

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, July 28, 2022

143rd year, 48th Issue — \$1

Union County inmates attempt jailbreak

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

LAKE BUTLER — Four Union County Jail inmates tried to escape from the county lockup by cutting through a lock and planned to crawl through an exhaust fan opening but abandoned the attempt after the fan started making a loud noise.

According to a sheriff's office investigation, inmates Shawn Gibson, Jeremy Powell, Herbert Kelly and Brannon Smith used a hacksaw blade to cut the lock from the rear of a cell leading to a maintenance corridor.

When the inmates reached the fan and attempted to breach the blower, the fan started making a loud noise,

forcing them to abandon their plan because they knew the sound would alert jail staff.

According to a warrant affidavit, corrections staff did note a strange noise coming from the rear of the jail around 10 p.m. on June 11 and went to investigate. There they found a bolt securing a maintenance gate had been cut and observed that the metal covering the hole for the exhaust fan had been peeled back.

The facility was locked down, and sheriff's office personnel searched cell blocks A and B, verifying that all inmates were accounted for. During the search, the jail's sewer system backed up.

Sgt. Charles Townsend, who was not

at the jail at the time of the attempted escape, wrote in a warrant affidavit that sheriff's office staff determined that the sewer backup was caused by the defendants flushing evidence of the attempted jailbreak down toilets.

Sheriff's Office Capt. Lyn Williams said that even though the inmates made progress, the remaining barriers they faced made an escape unlikely.

"As far as they got," Williams said, "they were not going to get out. They were still looking at getting through an opening I don't think most of them could have fit through."

Williams added that if any of the inmates could fit through the concrete opening, they would then have to survive a 25-foot, head-first drop from

the fan's opening to the ground.

Williams added that after the escape attempt, jail staff fixed the air duct leading to the exhaust fan and hardened the areas the inmates used.

Townsend's investigation also revealed that a former inmate tried to alert jail staff about a possible escape attempt.

The former inmate told Townsend that shortly before he bonded out, Powell showed him some of the tools that would be used in the escape. After the man's release, Powell sent him text messages asking him to provide a hideout if the breakout was successful.

Williams said jail staff did not deem the tip from the former inmate as credible.



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WORTH NOTING

American Legion monthly dinner

American Legion Post 56 will hold its last Friday monthly dinner this Friday, July 29, at 6 p.m. at the post home at 715 Edwards Road in Starke. Pork and turkey are on the menu.

Veterans need not be a member to enjoy these monthly gatherings. Come join them for a good night's fellowship, and bring a covered dish of your choice to accompany the main course. Post 56 is family oriented with no drinking or smoking allowed at the post.

Come Together

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.

Democratic Women meeting

The Democratic Women of the Lakes Area will meet in person on July 28 at 7 p.m. Elections are coming in one month. Meetings are held at the Historic Melrose Homemakers' Club, 25728 Park St. in Melrose; doors open at 6:30.

Candidate forum

The Republican Party of Bradford County will conduct a candidate forum on Thursday, Aug. 4, from 6-7:30pm at the Bradford County Fairgrounds. All Starke City Commission, Bradford County Commission and School Board, statewide, and congressional candidates on the ballot are invited.

Come out and hear the candidates speak prior to the start of early voting on Monday, Aug. 8, for the Tuesday, Aug. 23, primary elections.

Food pantry closed Friday

The Bradford Food Pantry will be closed this Friday, July 29. The pantry will reopen for normal distribution on Friday, Aug. 5, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



City and county responders work together at the site of the crash. Photo from Bradford County Fire Rescue.



The home burned on July 22, claiming the life of one occupant.

Man dies in train accident

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — One of three truck occupants is dead following a train collision in Starke Thursday night.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the eastbound pickup approached the railroad crossing on East Market Road around 10:30 p.m. July 21 and attempted drive around the railroad

crossing arms. The northbound train collided with the right front side of the truck, causing the truck to spin and flip onto its roof.

FHP was unsure which of the truck's occupants was driving the vehicle. A 57-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. Two other men, 44 and 63 years old, were transported to UF Health with serious injuries.

Man dies in house fire

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Starke Fire Rescue says a home's occupant was discovered deceased when the home burned last Friday.

Starke Fire Rescue, Starke Police Department and Bradford County Fire Rescue responded to the home in the 1100 block of Pratt Street soon after a 911 call was placed around 11 p.m. July 22.

The home was filled with heavy fire and smoke when Engine 1 arrived on scene.

"In spite of very aggressive actions by our firefighters to search the structure, an occupant inside was discovered deceased," Starke Fire Rescue reported online.

Florida fire marshals and the Starke police investigators responded to the scene to take on the investigation.

Bradford has millions to invest, but on what?

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Ideas differ on how Bradford County should spend around \$5 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

While most are emphasizing projects that could advance economic development, there has also been discussion of tackling long overdue projects related to public health and safety.

Complicating the discussion is the fear that the money could be spent on goals that are never achieved.

The county commission held a town hall July 21 to hear public input. The only commentators were from Keystone Heights and the Keystone

Heights Airport Authority, who asked for assistance in opening hundreds of landlocked acres to new commercial and industrial development.

The airport is split between Bradford and Clay counties. David Kirkland, chairman of the airport authority, said the goal is to open the west side of the airport property in Bradford County with a second entrance off State Road 100. Turn lanes would be added at the second entrance as well as the first to enhance traffic safety. They are about a month away from receiving the results of an FAA environmental assessment of the property that will hopefully allow them to proceed, he said.

The cost of the project was originally estimated at \$1.9 million,

but two years have passed, and costs have surely increased. Kirkland is now estimating \$4 million or possibly \$5 million.

"We would certainly like to see a portion of the ARPA money devoted to that," he said.

Kirkland said they continue to have calls about the availability of property. In addition to the traffic plans, the airport recently submitted a study to the Clay County Utility Authority on the feasibility of running water and sewer lines to the airport, which would also attract commercial and light industrial development.

The commission's first question regarded how best to spend the ARPA money.

"I know, this is the board's goal, as

well as mine. I just want to make sure that we spend this money in the best place possible to get the quickest and the best return for our money, and to put people to work," Commissioner Danny Riddick said. He wanted to know if it would be better to focus on the entrances or the utilities, saying he knows from personal experience that CCUA won't pay to run the lines.

The estimate to run those lines ranges from a few million dollars to tens of millions of dollars, depending on how much existing sewer and water infrastructure will need to be upgraded to serve the airport area. The study recently submitted to CCUA should help pinpoint the cost.

See INVEST, page 7

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Lawtey Police Chief Jerry Feltner (left) swears in new officers James Foster (center) and Robert Serafin during the city council's July 5 meeting.

Lawtey PD swears in new officers

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

LAWTEY—Police Chief Jerry Feltner swore in Robert Serafin and James Foster as new members of the city's police force during the city council's July 5 meeting.

Foster told council members that he works at Sumter Correctional Institution, has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, and is a few classes away from a master's degree.

Serafin told the council he lives in Duval County now, after living for eight years in Illinois.

Scholarship presented



Alela Barnes is the latest recipient of the Shirley Brown Livingstone Scholarship. Presented above by Carolyn Brown Spooner in memory of her sister, the scholarship assists students in pursuing careers in medical fields, including nursing.

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.

County to decide tax rate while balancing budget

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County commissioners will receive a proposed budget based on a 10-mill property tax rate.

There is still an opportunity to lower the tax rate prior to the budget's final approval. Can that happen with no new revenue sources in place, despite discussions about franchise fees, special assessments and a higher sales tax? Perhaps.

The commission will receive an unbalanced version of the 2022-23 budget from Clerk Denny Thompson at its meeting on Aug. 1. From there, commissioners will have some decisions to make. Finance Director Dana LaFollette will provide options for balancing each budgetary fund using fund balance or transfers from the general fund.

Impacting the budget will be a \$436,000 increase if the county decides to stay with its current health care insurance providers and approximately \$600,000 in recurring costs from the raise approved for the sheriff's office and board employees this year. The raise was paid for with inmate housing revenue, not a recurring funding source.

Once decisions on balancing

the budget are completed, LaFollette will be able to tell the board what its actual millage rate needs to be to generate the needed revenue.

"We have heard you express interest in not using fund balance, if possible, to balance the budget," Thompson said. "To do that, you will need to ensure that you are generating enough revenue from your set millage rate to handle general fund transfers. I'll remind you that for many years the county has not been able to balance the budget without use of fund balance."

However, because of a 7.6% increase in taxable values to more than \$1.169 billion, the county would have nearly \$1 million more in property tax revenue if it maintains the 10-mill rate.

Even using the rollback rate 9.5095 would generate more than \$413,000 in new revenue because of the taxable value increase.

Thompson asked for a workshop date following the presentation of the budget and before the first public hearing for approval in September. It will take place on Monday, Aug. 29, at 6 p.m.

The public hearings will follow on Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 26 at 5:30 p.m.

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Weds. KIDS MOVIE: CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG / 10 am & 1 pm
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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you information about our qualifications and experience.

Voter registration and information

There will be a great community gathering with refreshments provided on Thursday, Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. at Greater Allen Chapel, 746 Pine St. in Starke. Bring someone who needs to register to vote or

needs encouragement to vote. This is a nonpartisan event to encourage exercising the right to vote, and all are welcome to attend. For further information, call 352-283-5536.



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Keith Kirby, Coordinator

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Guidance Services - 904-966-6785

Fall 2022 Schedule

DAY CLASSES

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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Lake Region

Candidate under fire for deceptive emails

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — U.S. Congressional Candidate Erick Aguilar was dropped by his fundraising service: WinRed for misleading emails that appeared to solicit funds for Donald Trump or Ron DeSantis.

The story was first reported by Politico.com.

Aguilar campaigned in Keystone Heights on May 21 during the city's Meet Your Neighbor Day for the congressional district that covers all of Clay and Nassau

Counties and western Duval. The fundraising emails, which highlighted the former president and Florida governor, did not mention Aguilar's name, but contributions responding to those messages went into the CD4 candidate's campaign account.

Politico.com found one 88-year-old Minnesota email donor who had contributed over \$1,000 to Aguilar's campaign.

The woman told the news site: "I, of course, give to President Trump and DeSantis, but that's really it.

I don't give to many others, and that name [Aguilar] is not familiar to me."

The emails allowed Aguilar to amass more than \$1 million in contributions through mostly small donations from across the U.S.

As of June 30, he still led all candidates in the race in fundraising. However, his third-quarter receipts were one-third that of his most formidable primary opponent: Aaron Bean of Fernandina Beach.



Congressional candidate Erick Aguilar talks to Virginia Denmark of Hope Christian Academy during the Keystone Heights Meet Your Neighbor event on May 24.

Charter review committee looks at non-interference, purchasing rules

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Keystone Heights Charter Review Committee added two new issues to its list of proposed changes to the municipality's governing document during its July 21 meeting.

One rule would prevent council members from directing the work of staff members other than the city manager. The proposal is based on a current Clay County government policy.

"So, this rule would make a firewall between the city council and the workers

underneath the city manager's authority," said Charter Review Committee Chair Larry Peoples.

The second proposal would increase the threshold for city purchases that require a bid. Now, the city must seek bids for all purchases over \$10,000.

City Attorney Rich Komando said that some vendors are not responding to low bid requests because the small purchase amounts are not worth the time required to respond to the bid request.

The committee also clarified ballot language on two proposed charter amendments

they agreed upon in earlier meetings.

One would create a censure policy to reprimand council members who exhibit unacceptable behavior. A second proposal would change the mayor's position from one chosen by voters in a city-wide election to one selected by the council.

The Charter Review Committee recommends changes to the city's governing document. All proposed changes recommended by the committee must be approved by voters during an April 11, 2023, election to take effect.

Audubon tells district to raise taxes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

PALATKA — St. Johns River Water Management District board members got their first look at the district's proposed tax rate and budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year during the board's July 12 meeting.

The district's Director of Financial Services: Victoria Kroger, proposed that the district adopt its rolled-back rate for the coming year, dropping the millage from 0.2189 mils in the current year to 0.1974 for 2022-2023.

Kroger said taxable property values within the district's 18-county area increased by \$13.2 billion this year.

The rolled-back rate is the millage at which the district would collect the same amount in property taxes as the prior year, considering increases in assessed values. Over the past several years, the district has adopted the rolled-back rate, reducing its millage rate as property values have increased.

Chris Farrell of Florida Audubon asked the board to keep its current rate at 0.2189 mils rather than rolling it back to 0.1974.

He told board members that although the district does good work, it could do more with a bigger budget.

"This tradition that started over many years now of

rolling back rates," he said, "Audubon advocates that we let that end and just keeping the tax rate the same, not an increase but keeping the millage rate the same, would allow you to accommodate and have the budget grow to meet not only the challenges that we face but the inflationary and economic pressures that the district faces."

After Farrell's comments, the board voted unanimously to tentatively adopt the rolled-back rate. The board will have two public hearings before finalizing the millage rate and budget.

