

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, August 4, 2022

143rd year, 49th Issue — \$1

## ALDI store opening in Starke Aug. 11

Bring a quarter for a cart and reusable bags

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — According to a press release, ALDI is on track to open 150 new stores and become the third-largest U.S. grocery retailer by store count by the end of this year. One of its new stores is about to open in Starke.

The new grocery store will open on Aug. 11 in the Deerfoot Shopping Center at 9 a.m. with prizes for the first 100 customers. They will receive a gift bag filled with a sampling of ALDI “fan favorite products” and a gift card from the ALDI Golden Ticket gift card giveaway program. Shoppers can also enter a \$500 gift card giveaway.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 8:30 a.m.

“Our stores are designed to make grocery shopping smarter, faster and easier, and we’ve been voted the price



The fresh produce department in a typical ALDI grocery store.

leader for five years running,” said Matt Thon, Haines City regional vice president for ALDI. “We’re excited to open our first ALDI store in Starke and introduce local customers to a new,

more affordable way of shopping.” ALDI touts its “intentionally different” business model built around its exclusive brands and weekly limited time specials. The store says

the shopping experience is both fast and affordable.

According to the grocer, these are some of the things that set ALDI apart:

—**Low-price leader:** Access to affordable groceries is important, and the company’s commitment to low prices is unwavering.

—**Quality:** ALDI is so confident in its products, such as its fresh, organic produce delivered daily, that every item is backed by its Twice as Nice Guarantee. If for any reason a customer is not 100% satisfied with the quality of a product, ALDI will both replace the product and refund it.

—**ALDI-exclusive products:** ALDI sells mostly exclusive brands made by the best partners. Shoppers find food for every taste and lifestyle (gluten-free, plant-based, dairy alternatives, etc.) along with an unbeatable cheese and wine selection. Shoppers will also discover weekly offerings of limited-time ALDI Finds like candles, delicious seasonal food, home goods and more.

See ALDI, page 7

## City honors weightlifting team, restaurant owner

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The city council recognized the community’s state champion weightlifting team and gave a key to the city to the owner of Johnny’s Barbecue during its Aug. 1 meeting.

Mayor Karen Lake reminded weightlifting team members that the municipality posted signs at its city limits proclaiming their championship from last year. She then presented the team with a sign commemorating this year’s championship.

“Anything that happens at the high school that is fantastic, we as a city try to acknowledge your accomplishments,” she said.

“These guys work hard,” Weightlifting Coach Lance Lowery told the audience. “A lot of what we do is probably child abuse. These guys put in the effort year-round. We don’t take breaks.”

He added that team members, who also play football, lift during



Keystone Heights High School weightlifting team members display their state championship sign that will be posted at the Keystone Heights city limits.

the football season. He said they take one week off for Thanksgiving and one week off following the state championship meet.

“It’s what we do,” he said. “It’s in their blood.”

Lowery said that weightlifting is one of the few high school sports participants can continue throughout their lifetimes.

“I’ll never play football again,” he said. “You can always do this.”

### Johnny Mason given key to the city

Lake said she launched an initiative to recognize city residents that have impacted Keystone Heights, taking nominations from council members. She said the first person recognized under the new program is Johnny Mason, whose family owns Johnny’s Barbecue.

“When I think of Johnny’s,” Lake said, “I think of sweet tea, and it’s funny because I don’t even drink sweet tea.”

The mayor added that the restaurant’s sweet tea is well known throughout the Lake Region, not only for its taste but that it represents the restaurant owners’ community spirit.

“I can only imagine the thousands of gallons of sweet tea Johnny has donated to Little League, Pop Warner, softball, band, soccer and all of the organizations he has generously provided to over the years.”

Lake said Mason uses his food and hospitality knowledge to help community groups raise money through fundraising drives at his restaurant.

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**WORTH NOTING**

### Candidate forum Aug. 4

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

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

### Fight child trafficking

Trinity Baptist Church will be hosting One More Child, which will be presenting an Anti-Trafficking Seminar on Thursday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m.

This seminar is free to adults who are 18 or older.

The goal is to support child victims and help bring healing and hope to the thousands of children who are victims of sex trafficking each year. Join them and learn what you can do in this community to help prevent human trafficking.

Call Trinity Baptist Church office for more information 352-473-7261. The church is located at 3716 SE SR 21 in Keystone Heights.

### Food distribution Thursday

There will be a food distribution at Starke Church of God by Faith, 730 Old Lawley Road, on Thursdays, Aug. 4 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Distribution may begin earlier, depending on the arrival time of the FarmShare delivery truck.

### Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, Aug. 10, at 8:30 a.m. at the RJE Complex on Pine Street 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.

## District makes plan in response to school grades

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Assistant Superintendent of Bradford Schools Karen Clarke discussed recent school grade reports with the school board Aug. 1 as well as what the district is planning as it moves forward.

To review, Bradford had two D schools, Lawtey and Southside Elementary Schools. Bradford High received a C and Starke Elementary received a B. Bradford Middle School’s grade was incomplete because fewer than 95% of students were tested.

Superintendent Will Hartley has since written to Tallahassee and asked

that BMS be assigned a grade, stating the current scores are consistent with past performance. The anticipated grade is another D because of a drop in multiple categories, most notably a 22-percentage point decline in proficiency on the civics exam.

Both Lawtey and Southside were one percentage point away from a C. Had grades been assigned in 2020-21, Lawtey would have earned an A that year, so the school slipped three letter grades. This was due to decreased proficiency in English and math and a low percentage of learning gains. Fifth grade performance in math and science greatly impacted the school grade.

“There were only 27 students (in fifth grade), so if you’re talking about two or three students who don’t perform well, that can drastically impact a school grade,” Clarke said. “That’s the thing about small schools: A handful of students can impact a grade immensely, one way or the other.”

Southside was a different story. Had grades been assigned on 2020-21, the school would have been one percentage point away from an F. The school improved the number of points it earned on testing this past year, from a very low D to nearly a C. Improvement in math and science were responsible for the turnaround.

Moving forward, some of the strategies that have worked in other schools will be expanded districtwide, Clarke said.

“We’re a small enough district with three (elementary) schools, there’s no reason why we can’t have more consistency in some of the things that we’re doing, especially when things are working at one school,” she said.

One of those things is a supplementary math program known as Acaletics. Southside’s learning gains were attributed to the program, which will now be introduced at Lawtey.

See GRADES, page 7

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# North Orange Street closing after school for student safety

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Student safety is behind afternoon closures of Orange Street when schools reopen Aug. 10.

Superintendent Will Hartley said the school district is working with the Starke Police Department to close North Orange Street in the afternoons to only Bradford Middle School related traffic.

North Orange will be closed to through traffic from 3:20 to 4 p.m., although the initial closures could be closer to 30 minutes

than 40. Both parents and school buses will have separate routes to travel.

Parents picking up students from Bradford Middle School will enter North Orange Street from West Weldon Street. They will drive to the school and around the student pickup loop, then make a lefthand turn back onto Orange Street and exit via Weldon.

Washington Street will not be an option as this is being reserved for bus traffic and traffic from the Rainbow Center.

Buses will line up at the middle school and exit with a lefthand

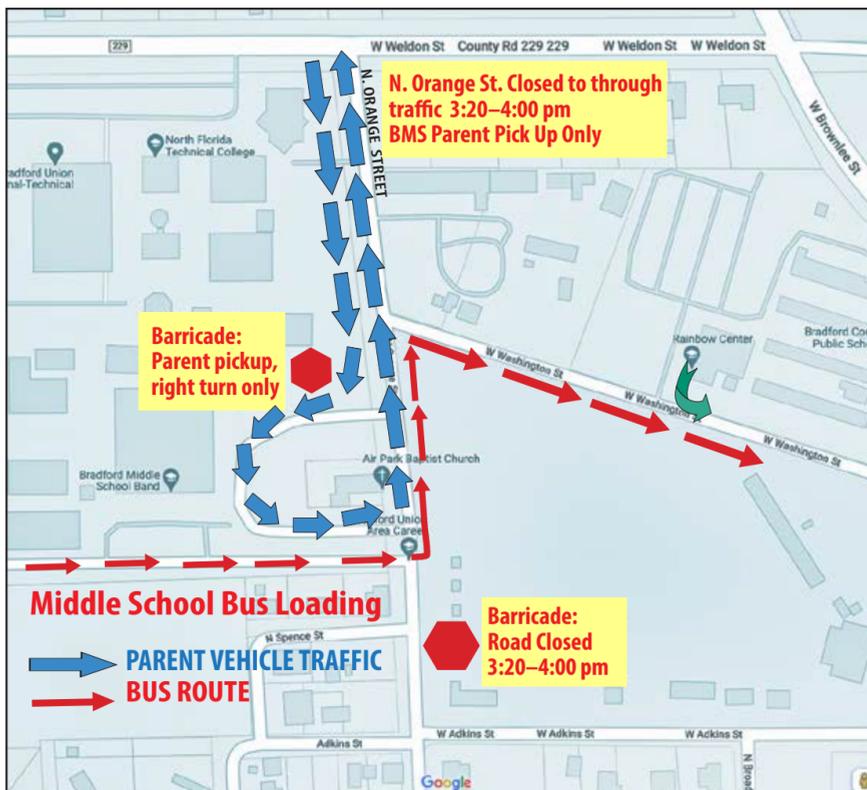
turn onto Orange Street. They will turn right onto Washington and proceed to Bradford High. Likewise, traffic from the Rainbow Center will exit via Washington.

Through traffic traveling to North Orange from the south will be stopped by a barricade north of West Adkins Street.

With all traffic leaving the school by turning left, there won't be parent vehicles and buses crossing one another at the same time a crossing guard is trying to help students cross the street. Students will be sent away from the traffic.

A few weeks into the school year, Hartley said the street closure may last as little as 10 to 15 minutes. He warned school board members they may receive phone calls in the meantime.

"People do not like things that change, but this is necessary," he said. "It may not be the exact right answer, and we can work and change things as needed, but something has to happen because what's happening there is not safe."



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## Food pantry reopens Friday

The Bradford Food Pantry will reopen for normal distribution on Friday, Aug. 5, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## Oddfellow Cemetery prices

Effective, Aug. 1, 2022, Oddfellow Cemetery prices will change as follows:

- In-town burial plot: \$500.12.
- Out-of-town burial plot: \$850.
- Prices include burial markers.
- For more information, please contact Mildred Petteway at 352-256-7460.



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# Aid pushing school budget over \$100 million

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The property tax rate for Bradford County School District will drop next year based on the tentative rate adopted during the Aug. 1 public hearing.

The required local effort dictated by the state was 3.2750 mills, down from 3.6650 mills this year. But the rate for discretionary operating and capital outlay funds is not dropping, so the total rate of 5.5240 is 0.44% higher than the rollback rate.

With a total taxable value of more than \$1.3 billion on properties, local revenue from property taxes will be just over \$7 million for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. Vocational fees, preschool fees, rent and other miscellaneous revenue bring that to nearly \$7.94 million.

In addition, the district will receive more than \$19.5 million in state funding and \$386,205 in general federal funding, bringing the amount of new revenue to \$26.36 million. A fund balance of more than \$4 million brings the total source of general funds to \$30.39 million.

New appropriations of those general funds total more than \$27 million. From salaries to energy costs, expenses are up in nearly every category. The estimated ending fund balance is nearly \$3.25 million, placing the district's financial condition ratio at 4% — high enough to keep the Bradford out of trouble with the

state.

The public capital outlay fund includes the money received for school construction. The district is carrying forward more than \$34 million and expects to add around \$16 million. Reserving nearly \$635,000 in the fund balance, the total capital outlay fund is \$50.95 million. The local capital improvement fund stands at \$3.32 million, with \$1.9 million in new revenue. Expenditures are set at \$1.94. That and a \$400,000 transfer to the general fund will take the fund balance from \$1.4 million to \$981,067.

School food service will receive and spend \$1.96 million in federal funds, leaving its \$887,654 fund balance untouched, according to the tentative budget.

Additional federal funding for Title I and other programs is budgeted at \$3.46 million in revenue and expenditures.

The district also has two pots of unspent pandemic (ESSER II) funds. One — \$1.54 million — is allocated to salaries and benefits and materials and supplies. The second — \$7.42 million — is allocated to salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, purchased services, energy services, capital outlay, and other expenses.

