

Bradford County Telegraph



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139TH YEAR, 2ND ISSUE

Sen. Nelson contrasts record with Scott's

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Sen. Bill Nelson drew contrasts between himself and Gov. Rick Scott during a campaign stop at Starke's RJE Center Tuesday night.

The three-term senator is defending his seat against Florida's chief executive. Nelson was joined by his wife, Grace, and daughter, Nan Ellen, at RJE.

Nelson started his talk with a friendly jibe at his opponent and Republicans.

"Just remember," he said, "an election is like driving a car: If you want to go forward, you put it in D; if you want to go backwards, you put it in R."

Nelson told the crowd of around 100 that he had spent most of the day in north Florida counties.

"A lot of these counties have Florida state prisons in them," he said. "We know what has happened to the salaries of the Department of Corrections officers over the last eight years. We're not going to lose that fact in this campaign as we draw a contrast for the voters between the record of Gov. Scott, my opponent, and me."

Medicare and Social Security

Nelson said that he has a track



Sen. Bill Nelson spoke to around 100 people at Starke's RJE Center Tuesday night. Nelson started his talk with a friendly jibe at his opponent and Republicans. "Just remember," he said, "an election is like driving a car; if you want to go forward, you put it in D, if you want to go backwards, you put it in R."

record of preserving Medicare and Social Security.

"In my years in the Senate," he said, "I have had to fight over and over and over to keep Medicare from being cut and to keep Social Security from being cut."

He added that he fought against past Republican efforts to privatize Social

Security.

"You know what (privatization) means?" he said. "It means that what is a guaranteed payment to you in Social Security, all of a sudden becomes subject to the vagaries of the stock market. Well the stock market doesn't always go up. Sometimes, it goes down, sometimes it even crashes."

Nelson also said Scott wants to make massive cuts to the nation's health care plan for seniors.

"If you look at the record of my opponent and some of the things that he said about Medicare, you'll see that he wants to whack 750 to 800 billion dollars out of Medicare," Nelson said.

See NELSON, 6A

Business leaders planning outreach to Tallahassee lawmakers

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

The Bradford County Development Authority and North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce are spearheading an effort to raise the profile of rural communities in Tallahassee.

Modeled after Clay County's Clay Day, the two-day event will feature a reception on April 16 at a Tallahassee

venue and an all-day event in the courtyard of the Capitol the following day.

Development Authority Chair and Capital City Bank President Patricia Evans said Rural Counties Day will include exhibits, live music, speakers and food that will highlight the unique characteristics of Florida's rural communities.

She said that up to 500 people

could meet with local representatives at exhibits set up by the school board, businesses, constitutional officers, municipalities and other organizations.

It's Bradford, not Broward

Evans said legislators often confuse

Bradford County with a similar sounding area in south Florida, adding that Bradford County may be missing funding opportunities because of the mix-up.

"Sadly, more often than not, people hear Bradford, but they think Broward," she said, "and they're like, well, Broward doesn't need any

See RURAL, 6A



COMMUNITY NEWS

Sign up for 4-H

Find about Bradford County 4-H at Enrollment Night, Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. 4-H provides youth the opportunity to learn life skills, explore science outside of the classroom, engage in community service and experience fun opportunities like 4-H camp.

For more information, call 4-H agent Debbie Nistler at 904-966-6244 or email nistlerd@ufl.edu.

Rally in Theresa

The Theresa Volunteer Fire Department is having a political rally and BBQ on Saturday, Aug. 25. Theresa is located off State road 100, just west of the Keystone Heights airport.

The fire department will be serving a meal for a donation starting at 6 p.m. All local, regional and statewide candidates are invited, and they will start speaking at 7 p.m. Each candidate will be allowed three minutes to speak.

Candidates, please contact Rusty Sullivan at tvfd@bradfordcountyfl.gov or 352-473-6800 or Julie Sullivan at 352-235-0101 no later than Aug. 19 to let them know you would like to speak.

Bradford Environmental Forum Aug. 18

The public is invited to attend a nonpartisan political forum focused on water and land use in Bradford County. What will it mean to bring a 5000-acre phosphate mine to the edge of Brooker? How can we address frequent flooding in Starke? Can economic development go hand-in-hand with preserving our piece of Old Florida? Is water conservation really necessary with wetlands all around us? What questions do you have as a citizen?

All area legislative candidates have been invited to speak and answer your questions from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, at Brooker Town Hall, 17435 Tetstone Ave. Refreshments will be served. For further information, call 352-283-5536.

Starke election Sept. 4 Mail ballots available

The city of Starke will hold its general election on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018. Polls will be open that day at Starke City Hall (209 N. Thompson St.) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Only Starke voters who reside within city Districts 1 and 3 will be eligible to participate in this election.

In the District 1 contest, incumbent City Commissioner Daniel W. Nugent will be opposed by challenger Dimple Overstreet, and in the District 3 race, incumbent Commissioner Travis V. Woods will face challenger Shannon Smith.

Voters who wish to request a vote-by-mail ballot for this election may call the Supervisor of Elections office at 904-966-6266 or visit www.BradfordElections.com.



Tricia Mercer accompanies her fifth-grade daughter, Lily, to Starke Elementary.



Waiting in line at Starke Elementary's front desk are (l-r) Londyn Guion, 3, Dmonique Slocum and kindergartener Trinquie Guion.

Whether it was their first day of school or their first day back, Bradford County students reported to campus on Monday, many with family by their side. With many fun but challenging days ahead, may the support from families and the community continue throughout the year!

WE ARE TORNADOES!



State auditors say Starke still has a way to go

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Progress is notably lacking in the most recent follow-up to the state's operational audit of the city of Starke.

Starke still has 27 uncorrected or partially corrected findings to deal with. Only eight issues from the original 2014 audit had been corrected. That audit covered the years 2010 to 2013. The update evaluates more recent years to assess the city's progress.

Auditors conducted the follow-up from April to August 2016 and July to November 2017. That should serve as a disclaimer that more recent policy changes and management decisions are not necessarily reflected in the report.

Among the issues state auditors have been tracking are the commission's overpayment of elected officials and the exorbitant amount in overtime compensation the city is paying to some employees.

This time around auditors discovered that city commissioners, the city clerk and the police chief were illegally paid \$500 performance bonuses at the same time those bonuses were awarded to city employees in fiscal year 2015-16. The bonuses were based on meeting a minimum score on annual performance evaluations, but city officials don't undergo performance evaluations. Furthermore, compensation for city officials is set by ordinance and that ordinance does not authorize the payment of bonuses.

City employees said paying city officials these bonuses was "due to an oversight." Auditors say the city's seven elected officials need to pay that money back. (This does not include Commissioner Janice Mortimer, who was not on the board representing District 2 at the time.)

It is interesting to note that every single city employee met the minimum score of the performance evaluation and every single employee was paid the bonus.

The audit also says the city's safety pay policy violates state law because it rewards employees eight hours of additional pay for not reporting workplace injuries rather than for their work performance.

Auditors had instructed Starke to do a better job monitoring employee overtime. As of October 2017, they said the city had not performed an overtime analysis, let alone reduced the amount of overtime paid out.

In fact, from 2014 to 2016, the amount of overtime paid grew from \$163,467 to \$233,422, and the number of employees receiving it grew from 42 to 55. (This did not include firefighters who receive guaranteed overtime as part of their shiftwork.)

"We continue to recommend that the city perform overtime and staffing analyses to ensure the most cost efficient and effective use of human resources," auditors wrote.

(While there are several months left in the current fiscal year, a look at updated financial report shows that overtime payments are coming in under budget in many areas, including public works and the police department.)

Auditors also want the city to stick to its purchasing policy, noting multiple cases where informal bids from at least three vendors were not obtained for purchases from \$1,000 to \$15,000, including police vehicle equipment, water tower lighting materials, utility pole tags, tree trimming services, police rifle conversion kits, an ice machine, traffic light repair services, vehicle emergency lights — and \$3,262 for pocket appointment calendars.

Auditors want a better accounting of the city's utility systems, insisting there should be a separate accounting for each utility's assets, liabilities and net position instead of reporting all four as a single enterprise fund. They also recommend the city implement the increased electric rates recommended by 2012 rate study and contract for a gas rate study as well.

The majority of businesses in the city pay for their annual business licenses on time, avoiding late fees and penalties. Auditors found 80 businesses, however, whose taxes were due by Oct. 1, 2015, but hadn't been paid as of April 19, 2016. As of July 5, 2016, 51 with taxes totaling more than \$2,800 were still delinquent. Furthermore, of the 80 licenses associated with payments that were 150 or more days past due, late fees totaled \$1,125 and penalties totaled \$20,000 for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

City personnel told auditors they notified businesses of the delinquencies but did not pursue late fee collection and did not enforce the \$250 penalty. Delinquent amounts were added to the following year's billing statement because personnel did not want to discourage businesses from operating in the

city. Auditors recommend the city comply with its code.

They are also insisting the city reconcile its customer deposit liability and bank account balances with the subsidiary ledger. Examining the three discovered three different balances because they were not periodically reconciled.

There was another failure to collect delinquent utility payments or cut off accounts. On March 2, 2015, auditors found there were 277 uncollected accounts, 211 residential and 66 commercial. All were subject to disconnection. Fifteen were pending payment through a financial assistance grant, and 17 were disconnected. Sixty-six more avoided disconnection by paying, and 26 requests for extensions were granted. The finance director granted extensions to 153 others without an extension request, including 125 that were up to 13 days late, 22 that were 40 days late (giving them a second consecutive extension) and six that were 70 or more days late (and had therefore exceeded the maximum number of extensions allowed per year).

Personnel said the manual process for monitoring payments and disconnections is labor intensive and there is limited staff to perform the task. But auditors said, "For collection efforts to be effective, such efforts must be both timely and progressively strengthened as accounts become more delinquent. Without effective efforts, such as appropriate payment arrangements or utility disconnections, there is an increased risk that account balances will continue to increase and not be collected."

(Current City Manager Bob Milner has said they are being far less lenient with delinquent customers, enforcing the two-extensions-per-year limit and cutting off customers who do not pay their bills.)

