

Bradford County Telegraph

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144th year, 51st Issue — \$1

Organizer of Lake Butler pop-up party arrested

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — The Union County Sheriff's office made good on a promise to apprehend the promoter of a June 3 pop-up party which city officials said shut down every corner of Lake Butler.

The event resulted in eight arrests and a shooting that sent a Union County man to the hospital.

Diamond Wanae Golden, 23, was arrested by Union deputies on Aug. 13 for inciting or encouraging a riot, marking the ninth arrest associated with the party.



Golden

The sheriff's office said in a social media post that it obtained a search warrant for the defendant's Facebook account, which confirmed her role in promoting the event.

"Golden immediately during the 'Pop-Up' party started deleting all evidence of her role," the agency said. "Golden knew that a crowd this size participating in the activities would overwhelm the resources of our agency. Golden has been involved in parties like this before and knows the problems that can occur."

The agency added that the event caused total disruption throughout

Lake Butler, with all major roads blocked in both directions, people hanging out of cars and yelling obscenities, playing loud music, and actively resisting and refusing commands from law enforcement to stop their illegal behavior.

Within days of the party, Union County Chief Deputy Lyn Williams said investigators quickly identified the party's organizer and vowed to bring the Gainesville resident to justice.

"There may not be an arrest today or tomorrow," he said, "but we will get her."

Rhoden wins event at Southern Regional 4-H horse show

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

First-time experience. First-place award.

Bradford County 4-H member Ryleigh Rhoden had qualified for the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships in Perry, Georgia, twice before, but didn't get the chance to actually make the trip and compete. This year, she qualified again and did compete, winning the Breakaway Roping class and placing seventh in Boxing (Cow Work).

"I think I did pretty well for having my baby horse. He just turned 4," Rhoden said. "I think he did well. We placed in only two of the five classes we did, but considering there were like 60, 70 people in our classes, I was pretty proud of him."

Rhoden, a senior at Union County High School, said she felt she was "lucky" in that the Breakaway Roping class consisted of only 10 participants. The event isn't part of the area and state events leading up to regionals, so not many people do it, she said.

Still, the fact that she and her horse, Snuff, came out on top was a surprise.



Ryleigh Rhoden is pictured at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships with the blue ribbon she earned in Breakaway Roping. This was Rhoden's first year competing at regionals, though she had qualified twice before. Photo provided courtesy of Kara Rhoden.

"It was crazy that we got first because my horse had never been in a box before, which is the chute you back your horse into beside the cow," Rhoden said.

You could also say it's crazy that Rhoden won after roping the cow in 18 seconds, which she said isn't good when you compare it to the fact that some people do it in as little as 2 seconds. After her performance, she said her thought was, "Hopefully, I'll place in the top three."

"Then, I heard I got first," Rhoden said. "I was like, 'Wait.' I couldn't believe it. I was super happy."

Rhoden's younger sister, Saylor, who is in the junior level of 4-H, also participated, but she didn't place. Rhoden in the Western Pleasure classes (in which riders and horses perform various gaits) her sister took part in are very competitive at the regional level.

"It was more of a learning experience for her," Rhoden said, adding, "It definitely opened her eyes to see how much more she needs to be doing with her horse."

See RHODEN, page 12

Bradford grad joins DeSantis presidential campaign

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE—A 1988 Bradford High School graduate is now on the staff of Gov. Ron DeSantis's campaign for president.

Stephanie Kopelousos had served as the governor's director of legislative and intergovernmental affairs since 2018. In June, Kopelousos moved from the governor's office to DeSantis's campaign for president as a senior advisor. She previously served as Clay County Manager and as Florida's transportation secretary under Charlie Crist.

Kopelousos's grandfather founded the Garden Restaurant in Starke, and her father, Gus, operated the eatery until selling it.

After graduating from Bradford High, Kopelousos earned a political science degree from the University of Alabama in 1993 and headed to Washington, hoping to land a job in government. Instead, she wound up as a hostess for a D.C.-area restaurant, falling back on her childhood job experience, waiting tables at the family business.

Congressional aid and FDOT

According to one media account, Kopelousos got her big break when a family friend in Jacksonville, who happened to shine the shoes of Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, mentioned Kopelousos to the lawmaker. Fowler gave Kopelousos an internship; from there, the Bradford alumna's career took off. Within a month, Fowler promoted her to staff assistant and to senior legislative aid five years later.

Kopelousos joined Florida's Department of Transportation in 2001, serving as the primary federal liaison for the agency in Washington. Her policy portfolio included transportation, emergency management, disaster relief, and housing. She was instrumental in coordinating state efforts during the passage of the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and throughout two back-to-back hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005. In December 2005, she was appointed

the agency's chief of staff and served as interim secretary from January 2007 until she was appointed secretary in April 2007.

Clay County Manager

During her seven years as Clay County manager, the former Kingsley Lake resident earned a reputation as a hard worker and skilled lobbyist.

"She works hard," said Clay County Commission Chairman Mike Cella when her appointment to the governor's staff was announced, "24-7 and the weekends. It will be hard to replace that combination of knowledge and work ethic."

Cella also said Kopelousos played a major role in bringing the First Coast Expressway to Clay County. The 46-mile toll road connecting Interstate 10 in Duval County to I-95 in St. Johns County is one-third complete, with motorists now able to use it from I-10 to State Road 21. The section between S.R. 21 and the St. Johns River is currently under construction and the river crossing and final leg to I-95 has been funded for construction

in 2024.

"If you had to pick a person most responsible for (the expressway), other than the guys who voted for it, that person would be Stephanie," said Cella. "She has been great working with our legislative delegation. Obviously, the governor thinks the same thing."

Ethics complaint

This month, Kopelousos was reunited with her former boss when the DeSantis campaign announced that James Uthmeier, the governor's chief of staff, would replace Generra Peck as campaign manager.

In June, the Florida Democratic Party filed ethics complaints against Kopelousos, Uthmeier and Director of Policy and Budget Chris Spencer, claiming that during the 2023 legislative session, the three used their positions to collect endorsements and raise money from Florida lawmakers for the governor's presidential campaign.

See CAMPAIGN, page 6

KH council steps closer to more control at airport

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The city council took another step in taking direct control of the municipally owned airport by instructing its attorney to draft an ordinance that would give the council hiring and firing authority over the airport manager.

Attorney Rich Komando presented the proposed changes to the council during its August meeting. The modifications also make the airport

manager accountable to the city manager rather than the airport board.

Other changes would move approval for contracted services from the airport board to the city council and make the airport board an advisory body.

Councilman Steve Hart told his colleagues that the proposed changes might violate the city's charter, which states that the airport authority is responsible for the facility's day-to-day operations.

"If we select the manager," he said, "which is what this suggests

we should do or could do, I would be concerned that that would violate our charter ordinance."

Komando disagreed with Hart, saying that the day-to-day operations would rest with the airport manager, not the city manager or council.

In previous discussions about managing the 2,476-acre facility, which straddles Clay and Bradford Counties, Hart said that if the city council took more control over the airport, it could expose Keystone Heights taxpayers to liability if someone sued the facility.

Komando said if the council wanted him to move forward with the proposed changes, he would incorporate them into an ordinance which would have to be approved by the council in two readings.

Mayor Nina Rodenroth and Council members Tony Brown and Chris Thompson voted for Komando to proceed. Hart voted against the measure, and Councilman Bobby Brown was absent.

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WORTH NOTING

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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

Food distribution announced

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

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

Free nutrition class

A free nutrition class will be offered to the community Thursday, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Church of God by Faith Community Center, 721 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. Concerned Citizens of Bradford County and the Bradford Community Health and Wellness Hub are sponsoring the class.

Missionary at Bradford Baptist

Bradford Baptist Church (located on S.R. 100, 1.3 miles east of U.S. 301) welcomes Filipino missionary Hans Sangalang on Sunday, Aug. 20. Sangalang will speak during the 6 p.m. service.

For more information, please call Pastor Rick Jackson at 904-964-3708.

American Girl group in Keystone

Join the inaugural meeting of American Heritage Girls, a Christ-centered, character development all-girls' group for ages 5-17. They will meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Friendship Bible Church in Keystone Heights. The first meeting is scheduled for Aug. 24. For more details, please call 904-412-3828.

Lake Butler VFW hosts bingo

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



Increasing number of youth using mental health services

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Despite increases in the services offered, county commissioners found no room in their next budget for increases to agencies like Meridian Behavioral Healthcare.

Don Savoie, president and CEO of Meridian, offered the annual recap of what the health care provider does for Bradford County, saying they are proud of their 51 years of service to the community.

Focusing on some details unique to Bradford, Savoie said Meridian provided more than 4,000 telehealth services to 846 county residents. An exciting part of the telehealth services is that Meridian can provide tablets to individuals with transportation and other challenges. Through a federal grant, they can provide tablets that can connect to the internet via cellular service for those without a home-based internet connection.

"Far too often I run into folks that come in for a visit in the office, and although it's right here in town, they had to have a family member or neighbor, bring them in. So, telehealth really has made a difference," he said.

The number of children and teens in need of mental health services continues to grow. Savoie said 14% of its services

are for children 6 to 11 years old, and another 20% are for teens 12 to 17 years old.

"We see that as having a lot to do with post pandemic ... anxiety and depression that otherwise wasn't addressed," he said, adding Meridian has a great working relationship with the Bradford School District. "Especially with kids, you want to catch them before they fall too far, and if we can engage and deescalate and work with the families, it really does make a difference."

As for the outcome of its services, Savoie said 75% of adults and 74% of children report improved symptoms. This is much higher than the 40% to 60% reported for other chronic illnesses.

"We track the data to make sure that we're providing effective but efficient care, and we're also modernizing the way we function, especially with family and children's services," he said.

Through its mobile response teams and their partnership with local first responders, Meridian can respond to someone in crisis within 60 minutes. Responding locally rather than spares patients the trauma of being taken to crisis stabilization under the Baker or Marchman acts.

"If we can manage folks in the community, we (make) every effort we can to do that," Savoie

said.

The number of adults requiring acute care under the Baker Act was down slightly, but the number of kids was up to 47 through April of this year. The numbers for outpatient counseling for adults was down to 650, but for kids it was up to 425. Additionally, 138 children and 376 adults receive psychiatric care.

Something not offered in Bradford but available in Alachua, Columbia and Putnam counties, is substance abuse services. Savoie said. Bradford has seen an increase in addiction, with more than 120 residents served. A growing number of these patients are 35 to 55 years old.

Also on the rise, including among teenagers, both state and nationwide, are suicide rates. Savoie said Meridian is responding by launching a Text for Help initiative in the coming months. Adolescents in particular can benefit being able text 24/7 and receive a guaranteed response from a licensed counselor. Staff will also follow up on these contacts.

Meridian no longer requires appointments for patients. Savoie said Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., someone can walk into an outpatient office, and they will be seen. The problem with waiting for appointments is that as many 50% don't show up for their first appointment.

"They're all just innovations to really try and get to folks before

23-24 Budget Outside Organizations Funding			
Organization	22-23 Budget	Amount Requested	GL Line
Acorn Clinic	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	001-01-511-82300-00
ARC	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	001-01-511-82100-00
Bradford Fair Association	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,750.00	001-90-559-82017-00
Bradford Soil and Water Conservation	\$ 2,870.00	\$ 5,000.00	001-90-559-81005-00
Communities in School	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 5,000.00	001-01-511-82400-00
Concerned Citizens of Bradford County	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	001-01-511-82200-00
Episcopal Children's Services	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,750.00	001-01-511-82325-00
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare	\$ 83,018.00	\$ 92,022.00	001-01-511-82000-00
North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$ 9,375.00	\$ 9,375.00	001-90-559-82010-00
Suwannee River Economic Council	\$ 6,463.00	\$ 6,463.00	001-90-559-82005-00
The Original Florida Tourism Task Force	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	001-01-511-82000-00
Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	001-21-572-82000-04
Total	\$ 175,976.00	\$ 195,860.00	

County commissioners chose not to increase funding for these outside organizations next year.

they fall too far, save a life. If texts can help save one life, it was worth it," he said.