With the assistance of this additional funding, plus the construction funds, total expenditures are nearly \$90.16 million. The total budget with transfers and fund balances is nearly \$100.43 million.

The school board's final budget hearing is Sept. 12 at 5:01 p.m.

## Savings on food service

Food Services Director Blake Dicks said the district will be taking over breakfasts and lunches at the Rainbow Center. According to Superintendent Will Hartley, this will provide a savings to the district compared to contracting with an outside vendor.

## School construction on track

Ausley Construction's Todd Duffy provided an update on new school construction, saying it is now possible to see the footprint of the entire campus. The cafeteria and music building is furthest along and will be completed first. It should be roof ready by the end of August. Second is the administration building, which should see roof work begin in early September.

Duffy said there are around 150 or 160 workers onsite on any given day, including masons, electricians and plumbers. That will increase as work progresses.

"I'm proud to say we're still on time and on budget, and we look forward to having this thing turned over early," Duffy said.

# The first day of school in Bradford

BY EVELYN CHASTAIN  
Bradford County Schools

Whether a graduating senior in the Class of 2023 or a first day kindergartener, the first day of school for Bradford County students is on the horizon. The first day of the 2022-2023 school year is Wednesday, Aug. 10.

## Schedules for open house/ orientation events

—Bradford Middle School, Thursday, Aug. 4, at 4 p.m. 6th grade orientation; 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. open house.

—All elementary schools, Friday, Aug. 5, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

—Bradford High School, Monday, Aug. 8, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

## Kindergarten staggered start

To support the transition for kindergarteners, Bradford's elementary schools incorporate a staggered start for new kindergarteners. This means the first day for some kindergarteners will be Aug. 11 rather than Aug. 10.

Staggered start allows students to have an opportunity to explore the classroom, interact with their teacher, and practice new routines in a smaller group setting.

The first day for new



**Cayson Barber is excited to find the first letter of his name out of 26 options! Superintendent Will Hartley is pleased to provide each kindergartener with a Kindergarten Here I Come backpack and new book for their home library.**

The first day for new kindergarteners with the last name beginning with letters M through Z is Aug. 11. They will not attend on Aug. 10, but will join their other classmates on Friday, Aug. 12 when all will attend.

## First day information for elementary parents

Kindergarten parents only may walk their students to class. Breakfast is available, however, parents must remain outside of the cafeteria and wait for their child to exit. Parents may meet their teacher at the classroom door at 7:35 a.m. Parents will not be permitted to go into classrooms.

**Bus routes**  
Questions about bus routes and times can be directed to 904-966-6735.

## Enrollment

If you have not yet enrolled your student, schools are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Come early! Help your student launch their year with perfect attendance from day one. Registration documentation can be found at [www.bradfordschools.org](http://www.bradfordschools.org), or call your school for further information.

kindergarteners with the last name beginning with letters A through L is Aug. 10. They will not attend on Aug. 11, but return full speed ahead beginning Aug. 12.

# School districts looking for veterans

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Clay and Bradford County school districts recently said they hope military veterans will consider teaching as a career following their military service.

Both districts pointed to a bill signed earlier this year by Gov. Ron DeSantis that helps veterans access jobs in education by allowing their military service to count toward the requirement for a temporary educator certificate under the mentorship of a certified teacher.

The new law creates a five-year temporary teaching certificate for veterans with four years of active service, an honorable discharge, and 60 semester hours of college credit with a 2.5 GPA. The candidate must also pass a Florida subject-area exam.

# School supplies at RJE Alumni Building Aug. 8

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

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



# Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesdays, Aug. 9 and 23, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Mark Williams, Republican for Bradford County Commissioner District 2



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# Lake Region

## Clay Sheriff to reopen Keystone substation

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook said she is reopening the office's substation within the Keystone Heights City Hall. The substation previously operated out of the South Lawrence Boulevard government building and was closed by Cook's predecessor.

"We know how important a substation is to all of you," Cook said during a July 29 announcement at Keystone Beach. "We will be able to meet citizens or conduct business out here."

Cook added that this summer,

she has devoted additional resources to the Lake Region, which has resulted in over 100 traffic stops, 20 arrests, including 10 felony arrests and 175 contacts with businesses and citizens.

### Commissioner: report crimes to sheriff, not just to social media

Joining Cook at the announcement was County Commissioner Betsy Condon. The Crystal Lake resident asked Lake Region citizens to report crimes and suspicious activity to law enforcement rather than only

posting the information on social media.

"A lot of times on social media, it's a great place to share information and stories, and we all like to read it to know what's going on in our community," Condon said, "but one of the biggest things that you can do to help us is make sure that you are reporting all of these crimes to the sheriff's office."

"Because unless they have an official report, they cannot make an initiation with someone who looks suspicious or they can't go out and investigate," she added, "so Facebook comments, Facebook messenger messages, they cannot legally use to go out and look at some of these things."

After Condon's comments, the sheriff elaborated on why citizens should report crimes and suspicious activity to law enforcement rather than on social media.

"When you call the police," she said, "you are making an official report at that time. And the Facebook post, Number 1: we don't monitor them. Number 2: It's very vague. When you call and say: Hey, there's a guy in a blue shirt, the dispatcher's going to ask you for additional information."

Cook added that phone calls to her office provide deputies with a more substantial legal basis for them to question suspects because, without reasonable

suspicion, officers cannot detain suspects who refuse to answer their questions.

The sheriff added that time delays often occur between the time an activity occurred and when a post appears on social media, which delays law enforcement's response and effectiveness.

When asked why she thinks citizens report suspicious activity to social media rather than to law enforcement, Cook said she believes people don't want to bother the sheriff's office with an activity that could be inconsequential.

"They think that maybe their information is not important enough to call us," she said.

Cook also said that social media leads are often second or thirdhand information which is inaccurate.

"What I do see on Facebook many times is people writing: my cousin's neighbor saw something, my cousin's mother saw something happen, and I'm relaying that information," Cook said. "And we trace that story back, and what actually happened is not what was reported on Facebook. So, I want to talk to the person who had the initial contact with first-hand information, not someone else, days later. That's another reason why it's so important for people to call us."

## Emergency manager: Preparation prevents panic

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County's emergency management director, said that although some accuse him of being the Chicken Little of the county, constantly proclaiming the sky is falling, his true intent is to preach preparation for emergencies, so residents will not panic when disasters strike.

John Ward told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club during its Wednesday, July 27 meeting that residents who did not heed his advice five years ago faced dire circumstances.

The director reminded his audience of Hurricane Irma, which moved through the area in 2017 and brought severe flooding to Black Creek.

He said that because residents ignored evacuation orders, the county had to rescue 368 people and 79 animals from rooftops and front porches after the storm.

Ward added that most Clay County residents are overconfident in their abilities to respond to a hurricane because of their prior experiences.



Clay County Emergency Management Director John Ward speaks to the Keystone Heights Rotary Club on Wednesday, July 27.

"If you talk to people, they say they've been through Hurricane Irma, they've been through Hurricane Matthew, they've been through Hurricane Debbie and all the other laundry list of storms that we've had here within the

county," he said. "But what I try to remind folks is Clay County has not had sustained tropical storm-force winds since Dora in 1964. A lot of the systems were subtropical when they arrived here and were falling apart when they came through. We still had significant events from them, generally electric utilities, trees on homes, and flooding."

Ward added that although the Lake Region is not susceptible to the flooding that other areas of the county are at risk for, he said the older houses in the Keystone Heights-Melrose area could be significantly damaged with the arrival of a Category 1 or 2 hurricane.

### A dean of emergency management

With his 27 years of experience in public safety, Ward is one of the deans of emergency management in Florida.

He said the most common misconception people have about his county department is

confusing it with FEMA: the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Clay County Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating the county's response to any event that requires the resources of more than one county agency. Events include storms, mass shootings, pandemics, wildfires, extreme temperatures, and hazardous materials releases.

Last year Ward's department took the lead in coordinating the county's response to an animal cruelty case in which officials rescued 270 animals and housed them for around eight weeks at the county fairgrounds.

During the Rotary meeting, County Commissioner Betsy Condon said Ward, a former Keystone Heights resident who now lives in Clay Hill, often leads statewide seminars on emergency management and has turned down many offers to work in larger communities.

She added that his role after Irma in coordinating the \$10 million pickup of yard waste generated by the storm was

an unheralded but massive achievement.

Airport manager Maria Searcy added that the emergency management director, the husband of Bradford High School Principal Angela Ward, has been vital in planning significant airport events.

### Partnerships lead to success.

Ward said the county's success in dealing with emergencies has pivoted on the partnerships between county departments and other organizations like the school district, Clay Electric Cooperative, and state agencies.

He added that during the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked closely with Florida Department of Health Clay County Health Officer Heather Huffman to stand up testing and immunization sites and to keep the public informed about the pandemic.

"We're not resource-heavy like Jacksonville, Orlando, anything like that, but we have partnerships, and when we make the call, we have everybody come to the table," he said.

## Melrose Art Walk

This month's Art Walk in Melrose on Friday, Aug. 5, will feature a food truck rally from 5 to 8 p.m. The trucks will be located between Mossman Hall and Heritage Park.

Mossman Hall will also be featuring the works of Clay Station students.

On the first Friday of every month, from 6 to 9 p.m., the Melrose Art Walk encourages patrons to visit exhibits at each of the town's galleries. The Art Walk is sponsored by the Melrose All Arts Council.

## Voter registration

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

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

# KEYSTONE YOUTH SOCCER

## Fall Season Registration • AGES 4-17

**TO REGISTER: SIGN UP by September 9, 2022**

THE FEE is \$80. Payable to KYSC.

Supplied uniform will be jersey, shorts & socks.

Register at

Trevor Waters Realty, Inc  
7374 SR 21 N • Keystone Heights

Coaches and volunteers welcomed

For more information call:

Trevor Waters at **352-246-7776**

NEW SIGN UP ONLINE: [www.Keystoneyouthsoccer.com](http://www.Keystoneyouthsoccer.com)





Keystone-Lake Region Business Association President Harold Gilstrap (center) opens the July meeting of the group in the meeting room of Legacy Home Health Care Services.

## Business group meets at home health care's new headquarters

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Keystone-Lake Region Business Association held its July mixer at the new headquarters of Legacy Home Health Care Services in Keystone Heights.

In May the home health agency purchased the former Lake Region office of Watson Realty on State Road 21 north of Keystone Heights.

Co-owner Chris Murphy said he and his wife Betsy launched the enterprise in 2017 after

Betsy spent several years in the industry working for a large corporate provider.

"There were a lot of things about big corporate that we didn't like," Murphy recalled. "One of the biggest things was that they were more focused on Jacksonville, Gainesville, Ocala. You had to beg clinicians to come out here to the rural areas and see patients. We saw that as a possible niche in the marketplace."

Murphy added that his father, a veteran with 30 years of

service in the U.S. Marines had been planning to start a home health care business during his retirement but died in 2013. Murphy said part of his and his wife's motivation for starting the business was to fulfill his father's vision.

Murphy said the service started with one employee in Keystone Heights four years ago. The business now employs 85 with additional offices in Starke and Ocala.

## Title agent holds open house

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

MELROSE — Santa Fe Title Company in Melrose, held an open house celebrating its new location on State Road 21 between Melrose and Keystone Heights. The business formally operated in an office on South Lawrence Boulevard in Keystone Heights.

Owner Amber Castelvechi said the last 12 months have been a whirlwind for her new enterprise.

"So, not even a year ago in August, I enrolled in title school," Castelvechi recalled during the event. "I went to title school in October, got my license in November, got appointed by an underwriter in January, opened the doors in February, and have not had less than eight closings a month since."



Amber Castelvechi (second from right) greets a visitor to the open house of Santa Fe Title Company.

Realtor Daniel Sheppard of Florida Homes and Realty said at the open house that he has been pleased with the services Castelvechi delivers.

"I've used Amber quite a few times," he said. "She knows her stuff to a T. She's very personable. She makes the closing process really easy."



During a Clay County Board of County Commissioners meeting, David Seymour comments after being recognized for 31 years of service with Clay County Fire Rescue. Also pictured (l-r) are Todd Arzie and Commissioners Betsy Condon and Wayne Bolla. Photo: Clay County Government.