BUDGET SUMMARY

SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2022 - 2023

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY
IS 2.0% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVIES SUBJECT TO 10-MILL CAP:

REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	3.2760
BASIC DISCRETIONARY OPERATING	0.7480
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (CAPITAL OUTLAY)	1.5000
DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY	0.0000
TOTAL MILLAGE	5.5240

BUDGET ALL FUNDS

ESTIMATED REVENUES	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL
FEDERAL SOURCES	386,205.00	14,386,176.80			14,772,381.80
STATE SOURCES	19,543,419.75			50,316,408.39	69,859,828.14
LOCAL SOURCES	6,030,838.00			1,906,400.76	7,937,238.76
TOTAL SOURCES	25,960,462.75	14,386,176.80	-	52,222,809.15	92,569,448.70
TRANSFERS IN	400,000.00	-		-	400,000.00
FUND/NET ASSET BALANCES	4,033,613.33	887,654.00		2,536,116.85	7,457,384.18
TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS AND FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION	\$ 30,394,076.08	\$ 15,273,830.80	\$ -	\$ 54,758,926.00	\$100,426,832.88
EXPENDITURES					
INSTRUCTION	13,548,079.88	4,147,363.94			17,695,443.82
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES	1,393,512.93	569,473.08			1,962,986.01
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA SERVICES	196,802.10	130,056.96			326,859.06
INSTRUCTIONAL & CURRICULUM	526,884.45	567,160.64			1,094,045.09
INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAINING	197,933.79	796,049.48			993,983.27
INSTRUCTIONAL RELATED TECHNOLOGY	595,781.49	1,260,994.40			1,856,775.89
BOARD OF EDUCATION	488,431.05				488,431.05
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	334,036.51	497,870.96			831,907.47
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	1,896,497.13	107,520.63			2,004,017.76
FACILITIES ACQ. AND CONSTRUCTION	50,328.97	2,191,916.17		49,916,408.00	52,158,653.14
FISCAL SERVICES	392,515.24				392,515.24
FOOD SERVICES	-	1,973,135.47			1,973,135.47
CENTRAL SERVICES	408,144.74	32,310.51			440,455.25
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	1,997,203.47	107,775.58		60,000.00	2,164,979.05
OPERATION OF PLANT	2,900,730.42	456,678.69			3,357,409.11
MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	951,517.69	279,363.37			1,230,881.06
ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	815,445.86	88,170.44			903,616.30
COMMUNITY SERVICES	453,506.85	772,370.70			1,225,877.55
DEBT SERVICE					-
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES	\$ 27,147,352.57	\$ 13,031,644.02	\$ -	\$ 49,976,408.00	\$ 90,155,404.59
TRANSFERS OUT	-	-		400,000.00	400,000.00
FUND/NET ASSET BALANCES	3,246,723.51	2,242,186.78		4,382,518.00	9,871,428.29
TOTAL TRANSFERS AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 3,246,723.51	\$ 2,242,186.78	\$ -	\$ 4,382,518.00	\$ 9,871,428.29
NET POSITION	\$ 30,394,076.08	\$ 15,273,830.80	\$ -	\$ 54,758,926.00	\$100,426,832.88

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

NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The School Board of Bradford County will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a 1.50 mill property tax for the capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the school boards proposed tax of 4.024 mill 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 an adjacent notice.

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$1,906,401 to be used for the following projects:

CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

Site work for new elementary school
One (1) new elementary school

MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION AND REPAIR

Reimbursement of the maintenance, renovation, and repairs paid through the General Fund as permitted by Florida Statute

Countywide Electrical
Countywide Fencing
Countywide HVAC
Countywide Maintenance
Countywide Painting
Countywide Paving
Countywide Plumbing
Countywide Rewiring
Countywide Roofing
Countywide Tree Removal
Countywide Remodeling
Countywide Fire Alarms
Countywide Flooring
Countywide Drainage
Starke Elementary Maintenance & Mold Prevention

MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

Purchase of up to two (2) school buses
Purchase of Maintenance Vehicles and Other Operations Support Vehicles

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

Purchase Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (School and District Sites)
LCIF Technology Purchases (School and District Sites)
Purchase Instructional Materials Hardware
Purchase Enterprise Resource Software through License/Maintenance Fees
Purchase Software Applications for District-wide Administration

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

Starke Elementary Mold Treatment
Removal of Hazardous Waste/Remediation - Various School and District Sites
Deficiency Remediation and/or Unforeseen Emergencies

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

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on August 1, 2022, at 5:01 p.m. at the Bradford County School Board Meeting Room, 501 W. Washington Street, Starke, Florida.

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

Study underway for airport's Bradford County project

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Airport Manager Maria Searcy said a multi-million-dollar project to add industrial tenants to the airport is now undergoing an environmental assessment required by the FAA.

Searcy told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that the 400-acre development, known as the airport's westside project, is funded by a \$1.4 million infrastructure grant obtained by Bradford County.

She added that the airport is now seeking an additional \$2 million to fund an access road from State Road 100 to the development, a connector road from the new street to Airport Road, and upgrades to State Road 100 near the new project.

Misconceptions

Searcy said her appearance at the Rotary Club was inspired partly by what she sees as misconceptions about the airport in the Lake Region.

She said one recent encounter with a Keystone Heights taxpayer revealed that some believe the city subsidizes the operations at the airport and that the facility is

located in Bradford County. She added that both of those beliefs are wrong. The airport straddles the Bradford-Clay County line and receives no financial support from the City of Keystone Heights.

Searcy said the federal government gave the facility to the city following the end of World War I.

A seven-member board manages the business affairs of the airport. The 2,400-acre site receives all its revenues from hangar rentals and fuel sales. Most of its capital improvement projects are funded by the Federal Aviation Authority or the Florida Department of Transportation.

"We receive no money from Bradford County, Clay County or the city," she said, "so the residents of Keystone do not pay a dime for anything out at that airport."

Runway expansion

Searcy said officials had discussed the possibility of expanding one of the facility's runways, adding that Camp Blanding officials have said a longer runway would make it possible for more aircraft to land near the joint training center.



Keystone Heights Airport Manager Maria Searcy briefs the Rotary Club on the facility's Bradford County project.

However, the FAA has so far refused to fund such a project.

She said that some larger aircraft, like the Orion P-3 and the C-130 can now use the airport's longer runway.

Searcy also said that a runway expansion project would take the airport's primary landing strip out of commission while construction was underway, risking the loss of the facility's

most significant tenant and fuel purchaser: MHD Rockland.

Fuel sales

Searcy said the airport tries to maintain some of the lowest aviation fuel prices in the state, citing many student pilots using the airfield.

She added that fuel sales are, and activity at the airport is down due to rising fuel costs.

"A year ago, I think we were selling fuel for around three dollars a gallon, and we're selling it now for \$6.50 a gallon," she said. "I mean, it has really hurt us."

Hangar rentals

Searcy said inflation is not the only economic trend affecting the airport, adding that the influx of residents into the Sunshine State has more than quadrupled the number of pilots waiting to rent a hangar in Keystone.

"Since I started, we would typically have maybe 10 or 15 people on the waitlist," she said, adding that she started working at the airport 12 years ago. "This past year, with everybody moving into the State of Florida wanting to bring their airplanes

with them, we shot up to over 75 people on our waitlist, which is huge for us."

She added that other area airports, like St. Augustine, Gainesville, Flagler County and Palatka saw similar increases in their hangar waitlists.

Searcy said some of the airport's current hangar tenants live as far away as Jacksonville or Ocala, but the closest hangar they can acquire for their planes is in Keystone Heights.

Outlook

Searcy said the airport's Bradford County project is now the facility's largest and expects that over the next five years; other employers will follow MHD Rockland to the airport, providing Lake Region residents with high-paying jobs.

She added that of the 2,400 acres within the city-owned facility, only 640 acres are used for airport operations, leaving plenty of acreage for other uses.

Searcy predicted that the Keystone Heights Airport will significantly contribute to the Lake Region's economy.

Co-op foundation awards nearly \$66K

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Clay Electric Foundation awarded nine grants in June totaling \$65,925 to support community groups throughout its service area.

The Melrose Volunteer Fire Department, which serves Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Putnam counties received \$5,000 for the purchase of safety equipment.

Santa Fe College Foundation Inc. received \$15,000 for Veterans' Bridge Scholarships, which help veterans transition from the military to school.

Kristi Overton Johnson Ministries received \$5,000 to support the ministry's Victorious Living prison outreach program.

Kristi Overton Johnson Ministries' mission is to encourage, equip and empower people to live victorious lives, especially within the prison system.

Christian Service Center of Columbia County Inc. received \$7,500 to help residents with

utility bills.

The center has been serving the residents of Columbia County since 1984 with support for food, clothing, utility bills, gas assistance, bus tickets, emergency lodging and prescription assistance. The nonprofit serves around 10,000 clients each year.

St. Phillips Lodge #55 in Alachua County received \$1,500 to support its annual back-to-school supply giveaway.

The lodge is part of the masonic organization and offers such community service projects as Adopt a Family, Unity in the Community, back-to-school supply giveaways and youth football sponsorships.

Camp Boggy Creek, located in Eustis received \$10,000 to sponsor four campers.

The camp was founded in 1996 by Paul Newman and General H. Norman Schwarzkopf to make it possible for children with serious illnesses to enjoy a camp experience in a safe, medically-sound environment.

10 Can Inc. received \$10,000 to support the organization's Reel Healing Program.

10 Can Inc. is an outdoor ministry for military families. It rehabilitates wounded warriors by strengthening their family foundations through outdoor recreational therapy and providing wilderness experiences for urban families.

Mt. Carmel Community Resource Center Inc. in Putnam County received \$4,425 to replace the facility's air conditioner.

Mt. Carmel Community Resource Center is a food pantry that has served Palatka since 2002.

Altrusa International of Lake City Inc. has projects in Columbia, Baker and Suwannee Counties. The foundation awarded the group \$7,500 for Altrusa's Backpack Project, which provides weekend meals for underprivileged children.

Altrusa is an international nonprofit organization making local communities better through leadership, partnership and service.



Clay Electric's Pat Mundorf holds a \$5,000 check for the Melrose Volunteer Fire Department along with members of the department. (L-R) Co-op Keystone District Manager Dale Furlong, Colton Tibbets, Blake Nazario, Chief Kevin Mobley, Pat Mundorf and Patrick Ward. Photo: Clay Electric Cooperative.

The Clay Electric Foundation is supported by the co-op's operation roundup, in which members may voluntarily round up their utility bills to the next whole dollar.



Clay County Chamber of Commerce President Jon Cantrell talks to Capital City Bank Bradford and Clay Counties President Patricia Evans during the July mixer of the Keystone-Lake Region Business Association.

New chamber president makes first trip to Lake Region

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — New Clay County Chamber of Commerce President Jon Cantrell made his first trip to the Lake Region as chamber president on July 14, for the July mixer of the Keystone-Lake Region Business Association.

Cantrell was the publisher of Clay Today for 25 years and in August will conclude his one-year term as chair of the Florida Press Association.

"So today is Day 4 as the chamber of commerce president," he said during the mixer. "But my years of experience with the newspaper has really leveraged this because I know so many

business owners through the paper". Cantrell added that his new job is similar to his career at Clay Today because in both roles his focus was, and is now, to help businesses.

Cantrell noted that in January the chamber established the Lake Region Prosperity Partners, a group that meets in Keystone Heights monthly to equip business owners with tools for success.

Cantrell also said he sees other groups that support commerce in the area, like the business association and the Starke-based North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce, as allies rather than competitors.

"It's really a partnership between all three groups to help businesses grow," he said.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Bradford 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	\$ 7,019,483.00
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes	\$ (94,169.00)
C. Actual property tax levy.....	7,113,652.00
This year's proposed tax levy.....	\$ 7,313,165.00

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the school board to receive \$17,118,656 in state education grants.

The required portion has decreased by 3.9 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 to be held on August 1, 2022 at 5:01 pm in the Boardroom at the Bradford County School District Office, 501 West Washington Street, Starke, FL.

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

UNION COUNTY

What's new in Union schools?

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

It's almost that time again, when students will return to school for a new year of learning, social development and achievements. Union County Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger said that everything is in place and ready to hit the ground running for the 2022-23 school year and that all of the faculty and staff of the schools in the district are enthusiastic about the possibilities for the year ahead.

As in every year, there will be some changes in the coming year. School officially starts on August 10, 2022. There have been some changes in the administration at Lake Butler Elementary School and Lake Butler Middle School, but all are familiar faces, just assuming new positions.

At LBES, former assistant principal Emilee Mecusker will assume the principal's position. The assistant principal's position will be filled by Julie Ricketson, who has worked in the district for some time as a teacher, a reading coach and, last year, a career specialist.

Former LBES Principal Marcie Tucker will take the reins at LBMS as principal – replacing Angel Thomas, who has chosen to step away from administration and return to the classroom to allow her to have more time to devote to her family.

There are no administrative changes at Union County High School, with Principal Julie Denson and Assistant Principal Zeke Scaff beginning their second year as the administrative team at UCHS.

There will be about 26 new teachers on the campuses this year, with only about two positions left to be filled, but there are numerous candidates for these positions.

"We have seen more applications per position than we are used to," Ripplinger said. "These applications are for both instructional and non-instructional positions and they are coming from all over. Some are local, while a few others are from out-of-state and want to come here to teach."