They also discovered procedures for adjusting utility accounts were not always being followed, including a \$960 adjustment that lacked documentation disclosing the basis for the adjustment and five other adjustments totaling \$248 that were not signed by the clerk, city manager or finance director. The complexity of divvying up the cost of water line extensions resulted in one customer being overcharged by \$310 and another overcompensated by \$1,360. No steps were taken to correct this as of October 2017.

For the period audited, Starke did not compensate its engineer

based on a lump sum, hourly rate or other amount agreed upon in advance as stated in their contract. Instead the former city manager verbally ordered projects without written authorizations describing the work to be performed or the amount to be paid for the services provided. This happened 14 times for the 16 projects the auditors examined. Those expenditures totaled \$104,575.

The city also contracted for building official and zoning administrator services without descriptions for those jobs or contracts that specified the job duties. What's more, auditors seem to think these contract employees, along with a mechanic and even the city attorney, might be more appropriately classified as city employees, meaning the city may owe payroll taxes and retirement contributions. Although the city was advised to contact the IRS, it failed to do so.

The city had not addressed a finding regarding the personal use of police vehicles beyond establishing a policy. Auditors said personal use was apparent given the amount of fuel used. Officers living outside the city were not assessed the \$3 daily charge for taking their vehicles home and the benefit of personal use was not included in employees' gross compensation as reported to the IRS.

At the water tower and sewer plant, auditors could not find evidence that the three diesel generators were receiving preventative maintenance or undergoing periodic testing. As of October 2017, the city had failed to develop standardized procedures for documenting that work. Employees blamed a lack of supervisory oversight. The generators ensure water and sewer service is not interrupted during power outages.

Also as of last October, there was no evidence that the city was performing physical inventories of its tangible personal property and reconciling that to the city property records.

While not related to the review, auditors noted the Florida Commission on Ethics found probable cause that City Clerk Ricky Thompson misused his position by interfering with another official's employee and obtaining inappropriate benefits for the employee. Following a public hearing, the resulting findings or stipulated agreement will be forwarded to the Ethics Commission for final action.

Partial corrections

The city adopted policies and procedures to separate duties in utility fee collections and more securely control bank reconciliation and electronic funds transfers. Inadequate separation of duties remained in payroll as of May 2016, with a single employee responsible for collecting and reporting payroll data, posting changes in rates of pay, adding employees to the system and preparing payroll checks. Failure to separate duties is generally blamed on staffing shortages.

Auditors found that policies and procedures were adopted between April 2015 and June 2016 regarding revenue and cash receipts, cash management, credit cards and charge accounts, utility account adjustments and capital assets. Policies and

procedures for other business-related functions were not developed including meeting minutes, budgets and contract administration. There are written purchasing policies and bidding procedures, but they had not been approved by the commission as of October 2017.

Regarding the minutes of city commission meetings, they were recorded and approved by the commission in a timely manner during the audit period, but they were not made available to the public in a timely manner via the city's website. The average time delay for posting 17 particular meetings was 276 days following the meeting dates. The city called it an oversight.

Employees are doing a better job of reconciling the city's bank accounts within a month of receiving the bank statement, but despite reducing the number from 44 to 29, auditors said the city still had too many bank accounts. Many had little or no activity during the audit period. The city has so many accounts to distinguish between different sources and uses of funding, but auditors said there are other methods to accomplish this, including the use of specific accounting codes. An excessive number of bank accounts multiplies the amount of record keeping required and increases the likelihood of errors going undetected.

Since the original audit, the commission has approved of all banks being used a depositories in accordance with the city charter and signature cards are being maintained for them all, but the clerk alone is still signing payroll checks contrary to the charter, stamping the checks with the mayor's signature. Auditors want the clerk and mayor to sign the checks separately to reduce the risk of fraud or for the signing process to be independently reviewed and approved.

They also want secondary approval of electronic funds transfer authorizations with permitted destination accounts specified. The city's attempt to regulate electronic transfers has not gone far enough.

When it comes to cash collections, the original audit found they were not being recorded at the initial point of correction and checks were not being restrictively endorsed immediately upon receipt. Since then, the city began issuing prenumbered receipts for payments made in person. For mail collections, however, there were no records documenting the initial point of collection and checks were not immediately endorsed, increasing the risk of error, fraud or theft.

The city partially responded to auditors' concerns about the lack of working capital in the enterprise fund. This was, however, assisted by the one-time sale of property to the state. Auditors want the commission to adopt a resolution setting target levels of working capital that should be maintained for the enterprise fund.

Work is still needed on how the commission completes budget amendments, which the commission has been approving by motion instead of resolution, contrary to state law. The amendments did not eliminate over-expenditures in some areas.

The city addressed unauthorized pay raises given

to public officials by adopting an ordinance authorizing the increases retroactive to 2006 and moving forward as long as the adjustments were for inflation or other economic trends and consistently applied with the percentage increase to all city employees.

Starke is doing a better job of using position descriptions to hire qualified and experienced employees, but the city commission has not formally adopted those position descriptions. Employees indicated this would be taken care of when the commission adopts a classification and pay plan. Failure to adopt that plan was another audit criticism.

The city approved a policy governing the use of credit cards. The policy, however, overlooked the need for those issued a card to sign an agreement understanding the requirements of that policy. Evidence was also found of a \$383 charge that was paid without proper supporting documentation (it was provided only after auditors questioned the charge), and there was an instance where the city paid \$75 in late fees and finance charges because a monthly balance was not paid in full by the due date.

Finally, the city approved written policies for the assignment, control and use of motor vehicles, but records of those vehicles were not adequately maintained. Personnel provided auditors a list of 71 vehicles and 11 trailers maintained for insurance purposes. However, the city's property records only reflect ownership of 42 vehicles and two trailers.

Corrected

Auditors give the city a gold star for each of the eight corrected findings. Of course, one was as simple as hiring a city manager — but important in separating responsibilities that were in conflict or "could have contributed to other deficiencies."

The city got control of its petty cash funds, adopting policies and procedures for and establishing a total of five funds for the use of cashiers and emergency purchases. Auditors found the policies and procedures were being followed, disbursements were recorded, served a public purpose and were reimbursed in a timely manner.

Auditors wanted the city to do a better job of preparing and reviewing its electricity billing quarterly true-up calculations to ensure customers were being correctly charged, and the city has done this based on the recent review. It has also improved its budget preparation, providing the additional level of detail auditors wanted and including balances brought forward from the prior year. Budgetary and audit information is being posted to the city's website in compliance with state law.

Employees now undergo annual performance evaluations as auditors recommended. While the city previously neglected to renew its contract for legal services, the city entered a new contract and renewed it at the proper time. It is now selecting its health and other insurance providers competitively as required by law.

Forester: Beware invasive plants

BY JAMES TOOTLE
Bradford County Forester

Have you seen any plants on your property that seem to be newcomers? Do they seem to be spreading rapidly? Are other familiar plants disappearing?

You may be the unwary host of invasive plants!

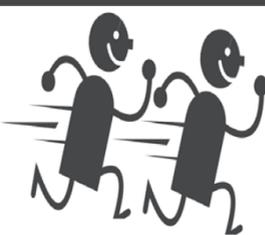
Invasive plants, in some cases, have been introduced into our state by well-intentioned but misguided motives and in other cases purely by accident. Some

species have been with us for a long time and some are relatively new. Regardless of how they got here or how long they have been here, they are here now and should be contained or eradicated whenever and wherever possible.

Some characteristics that most invasive plant species have in common are that they grow and propagate aggressively and crowd out native vegetation. In some cases, they have a negative impact on valuable cash crops and are a detriment to landowners and the local economy. They can also have a negative impact on wildlife, aesthetics and recreation.

The list of invasive plant species in Florida is long and each species varies in degree of

See PLANTS, 8A

 Avoid the Rush!

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9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Daily

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Terry Vaughan
Supervisor of Elections

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Fantastic first day



(L-R) Mary Coleman, Marlana Funderburk, Natalya Kruger and Principal Earnest Williams work the front desk at Southside Elementary on opening day.



Andy Redding (left) and Glenn Ward help students out of their car at Southside Elementary.



Checking students off the bus at Starke Elementary are (l-r) Liz Burris, Michelle Silcox, Mary Bush, Principal Jennifer Vaughan and Deputy Joshua Hill.



Lawtey Elementary School food service staff members (l-r) Rochelle Williams, Robin Smith and Vanessa Shamp after serving their last meals of the day.



Corian Garrison accompanies Kimbella Garrison, a pre-K student, to Southside Elementary.



Lawtey Elementary School second grader Peyton Bryan and his brother Brantley, a kindergartener, are ready to go home after their first day of school.



Mom Victoria Kuykendall, along with Kaiser Clark, 3, walks Southside fourth-grader Madison Craft to school.

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~ Abraham Lincoln



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A fishing hole for everyone

Repairs and enhancements at the Sampson and Rowell lakes dock/fishing pier have made it safer and accessible to everyone, according to Bradford County Building Official Rod Crawford. Crawford oversaw the project, which is part of an ongoing effort to address accessibility at county-owned public facilities. He was involved in the survey of county facilities in need and sketched out what was needed at this pier, including handicapped parking and a concrete path leading to the wooden pier. Railings were also added to improve safety, and the restroom is now accessible for everyone. H.D. Starling Custom Builders constructed the project with materials from Jackson Building Supply. Revenue from fishing licenses paid for the project.

Communications cost consumes Starke budget talks

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

The Starke City Commission's attempt to avoid a \$40,000 increase in the cost of dispatch services from the county — or perhaps avoid paying for those services altogether — consumed most of last week's budget workshop.

City Manager Bob Milner and Sheriff Gordon Smith led the Bradford County Sheriff's Office and Starke Police Department and the pair consolidated emergency dispatch into a single call center to streamline communications. This also saved the city money, although the city agreed to pay the county annually for absorbing its employees and dispatching the police department. The county call center also answers afterhours calls from city utility customers.