## Former KH volunteers retire from Clay County Fire Rescue

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Fire Chief Lorin Mock recognized retiring firefighters Stephen "Todd" Arzie and David Seymour during the July 12 County commission meeting.

He said both started as firefighters with the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department.

"They did it for nothing before they entered into the career fire service," said Mock.

Arzie first worked in Alachua County before starting work with Clay County in 1993. He is retiring as a captain after 29 years in Clay County.

Mock said Arzie served on a committee that sought to

lower the carcinogens to which firefighters are exposed.

"He helped oversee the construction and opening of new (Keystone Heights) Station 11," Mock said. "We transitioned out of the old Keystone Heights volunteer station, a very small location, into what is a brand new...station protecting that area."

Arzie also served as an acting battalion chief.

Mock said Arzie's son is a Clay County Fire Rescue member, "so the tradition is going to continue."

Seymour is retiring as a lieutenant with 31 years of service. He was awarded Firefighter of the Year in 2010.

He is a past president of Local 3362. He served on the safety

committee with Arzie and also on the apparatus committee.

Mock said that when the department had trouble filling mechanics positions, Seymour filled in at the logistics division, making repairs on equipment.

"He has been able to troubleshoot pumps, hydraulics, and all kinds of problems," Mock said.

The chief added that Seymour is best known for leading the department's Fill-The-Boot fundraising drives for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"There are a lot of families and children across Northeast Florida that owe a debt of gratitude that probably can't be repaid today," he said.

# KHES welcomes new AP

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — James Herrholtz is Keystone Heights Elementary School's new assistant principal. He joins Principal Beth Turbeville and Assistant Principal Kayleigh Williams on the school's administrative staff.

Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, Herrholtz graduated from Youngstown State University and spent most of his career in Madison, Ohio.

There he coached football and wrestling in addition to teaching.

Herrholtz earned a master's degree in curriculum instruction and a second master's in educational leadership.

In addition to leading schools as a principal, Herrholtz has served as a district superintendent and worked for the Ohio Department of Education as its assistant superintendent for the Division of Learning.

"I was charged with revamping Ohio's teacher evaluations and principal evaluations, implementing our new common core standards and all things testing, all things licensure and all things special education for the State of Ohio," he said of the assignment.



James Herrholtz

Herrholtz moved to Florida to be closer to his daughter, granddaughter and his wife's family.

His most recent assignment in Clay County was the dean of students at Clay High School in Green Cove Springs. He also taught civics and U.S. history at Green Cove Springs Middle School.

At Keystone, Herrholtz is in

charge of the school's positive behavior support system, buildings and grounds: leading the custodial staff and overseeing the construction of the school's new cafeteria.

"And of course, you've got teacher evaluations, student discipline, those kinds of normal assistant principal duties," he added.

## NOTICE OF LAND USE CHANGE

The City Council of the City of Hampton, Florida proposes to regulate use of land within the area as shown on the map below by amending the text of the City of Hampton Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

CPA 22-01, an application by the City Council, to amend the text of the Comprehensive Plan by adding a Property Rights Element to the Comprehensive Plan per Section 163.3161(10), Florida Statutes, as amended and Section 187.101(3), Florida Statutes, as amended.



The first of two public hearings on the proposed amendment will be held on August 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Hall, located at 5784 Navarre Avenue, Hampton, Florida. The City Council will hold the public hearing to consider the amendment, conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the amendment and consider transmittal of the amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HAMPTON, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF HAMPTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO APPLICATION, CPA 22-01 BY THE CITY COUNCIL, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR ADDING A PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PER SECTION 163.3161(10), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED AND SECTION 187.101(3), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of this public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 5784 Navarre Avenue, Hampton, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk, at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing via telephone at 352.468.1201. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

# UNION COUNTY

## County receives annual audit results

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — At its regular July meeting the Union County commission received the state mandated audit for the 2020-21 fiscal year with good reports in all areas.

Union County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, CPA, explained in an interview that an audit is not what most people think.

“The purpose of an audit is to look at the county’s internal controls to ensure they follow both state statute and rules set by the county commission and to ensure they are adequate and have been followed,” Rhoades said. “It is not the auditor’s job to look at every little thing and say it is perfect. They look at the processes of how money is handled to make sure there are no ‘holes’ that could allow fraud or theft and that the processes (checks and balances) used by the county are adequate to prevent these problems.”

The audit was done by the James Moore accounting firm, with the presentation to the commission done by Zach Chalifour, CPA. Chalifour noted several points in his presentation.

First noted was the award won by the most recent Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) compiled by Rhoades and her staff. Chalifour noted that the report had won a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the second time the county has won this award. He also noted that this report was a great asset to the auditors in their work on the current audit.

Chalifour said the audit had no findings and an unqualified opinion – the highest judgement the auditors can give on the county financial management

practices. No material weaknesses in internal control were found and there was also no material noncompliance. Basically, the county was conducting financial business in an appropriate manner with no weaknesses detected in its financial practices.

Chalifour focused on the county’s general fund in his report to the commission. He reviewed the general fund records for the year of the audit compared to the two prior fiscal years. At the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year the fund was down, in most part due to the bat invasion of the courthouse and legal expenses. During this year the county had significant debt and prepaid expenses, with the general fund total being \$2,067,874. The following fiscal year, 2019-2020, the fund balance increased to \$2,523,714, still reflecting the effects of the pandemic, but also the fact that the county was almost debt free the only debt being from long-term leases. For the fiscal year covered by the audit, the fund balance was up even more, to \$2,641,079, with most of this amount earmarked for unassigned spending (money that can be moved to different areas when unplanned expenses occur). The 2020-21 balance was the second highest in the past ten years – an indication of the financial health of the county finances.

The Government Finance Officers Association

recommends that a governmental entity have on hand at least two months (16.7% of the annual operating costs) of operating expenses on hand at any time. In Florida the recommendation of the county auditors is a minimum of three months because there is a history, and therefore a future possibility, of income interruption and sudden

increased expense, from natural disasters, mostly in the form of hurricanes. Such a “reserve” is in place to insure that there is no lapse in county services and function, including both the provision of these services uninterrupted and the payment of addition salaries necessary to make sure all issues are dealt with.

According to the audit, Union County has about four months of operating expenses on hand to deal with any contingency or natural disaster. Rhoades said she likes to see the fund with three to four months funds available, just in case there are problems that cannot be quickly resolved. This year the general fund balance is higher than the county’s expenditures for the third year in a row, recovering from a peak in expenditures during the 2018-19 fiscal year, when expenditures increased by about 10 percent over the fund balance.

What all this means is that the county is living within its means, with no individual deficit in fund balances and no exceptions noted in the way restricted monies (such as grant funds and special areas where money is earmarked for a specific use) are being spent. The county has no substantial debt as well.

“Government is not a profit-seeking business,” Rhoades said. “We are not in the business of making money and are always very aware that we are dealing with taxpayer funds. Reserves are necessary to ensure the county can operate efficiently in any situation and provide all of the services that are routine and necessary, as well as those made necessary by the conditions we operate under, for the safety and welfare of our residents.”

## 4-H welcomes new agent

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — After a couple of months with no one to oversee the Union County 4-H activities except Extension Agent Luke Harlow and several volunteer club leaders a new person has been hired with the prime function of keeping the clubs active and involved at the Union County IFAS Extension Office.

Meagan Daniel started work on June 6, 2022 as the new 4-H Extension agent, replacing Kristi McCallister who served as the 4-H Program Assistant previously. The upgrade in title comes from the fact that the University of Florida is now paying a higher percentage of the position’s pay, saving the county money in the process. It also stems from the fact that Union County was one of very few counties in the state that did not have an extension agent running the 4-H programs.

Meagan was chosen from among 18 applicants for the position, all going through a lengthy application and interview process. She is a former 4-H’er herself, showing animal projects from third through twelfth grade and also serving as a FFA officer in grades seven through 12 in Lafayette County, where she was born and raised on a fourth generation dairy farm.

Daniel moved to Union County in 2010 when she married her husband, Dustin. She worked in the Union County School System since 2011, spending most of that time in third grade classrooms, but she also spend some time with fifth graders and driving a bus for three years because of the driver shortage. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from St. Leo’s University, which she earned in 2010.



Meagan Daniel, the new 4-H Extension Agent at the Union County UF IFAS Extension Office.

“I applied for the position because I have always been good at planning events, working with children and communicating with others,” Daniel said. “But I sure will miss teaching and the interactions with the students in the classroom.”

Daniel said she plans to implement a great deal of 4-H programs in the classrooms of LBES and LBMS to assist the schools with early agricultural education. This will be done through in-school programs and she has already been working with the district in making plans for some of these.

Daniel came into the picture just three days before the start of the 4-H Summer Camps for the year, but she hit the ground running and said she “really enjoyed the fun activities in the summer camps.”

Daniel and her husband have two sons – Weston (10) and Shaw (6). Dustin drives a truck for Aggregate Haulers of Union County as an owner/operator. She said she enjoys spending time with her family camping, traveling and fishing in saltwater and that she really enjoyed being

a mom. In her quiet time she enjoys reading, both fiction and non-fiction. She and Dustin enjoy attending baseball games and watching their sons play and attending Sardis Baptist Church as a family. Daniel also works with the AWANAS program at the church.

At home, the couple have raised cattle and then switched to feed corn production, mainly for deer. This season they have about 10 acres ready for drying.

When asked what her vision is for her new job shepherding 4-H she said she had a number of items on that list. She said she wanted to continue the various clubs already in operation and looks forward to working with the “amazing volunteer club leaders already in place in the program. She wants to add a gardening club to the offerings as well and is thinking about further adding to the list of clubs, possibly with sewing, crafting and pet care club options. Daniel said she wants to develop some “common sense” projects for the clubs in the area of community service to help meet the community’s needs.

Daniel said she also hopes to expand the day camps for young people to include offerings on teacher work days and professional development days in the school system.

“This would give the students productive activities for the day and also assist parents with scheduling,” Daniel said.

Overall, Daniel is thrilled with the new position and is brimming with both visible enthusiasm and ideas for the future. She said she hope to have positive impact on both the county and its young people through her work.

“I would like to help the county youth and watch all of them grow into confident and successful human beings,” she said.

★
★
★
★
★



### ELECT CASEY CLARK for Union County Commissioner Republican, District 2

I am a retired Combat Veteran Master Sergeant E-7 with 37 years total of service; with tours of duty to Iraq and Kuwait to combat the global war on terrorism.

Deployed at the state level during fires and hurricanes to help the State of Florida’s citizens and neighboring states, clearing roads of debris and assisting in the recovery efforts so the residents could return safely back to their homes.

I have 25 years with the Florida Department of Corrections, providing protection for the citizens of the State of Florida. I retired with the rank of Captain.

As your Commissioner, I will work with other Commissioners to improve the roads and drainage issues and promptly address any other issue that may arise. I will work for and with the citizens to ensure that problems shall be addressed and devise a plan of action to alleviate the problem at hand. Please contact me at **386-266-0231** or by email at **suwanneeman1961@gmail.com** with any concerns or complaints.

Political Campaign Ad paid for by Elect Casey Clark for Union County Commissioner Republican, District 2

## Bus schedules set and ready for first day

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — It’s that time again and next week area young people will find themselves getting up early – not to get a start on a day of play and outdoor activities, but to catch the bus that will carry them into the new school year.

The bus schedule is much the same as last years, but students and their parents will want to make sure of items such as bus numbers and pick-up points. Below, please find this year’s schedule.

Bus #2 will be driven by Braedyn Passno and will pick up along SR121 to Raiford, prison housing to the left and right and then travel behind Dobb Station to Lake Butler.

Bus #3, driven by Mike Porchiazzo will also pick up in the Raiford, Johnstown Church and Sinclair Bryan areas, as well as CR237 and SR100.

Bus #4, driven by Lee Clark will cover the area of Providence off CR241 and the Pinch Gut area.

Bus #5, driven by Kyler Cohen will pick up along CR 239A, CR241, CR 791 and Brown Still Rd. and Providence.

Bus #6, driven by Justine Grogan will pick up along CR 229N in Raiford.