Ripplinger noted that the district is improving new teacher support (Category 1 teachers in their first three years in the classroom), including the mentoring program where new teachers are assigned mentors with classroom experience.

"There are so many more demands on teachers than there were 30 years ago, or even 10 years ago," Ripplinger said. "The social and emotional aspects of the teaching profession have changed a great deal and are more demanding on the teachers. Many of them are coming into teaching from other professions and we

are seeing fewer "classically trained" teachers now, as they are migrating into teaching from out of the workforce. We want to make sure all of our new teachers acclimate to their positions and grow to be happy here because we hope they will all make a career here in Union County."

The transportation and food service are fully staffed and eagerly awaiting their first day. There will still be some teachers driving buses this year and Ripplinger said he felt that this would always be the case.

"We don't get as many applicants for bus driving positions. Fortunately, we have teachers who are willing to take on the extra responsibility as a bus driver. We have not had any problems with this and it keeps the buses running."

School security is still high, especially in light of recent events in our country. Matthew Elixson is the new School Safety Officer, replacing Steve Hoard, who retired near the end of last school year. He was trained by Hoard for the position and is ready to go, making sure Union County students are as safe as possible at all times.

State mandated assessment is changing as well, with new assessments taking place more often but, in less time, – changes include two progress monitoring assessments in the fall and winter along with the normal spring assessments. This will help students and teachers better understand the progress being made during the year and make adjustments to instructional delivery to help fill gaps in learning.

"For years progress monitoring has been required by the state at the local level, two or three times per year, depending on the grade level," Ripplinger said. "In English and Math courses tested by the state, the progress monitoring will now be done through the state. We can expect quicker reporting of results with the new assessments. The upcoming year is the baseline year for this new program, with data collected and scores issued and analyzed, but there will be no penalties in this first year. The following years will be 'for keeps' with school grades counting."

Students will still take End-of-Course exams (EOC) in 5th and 8th grade science, 7th grade Civics, U.S. History, Geometry and Algebra I, with math and English moving to progress monitoring.

A new program, started last year, the enhanced Career Technical Education Program and UCHS will continue in the coming year, offering students a chance to try out career ideas in fields such as law enforcement, technology, business and agriculture, and nursing. Sadly, Ripplinger said the carpentry

program would not be offered this year due to problems finding an instructor for the classes.

Ripplinger said that the district is planning on building on last year's many successes as well as working to create new ones.

"Our District grade is still a B, LBES is an A school for another year, LBMS is still a C, but its score was six percentage points higher and closer to a B. UCHS maintained a B, but was higher than last year, missing an A grade by only 1.5 percentage points. Enrollment is on par with last year and we hope a repeat or improvement on last year, when enrollment stayed remarkably level at all three schools, which I feel is an expression of people's confidence in our schools."

Other successes noted were four UCHS FFA teams earning state championships (and set to compete at the national level in Oct. 2022), the JROTC competing and doing very well at national competition. The Band program also continued to excel and grow at LBMS and UCHS.

Ripplinger said the funding for the district is "looking good," and said that he felt the investment the district was making in increasing teachers and staff salaries was already paying off (beginning teacher salary jumped from \$41,350 to \$46,000 and the hourly wage from \$10.25 to \$15.25).

All of the student athletes and faculty are very excited about the upcoming season and there have been many successes there as well. The first football game will be the Kickoff Classic on Aug. 19 in Baker County, starting at 7:30 p.m., with the first regular season game set for August 26 at Jacksonville and the first home game, facing Columbia County, on Sept. 2.

Ripplinger added that the district is ready to switch to virtual teaching if made necessary for health issues but added that everyone in the school district hoped that the measure would not be necessary. He added that the schools were still working with the Union County Health Department and following the guidelines recommended by them.

"After two years of facing many challenges the Union County School District is poised to move forward and reach levels of success higher than we have seen in the past couple of years," Ripplinger said. "Morale is high and there is an eagerness and energy to get the new year started and show the community and the state what we are capable of doing. There has been such an outpouring of support from local businesses and organizations for both the students and the staff; it has been amazing. This has helped build the anticipation all are feeling for the coming year."



Julie Ricketson and Stephanie Sellers were recognized by Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger for their achievement in the Aspiring Leaders Program.



LBMS teacher Emily Newsom took District honors as Teacher of the Year. She is shown here (center) with Superintendent Mike Ripplinger and LBMS Principal Angel Thomas.

Ballot is set for upcoming primary

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

The Union County Supervisor of Elections office has been busy these past few weeks, getting everything ready for the upcoming 2022 Primary Election, but now the ballot is set, the books are closed (for the primary) and all that remains are routine security checks, poll worker training and mandatory testing of the equipment and its software.

Supervisor of Elections Deborah Osborne said that she and her staff are prepared for the coming Primary and are, in fact, already starting to get ready for the 2022 General Election, following the Primary on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

The ballot is set for several local races, as well as three state and two national contests. There will be early voting and vote by mail (formerly known as absentee ballots) options available for both the Primary and the General Elections, as well as traditional voting at assigned polling places (based on the precinct in which the individual voter resides).

"One thing to remember," Osborne noted. "Florida is a closed primary state. This means that you can only vote for candidates for the party for which you are registered. There are separate sections on the primary ballot for each party. In the General Election in November there are no such

restrictions. Then you can vote for whichever candidate you wish, regardless of party affiliation."

In the primary, voters registered as Republicans will be able to select from three candidates for the District 3 Representative in Congress – Manuel P. Asensio, incumbent Kat Cammack and Justin Waters.

In state races, James W. Shaw and Wilton Simpson are the Republican candidates for Commissioner of Agriculture.

Republican and nonpartisan voters in Precincts 2A and 2B will select from Casey Clark and incumbent Channing Dobbs for Union County Commission District 2, while voters in Precincts 4A, 4B and 4C will select from incumbent Lacey D. Cannon, Mac Johns and J. R. Rooney for County Commissioner District 4.

The other nonpartisan race, in which anyone can vote regardless of party affiliation is the contest for Circuit Judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit Group 12 – the candidates for this office are Sean Brewer, AuBroncee Martin, Nathan A. Skop and Dan Welsman. Also open to all voters will be the Union County Library Referendum in which voters will decide whether or not to continue funding the Union County Library District by taxation of up to one half (1/2) mill of ad valorem taxes, a measure that has been approved by the voters for many years.

Voters registered with the Democratic Party will select from four candidates for United States Senator – Ricardo De La Fuente, Val Demings, Brian Rush and William Sanchez – and two candidates for District 3 Representative in Congress – Danielle Hawk and Tom Wells.

At the state level, Democratic candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor include Charlie Crist, Candance Daniel, Nicole "Nikki" Fried and Robert E. Willis (with Republican Ron Desantis running unopposed in his party). Democratic voters will also select between Aramis Ayala, Jim Lewis and Daniel Uhlfelder for Attorney General and between Naomi Esther Blemur, J.R. Gaillot and Ryan Morales for Commissioner of Agriculture.

Voters affiliated with any party, or none, can request a vote-by-mail ballot on the SOE website at unionflvotes.com or by calling the elections office (386)496-2236 to request a ballot be mailed to them. Early voting will be held at the office of the Supervisor of Elections, located on Main Street in Lake Butler from August 13, 2022 through August 20, 2022. Early voting for the Primary will be held Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on these dates.

Voters are to be reminded that they will need to bring a photo ID with them for both early voting at the elections office and election day voting at the precincts. They will also have to provide a signature to be compared to their card on file at the office. The elections office is also asking voters to practice social distancing at their voting location and to follow all other current CDC guidelines for the safety of themselves and others.

Osborne said she is looking forward to both the primary and general elections and said that her office and staff are ready for the events.

"Our election security is the best it has ever been and our equipment is state-of-the-art," she said. "We are ready to provide service and assist all Union County voters as they exercise their constitutional right to select who will represent them in government for the coming two years."

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restoreth my soul. I am led in paths of
righteousness by the Lord of old. Though I
walk through the valley of the shadow of
death He's there. I will fear no evil, He
comforts me there. Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me to that beautiful shore.
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for
evermore.

~ By Henry Hodges

August 2nd

**HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY to GENE MURPHY,
my dear friend & brother-in-law!**

Proposed legislation threatens small local radio stations

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

Broadcast radio is free to anyone who want to listen. There are no fees to the listener, using the radios that some in their cars and entertainment centers, unlike subscription radio which requires special equipment and monthly fees.

While the music played by a broadcast (traditional) radio station is free to the listener, the cost of playing all those songs costs the station money and is, in fact a major part of a station's overhead.

A bill before the U.S. Congress would charge the stations a "performance fee," a form of tax which charged the station to "pay to play." For many small stations this would markedly increase their overhead with no guarantee of increased revenue – the main source of income (and

operating funds) for the stations – advertising.

For small, local, stations, like Starke's WEAG this could be a major financial blow as its main income comes from advertising dollars – the smaller the market the fewer the number of potential advertisers that are available and only a fraction of these actually purchase ads.

Out of these funds must come equipment costs, maintenance of the equipment, utilities, building maintenance and talent fees. In many markets the local radio is one of the main sources for truly local news and community events and the closure of any of these stations would be a real negative for the community they serve.

According to WEAG owner Chuck Kramer, stations already pay fees for the use of the songs they play – not just as entertainment but as introductory and closing music – called

bumper music – for coverage of local sports teams and other programming.

Currently, fees are paid to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). Broadcast Music International (BMI), the Society of European Stages, Authors and Composers (SESAC) and Global Music Rights (Worldwide). These fees are collected by these licensing agents and used to pay royalty fees to the publishers and writers of the music.

In an example provided by Kramer, his station must keep a log of all songs played, the name of the writer and/or composer and the artist performing the song. Some songs are in the public domain, meaning that they are older songs that have outlived their copyright – mostly songs more than 25 years old and standards, like the Star Spangled Banner."

For one month, WEAG paid \$451 to BMI, just one of the licensing agents – with more fees to the others as well.

"This can run into thousands of dollars per year for a station," Kramer said, "and these fees are a significant part of the station's budget."

Now, record labels are attempting to impose fees on stations for the benefit of the recording artists, who already get royalties on the sales of their music. Whether or not this fee will become law is a battle for Congress, with representatives lining up on both sides of the issue – advocates of the Performance Tax versus supporters of the Local Radio Freedom Act.

Most of the radio stations in the country are against the Performance Tax, with supporters of the Local Radio Freedom Act are fewer in number – 29 votes shy of a majority against the

Performance Tax in the House.

If the tax is enacted small, local stations will begin closing their doors within the first year, with others to follow soon after. All that could remain of traditional broadcast radio would be the all-talk show and sports channels and even they would be required to pay for the use of much of the bumper music they use.

Kramer said that while currently recovered to per-COVID levels, advertising declined sharply during the pandemic and the year after. While the budget is now back near the advertising level of before the pandemic, the experience shows how quickly a station could be in trouble when faced with yet more fees.

"Advertising was down throughout the entire industry," Kramer said, "and just because the crises has passed that does not mean that is cannot happen

again."

Kramer said the best defense for radio against the Performance Tax lies with the listeners making their opposition to this threat to their listening pleasure.

"If everyone would contact their local congressional representative and senator and voice their opposition to this new tax it might sway some minds and meet the current 29 vote shortage to stopping the legislation," Kramer said.

WEAG has been the community radio station for Bradford County and surrounding areas since it was founded in 1957 by a husband and wife team. It was sold to another couple in 1960, then to Ben and Ruth Dickerson in 1983. Ben Dickerson passed in 2019 and the station is now owned by Chuck and Mary Kramer.

Letters

Revelations

Dear Editor:

On Thursday, July 21, 2022, the House Select Committee investigating what caused the Jan 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol held its last hearing in this series. They promise more, and I can hardly wait.

The facts that the committee (consisting of seven moderate to liberal Democrats and two, rock-ribbed, conservative Republicans) has presented have been perfectly clear. Further, the vast majority of testimony, either through sworn public witnesses or on video from sworn depositions, has been from Republicans. Let me repeat that lest it slip by – the facts and testimony presented by the committee have been almost exclusively from Republicans. And not just any Republicans. Most were loyal Trump Republicans, as many here in Bradford County are.

The evidence of Donald Trump's complicity in the Jan 6 insurrection has been so forceful and overwhelming that one of his most staunchest allies appears to be abandoning him, and for good reason from my point of view. That person is Rupert Murdoch, owner of Fox News, the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Post.

I won't repeat the full weight

of the evidence against Donald Trump. The reader can find that from mainstream media. So, I will just cover the conclusions from the editorial boards of the two newspapers and what Fox News has started doing.

The Wall Street Journal had headlines like "The President Who Stood Still on Jan. 6" and an editorial opinion such as "Character is revealed in a crisis, and Mr. Pence passed his Jan. 6 trial. Mr. Trump utterly failed his." Ask yourself, why did they write such a harsh critique about a man they use to admire? It is not because they thought highly of the committee. They didn't. While Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy chose not to put credible Republicans on the committee, the Journal still thinks the lack of a good cross-examination of witnesses is a serious flaw in the process. Nevertheless, they had this to say right after the first prime time hearing: "Trump betrayed his supporters."