Alachua County, Gainesville and their law enforcement agencies are partnering with Meridian to fund a 6,000-square-foot central receiving facility for Baker Act patients, a reduction from its four separate facilities. Savoie said there will be a shorter turnaround time for first responders to drop off patients and return to work where they are needed.

Meridian will receive \$2.1 million from the state to operate central receiving but will also be looking to the counties it serves for assistance.

Most patients from Bradford County — 86% — are below the federal poverty line. Almost all qualify for some level of subsidized care. Only 9% are covered by health insurance.

Savoie said 25% of the funding Meridian needs is provided from local sources, including county governments. Bradford has been

reducing its contribution, with the most recent being \$83,000. He asked for a 10.85% increase to \$92,000 to begin building back what has been lost.

The county commission was not able to commit to an increase for Meridian next year or the few outside organizations that had requested more money. Next year, each organization will receive the same amount budgeted for this year.

Town halls kick off strategic planning

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

BROOKER — The Town Council had a special visitor to the monthly meeting. Commissioner Carolyn Spooner was there to encourage Brooker to take part

in the strategic planning sessions she is initiating throughout the county.

She will use a "SWOT" analysis to guide the participants in examining strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in achieving measurable goals and objectives. A town hall is scheduled in Lawtey for Aug. 21 with hopes of bringing Hampton and Starke on board as well.

The Brooker council agreed to formally advertise a town hall meeting so all council members can attend as a group with the public invited to participate. The Brooker town hall will be held Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the Brooker Community Center, 17435 Tetstone Ave., at 6 p.m. For more information call 352-485-1022.

Interim Clerk Charlene Thomas pointed out that the inside of the community center has been painted and any discolored ceiling tiles replaced. She said the building is being rented on a regular basis. Thomas will remain as interim clerk until October so that the ARPA-funded projects can be completed. She has received several qualified applicants for the position and feels sure they will find a good fit for the new clerk within the batch. She suggested the salary be increased to \$1,000 per month for the part-time position from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. three days per week.

See PLAN, page 5

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Friday:	Sunday:
Blue Beetle - 7:00 (Downstairs)	Blue Beetle - 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs)
Meg 2: The Trench - 7:15 (Upstairs)	Meg 2: The Trench - 4:15 & 7:15 (Upstairs)

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Student funding not what it seems

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — School Finance Director Brian Esposito said the increase in student funding is not what it appears, and the district is facing additional funding challenges.

According to Esposito, the large increase in the base student allocation has given false hope that there has been a significant increase in funding. He said most funds for categorical expenses were removed from the state funding formula, and those funds were rolled into the base student allocation. But that does not mean the district is free to spend those funds.

They are still restricted to pay for teacher salary increases as well as instructional materials, classroom supplies and a comprehensive reading plan, etc. Districts must, for example, continue raising base teacher pay to at least \$47,500 or the maximum amount achievable based on the annual increase. For Bradford, that amounts to nearly \$254,000 next year on top

of another \$814,000 allocated to maintain salary increases from prior years.

Other categorical expenses now being paid out of the base student allocation include the \$300 each full-time teacher receives for classroom supplies, more than \$258,000 for instructional materials and nearly \$266,000 for reading. Add to that the new charter school budget of more than \$957,000, and the total impact of these changes to the school district's next budget is \$2.6 million.

Esposito said the effect of the state removing income limits on school choice vouchers district is yet to be determined. It could mean more families opt for private schools. The reserve for these Family Empowerment Scholarships is more than \$3.2 million of the \$34.5 million general operating budget.

Changes to the Florida Retirement System, including expansions of the DROP program and employer-funded contributions are increasing rates. Property and casualty insurance, health insurance

and utility costs are also up significantly, Esposito said.

During its first public budget hearing, the school board approved a property tax rate of 5.4340 mills, which was less than this year's millage rate but 2.33% higher than the rolled back rate. Locally generated revenue contributes nearly \$8.48 million to the budget, while state revenue is \$36.6 million and federal revenue is \$13.6 million. That totals \$58.7 million plus more than \$10.3 million in fund balance.

The district's \$69.5 million in expenses includes \$19.8 million in instructional costs, \$15.4 million in construction costs, \$7 million in operational and maintenance costs, \$2.4 million in food services, \$2 million in school administration, \$1.8 million in pupil personnel services, \$1.17 million in instructional and curriculum development services, \$1 million in staff training, and more.

The final public budget hearing will take place at 5:01 p.m. on Sept. 11.



The property is between the River of Life Church and the Patriot Saloon on U.S. 301 north of Starke.

Christian school acquires new space

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Providence Christian Academy has acquired a 13,000-square-foot building that formally housed a substance abuse and mental health rehabilitation center for veterans.

Transition House Inc. is a St. Cloud-based non-profit that operates treatment facilities

in Central Florida, providing outpatient, partial hospitalization, and residential short- and long-term treatment care.

On July 31, Providence Christian Academy bought Transition House's rehabilitation center and the nearly six-acre parcel on which the center is located for \$850,000.

The property is between the

River of Life Church and the Patriot Saloon on U.S. 301 north of Starke.

The school currently operates at 743 South Walnut Street, south of Advanced Auto Parts, in a building owned by Craig Sally Property Management Inc.

That site is slated to become part of a Wawa convenience store.

DeSue, Miller, Miller to be honored at Aug. 24 Leave a Legacy event

The Bradford County Education Foundation's annual Leave a Legacy event will honor Margaret DeSue, Anne Miller and John Miller for the impact they've had on Bradford County students on Thursday, Aug. 24, at Madison Street Baptist Church at 6 p.m.

Tickets, which can be purchased at Capital City Bank or from any Bradford County Education Foundation board member, are \$30 and include dinner.

A dessert dash will be part



Anne Miller



John Miller



Margaret DeSue

of the event. People at each table will pool their funds, with the largest amount getting the first chance to choose from the available desserts. The second-largest bid gets the second choice, etc. Tables will

be announced in five-second increments, with a designated "dessert dasher" from each table dashing to select a dessert.

Leave a Legacy is a fundraiser for the Bradford County Education Foundation a

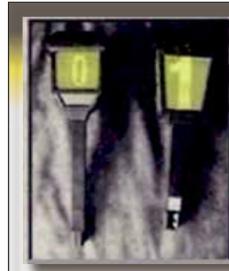
nonprofit organization that was established in 1990 by citizens to support the county's schools.

The foundation hosts the district spelling bee every year, providing T-shirts, gift bags, trophies and teacher sponsor

gifts, as well as paying for all of the schools' registration fees and the cost for the winner and his or her parents to attend the state competition. BCEF also hosts the Welcome Back Breakfast for school staff each August, which includes gift bags with supplies for teachers and gift cards for staff, and the Teacher of the Year/School-Related Employee of the Year Appreciation Banquet, which

includes dinner, cash gifts and all of the recipients' awards.

To learn about other BCEF projects or how to become involved, visit bceducationfoundation.org or the organization's Facebook page (Bradford County Education Foundation) and Instagram account ([bcefoundation](https://www.instagram.com/bcefoundation/)).



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Lawtey City Council discusses voting, water project, cameras

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

LAWTEY – The Lawtey City Council meeting on Aug. 7 covered multiple topics, but the meeting began with County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner requesting a time and location for her strategic planning meetings.

These meetings are to discuss the county's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Spooner strongly encourages the community to attend. She wants to hear feedback from citizens on ways to improve Bradford County. The meeting was approved and scheduled for Monday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. in the Lawtey Community Center.

Bradford County Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang was also in attendance. Seyfang asked the council for permission to use the newly renovated Lawtey Community Center as the polling location for the county's future elections. Recent redistricting has allowed for these changes.

Seyfang proposed that the

two current polling locations be moved into a one newer and renovated space. The previous locations were First United Methodist Church and the Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church. These locations are older, and Seyfang asked the council to consider the renovated community center be used because the location offers better parking and facilities for poll workers and voters. Having a single polling location is also more cost efficient.

The council approved this proposal, and the new location will go into effect beginning with the first election of 2024, which is on March 19. This new location will be in use for the next 10 years, and voters will be notified by mail of the change.

Reddish and White presented the city audit. The audit manager stated that Lawtey stayed within their budget on the general fund. No surprises were found, and any negatives were due to awaiting grant funds. He also said they would like to see a positive in the city's operating income because

it would show they are putting money aside for future repairs.

Councilwoman Emily Hoffman asked to see a list of depreciated items. There were 15 adjustments from cash to accrual in the general fund, but that was due to grant money that was put in the general fund for use on specific projects. The auditor asked for the city to make these adjustments prior to the audit.

The council accepted the single engineering proposal for its water project. The only firm that offered a proposal was Midtown Associates. They have done work for the city over the last 18 years. The representative from the firm suggested that they were the only firm to offer a proposal because many of the larger firms in the state do not want to offer services to small towns. The city has several water problems, the largest being the water main.

The existing water plant in Lawtey is over 40 years old. It has undergone repairs as recent as five years ago. Hoffman expressed concerns over the age

of the current holding tank and doesn't want to "put a bandaid on a blowout".

Currently the project under consideration is analyzing the water plant and the distribution system. The new distribution system will be for the east side of Lawtey which is across the railroad and includes the prison. It will also allow for much needed improvements to the plumbing to fire hydrants. The firm presented the design and planning portion of the project. The firm requested to be the town's formal engineer. The cost should be funded by grants and not to the town. The FDEP approval deadline is fast approaching, and the council approved the design plan which is estimated to cost \$566,000. The actual construction of the project is estimated to cost \$4.5 million.

After all the presentations, the council opened the floor for public participation. Vyunda Strong voiced concern over the use of the recreation building by the public. She asked if there was a liability waiver for people

who rent the community center. Recently, someone was stung by wasps at the center, and she asked if this needed to be reported. City attorney Aaron Dukes said he would read and make any necessary revisions to the current rental agreement and liability waiver.

One other public participant was a Clay County man, James Otto. He came to voice his complaints over what he felt was the lack of signage for the school zone in Lawtey. He was given a ticket in January of this year that he planned to contest, but he wanted to address the council about the need for more speed warning signs by the school.

This brought up the recent traffic camera proposal at the July meeting. The program uses cameras to issue \$100 citations to anyone going more than 11 miles over the posted speed limit during school hours. Dukes said that after reading the contract, it is clear the city will not incur any cost unless the program is canceled within the first 12 months, but the wording on when

the one-year contract would begin is vague. The council members expressed some concerns they'd heard from the public and would like more time to get the public's input before a final vote is cast to approve this program.

The public is asked to attend upcoming meetings in Lawtey to address the school zone and budget items. These meetings will be Aug. 15 and 22 and Sept. 12 and 26 at 6 p.m. The next monthly council meeting is on Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. Contact city hall for more information.

Councilwoman Debra Norman said the recreation department will continue to collect school supplies until the end of September. Councilwoman Amy Blom proposed putting the old lawn equipment up for auction with a starting bid of \$1,500 and for the purchase of new weed eaters at a cost of \$1,127. The council approved her recommendations. The public auction will be advertised.

L.E.S. BEGINS NEW YEAR!



Lawtey Elementary School Principal Terri O'Quinn welcomes the some of the new kindergarten class to their first day of school.



It was a family affair when three generations were together on the first day of school John (left), son Baylor (center) and grandmother, School Board Member Gayle Nicula (right).



It's fun to see your friends after summer vacation! First day back is always a frenzy of chatter and anticipation.



First day of school excitement and jitters as mom Shiann Bradley hugs daughter Kynslee Wilson goodbye at the drop off.



Lawtey School fourth-graders Lillycate and Makenna enjoying the early morning downtime before the new school year kicks off.



First day of first grade for these friends. All smiles as they await their walk to their new classroom.

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There is one lawyer, who is able to save.
James 4:12



Bonnie Hoyer gives pre-K sister Emma a hug goodbye.

Charter school opens to excitement

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

BROOKER – Brooker Community School opened its doors to the student body of kindergarten through fifth graders. A giant welcome display on the front lawn provided a photo opportunity for documenting memories. Principal Felicia Moss and the teachers were on hand to greet the incoming students as they arrived for the first day of the school year.