Bus #7, driven by Cody Tempest will cover the Providence/Providence Village area.

Bus #8, driven by Tina Hodges will cover Little Springs Forest and the Santa Fe Mobile Home Park in Worthington Springs.

Bus #10, driven by Kristen Marmon will travel to the RMC West Unit housing, CR 238 and SR 100 to Waters Rd.

Bus #12, driven by Thomas Durant will cover CR 238 and Providence.

Bus #14 will be driven by Ashlyn Gladdin and will cover Worthington Springs, CR18 and River Bend Estates.

Bus #15, driven by Curtis Rhoden will cover the Worthington Springs area around CR18.

Bus #16 will not run a set route and has no assigned driver yet.

Bus #17 Driver Charlie

McCastle will travel to the Raiford area, CR 125, Sapp Cemetery Rd. and behind the Raiford Post Office.

Bus #18 will be driven by Josh Green will cover Clarks Saw Shop Road and Douglas Cemetery Rd.

Bus #19 will be driven by John Dawson and will cover Worthington Springs – 239A.

Bus #20 driven by Laura Pavlisko will cover the Raiford area – CR 125, SR 16, CR 199 and the UCI Housing Circle.

Bus #23 will be driven by Loree Rodgers will cover CR231 South RMC housing and the New River Trailer Park.

Bus #26, driven by Charles Crawford will travel to the Worthington Springs area and Upland Pines.

Bus #29, driven by Christy Thomas will cover the Providence area with CR 241N, CR 238, Midway Cemetery Rd., CR 796, the Groves and the Horse Arena.

Bus #30 will be driven by Lee (Larry) Clark and will cover the special needs routes for Lake Butler, Raiford and Worthington Springs.

Information for the Town Routes is as follows:

Transportation to Little Rainbow Daycare from Lake Butler Elementary School will be restricted to afternoons only and will be on Bus #23, with Bus #26 handling any overflow.

Students from Lake Butler Elementary School to Tigers Den Daycare will travel on Bus #29 in the afternoons only.

Bus #03 will serve Forest Park Apartments for Lake Butler Elementary and Middle Schools only and will pick up behind Subway, by Archer Funeral Home/Union County Courthouse.

Bus #15 will pick up in Shaw Subdivision in the mornings, but #23 will transport students in the afternoons.

Bus #17 will pick up LBMS students only at the Car Wash and the Townhouses and at the Hidden Oaks Mobile Home Park.

Bus #4 will run morning and afternoon with stops behind Spires and in the Park Area.

Bus #16 will run mornings

and afternoons, picking up at Powell’s (Cypress Pointe) for LBES and LBMS students only.

Bus #18 will pick up and deliver LBMS students only from the apartments behind Family Dollar.

Bus #08 will pick up and deliver LBES students only from the apartments behind Family Dollar.

All bus drivers are currently undergoing updated training and skill assessments to be ready for the coming year – everyone that drives gets the same training and must perform at the safe level of quality and safety.

Bus routes and times will remain the same as last school year. It should be remembered, however, that bus stops may vary, depending on potential new stops/students/ weather and construction. If everyone is patient and will work together, all should be running smoothly in the first week.

If you have any questions about the school district transportation schedule you may call (352) 448-0173 and speak to Tony Raish or Monique Crews at the Transportation Department.

## VFW hosting Back-to-School Bash

VFW Post 10082 Auxiliary President Barbara Fischer, has announced the 2022 Back-to-School Bash on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 11 a.m. at the VFW Post off CR 231.

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

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

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

## NOTICE OF TESTING OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN (PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 101.5612) THAT THE PRE-ELECTION TEST FOR THE AUTOMATIC TABULATION EQUIPMENT TO BE UTILIZED IN THE AUGUST 23, 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE HELD THE DATE AND TIME LISTED BELOW. YOU ARE INVITED TO BE PRESENT AT THIS TIME TO INSPECT THE PROCEDURE OF THE SYSTEM. THIS TEST WILL BE HELD AT THE UNION COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE AT: 175 WEST MAIN ST, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054.

FRIDAY AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 @ 10:00AM

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

DEBORAH K. OSBORNE  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS  
UNION COUTY, FL  
386-496-2236



Zumba and other fitness classes help keep seniors in shape.

# Ms. Cool and the Gang rock the senior center

BY CAROL MOSLEY  
Special to the Telegraph

STARKE — If you think of Bradford's elder citizens as members of the Over the Hill Gang, then you haven't met Ms. Cool and the Gang at our Bradford County Senior Center. That would be the center's director, Diane Gaskins, and the very cool seniors who participate in the variety of programs offered.

Della Covington, a regular participant in programs, thinks the Senior Center is where the "cool" folks hang out. "I come because we have a lot of fun and we love it. We're young at heart." When Diane mentioned the AARP safe driving program, Della, who is legally blind, laughingly asked if she was going to learn to drive!

If you can claim a half century or more on the planet, then the Bradford Senior Center is the coolest place to spend some time this summer. In a pleasant and comfortable space, there are activities to get your blood pumping and others that focus on getting creative juices flowing. But, no matter what activity you choose to take part in, you'll find kind, vibrant and downright amusing people to share experiences with. Even if you just need a little laughter and acceptance in your life, you'll find joy abounds at the Senior Center.

It is true that we seniors have our own special wisdom and talents to share, but also true that we have unique constraints that pose challenges for us. The Bradford Senior Center addresses those specific needs.

Margie, 70, had a stroke four years ago and credits the Senior Center with being a big part of her recovery. Now she loves the continued benefit she gets from Zumba and the other physically challenging activities.

Coping with creaky and sometimes painful joints is one of those typical aging challenges. Tai Chi for Arthritis is a new program from Elder Options that seeks to address this constraint on senior mobility. Try Chair Yoga/Tai Chi for a tranquil exercise movement to help with range of motion, balance, reduce stress and offer arthritis pain relief.

Have you put on a few pounds lately that you'd like to shed before donning shorts and T-shirts during the hot summer months? Are you likely to put on a few more by becoming a couch potato, avoiding the humidity by hanging out in the A/C? Then, you should come and try some of the energy pumping activities tailored to your own abilities at your own pace.

ZUMBA Gold classes are a great way to get an hour of exercise. Zumba Gold is a low-to-no-impact dance fitness class. Join the fun three times per week. Participants enjoy easy-to-follow moves with exciting rhythms. So much fun, you hardly notice you are exercising. Another class that will get you up and moving is Line Dancing.

Are you thinking you'd like to pick up a new indoor hobby to engage your creative talents this summer? If COVID isolation has left you bored and craving for social interaction, rejoice in the opportunity to share your talents with other artisans of

woodcarving, sewing, crochet/knitting, needlework or quilting. Beginners are always welcome! Don't be shy.

The center is also a place where local community groups sometimes hold their meetings and offer informative presentations. You can join local clubs that stimulate your mind, such as Book Club, or get your hands in the dirt with the Alligator Creek Garden Club.

Garden Club president, Paul Still, and wife, Kathy, have been coming to the Senior Center since it opened the doors in 2012. Kathy participates in a variety of the programs there, including Zumba and quilting, and Paul takes advantage of the great internet speed and quiet conference room to get some work done. There is even a fully outfitted computer room for those who don't have home access.

Need advice on issues that matter to seniors? Elder Options provides numerous programs of interest to seniors. SHINE, acronym for Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders, is a free unbiased program that offers information and counseling on Medicare options.

It's been a hard couple of years for the Bradford County Senior Center, having to shut the doors to the usual activities and participants in order to accommodate COVID testing. But, they're back in action and anxious to see old friends and make new ones. Come join the fun and be one of the cool kids.

The center is located at 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. You can reach them at 904-368-3955.

## ALDI Continued from page 1

—Shoppers participate in the savings: The savings start before customers enter the store. Depositing a quarter to unlock a shopping cart is one way ALDI saves shoppers money. ALDI doesn't need to hire employees to corral loose carts, and customers get their quarter back when they return the cart.

—Commitment to sustainability: ALDI asks shoppers to bring reusable bags and recently announced a new commitment to eliminate all plastic shopping bags from stores by the end of 2023 — a sustainable policy that will lead to savings passed on to customers.



ALDI also uses green electricity to cover 100% of our energy consumption and has donated over 33 million pounds of food through our partnership with Feeding America. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/ALDISustainability>.

—Online shopping and curbside pickup: Nearly all ALDI locations offer grocery delivery, and Curbside Grocery Pickup is expanding as well. Visit [shop.aldi.us](http://shop.aldi.us) to place an

order. —Store size: ALDI stores are designed for simplicity and efficiency. A typical ALDI store is approximately 12,000 square feet of retail space, making it easier to shop than oversized grocery stores.

The store will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To learn more about working at ALDI and search job openings, go to [careers.aldi.us](http://careers.aldi.us).

## GRADES Continued from page 1

Consistent progress monitoring in fifth and eighth grade science is also on the agenda. Science often takes a back seat to English and math. Half of the learning day can be spent on those subjects. But Starke Elementary's focus on fifth-grade science — implemented by Principal Raymond Schaefer with the assistance of his staff — is proof that emphasizing science performance can have great results.

Science progress monitoring will be embedded in teachers' pacing guides, and teachers and administrators will be held accountable for reviewing the results and adjusting to that data.

In fact, there will be increased accountability for progress monitoring at all grade levels to ensure students are exposed to the tested standards, Clarke said, and plans can be made for remediation when necessary.

Clarke previously discussed a supplemental reading program

known as UFLI for grades K-2, which focuses on foundational reading skills in preparation for third-grade reading and assessments. The district also has a new supplementary reading curriculum for the elementary level to replace iReady, which is "stale" after many years in use. The new program is known as Freckle and aligns with the required standards.

More instructional support for reading and math curricula will be introduced at the middle and high schools. Clarke said the district lost a secondary level reading coach last year and went the entire year without a math coach. The positions are difficult to fill. Bradford is contracting with the Northeast Florida Educational Consortium to help provide that support.

It's a lot of "new" for everyone to absorb, Clarke said.

"But, when we look at the performance we have, and the urgency we have, we have to do this. We have to do something different for our kids," she said. "When we have less than 50% of our students reading at grade

level in third grade, we have to do something different."

"Implementing lots of new things is stressful," she continued. "It's stressful for teachers. It's stressful for the district staff that's trying to support the teachers in the classrooms. It is a lot. I'll be the first to admit that. But our kids deserve it. The urgency is there that we've got to make sure that we're making these changes for our students."

The district will also be receiving support from the state, both financial and in terms of oversight.

The district's D schools are eligible for an additional \$500 per student — or \$283,000 — through the Unified School Improvement Grant that can help pay for professional and leadership development and more.

The district has also been assigned to a regional executive director heading up a team from the Department of Education that will conduct classroom walkthroughs and offer feedback, professional development, etc.

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County Commissioner  
District 4

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\*Political advertisement paid for and approved by James Rooney Jr, "J.R.", Republican for Union County Commissioner, District 4.

## Letters

Dear Editor:  
The recent letter in the Telegraph regarding the Jan. 6 Investigation Committee was certainly not factual. It read like it was written by a Nancy Pelosi (I call her PeelLousy) lapdog. The writer praised the committee and its "hearsay witnesses" testimony as if it were perhaps more true than the Bible itself. Obviously this writer is of the political persuasion in power in Washington today that believes in destroying your enemy regardless of how low you have to stoop to do so. He stated in his letter that Republican Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy refused to place Republicans on this sham committee, which is an outright lie as McCarthy named several Republican Congressmen to the committee, only to have PeelLousy remove them and refuse to let Republicans serve on the committee except for two who had been voting with Democrats/Socialists on all issues. The committee is not conducting an

investigation with two sides being represented, but rather it is a forum for Trump haters who hope to keep him from running for president again in 2024. When I say those in power will try to destroy you if you disagree with them a good example is when the "hearsay witness" testified that Trump attacked his Secret Service team in the vehicle when they were transporting him back to the White House on that day. When the Secret Service agents who were actually there disputed the "hearsay" testimony by someone who was not there, then Merrick Garland and the DOJ attacked the agents and started an "investigation" into Secret Service people and text messages and emails. Sen. Mitch McConnell provided an unheralded advantage to the American people when he blocked Merrick Garland from joining the U. S. Supreme Court. As Attorney General, Merrick Garland has proven himself to be more corrupt than Janet Reno, who spent eight years protecting the Clintons,

prosecuting police officers and not criminals and conducting a massacre of people in a Waco compound for no apparent reason; more corrupt than Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch who covered for Barack Obama and sent the FBI to bring false accusations against Trump and his associates. The letter writer also said Trump refused to call out the National Guard on Jan. 6, again a falsehood, as President Trump had the National Guard on standby, but the people in charge of security for the Capitol had to actually ask for their presence, and again PeelLousy was in charge of this security and refused the use of the National Guard. The president would have had to declare a state of "martial law" to personally send the National Guard in to handle the situation. Voters going to the polls in November need to help us purge Washington of the dishonesty and deceit now in power in the person of Creepy Joe and his Socialists.