After the last blockbuster prime-time hearing that was recently concluded, they were forced to write this damning synopsis of what they saw and heard:

"No matter your views of the Jan. 6 special committee, the facts it is laying out in hearings are sobering. The most horrifying to

date came Thursday in a hearing on President Trump's conduct as the riot raged and he sat watching TV, posting inflammatory tweets and refusing to send help."

That is indicative of just how powerful and incriminating the evidence uncovered about Donald Trump and his involvement with the Jan 6 insurrection!

Even Fox News is starting to pull away from him. For example, CNN reports that Fox no longer televises Trump's rallies. Also, Trump opponents like Gov. DeSantis are getting a lot more airtime.

The New York Post, an even more conservative newspaper, had worse to say. While they had a lot more to say, their conclusion says it all:

"It's up to the Justice Department to decide if this is a crime, but as a matter of principle, as a matter of character, Trump has proven himself unworthy to be this country's chief executive again."

That is sobering especially coming from a source that was all in on Donald Trump. It is clear Trump is culpable in the events of Jan 6. The question is – what are his supporters going to do with this knowledge?

Scott Belford

INVEST

Continued from page 1

Commissioner Carolyn Spooner also asked about Clay County's financial investment in airport projects. Keystone Heights City Manager Lynn Rutkowski said it's a "stretch" to ask Clay County to fund a transportation project in Bradford County, which is why their conversations with Clay have centered around the utilities. Keystone Heights invested \$110,000 into that feasibility study, she said.

Vincent Esson, owner and CEO of the Keystone Heights RV Resort, said he is one of the potential developers at the airport. He is looking at it as a site for a 70,000 square-foot manufacturing facility with around 200 jobs, but it cannot happen without access to the land and utilities. He asked for the county's support.

Commission Chairman Chris Dougherty focused on sewer and water, but not for the airport. Since the state built a truck route around the city of Starke, revenue that would have stayed in county is now bypassing it. For that reason, he has talked about extending utilities for development to the bypass. This would create opportunities for commercial and residential development, he said.

Dougherty said the city of Starke and Bradford County would need to work as partners because the city has the existing water and wastewater facilities. Both would benefit from additional revenue in the form of taxes or utility fees.

The question then is where to extend those lines. Each

direction carries a different cost. According to City Manager Drew Mullins, the city recommends the southern end of the bypass, which would cost around \$3.5 million.

Going west on State Roads 100 and 16, which already have interchanges, and County Road 229 would cost around \$8 million and require upgrading the sewer lift station in Saratoga Heights, he said. The north end of the bypass would start at \$13.5 million because the city would have to build a new water plant. Extending sewer service would cost more.

Commissioner Diane Andrews said they need to consider which option would bring in the most revenue as soon as possible, so she agreed with 301 south.

Each direction is also a gamble, however. There is no guarantee of development.

Dougherty prefers SR 16 and SR 100 because there are already interchanges and properties available for development that wouldn't bottleneck traffic or change the landscape of the south end of the bypass.

Dougherty said his original discussions with the city clerk and manager were about extending lines, not system improvements. What was to be a win-win for the city and county now sounds like a bigger win for the city if the county is being asked to fund upgrades to the city's utilities, he said.

Mullins said any extension is putting additional pressure on the city's utilities, but it is not asking for a handout. It continues to look for grants and other sources to pay for these improvements itself. Going south would be the best choice to operate within the city's current capacity.

Dougherty cited Florida Department of Transportation's yet unknown plans to reconstruct the south end of the truck route. He said the county could be building a "road to nowhere" if the property isn't accessible for development. On the other hand, the on- and off-ramps are already at S.R. 16 and 100.

As for other ideas, Spooner spoke in favor of using funding to deal with ongoing road and drainage issues, while Andrews wanted some of the money for a study to increase the county's chances for funding to expand access to broadband internet.

Dougherty wants the focus to remain on projects that could increase the tax base and help pay for public services and infrastructure projects. At 10 mills, the county has no more tax funds to collect and is behind other counties with lower property taxes because they use special assessment fees to pay for services.

"I'm not a mathematician, but I can tell you that the math, it doesn't work. It doesn't work when your expenditures are what they are to provide services to the citizens of Bradford County and not be able to pay for it. So, by increasing our tax base, then hopefully we're able to keep those fees down and roll the millage back at the same time," he said.

Dougherty said additional workshop discussions would take place before the county is ready to vote on the use of the ARPA funds. These are discussions that should have taken place 20 years ago, when everyone knew the bypass was coming, but long before it was ever built, he said.



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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.

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

July 16 through July 22

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

Kristy Nicole Alvarez, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 19 for conditional release violations.

Stacie Roxann Bentley, 47, of Lawtey was arrested by Starke police on July 19 for a probation violation.

Dylan Douglas Burns, 19, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 21 for sexual battery.

Anthony Kyan Carlo, 27, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for failure to appear.

Randy Eugene Dewolf, 65, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for battery.

Connie Shawn Easley, 46, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for failure to appear.

Dalton Christopher Evans, 19, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on July 18 for disturbing the peace.

Lakwanzaa Shanice Griffin, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for battery.

Edwina C. Harris, 64, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for failure to appear.

Marcel Vashawn Henderson, 48, of Jacksonville was arrested by Starke police on July 19 for a probation violation.

Glenn Dale Magyari, 32, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for probation violations.

Walker Jeems Thomas, 24, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on July 18 for DUI.

Kevin Richard Wimpy, 51, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 17 for battery.

Union

Crashed into children's toys

Carol Wayne Parker, 71, of Lake Butler was arrested by state troopers on July 20 for DUI.

According to an FHP report, the defendant, in a silver Chevrolet Silverado was driving south on County Road 793 when she reached a dead end.

Parker then reversed the truck and drove into a ditch, colliding with children's toys, including a scooter.

Arresting officer Jeffery Naeyaert wrote in an arrest report that while speaking with

the defendant at the driver's side door, he noticed the odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from her person and breath.

"Ms. Parker's speech was slurred and thick-tongued and eyes were blood-shot and watery," he wrote. "I observed what appeared to be an alcoholic beverage bottle in a paper bag on the driver's side floorboard."

The trooper added that the defendant said she consumed an unknown amount of vodka and Bud Light beer prior to the crash.

"When asked on a scale of 1-10, 1 being sober and 10 being the drunkest she had ever been, Ms. Parker stated 'a 10'. Naeyaert wrote. "When asked if she should have been driving, she stated 'no'."

Clay

Mahran Abuayyash, 36, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 16 for battery and vandalism.

Dustin Cyle Bridgman, 36, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 18 for driving a motorcycle without a license and without vehicle registration.

Michael Brent Ursrey, 40, of Starke was arrested by Clay deputies on July 17 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, giving a false name to law enforcement and driving without a valid license.

William Tracy White, 54, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 20 for being a fugitive from justice.

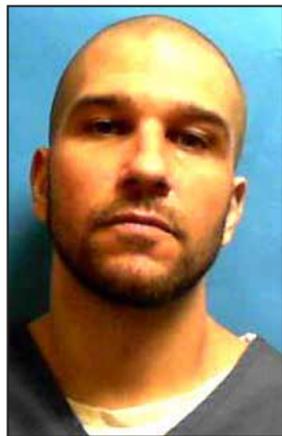
Jury: Inmate knifed another prisoner in the shower

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — On Wednesday, July 20, a Bradford County jury convicted Zeth Thomas Trawick, 40, of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and possession of contraband in a state correctional institution.

According to court papers, the victim and defendant, both inmates at Florida State Prison, arranged to fight in a shower area after an argument. The two inmates agreed not to bring weapons to the fight.

However, during the brawl, after the victim landed several blows to Trawick's head, the defendant brandished an improvised knife and stabbed the victim several times in the groin



Trawick

area. The victim was flown to Shands UF in critical condition and later recovered from his injuries.

Circuit Judge James M. Colaw sentenced Trawick to 15 years, which will run consecutively to his life sentence for second-degree murder.

In 2009 Trawick was sentenced to life for killing a man in DeLand at a convenience store.

Witnesses said the victim: 29-year-old Steven Story did not like the way Trawick's roommate stared at him in the store and started a fight with the roommate. When Story then turned to confront Trawick, the then-26-year-old stabbed him in the neck.

Jail time for fleeing and eluding

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Michael Dan Andrews, 48, of Keystone Heights, was sentenced to 34 days in jail and 24 months' probation for the April 4 offense of fleeing and eluding.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, Clay Deputy Joshua M. Byrne was patrolling the High Ridge Estates neighborhood when he saw the defendant riding a scooter without a tag.

When the deputy attempted a

traffic stop, the defendant made a U-turn, drove through a yard, jumped from the scooter, scaled a fence, and fled. A witness identified the defendant, and the deputy found a debit card belonging to Andrews in the abandoned scooter.

New suicide prevention line open

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Area law enforcement agencies and fire-rescue departments, including the

Bradford County Sheriff's Office and Fire-Rescue, announced the opening of a new phone line designed to prevent suicides.

988 is now active across the United States. The new, shorter phone number will make it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services. The previous 1-800-273-TALK (8255) number will continue to function indefinitely.

When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline Network. The counselors will listen, provide support and connect callers to other resources if necessary.

Knockout punch at Burger King

Bradford July 19 misdemeanor dispositions

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Warren Matrice Lee, 31, was sentenced to 12 months' probation, ordered to undergo anger management classes and pay \$2,814.20 in restitution to a victim after pleading to battery.



Lee

According to an arrest report, on March 12 around 4:10 p.m. Lee and the victim got into an argument at Starke's Burger King over the victim's use of a food container. Witnesses, including the defendant, said Lee punched the victim in the face, knocking him out.

"(The victim) advised he and Lee exchanged words for a few moments, then Lee struck him in the face," wrote arresting officer Frank W. Krol in an arrest report. "(The victim) said he woke up and was on the floor and his face hurt."

Krol wrote that the defendant told him: "He was talking (expletive deleted), so I laid him out."

In other misdemeanor dispositions in Bradford County Court on July 19:

Probation for selling alcohol and tobacco to 19-year-old

Karen Ann Art, 60, of Ocala was sentenced to six months' probation after pleading to serving an intoxicating beverage to a minor and selling a tobacco product to a person under 18.

County Judge D. Tatum Davis also ordered Art to make a \$500 contribution to a food pantry and pay court costs of \$50.

According to court papers, Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco agents sent an undercover 19-year-old into the Starke Shell on June 17, where the investigative aid purchased a 24 oz. can of Modelo Chelada malt beverage and Newport cigarettes. The clerk did not ask the customer for proof of age before completing the \$12.18 transaction.

Weekend jail for disturbing neighbors

David Byon Brauchle, 34, was sentenced to 30 days in weekend jail after pleading to the June 6 offense of disorderly conduct.

According to an arrest report, Starke police responded to a reported disturbance at Pine

Forest Apartments on Madison Street.

There they found the defendant sitting in a chair in front of his apartment, yelling loud obscenities.

Arresting officer Moses C. Bellamy wrote in the report that after Brauchle refused his orders to go inside the apartment, the officer arrested the intoxicated defendant.

Probation for McDonald's drive-through DUI

Tonda Renee Crews, 54, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on June 4 for DUI.

On Wednesday, July 19, Crews pleaded to DUI of 0.15 or higher with a person under 18 in the vehicle. She was sentenced to 12 months' probation.

According to an arrest report, while in the drive-through at McDonald's the defendant rear-ended another vehicle while the driver was waiting to get her food from the restaurant. Crews told arresting officer Jason Green that she was unaware she hit the vehicle ahead of her until notified by another party.

Threw car seat, punched door, struck car

Hiram Michael DiCandio, 34, was sentenced to 18 months' probation after pleading to criminal mischief with property damage and contributing to the dependency of a child.

The defendant was also ordered to undergo a 12-hour substance abuse and parenting class, and the court said it would consider terminating probation after nine months.

According to a sworn complaint, the victim was at the defendant's home when the defendant began acting belligerently, throwing a car seat across the home, yelling profanities at the woman and punching his own front door.

After the victim gathered her belongings and got into her car to leave, the defendant punched the vehicle, causing dents and damaging the victim's ability to close and open the vehicle's window and door.

Refused to comply with police orders

Terrell Eugene Gilmore was sentenced to time served: 54 days after pleading to resisting an officer without violence.

According to an arrest report, the defendant was a passenger in a vehicle that Starke police clocked at 92 mph in a 25-mph zone.

After the vehicle stopped near Southside Elementary School, Gilmore exited the vehicle and started walking away.

Arresting officer Michael Rooney wrote in a report that the defendant initially refused to get on the ground after Rooney ordered him to do so and only showed his hands to the lawman after Rooney pointed his weapon at the defendant. Rooney also wrote that the defendant initially refused to get into his patrol vehicle and had to be physically removed from the vehicle after arriving at the jail.

Weekend jail for swing-and-a-miss

Earl Johnson III, 29, of Hampton was sentenced to 30 days in weekend jail and three

months' probation after pleading to attempt to commit battery.