With the contract set to be renewed, the county calculated the current cost of three employees at \$131,606, about \$40,000 more than the city had been paying and a large amount to ask for all at once. The contract also allows the county to request an annual increase of up to 3 percent. The city commission let it be known it felt the county was taking advantage, knowing the city couldn't just start up its own communications operation again, and certainly not for \$130,000 a year. Commissioners have also been talking about all of the uncompensated calls for firefighting and emergency medical services that Starke

answers outside of the city limits.

Sheriff Smith, while distancing himself from the county's request for additional money, appeared before the commission to explain the basis, including increased cost for training. He also reminded the city commission that Starke was paying more than twice as much — \$275,000 a year — before communications was consolidated.

The county spends nearly \$660,000 on communications each year. Starke is being asked to pay just under 20 percent of that budget. Smith said he felt it was fair to give the city some relief and only ask to be compensated for three positions. The original contract called for four.

Mayor Janice Mortimer said she and her constituents see it differently. City residents and businesses already pay property taxes to the county for the services they receive. To ask for money out of the city commission's budget to pay for communications amounts to double taxation, according to the mayor.

Mortimer asked what would happen if the city did not agree to continue paying for communications, convinced that the county would continue to dispatch the city cops. Sheriff Smith agreed, saying city voters help elect him and he is there to serve them. Again, Mortimer pressed him to say why Starke citizens should pay twice for his service.

While, of course, the sheriff did not say the county would

end the dispatch absent the requested contribution from the city, he was clear that he is in no way required to provide communications services to an outside law enforcement agency. Starke is not paying twice for communications. It is paying to have someone handle communications for its police department. If the city wants to have cops, it has to pay for them to have cars and uniforms and weapons — and it has to pay for someone to answer emergency calls and dispatch those officers.

"Either you want a police department or you don't. You can't piecemeal what you're going to provide," Smith said.

The sheriff said taxpayers in Starke are paying the city for having that police department. Mortimer agreed but claimed dispatch was completely separate. Smith said dispatch was a part of police service.

"No, it's not," Mortimer insisted.

Dispatch is the backbone of any public safety service, the sheriff said.

"No, it's not," the mayor kept repeating. That's not how the people see it, she said. It's a service they are being asked to pay more for than anyone else.

The city wanted to know the basis for its contribution — the number of calls the center answers on the city's behalf. Mortimer said the city hadn't been given enough information about what it was paying for and why the increase was justified.

The numbers weren't available

at the workshop but were provided later. Out of 84,425 calls answered in calendar year 2017, 37,096 involved dispatching the city police and/or fire department. That's nearly 44 percent of the calls answered.

Smith said the original contract was signed when he was police chief and it was signed in the best interest for city taxpayers, who were saving money, as well as citizens countywide.

"Somebody that don't believe that doesn't understand. Somebody that says I'm padding my budget — I'm not padding my budget because I didn't get an increase but \$9,000," Smith said, reminding commissioners that the county had to eat the cost of providing animal control services when the city refused to pay for that. When times got tough, he said he was the one trying to work with others to provide services at a cost savings.

"So to say that I arbitrarily come before anybody and just gave you an arbitrary number, you're lying to yourself," Smith said.

Mortimer said asking tough questions is what they were elected to do, and this was not a personal attack on the sheriff.

Budget includes tax and fee increases, raise for workers and officials

Milner said the prior delays were well worth the presentation

of a balanced budget for fiscal year 2019 to the commission, with much credit due to Chief Financial Officer John-Paul Ledford for the late nights spent catching up.

The budget is based on the higher tentative millage rate the commission previously voted for, which will result in a property tax increase. It was also balanced with \$370,000 of cash carry forward (up from \$190,000 this year) and a \$595,000 transfer of utility revenue to the general fund (down from \$809,000 this year).

Based on the recommendations of a prior rate study, sewer rates are going up another 8.5 percent. The city also has a rate study recommending the commission raise electric rates, but the new budget does not do this, although Milner points out Starke is behind other municipalities and hasn't adjusted electric rates since 2001. Also, based on the latest information, electricity sales are trending downward.

Milner budgeted to purchase two dump trucks, two fans, a trencher, as well as setting aside capital funds for water and sewer. The city also has a \$700,000 grant to rebuild lift stations.

All employees, including elected officials, would receive a \$1 an hour raise. New positions in the budget include an additional full-time firefighter, a public works position and a recreation position. This final position led to debate between the mayor and manager over whether the city had a recreation department.

Milner tried to explain that while the city gave up an expensive recreation program to save money, it still retains a great deal of recreational infrastructure that must be managed and maintained, and is even adding a new grant-funded splash park in the next year. The employee's job would be overseeing the parks.

Other grant funding in the budget will add \$50,000 worth of improvements to the Wainwright and Thomas Street parks, and convert lighting to LED at Edwards Road Park.

Blythe Byrd, executive director of Communities in Schools of Bradford County, appeared before the board to detail the good its annual \$5,000 contribution does for dropout prevention and to ask for an additional \$4,000 to support the CISTO project, which helps get transportation-disadvantaged residents to work and school. Byrd said without local buy-in from the city and county commissions the program is facing funding cuts.

At this time, the additional funding has not been added to the budget.

After Byrd and Smith's presentations, there was little time for commissioners' questions on the budget. Rather than wait for the workshop prior to the next commission meeting, the commission set a new workshop for Aug. 14. The final will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 21, followed by the second monthly commission meeting.

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SRWMD director: Ground water systems full

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

The executive director of the Suwannee River Water Management District told the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners that groundwater systems within the district are full, and that a growing population presents one of the biggest challenges his organization will face in coming years.

Hugh Thomas told commissioners during their Aug. 6 meeting that he just completed his first year as executive director of the district.

He said the Suwannee River Water Management District covers 7,640 square miles in all or part of 15 north central Florida counties, from Jefferson County in the west to Bradford County in the east, and from the Georgia state line in the north to Levy County in the south.

The district contains 13 river basins and a current population of 340,000.

"The areas of responsibility for the district pertain to water supply and water quality as well as flood protection," he said, "and then also our natural systems and restoration associated with that."

He said the district's major initiatives include a 2015-2035

water supply assessment, river and agricultural cost share programs, springs grants, and development of minimum flows and levels and a new groundwater model.

He said Florida's Department of Environmental Protection has provided grants for springs improvements and preservation.

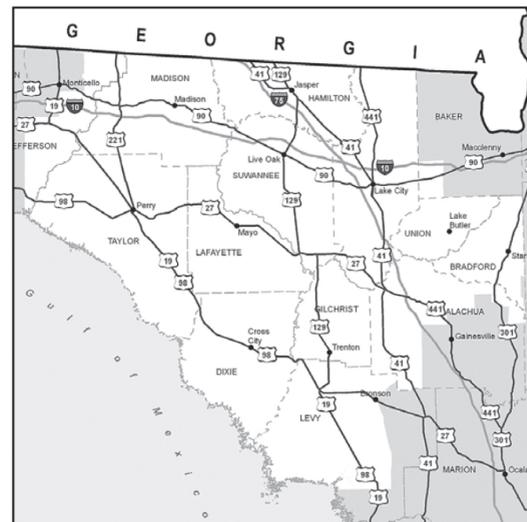
He said that since 2013, springs grants have funded 26 projects for a total of \$25 million.

"We currently have 17 projects submitted in for springs funding for this year," he said. "We hope to hear back from the Department of Environmental Protection which of those projects will be approved for moving forward with beginning next fiscal year."

He also said the springs grants have funded six agricultural projects which assist ag producers with improving efficiency in both water and fertilizer application.

"What we're looking at is about 12 million gallons of water per day saved," he said of the agricultural projects, "38 million gallons of recharge, and a reduction of nutrient weighing in at about 2.4 million pounds."

Thomas said that in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District, his organization is completing the North Florida-



The Suwannee River Water Management District covers 7,640 square miles in all or part of 15 north central Florida counties, from Jefferson County in the west to Bradford County in the east, and from the Georgia state line in the north to Levy County in the south. The district contains 13 river basins and a current population of 340,000.

Southeast Georgia Ground Water Model.

"We hope to be utilizing that model not only for our permitting," he said, "but also for our projects."

He said the model will enable both districts to steer resources to the most beneficial projects.

Thomas said the district's

See WATER, 6A

Church

St. Edward Catholic Church will hold registration for the Parish Religious Education Program in the family center each Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. from Aug. 18 through Sept. 30 for grades 1-8. For more information, please call 964-6155.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating Family and Friends Day on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 3 p.m. Elder Ross Chandler and the True Vine Outreach Ministry family will be in charge of the service. Everyone is invited.

Mt. Moriah Community Church, 803 N. Oak St. in Starke, will be celebrating its annual Men's Day on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church on County Rd. 200B IN



Lawtey will celebrate its annual Deacons and Deaconesses, Stewards and Trustees Program on Sunday, Aug. 26, at 4 p.m. The speaker of the hour will be the Rev. Clifford Johnson of Orange Park. Come help celebrate.

Mt. Zion AME Church of Lawtey is celebrating its homecoming service on Sunday, Aug. 26, at 11 a.m. The Rev. Jimmie Moore of Daytona Beach will be the guest

messenger. The public is invited.

Greater Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church of Starke will be having its annual Deaconess Program Sunday, Aug. 26, at 3 p.m. The guest speaker for the afternoon will be Evangelist Sharon Forman of Gainesville. Everyone is invited to attend.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church will be having an Inquirer's Class for anyone who would be interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church. This will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays for four sessions starting Sept. 5. St. Mark's is located at 212 N. Church St. in Starke. Come join us.

Email the details of your congregation's upcoming special events to editor@bctelegraph.com. DEADLINE IS MONDAY AT 5 P.M.

Senior Center

The Bradford County Senior Center is located at 1805 N. Temple Ave in Starke. If you have any questions or would like further information on any activities or events, please call 904-368-3955. A calendar of events can be found at www.bradfordcountyfl.gov.

Victim services

Are you an older adult and feel you've been a victim of a crime? Have you been financially exploited or been a victim of physical, mental or sexual abuse? A victim advocate counselor and registered mental health intern will be available to speak privately with you about any issues you may have.