James D. Powell



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# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

July 23 through July 29

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

James Russell Addison, 59, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Aug. 14 for battery.

Isaiah Tylor Banks, 28, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 28 for assault, battery and an out-of-county warrant.

Megan Leah Calcada Bastros, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for out-of-county warrants.

John Lamar Crews, 25, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for burglary, criminal mischief with property damage and larceny.

Johnathan Michael Franck, 20, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 29 for an out-of-county warrant.

Taylor Renee Giles, 20, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 26 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Trevor Wayne Gleaton, 43, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 28 for a probation violation.

Michael Keith Krites, 56, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on July 27 for lewd and lascivious behavior.

Heather Ann McCoy, 36, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 28 for a probation violation.

Aundreygo Marshall McNeil Jr., 36, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 29 for a probation violation.

Deanthony Jerome McSwain, 45, of Tallahassee was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 27 for a probation violation.

Benjamin Hallett Morris, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 25 for a probation violation.

### Speeder rams Lawtey patrol vehicle

Angelo Thomas Negron, 32, of Ft. Lauderdale was arrested by Lawtey police on July 24 for aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer.

According to an arrest report, arresting officer Michael W. Starling pulled the defendant over after clocking him traveling 63 mph in a 45-mph zone.

Negron claimed he could not have been speeding because his car was on cruise control. While Starling was walking back to his vehicle after giving Negron the ticket, the defendant put his 2011 Toyota in reverse and rammed the Lawtey cruiser.

Erica Shyan Redding, 31, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 26 for possession of drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Samuel Nelson Rogers, 19, of Jacksonville was arrested by Starke police on July 28 for a probation violation.

Alex John Roggenbuch, 52,

of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 29 for DUI.

Joseph Karl Rowe, 20, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for fleeing and eluding and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Dalton James Russell, 25, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for driving with a suspended or revoked license – habitual offender and driving a motor vehicle with an expired registration six months or more.

James Luther Sanders, 38, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 24 for failure to appear.

Richard Clayton Shaffer, 55, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on July 26 for a probation violation.

### Shoptlifted pet supplies from Dollar General

Jeffrey Charles Sipprell, 33, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on July 27 for petit theft.

According to an arrest report, the defendant concealed flea and tick treatment, a dog harness and

Haines underwear from a Starke Dollar General in a backpack and walked away.

During his first court appearance the following day, the defendant pleaded no contest to the charge and was sentenced to time served and six months' probation. He was also ordered to attend an anti-theft course, pay a \$25 fine and prohibited from visiting any Dollar General store.

Alvin Blake Stinson, 35, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 24 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Garrett Andrew Thornton, 23, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 29 for possession of over 20 grams of cannabis and possession of drug equipment.

Bianca L. Velez, 41, of Miami was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 27 for a probation violation.

Harriet Crystal Waldron, 39, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 26 for criminal mischief with property damage, larceny and burglary.

Debbie Lelitha Walker, 58, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 29 for failure to appear.

Barry Keith Warren, 32, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 29 for a probation violation.

### Union

Mahaley Mae Harris, 51, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on July 23 for misappropriation of public funds, interference with the custody of an incompetent person, abuse of an elderly or disabled adult and animal abandonment.

### Clay

Danny Ray Boree, 36, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 26 for possession of drug equipment.

Jasmine Danielle Poore, 41, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 25 for domestic battery.

Rachael Jazmin Santiago, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 26 for domestic battery.

Duane Michael Schmidt, 46, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 29 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

## Gyrocopter crash kills 2 in Melrose

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

MELROSE — The Florida Highway Patrol said a gyrocopter crashed into a residential grassy field near County Road 214 and Melrose Road and caught fire on impact.

The crash occurred around 10:10 a.m., Saturday, July 30.

Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook added that the aircraft appeared to be constructed from a homemade kit. She said the wreckage of the crash was mangled and burned.

Fire rescue responded to the crash and extinguished a small fire at the scene. Cook said the pilot executed a heroic maneuver just before impact by landing the aircraft between two structures,

avoiding additional injuries on the ground.

## 2 arrested for High Ridge auto burglaries

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook said her agency arrested two juveniles for a string of auto burglaries in the High Ridge Estates neighborhood east of Keystone Heights.

Cook said the 14 and 16-year-olds were seen by deputies walking in the area of recent car break-ins.

One of the defendants had a gun hidden in his waistband that was recently stolen from a car.

She added that the pair confessed to seven auto burglaries involving 27 victims.

Cook said the thefts began a couple of weeks ago and stopped after the two juveniles were arrested.

"I know that we do still have some still open," she said of the area's auto burglary cases, "but we believe that these suspects are probably going to be responsible for most of them."

## Adult School registering

The Union County Adult School will hold registration for the Adult Education Program on Monday, Aug. 15, at 6 p.m. at the school, located at 208 Southeast Sixth Ave. in Lake Butler. Come and get your Florida high school diploma.

Please call 386-496-1300 with any questions, such as what documents are needed to sign up. Don't let another year go by. Prepare yourself for a good life and future now.

## Raiford mom locked up disabled son

*'When I opened the door, approximately 50-plus roaches poured out.'*

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

LAKE BUTLER — Union deputies arrested a 51-year-old Raiford woman after they discovered her 23-year-old autistic son dehydrated, covered in sores and locked behind a fence and gate in living conditions they said were unfit for humans or animals.

Mahaley Mae Harris was arrested on July 23 for misappropriation of public assistance funds, interference with the custody of a disabled person, abuse of an elderly or disabled adult without great bodily harm and animal abandonment without food, water or exercise.

In an arrest report, Deputy Staci L. Stock wrote that dispatchers received a call from the victim but could not understand him. They determined his location by tracing the call.

Stock reported that she had to use bolt cutters to enter the property and drove down a long driveway to the residence, which was not visible from the road and was covered with overgrown vegetation.

She described the 23-year-old in the single-wide as mentally disabled, autistic and virtually



Harris

non-verbal.

"The victim indicated to Deputy Johnson and I that he was hot and hurting," Stock wrote. "Large amounts of scratches and sores covered his body. (The victim) was wearing a shirt that was on backwards and clothing soiled. (He) was extremely dirty and unkept."

Emergency medical services evaluated the victim and determined he was overheated and dehydrated, but not to the point he had to be transported to a hospital.

The victim was provided with Gatorade and air conditioning on scene.

## Pungent odor breaks through respirator facemask

Stock added that the smell coming from the trailer was so overpowering that Deputy Andrew Johnson put on a respirator facemask before entering the structure. However, Johnson said the smell was so strong it broke through the mask.

"There was human and K-9 fecal matter smeared on the door, walls, and even ceiling," Stock wrote. "The odor of feces, urine and rotted food was extremely pungent and not safe to breathe. I looked inside the refrigerator to see if there was any food or drink for (the victim). When I opened the door, approximately 50-plus roaches poured out. The refrigerator was not working,

and all contents were rotten. There was no air conditioning, merely one box fan and no open windows."

Stock added that while attempting to locate the victim's caretaker, she and Johnson discovered text messages between the victim and his mother: Harris.

One message from Harris to her son was a photo of a bag of food hanging from the locked gate of the property with the caption "dinner."

Stock wrote that when Harris arrived at the home, the deputy detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from her.

"She explained that she locked the gate to keep him inside and from running away," Stock wrote. "She also told us that the house had been just fine a few days ago."

## Food stamp card: \$0 balance

The deputy wrote that three dogs were also found confined in the trailer with no food or water.

She added that Union County Animal Control responded and seized the dogs, which were in poor health and emaciated.

Stock reported that Harris turned over her food stamp card to a neighbor who agreed to care for the victim until he could be placed by Florida's Department of Children and Families.

"Mahaley gave the card to (the neighbor)," wrote Stock. "When I asked for the PIN and balance so (the neighbor) could provide food for him, Mahaley gave the PIN and said the balance was \$0. This meant that if we would not have been called by (the victim), it is highly possible that he would not have had much food, if any, until the first of the month when (the card) refills."

Stock wrote that DCF investigators inspected the home and interviewed the victim and neighbor.

She added that a DCF investigator later contacted her for an update on the victim's status.

"(He) is being placed in a group home," Stock wrote of the 23-year-old, "where he will get the care he deserves."

## Backpack giveaway at library

Bradford County Public Library will host LifeSouth's Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway on Friday, Aug. 5. The first 300 kids to show up (accompanied by an adult) will receive a backpack full of school supplies.

Hot dogs from Downtown

Grill will be served. There will also be a blood drive at the event to increase blood donations for the summer.

The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library is located at 456 Pratt St. in Starke. For additional information, please contact Laura Bialeck at 352-359-0988, or lgbialeck@lifesouth.org.



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# Summer camp focuses on STEM and life skills

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The I Am STEM camp Edrick Hamilton is involved in provides, of course, educational enrichment for children, but it's also a way of imparting some life skills and tips.

This year marked the second straight summer Hamilton, the behavior resource teacher at Starke's Southside Elementary School, offered a STEM camp at the Starke Church of God by Faith's Community Learning Center. (He and teacher Ronni Spangler also offered one at Southside previously.) Adhering to the components of the STEM acronym (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), children in grades 2-8 participated in projects involving such things as computer coding, building rockets and flying drones.

Yet on July 7, they also learned such things as how to apply bandages and tourniquets and how to perform CPR and the Heimlich maneuver, courtesy of a visit by members of Bradford County Fire Rescue and UF Health.

"I think it's important to know those life skills or those life-

saving skills," Hamilton said.

Hamilton plays recreational volleyball with Elizabeth Warren, who is the chest-pain coordinator for UF Health. That led to teaching those life-saving skills to the children on July 7. Warren coordinated the effort, which also included sending CPR practice kids home with each camp participant.

The youngest children may not remember all the steps for performing CPR, for example, but Hamilton believes they benefitted from the experience as much as the older children.

"Some of the things they learned or were taught — they may be too young to perform," Hamilton said, "but you don't know what information they're retaining. They can give that knowledge to an adult and help them out."

For those who know Hamilton, it's not surprising that he wants to offer a STEM camp that goes beyond the STEM components. It falls in line with his desire to give children a variety of skills and knowledge that will help them in life. One day at the STEM camp, he talked to the children about stress — what it is



Jahziya Hutchinson controls a drone. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

and how to prevent it.

In a way, the STEM camp is like an extension of the 12 Guys in Bow Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls mentoring program Hamilton created. It supplements the education children receive in the classroom.

"I try to give every experience I can to the kids," Hamilton said. "Like the mentoring program, it's about just giving experiences. I tell the kids it's not always about just growing up and trying to go to college. You're trying to grow up to be a responsible adult."

At this year's camp, Hamilton created the opportunity for two previous camp participants (as well as a friend of theirs) to be counselors-in-training. It was a chance to still be a part of the camp, even though they had aged out.

As the camp progressed, Hamilton saw those counselors-in-training — Jessica Brown, Mackenzie Miller and Rochelle Ross — go from being told what needs to be done to automatically doing it. The same can be said of Jackson Charles, a youth volunteer.

It's another way of helping young people on the path toward becoming responsible adults.

"Those are the types of workers supervisors want to keep around," Hamilton said. "They see someone who's got initiative."

## Learning is fun

The number-one goal of the STEM camp is to immerse children in the subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. That's not accomplished by doing nothing but reading from a textbook and memorizing facts. It consists of launching various types of rockets, for example, with help from Bruce Griner of the Department of Defense's STARBASE program. It's piloting drones and building robots.

