each had one RBI, with Wilson going 2 for 6.

Aiden Screen pitched the first 3.2 innings, giving up three runs

on two hits, while striking out six. Clayton Screen gave up one run on three hits through three innings, striking out two.

Musgrove recorded the last out, striking out the only batter he faced.

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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Camp participant Belle Hughes (foreground) takes part in an activity and receives encouragement from KHHS player Kadence Carlton.

CAMP

Continued from page 12

to become D-I athletes, by any means," Cline said. "We want them to have fun."

Could some of the camp participants grow into Division I prospects? Sure, but at this age, it's all about introducing the fundamentals and hopefully improving those skills gradually if the children return to future camps.

"When they come next year, they'll have some type of knowledge, and they'll just keep getting better," Cline said.

Cline said such camps in any sport are beneficial for a small-town school like KHHS.

"Keystone is kind of at the lower end of the totem pole," Cline said. "The only way we're going to get bigger and better is if we expose these young girls and boys to the sports we provide at the high school, so that when they get here, they have some type of knowledge. Then we're just sprucing it up a little bit."

Besides learning fundamentals,



KHHS Head Coach Kaitlyn Cline works with Lily Kate Hughes.



Camp participant Ryleigh Thomas (right) tries to confuse KHHS player Jules Padgett, who has her eyes closed during a game of Four Corners.

camp participants also had the opportunity to interact with varsity players. Cline believes that was a big deal for many of

the children.

"These (varsity) girls are role models to these little girls," Cline said. "I can guarantee that half of

them dream to probably be them at some point — to be able to coach at a camp or play at the varsity level."



Thank you to the citizens of Bradford County, District 2, for allowing me to serve as your School Board Member, for the last 4 years.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your representative. I am greatly humbled and blessed with the opportunity to serve another 4 years. Thank you again Bradford County for your trust in me.

~ Gayle Shuford Nicula



Political advertisement paid for and approved by Gayle Nicula for Bradford County School Board District 2



Tyler Clark practices serving.



Rosalee Rozier eyes the ball before making contact.



Kylee Dixon works on her serving skills.



In a game of Minnows vs. Sharks, Piper Denmark (far right), a minnow, looks to get past a couple of sharks — KHHS player Kaitlin Brown (center) and Rosalee Rozier. KHHS Head Coach Kaitlyn Cline watches in the background.



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