The school's designated resource officer, Deputy Haddock, was there to make sure the atmosphere was calm and running smoothly. Across the street sat a sheriff's department truck, which had to set the lights flashing and siren blaring as he went after a school zone speeder. Despite the warning signs as you approach the school, it may take time for people to get used to the school being reopened after the Brooker Elementary was shut down. Deputy Haddock was the resource officer at that school, too.

Many of the volunteers who worked so hard to get the school prepared were there to share in the joy and make sure they were on hand if needed. One volunteer, Pastor Jerry Carris, was also there for his weekly music session. He plays guitar and leads the children in songs, especially those with a learning angle such as Schoolhouse Rock's "Conjunction Junction."

Breakfast was offered in the cafeteria as the students were gathered to start the day and get into the group with the proper teacher and class. Parents were able to sit with the kids through breakfast, which helped to alleviate the first-day jitters, especially with the kindergarten and first-graders unsure of what to expect.



Principal Felicia Moss welcomes fifth-grader Jaden Savage and his mom.

At the end of the day, the staff and teachers assisted with getting the students lined up and escorted to their waiting parents. When asked how it went and whether she was dreading or looking forward to the next day, kindergarten teacher Madeline Hersey said it was a wonderful day.

"Everyone was excited to be back in the classroom. I'm so looking forward to day two," she said.

The departure was a bit more chaotic than the arrival, which was more staggered with parents walking their children into the school. But the departure was a line of cars stretched down the block all waiting to grab their kids and go. If car number one's child was not out of the classroom yet, then all the other cars were stuck. Even when car number two had child belted in, there was no room in the school driveway to go around car number one.

To alleviate the problem, teachers and staff were busy approaching cars in the line to get names and then collecting that child and escorting them back to the car. Some creative parents from vehicles far down the block walked up and got their child. Eventually, everyone was properly placed.

The bus service has not begun yet, but that will surely reduce the number of waiting cars. The Brooker Town Council also voted to make a one-way street by the school that will keep traffic flowing more smoothly.

All in all, students and staff alike seemed to agree that this new charter school is off to a great start. There is still room for enrollment and students don't need to be Bradford County residents to attend. If you are interested in enrolling your child call 352-281-9115 or email brookercommunityschool@gmail.com.

PLAN Continued from page 2

Mayor Gene Melvin attended a conference in Gainesville that was attended by 22 mayors from around the state. He said the biggest concern he brought up was the need to get a fire rescue station, especially with the charter school now open in Brooker. He appealed to visiting Spooner, as he does when Commissioner Diane Andrews sits in, to impress upon the county commission how important this is for Brooker.

Melvin said it could take 18-20 minutes to get there from Sampson City. Council Member Joe Tolleson, whose bailiwick is

the fire department, said as far as he's concerned Brooker had the finest volunteer fire department in the county, maybe even the state. Melvin agreed and said the county's decision to close the Brooker station leaves them vulnerable. "The county said they can't fund a volunteer fire department."

Spooner responded that the county is stretched to get funding for fire departments with the millage rate already maxed out. The county is considering a means of income from possible property assessments, or a franchise fee added to electric bills as a means of funding.

"It will be important for both Brooker and the county to look at all possible sources of funding," she said.

The town has been investigating grant possibilities on its own.

Democratic Women meet Aug. 24

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area's regular monthly meeting will begin with a presentation by Danielle Hawk who ran for Congressional District 3 and currently leads statewide candidate recruitment. All Democrats are welcome.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. (speaker at 7 p.m.) at the Melrose Historic Homemakers Club, 25728 Park St. For further information, please call 352-235-4161 or email Info@dwc-la.org.

2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Starke
PWS # 2040211

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water sources are three groundwater wells that draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Our treatment process consists of aeration for hydrogen sulfide removal, fluoridation for dental health, and chlorination for disinfection purposes. We aim to provide the best quality of water to you, the customer, at the lowest possible cost.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **City Hall** at (904) 964-5027. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at 5:30pm, in the commission room of City Hall, 209 N Thompson St, Starke, FL 32091.

2022 Source Water Assessment

In 2022, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are two potential sources of contamination identified for this system, one with susceptibility levels ranging from low to moderate. The assessment results are available on the DEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>.

Water Quality Test Results

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

The City of Starke routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Data obtained before January 1, 2022 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations.

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

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

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	10/2022	N	0.012	0.011-0.012	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	10/2022	N	0.83	0.78-0.83	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Mercury (ppb)	10/2022	N	0.053	0.031-0.053	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Sodium (ppm)	10/2022	N	14	14	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

For Inorganic Contaminants, results in the "Level Detected" column are the highest detected level at any sampling point. "Range of Results" are the range of all individual samples collected within the sampling period.

Stage 1 Disinfectants

Disinfectant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Monthly 2022	N	1.11	0.78-1.40	4.0	4.0	Water additive used to control microbes

For Chlorine, results in the "Level Detected" column are the highest running annual average (RAA) that occurred in 2022, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. "Range of Results" are the range of all individual samples collected in 2022.

Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) (ppb)	09/2022	N	2.57	ND-2.57	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) (ppb)	09/2022	N	1.28	1.15-1.28	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection

For Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products, results in the "Level Detected" column are the highest detected level at any sampling point. "Range of Results" are the range of all individual samples collected within the sampling period.

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded Y/N	99 th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	08/2022	N	0.14	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	08/2022	N	1.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Lead in Drinking Water

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

Sources of Drinking Water

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

On March 11, 2020, the Department of Environmental Protection conducted a routine sanitary survey inspection and noted a significant deficiency with one of our ground storage tanks holding treated water. Specifically, the tank has three holes that are leaking water, and bio-growth has accumulated in those areas.

The City of Starke is currently requesting quotes to repair deficiencies and implement a long term tank maintenance program in our ground storage tanks and water tower. Starke Water department is waiting on approval from the City Council to make the necessary repairs. The plant operators are doing daily inspections of the tank to ensure our drinking water quality is safe for our customers.

Possible Contaminants

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

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

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

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

Future Expansion/Rate Adjustments

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements to your water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in rate structure adjustments. We thank you for understanding.

Vulnerable Population Statement

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

Closing Statement

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

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Lake Region

Pipe in the ground, pumping station delayed

Black Creek project update

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A St. Johns River Water Management District official told the district's governing board that the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project pumping station continues to be delayed. In contrast, other parts of the project continue to advance.

Bob Naleway, the district's bureau chief of district projects and construction, told the board that a replacement cutter head for drilling a 700-foot tunnel from the creek to the pipeline has not yet been delivered to the site.

Dale Jenkins, the district's division director for infrastructure and land resources, said the cutter head initially ordered by the contractor did not meet the subsurface conditions near the pumping station and could not effectively advance the tunnel.

"The contractor is addressing the situation, and a new tunneling



The original cutter head (pictured here) initially ordered by the contractor did not meet the subsurface conditions near the pumping station and could not effectively advance the tunnel. Photo: St. Johns River Water Management District.

machine and cutter head is being fabricated and should be delivered to the site the first week in August," he said during



Pipe along State Road 21 north of Keystone Heights as part of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.

the board's June 13 meeting.

Naleway said the replacement cutter head is now expected in early September.

"The contractor was able to shift some tasks to mitigate some of the scheduling impacts from that new machine,"

he said. Naleway also reported that installing high-density

polyethylene pipe under two creeks along State Road 21 using horizontal directional drilling technology has been completed.

The tunnel under one creek was about a thousand feet, and the second tunnel approximated 3,000 feet.

The bureau chief sought and obtained approval from the governing board for a \$16 million contract to install a water filtering system on Camp Blanding, which is the final stage

of the project.

In April the board approved a \$23 million purchase to obtain the filtering media for the treatment system.

Naleway said the treatment system, designed to remove the dark color from the creek's water before discharge into Alligator Creek and onto Lake Brooklyn, will consist of six treatment cells filled with the treatment media.

"Construction includes earthwork to build the six cells,"

he said, "a surge tank, piping to distribute the Black Creek water into the cells and spreading the treatment media in the cells, and the collection system after the water filters through the treatment media. The water will be discharged into Alligator Creek, where it replenishes the Upper Floridan Aquifer and overflows into Lake Brooklyn."

FDOT seeks to reduce fatalities

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A Florida Department of Transportation representative briefed the Keystone Heights Rotary Club about FDOT's goal to reduce traffic fatalities to zero. Jordan Green, director of transportation support for the agency's District 2 office, described FDOT's Target Zero program.

Green told the civic group that an average of eight people die on Florida roads daily, with 49 people receiving serious injuries.

He said that in District 2, which consists of 18 counties in northeast Florida, from Cedar Key to Madison County to Fernandina Beach down to St. Johns County, driver error contributes to the vast majority of traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

Green said the department has refined all its processes with safety in mind, from planning and design to construction and maintenance.

"The improved processes are based on state crash data and focus on lane departures, intersections, and bicycle and pedestrian safety," he said.

Green added that even if the state agency does all it can to reduce fatalities, drivers are the ones who ultimately impact



FDOT's Jordan Green tells the Keystone Heights Rotary Club about the department's Target Zero.

traffic deaths and injuries.

"It will take all of us," he said. "When you use the transportation system, make safe choices: buckle up, obey traffic laws and don't drive distracted or impaired. That will help us drive towards target zero."

Green said that lane departures account for one-third of traffic crashes but cause almost one-half of traffic fatalities.

The speaker said another alarming trend on Florida highways is a 27% increase in fatalities at intersections between 2015 and 2019.

He said the public assumes that traffic signals will decrease crashes at intersections, but that is not necessarily the case.

"Signals introduce their own challenges," he said. "You increase a lot of left turns, and left turning crashes are, I think, second only to head-on crashes and lane departure crashes (in causing death and serious injury)."

Green added that traffic signals also increase rear-end collisions.

"Somebody sees a green light," he said, "and they hope the car in front of them will go through it as it turns yellow, so they accelerate. Well, if that person decides to stop, you get a rear-end collision."

"So, we're looking at other things, like roundabouts and U-turns," he continued. "If you don't remember anything I tell you, remember this: a U-turn is safer than a left turn."

Green said pedestrian safety is another concern. In District 2, the department has focused on fatalities on Gainesville's University Boulevard with traffic calming devices.

Green said outreach and education is another critical component of Target Zero, adding that community groups like the Rotary Club can help the department by spreading the word about traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

"We just need to have those conversations," he said, "and they need to be constant and ongoing."

Effort renewed to name highway after medical director

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A Clay County commissioner is continuing her efforts to name State Road 230 between Starke and Kingsley Lake in honor of the late Dr. Peter Gianas.

Until he died in 2021, Gianas served as the medical director for Alachua County Fire Rescue, Bradford County Fire Rescue, Clay County Fire Rescue, Union County Emergency Medical Services, Gilchrist County Fire Rescue, Starke Fire Rescue, Santa Fe College emergency medical services training programs and Florida Gateway College emergency medical



Gianas

service training programs.

State legislators approve memorials for state highways and require resolutions from local governments before approving the designations.

Betsy Condon started the effort last year and told her colleagues on the Clay County Board of County Commissioners during its Aug. 8, 2023 meeting that Bradford County officials have agreed to support the action and that State Rep. Chuck Brannan had agreed to sponsor the measure in the legislature next year.



James Uthmeier and Stephanie Kopelousos talk to a Lakeland group about the legislative process when the two were state employees on Gov. Ron DeSantis's staff. Photo: Lakeland Christian School Center for Law and Public Policy.

CAMPAIGN

Continued from page 1

"Any reasonable person could infer from the reporting that our governor was holding the state budget hostage in exchange for political endorsements and donations — actions that are both unethical and illegal," Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried said in a statement. "Public officials are employed to serve the people of Florida, not line

Ron's pockets."

DeSantis spokesman Jeremy Redfern labeled the complaints as politically motivated attacks.

"If the executive team wants to fundraise, knock on doors, or volunteer their free time, more power to them," he said. "They have First Amendment rights like every American."