What the camp offered children was a chance to experiment in ways that often aren't available to them at school.

"STEM is important," Hamilton said. "It is the active engagement of the mind. Instead of just a nonchalant reading, this is hands-on learning — project-based learning. Research states that kids are more engaged in project-based learning. We just don't have time in the school year to do a lot of project-based learning."

"I want to provide an opportunity for kids to get excited about learning and try to keep them active and busy."

STEM activities provide alternate ways of learning, which Hamilton will tell you is huge. A child may struggle with a subject if it's taught one way, but may flourish if it's taught another way. Hamilton knows that from personal experience.

"I don't like the subject of history," he said. "I've always disliked it. I only had one history class that I enjoyed when I was in high school. The only reason I enjoyed it was my history teacher made a competition. We had to learn these different facts, and we competed as teams against other teams in our class and the against the (school's) other classes."

"I'm a competitive person. That's the only history class I ever enjoyed."

When he was a classroom teacher, Hamilton would use rap music to engage his students. Lyrics would incorporate what they were learning in class.

"It has a beat and a rhythm the kids can catch onto," Hamilton



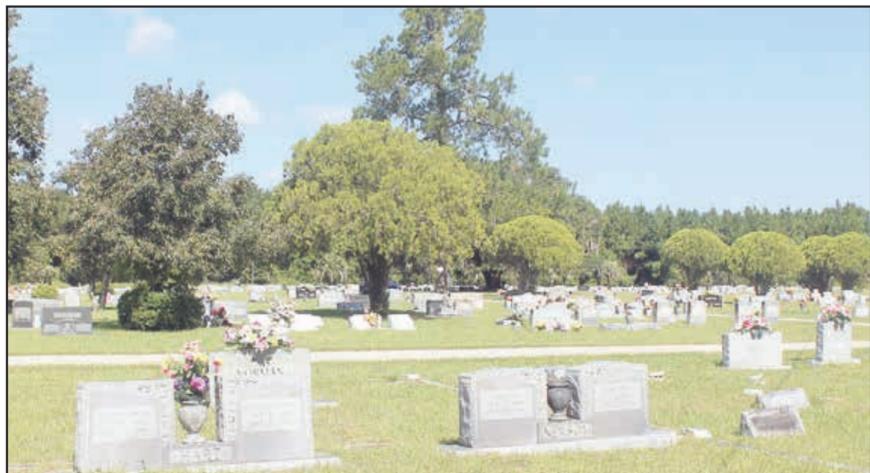
Khalid Hankerson (left) and Lyla Libby launch straw rockets during an exercise to determine how varying angles and levels of pressure affect flight distance.

said. "When they sing those songs, it gets them engaged. I said, 'Guys, that's your legal cheat sheet. Once that song is in your mind, and when it's time for testing, I can't tell you not to cheat.'"

See STEM, page 15



Harmony Reed performs chest compressions as Lana Oliver watches.



Maintenance of Crosby Lake Cemetery, which was established in the 1850s, is becoming difficult due to the fact that the cemetery isn't generating the monies it used to. Sales of lots have dwindled over the years. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

## Crosby Lake Cemetery in need of financial assistance

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Two longtime members of the Crosby Lake Cemetery Association are encouraging the community to contribute to maintenance efforts as the dwindling funds have made such efforts difficult.

"The bottom line is that we are floundering for finances," Carolyn Eaves said. "We really do need some help."

Eaves said the cost of mowing the cemetery, which consists of approximately 50 acres, is \$2,000. Mowing must be done at least twice a month during the summer. It doesn't have to be mown as much in the winter, but Eaves said an effort still needs to be made to clear tree limbs and debris during that time.

"We still want to maintain the cemetery for the people who are there," Eaves said. "We feel that maybe families and friends are not aware that there are no existing incomes for that cemetery except for the sale of lots."

Sales of lots have decreased over the years. Steve Futch remembers a time when people

bought 12-15 lots per month, but with cremation becoming a more popular option, people are either not buying lots or buying fewer of them.

"Cremation people aren't buying lots, or people are buying one lot for two people," Futch said. "One guy bought one to put all four members of his family. People aren't coming out and buying four, five, six or eight or

10 lots like they used to."

Futch and Eaves unsuccessfully appealed to the city of Starke and Bradford County commissions for help. Eaves said Sara Lynn Geiger and Tonya Shays, the legislative aides for Rep. Bobby Payne and Sen. Jennifer Bradley, respectively, have been receptive and have been "amazing" in

See CEMETERY, page 15

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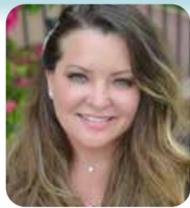
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Bethany Anderson  
APRN, FNP-BC  
Union DPC

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BC/UC Dept. of Health



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Dr. Jennifer Presnick

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# Obituaries

## James Christian

James K. Christian, 86, of Melrose passed away Thursday, July 21, 2022, in Palatka. He was born Sept. 30, 1935, in Tazewell County, Virginia to James L. and Margaret E. (Howery) Christian. He retired from the US Navy. He enjoyed restoring cars, fishing, and, in later years, visiting with his friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Marie Christian.

He leaves behind cousins, nieces and nephews who will miss him dearly. There are no scheduled services at this time. He will be laid to rest in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

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



## Donald Elixson

Donald Albert Elixson, 58, passed away on Sunday, July 24, 2022, in Lake City, Florida. He was born July 9, 1964, in Lake Butler to the late Donald and Doris (Finley) Elixson. In 1979, he started dating Debbie Mercier, and the two married on May 28, 1985. Together they made their home in Lake Butler with their children. He worked hard as a construction worker and as a truck driver. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing, motorcycles, and spending as much time as he could with his grandchildren and family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Doris Elixson; and his sister, Donue Lou Elixson.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Debbie Elixson; his daughters, Shianne Elixson, Ashley (Garrett) Courson, and Aaron Thomas; his grandchildren, Daulton, Matthew Jr., Emily, Vanessa, Hunter, Kayleigh, Logan, and Kinsley; great-grandchildren, Matthew III and Brookelyn; his siblings, Doris (Michael) Teston, Davy (Shelia) Elixson, Danielle Sargent, Darren (Rebekah) Elixson, and Denise (Mikey) Hedrick; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

A service to honor his life will be held Saturday, July 30, at 11 a.m. at Faith Baptist Church. The family will receive friends for a visitation beginning at 10 a.m. He will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Services will be officiated by Brother Ralph Durham.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008 www.ArcherFuneralHome.com  
PAID OBITUARY



## Carrie Stewart

Carrie Whitty Stewart, 88, passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. She was born in Ocklawaha to Mamie and Herman Whitty on Dec. 26, 1933. She was a homemaker and raised a host of family and friends. She was a blessing to many as she opened her home and kitchen to all who needed it. She was preceded in death by her mother and father; two sons; two daughters; a godson, Bill Lee; and goddaughter, Betty L. Smith.

She leaves behind to cherish her memories her son, T. J. Stewart; two daughters, Margaret Stewart (Early) Holmes and Deloris Davis; 25 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and a host of great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Victory Christian Church on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 11 a.m. The family will receive friends for a visitation the night before on Friday, Aug. 5, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. She will be laid to rest at Ft. Call Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008.



## Jane Croft

Jane Henshaw Croft, 71, of Lake Butler, passed away peacefully at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. She was born in Hollywood on March 11, 1951, to the late Robert and Marianne Henshaw. After meeting her now husband in Bradenton, the two married in 1981. After a few years, they decided to move to back to his hometown of Lake Butler to raise their family. She took a position as a clerk with the Department of Transportation and worked there until her retirement. Even though she was a city girl, she loved country life. She enjoyed watching the wildlife and her horses, doing yard work, mowing, and she loved a bonfire. She also enjoyed searching for and collecting antiques. She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband of almost 41 years, Bobby Croft of Lake Butler; her son, Bryan (Samantha) Croft of Fleming Island; her daughter, Cindy (Brad) Bryant of Honolulu, Hawaii; grandchildren, Ian Bryant, Ella Bryant, Hadlee Croft, and Piper Croft; siblings, Helen Hodowal of Jupiter, Robin Henshaw of Phoenix, Arizona, Victor Henshaw of Waycross, Georgia, and Anne Marie Williams of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Sunday, July 31, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. A graveside service will be held Monday, Aug. 1, at 9 a.m. at Mt. Zion/Swift Creek Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008 www.ArcherFuneralHome.com  
PAID OBITUARY



## Sandra Price

Sandra Lee Price "Sandi", 72, of Starke passed away unexpectedly Monday, July 25, 2022. She was born Nov. 18, 1949, in Racine, Wisconsin to Robert and Mary (Hinze) Black. She worked many years as a manager for Miller Enterprises before moving to Lake Wales. After retirement she devoted herself to caring for her parents. She attended Trinity Baptist Church of Lake Wales when her health allowed. She began everyday spending time with the Lord by reading her Bible while enjoying her coffee and praying faithfully for the needs of her family and friends. She enjoyed spending time outside, taking care of any animal in need, including wildlife, and especially spoiling her cats. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Raymond "Scott" Qualls. Her survivors are her son, Michael (Virginia) Qualls; and a brother James (Jane) Black. She was lovingly called "Grandma" by her grandchildren, Cody Qualls and Kristin (Brad) Muse; and her great-grandchildren, Aubrie, Emery, Trenton, Chloe, Blake, and Zeke.

A celebration of her life, well-lived and loved, will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, on the site she planned to build her home. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com  
PAID OBITUARY



## Oscar Crosby

Oscar Sherman Crosby, 86, died Tuesday, July 26, 2022, in Marion County. He was born in Bradford County on Dec. 10, 1935.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jeanette Crosby; five children, Steve, Tom, Dale, Jeffrey, and Sandy (deceased); and numerous grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6, at Mill Creek Baptist Church, 16350 NE 148th Terr Road, Fort McCoy, 32134.

## Janet Reddish

Janet Joyner Reddish was born Dec. 23, 1947, and passed into her heavenly home on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. She will spend eternity with her Heavenly Father. She graduated from Bradford High School with the Class of 1965. She was a very kind soul who greatly loved her family and friends. In Heaven we are promised eternity with no more heartaches and pain and there she resides. She was preceded in death by her parents, Neil and Jewell Joyner, and her beloved daughter Missy White.

She is survived by her daughter, Monica (Will) Douglas of Prattville Alabama; grandsons, Ryan (Samantha) Siemer of Kaneohe, Hawaii, Cedric (Brittany) Perry of Lakeland, Georgia; granddaughter, Marissa White of Clyattville Georgia; great-grandchildren, Kaitlin, Audrey, Renee, Chloe and Caleb; brother, Randy (Brenda) Joyner of Alachua; sisters, Ann (Travis) Woods and Glenna Morgan of Starke; and many nieces and nephews.

A private service will be held at a later date.  
PAID OBITUARY



## Franklin Wilkes Sr.

Franklin "Frankie" G. Wilkes Sr., 76, of Starke passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at his residence. He was born in Jacksonville on June 18, 1946, to Lois Cannon and the late Henry Hilton Wilkes Jr.. He was raised in Jacksonville and Starke. He had a long and successful career as a truck driver in Jacksonville for Cargill. After many years of dedicated service, he retired in 1994. After retirement, he loved collecting junk, fishing, drinking coffee, tending to his chickens, selling watermelons and spending time with his beloved dogs. He was a loving father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend who will be missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his father, Henry Hilton Wilkes Jr.; stepfather, Hance Brittain Thornton; and his longtime companion, Carolyn Harvey.

He is survived by his loving mom, Lois Cannon Thornton of Starke; daughters, Donna Gail of Williston, and Lonna Elaine of Macclenny; sons, Franklin "Babo" (Tina) Wilkes Jr. of Big Rapids, Michigan, Henry (Charlene Darrah) Wilkes and Jason Wilkes of Starke; brothers, Pete (Shirley) Thornton of Starke and Rev. Larry (Nancy) Thornton of Lawtey; 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

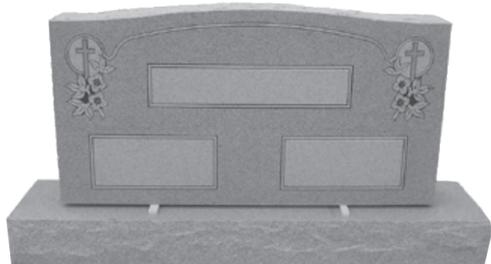
A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, Aug. 4, at 3 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Rev. Larry Thornton officiating. Interment will follow at Pine Grove Congregational Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home an hour prior.