How to grow succulents

Join us Thursday, Aug. 16, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., when the senior center hosts a workshop on how to grow succulents. The workshop, "Succulent Magic," is presented by the Florida Master Gardener program and the Bradford County Extension Office. Find out what a succulent is and how to propagate, care and arrange these types of plants.

Please bring a container (up to 16-inch circumference) that has good drainage. There is a \$5 fee for the class to cover supplies. For more information, call the Bradford County Extension Office at 904-966-6299 or the Bradford County Senior Center at 904-368-3955.

Line dancing

Come kick up your heels with our line dancing classes. Line dancing is a great way to get no impact exercise. Easy to follow instructions taught by our line dancing teacher. Classes are held every other Wednesday at 10 a.m. We also offer an evening class once a month. The next evening

class will be Monday, Aug. 20, at 6:30 p.m. The next Wednesday class will be Aug. 22, at 10 a.m. If you have any questions about our exercise classes, please call 904-368-3955.

Computer classes

The senior center will have a series of free computer classes starting with Computers for Beginners on Wednesday, Aug. 22. Learn how to navigate the internet Aug. 29, and Sept. 5 is all about email. Get on Facebook with a course for beginners on Sept. 12. All classes are from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 904-368-3955 for reservations as seating is limited.

Medicare help

Have questions about your Medicare or prescription plans? SHINE — Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders — is available at the senior center every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. Stop in and speak with a SHINE representative and get those questions answered. SHINE representatives can also review your current plan to ensure you have the best plan for your needs.

Phones for hearing impaired

Do you have difficulty using your home telephone due to hearing loss? You may qualify for a free phone from the Florida Telecommunications Relay Program. A representative will be at the senior center Wednesday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m.-noon. The representative will assist you with getting the right phone for your needs and train you to use it. No appointment necessary.

Yoga and tai chi

Need to improve your balance? Maybe you're having issues with range of motion in a shoulder knee or hip. The senior

center offers classes to help with these issues. Join the Chair Yoga and Tai Chi Hour Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. One hour twice a week will improve range of motion and balance and refresh the mind. For a more advanced yoga class, join us for one hour every Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Wood carving

Stop in and see what the Bradford Senior Center's Wood Carving Group is up to. The class meets every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. Not a wood carver? No problem, we have a great instructor, and in no time you will be whittling away the hours.

Crochet, Knit and Needlework Group

Come join us every Thursday at 3 p.m. for our Crochet, Knit, and Needlework Group. Beginners to experienced and those in between enjoy getting together to learn how to crochet, knit, cross stitch and embroider. We also enjoy sharing ideas, projects and patterns. If you ever thought about learning how to crochet, knit or do other types of needlework, this is the best place to come and learn how.

Book Club

Book Club offers participants a chance to experience literature in a more interactive way. Members will get up close and personal with different genres of books. Book Club creates an ideal mix of discussion and discovery. Each member of the book club will focus on the same book. We will read a book for a month and have our discussion and discovery at the next month's meeting. Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month.

Health

HEALTHY LIVING

Sleep hygiene

With school and work schedules back in full swing, make sure you're practicing good sleep hygiene. Sleep hygiene includes good sleep habits and a regular sleep schedule.

Lack of sleep can lead to difficulty concentrating and remembering things during the day, as well as serious hazardous outcomes such as car crashes and other unintended accidents.

According to the National Institutes of Health, adults need seven to eight hours of sleep and children need at least 10 hours.

Check out the sleep hygiene tips below to help you and your family get an adequate amount of rest.

—Go to bed at the same time each night and wake up at the same time each morning.

—Make sure your bedroom is a quiet, dark and relaxing environment.

—Make sure your bedroom is not too hot or cold.

—Don't use your bed for activities other than sleeping such as reading, watching television, listening to music, computer time, etc.

—Avoid large meals before bedtime.

—Avoid caffeine and alcohol close to bedtime.

A good night's sleep of seven to eight hours will make for a happier and healthier you!

Recipes of the Week

Oranges are high in antioxidants that neutralize the effects of free radicals. Free radicals are believed to contribute to aging and some diseases.

Orange Balsamic Chicken

Ingredients
Coarse salt
Ground pepper

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
1 unpeeled orange, cut into 8 wedges
4 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs (about 1 1/2 pounds total)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Season chicken with salt and pepper. In a large ovenproof skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken, skin side down, and cook until golden and crisp seven minutes. Transfer chicken to a plate and pour off fat from skillet. Return chicken, skin side up, to skillet and transfer to oven. Bake until cooked through, 10 minutes. Transfer chicken to a plate.

2. Heat skillet over medium heat and add vinegar and orange wedges. Cook, stirring and scraping up browned bits with a wooden spoon, until orange begins to soften, about two minutes. Remove from heat and stir in butter. To serve, return chicken to skillet and toss with orange and sauce. Serves 4.

Lemon Garlic Tilapia

Ingredients

4 tilapia fillets
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon butter, melted
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
Pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray a baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.

Rinse tilapia fillets under cool water and pat dry with paper towels.

Place fillets in baking dish. Pour lemon juice over fillets, then drizzle butter on top. Sprinkle with garlic, parsley and pepper. Bake in preheated oven until

the fish is white and flakes when pulled apart with a fork.

Cholesterol

The human body needs cholesterol, but when you have too much cholesterol in your blood, it can build up on your artery walls. An excess amount of cholesterol can put you at risk for heart disease and stroke. However, not all cholesterol is bad. Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) are the "bad" cholesterol, but high-density lipoproteins (HDL) are actually considered "good" cholesterol.

Unhealthy lifestyle choices such as being physically inactive or eating a poor diet can increase the risk of having high cholesterol. In some cases, however, high cholesterol can be caused by family history or even age. The important thing to remember is that there are no signs or symptoms of high cholesterol.

This month, make it your goal to get your cholesterol levels checked with a simple blood test. This is the only way you can know if you are at a higher risk for cardiovascular disease or stroke.

Maintaining healthy habits can help keep your cholesterol levels in a normal range and lower your risk for heart attack and stroke. Things such as eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight, getting the recommended amount of physical activity, not smoking and limiting alcohol consumption can all help manage cholesterol levels.



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 <p>HRC Respiratory Care 417 Edwards Rd. Suite B - Starke 904.966.0520</p>	<p><i>From all of us at</i> The STEAKHOUSE in STARKE U.S. 301 South 964-8061</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church 200 N. Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-6864 9:45 am Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>GREATER ALLEN CHAPEL Sunday School 10 a.m. Church Service 11 a.m. 746 N. Pine Street Starke, FL 904-964-6995</p>
<p>Suburban Carpet Cleaners Call Us For All Your Professional Cleaning Services MONTHLY SPECIALS 904-964-1800</p>	<p>Come Worship with us STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St • Starke, FL</p>	<p>Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home <i>Distinguished, Caring Service For Over 50 Years!</i> Joe Gallagher- Owner Starke • 964-6200 Keystone Heights • 473-3176</p>	<p>Precision Auto 528 South Walnut St. Starke, FL 32091 904-966-0700</p>
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<p>Be Still AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD -PSALM 46:10</p>	<p>Virgil A. Berry, D.C. <i>Back & Neck Pain Clinic</i> 601 E. Call St. • 964-8018</p>	<p>Your Ad Here! as low as \$9/week Call BETH 904.964.6305</p>	<p>I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME</p>

RURAL

Continued from 1A

money, and they probably don't, but Bradford is very different, and our rural area needs money for infrastructure, we need money for a new school, we need support for our Communities in Schools so that we can get the education for our students and get the tutoring."

Evans said face-to-face interaction with legislators is critical in getting state appropriations for local projects.

"When you go visit people and build those relationships," she said, "it's a lot easier for them to understand and see firsthand the need if you're there in front of them instead of just reading an appropriations request on a piece of paper."

Rep. Bobby Payne said a group of people putting on an event has a greater impact at the Capitol than individuals meeting with lawmakers one on one.

"When folks show up at the Capitol as a group of people and put on an event in the courtyard and on the steps of the old Capitol, it draws attention," he said.

Payne said that when competing for state appropriations, Florida's smaller communities are at a disadvantage.

"A lot of the money goes south, and it's because we're outvoted by the density they have," he said.

He also said that Florida's urban centers have been holding events in Tallahassee for years and have been reaping the benefits of building relationships with lawmakers.

"Miami, Tampa, and some of these other big cities have been going up there putting on events," he said. "We know it's just as important for rural communities and rural counties to have that same level of exposure."

He said policymakers need to be educated about the contributions rural communities make to the state.

"We want them to understand that rural communities are more than just roads and trees and forests and springs and ditches and farmland," he said. "We are people who have a big significance and make a big difference in Florida."

Event grows larger

Evans said the event originally was to highlight Bradford County only, but quickly grew larger.

"It originally started out as Bradford Days," she said, "then after conversations with several different organizations and especially guidance from Rep. Bobby Payne and Tammy Still from his office, they suggested that it be Rural Days. We have to think regionally, and the North Florida Regional Chamber here, they not only just cover Bradford County, they also cover Union, and they cover Keystone

Heights."

Evans added that Payne put her in touch with Putnam County Chamber President Joe Pickens, who quickly signed on. Then Daryl Register in Baker County said his area also wanted to participate.

Her steering committee has also been in touch with Keystone Heights and Union County officials.

Volunteers and funding needed

With a date on the calendar and an organizing committee forming, Evans and Chamber President Pam Whittle are now looking for volunteers and funding.

"We need lots of volunteers," Evans said. "It's a lot of work behind the scenes. It's not just people getting in a van and showing up."

The steering committee is finalizing sponsorship packages for participating businesses.

Evans said the event could prove critical to the future of Bradford County and surrounding areas.

"It's going to be very important for us to be there in front of these legislators and to show them what is special about our rural community," she said. "We need them to know that Bradford is not Broward."

NELSON

Continued from 1A

Health care

Nelson also took aim at Scott's initial opposition to expand Medicaid after passage of the Affordable Care Act. He said that if the governor and Legislature would have expanded the program, an additional 800,000 Floridians would have had access to health insurance. Nelson said that the federal government would have paid to extend the program.