DeSantis also defended his staffers when asked about the complaints.

"They've called friends, asked for support, donations, all this

other stuff," DeSantis said. "They have every right to do that. They don't use state resources to do it. Of course not. But you have every right as a private citizen to be engaged and to be involved."

Family and Friends Day at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries cordially invites you to help celebrate its annual Family and Friends Day on Sunday, Aug. 27, at 11 a.m. A Unity Celebration will begin immediately following morning worship from 12-2 p.m. with food, games, music, giveaways and more.

The church is located at 863 E. Brownlee St. in Starke. The public is invited.

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UNION COUNTY

First day at LBES goes smoothly

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

The first day of school for the 2023-24 school year at Lake Butler Elementary School began with usual expressions of trepidation, uneasiness and flat out excitement on the parts of both the children and their family members. By 7:30 a.m. last Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, about

250 people were in line to get their kids checked in and handed over to their new teachers to begin their first day.

The line moved slowly, but the temperature had not yet risen to extreme numbers so the heat proved little problem. Children moved on to their classrooms, clutching their backpacks full of supplies and parents walked to their vehicles to travel to

work or home. Parents, chatting with each other as they walked, exchanged comments such as, "I have been waiting for this day for years," to a more plaintive, "the house will be so empty." In contrast, the children said little as they walked to class, instead looking around with wide eyes at the learning environment some were exploring for the first time.



Mom Abigail Parrish carries cookies for the teacher while Paisley is excited to be starting first grade and Wayon looks forward to seeing old friends as he starts fourth grade.



Raven Edenfield (right) and baby Patricia came to school to give Brice Edenfield (grade 2), Christopher Edenfield (grade 3) and kindergartener Erianna Edenfield a big send-off on their first day of school.



Mom Kim Murdie brought her daughter, second-grader Olivia, to the first day of school at LBES.



Macie Wilson and Farrah Elixson tote a Yeti cooler so the bidders can get a better look.

4-H Auction raises funds to help run the program

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

The Union County 4-H Association held its annual fundraising auction this past Friday, Aug. 11, 2023 at the Pine Grove Barn off CR238 in Lake Butler, the use of which was donated for the event by Carissa Emery and Connie Wright, members of the Shadd family. The event began at 6 p.m. with a dinner catered by Brian Barton and paid for through the sale of meal tickets, also featuring chicken and rice donated by Union County Sheriff Brad Whitehead, followed by silent and live auctions and a prize drawing.



Volunteer auctioneer Jason Stalnaker encourages bidders to raise their bids.

As in the past, the items up for bid were donated by local businesses and community members. Several baked goods, produced by well-known Union County Bakers, were included in the live auction. Several interesting items were the doors and windows out of the past home of the Library Co-op, an historical building recently torn down to make room for the new 911 call center, donated by Union County. Jason Stalnaker volunteered his services as auctioneer as 4-H members walked around the tables to let the approx. 150 people see what they were bidding on. After the live auction of 50 items was complete, the winners of the silent auction were informed and the raffle drawing was held, with the winner taking home a Kamado Grill, donated by Lake Butler Farm Center.

When the receipts were all tallied, the silent auction raised \$1,613, the live auction \$8,765 and the raffle \$750, for a total of \$11,128. The money will be used to fund 4-H clubs and projects, camps and other activities in the Union County community.

Donors of goods and services for the auction were: Providence Woodworks, Mac Johns, Beth Douglas, Wilbur Andrews, Lake Butler Farm Bureau, Hillandale, Shannon Croft, Mayo Ag Services, Six Petals Flower Company, Hamilton Farms, Welch and Son, Brittney Ranard, Biellings Tire, North Florida Equipment, Hobo Tractor, Swift Creek Trucking, Love at first Bite by Kristin, Nancy Stalnaker, Thomas Hardware, Saltwater Assassin Fishing Charter of Cedar Key, Dustin and Meagan Daniel, Colan Coody, JHC Farms, Nannette



Vivian Hunt and her assistant Michael McCardel get ready to show bidders one of the many gift certificates available at the auction.

Stalnaker, Anisha Waters, Zeb Kreation, Crystal Rosier, Rural Howard, New River Cattle, M & S Fertilizer (Josh Smith), Kyle Bessent, Pine Tree Quarter Horses, Pritchett Trucking, Julie Denson, Union County, Union Power Equipment, Williams Gas, Crystal Elixson, North Florida Custom Meats, Badcock, Joe Hendricks, Amy Miller, Phillip McDonald Plumbing, the Horse Judging Club, Cloverbuds, Marla Williams, Lake Butler Farm Center, Kettle

WATERMELON, Wendy Coody, Squirreled Out Leatherworks, Kayla Alvarez, NAPA Auto Parts, Keli's Esthetics, Unbound Boutique, Ink and Thread, Oden Farms, Cotton Candy Craze, Bunny Buddies, Judy Harden, Nutrition Hideaway, Barbara Waddell, Lake Avenue Salon, Kayla Connell, Dukes Legal, Wyman and Polly Griffis and Gayle Williams.



Celia Elixson holding one of the historic windows save from the demolition of Archer House in Lake Butler.

Qualifying City of Raiford Mayor & Town Council 2023

Qualifying will be from Noon Monday, August 28, 2023, through Noon Friday, September 1, 2023, at the Supervisor of Elections office located at 175 W Main St, Lake Butler, Florida. All interested candidates must have been a registered voter in the City of Raiford for the past six months. A Mayor and five City Council Members will be elected.

Voter registration books close at 5:00 pm on Monday, September 11, 2023

The Raiford City Election will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at Raiford City Hall from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

For more information contact the Supervisor of Elections Office at 386-496-2236

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Isaiah Tylor Banks, 21, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 9 for a probation violation and tampering with an electronic monitoring device.

Wendel Lenard Brown, 33, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on August 11 for battery.

Wendy Darlene Crews, 43, of Starke was arrested on August 5 for failure to appear.

Ronald Gene Crum, 49, was arrested on August 5 for possession of drugs and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Travis Tyrone DeSue, 33, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 10 for hit and run.

Drayke Anderson Ellis, 26, of Starke was arrested on August 5 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Heather Nicole Arthur Free, 34, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on August 11 for assault.

Darwin Alejandro Gevara, 19, of Jacksonville was arrested by Lawtey police on August 11 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and attaching a tag not assigned.

Jesse James Green, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Starke Police on August 7 for an out-of-county warrant.

Samantha Jo Grover, 32, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 11 for withholding support.

James Arris Lee, 45, of Swainsboro Georgia was arrested on August 6 for disorderly intoxication, resisting an officer, simple assault, and battery.

Joshua Kevin Pelham, 33, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 8 for possession of obscene material and failure by a sexual offender to register a residence.

Austin Drew Register, 32, of Starke was arrested on August 9 for an out-of-county warrant.

Treyonce Malik Robinson, 21, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 7 for sexual assault and probation violations.

Chance Marquez Sewell, 25, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 8 for sexual assault.

Joshua Alan Smith, 35, of Starke was arrested on August 7 for simple assault.

Ramon Antwan Smith, 35, of Starke was arrested on August 10 for a probation violation.

Union

Anthony D'Andre Hendrieth, 28, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on August 9 for selling cocaine.

Diamond Wanae Golden, 22, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on August 13 for inciting or encouraging a riot.

Miguel Morejon, 56, was arrested by Union deputies on August 14 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Melissa Danielle Randall, 27, of Macclenny was arrested by Union deputies on August 9 for an out-of-county warrant.

Clay

Thomas Christopher Baker, 40, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on August 6 for retail petit theft.

Sarah Jane Marjorye Drawdy, 28, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on August 9 for possession of drug equipment. The defendant was also arrested on August 10 for grand theft auto.

Christopher Carl Fuller, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on August 7 for petit theft.

Jackson Richard Perint, 26, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on August 9 for possession of cocaine, possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Shaun Dauquez Raley, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on August 8 for possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon.

Brooker Community School Backpack Giveaway

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

BROOKER – School supplies and valuable information were available in abundance at the Brooker Community School's backpack giveaway. Principal Felecia Moss was on site, along with teachers and board members, to greet the incoming and prospective students who came to gather critical supplies to get their school year off to a successful start.

Volunteers were inside the cafeteria with the loaded backpacks while local organizations set up tables outside with information and additional goodies. Florida Health offered information on healthy lifestyle choices and safety precautions, along with a jump rope to encourage exercise. IFAS was there with an opportunity for students to get involved with 4-H clubs. With the school's emphasis on agriculture, the 4-H activities are a perfect fit.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI) is a free program that partners with parents of children ages two through five to help prepare parents and children for school success. Trained instructors



McKenna Ashley is excited to start first grade.

will make weekly home visits for 30 weeks, complete with instructional materials and activities. The program works with parents to give them the skills to be instructors in preparing their child for school in the years ahead. Activities are geared to age and ability of each child and family. Their table was filled with free books and ideas for preschoolers. The new charter school is now in session.

Pedestrian killed near Sampson City

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — The Florida Highway Patrol said a hit-and-run claimed the life of a pedestrian in the early morning hours of Tuesday, Aug. 15.

FHP said it did not know if the victim was standing, walking or lying on the roadway when

a westbound vehicle struck the pedestrian around 2:20 a.m. and fled from the scene.

After the initial collision, a second westbound vehicle driven by a 24-year-old Starke man also struck the victim.

The 24-year-old stopped and contacted emergency services.

The incident occurred on

County Road 227, west of Southwest 57th Avenue, close to the county road's intersection with U.S. 301, near Murray Ford.

FHP said anyone with information about the hit-and-run can call the agency at *347 or Crime Stoppers at 866-845-8477.

Prison after 3 thefts in 9 months

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — A Hampton woman was sentenced to two years in prison after her third conviction for theft in less than a year.

Jessica Lee Roberson, 35, pleaded to felony petit theft and two probation violations.

According to court papers, Roberson was first arrested on Sept. 6, 2022, after she stole two tumbler cups valued at \$13.99 from a Starke Dunkin' Donuts. Two months later, she was arrested for stealing fake nails valued at \$4.75 from the Hampton Dollar General.

Roberson later pleaded guilty to the two thefts and was sentenced to probation.

On June 23, a man living



Roberson

on Southeast 21st Avenue told deputies Roberson stole approximately \$645 out of his

bedroom after asking him if she could use his restroom.

The defendant's previous theft convictions include a February 2021 offense for shoplifting \$94.94 of merchandise from Bealls, a January 2021 theft at a State Road 100 Circle K of sandwiches, boiled peanuts, socks, candy and other items, a January 2019 charge of cashing a check that was stolen from a truck parked at a convenience store and a March 2017 charge of cashing a \$70 fraudulent check at a Hampton convenience store.

Roberson's other convictions include trespassing, introduction of contraband into a corrections facility, battery, possession of drugs, violation of a domestic violence injunction and domestic battery.



Linda Bennett from Communities in School and volunteers give out backpacks.



Getting materials from HIPPI (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters).



Kindergarten student Graceland Dorminey wears a crayon covered dress for the occasion.

Flea market benefits vets, schools

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 230 is sponsoring a huge flea market on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at American Legion Post 230, 20370 E. Hawthorne Road in Hawthorne. Sign up now for a 15-by-15 booth space for \$15. A pancake and sausage breakfast will be served as well as lunch. For more information, please call 352-481-4483.



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Talented senior class to lead Tornadoes in 2023

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School's group of senior players in 2022 embraced the expectations placed upon them and worked hard to meet those expectations in Jamie Rodgers' first year as head coach. The result was a 12-2 season and a trip to the state semifinals.

This season, the Tornadoes will be led by another large group of seniors who are ready to duplicate and, hopefully, build upon last year's success.

"Did we lose a lot? Yeah. We lost 20 seniors last year," Rodgers said. "A lot of those guys made a lot of big plays for us, but we're also returning a lot. It's a good spot to be in."

It's up to those seniors to set the example for the rest of team.

"We work at what we do," Rodgers said. "Every time we get a chance to be on the practice field, it's fast pace, and there's a lot of work getting done. It's the same thing in the weight room."