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



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# Legals

## BRADFORD

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

Case No.: 21000355-DRAXMX

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

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE TO: JUSTIN GABRIEL CHAMBERS 402 Palm Boulevard

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

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

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

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

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

7/21 4tchg 8/11-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM WEBSTER  
Deceased.

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

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

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

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

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

7/21 2tchg 7/28-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Samantha Bakken, 19616 NW CR 235, Lake Butler, FL 32054 and Heather Dodd, 1650 W. Madison Apt N-1, Starke, FL 32091 joint owners, doing business under

the firm name of: SHEAR SISTER'S HAIR CO., 273 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 18th day of July A.D., 2022, in Bradford County.

7/28 1tchg-BCT

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

7/28 1tchg-BCT

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

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

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

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

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

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

The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the agency determination; A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Department's agency decision; A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate; A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

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

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

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

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

Mediation Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

7/28 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Amy N. Griffin  
Last known address of: 2180 SE 150th St LOT 21 Starke FL 32091-8300  
You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.  
Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph  
Amanda Seyfang  
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections  
P. O. Box 58  
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C  
Starke, FL 32091  
Date: July 25, 2022

7/28 1tchg-BCT

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

City of Lawtey, P.O. Drawer G Lawtey, FL 32058, 904-782-3454  
To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals  
This is to give notice that the City of Lawtey has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection to determine the potential affect that the activity in the floodplain and/or wetland will have on the environment. The activity is funded by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program under CDBG Agreement No. IR018.

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

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

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

The City of Lawtey has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative due to the scope of the project. Apart from the no-action alternative, the City considered the purchase of land to create stormwater ponds throughout the City. Due to the cost of land acquisition and the need to incorporate the newly created stormwater ponds into the existing drainage system, the City determined this alternative was impractical and would still result in actions being completed within existing floodplains/wetlands. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments. Written comments must be received by Lisa Harley, City Clerk in person at 2793 Lake Street, Lawtey, FL 32058 or mailed to PO Drawer G, Lawtey, FL 32058 on or before August 8, 2022. Comments may also be submitted by email at cityoflawtey@embarqmail.com. Additional information may be obtained by contacting: Lisa Harley, City Clerk at 904-782-3504. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00am to 2:00pm at 2793 Lake Street, Lawtey, FL 32058. Jimmy Scott, Mayor of the City of Lawtey as the Environmental Certifying Official.

7/28 1tchg-BCT

## UNION

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION To the following Defendant(s): ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN E. SOUTHERLAND JR., WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING A TOTAL AREA OF 10.4 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT MOT LABELED) IDENTIFYING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, AND RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 1029.05 FEET TO FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (LABELED B.R. WATTLES, RLS 1443), AND TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 14 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 684.70 FEET TO A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (NOT LABELED); THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 661.01 FEET TO A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (NOT LABELED); THENCE RUN NORTH 04 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 691.01 FEET TO A FOUND 4 INCH SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT (NOT LABELED) AT THE INTERSECTION WITH THE AFORESAID NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 9; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 46 MINUTES

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

7/21 2tchg 7/28-UCT

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

IN RE ESTATE OF THOMAS MICHAEL HOLMES  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Name/Address  
Melisa J. Ward  
796 Lake Shore Terrace  
Interlachen, FL 32148  
Gloria Lynette Holmes  
9539 SW 146th Lane  
Lake Butler, Florida 32054  
Joseph M. Holmes  
15337 SW 91st Way  
Lake Butler, Florida 32054  
William D. Holmes  
14749 SW 85th Trail  
Lake Butler, Florida 32054  
Desiree N. Smith  
1262 NE 237th Place  
Raiford, Florida 32083

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All creditors of the estate of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is July 21, 2022.

Attorney for Person Giving Notice  
R. Kevin Sharbaugh, Attorney  
Florida Bar Number: 86240  
DOUGLAS LAW FIRM  
117 N 2nd Street  
Palatka, FL 32177  
Telephone: (386) 530-2955  
Fax: (386) 385-5914  
E-Mail: kevin@dhlawyers.com  
Secondary E-Mail: amandah@dhlawyers.com  
Person Giving Notice:  
Melisa J. Ward  
796 Lake Shore Terrace  
Interlachen, Florida 32148

7/21 2tchg 7/28-UCT

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3, DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7/14 2tchg and 7/28-UCT

## LAKE REGION

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

7/28 1tchg-LRM

**Bradford County Telegraph**  
USPS 062-700  
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John Miller, Publisher

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Sports Editor:	Cliff Smelley
Advertising:	John R. Tillman
Typesetting:	Mary Goodge
Advertising & Newspaper Prod:	C. Hurston
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# Melrose 15U All-Stars go 2-2 at Southeast Regionals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Melrose 15U Baseball All-Stars got off to a great start, winning two games by a combined score of 29-2, but the team then lost two straight as it was eliminated from the Southeast Regionals in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Melrose advanced to the tournament after winning the first-ever state championship for a Melrose team as well as the first-ever title for a District 5 team.

The team had a chance to keep its season going, but fell two runs shy of a win in its final regional game — a 5-4 loss to Greenville (North Carolina).

Play for Melrose began with a 14-2 win over Gloucester (Virginia) on July 27 that saw pitchers Tyler Brinson, Austin Musgrove, Cason Pilcher and Clayton Screen combine to give up only two hits.

Melrose trailed 2-0 before scoring 11 runs in the fifth inning.

Brayden Smyth got the big inning started with a single. After Andrew Wilson was hit by a pitch, Smyth scored on a passed ball. Wilson scored on a single by Musgrove.

Gage Barry and Aiden Screen drew back-to-back walks to load the bases. An Austin Smith single brought two of the runners home, putting Melrose ahead 4-2.

Pilcher drew a walk to load the bases again. Screen and Smith scored on wild pitches. After Clayton Screen drew a walk,

Brinson hit a two-run single. Smyth then hit a one-run single, making the score 9-2.

Wilson and Musgrove drew walks to load the bases. A ground out by Barry scored one run, while Wilson scored the final run of the fifth on a passed ball.

Barry, Brinson and Smith each had two RBI, with Smith going 3 for 5. Musgrove and Smyth each drove in one run, with Smyth going 2 for 4.

Wilson went 2 for 3.

Musgrove got the start on the mound, giving up two runs (one earned) on two hits, while striking out three.

Clayton Screen and Pilcher threw 1.2 and 2.2 innings, respectively, giving up no hits. Pilcher had six strikeouts.

Brinson faced the final batter, forcing him to line out.

Melrose didn't have to wait as long to build a big lead in its second game, scoring 11 runs in the second inning en route to a 15-0, four-inning win over Iredell County (North Carolina) on July 28.

Starting pitcher Aiden Screen threw a no-hitter through 2.2 innings, striking out four.

Barry closed it out, giving up one hit.

The bottom of the second began with a leadoff single by Smith, who then scored on a Pilcher double. Brinson hit a sacrifice and reached on an error, which allowed Pilcher to score, while Brinson moved all the way around to third.

Melrose loaded the bases, with



The Melrose 15U All-Stars traveled to Williamsburg, Virginia, to play in the Southeast Regionals after winning the first-ever state title for a District 5 team. The team recorded two big wins before bowing out of the tournament with a 2-2 record. Pictured (l-r) are: Coach Mark Musgrove, Gage Barry, Austin Smith, Clayton Screen, Foster Smith, Andrew Wilson, Austin Musgrove, Cason Pilcher, Coach Dale Yarbrough, Brayden Smyth, Tyler Brinson, Aiden Screen, Tyler Holman and Coach Chris Trull. Not pictured: Kacen Thomassen.

Clayton Screen drawing a walk and Smyth getting hit by a pitch. Brinson scored on a passed ball, while Screen and Smyth scored on a Wilson double. A single by Musgrove pushed another run across to make the score 6-0.

With two outs in the inning, Musgrove scored on a passed ball. Smith and Pilcher hit back-to-back singles, with Pilcher's hit scoring a run. After a Brinson walk, Clayton Screen drove in two runs on a single. Screen later scored the final run of the inning on an error.

Wilson went 4 for 4 with three RBI, while Pilcher went 2 for 3 with two RBI. Smith also went 2 for 3.

Clayton Screen finished with two RBI, while Musgrove had one.

On July 29, Melrose fell behind 8-0 in the first inning of what would be an eventual 9-1 loss to Okeechelée (West Palm

Beach). Okeechelée had only three hits in its big opening inning, but took advantage of three errors, three walks and a passed ball.

Melrose scored its lone run in the top of the seventh. Clayton Screen led off the inning with single. Two outs later, Musgrove drew a walk before Screen scored on a Barry single.

Foster Smith was Melrose's only multi-hit batter, going 2 for 3.

To avoid elimination, Melrose had to win its next game. It never led in its July 30 game against Greenville, but it did make things interesting in the final inning before losing 5-4.

Smyth singled to lead off the top of the seventh. Musgrove then drew a one-out walk before a Barry single scored Smyth, making the score 5-3. Musgrove scored on a passed ball to bring Melrose's deficit to just one run.

Greenville intentionally walked Aiden Screen to load the bases. A strikeout and a fly out ended the game.

Greenville took a 3-0 lead in the first inning. A dropped third strike and an error allowed two of those runs to score.

Melrose made it a 3-2 game in the fifth. Wilson and Musgrove reached on a single and a walk, respectively. Both scored on an Austin Smith double.

Greenville scored two runs in the sixth. Three batters reached on two walks and one error. Runs scored on a passed ball and a single.

Barry was Melrose's only multi-hit batter, going 2 for 4.

Starting pitcher Pilcher gave up five runs (one earned) on two hits in 5.1 innings. He struck out eight.

Musgrove faced the final two batters, forcing them to hit fly ball outs.

Pilcher led the team in innings pitched in the tournament with eight. He gave up two hits and one earned run and struck out 14.

Clayton Screen gave up one hit and one earned run in 3.2 innings. Brinson and Musgrove each threw a total of three innings, with Brinson giving up three hits and no earned runs and Musgrove giving up two hits and one earned run.

Aiden Screen gave up no hits and no runs in 2.2 innings, while Barry gave up one hit and no runs in 2.1 innings.

Wilson was the leading batter with a .533 average. Two others batted better than .400: Austin Smith (.467) and Smyth (.417).

Austin Smith drove in a total of four runs, while Barry and Wilson each drove in three. Brinson, Musgrove, Pilcher and Clayton Screen each had two RBI.

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WE ACCEPT

**40 Notices**

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

tised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

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**65 Help Wanted**  
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**ATOR** The New River Solid Waste Association is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Equipment Operator. Responsibilities will include operation of a variety of heavy equipment in addition to screening wastes for removal of unauthorized materials. Experience in the operation and maintenance of heavy equipment and/or landfill operation experience is desired. Employee will be required to complete a Landfill Operator and an Inmate Supervision course within 6 months of employment. Valid Florida Driver License and high school graduation or GED needed. Salary range will vary based on experience. Applications can be picked up at the Administration Office at New River Regional Landfill located at 24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford FL 32083 or requested via email to [lgreene@nrswa.org](mailto:lgreene@nrswa.org). Deadline for submitting applications will be Friday,

August 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. For further information, call 386-431-1000. New River Solid Waste is a drug-free workplace; drug testing will be required. NRSWA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**HOUSEKEEPING** position available. 3 days per week, 3 hours per day, located in Bradford County. Duties include cleaning, shopping & errands. References required. For further details phone, no texts! 352-281-0260.

**THE BRADFORD COUNTY Public Works/Road Department** is accepting applications for three (3) qualified, Full-Time Heavy Equipment Operators at a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D. Applications along with a detailed job description may be obtained from the Road Department, located at 812B North Grand St., Starke, FL 32091 or from the county website at [www.bradfordcountyfl.gov](http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov)

The deadline for accepting applications is before the close of business on August 18, 2022. Bradford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For inquiries, please contact the Road Department at (904) 966-6243.