"The governor and the Legislature refused not for one year, but for the last seven years (to expand Medicaid)," he said. "And that's our tax money that they refused to use to give health care to 800,000 people and our tax money went to other states. "If they hadn't done that, as 31 states did, it wouldn't be 1.7 million (Floridians) that got health insurance (under the Affordable Care Act). It would be that plus the Medicaid expansion. It would be a total of two and a half million people in this state."

Education

Nelson told the group he has a solid record of supporting public education while in Washington.

"Look at the other fellow," he said. "In his first year as governor, he proposed to cut \$3.3 billion from education. The Legislature balked, and they settled on cutting \$1.3 billion. And look what has happened to public school education funding. They started to siphon it off into private school vouchers. Folks, the strength of America is our broad middle class. Where is the middle class educated? Just like me, in the public schools. We don't want to give that up. That's what makes us different from the rest of the world."

Environment

Nelson said that voters in south Florida are now realizing the impact of Scott's cuts to the state's environmental agencies with the emergence of algae blooms and red tide.

Nelson said he has been endorsed by many of the country's largest environmental groups, including the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club.



Nelson tied the emergence of algae blooms and red tide in south Florida to Gov. Rick Scott's environmental policies. "He has systematically dismantled the environmental agencies of Florida," Nelson said of his opponent.

"Let me tell you about the other fella," Nelson said of his opponent. "He has systematically dismantled the environmental agencies of Florida. He abolished The Department of Community Affairs, which was the growth management agency. He has gone through and cut the funding going to the water management districts, he has gone in and cut the funding of the Department of Environmental Protection in the state of Florida. And down in south Florida he's getting an earful of it right now with this algae crisis, as the editorial writers are writing what is the truth, what he's done in the last eight years."

Independence

Nelson concluded his talk by emphasizing his independence and his role as a foil to the policies of President Trump. He said the framers of the Constitution separated the powers of the federal government so neither the Congress nor the president wield too much power.

"But if you get a compliant Congress that will do anything that the president says, then what you have is the concentration of too much power in one individual and one institution," he said. "I speak my mind, and that's why outside groups have rated me as one of the most independent senators."

WATER

Continued from 4A

projects within Bradford County include the Edwards bottomlands wetland mitigation, Lawtey water system improvements, Starke bypass wetlands mitigation, Theresa flood mitigation, Sampson River flooding mitigation, Bradford west ridge - west levee, Brooks Sink Phase I, Hampton water

supply improvements and conservation, Hampton water tank revitalization and Hampton water supply booster pump station replacement.

"Our groundwater system's full for the majority of the district," he said. "We are addressing flooding concerns right now where we haven't had to in the past, recently way over in Dixie County, Alachua County and Levy County as well."

Thomas said one of his

biggest concerns is population growth within the district and the increase in water demand that growth will bring. He said that the district is forecasting a growth in daily water demand from 229 million gallons a day in 2010 to 300 million gallons in 2035.

"Projected out to 2035, we're looking at a 71-million-gallon-per-day increase," he said, "based on growth across all sectors: agriculture, industry, public supply and domestic supply."

"We want growth in our area," he added, "but we have to plan for that growth and that's why we adopted the water supply assessment. It is a planning tool to look at where that growth is occurring and how we as the district can develop our ground water resources to sustain that type of growth."

SRWMD: Heavy rains increase risks for flooding

Rainfall across the Suwannee Valley has increased levels in the aquifer across much of the 15-county region of the Suwannee River Water Management District and the springs and rivers are flowing; but so is water in the streets in some areas. The district is warning residents to be prepared as we move into what is typically the most active months of the year for tropical weather.

"Water levels are the highest they have been for many years in some areas of the district," said Fay Baird, senior hydrologist. "If our area receives a tropical storm or heavy rainfall event, flooding in many low areas across the district could be significant."

Many areas throughout the district have experienced much higher than average rainfall over the past two months. Areas in Dixie and Levy counties have received almost 40 inches of rain over the past three months, compared to a long-term average of approximately 18 inches for

that same time period.

Communities in Alachua, Levy and Dixie counties have already experienced localized flooding, particularly in low-lying areas of the counties. Additionally, river-level forecasts on the Santa Fe River are already at minor flood stages, although water levels are currently expected to recede before significant flooding occurs.

Because of all the rain, there is little ability for the landscape to absorb more water. This can result in flooding. In many areas of the district, the only solution is for the water to move to another place, recede, evaporate or percolate into the ground.

Historically, August and September are the months in which the district is most likely to have widespread rain from tropical systems. But even if there is no tropical weather over the next few weeks, summer thunderstorms can create local downpours. Under those conditions local flooding can

happen very quickly especially when an area is already saturated.

Residents in low lying areas and those along rivers and streams should be thinking now about what they can do to safeguard their homes and belongings from high water.

Take time to identify alternate evacuation routes in the event the home's main ingress and egress becomes flooded. Residents also should keep in mind that even if their home is on high ground, the roads that lead to it may not be.

Plan to move valuable property, including animals, from low, flood-prone areas to higher ground.

Verify that drainageways on or through the property are not blocked and allow for water flow.

Identify an evacuation location ahead of time.

Always evacuate if instructed to do so.

The district monitors river and rainfall levels on an hourly basis. If levels along river corridors approach flood stage, the district

works with the National Weather Service and local emergency management personnel to warn citizens, so they can protect their homes, resources and roads.

For more information on rainfall and river levels, visit www.MySuwanneeRiver.com.

The district works with local communities to provide grant funding for flooding prevention and mitigation. If you have ideas for projects, please submit them to the district's Project Portal found on the website.

The mission of the Suwannee River Water Management District is to protect and manage water resources using science-based solutions to support natural systems and the needs of the public. The district holds true to the belief of water for nature, water for people. Headquartered in Live Oak, the district serves 15 surrounding north central Florida counties.

For more information about the district, visit www.MySuwanneeRiver.com.



Vote **Jeremy Pilcher**

for Bradford County School Board District 2, the candidate with a vested interest in the **Bradford County School system**

1997 Graduate of BHS with Honors

Three Children in the **Bradford County School system**

-9th grade
-7th grade
-Pre-K

Worked in Public Safety since 1999

Past 14 years at Jacksonville Fire Rescue as a Firefighter / Paramedic, currently a LT

Endorsed by IAFF Local 122 and Florida Professional Firefighters of Florida

School Safety - Currently the system is working to improve the safety of our children. I will personally be involved in working together with the Sheriff's office on ways to improve the safety of our children

Teacher Retention - We are not alone, other Districts lose teachers, we just need to work on keeping our teachers. Show the teachers that they are appreciated.

Student Retention - It appears that we are losing students on a daily basis to neighboring yellow counties. As we lose the student our District also loses tax dollars to that neighboring county.

Vote Jeremy Pilcher for Bradford County School Board District 2
pilcher3@yahoo.com
(352) 213-9098

Vote

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for School Board District 2

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Farm Bureau hosting Youth Speech Contest

The Bradford County Farm Bureau is hosting its annual Youth Speech Contest on Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. at the local office. Any resident of Bradford County between the ages of 14 and 18 are welcomed to participate. If you are interested, please contact Brandi Northrup at 904-964-6369 or brandi.northrup@ffbic.com.

Dinner raises funds for historical society

The Waldo Area Historical Society will hold its annual spaghetti dinner on Friday, Sept. 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Waldo Baptist Church Family Life Center, 14370 Kennard St. (Waldo Road). A dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread, a drink and dessert will be served, and there will be a silent auction. Tickets are \$7 at the door or \$6 in advance from any historical society member.

Judicial candidate info available on Florida Bar's website

Want to know more about the local judicial candidates who will appear on your ballot in August? Wondering what Florida's lawyers think about the appeals court judges facing a merit retention vote?

Online and in print, The Florida Bar provides a wealth of information as part of its initiative to educate Florida's voters about judicial elections.

Detailed information on more than 100 county and circuit court judicial candidates is available now on The Florida Bar's website. The opportunity to submit a judicial candidate voluntary self-disclosure statement was offered to all candidates for contested county and circuit seats. The 10-page statements give voters basic biographical information, legal experience and community work as well as a short essay on why candidates feel they would be good judges. Completed statements are available at www.floridabar.org/judicialcandidates.

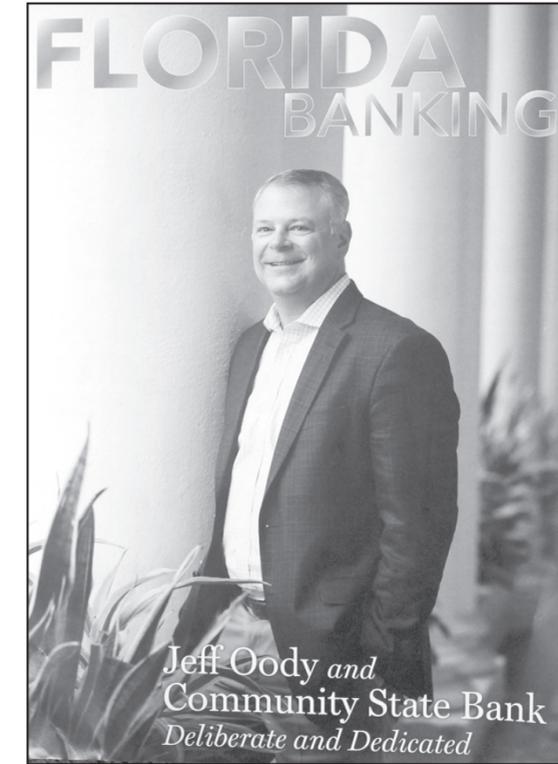
The Bar also has printed 100,000 copies of the "Guide for Florida Voters," which is available at supervisor of elections offices throughout the state and at many public libraries. It also is available to civic groups upon request; email

votersguide@floridabar.org. The Bar's "The Vote's in Your Court" web page (www.floridabar.org/thevotesinyourcourt) is a go-to source for information on judicial merit retention. There, voters will find the "Guide for Florida Voters" (soon to be posted in Spanish as well), which answers many questions voters might have about merit retention. There also are links to the Code of Judicial Conduct and biographies of the appeals court judges and one Supreme Court justice up for merit retention votes. A merit retention poll of Bar members will be completed in early September.