"That's just what it is. They understand the hard work it takes to win 12 games in a season and things like that, to make a deep run in the playoffs. That's their expectation."

The defense has got to have high expectations after a season in which the Tornadoes shut out nine opponents and allowed a total of 79 points in 14 games. Bradford graduated three of its secondary players, but Rodgers enough experience returns at linebacker and the defensive line.

"We're so senior-laden, so old and experienced in the front seven, that it's going to give those guys time in the secondary to figure it out here in the next couple of weeks," Rodgers said.

Up front, the Tornadoes return senior Torin Brazell, who was fourth in tackles last season with 68 and led the team in tackles for loss with 25. He lines up at the end, but Rodgers said he's more of defensive end-linebacker



Torin Brazell (left) and Cam Lewis get after it in a lineman drill. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

hybrid, noting that at 6-2, 250 pounds Brazell is so athletic that he also plays tight end on offense.

"He kind of anchors that defensive line," Rodgers said, adding, "He's a really good football player."

At the other end of the line will be a senior transfer in Duke Lewis — a player Rodgers said is another defensive end-linebacker hybrid.

"His motor is so high,"

Rodgers said. "He's going to be a great addition to our defense."

The interior of the line features returning seniors Trent Jenkins, who was seventh on the team in tackles with 42, and Jordan Daniels, who started primarily on the offensive line last year.

"Both of them are super strong," Rodgers said. "Trent's a 600-pound squatter. Jordan's a 350-pound bencher. They both strong, and they're hard to move."

The linebacking corps returns seniors Chason Clark, who led the team with 101 tackles last season, and Devon McBride, who was fifth in tackles with 59. McBride was second in tackles for loss with 15, while Clark was third with 14.

Rodgers said those two players, who played almost every down last year, bring more to the field than just their physical play. He described them as coaches on the field, who know what they and their teammates should do in response to anything the opponent does.

"That's so big — just their football IQ," Rodgers said.

Another player Rodgers praised for his football IQ is Jeremiah McKenzie, a junior who started most of the season at quarterback in 2022. He'll still play quarterback, but will see a lot of time on defense at linebacker as well as in the secondary.

Rodgers said juniors Brian Cliffin and Reese Wainwright will also be in the mix at linebacker.

"At linebacker, we're deeper than we were last year," Rodgers said. "We don't have as many old kids at the four linebacker positions, but it's going to be fun with this group."

Senior Chalil Cummings is the lone returning starter in the secondary. He was third in

2023 BHS Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 17	at Chiefland (KC)	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 25	Baker County	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	at Baldwin	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	at Middleburg	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	Eastside	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	Keystone (HC)	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Oakleaf	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	at True North Classical	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	Lecanto	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 27	Palatka	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	Suwannee (SN)	7:30 p.m.

KC Preseason Kickoff Classic
HC Homecoming
SN Senior Night

tackles last season with 71 and had three interceptions.

Cummings is also an offensive standout. He led the wide receivers in receptions (21), yards (296) and touchdowns (4).

"Chalil's athletic ability speaks for itself," Rodgers said. "He makes moving around look really easy. His ball skills are phenomenal. He's also one of our hardest workers in practice."

Other players who'll be in

the mix at secondary include McKenzie, juniors Mikey Oliver and Branden Williams and seniors Dae'Jon Shanks and Trejan Tyson.

Two of those players in the defensive backfield will play quarterback this year for an offense Rodgers think will be improved. The coach's intent last year was to play both McKenzie

See BHS, page 13

Bradford Youth Athletics in-person sign-ups to take place Aug. 19

Bradford Youth Athletics Inc. is preparing for fall baseball, softball and T-ball and will host an in-person sign-up event on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Edwards Road Sports Complex.

You may also sign up anytime online at starke-bradford-babe-ruth-league.sportngin.com.

Costs are \$120 for baseball and softball and \$110 for T-ball. A multi-kid discount is available (save \$10 for each additional child).

For more information, please send email to bradfordyouthathletics@gmail.com.



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 Lantz Lowry Head Weightlifting Coach & Assistant Football Coach 14 years	 Chuck Dickinson Head Football Coach 35 years coaching football 24 years as head coach		

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UCHS players committed to 'getting the job done'

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

This year's Union County High School football team doesn't have the depth or the overall returning starting experience that last year's 8-3 state-semifinal team, but what it has is a bunch of guys who've been in the system who are now ready for their time to move into starting roles.

"We don't necessarily have a bunch of superstars, so to speak," Head Coach Andrew Thomas said. "Last year's team — that senior class — we had a few who were really good. This team's more about coming and getting the job done every day. We're, I think, a closer group than we've been in the past."

Union is having to replace approximately nine starters on offense and a handful of starters

on defense, but Thomas said the Tigers have the "parts."

"It's going to be a learning experience, but it's also guys who've been in the program," Thomas said. "It's not like trying to teach stuff totally new. It's kind of like, 'Hey. This is your turn. You've got to go out there and make it happen.'"

One player who's already shown he can "make it happen" is senior linebacker Thomas Williams, who's the leading returning tackler. His 51 tackles placed him third behind three seniors.

If there's somebody who's a "star" on the team, Thomas said it's Williams, who's a top player when you look at his strength, speed and ability.

"We're definitely counting on him," Thomas said, adding, "If we want to try to finish in Tallahassee (at the state



Defensive lineman Jacob Jenkins (center) attempts to disrupt an offensive play. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

championships) and win, he's going to have to be there."

Williams is a hybrid-type player who was more of a defensive back last year, with three seniors manning the linebacker positions.

"Thomas Williams is having to

slide positions from what he was last year," Thomas said. "Really, when you look at our backers, it's all new guys in new positions."

One of those linebacker positions looks to be occupied by a player Thomas described

as one of the biggest surprises

in his development from last year to this year — senior Johnthe Nichols, who was primarily a backup/role player as a defensive back last season.

"He kind of finally figured it out," Thomas said. "Sometimes it takes kids a while to figure it out. He's a pretty strong and pretty good athlete. He's been a secondary kid. We moved him to

linebacker. That's where he fits." The other linebacker will be junior Trenton Klein, who's also the starting quarterback. Thomas said like Williams, Klein's play will be a big factor in the team's success this year.

"He plays with such a passion. You're going to get his best," Thomas said, adding, "How he goes is how we're going to go."

The defensive backfield features a pair of returning senior starters who Thomas said have the potential to play in college — Dayquan Diston and Gavin Jenkins.

"Experience is crucial at the corner," Thomas said. "When you haven't been under those lights, and you're out there on an island, it's tough. Those guys have played in some big-time games. They've got a lot of experience. Both of them have started for two years."

Thomas said senior Brycen Boney has a lot of experience in

the secondary and will be a factor as well, along with fellow seniors Deonte Jones and Blake McCoy.

Looking at the defensive line, Thomas said it's the Tigers' deepest unit when you look at players with experience, including senior Jimmy Cox, who was fourth on the team in tackles last season.

"Jimmy is not really a vocal guy, so to speak, but he's the leader of that bunch," Thomas said. "He's just a tough, hard-working kid. Real physical."

Jackob Jenkins, a senior is another returning starter. Erich Seager, a senior, and Connor Bresee, a junior, are basically returning starters because of how often the team rotated players last season.

The Tigers may have lost leading tackler Markus Strong, who's now part of the University of Oklahoma football program, as well as another returning starter who transferred, but Thomas likes his defensive line.

"We're so deep," Thomas said. "We've still got a lot of guys who've played a lot."

Flip to the other side of the ball, and you have an offensive line that consists of two returning starters in seniors Tucker Baynard and Dylan Lane.

See UCHS, page 13

AUTOS, BUSES, PEDESTRIANS: SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

from Bradford County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Gordon Smith

SHARING THE ROAD WITH YOUNG PEDESTRIANS

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic
- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way

SCHOOL DAYS BRING CONGESTION

School buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, harried parents are trying

to drop their kids off before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present — especially before and after school.

IF YOU'RE DROPPING OFF

Schools often have very specific drop-off procedures for the school year. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids. The following apply to all school zones:

- Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles
- Don't load or unload children across the street from the school
- Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school

SHARING THE ROAD WITH SCHOOL BUSES

If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

- Never pass a bus from behind — or from either direction if you're on an undivided road — if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks

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Good luck to all who are new this year!
Study On!



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BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH • LAKE REGION MONITOR • UNION COUNTY TIMES

NOTICE

The 2023 Bradford County Value Adjustment
Board will conduct an
Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the
County Commission Chambers located in
the North Annex of the Courthouse at
945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL

(Any person desiring to appeal any decision made
by the Board with respect to any matter considered
at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings.
For such purpose, said person may need to ensure
that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made,
which includes the testimony and evidence upon
which the appeal is to be based.)
F.S. 286.0105

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Aug. 17, 2023

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 04-2023-GA-000133
 IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF KAIA SAGE ROLLINS, WARD.

NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO: MONIQUE ALVARADO
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you, and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Nancy Stiles Fischer, c/o VeRonica R. Owens, Esq., whose address is 189 S Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656, on or before 30 days from the 1st day of publication, and file the original with the Clerk of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091, before service on Petitioner 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 Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address 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.

DENNY THOMPSON
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 BY: Tasher Allen
 Deputy Clerk
 Dated: July 25, 2023

DATED: July 31, 2023
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: AUGUST 3, 2023; AUGUST 10, 2023; AUGUST 17, 2023; AUGUST 24, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CASE NO.: 04-2023-CP-047
 PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DORIS LEE SANDBERG, DECEASED.

FORMAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of DORIS LEE SANDBERG deceased, whose date of death was January 29, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court For Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 631 W Lafayette Street, Starke, FL 32091 to-wit:
 Lots 25, 26, 27, 28, 37, 38, 39 and 40 of Block 3, in Dowling's Addition to Towa of Starke, in Section 29, Township 6 South, Range 22 East. Parcel Number: 03837-C-2500
 The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below:
 All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
 All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE
 ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
 NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S OF DEATH IS BARRED.
 The date of first publication of this notice is August 3, 2023.
 Marcella D. Thomas
 Personal Representative
 CHARLES DANIEL SIKES
 817 W. MacMahon Street
 Starke, Florida 32091
 Email: dan.sikes30@gmail.com
 (904) 964-2020
 Florida Bar No: 0886858
 Attorney for Petitioner

8/3 4tchg 8/24-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that FIG 20, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate Number: 759
 Year of Issuance: 2021
 Parcel Number: 04329-0-00400
 Case Number: 2023-TD-0014
 Description of Property: Lot #4 of Block 16, in Lincoln City, Starke, Bradford County, Florida and the East half (E 1/2) of Lot #1 of Block 16, all being in Section 32, Township 6 South, Range 22 East.

Name in Which Assessed: MARY A WILLIAMS
 Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/11/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
 Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit
 Bradford County, Florida
 BY: KANETRA JENKINS
 Deputy Clerk
 Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
 DATED: July 31, 2023
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: AUGUST 3, 2023; AUGUST 10, 2023; AUGUST 17, 2023; AUGUST 24, 2023

8/3 4tchg 8/24-BCT

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 Certificate Number: 469
 Year of Issuance: 2021
 Parcel Number: 02203-0-00203
 Case Number: 2023-TD-0013
 Description of Property: The South 1/3 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 16, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida LESS AND EXCEPT 456 feet thereof.
 Together with the Mobile Home situated thereupon.
 Name in Which Assessed: SEAN L STARLING
 Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/20/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
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 Bradford County, Florida
 BY: KANETRA JENKINS
 Deputy Clerk I Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.