According to an arrest report, on Feb. 26, Johnson approached a vehicle at the MJM Convenience store near Hampton Lake and yelled obscenities at a female in the car. He then walked around the vehicle several times and tried to punch the occupant but missed.

The defendant told Deputy Jacob Desue that the victim was the primary aggressor, and he did not swing at her.

Begged for money outside liquor store

Joseph Lee Mitchell, 53, was sentenced to 90 days in jail after pleading to trespassing and disorderly intoxication.

According to a Nov. 11, 2021, sworn complaint an employee of Sam's Discount Beverage reported to Starke police that the defendant was on the property after receiving a trespass warning. The employee claimed the defendant was standing outside the business's front door asking customers for money.

Mitchell told police he only walked through the parking lot. However, reporting officer Taylor C. Sanders said the defendant gave conflicting accounts of his activity.

In a separate sworn complaint dated March 31, 2022, a witness at S&M Discount Beverage said he saw the defendant expose himself and urinate outside the establishment.

After reviewing store video, reporting officer David Clancy Jr. wrote that he interviewed the defendant whom he said was incoherent and could not remember his actions. Clancy wrote that he called Bradford Fire Rescue to transport the defendant to a hospital due to extreme intoxication.

Provided police with video evidence

David Lee Nazworth, 38, was sentenced to two days' time served in jail and 12 months' probation after pleading to domestic battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told Bradford deputies the defendant kicked a tumbler cup toward her which struck her in the chest.

Nazworth admitted to kicking the tumbler but said the cup missed the victim. He then offered deputies video evidence of the encounter which verified the victim's account of the events.

Stole lamps from motel room

Marc Aaron Overton, 43, of Alachua was sentenced to three days in jail and 12 months' probation for the Oct. 27, 2020, offense of petit theft.

According to a sworn complaint, a worker at the Red Carpet Inn told Starke police that the defendant rented a room at the establishment and afterward, the worker found that two wall lamps had been replaced with two wall hangings.

The motel worker told reporting officer David Bukowski that if he could get the lamps back, he would not pursue charges. However, after police could not reach the defendant, the case was forwarded to the State Attorney's Office.

Family and Friends Day

Greater Allen Chapel AME Church will hold its Family and Friends Day on Sunday, July 31, at 11 a.m. The guest speaker is the Rev. Alvin Green of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Lake City.

Backpacks at RJE Alumni Building Aug. 8

The Concerned Citizens of Bradford County and RJE Alumni Association will be

having a school supply giveaway Monday, Aug. 8, at the RJE Alumni Building on Florida Street in Starke. The event will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Sherry Williams at 352-278-3540, Glenda Ruise at 904-769-1691 or leave a message at 904-964-2298.

VFW hosting Back-to-School Bash

VFW Post 10082 Auxiliary President Barbara Fischer, has announced the 2022 Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, Aug.

6, at 11 a.m. at the VFW Post off CR 231.

The Post will be doing a drive-thru giveaway as they did last year. Lunch will be served.

If you plan on attending, please call Fischer at 904-263-0647 so the Auxiliary can ensure there are enough school supplies to hand out. Be prepared to let her know the grade your child(ren) are in. To receive the supplies you should attend the bash.

If anyone is interested in making a donation to this cause, please contact Fischer.



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Bradford Community Healthcare Auxiliary installs officers

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. You can apply the same principle to the Bradford Community Health Auxiliary, which was formerly known as the Shands Starke Auxiliary. The name is different, but the goal is the same.

At its July 21 installation banquet, President Linda Johns explained how the auxiliary still exists to serve the community and its healthcare facilities, saying, "We are the same auxiliary as before, but with a name change."

The name change came about because of the sale of Shands Starke and its transformation into an emergency room-only facility. The new name became official this past October.

"This is our first banquet as Bradford Community Healthcare Auxiliary," Johns said.

The auxiliary, with the hospital becoming an emergency room-facility only, had to find a new physical locale it could call home. That new home is the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Gordon Smith said the auxiliary members have been a positive addition, helping out where they can with victim and elderly wellness-check scenarios as well as continuing to support local doctors, nurses and others who work in healthcare.

The sheriff's office exists to serve the community. Smith said the auxiliary members help serve as a reminder of that.

"They have a heart," Smith

said. "It's all about service. That's their mission and goal."

Smith said auxiliary members are always asking what they can do to be of assistance. If the answer is something challenging, Smith said they never respond by saying, "We can't do that." Instead, they look for ways to get it done.

"You all are such a blessing to us," Smith said. "For that, I want to personally say thank you, not only on my behalf and on behalf of the men and women who serve, but on behalf of the community."

"With that, I want to say I love you. Thank you for your Godly blessings that you bring us each and every day. I can't say enough kind words about you."

Johns said the auxiliary has been serving on a limited basis since Covid, but it still was able to provide \$10,000 to Starke's UF Health Family Medical Group as well as tokens of appreciation — such as candy bars and cans of peanuts — on nationally recognized days and weeks in honor of doctors, nurses, first responders and law enforcement.

Recently, the auxiliary presented \$4,600 to Bradford County Fire Rescue for the purchase of seven jump bags, which include advanced life-support equipment. Division Chief Dylan Rodgers said the equipment helps stabilize those having medical issues inside their homes prior to transport to a medical facility.

Rodgers thanked the auxiliary for the gift, saying it allowed for the replacement of an old set

of jump bags that were old and obsolete.

"Every single day, these guys and gals (with Bradford Fire Rescue) go out to medical calls," Rodgers said, adding, "We are very, very thankful for that gift."

Johns said the auxiliary holds various fundraisers to help it make such gifts. Its main fundraiser is its food booth at the Bradford Agricultural Fair that's famous for its strawberry shortcake. The booth also sells such fare as hamburgers and French fries.

"It was only for a few days this past year because of the rain," Johns said of the fair, "but we still made \$4,100 after expenses. We're very thankful."

Dimple Overstreet performed the installation of officers, which included Johns as president. Johns has been involved with the auxiliary for 54 years, which prompted Overstreet to jokingly ask, "Does everybody know Linda?"

Other officers installed were Charlotte Williams as first vice president, Loretta Edwards as second vice president, Linda Hildebran as treasurer, Virginia Linzy as recording secretary and Gertrude Griffis as corresponding secretary.

Prior to the installation, Griffis provided a breakdown of volunteer hours for each member during the past 2.5 years, saying it all came to a total of 9,519 hours.

Johns recognized three

See AUXILIARY, page 12



The Bradford Community Healthcare Auxiliary (formerly the Shands Starke Auxiliary) hosted an installation banquet on July 21. Officers (l-r) are Charlotte Williams (first vice president), Loretta Edwards (second vice president), Linda Hildebran (treasurer), Virginia Linzy (recording secretary), Gertrude Griffis (corresponding secretary) and Linda Johns (president). Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Lifetime auxiliary members recognized at the banquet were (l-r) Peggy Godwin, Syliva Brown and Mary Ann Andrews.

Ready, set, preserve, with Bradford Extension workshops

BY SAMARA PURVIS
Bradford County
Extension Agent

According to the USDA 40 to 50 percent of fruits and vegetables bought by consumers are wasted more often and in greater quantities than dry foods. Several reasons are because fruits and vegetables require refrigeration once harvested and have a shorter shelf life than processed foods.

Reducing food waste in homes can pay off and reduce the

amount of money wasted. There are other benefits to preserving, such as having healthy food year-round and reducing the food waste in landfills.

Canning is a fun activity the whole family can take part in. It is a wonderful way to take fresh foods that are grown or bought from a local farmers market or local grocer and make them last all year.

If you are new to canning or a novice home preserver, taking part in a canning class with Bradford County Extension will

sharpen your skills in several ways. Explore the safe methods of home preservation by learning scientifically tested procedures in water bath canning, drying herbs and freezing foods in bulk. Participating in food preservation workshops offers up-to-date safety practices and opportunities to test new recipes and share your experiences with others.

Bradford County Extension (2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke) will offer the following workshops from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.:

—Friday, Aug. 5: sloppy-joe starter kit.

—Thursday, Sept. 15: Bruschetta in a jar.

—Thursday, Oct. 6: hot-pepper mustard.

—Thursday, Nov. 10: caramel apple-coffee jam.

—Wednesday, Dec. 14: fruit shrubs.

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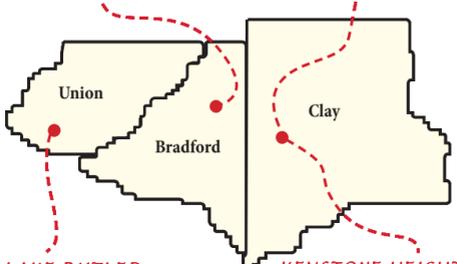
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Obituaries

Henry French

STARKE - Henry "Peter French" French, 85, of Starke, passed away on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 in the ET York Haven Hospice Center in Gainesville. He was born on Dec. 26, 1936 in Monticello and later moved to Starke, where he attended the local schools and graduated high school. He was a member of St Paul Missionary Baptist Church and the Masonic Lodge. He was employed with CMC Steel in Starke as a Crane Operator.



He leaves precious memories to three stepsons; four stepdaughters; a sister, Betty French; and a host of nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins and sorrowing friends.

Memorial services will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, at the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel/Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 Oak St., Starke, 904-964-7905 with Rev. Alvin Green, eulogist.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Harold Hughes

Harold Edward "Bud" Hughes Sr., 93, of Hawthorne and formerly Keystone Heights passed away Saturday, July 23, 2022, in Palm Bay. He was born March 3, 1929, to Charles E. and Florence (Harbough) Hughes Sr. He served as corporal in the United States Army; serving two tours during the Korean Conflict. He then served on the Eau Gallie police force for 10 years while also starting his own building business in 1965. In 2002, he and his wife moved to Keystone Heights from Live Oak. He read his Bible daily and was involved with Paran Baptist Church and Windsor Baptist Church for many years. He loved doing the Jitterbug dance and being active with the Keystone Kops Parade Unit. "You won't see his white legs in the parade anymore getting his pants pulled off." He joined the Harbor City Blue Masonic Lodge #318 in 1963 where he was also a 32nd-Degree Scottish Rite and in 1984 he joined the Keystone Heights Morocco Shriners. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Maebell (Whitehead) Hughes; siblings, Charles Hughes Jr. and Rosella Latooth.



He leaves behind three children, Cindy (Ed) Matheson of Palm Bay, Cherie (Mark) Vergason of Sanford, and Eddy (Tanya) Hughes of Hawthorne; two stepsons, Danny (Theresa) Boston of Hawthorne and Dennis Boston (Sandy Logan) of Pickens, South Carolina; along with five half-brothers and sisters. He was lovingly called "Pops" by 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

The family will receive friends beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 30, at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. with Rev. Charles Litzell and Rev. Rick Cicio officiating. Interment will follow at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. Immediately following the interment will be a Celebration of Life at the Keystone Heights Shrine Club. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to either the Shriners Children's Burn Hospital, 1 Children's Plaza, 2W, Dayton, OH 45404 or Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital, 12502 USF Pine Drive, Tampa, FL 33612.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Delores Perryman

Delores "Dot" Osceola Hill Perryman, of Lake Butler, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 17, 2022, at Haven Hospice, Gainesville. She was born to Lattice Blich-Townsend and Pitt Townsend on April 10, 1928, in Olustee. After losing both of her parents by the young age of 4, she was raised by her aunt and uncle, Gladys Townsend-Rogers and Eugene Rogers, of Lake Butler. She was a Union County High School graduate and, soon after graduation, she moved to Jacksonville to work at Sealest Dairy, where she made many fond memories and lifelong friendships. She was visiting with her sister, Lorene, in Tampa, where she would meet and marry her first husband, Russell Conwell Hill. She and Russell had two children, Jeanne Kay and Steven. Russell passed away at a relatively young age. Once their children were raised, she began working at University Community Hospital in Tampa. The time came when she needed to return to Lake Butler to care for her Uncle Eugene. To her surprise, he was playing matchmaker (something he was well known for) and introduced her to what would be her second husband, Lester Franklin Perryman, who she was married to for 31 years, until his passing in 2018. Over the years, she and Lester created a home full of love for their blended family. She was a longtime member of the Church of Christ in Lake Butler. As a natural storyteller, she was full of experiences and was the best at sharing them in her own unique way. She was very humble and had so much strength and character that was the result of her difficult upbringing. Not only did she lose her parents at a young age, she was raised in the era of the Great Depression, which required her to grow up learning hard work by doing anything from wrangling cows at the young age of 8, to working in the fields for long hours each day. One of her favorite sayings was, "People always talk about how good the old days were, but you can keep them good, old days!" She was affectionately known as "Grams" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will all miss her dearly. She was preceded in death by her biological parents; Lattice and Pitt Townsend; adoptive parents, Gladys and Eugene Rogers; first husband, Russell Hill; second husband, Lester Perryman; and sisters, Lorene, Catherine and Iris.



She leaves behind her children, Jeanne Kay (Mike) Nelson of Tampa, Steven Hill of Lake Butler, Dennie Perryman of Keystone Heights, Rick (Kim) Perryman of Lake Butler, Robin (Kenneth) Clyatt of Lake Butler; a sister, Mona; as well as many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be missed tremendously. We take comfort in knowing that she's whole again and free from all pain and suffering.