Election dates this year are Aug. 28 and Nov. 6. All county and circuit judicial races appear on the primary ballot, with runoffs in November. The merit retention vote is in November.

Assistance for small businesses

Michael Chung from America's Small Business Development Center will be at the North Florida Regional



Local banker featured in state publication

The president, CEO and director of Community State Bank made the cover of the July issue of Florida Banking. The magazine of the Florida Bankers Association highlighted Jeff Oody's leadership of the Starke-based financial institution. "We want to offer our customers products and services comparable to any other bank and enhance those offerings with our personal service," Oody told the publication. The magazine traced Oody's banking experience, starting out with Barnett Bank and First Union, until the latter was acquired by Capital City Bank in 1997. He remained with the Tallahassee-based bank until 2012, when he joined Community State Bank as president, CEO and director. The story also profiled the bank's beginnings with its 1957 establishment by Gov. Charley E. Johns, its growth into Union County, and its emphasis on community service and volunteerism. "Our employees are connected with more than 30 organizations," Oody told the publication, "and last year had 12,000 volunteer hours in community service — 1,200 of those hours were with the local school system. It is a true commitment and something we take very seriously."

Chamber of Commerce Office in Starke on the second Wednesday of the month ready to assist any small business with planning, financial review, succession plans and much more.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the chamber office Monday through

Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 904-964-5278.

Need a trip to town?

Residents seeking transportation for local shopping

and pharmacy trips may contact Suwannee River Economic Council at 386-496-0624 or toll free at 1-844-496-0624. Services are provided Monday through Friday, but 24 hours' notice is required to schedule trips.

Get Al-Anon support

If you have a loved one with a drinking problem, there is help for you. An Al-Anon support group meets at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 212 N. Church St. in Starke, on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

LEGALS

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

CASE NO.: 2018-CA-0149
COMPASS BANK, Plaintiff,
vs.
DIVISION:
JESSICA LYNN RIFE a/k/a JESSICA LYNN MARTIN; MARK D. MARTIN and UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: MARK D. MARTIN
414 SE 2nd Avenue
Melrose, FL 32666
(Last Known Address)
(CURRENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN)
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A. H186FRXS

SCHEDULE A
THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY SITUATE IN COUNTY OF BRADFORD AND STATE OF FLORIDA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 12 AND RUN THENCE NORTH 06° 22' 43" EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 12, A DISTANCE OF 2325.07 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; FROM THIS POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE NORTH 06° 22' 43" EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 12, A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89° 55' 00" WEST, 200.00 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 06° 22' 43" WEST, 100.00 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN NORTH 89° 55' 00" EAST, 200.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND
A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN FRACTIONAL SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS LOTS FORTY-THREE (43) AND FORTY-FOUR (44), SEMINOLE RIDGE, UNIT NO. 5; SAID LOTS BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE CONCRETE MONUMENT AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 12

AND RUN NORTH 06° 22' 43" EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 12 A DISTANCE OF 2092.08 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN NORTH 83° 37' 17" WEST A DISTANCE OF 198.73 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN NORTH 06° 22' 43" EAST A DISTANCE OF 210.49 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN NORTH 89° 55' 00" EAST A DISTANCE OF 200.00 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 12; THENCE RUN SOUTH 06° 22' 43" WEST ALONG SAID EAST LINE A DISTANCE OF 233.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
PARCEL ID: 06230-E-01800
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 414 SE 2nd AVE
And which postal address is: 414 SE 2nd Avenue, Melrose, FL 32666.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Mark J. Home, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 720 Blackstone Building, Jacksonville, Florida, 32202, within thirty days after the first publication, of the Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint

RAY NORMAN
CLERK OF THE COURT
BY: Lisa Brannon
AS DEPUTY CLERK
8/9 2tchg 8/16-BCT

NOTICE
BRADFORD SELF STORAGE will hold a PUBLIC AUCTION ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at 2100 N. Temple Ave., Starke, Florida on the following Units containing personal items:
#14-belonging to S. Tanksley
#15-belonging to C. Kwarteng
8/9 2tchg 8/16-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801 – 83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Waldo will sell for CASH to the highest bidder on storageauctions.com for location at 15540 NE HWY 301, Waldo, County of Alachua, Florida; ending at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, the 23rd day of August 2018, the household goods and contents of the following:
UNIT B007 – AMANDA LEE BASS

8/9 2tchg 8/16-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801-83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Starke will sell for cash to the highest bidder on storageauctions.com for location at 1630 North Temple Ave, Starke, County of Bradford, FL, by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, the 23rd day of August 2018, the household goods and misc. contents of the following:
A010 STEVEN EUGENE CAMPBELL
A026 EARL V GRIFFS
A031 MELISSA R CLARK
B010 LULA ANNETTE CLARK
B011 LULA ANNETTE CLARK
E011 HOLLIE M LAWRENCE
G014 RICKY D GRIFFIS
H007 KIRSTEN TEMPLETON
1032 KIRSTEN TEMPLETON
1037 SHAUTE SHARRI CARTER
1042 JACK FRANKLING GUNTER
8/9 2tchg 8/16-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT 5T WEALTH PARTNERS LP The holder of the following certificate(s) has filed said certificate(s) for the tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number(s) and year of issuance, the description of property, and name(s) in which it is assessed are as follows:
File Number: 2018-0007
Certificate Number: 414
Parcel Number: 01513-0-00000
Year of Issuance: 2011
Description of Property:
SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Legal Description:
01513-0-00000
Lot 19, East Lawtey, Florida and commencing at Northeast corner of Lot 19 East Lawtey and run East along the South side of Lawtey and Middleburg Road 80 feet; thence south along West side of Edward Street 274 feet; thence West and parallel with Lawtey and Middleburg Road 130 feet thence North and at right angles to Lawtey and Middleburg Road 74 feet to southwest corner of Lot 19, thence East to Southeast corner of Lot 19 thence North to Point of Beginning, Being in East Lawtey, Florida. Being the North 274 feet of Block 18 West of Edward Street, East Lawtey, less and except the South 1/2 of said Parcel of land described above, all lying and being in Bradford County, Florida.

Assessed To:
VERNON MOBLEY, LOUISE MOBLEY
All of the above property is located

in Bradford County, In the State of Florida.

Unless such certificate(s) shall be redeemed according to Law, the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the Highest Bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL. on the 3rd day of October, 2018, at 1:00 a.m.

RAY NORMAN
BRADFORD COUNTY CLERK OF COURT
BY L Brannon
Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please Contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, FL 32601 at 352-337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 04-2018-CP-88
Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF GWENDOLYN NETHERLAND MOXLEY Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Gwendolyn Netherland Moxley, deceased, whose date of death was May 27, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate

must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is August 16, 2018.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
Ellen R. Gershow
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 0233927
Dell Salter, P.A.
3940 N. W. 16th Blvd., Bldg. B
Gainesville, FL 32605
Telephone: (352) 416-0090
Fax: (352) 376-7996
E-Mail: ellen.gershow@dellsalter.com
Secondary E-Mail: marissa.helbie@dellsalter.com
Personal Representative:
Lynn Melvin
18528 Charlotte Avenue
Brooker, Florida 32622
8/16 2tchg 8/23-BCT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES (SINGLE PROJECT)

The Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida is requesting competitive proposals from qualified graphic design professionals for the purpose of providing graphic design services related to the development and implementation of a branding concept for Bradford County government.
The specific scope of work and expected design deliverables for this project are outlined in greater detail in the Project Outline which is available online at www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/bids and from the Office of the County Manager, Bradford County Courthouse at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes to the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, c/o Clerk of the Circuit Court, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 and will be accepted until 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 23, 2018. Thereafter, the bids will be opened and read aloud in the Clerk's Conference Room at the Bradford County Courthouse.
The Board of County Commissioners

of Bradford County, Florida reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, award all or part of the bids, waive any technicalities with respect to the bids, exercise a preference for local vendors (Section 2-156, Bradford County, Florida Code) and to interpret the bid specifications and/or requirements in the best interest of Bradford County, Florida. For additional information, please contact the Office of the County Manager by telephone at (904)966-6327 or by email at rachel_rhoden@bradfordcountyfl.gov.
8/16 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF MEETING
The Board of CareerSource North Central Florida will hold a Legislative Committee meeting on August 22, at 3:00 p.m. at 10 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL. For more information please contact Talia Pate at (352) 246-3326.
8/16 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 09/10/2018, 9:00 a.m. at 10875 US HIGHWAY 301 HAMPTON, FL 32044, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
1C3CCBGC0CN146385
2012 CHRYSLER
8/16 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 09/14/2018, 9:00 a.m. at 10875 US HIGHWAY 301 HAMPTON, FL 32044, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
32828
1974 SHORLINE TRAILER
8/16 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 09/07/2018, 9:00 a.m. at 10875 US HIGHWAY 301 HAMPTON, FL 32044, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
2007 SATURN
8/16 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 09/07/2018, 9:00 a.m. at 10875 US HIGHWAY 301 HAMPTON, FL 32044, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. SPRATLIN TOWING & RECOVERY INC reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
1G8AJ55F07Z128444
2007 SATURN
8/16 1tchg-BCT

The closest thing to being cared for is to care for someone else.

~ Carson McCullers



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Class of 1968 celebrates 50 years

The Charlie Johns Conference Center was the setting for the 50th reunion for the Class of 1968 on Saturday, July 21.

The classmates were greeted and given a name tag and class directory as they entered. Meet and greet was a huge success since some had not seen each other in years.

The tables were done in black cloths with gold dinnerware and glasses. Each was centered with a beautiful fresh flower arrangement in scarlet, gray and white.

There was a selfie photo station and a candy table with personalized BHS 1968 candy bags. Door prizes were given to the lucky winners. All were given a 1968 reunion votive cup with a red candle as a souvenir.

Dinner consisted of brisket, ribs, chicken, pulled pork and all the trimmings, catered by Hills BBQ.