8/3 4tchg 8/24-BCT

DENNY THOMPSON
 As Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: L. Brannen
 As Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No.: 04-2023-DR-0098

Division:
 LAURA-RENE'E MCDOWALL
 Petitioner
 and
 ROBERT J. MCDOWALL
 Respondent.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS
 TO: ROBERT J. MCDOWALL (Respondent's last known address) 442 Blanding Blvd.
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for PETITION FOR DIVORCE has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to LAURA-RENE'E MCDOWALL whose address is 21233 NW 97TH PLACE, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054 on or before 9/14/2023, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 945 N TEMPLE AVENUE/P. O. DRAWER C, STARKE, FL 32091 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

If applicable, insert the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located. 2 6S 20 Lot 4 of RIVER OAK PLA S/D. MISC MAP BK PG 18- (19375 NW 135th Pl., Lake Butler, FL 32054)
 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: 8/4/203
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 BY: Kanetra Jenkins
 Deputy Clerk

8/10 4tchg 8/31-BCT

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8/3 4tchg 8/24-BCT

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 BY: KANETRA JENKINS
 Deputy Clerk I Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.

8/3 4tchg 8/24-BCT

vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS CLAIMING INTERESTS BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; MARY ANN BLOCKER A/K/A MARY ANN JENKINS A/K/A MARY ANN BLOCKER JENKINS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; HARRY LEE BLOCKER, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; PATRICIA MCGREGOR, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ROOSEVELT CARROLL, JR., AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ERIC VON CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; NATALIE RENEE THOMAS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; TAKEIRRA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; LATEISHA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; RAKIA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; KHYRIN HOLMES, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; ANIYAH CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ANDREW TIMMONS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ALEECE CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; CHELSIE CURTIS, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; KHYRIN HOLMES, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO: TAKEIRRA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED
 Last Known Address: 3205 N. 18th St., Tampa, FL 33605
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: A PORTION OF THE WEST 462 FEET OF THE EAST 858 FEET, OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4, SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
 COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT, AND RUN THENCE WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY, 100 FEET; RUN THENCE NORTH, PARALLEL TO THE EAST BOUNDARY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT, 435.6 FEET; RUN THENCE EAST, PARALLEL TO SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY, 100 FEET; RUN THENCE SOUTH, ALONG THE AFORESAID EAST BOUNDARY, 435.6 FEET TO P.O.B. INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A 1995 FLEE MOBILE HOME, SERIAL # GAFLR39A01995VH, WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED AND AFFIXED TO THE REAL PROPERTY. PARCEL ID NUMBER: 04954-0-00100
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 4493 SE 101st ST., HAMPTON, FL 32044
 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, within 30 days after the first publication on Jason M. Tarokh, Esq., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is PO Box 10827, Tampa, FL 33679, and file the original with 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 Amended Complaint or amended petition. This notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 14th day of August, 2023.

DENNY THOMPSON
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: L. Brannen
 Deputy Clerk

8/17 2tchg 8/24-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: STEPHANIE GREATHOUSE, 7513 NE 222nd St., Melrose, FL 32666, joint owner, doing business under the firm name of: THE LAKE COTTAGE AT SANTA FE, 1546 SE 5th Ave., Melrose, FL 32666, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 9th day of August A.D., 2023, in Bradford County.
 8/17 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC AUCTION

Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on 8/25/23 10:00 am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items:
 # 125 Belonging to P. Brewer
 # 137 Belonging to P. Brewer
 # 134 Belonging to D. Strickland
 # 144 Belonging to D. Strickland
 # 130 Belonging to D. Kersey
 8/17 2tchg 8/24-BCT

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 8/17 1tchg-BCT

neighborhood is about to undergo certain changes and, thus, panic owners into selling their properties. Steering involves guiding an individual seeking housing toward or away from particular property for discriminatory reasons. If you would like to obtain more information about fair housing, or file a fair housing complaint, please contact the Fair Housing Coordinator listed below:
 Mary Lou Hildreth, City Clerk/
 Administrator
 City of Hampton
 P. O. Drawer 250 (5784 Navarre Avenue)
 Hampton, FL 32044
 Office: 352-468-1201
 Fax: 352-473-1350
 coh1@outlook.com

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES
 8/17 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
 CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION
 CASE NO.: 18000047CAAXMX

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR TO BNY MIDWEST TRUST COMPANY, BNY MIDWEST TRUST COMPANY, AS SUCCESSOR HARRIS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, AS TRUSTEE, OF BOMBARDIER CAPITAL MORTGAGE SECURITIZATION CORPORATION, SENIOR/SUBORDINATED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2001-A Plaintiff(s),
 vs.
 BARBARA L PROFFITT; DEBRA HALE HATCH; TOMMY HALE; SHAUN HALE; MELANIE HALE ROBERTS; LYNDEL HALE; DONALD E. HALE; JOHN P. HALE, JR., IF LIVING, BUT IF DECEASED, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN P. HALE, JR., DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DAVID C PROFFITT; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN P. HALE, JR., DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; THOMAS P. HALE; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF WILDA HAYES BRADHAM, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; JOHN P. HALE, JR., AS TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN P. HALE SR. TRUST DATE 4/26/1993; THOMAS P. HALE, AS TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN P. HALE, SR. TRUST DATED 4/26/1993; CAROLYN C. FAULKNER FKA CAROLYN C. HALE Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
 TO: JOHN P. HALE, JR., IF LIVING, BUT IF DECEASED, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN P. HALE, JR., DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS; JOHN P. HALE, JR., AS TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN P. HALE SR. TRUST DATE 4/26/1993; THOMAS P. HALE, AS TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN P. HALE, SR. TRUST DATED 4/26/1993; CAROLYN C. FAULKNER FKA CAROLYN C. HALE Defendant(s).

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Southeasterly 350.43 feet to the Point of Beginning. Together with that certain 2000 Homes of Merit mobile home with Vehicle Identification No.s: FLHMLCY143322042A and FLHMLCY143322042B. Property address: 8976 Southeast County Road 237, Lake Butler, FL 32054
 You are required to file a written response with the Court and serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Padgett Law Group, whose address is 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312, at least thirty (30) days from the date of first publication, 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.
 DATED this the 21st day of July, 2023.
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 As Clerk of the Court
 BY: CRYSTAL NORMAN
 Deputy Clerk

8/27 4tchg 8/17-UCT

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: RANDALL A. GRIFFIS, JR.; TERISSA D. GRIFFIS; Defendant(s)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Plaintiff's Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on June 21, 2023 in the above-captioned action, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door lobby of the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 7th day of September, 2023 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure or order, to-wit:
 A parcel of land lying in Section 30, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Union County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a found 2 inch iron pipe located at the Northwest corner of said Section 30 and run North 84 degrees 29 minutes 06 seconds East, along the North line of said Section 30, for a distance of 1528.89 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron rod located on the Westerly right of way line of County Road 793 (80 feet right of way); thence run South 11 degrees 59 minutes 17 seconds East, along said Wester

Obituaries

Sondra H. Blake

Mrs. Sondra Howell Blake, 74, of Keystone Heights passed away Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, at North Florida Hospital following her courageous battle with cancer. She was born June 12, 1949, in Jeffersonville, Indiana to the late Mason R. Howell, Jr. and Margie (LaFlam) Bisbee. She was a real estate broker for many years, working beside her husband at C.B. Isaac Realty. She was a member of Lake Area Baptist Church and was known for her talent in the arts and crafts she made and especially for her love of decorating and shopping.

Survivors are her husband, Ron Blake of Keystone Heights; and her son, Christopher Hartley of Michigan; along with her sister, Marsha Wingfield of Jacksonville.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts can be made to the American Cancer Society.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Helga Diaz

Mrs. Helga Diaz, 93, of Keystone Heights passed away at her home, Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023. She was born Feb. 13, 1930, in Bayamon, Puerto Rico to Amoros and Gloria (Arroyo) Mendez. She was a retired factory worker and of the Catholic faith. She loved to sit on the porch and read or watch her favorite television shows, especially the educational channels. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband of over 70 years, Maximino "Max" Diaz Aponte back in April; and her son-in-law, Mark Metz.

She leaves behind her daughters, Maria Metz of Melrose and Adelaida Diaz of Davenport; along with seven nieces and nephews. She was lovingly called "Grandma" by four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Also left behind is her stepson, Philip (Melissa) Metz and their four children.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date at the American Legion Post #202 in Keystone Heights.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Arvonnia Glenn

Arvonnia Mae Glenn, 76, of Keystone Heights passed away on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, in her home as she slept peacefully. She was born on Aug. 1, 1947, at Fort Dix, New Jersey to the late Leonard and Arvonnia (Matthews) Ennis. Prior to her retirement, she taught at a local Christian elementary school. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, playing games online, diamond painting with her niece Veronica, and hosting dinners. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 30 years, William Glenn; son, Edwin Puls; and sister, Maureen Burch.

She is survived by her sons, Bill and Michael; daughters-in-law Patrice, Nicholle, Judy, and Beth; nine grandchildren, Wayne, Zak, Mason, Austin, Hannah, Dakota, Korie, Victor, and Tyler; three great-grandchildren; brother, Billy and his wife Gay; and five nieces and nephews. She welcomingly opened her heart and her home, and she leaves behind a large community that extends well beyond her relatives.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20, at the Woman's Club of Keystone Heights, 6747 Woman's Club Drive, 32656. We invite anyone who knew her to attend and remember her wonderful life. We ask attendees to wear bright, floral colors in her honor.



PAID OBITUARY

Shirley Groves

Mrs. Shirley J. Groves, 88, of Keystone Heights passed away Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, at Haven Hospice E.T. York Center in Gainesville following a brief illness. She was born Oct. 1, 1934, in Hampton to Avery and Estelle (Hobby) Dennison and graduated from BHS with the class of 1952. She retired as a radio operator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Game Conservation. She then began her final career, working for Stump's Clothing in Starke, where she loved socializing and meeting new people. She was a dedicated and longtime member of Trinity Baptist Church where she was active and always willing to lend a hand. Traveling in the motor home and shopping were just a couple of things she enjoyed, but taking care of her grandchildren and Dana Peoples brought great joy in her life. She was known for helping others and always having a smile on her face. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Bill Wise; and brother, Carl Dennison.

Survivors are her husband of 30 years, Wilbur Groves of Keystone Heights; two daughters, Darlene Wise of Keystone Heights and Sherry (Dennis) Stallings of Raleigh, North Carolina. She was lovingly called "Mimi" by Kelsey Gentry, Dilan Wise, Grace Stallings; and great-grandchildren, Addie and Jack Gentry.

The family received friends at Trinity Baptist Church Wednesday, Aug. 16. Funeral services followed with Pastor Brandon Denmark and Pastor James Peoples officiating. Interment will be private at Prevatt Cemetery.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Rev. David Hodges

Rev. David Lee Hodges, Superintendent of the Florida District of Congregational Holiness Churches, passed away Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, at the University of Florida Shands Hospital in Gainesville, surrounded by his family at the age of 74. A class of 1967 graduate of Baker County High School, he was born in Macclenny on Nov. 22, 1948, to the late Clifford and Allie (Hersey) Hodges. Ordained in 1968, he dedicated his entire adult life to the ministry and leading souls to Christ. He was pastor of several churches over the years, but had spent the last 23 years at Manntown Congregational Holiness Church as senior pastor. In 1999, he took the position of superintendent of the Florida District of Congregational Holiness Churches and served proudly. Along with his ministry, he worked in the insurance field for many years, working for Liberty National, and he even owned his own agency, Hodges Insurance Agency in Starke. He also spent time working with the Bradford Telegraph and the Baker County Press as a typesetter. In his spare time, he enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, gardening, and hunting in his younger years (until it got too hot). He loved to travel, especially to Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains. After his ministry, his family was most important to him. He was a loving and dedicated family man. He was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings, Idus Hodges, Warren Hodges, Linnie Mann, and Louise Griffith.

Left behind to cherish years of precious memories are his wife of 54 years, Retha (Miller) Hodges of Starke; daughters, Michelle (Jason) Silcox of Starke, Karen (R.B.) Lauramore of Raiford, and Dawn (Glenn) Corbett of Franklin, Georgia; grandchildren, Glenn (Arica) Corbett Jr., Tiffani (Kristopher) Howell, Dustin Lauramore, Macy Lauramore, Noah Silcox, Destiny Lauramore, and Bristol Hilliard; great-grandchildren, Avery-Georgia, Grayson, Nolan, Jensyn, Thomas, Harper, Landen Lee, Annesly-Paige, and Benjamin; sister, Janie Wiggins of Sanderson; as well as a host of extended family members and church family.