PAID OBITUARY

Casey Schmidt

Casey Hayes Schmidt, 40, of Keystone Heights passed away Monday, July 25, 2022, at Shands Hospital in Gainesville following a brief illness. She was born Nov. 1, 1981, in Jacksonville to Donald and Katherine "Kathy" (Linton) Hayes. She graduated with the class of 2000 from Keystone Heights High School and continued her education; earning a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. She was employed with QCS in Gainesville as their office administrator for several years. She attended Freedom Baptist Church and is a Christian. She enjoyed fishing and painting, and was an avid Florida Gator sports enthusiast and Washington Redskins fan. She loved life to the fullest, but her family always came first. She was preceded in death by her father, Donald Hayes.



She leaves behind four precious children, Carl Murray of Jacksonville, Charlie Murray of Melrose, Braedon Schmidt of Williston, Brentley Schmidt of Keystone Heights; and her mother Katherine "Kathy" Hayes of Keystone Heights. Also left behind is her sister, Kelly (Matt) Maloney of Melrose; a half-sister, Brandy Davis of Jacksonville Beach; maternal grandmother, Alta Linton of Keystone Heights; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family members and friends that will miss her dearly.

A Celebration of Life for friends and family will be held Saturday July 30 at 12 p.m. at 3387 SE Eighth Ave., Melrose, 32666. Feel free to wear your orange and blue. In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation to the American Liver Foundation, P. O. Box 229, West Orange, NJ 07052.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Annie Starling

Annie "Gennell" Starling, 85, of Lawtey, passed away on Monday, July 25, 2022 at her residence with her loving family by her side. She was born in Lawtey on Jan. 12, 1937, to the late Frank Marion and Gertrude Rosier Cruce. She was a lifelong resident of Lawtey and graduated from Bradford High School in 1954. On Feb. 13, 1954, she married the love of her life, V.L. Starling, and together they spent 56 wonderful years. She began her career at Big Dad's Sewing Factory and enjoyed working there for many years. She was a very talented seamstress. She made her daughter's clothing by hand and even made her daughter Priscilla the most beautiful wedding dress. She enjoyed gardening, reading, crocheting, and doing word searches. She was a member of Pine Level Baptist Church, where she enjoyed worshipping her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. More than anything, she loved her family, and will be missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brothers, Theodore Cruce, Eddie Cruce and Quincy Cruce; sisters Frankie Mae Pipkins, Bernice Duncan and Cathern Duncan; daughter-in-law, Bridgett Ann Starling; son-in-law, Mitchell Griffis Sr.; sister-in-law, Rosemary Cruce; brothers-in-law, Robert Carlton, Eugene Pipkins, Gene Duncan, Stanley Noegel, Tommy Linzy, Will Batten, and Emory Duncan; and granddaughter, Lanette Starling.



She is survived by her children, Joseph Starling Sr. of Starke, Priscilla (Rickey) Thomas of Lawtey, Vernon Leo Starling of Yulee and Sheila Griffis of Lawtey; brothers, Marvin Cruce, George (Linda) Cruce, Frank (Beth) Cruce Jr., Marcus (Cindy) Cruce; sisters, Eula Mae Carlton, Gertie Faye Noegel, Virginia Linzy, Gertrude "Plum" (Duane) Griffis, Lucinda Batten; grandchildren, Leo Starling, Diane (Joseph) Meredith, Chastidy (Mitchell) Griffis Jr. Starling, Joseph Starling Jr., Joni (Sam) Bryant, Billy (Kristin) Griffis, and Lance (Jessie) Griffis; great-grandchildren, Chase Starling, David and Morgan Syskind, Michael and Dillon Jones, Daryl Palmer, Cassie (Michael) Wilson, Heather (Shane) Starling, Madison Starling, Leah (Jon) Prevatt, Wyatt Griffis, Trent Bryant, Laney Griffis, Ethan and Riley Griffis.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, July 28, at Pine Level Baptist Church at 11 a.m. with Brother Leon Thomas, Rev. Marty Starling, and Pastor Roman Alvarez officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. A visitation will be held an hour prior to the service at the church.

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.

PAID OBITUARY

AUXILIARY

Continued from page 9

individuals who are no longer active members, but who are lifetime members: Mary Ann Andrews, Sylvia Brown and Peggy Godwin.

Olivia Scott, the scholarship chair, presented a brief history of the auxiliary's endowed scholarship.

"In June 2001, after much hard work, the Shands Starke Auxiliary scholarship fund reached \$50,000," Scott said. "We were able to then receive matching funds so we could endow our scholarship."

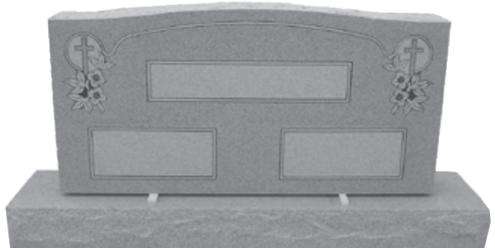
Scott said the auxiliary has awarded approximately

32 scholarships, including renewals. The two most recent recipients were Krista Hildebran (2021) and Shelby Burkhalter (2022). Hildebran, a 2020 Bradford High School graduate and granddaughter of Auxiliary Treasurer Linda Hildebran, graduated this past May from Santa Fe College and is employed as a registered nurse with UF Health Shands. Burkhalter, a 2022 BHS graduate and granddaughter of Auxiliary Lifetime Member Sylvia Brown, is currently attending Santa Fe College.

"We want to congratulate both of these wonderful, young ladies and wish them well on their journey into the future," Scott said.

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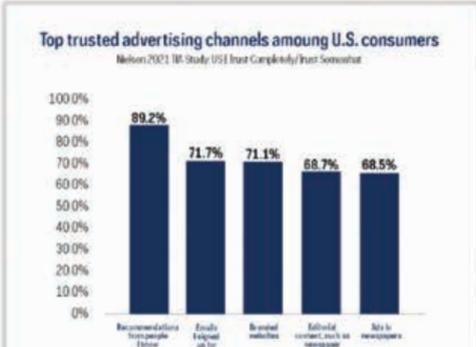

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Special note: The Relevance Project thanks The Nielsen Co., a global leader in audience, measurement, data, and analytics, for this excerpt from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 21 channels, a term to distinguish where ads show up or are referenced, in the study.

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Lifelong Theresa resident Malone celebrates 90th birthday

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Members of law enforcement were no strangers to Grace Malone's home, but it wasn't because any laws were being broken, unless you count it a crime to provide someone with a delicious, home-cooked meal.

Malone worked as financial officer in the Bradford County Sheriff's Office for 21 years and would often host suppers and parties for the sheriffs she worked for and their deputies.

She's been retired since 1994, but you could tell the kind of impact Malone had on her bosses as all three sheriffs she worked for attended her 90th birthday party, which was held July 16 at Hope Baptist Church.

Dolph Reddish, Kenneth Etheridge and Bob Milner were among at least 150 people at the party, which also included current Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith (who was a deputy when Malone worked at the sheriff's office) as well as family, friends, fellow Hope Baptist Church members and even three fellow members of Bradford High School's Class of 1950.

"It was just lots and lots of people. It was unreal," said Malone, who has two children (Jan McRae and Duane Searle), five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Theresa has always been home

Hope Baptist was the perfect place for the party. Malone has attended the church all her life (beginning 9 months before she was born, she'll tell you). Plus, it's located in Theresa. She was literally born there and has lived all her life there. In fact, the house she lives in now off of C.R. 18A is approximately 2 miles away from her childhood home on Southeast 81st Street (past the Theresa Community Center).

"I didn't move far away from home," Malone said.

Malone, the daughter of James Dickinson and Delaney Dickinson Fisher, said children had to devise ways of entertaining themselves. Sometimes they threw a ball up onto the roof of the house, catching it when it came down. Sometimes they rolled a tire — either by itself or with someone curled up inside for the ride.

"We didn't have any of the fancy stuff like they've got nowadays," Malone said.

Neither the family nor most anyone else living nearby had a vehicle. When she and her family took a trip into Starke, it was via a bus that ran between Starke and Palatka. Malone said the family would get dressed up and walk to S.R. 100 to catch their ride, which cost 25 cents.

"We'd ride to town, do our shopping," she said. "There was a little restaurant there on Call Street. I don't remember the name of it. It was just a little hole in the wall. You'd get a hot dog and a piece of pie and a Coke for a quarter. Can you imagine?"

Malone remembers a trip she made to town with one of her stepsisters. They went to Florida Twin Theatre, where Malone saw her first-ever movie. Before that, they ate lunch at Koch's drug store, which resulted in an incident that Malone can laugh about now.



Grace Malone's 90th birthday party featured the three Bradford County sheriffs she worked for as well as current sheriff, Gordon Smith, who was a deputy during the time she was employed by the office. Pictured (l-r): Bob Milner, Smith, Malone, Dolph Reddish and Kenneth Etheridge. Photos provided by Malone's family.

"She left a quarter or something on the table," Malone said of her sister. "I picked it up. Going down the street, I said, 'Here's your money you left on the table.' She liked to have a fit. That's when I found out you were supposed to tip."

Electricity didn't come to her home until the early 1940s. Malone remembers when her family got a TV.

"It was the first one in the neighborhood," she said. "Everyone would come to our house. All the kids would sit around on the floor and watch television at our house."

During her childhood, Theresa had a post office. Her mother, Delaney (née Hall), was its postmaster.

"The railroad track ran right behind their house through downtown Theresa, if you want to call it 'downtown Theresa,'" daughter Jan McRae said. "Blanding was in big boom then, so the soldiers would come through there. The train would stop. They would get off there. They could mail their letters and pick up their mail."

Malone's mother also operated a store adjacent to the post office

where the soldiers would shop.

"You could get a drink for a dime or a nickel," said Malone, who worked in the store. "They'd give me a quarter or something, and I'd make change. They'd pretend like it was the wrong amount. They were trying to tease me, I guess."

Malone went to Hampton Elementary School, which consisted of eight grades at the time. Her eighth-grade class consisted of her and six other students.

At Bradford High School, Malone played basketball and softball. During her senior year, the girls basketball team won the Suwannee Conference championship. Malone earned the senior superlative of Most Athletic.

Malone remembered a trip the team made to Fernandina Beach for a game. Afterward, the team was taken to a seafood restaurant, which Malone said was a baffling decision as most players never had much money on them.

What happened was most of the players bought tea — they had enough money to do that. A few had more money that was

given to them by their parents, so they bought seafood dinners, which came with all-you-can-eat hushpuppies.

"We drank our tea, and they fed us hushpuppies off their plates," Malone said. "They'd bring them more (hushpuppies) when they asked for more. That's what we filled up on — hushpuppies and tea."

Malone continued to be involved in athletics after high school, playing church-league softball. In fact, she and McRae played alongside each other for a time. Malone played second base, while McRae played shortstop.

It wasn't until she reached her 50s that Malone gave up playing. The activity would cause her legs to cramp.

"I couldn't run, so I had to quit," Malone said.

A call that came at the right time

Malone had worked in a variety of jobs, with most of her time spent working at the University of Florida. In 1973, she got a call from Sheriff Dolph Reddish, who wanted her to interview for the position of financial officer.

A position closer to home appealed to Malone.

"At that time, gas began to get high — it's nothing compared to now, so it's what we thought was high. It was probably \$2 (per

gallon)," Malone said.

Reddish hired Malone, who was working as a secretary for a doctor from Taiwan at UF. When Malone informed the doctor she was leaving, he just sat there and didn't say anything.

"I went back to my desk," Malone said. "He then called me in (to his office) and said, 'If I pay you \$500 cash, will you stay?'"

She didn't stay, but during her first days of working at the sheriff's office, she may have wished she had.

"Every day, in my mind, I was quitting," Malone said. "It was hard to learn. There was a lot to do."

Malone, obviously, learned her job quite well, as it was the start of a 21-year career. She handled payroll for the office, paid the bills, worked with the sheriff on the budget, filled out the paperwork on new hires and even took dictation at times.

"Back in those days, all the paperwork was done by hand," Malone said. "It was a lot of work."

So much so that Malone said Reddish tells her every time he sees her that he wished he had

paid her more money. He even wrote that in the birthday card he gave her this year.

Malone was no stranger to any of the sheriffs she worked for. Reddish was a year behind her at BHS.

"He used to like to tell me the reason he hired me was because I was from Theresa, and he needed some votes from Theresa," Malone said. "That was a joke, of course, but that's what he would say."

Reddish was Bradford's sheriff through 1988. Malone then worked under Kenneth Etheridge (1989-92) and Bob Milner, who became sheriff in 1992.

Malone said she began thinking it was time to retire when a lot of the paperwork she had to deal with became more time-consuming. Her daughter said the introduction of new technology surely played a role as well.

"They brought in the real-deal computers about that time," McRae said. "It was just too overwhelming."

During her time at the sheriff's office — and even afterward —

See MALONE, page 15



Grace Malone pictured at her desk at the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.



Grace Malone is pictured with her brother, Truman Dickinson (center), and her friend to this day, Ruth Johns (far right), on a train that stopped at the Theresa Post Office. Malone's mother, Delaney Dickinson Fisher, was the postmaster and also operated a store adjacent to the post office.