The evening was emceed by Randy Jones and Kay Colson Waters, who kept all laughing with their jokes and bantering.

The 36 deceased classmates were honored with a memory tree with their pictures on it that was center stage. The empty chair poem was read and also a poem written by Randy Jones. Classmates took turns saying the names of the deceased, one by one, and letting a balloon go as they did so. The balloons were released at the end of the night in memory of those not there.



BRADFORD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1968 MEMBERS PICTURED: (rows 1 and 2) Linda Crews Cubbedge-Smith, Peggy Sanders Roberson, Shelia Magyari Evans, Wilbur Waters, Kay Colson Waters, Marilyn Bollinger, Pat Morgan Lynch, George Browning, Dianne Adkinson Williams, Joyce Denmark Sanderson, Karen Patz Kesler, Martha Dennis Stalzer, Linda Strickland Alday, Shirley Whitaker Wilkerson, coach David Hurse, Ms. Ann Magaha, Wayne Gunter, Glenda Bryan Wheeler, Sharon Tatum Anderson, (rows 3 and 4) Sheryl Derkman Allen, Lloyd Gilpin, Elaine Murray O'Meara, Pat Hitchcock Bowen, Bev McRae Shaw, Sue Douglas Crawford, Wanda Lewis Jackson, Barbara Coleman Kirkland, Lynda Strickland Garlington, Libby Thomas Carlton, David Penoyer, Pete Funcher, Betty Jo Sapp Sloan, Mike Jackson, Ernestine Lester Swearingen, Retha Miller Hodges, Ronnie Knight, (row 5) Randy Jones, Cherrie McRae Gnan, Kathy Frees Whitehead, Jack Bennett, Charles Coleman, Greg Alvarez, (rows 6 and 7) Ronnie Kirkland, L.J. Kite, Edward Loper, Plen Gnaan, James Sellers, Larry Martin, Matt Packham, Bruce Jackson, Stephen Smith, Paul McLeod, Dan Daugherty, Buddy Warren and Gary Johns. Not pictured: Diane Cox Godwin.

Old pictures of the Class of 1968 and present-day pictures were made into a slide presentation. Matt Wilsey provided the entertainment for

the evening and sang "To Dream the Impossible Dream," which was the class song.

Honored guest were Coach David Hurse and Ann Magaha.

A bio was read on each and classmates were given the opportunity to speak and tell them how much they and others had meant to them.

The highlight of the evening was the cake made in the replica of the old "C" building by Ryan Perez. It was framed by a lattice board, with paper flowers and

BHS 50 in gold letters.

A wonderful, magical evening was enjoyed by 54 classmates and 91 in all.

PLANTS

Continued from 2A

impact depending on what they are and where they are located. Some common invasive species in northeast Florida are cogon grass, Chinese tallow tree, Japanese climbing fern, camphor tree, mimosa and air potato. Of these, cogon grass is one of the most damaging to timberland.

First a little history and some identification tips. According to an article by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection titled "Invasive Plants of NE Florida," cogon grass was originally introduced to the U.S. as packing material for a shipment of plants from Japan to Alabama in 1911 and again into Mississippi as a forage crop before 1920. It was introduced into Florida in the early 1900s from southeast Asia, initially for soil stabilization. The article states that cogon grass is considered one of the 10 worst "weeds" in the world.

Cogon grass is a perennial grass that grows from 2-5 feet tall and is a light yellowish green color. The leaf blades are one-half to three-quarter inches wide and have a "midvein" that is unmistakably offset to one side. The blade edges have very fine serrations that can be more easily felt than seen. Cogon grass is usually first noticed as a small patch seemingly appearing out of nowhere.

Although cogon grass produces seeds like other plants, it also has rhizomes that can overcome mechanical attempts to control the plant. Rhizomes grow underground parallel to the surface and appear like roots. However, they are modified stems that grow new shoots upward and roots downward. If cut off and separated from the main plant, they can produce another complete plant. This form of propagation makes the plant less reliant on seed to reproduce and difficult to eradicate.

The impact of cogon grass on timberland is substantial. Any site/soil disturbance in or near a patch of this invasive plant is an opportunity for it to rapidly expand its presence. Operations such as timber harvesting, controlled burning or site preparation for reforestation will create a favorable environment for its expansion. Once cogon grass becomes established, it will choke out and kill any newly planted trees within the infested area. This virtually eliminates infested acreage from reforestation.

Although older stands of timber may not be immediately impacted by the presence of

cogon grass, there are still long-term and sometimes catastrophic consequences of its infestation. Over time, it can have a negative impact on the growth and health of older stands of timber by aggressively competing for soil nutrients and moisture. Also, since this grass is very volatile and burns very hot, it can cause substantial tree mortality if fire is introduced to the stand. The combination of fire and tree mortality promote even more expansion of the grass as the ground is bared, sunlight is increased and moisture and nutrient availability are increased, all to the benefit of the invasive plant.

Although focus concerning this invasive plant is typically directed towards its impact on cash crops, cogon grass can also have a serious negative impact on aesthetics, recreation and wildlife. Native plant species help promote these benefits of a healthy ecosystem. Plant diversity is pleasing to the eye and provides sustenance for a variety of wildlife. Whether hunting, hiking, birding or observing nature in general, a diverse plant presence enhances the experience.

The occurrence of an infestation by an invasive plant species (especially cogon grass) can significantly reduce or even eliminate native plant species in large areas. The result can be an expansive monoculture that excludes wildlife and native plants necessary for an environment that supports a variety of outdoor activities.



Yoho recognizes Tatum family's perseverance

Congressman Ted Yoho stopped by Tatum Bros. Lumber in Lawtey Thursday afternoon. He presented owners Charles Tatum, John Tatum and Tom W. Tatum III with an America Flag. This particular flag is certified to have flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. According to the certificate, "This flag commemorates the perseverance of the Tatum Family and Tatum Brothers Sawmill. The Tatums are a shining example of the entrepreneurial spirit which makes America great." Pictured (l-r) are Yoho, Tommy Tatum, Charles Tatum and John Tatum.

Whether the concern is for cash crops or the less tangible benefits of a diverse ecosystem, cogon grass should be viewed as an ongoing threat. Identifying it and reducing its impact is essential in preserving timberland and the activities that it supports.

The best way to combat an infestation of cogon grass is through the repeated application

of specific herbicides. Fall applications (September or October) are recommended and repeat applications are advised as new growth appears. After the fall application, the infested area will need to be treated again in the early spring before flowering. Cogon grass is difficult to control and treatments over successive years will likely be required to

achieve eradication.

If you would like assistance in identifying cogon grass or other suspected invasive species and receive more information on how to control them, please call your Bradford County forester, Jim Tootle, at 904-964-2461 or 386-292-4984, or email james.tootle@freshfromflorida.com.

Free transportation

Communities in Schools of Bradford County offers free transportation to employment, daycare, and job training or other educational services, Monday through Friday, 6:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Please call 904-964-7776 to see if you qualify.



VOTE

GAYLE SHUFORD NICULA

FOR
School
Board
District 2

Hello Bradford County Residents!

I am Gayle Shuford Nicula and I want to be your next District 2 Bradford County School Board member.

I was born and raised in Bradford County and am proud to continue to live and work here as well. I am the fourth generation of my family to live here. I have been married to Perry Nicula for 38 years and we both consider ourselves blessed to raise our children and grandchildren in this wonderful community. I am proud to be an active member of Madison Street Baptist Church.

I am a University of Florida graduate, with a Master's degree in nursing. I know what it takes to be college-ready. I am an active member of the School Health Advisory Committee and a past member of the School Advisory Committee, the Parent-Teacher organization and the Bradford County Education Foundation.

I am proud to be a BHS graduate and as a school board member, I am dedicated to working to make all Bradford County parents proud to have their children in the Bradford County school system and to making that system one which all county residents can take pride in. It can be done and I feel that I can be an effective part of seeing that it is. I ask for your support so that I may accept this challenge and work for our young people and their future.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 904-509-4269, Thank you!

~ Gayle Shuford Nicula



REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES
CRIME
SOCIALS
OBITUARIES
EDITORIAL

Hurse, Mullins to be honored for their legacies

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

David Hurse and Laurie Mullins had an impact on so many lives in Bradford County, that it only seems fitting they are the honorees at the Bradford County Education Foundation's inaugural Leave a Legacy event, which is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. at Madison Street Baptist Church in Starke.

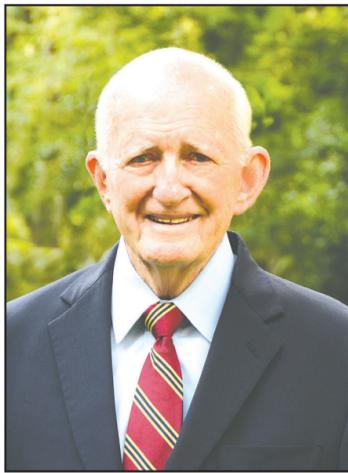
"I think it's nice for them to be recognized and to say thank you to them," Bradford County Education Foundation President Cheryl Canova said.

Hurse, who was the Bradford High School head football coach from 1962 through 1990, said he was surprised to hear he was being honored, but then added with a laugh, "Anybody who can

hang in there as long as I did deserves some kind of recognition."

Tickets to the event, which includes dinner, are \$30 and may be purchased from any education foundation board member, Capital City Bank or the Santa Fe College Andrews Center.

Canova said such Leave a Legacy events are held throughout the nation in association with other education foundations. Bradford County's group learned of it when member Lila Sellars helped cater such



David Hurse



Laurie Mullins

an event in Baker County. The idea of hosting a similar event was brought before the Bradford County Education Foundation board. Canova said, "Everyone was like, 'It sounds great.'"

Next was to determine who to honor. Hurse was an obvious choice.

"Everybody knows Coach Hurse," Canova said.

Hurse was hired as an assistant football coach and head track and field coach at BHS in 1957. He worked under Head Coach Lennard Register until

Register left to take another head coaching job. Hurse took over the football program and went on to win almost 200 games in 29 seasons. He experienced only six losing seasons, winning at least 10 games five times and at least eight games 12 times.