The family received friends Sunday, Aug. 13, at the Glen Congregational Holiness Campground, 7036 E. Andrews St., Glen St. Mary. A home-going service was held Monday, Aug. 14, at the campground with Rev. Oral Lyons and Rev. Justin Griffith officiating, and Rev. William Crews assisting. He was laid to rest at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

Hawke M.T. Forbes and H.M. "Hank" Forbes Jr. of Forbes Funeral Home were honored to assist the family with the arrangements. 409 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, 32063 "With Your Family in Mind." 904-259-4600. Please leave your condolences for the family in the online guestbook at www.forbesfuneralhome.net.



PAID OBITUARY

Lori Story

Mrs. Lori Casey Story, 56, passed away at her home on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023. She was born in Plano, Illinois to Kathleen (Pohl) Casey and the late Paul William Casey. She was a loving daughter, wife, mother and grandmother (Nana). She enjoyed cooking, baking, and nature. She was there for everyone. She was a member of LOGO church in Lawtey.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Story; her daughters, Monica Casey (John Baxley), Desirae (Chad) Pierce, and Destiny Story; her grandchildren, Jaden, Brylee, John, Jayce, Maykala, Michael and Aricana; and many nieces and nephews.

No funeral services are scheduled at this time.



PAID OBITUARY

Jerry Sturdevant

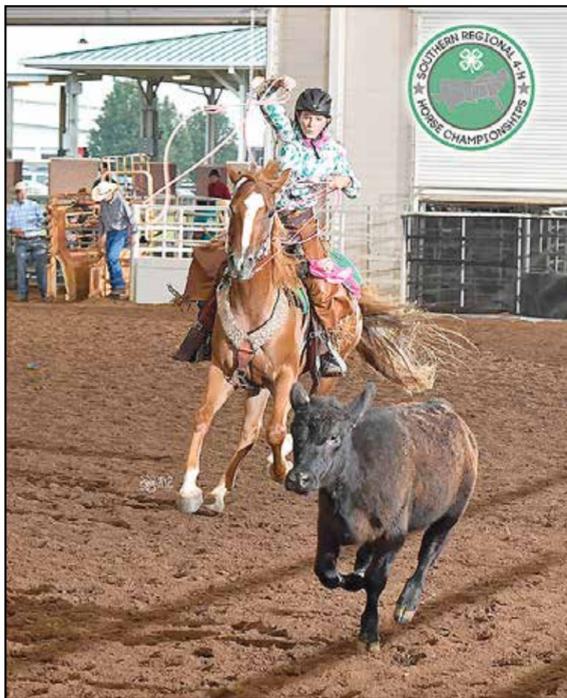
Jerry Lee Sturdevant, 71, of Keystone Heights passed away Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Middleburg. He was born Nov. 28, 1951, in Miami to the late Bert and Helen (Joiner) Sturdevant. He was a retired computer technician and Volkswagen mechanic. He was raised Baptist and enjoyed working on Corvettes and motorcycles, along with watching western shows on television.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 47 years, Cheryl (Belt) Sturdevant of Keystone Heights; and their two daughters, Jade (Mervin) Bailey of Keystone Heights and Tiffany (Eric) Sturdevant of St. Augustine. Also left behind are siblings, Darrell "Richie" Sturdevant of Virginia and Judy Andrews of Bryceville; along with his mother-in-law, Sadie Belt of Keystone Heights. He was lovingly called "Poppy" by seven grandchildren.

The family received friends on Tuesday, Aug. 15, at Gadara Baptist Church. The memorial followed with Pastor Shawn House officiating. Interment will be at a later date at Gadara Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Gadara Baptist Church Fellowship Fund, 6779 County Road 315-C, Keystone Heights, 32656.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Ryleigh Rhoden, on her horse, Snuff, prepares to rope a calf at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships. Photo provided courtesy of Ryan Geiger Photography.

RHODEN

Continued from page 1

The sisters qualified for the Aug. 2-6 event with their performances at the July 13-15 Florida 4-H State Horse Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. Rhoden competed in five classes, and though she didn't win any of them, she placed fifth in Ranch Roping, ninth in both Boxing and Ranch Trail and 10th in Ranch Riding.

"That's all I was worried about — getting good-enough placing to make it to regionals," she said.

Rhoden's sister placed first in Speed Events Ground Handling, third in Western Pleasure, fourth in Keyhole Race and seventh in Ranch Trail. She was also seventh among juniors in the high-point awards.

"She showed as a junior, and only the top 10 juniors are picked to go to regionals," Rhoden said. "I was super happy that she was one of the 10 who got picked."

Bradford 4-H was also represented at the state show by junior-level members Raegan Luke and Mason Stone. Luke took second in Speed Events Ground Handling, while Stone placed third in Ranch Riding, fifth in Ranch Trail, seventh in Western Pleasure, eighth in Keyhole Race and 10th in Ranch Ground Handling.

The state event has grown to where there are 20, 30 and sometimes 40 competitors in a class, Rhoden said. She remembers a time when classes consisted of 10-12 competitors.

Rhoden wasn't prepared for just how big of an event the Southern Regionals are — not only the numbers of competitors in each class, but how many states were represented. Besides Florida, participants came from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. "Very intimidating," Rhoden

said.

Her horse typically "spooks at everything," Rhoden said, but Snuff must've not let the atmosphere intimidate him too much. He was rewarded greatly for the win in Breakaway Roping.

"He got a lot of treats," Rhoden said.

When competing at a show, riders can never know for sure just how their horses are going to perform. Rhoden said she watched several horses in the practice pens at the Southern Regionals and came away thinking those horses and riders would win their classes. However, when they entered the show arena, they didn't perform as they did in practice.

That's why Rhoden said if a youth is interested in working with and performing with horses, it has to become a passion — such a passion to where you can put the disappointments behind you.

"You've got to make sure you love it and really stick with it because it can be a very physically and mentally draining sport," she said. "Your horse can be great one day in the practice pen, and then you get to the show, and it completely doesn't do what you ask."

"You put all of this time and effort into it. When they don't perform how you want them to, it can get you down pretty bad."

Snuff may be skittish at times,

but he's proven to be a good horse to work with. Rhoden said he's smart and a fast learner.

"I love him," she said. "I'm excited because he's just newly 4, so, hopefully, I'll have him for many, many more years."

Rhoden sees herself working with horses her entire life, but she's not sure specifically she wants to do career-wise. She said she has no idea of what's to come after high school, though she does want to college and is considering attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia.

For now, though, she looks forward to making the most of her senior year at UCHS, which includes being involved in FFA. She's already had memorable moments in FFA, such as being on the horse-judging team that won state and placed sixth at nationals when she was a sophomore. This year, Rhoden is an officer (parliamentarian) and plans on competing on the food-science and vet-science teams.

"I want to try to get as much stuff in as I can," she said of her last year of high school.

She looks forward to more FFA accomplishments as well as more 4-H horse show accomplishments. Rhoden, who has one more year in which she can be a 4-H member, said her goals are to "hopefully win a lot more."

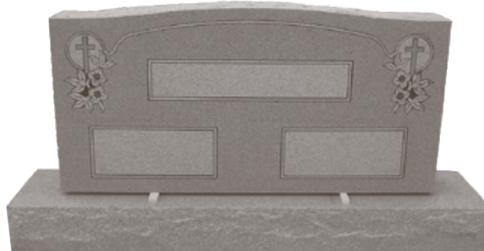
"My horse should be a lot more seasoned," she said.



Bradford junior 4-H members Raegan Luke (left) and Saylor Rhoden (Ryleigh's sister) placed second and first, respectively, in Speed Events Ground Handling at the state 4-H show. Rhoden's performances, which also included third- fourth- and seventh-place finishes, earned her the right to compete at the Southern Regional show. Photo provided courtesy of Kara Rhoden.

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

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KHHS hosts kickoff classic Aug. 18, season preview to come

Keystone Heights High School will host a preseason kickoff classic against Ridgeview on Friday, Aug. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

At halftime, a ring ceremony will be held for state-championship boys weightlifting team.

The Indians, who went 2-8 last year, will open the regular season with a home game against Eastside on Friday, Sept. 1, at

7:30 p.m. New Head Coach Steve Reynolds said, "I think we have a lot of potential, but I think we've got a lot more work to do. We could use two more weeks of training camp, but we've come a long way."

A preview of the Indians' 2023 season will be published prior to the Eastside game.

UCHS Continued from page 10

"A lot of experience, with Tucker being a four-year starter," Thomas said. "Dylan is a two-year starter, but he's been playing a lot of varsity ball for three years."

Other players who'll step in and who have plenty of experience include seniors Adonis Duenas and Clayton Poppell and juniors Reece Hendricks and Maddox Wheeler.

Garrett Jackson, a junior, is the number-one guy at tight end right now, though Cox and Seager could also see time there.

Klein steps in as starting quarterback, replacing A.J. Cortese, who accounted for more than 1,900 yards passing and rushing in 2022. Sophomore Nelson Tambling and freshman Bryan Tyson are also taking snaps.

Thomas said as the season goes along, you could see a mix of those guys playing quarterback, dependent upon game situations, but for the most part, it looks to be Klein playing the majority of the time.

"Trenton's our leader right now," Thomas said, adding, "He's also a kid who's been in the system for three years — four years, really, since middle school, doing the same stuff. We're going to lean a lot on him and his leadership."

Union lost running back Rayvon Durant to graduation. Durant accounted for 1,554 of the team's 2,931 rushing yards in 2022. He also led the Tigers in touchdowns with 17.

Williams, who got some carries last year, will be one of the players the Tigers rely upon

this year. He's coming off a spring game in which he gained 50 yards on 10 carries.

"He's going to get a lot of totes," Thomas said. "He's probably our lead guy coming back, but he didn't play a lot there last year because we had a little bit more depth, and he was so important on defense, which he's going to be this year as well."

Some other players who'll be factors at running back/fullback are senior Bobo Woodall, junior Cole Austin and sophomore C.J. Ivey. Woodall was the leading rusher in the spring game with 70 yards on four carries, while Austin had 43 yards on five carries.

Diston and Nichols could also get carries. So, too, could Drew Simmons, who's just a freshman.

"He's kind of been our player on middle school the past couple of years," Thomas said of Simmons. "He's going to be a heck of a football player, but he's a freshman. He's going to get totes, and he's going to get more as the season goes along — if he learns."

Boney and junior Ashton Newsom will be involved as well at the wing position. Thomas said they're good blockers who can also make things happen with the ball in their hands.

"In the past, the guy in that position hasn't really been as good of an athlete to run the ball," Thomas said. "Now, they're a little bit of a threat."

Jenkins is the leading returning receiver. He caught 20 passes last year for 406 yards and four touchdowns.

"Gavin Jenkins is the playmaker," Thomas said, adding, "He'll definitely change things offensively with the threat

2023 UCHS Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 18	at Baker County (KC)	7 p.m.
Aug. 25	Interlachen	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	at Columbia	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	at Walton	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	P.K. Yonge	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	Orlando Christian Prep	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	Hollis Christian (HC)	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Hawthorne	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Santa Fe	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Dixie County	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	Ambassador (SN)	7:30 p.m.

KC Preseason Kickoff Classic
HC Homecoming
SN Senior Night

he is at receiver."

Jones and senior Riggs Davis will be in the mix at receiver, too.

Avoiding injuries will be a key this year, with many players being important on both sides of the ball.

"There are more guys we're going to have to ask to do things on both sides of the ball than we had last year," Thomas said, adding, "We've got some tough games early. I know we're going to get better — if we stay healthy — as the season goes along."

The Tigers travel to Macclenny to play Baker County in a preseason kickoff classic on Friday, Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. The season begins in earnest with a home game on Friday, Aug. 25, at 7:30 p.m. against an Interlachen team that went 10-0 last year.

Union's first three opponents (including Columbia, a Final

Four team in Class 3S) went a combined 26-8 last year.

"We're going to go out and try to win every game," Thomas said, "but we've got some tough ones early."