Grace Malone attempts to score on a layup as a player for Bradford High School.

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Legal Notices

BRADFORD

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 8/11-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 unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

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

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., 273 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.

7/28 1tchg-BCT

City of Starke Commission Workshop and Regular Meeting Time Change There will be a workshop of the City of Starke Commission on August 2, 2022 at 5:30 pm to discuss recommendations on ethics and civility. The meeting will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in Starke. The regular commission meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.

7/28 1tchg-BCT

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE PERMIT

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to issue a permit to The Chemours Company FC LLC, to construct and operate Chemours Trail Ridge South which is a new 0.13-MGD annual average daily flow (AADF) industrial wastewater treatment facility. The 0.13-MGD, which includes process wastewater and stormwater, is proposed to discharge from the Outfall D-001 to a remnant man-made ditch that connects to further downstream features until it joins with Double Run Creek (5.3 miles downstream from the facility discharge point at D-001). The facility will be located at latitude 29° 54' 46.15" N, longitude 82° 1' 52.35" W, on 5222 Treat Road, Starke, Florida 32091 in Bradford County. The Department has assigned permit file number FL0A00014-001-1W3S to the proposed project.

The intent to issue and application file are available for public inspection during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department's Northeast District Office, 8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100, Jacksonville, Florida 32256-7577, at phone number (904)256-1700.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

The Department will issue the permit unless a petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., before the deadline for filing a petition. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the hearing process may result in a modification of the agency action or even denial of the application.

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

The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination;

A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Department's agency decision;

A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;

A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;

A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and

A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

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

Time Period for Filing a Petition Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than

those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the notice or within 14 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

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

Mediation Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

7/28 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Amy N. Griffin
Last known address of:
2180 SE 150th St LOT 21
Starke FL 32091-8300
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 25, 2022

7/28 1tchg-BCT

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in the 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

July 28, 2022
City of Lawtey, P.O. Drawer G
Lawtey, FL 32058, 904-782-3454
To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Lawtey has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection to determine the potential affect that the activity in the floodplain and/or wetland will have on the environment. The activity is funded by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program under CDBG Agreement No. IR018.

The proposed project intends to provide ditch restoration of Canal 1 (Along Jackson St. from its beginning at the City limits in the southeast to the City limits in the northwest), Canal 2 (along CR125 from the intersection of US301 and CR125 heading northeast along CR125 to the City limits), Sub-Canal A (along Monroe St. from the intersection of Monroe Street and Grove Street until its terminus at Canal 1), Sub-Canal B (along the platted portion of Olive Street from the intersection of Grove St and Olive Street northwest towards the intersection of Adams St and Olive Street). Additionally, the City intends to use FDEO-DR funds for drainage improvements to the culvert crossing at Jones Lane and Linwood Avenue as well as the culvert crossing at Olive and Jackson Street. All facilities are currently in-place and operational. Although the drainage restoration project is not currently designed the anticipated footprint of potentially affected wetlands and or flood plains could be up to 25 acres. Although the drainage restoration project is not currently designed the anticipated footprint of potentially affected 100 year floodplains could be up to 25 acres.

The City of Lawtey has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: The proposed drainage improvements seek to modify the

primary drainage canal that conveys flood waters through and out of the corporate boundaries of the City of Lawtey. Based on available aerial maps the primary drainage ditch has been in-place for at least thirty years. Additionally, completing the restoration of the conveyance ditches will increase local stormwater storage thereby reducing the amount of ponding which may occur along the ditch during heavy rain-fall events. As applicable, the City will consult with the FDEP and Army Corp of Engineers as well as the Saint Johns River and/or Suwannee River Water Management districts to ensure the constructed improvements will comply with state and local floodplain/wetland protection procedures.

The City of Lawtey has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative due to the scope of the project. Apart from the no-action alternative, the City considered the purchase of land to create stormwater ponds throughout the City. Due to the cost of land acquisition and the need to incorporate the newly created stormwater ponds into the existing drainage system, the City determined this alternative was impractical and would still result in actions being completed within existing floodplains/wetlands. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

Written comments must be received by Lisa Harley, City Clerk in person at 2793 Lake Street, Lawtey, FL 32058 or mailed to PO Drawer G, Lawtey, FL 32058 on or before August 8, 2022. Comments may also be submitted by email at cityoflawtey@embarqmail.com. Additional information may be obtained by contacting: Lisa Harley, City Clerk at 904-782-3504. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00am to 2:00pm at 2793 Lake Street, Lawtey, FL 32058. Jimmy Scott, Mayor of the City of Lawtey as the Environmental Certifying Official.

7/28 1tchg-BCT

UNION

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

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 MOT 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 HEREAFTER 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 demanded 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

N 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
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

ORDINANCE 2022-04

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

SECTION 1, FUNDING

A. The Board of County Commissioners herein directs the Union County Supervisor of Elections to place upon the First Primary Election Ballot, to be held August 23, 2022, the following:

For the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District by taxation of up to (½) mill of ad valorem taxes.

Against the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District of taxation of up to one half (½) mill ad valorem taxes.

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

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

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

SECTION 3, DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS

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

SECTION 4, COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE UNION COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

The herein provided for the ad valorem tax shall be levied and collected in the manner provided for the levy and collection of the County ad valorem taxes. The Union County Board of Commissioners shall certify annually to the Property Appraiser of Union County, Florida the millage to be levied for the Union County Special Library District. Taxes collected shall be remitted by the Union County Tax Collector to the Clerk of the Court in and for Union County, Florida who shall be the Ex-Officio Clerk and Treasurer for the Union County Special Library District.

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

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

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

SECTION 7, SEVERABILITY

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

SECTION 8, EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective by law.

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

APPROVED: ATTEST:

James Tallman, Union County Board of County Commission, Chairman

Kellie H. Rhoades, Union County Clerk of Courts

7/14 2tchg and 7/28-UCT

LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: CHRISTIANN HUDSON, 625 SE 43RD ST., KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: FRENCHTASTIC FRENCHIES, 625 SE 43RD ST., KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 20th day of July A.D., 2022, in Bradford County.

7/28 1tchg-LRM

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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John Miller, Publisher

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

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UNION COUNTY TIMES

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
UNION COUNTY TIMES

Knox takes the reins of the UCHS volleyball program

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Volleyball has been a lifelong love for Tifani Knox, who is embarking on a new venture in the sport as Union County High School's new varsity head coach. Knox takes over for Jordan Windham, who was head of the program for five years before stepping down to take the head-coaching position at Oakleaf High School.

The Tigers are coming off a 14-9 district-championship season. "I have played volleyball for a long time," Knox said. "It's always been a part of my life. I was recently coaching a travel team I started in Lake Butler. "Just watching the girls learn new things and improve is what makes it worth it for me, so I'm very excited. They already have a ton of talent and a lot of potential. I'm really hoping for

great things this season." Knox, who grew up in Pennsylvania, was immersed in the world of volleyball at a young age, so she almost had no choice but to fall in love with it. "My mom was a coach for 40 years," she said. "I was sort of born into just being at volleyball practice all the time." As she got older, and her love for volleyball grew, Knox came to appreciate the mental aspect of the sport.

"Not everybody can play volleyball," she said. "It's not a sport that you can just pick up a ball when you don't know anything about it and play it. You have to be mentally tough. I think that's what's really cool to me. You have to be physically fit, you have to be able to know the sport, but you also have to be mentally tough to play."

Knox played middle in high school and went on to play right side at California University of Pennsylvania, which is now known as PennWest California.

She found it tough being a student-athlete in college, but the experience also helped prepare her for life.

"It was awesome, but it was also overwhelming," Knox said. "I went to a (high) school that was a similar size to Union County. Going to college and playing a sport — they ask a lot of you. It's different, but I was able to learn things that made me successful in life: time management, respect for others, teamwork, communication. Things that you're not thinking about at that age, but when I look back now, I know that I learned a lot of those skills from playing volleyball."

Knox eventually moved to Fort Walton Beach, where she had family. She had no desire to keep living through Pennsylvania winters.

"I didn't want to live in the snow," Knox said. "Snow was a no-go for me."

She moved around Florida as part of her job working

in administration for the Department of Corrections. Her first job with the department was in Ocala. Knox has now been working at Union Correctional Institution for six years and has been with the department overall for 15 years.

"It's a great agency. It really is," Knox said. "It's provided well for my family. I've been able to meet a ton of great people. It's actually why I know so many people around here. So many people are involved in (the department) some way or another."

Knox and her husband of 15 years, Tim, have one child — daughter Indi, who'll be an incoming UCHS freshman. It's because of Indi that Knox first got into coaching. Knox started the local travel team so that her daughter could play closer to home rather than her family having to make a long commute to and from Gainesville, where Indi was playing.

The travel team is a satellite of Tallahassee's Prostyle Volleyball Academy.

"I reached out to the club in Tallahassee and said, 'I guess I'm going to do this and give this a chance.' I've really, really enjoyed it, watching the girls grow and learn and be able to do the things we're asking them to do," Knox said.

What started with one team in Union County a couple of years ago expanded into a total of three teams when Knox reached out to new Bradford High School Coach Jamie Segars, who



Tifani Knox

coached two teams.

For Knox, it's exciting to create more playing opportunities for girls in Union and Bradford counties and the surrounding area.

"Giving girls in a rural area a way to play volleyball in the offseason that's affordable is important to me," she said, adding, "(Segars is) really great. I'm glad that we were able to work together."

Knox's daughter is coming from a Lake Butler Middle School program that has won its conference championship the last three years. The past two seasons, LBMS went undefeated.

Knox said she believes one of the keys to maintaining the level of success the LBMS players have been experiencing is to stress the importance of mental preparation. It's easy to play when you're defeating an

See KNOX, page 18



New Head Coach Tifani Knox (far left) watches Sara Grace Vaughn (center) and Kaylie Hendricks work on serving. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

MALONE

Continued from page 13

Malone would sometimes treat the sheriff, deputies and staff to a lunch at her home. She'd host parties, too, saying, "I'd maybe cook a ham, and they would bring a covered dish."

Malone's family, of course, enjoys the fruits of her labor in the kitchen as well.

"She's known for cooking," McRae said. "She cooks a Morrison's meal every Sunday still. In fact, she cooks it on Saturday, and everybody eats on

Sunday and for the rest of the week."

McRae said her mother can cook anything, but added, "Nobody makes greens better than her. And macaroni and cheese. Any of my kids will tell you that Granny's macaroni and cheese is to die for. It's the best."

What is it about Malone's macaroni and cheese that makes it so good? McRae said she doesn't know. She only knows that for whatever reason, Malone is the only one who can make it.

"She will stand over my shoulder at my house and tell me what to do," McRae said. "I can

make it, but it does not taste like hers."

Faithful

Church has been a part of Malone's entire life. It's more than just showing up and sitting in a pew, though. She's been the Sunday school secretary at Hope Baptist for more than 60 years.

If it wasn't Sunday school secretary, Malone would probably fill some other role at the church. She believes in serving God however she can.

"I just feel like being a Christian, I'm supposed to do that," she said.

Such service was even evident during her childhood. When the role of Hope Baptist pastor was filled by a traveling circuit preacher, Malone and childhood friend Ruth Johns, who's still her friend today, would perform tasks prior to the preacher's arrival. They picked wildflowers along the side of the road to put in the vase on the altar. They cleaned the shades of the oil lamps that adorned the church walls and swept the floors.

Malone said during the World War II years, the church had a pastor who traveled from Palatka. He and his family stayed at her home.

As an adult, Malone would host lunches at her home for pastors and evangelists who came for revivals and other special church events.

Malone officially joined Hope Baptist when she was 11. Every year, during the church's homecoming celebration, she's recognized as its oldest member. The oldest member used to be her mother. After her mother passed away, the oldest living member was Malone's sister Belle Lovell until her passing.

Her birthday party was attended by current and former Hope Baptist members. Malone

said she saw some people she hadn't seen in 20 years.

If her long association with Hope Baptist tells you anything, it is that Malone is faithful, which McRae said perfectly sums up her mother, whether you're talking about church, family or any of the jobs she worked in the past.

"It didn't matter if she was dead or alive, she was going to be at work," McRae said, adding, "I've always said my word for my mom is 'faithful.' She's always been faithful to whatever the event was."

CLASSIFIEDS

Yard Sale

Now Hiring

Don't Miss the DEADLINE!

FOR RENT

TUESDAY by 12 pm

CALL 904-964-6305 OR EMAIL CLASSADS@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of dis-

crimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323.

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

LAKE BUTLER: Older woman looking for roommate in 2-story home. No pets, no smoking, must be clean. \$500/mo. plus \$100/deposit. 904-966-1896.

53 A Yard Sales

HUGE YARD SALE; Friday & Saturday 8am-2pm. At hospital turn on Bessent Road, go East about a mile, turn left onto NE 21st Ave. Follow signs. School supplies, kitchenware, collectibles, furniture & lots more.