**THE BRADFORD COUNTY Public Works/Maintenance Department** is accepting applications for a qualified Full-Time Custodian at

a pay rate of \$14.00 per hour. Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D. Applications along with a detailed job description may be obtained from the Road Department, located at 8128 North Grand St. Starke, FL 32091 or from the county website at [www.bradfordcountyfl.gov](http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov) The deadline for accepting applications is before the close of business on August 18, 2022. Bradford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For inquiries, please contact the Road Department at (904)966-6243.

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## CEMETERY

Continued from page 9

providing some ideas. One such idea is trying to obtain grants. "I have somebody interested in doing that for historical preservation," Eaves said. "What I now need are maybe some prominent people who are buried out there. So far, the only one I can come up with is (former Florida Sen.) Charley Johns. I'm

sure there are others we might could put in that category. That would enhance our position to get that (grant)." Futch said in many cases, it's hard to know who is buried at the cemetery, due to the record-keeping system, especially before 1970. A name of a person who bought a lot may be on file, but that doesn't necessarily tell you who's buried in the lot. Futch said sometimes it might be known who's buried there, but not exactly where they're buried.

Eaves said it would help the cemetery's efforts if family members of those buried there could be required to pay an annual maintenance fee, but in many cases, it's simply not known who to contact. "We're not blessed to have those records," Eaves said. "We have no way of letting you know there's a need." Eaves and Futch are the remnants of what used to be a nine-member Crosby Lake Cemetery Association board of

directors. The association was incorporated in 1971 — one year after DeWitt C. Jones, the founder of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, transferred his control of the property to the community. The original board consisted of three members who each represented a Starke church: O.L. Hazen (First Baptist), Eugene L. Matthews (First United Methodist) and Arch Thomas (Madison Street Baptist). The board eventually grew

to consist of multiple members from each of those churches. At some point, the two Baptist churches decided to no longer be involved. Futch said it has been difficult to get people to help, even though a lot of people in Starke and Bradford County have loved ones buried at Crosby Lake Cemetery. The cemetery was established sometime in the 1850s. "Nobody wants to seem to worry about it," Futch said. If anyone would like to make a monetary donation toward

upkeep of the cemetery, please contact Eaves at 904-964-5812 or Futch at 904-966-6535 or mail donation to Crosby Lake Cemetery Association, Care of Carolyn Eaves, 613 Colley Road, Starke, FL 32091. Of course, anyone is welcome to provide physical labor in helping to maintain the grounds or simply take care of family gravesites. Futch encouraged anyone who'd like to fulfill record-keeping and/or accounting duties to contact him or Eaves as well.



**LEFT:** Corbyn Groves (left), with Emily Cannister, UF Health pediatric trauma/injury prevention coordinator, looking on, practices applying a tourniquet. **BELOW:** Amy Berger, pediatric trauma manager for UF Health, helps Ezekiel Isaac (left) and Zion Tyson in learning how to apply a tourniquet.

I Am STEM participants were able to learn how to save a choking person, courtesy of Bradford County Fire Rescue personnel. **ABOVE LEFT:** Jaslene Coley practices her technique on Jaden Hendrieth. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Alli Gray portrays the choking victim as Jalyne Akins attempts to save her.

## STEM

Continued from page 9

to write down what's in your head." Children at this year's STEM camp learned about computer coding as part of a fun project that, when done correctly, resulted in an on-screen dancing shark. "When the kids see it work, they get up and start dancing," Hamilton said. Hamilton said the coding project positively affected the children's confidence and gave them a glimpse into a career opportunity they wouldn't have associated with engineering. "When you say 'engineering,' you never think it can be something as cool as doing coding," Hamilton said. This year's camp, which consisted of 27 children, began June 20 and ended July 22.

The camp benefitted once again from a donation made by the Bradford County Democrats We Care Program. The camp received \$10,000 last year and \$15,000 this year. Hamilton said that money, of course, helped to purchase various kits and materials. It also helped fund income-based scholarships as well as providing some type of discount to every child's family that applied for a scholarship. "It's been a blessing," Hamilton said of the We Care Program's support. "It's something I don't have to stress about. I can just worry about, 'OK, what lesson can I teach the kids?'" Such donations show that Hamilton isn't the only one who understands how important such a summer camp is. "It's great that other people can believe in it and see that it's something that's needed in our community," Hamilton said.




The mission of Tobacco Free Union is to advance policies that will help end nicotine addiction in Union County. We work collectively towards eliminating initiation and use of tobacco and alternative nicotine products among Union County residents, supporting tobacco policy change and educating decision makers about the impacts of tobacco use and nicotine addiction on the lives of Union County residents and visitors.

### TOBACCO FREE UNION PRACTICES

- 1 Educating Community members on tobacco-related issues.
- 2 Building strong community relationships for collaborative efforts.
- 3 Promoting healthy and nicotine free lifestyles.

## TOBACCO FREE UNION MEETINGS

The Tobacco Free Partnership of Union will meet at the Union County School Board meeting room from 3:15 - 4:00 pm on the following dates:

- September 15, 2022
- November 17, 2022
- February 16, 2023
- May 18, 2023

For more information about the partnership contact [info@tobaccofreeunioncounty.com](mailto:info@tobaccofreeunioncounty.com)

# Bradford ag teacher wins Ms. U.S. Agriculture title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Receiving honors and national recognition is nothing new for Bradford County Agriculture Teacher Kaitlin Van Heusen, but she's discovered that having a crown on your head is what really grabs people's attention.

Van Heusen won the title of National Ms. United States Agriculture at the Miss United States Agriculture pageant, which was held June 24-25 in Orlando.

"Did I ever think I would win a pageant? No, but I like this program a lot because it allows you to advocate for agriculture with a crown and sash," Van Heusen said. "Somebody once told me you would be surprised at how many doors a crown and sash open. I thought they weren't serious. It's true.

"I've won national teaching titles. People are like, 'Oh, OK. You won a national teaching title.' You win a crown, and people are like, 'Whoa!'"

In some ways, Van Heusen was stepping outside of her comfort zone. She said she's participated in only one other pageant, which was 15 years ago. She said she didn't do well.

Yet the pageant also gave her the opportunity to do something she's plenty comfortable with — talking about a subject she's passionate about. She answered questions about such things as agricultural technology and the biggest issues in agriculture today.

Van Heusen's pageant platform — or cause — was to bring awareness to the loss of farmland due to urbanization.



Bradford County Agriculture Teacher Kaitlin Van Heusen is crowned National Ms. United States Agriculture. Photos by Baron DaParre Photography.

"When we lose it to development and things like that, we lose the ability to feed people," she said.

A balance must be found,

protecting farmland and still meeting the needs of urbanization, Van Heusen said. Also, spaces transformed by urbanization but no longer utilized — empty

lots, for example — can be used agriculturally.

"There's so much technology today with hydroponics and things like that," Van Heusen said. "We can turn those into good growing spaces. We can turn those into productive spaces and still produce food."

## Why not?

Van Heusen was attending an FFA convention when someone she was talking to said she should consider competing in the pageant. It would allow Van Heusen to rely upon her knowledge of agriculture and not have to worry about coming up with some kind of talent, as is the case with a lot of pageants.

In thinking about it, Van Heusen figured she may as well try. If she didn't win, she still had plenty on her plate. Aside from teaching and serving as FFA adviser, she serves on multiple ag-education boards and will be the president-elect of the Florida Association of Agriculture Educators (a three-year commitment).

"I decided, let's give it a shot," Van Heusen said.

The pageant consists of nine age divisions, starting with Tiny Miss for ages 0-3 and ending with Elite Ms. for ages 36 and up. The Ms. division Van Heusen competed in is for ages 22-35.

Van Heusen was one of eight Ms. division participants. She said the pageant consisted of 93 total in all age divisions.

Participants were judged in the categories of on-stage introduction, on-stage question, interview, photogenic, formal wear and state fun fashion. State fun fashion is dressing in a way to represent your state.

"Of course, being from Bradford County, I chose strawberries," Van Heusen said. "I found a cute strawberry dress, and I had a basket full of strawberries."

The talking portions of the pageant didn't bother Van Heusen. She can talk about agriculture all day, she said.

What made her nervous was moving on stage.

"A lot of the girls were scared of speaking on stage. I was scared of walking on stage," Van Heusen said. "Anyone who knows me knows I can't even walk on flat surfaces."

She couldn't help thinking about the movie "Miss Congeniality" and the scene where Gracie Hart, played by Sandra Bullock, takes a fall.

"That's what I said the whole time," Van Heusen said. "This is going to be 'Miss Congeniality' right here. I'm going to face plant on stage."

She didn't fall, but maybe that was because her mind was elsewhere. As she was preparing to go on stage, she was taking phone calls about the Bradford ag program's tractor being stolen and found later hit by a train.

"I was running that mess through my head as they were calling my name," Van Heusen said. "The emcee was like, 'Walk forward,' because I wasn't paying attention."

Her focus shifted more toward the pageant as the finalists were announced. When she was among the remaining two in the running for the title, Van Heusen said that's when she began to realize she could win.

Still, it was hard to believe the crown went to her.

"When they announced it, it was pure shock," Van Heusen said. "I was not prepared for that."

Van Heusen also placed first in the individual areas of introduction, interview and photogenic.

## An additional ag-related avenue

For Van Heusen, the pageant was always viewed as yet another way for her to be involved as an advocate for agriculture-related issues. As Ms. United States Agriculture, she looks for opportunities and accepts invitations to visit fairs and other ag-related events and to tour farms and promote them via social media.

She's also managing an agritourism page for the pageant as well as lending any assistance she can to the other pageant winners.

"It's just promoting as much as I can, advocating and helping any of the other girls," Van Heusen said.

Even if she hadn't won, Van Heusen would've enjoyed the fact that she was a part of providing college opportunities for youth. Participants sold advertisements for the pageant's program, helping to raise \$15,000 that will be awarded in scholarships.

"My division, while we don't get money out of it, we raise money, especially for the Miss division and the younger divisions because those are the girls who are going into college," Van Heusen said. "We want them to stick around in ag."

Through her participation, Van Heusen also met a lot of people representing various areas in agriculture — contacts she might find helpful as an agriculture educator.

Simply put, Van Heusen lives and breathes agriculture. It's why she teaches it, why she serves on multiple ag-related boards, why she enters contests for national teaching honors and why she entered the pageant.

Plus, Van Heusen works on the Bradford ag farm as well as maintaining the greenhouse behind the ag classrooms at North Florida Technical College. She has a lot to keep up with.

"I have a calendar on my fridge, a calendar on my phone and a planner," Van Heusen said. "It's the only way I keep up with my life right now."

People have asked when she finds time to sleep, but Van Heusen said her life isn't overwhelming. The key is to think in advance.

"I plan out my whole next month of what I've got going. It's planning things out. It's making lists," Van Heusen said, adding,



The pageant's state fun fashion portion had contestants dressing in a way that represented their state. Since she's from Bradford County, Kaitlin Van Heusen decided she needed to wear a strawberry dress. She's also holding a basket of strawberries.

"You have to plan in advance to juggle this much."

The benefit isn't just that she plays a role as an agriculture advocate. It helps her as a teacher who's trying to motivate students.

"They always tell us if you want your kids to be active in FFA, then you need to be active in your professional organizations," Van Heusen said. "When kids see an adult who's motivated and wants to push themselves and wants to encourage them to do as well, a lot of times they step up to plate and say, 'Hey, I want to try that.'"

"If they see somebody putting in the effort, a lot of kids will put in the same effort."

Participating in a pageant, though? That was hard for some of her students to fathom. Van Heusen said when she told them, some laughed and remarked about how they had just seen her diving after a chicken that got loose.

Her students have seen her get dirty, working with animals or crawling through mud at fairs.

"Usually, I'm covered in God knows what," Van Heusen said.

Van Heusen laughed and said that thanks to the pageant, her students saw that there's actually a person underneath the layers of dirt, etc.

"They saw that Miss V can clean up," she said.

If you'd like to keep abreast of what Van Heusen is doing in her role of Ms. United States Agriculture, please visit her Facebook page, "Kaitlin Van Heusen-2022 National Ms. United States Agriculture."



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