The Tigers have qualified for the playoffs six straight years, including the last three under Thomas. They played for a regional championship in Thomas' first two years before winning one last year in advancing to the state semifinals.

Thomas is eager to see how things play out for this year's Tigers.

"It's been a fun team to coach so far," he said. "It'll be exciting — once we get into the season and start competing — to see how we can handle things. There's going to be adversity. We'll see how this bunch will be able to handle it."

2023 KHHS Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 18	Ridgeview (KC)	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	Eastside	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 8	Fort White	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Bell	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 22	Interlachen	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Bradford	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	Crescent City (HC)	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Palatka	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	at Pierson Taylor	7 p.m.
Oct. 27	Joshua Christian (SN)	7 p.m.
Nov. 2	at P.K. Yonge	7 p.m.

KC Preseason Kickoff Classic
HC Homecoming
SN Senior Night

BHS Continued from page 9

and Shanks at quarterback, but a turf-toe injury sidelined Shanks for most of the year and resulted in McKenzie taking the majority of the snaps.

"I feel it's a disservice for us to use just one of those guys because they bring completely different things to the table," Rodgers said.

McKenzie completed 52 of 80 passes last year for 855 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also rushed for 549 yards and 12 touchdowns on 119 carries.

Rodgers said McKenzie has attended camps and put in the work to become a better passer, which says a lot about how he wants to do his best to help the team. The Bradford coach said McKenzie will play at outside linebacker or safety in college.

"He's not a quarterback by nature," Rodgers said, adding, "To go and learn those mechanics and do the things to try to make us better is very unselfish. That's

who he is."

Shanks is a playmaker. He rushed for 212 yards and four touchdowns on 38 carries last year, averaging 5.6 yards per attempt. He also caught three passes for 29 yards and completed 10 of 25 pass attempts for 191 yards.

"He's fully healthy. He's ready to go," Rodgers said. "He's having a great summer so far."

Of course, with his playmaking abilities, Shanks will impact the offense whether he lines up at quarterback or not. Rodgers described Shanks as a "nightmare" matchup for opponents when he lines up in the slot.

"If you put a safety too far away from him, he's going to get the ball and then make people miss," Rodgers said. "If you try to put a linebacker on him, he's a lot better athlete than that guy, and that guy really can't cover him."

As already mentioned, Cummings was the leading receiver last year. Rodgers said Cummings is rare in that of

the 30-plus college offers he's received, just as many want him to play offense as those that want him to play defense.

"You're not getting offered to play wide receiver unless your ball skills are really, really high these days," Rodgers said.

Senior transfer Elijah Kellum looks to be a dangerous addition to the receiving corps.

"He'll be a guy who can take the off a defense," Rodgers said. "He's a burner. Probably the fastest kid on our team. It's definitely between him and (senior running back) Willie (Pollard). We haven't had them race yet."

Clark and Brazell have proven themselves to be factors in the pass game as well. In fact, Clark had the highest average per reception last year (36 yards) in catching six passes for 216 yards. In this year's spring game against Buchholz, he caught two passes for 36 yards and a touchdown.

"If you can run the ball really good, people are going to be wide open a lot," Rodgers said. "That happened to us several times

last year with Chason and Torin being at tight end and wing."

Running the ball was something the Tornados excelled at last year, averaging 234.8 yards per game and 6.9 yards per carry. The run game made up more than 75 percent of the team's offense.

Pollard led the way last season, rushing for 1,106 yards and 11 touchdowns on 167 carries.

"Willie's fantastic," Rodgers said. "Just the way he bursts and runs through holes. He runs a lot bigger than 158 pounds. He just breaks a lot of tackles. That's a testament to him in the weight room."

The team graduated another 1,000-plus-yard rusher in Manny Covey, but McKenzie and Shanks will both be big factors (McKenzie was the third-leading rusher in 2022), as will Williams. Williams saw limited varsity action last year (11 carries), but was third on the team in average yards per carry (9.4).

Paving the way for that ground game will be an offensive line that includes sophomore center

Ridge Bradley.

"Man, he's just a tough kid," Rodgers said of Bradley. "Just one of those guys you love having on the offensive line. A grinder. He can make the calls. He knows where everybody is supposed to be."

Jacob Ferguson and Cayden Carter will play right tackle and right guard, respectively. Rodgers said the juniors "got tons and tons of plays on JV" last year as well as varsity experience by taking advantage of the six-quarter rule, which allows players to play six quarters a week.

The left side of the line will feature senior transfer Jaylen Williams and junior Cam Lewis. Sophomore Kyren Green and junior Dayton Roberts will also be factors, with Roberts also lining up some at H-back.

"Our depth up front on the offensive line is as good as it's been since I've been here as far as pure depth of the number of guys who can play the positions," Rodgers said. "I feel real good about our offensive line."

On special teams, Bradford has

a number of skill guys who can contribute to the return game. As for who'll perform kicking and punting duties, that remains to be seen. The Tornados lost kicker Hayden Hughes to graduation. Roberts and Shanks are players who could step in and handle placekicking duties.

Rodgers said the Tornados may have to go for two a lot after touchdowns and resort to squib kicks on kickoffs.

"We don't have a true kicker, so we'll have to manufacture some things," Rodgers said.

Bradford will travel to Chiefland for a preseason kickoff classic on Thursday, Aug. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The season then kicks off for real with a home game against Baker County on Friday, Aug. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

The homecoming game is Friday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Keystone Heights will be the opponent.

With Toco Creek moving up in classification, the Tornados are now one of three teams in District 6-2S, joining Keystone and Palatka.

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Hearing Aids Today: serving the Keystone area since 2014

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

For nine years, Hearing Aids Today has served Keystone Heights and the surrounding area, continuing a history helping people for more than 40 years.

Hearing Specialist Amos Melvin Jr., who co-owns the business with his sister, Stephanie Johnson, said the company was started by his father, Amos Melvin Sr., in Illinois 42 years ago.

“This big (hearing-aids) manufacturer called Starkey saw that he was really doing good in a small town in Illinois,” Melvin said. “They said, ‘How would you like to come down and have so much territory in Florida and open multiple offices?’ We did that.”

The business consisted of 13 offices in Jacksonville alone at one point, but Melvin’s father retired and sold most of those locations.

Hearing Aids Today still has one office in Jacksonville along with one office in Orange Park and one office in Keystone, which is located at 450 S. Lawrence Blvd.

Melvin said the office sees people from places such as Interlachen, Melrose, Palatka and Starke as well.

It is recommended that people get their hearing checked at the age of 60 unless they’re already experiencing such things as ringing or a plugged-up feeling in their ears.

Melvin said hearing loss can eventually lead to Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.

“The brain needs our ears,”

he said. “When they’re not working right, the brain is not working right. It’s very important that if somebody is already experiencing symptoms, they get checked out right away.”

Melvin explained that the outer ear and middle ear transfer sound vibrations from the air to the nerve in the inner ear.

“My testing determines if there’s a breakdown of that sound before it actually gets to the nerve,” Melvin said.

If the hearing loss is due to a hole in the eardrum, a foreign object causing blockage, an infection or other medical issues, Melvin will refer a person to an ear, nose and throat specialist.

“If we know that person has loss in that inner ear where the nerve is — those are the types of problems I will help with,” Melvin said.

Melvin said people may not like the idea of possibly having to wear hearing aids, but he said today’s hearing aids are smaller than they used to be.

In other words, they’re not like your grandparents’ hearing aids.

“They’re not big, bulky, huge things,” he said, adding, “That should make people feel more comfortable.”

Hearing aids come in many styles — on-the-ear, in-the-ear and invisible. Melvin said people can get “basic amplifiers up to the latest and greatest digital, programmable stuff.” You can get hearing aids with Bluetooth technology, so they can connect to cell phones. You can even get hearing aids

with health apps installed in them that’ll help “you lead a happy, healthier life by having them,” Melvin said.

Hearing Aids Today doesn’t rely solely on one manufacturer for hearing aids.

“We don’t believe in saying, ‘Hey, this is all we sell or fit.’ We believe in taking care of the person,” Melvin said. “Whatever is needed for that person, we can get. I can get any kind of hearing aid, really.”

“I believe that’s important in taking care of everybody — having multiple options and multiple manufacturers to deal with.”

Melvin said some good news is that insurance companies have started to provide coverage for hearing aids in recent years (though Medicare still doesn’t provide any coverage).

It can become an emotional moment for Melvin to watch a person regain a level of hearing they hadn’t been experiencing for quite some time.

“I’ve sat here and cried with many people,” he said. “I try not to, but it’s just hard not to sometimes. You take somebody who hasn’t heard their wife speak, or they do, but it’s just constantly asking for repeats. Now, all of a sudden, they can sit there with their back turned and have a conversation. They’re smiling ear to ear.”

“It makes me feel great to do what I do — helping people.”

Hearing Aids Today in Keystone Heights is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays.

To schedule an appointment, please call 352-877-4471.

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HELPFUL & TIMELY HEALTH & WELLNESS TIPS ON NEXT PAGE



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UF HEALTH TIPS...

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

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

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

Dr. Innocent-Simon: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" – Benjamin Franklin

Dr. Bamzai: "Brush your teeth, get a good night's sleep, wake up on time for school, and eat a healthy breakfast!"



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Volleyball regular season begins next week for BHS, KHHS, UCHS

The Bradford, Keystone

Heights and Union County high school volleyball teams begin their regular seasons next week, with the Tornados and the Indians being the first teams in action on Monday, Aug. 21.

Keystone will host Bradford in that first match, which begins at 7 p.m. following a junior varsity match at 6 p.m.

Union begins its season with a road match against Baker County on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 6:30 p.m. The JV teams play at 5:30 p.m.

Bradford hosts Micanopy Academy on Thursday, Aug. 24, at 5:30 p.m., while Union travels to play Lafayette that same night at 6 p.m. The Tigers' JV team plays Lafayette at 5 p.m.

On Monday, Aug. 28, Union hosts Bradford 7 p.m., following a JV match at 5:30 p.m.

Keystone and Union both have Tuesday, Aug. 29, matches. The Indians host Crescent City at 7 p.m., while the Tigers host Bell at 6:30 p.m. JV matches begin one hour prior to each varsity match.



Zoey Marshall points out her name on the AAU Jr. Olympics Wall of Fame banner for her eighth-place finish in the 400m last year. This year, she placed fourth. Photo provided courtesy of Noelita Marshall.

HCA, NCA volleyball teams meet in 1st week

The Hope and Northside Christian volleyball teams will play each other the first week of the regular season on Thursday, Aug. 24. The junior varsity match begins at 4 p.m., followed by the varsity match at 5 p.m.

That will be Northside's first match of the season, while Hope gets its season started with a road match against Ocala's First Assembly Christian on Tuesday, Aug. 22. Times are 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Hope travels to Jacksonville to play First Coast Christian at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 28. The Lions then travel to play High Springs' First Christian on Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Northside also plays on Aug. 29, hosting a varsity only match against Hawthorne at 5 p.m.

Marshall medals again at AAU Jr. Olympics

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Lake Butler's Zoey Marshall followed up her one-medal performance at last year's AAU Jr. Olympics by earning two at this year's event, which was held July 26-Aug. 5 in Des Moines, Iowa.

On day four of the event, Marshall, competing in the age-10 girls division, placed fourth in the 400m prelims with a time of 1:03.99. She bettered that time in the day-seven finals, running 1:03.85 to place fourth.

The top three times in the event finals were 1:00.53, 1:01.74 and 1:03.68.

Marshall competed in the long jump finals on day seven as well,

recording a fifth-place distance of 13-8.5. The top four distances were 14-2, 14-1.75, 14-1 and 14-0.

In all, Marshall competed in three events. She wound up placing 12th in the 200m with a semifinal time of 28.91. She advanced to the semifinals with a 10th-place time of 28.60 in the preliminaries.

The AAU Jr. Olympics consisted of more than 14,000 athletes and coaches. It's the largest multi-sport event for youth in the U.S.

At the 2022 AAU Jr. Olympics, Marshall earned a medal with an eighth-place finish in the 400m.

Marshall is in her fifth year of AAU competition.



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Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

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