65 Help Wanted

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
The New River Solid Waste Association is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Equipment Operator. Responsibilities will include operation of a variety of heavy equipment in addition to screening wastes for removal of unauthorized materials. Experience in the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment and/or landfill operation experience is desired. Employee will be required to complete a Landfill Operator and an Inmate Supervision course within

6 months of employment. Valid Florida Driver License and high school graduation or GED needed. Salary range will vary based on experience. Applications can be picked up at the Administration Office at New River Regional Landfill located at 24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford FL 32083 or requested via email to lgreene@nrswa.org. Deadline for submitting applications will be Friday, August 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. For further information, call 386-431-1000. New River Solid Waste is a drug-free workplace; drug testing will be required. NRSWA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Bradford County **Telegraph** Lake Region **Monitor** UNION COUNTY **TIMES**

Classifieds

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Business Section

Helping Small Businesses' Dreams Become A Reality

Business Section Spotlight On GROCERY & FOOD SHOPPING TIPS + MONEY SAVING DEALS

FIVE HELPFUL MONEY-SAVING FOOD TIPS FOR SHOPPERS

Food prices recently rose 1% while food at home jumped 1.4%, the fastest monthly gains since April 2020, according to the latest Consumer Price Index figures. And food price inflation likely will only intensify in the months ahead.

In 2022, "all food prices are now predicted to increase between 4.5% and 5.5%," according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Price Outlook.

Food-at-home prices are expected to rise between 3% and 4%, and food-away-from-home are predicted to increase between 5.5% and 6.5%, the USDA said in its March report.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is putting upward pressure on food prices, even as the Federal Reserve attempts to combat inflation by raising interest rates, the report said. "The situations will be closely monitored to assess the net impacts of these concurrent events on food prices as they unfold."

Russia and Ukraine are two of the top world producers and exporters of grain and grain products. More than a quarter of the world's wheat exports come from Russia and Ukraine. In fact, Russia is the world's largest exporter of wheat, accounting for more than 18 percent of international exports

The forecast for nearly all food categories, with the exception of fresh vegetables, was revised upward.

However, it's not just staples such as fruit, milk, eggs and meat that are getting more expensive; inflation has led many food and beverage companies to raise prices on your favorite packaged goods, as well (or make the package smaller, also known as "shrinkflation").

Tyson Foods, Coca-Cola and PepsiCo announced price increases, citing supply chain and labor problems. Even Oreo cookies, Ritz crackers and Sour Patch Kids candies cost more — thanks to a 7% price hike at the beginning of the year.

To avoid getting gouged on groceries, here are a few pro tips to either cut costs or get more cash back:

1. Use a cash-back app

Ibotta and Checkout 51 are two of the most popular apps for earning cash back at the store, according to Julie Ramhold, a consumer analyst at DealNews.com. The average Ibotta user earns between \$10 and \$20 a month, but more active users can make as much as \$100 to \$300 a month, a spokesperson told CNBC.

You can also earn cash back for online grocery orders with CouponCabin.com (there's a free app, as well as the browser extension), which is offering up to \$6 back at Instacart, 2% back at Vons, 1% back at Kroger and 5% back at Seamless, advises consumer savings expert Andrea Woroch.

More from Invest in You:

Inflation is costing U.S. households nearly \$300 more a month. If you've already done your shopping, snap pictures of your grocery receipts using an app such as Fetch Rewards to earn points that are good toward free gift cards at stores such as Target or Walmart and can offset future grocery purchases, Woroch suggested.

2. Plan your meals

This tried-and-true technique helps edit down your shopping list to weekly essentials and save a lot of money along the way.

When you plan your meals in advance, you're more likely to just buy the things you need, said savings expert Lisa Thompson at Coupons.com. If planning's not your thing, at least go shopping with a rough idea of what you'll be cooking in the week ahead to help stay on track and avoid impulse purchases, she added.

Give your budget an extra boost by planning around whatever is the weekly special, Ramhold at DealNews.com advised. "Doing so will help you save money and may even help to broaden your recipe repertoire and get you out of a meal rut."

3. Buy store brands

Generic brands are usually much cheaper than their "premium" counterparts and just as good, according to Ramhold. "If you don't have a preference, it'll be an easy switch, but if you do, consider trying a few generics at a time to see if there are any you won't mind switching to."

Be open to trying new products, even if it means a break from your favorite laundry detergent or coffee creamer, Thompson added.

"Maybe you'll discover some new products you love that cost less in the process."

4. Shop strategically

When it comes to the rest of the items on your list, you can save more by buying in bulk or choosing, for example, some frozen vegetables over fresh or nonorganic where you can. Joining a wholesale club such as Costco or BJ's will often get you the best price per unit on those items you can stockpile.

Then, keep your pantry organized, with food closer to expiration in front so you know to cook or consume them before they go bad, said Woroch.

You can even use a site such as Cooklist.com to find new recipes using ingredients you already have at home, she said.

5. Pay with the right card

Stick to paying with the credit card that gives you the most back on groceries, or invest in a new grocery rewards card, Woroch suggested.

While a generic cash-back card such as the Citi Double Cash Card can earn you 2%, there are specific grocery rewards cards that can earn you up to 6% back at supermarkets nationwide, such as the Blue Cash Preferred Card from American Express.

(CNBC's Select has a full roundup of the best cards for food shopping along with the APRs and annual fees.)

*Adapted from a CNBC.com article
<https://cnb.cx/3PFCC8w>*

Some of the best grocery deals offered in the tri-county area

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NOTE: a brand loyalty card may be required to obtain the sale price or special offers such as BOGO; these are typically free at the store or online.

Winn-Dixie

Kelloggs Cereals - Buy One, Get One Free

Entenmann's Snack Cakes - Buy One, Get One Free

Chuck Roast - \$4.99 LB



Spires Grocery Lake Butler

Ground Chuck - \$4.39 lb

Welch's Freezer Pops - 2 for \$8.00

California Strawberries - \$2.99 for 1lb packages

Hitchcocks Grocery

Ziba 6 Pack Paper Towels - 2 for \$12.00

10 cans of Pasta Sauce for \$10.00

80% Lean Ground Chuck - \$3.98 per pound

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Business Section Spotlight On SAVING MONEY ON GROCERIES & PRODUCE: SHOP AT LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

Great reasons to support local farmers & markets

From savoring produce at the peak of freshness to meeting the people who grow your food, there are countless reasons to support local farmers, farmer stands and farmers markets. Here are just a few!

1. Taste Real Flavors

The fruits and vegetables you buy at the farmers markets and stands are the freshest and tastiest available. Fruits are allowed to ripen fully in the field and are brought directly to you—no long-distance shipping, no gassing to simulate the ripening process, no sitting for weeks in storage. This food is as real as it gets—fresh from the farm.

2. Enjoy the Season

The food you buy at the farmers markets and stands is seasonal. It is fresh and delicious and reflects the truest flavors. Shopping and cooking from the farmers market helps you to reconnect with the cycles of nature in our region. As you look forward to asparagus in spring, savor sweet corn in summer, or bake pumpkins in autumn, you reconnect with the earth, the weather, and the turning of the year.

3. Support Family Farmers

Family farmers need your support, now that large agribusiness dominates food production in the U.S. Small family farms have a hard time competing in the food marketplace. Buying directly from farmers at their stands and local farmers markets gives them a better return for their produce and gives them a fighting chance in today's globalized economy.

4. Protect the Environment

Food in the U.S. travels an average of 1,500 miles to get to your plate. All this shipping uses large amounts of natural resources (especially fossil fuels), contributes to pollution, and creates trash with extra packaging. Conventional agriculture also uses many more resources than sustainable agriculture and pollutes water, land, and air with toxic agricultural by-products. Food at the farmers market or stand is transported shorter distances and is generally grown using methods that minimize the impact on the earth.

5. Nourish Yourself

Much food found in grocery stores is highly processed and grown using pesticides, hor-

mones, antibiotics, and genetic modification. Some of it has been irradiated, waxed, or gassed in transit. These practices may have negative effects on human health. In contrast, most food found at the farmers market or stand is minimally processed, and many of our farmers go to great lengths to grow the most nutritious produce possible by using sustainable techniques, picking produce right before the market, and growing heirloom varieties.

6. Discover the Spice of Life: Variety

At local farmers markets and stands you find an amazing array of produce that you don't see in your average supermarket: red carrots, a rainbow of heirloom tomatoes, purple cauliflower, stinging nettles, green garlic, watermelon radishes, quail eggs, maitake mushrooms, and much, much more. It is a wonderful opportunity to savor the biodiversity of our planet.

7. Promote Humane Treatment of Animals

At local farmers markets and stands, you can usually find meats, cheeses, and eggs from animals that have been raised without hormones or antibiotics, who have grazed on green grass and eaten natural diets, and who have been spared the cramped and unnatural living conditions of feedlots and cages that are typical of industrial animal agriculture.

8. Know Where Your Food Comes From

A regular trip to a local farmers market or stand is one of the best ways to connect with where your food comes from. Meeting and talking to farmers and food artisans is a great opportunity to learn more about how and where food is produced.

9. Learn Cooking Tips, Recipes, and Meal Ideas

Cashiers or produce stockers can give you tips on how to cook the ingredients you buy, but farmers, ranchers, and artisans at local farmers markets and stands are often passionate cooks with plenty of free advice about how to cook the foods they are selling.

10. Connect with Your Community

Wouldn't you rather stroll amidst outdoor stalls of fresh produce on a sunny day than roll your cart around a grocery store with artificial lights and piped in music? Coming to the local

farmers market or stand makes shopping a pleasure rather than a chore. Local farmers markets are a type of community hub—a place to meet up with your friends, bring your children, or just enjoy the variety of folks found in our local community.

11. SNAP / EBT: get \$2 of produce for each \$1 spent

Want to spend \$10 on your SNAP/EBT card? You get an extra \$10 for free fresh, Florida produce! No advance sign up necessary.

Fresh Access Bucks (FAB) is a USDA-funded nutrition incentive program in Florida that encourages SNAP recipients to redeem their benefits at participating farmers' markets, produce stands, CSAs, and mobile markets to purchase healthy produce directly from Florida farmers.

FAB matches or discounts what a SNAP cardholder spends at participating markets with free Fresh Access Bucks every day to spend on Florida-grown fruits & vegetables. Other than qualifying and receiving SNAP benefits, there is no need to sign up or do anything in advance.

Fresh Access Bucks increases the purchasing power of SNAP recipients to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at farmer's markets, produce stands, community supported agriculture programs (CSA), mobile markets, and community grocery outlets. FAB doubles your purchase!

Adapted from original sources at: www.cuesa.org and www.feedingflorida.org/food-access/fresh-access-bucks

WHAT CAN YOU BUY WITH FRESH ACCESS BUCKS?

FRESH FLORIDA GROWN



Produce



Vegetable Starts



Seeds

*HONEY OR PREPARED FOOD OR DRINK PRODUCTS NOT ELIGIBLE



WHAT CAN YOU BUY WITH SNAP/EBT?



Bread and Baked Goods



Jam



Dairy



Seeds



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Nuts



Vegetable Starts



Produce



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KNOX

Continued from page 15

opponent by a large margin, but what happens when a match isn't so easy and things aren't going

your way?

"It's whenever a team really challenges you that you see who you are as a team," Knox said. "I think facing adversity and being mentally tough are the keys."

Win or lose, Knox wants her

players to represent their school in a positive light. It's something she plans to talk about a lot with her team.

"We're going to be respectful of our school, other coaches, the other teams, the refs —

everybody. We're going to represent Union County in a way that whenever we encounter other teams or leave a place, they have good things to say about us," Knox said.

Knox said she has enjoyed the conditioning sessions players have been participating in this summer because she has been able to get an idea of what her team's good at and what areas players need to improve in.

One area Knox wants to focus on is footwork.

"Volleyball's a sport that you have to be able to have a lot of bursts of energy," she said. "It's not like basketball, where you



run a lot all at one time. You've just got to be able to be quick when you need to be.

"We're working a lot on footwork and making sure we're able to move and stay on our toes."

Many things besides number of wins go into determining whether a program is successful or not. When putting aside the record, Knox said what'll equate to success this year for UCHS is the team and individual players being better at the end of the season than they were at its start.

"I just always want to see them improving, whatever that looks like," Knox said. "It's different for everybody. It'll be different for an individual versus us as a whole team. I just want to see constant improvement, where we don't kind of plateau in our development."

Another measure of success is having a team full of players who are excited about being a part of the program.

"That's a big part of it," Knox said. "If they don't buy in, I can give lectures and speeches all day, and it doesn't matter."

Knox's travel-ball experience makes her no stranger to coaching, but she'll be excited to take the court for the first time as the UCHS head coach.

"I haven't coached at the high-school level before," she said. "It's just been travel, which is different. It's a different feeling."

"I'm excited to do this. I think this is going to be a lot of fun."

Knox's assistant coach will be Jaelyn Jackson, who previously coached at Bradford High School. The junior varsity coach will be Tristyn Southerland, a 2015 UCHS graduate.



ABOVE RIGHT: Jordan Hendricks prepares to set the ball. RIGHT: Jurney Crim sets up for a pass. Emily Wilson is pictured in the background. The Tigreres are coming off a district championship in 2021.



Kamryn Southerland performs a jump serve.

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