The highlights, of course, were the program's only state championships in 1965 and 1966. Hurse also guided the Tornados to a state runner-up finish in 1985.

He was still winning games before he retired. Bradford went 29-3 his final three seasons, which was better than any other school in the state during that span.

Hurse also coached the Tornados to a state

See LEGACY, 7B

Mullins out as UCHS baseball coach

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Despite leading the Union County High School baseball program to its first district championship in six years, Greg "Boo" Mullins is out as head coach after just one season.

Athletic Director Ronny Pruitt said Mullins never passed the required test for his teaching certification.

"He's known since the beginning of last year he needed to pass this test," Pruitt said. "He just never passed it."

Mullins, who did not respond to a Telegraph-Times-Monitor message seeking comment, led the Tigers to an 18-9 record last season. As the second seed in the District 6-1A tournament, Union defeated

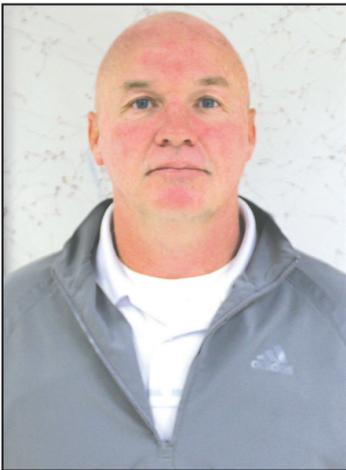
top seed Williston 3-1 to win the championship. The Tigers then hosted a Region 3 semifinal game, losing 8-0 to Lafayette.

Following the Region 3 loss, Mullins was optimistic about the future, describing how the Tigers' starting nine consisted of four freshmen, including his son, Garrett, who earned All-State honors as a pitcher.

"Next year, when we get this far, they won't be so nervous," he said. "Plus, every one of them is going to weigh 15 pounds more. They're going to run faster, they're going to hit it farther and they're going to throw it harder."

Now, if the Tigers get that far again, they will do so with a new coach.

"We've got a few resumes," Pruitt said. "We've got a couple of in-house candidates. We've got some good qualified coaches (that have applied)."



Greg "Boo" Mullins

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Julie
WALDMAN
for
JUDGE
8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGE, GROUP 8

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Sun 4:45, 7:00
Wed - Thur 7:15

SCREEN 2
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THE MEG

Fri 7:05, 9:15
Sat 4:50, 7:05, 9:15
Sun 4:50, 7:05
Wed - Thur 7:30

CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY

Experienced O-line highlights 2018 KHHS team

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School Head Football Coach Chuck Dickinson has an ideal situation in regard to playing the ball-control offense he feels is so vital to his team's success. All five offensive linemen return from last season.

However, as Keystone prepares to enter the 2018 season, the Indians will need to break in a new quarterback and find some other bodies to line up in the backfield to complement fullback/tailback Ty Friedlin.

The Indians are coming off a 2017 season in which they won only four games, but earned a regional playoff berth. The defense returns six starters, while the offense returns seven, including those five linemen.

"It should be our strength," Dickinson said of the line. "We should be pretty good up front."

Dickinson said the leaders of that group — and really the leaders of the team, period, whether on the offensive side or defensive side — are seniors Dan Dodd (tackle) and Josh Hughes (guard).

"This will be their third year together," Dickinson said, adding, "Communication-wise, I think each knows what the other is going to do."

Both players have worked hard in the weight room to get stronger, Dickinson said. Of



Ty Friedlin, catching a pass in practice, was the team's second-leading rusher last season.

Dodd, who is 6-4, 260 and also plays on the defensive line, Dickinson said, "Dan, with his size, can hopefully take over games sometimes on both sides of the ball."

Dickinson said the strength of Hughes, who is 6-1, 210, is his technique.

"He's not the biggest guy in the world," Dickinson said, "but he does a great job at guard of pulling. He knows what to do. He knows the offense well."

The rest of the line consists of senior Tyler Cumbus at guard and juniors Joey Baxter and Cody Wells at tackle and center,

respectively.

However, none of those positions are etched in stone because of the Indians' lack of depth. Keystone currently has 26 players on its varsity roster. The offensive linemen have to learn how to play multiple positions on the line, just like running backs, for example, have to learn to play multiple positions in the backfield.

Also, offensive players have to learn defensive positions and vice versa. The Indians should have quite a few players playing both sides of the ball.

"We can't control if we have injuries and things like that," Dickinson said, "but what we're trying to instill in the kids is we can't wait until that happens to then try to coach you up to play a position. We're trying to get them to buy into learning more positions. A lot of the kids have done a good job of that."

Friedlin, Thompson also return as offensive starters

Keystone lost its two primary tailbacks — including leading rusher Blake Sanders (979 yards) — to graduation, but does return second-leading rusher Friedlin, who played primarily fullback and gained 636 yards. The junior was expected to play more at the tailback position this year but may have to start out

2018 KHHS Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 17	Ridgeview (Kickoff Classic)	7 p.m.
Aug. 24	at Fernandina Beach	7 p.m.
Aug. 31	at P.K. Yonge	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	at Bradford	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	Umatilla	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	Hawthorne	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	Crescent City	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	Wildwood (Homecoming)	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	at The Villages	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Interlachen	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	at Pierson Taylor	7 p.m.

playing more fullback because of an injury to sophomore Kaleb Vojnovski.

Either way, Friedlin should have success. Dickinson said Friedlin played well at tailback in the spring game, while from the fullback position, he showed his ability to get through the line of scrimmage on quick-hitters. "He seems to be able to find a way to get through there," Dickinson said. "He's a physical kid."

Vojnovski moved up from junior varsity to varsity late last season and impressed Dickinson with his play at fullback in the spring game.

"He had some good plays and

ran the ball tough," Dickinson said. "Whenever we get him back, I think he's going to be one who will really help us from a depth standpoint."

Some other players in the mix at running back include seniors Colton Crane and Trey Horton, juniors Nick Channell and Andrew Cox, and sophomore Colton Tibbetts.

Junior Dylan Thompson returns as a starter at wide receiver. He showed the ability last year to be a blocker, which is so important in Keystone's offense. Dickinson said receivers can make the difference in a

See INDIANS, 8B

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- Admitted U.S. District Court, Northern District.
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- Adjunct Professor at the University of Florida College of Law (Spring 2017, 2018).
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Preseason kickoff classics are Aug. 17

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Prior to the start of the regular season, area football teams will play preseason kickoff classics on Friday, Aug. 17.

Bradford will travel to play Newberry at 7:30 p.m., while Keystone Heights and Union County will both host games at 7 p.m. Keystone will play Ridgeview, while Union will play Hamilton County.

Union Head Coach Ronny Pruitt said on Aug. 13 he heard Hamilton County's coaches had quit and was unsure if the Tigers would actually get to play a game. The Suwannee Democrat reported that Hamilton Head Coach Ric Whittington, who was hired this past March, and assistant coach David May resigned Aug. 13. It was reported that Athletic Director Mike Cohen would hold a meeting Aug. 14 to decide who would coach the team.

Last year, Bradford hosted Newberry in a classic, and despite outgaining the Panthers and holding an advantage in turnovers, the Tornados lost 27-20. Tally Chandler, who has since graduated, scored on a 40-yard run to tie the score at 20-20 with 4:05 to play. Newberry answered with an eight-play touchdown drive that consumed 3:43.

Pedro Carter, who is a sophomore this year, caught a 23-yard touchdown pass, while Nathaniel Davis, a current junior, caught a pass on a successful two-point conversion.

Keystone played Ridgeview in last year's classic, with the varsity team losing 35-13 in the first half. The junior varsity team defeated Ridgeview 6-0 in the second half.

Turnovers were a problem for the Keystone varsity team, which lost six fumbles.

Blake Sanders, who has since graduated, scored on a two-yard touchdown run, with graduate Alex Cruz kicking the extra point to pull the Indians with 14-7, but Ridgeview then scored three straight touchdowns.

Union played Providence last year, with the varsity teams playing to a 7-7 tie in the first half and Providence's junior varsity team winning 14-0 in the second half.

Providence took a 7-0 lead in the varsity half. The Tigers' Keyshawn Young, a current senior, scored a touchdown, with Alex Perez, another senior, kicking the extra point to even it up.

Louisiana native Stilley is new BHS baseball coach

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School struck out on its first attempt to hire a new head baseball coach, but now has its man in Matt Stilley, who previously coached as an assistant at Doyle High School in Livingston, Louisiana.

Stilley, a Louisiana native who will teach English at BHS, is eager to get his head coaching career started. When a player's mother asked him via text message a couple of weeks ago when baseball season started, he replied Aug. 13 — the first day of school.

"I'm ready," Stilley said.

Bradford first hired John Staples to replace Stewart Duncan. Staples, who has 344 career wins as a head coach, had been working as a volunteer assistant coach at Baker County High School, where he was previously the head coach. He changed his mind approximately a week after accepting the position, citing the fact that after giving it more thought, he didn't want to take on the responsibilities of being a head coach.

Enter Stilley, who applied for the job when it was first posted.

"I had some family moving this way, so I came out here," Stilley said. "I was searching online. This was one of the

schools I had looked at to come teach at. The baseball job came open. It was kind of like, 'Wow, this is a really good coincidence for me.'"

Stilley interviewed with Athletic Director Lamar Waters before Staples was hired. When Staples changed his mind, Waters contacted Stilley and asked if he was still interested. His answer was, "Absolutely."

"This is a great opportunity for me," Stilley said. "It was a no-brainer."

Funny enough, a BHS staff member later heard that he, too, had changed his mind taking the job, but he told her, "No. I'm not going anywhere."

The path toward being a head coach

Stilley grew up in Albany, Louisiana, and pitched for Albany High School. He had the chance to play in college, but decided that's not the route he wanted to take.

"I just wasn't interested in that opportunity because I knew that I wanted to be a coach and wanted to get started with that, which I really think was the best course for my career — to go ahead and get my foot in the door and be able to, within 10 years, be a head coach somewhere and have that experience," he said.



Matt Stilley, a Louisiana native who's had two assistant head-coaching positions, takes on his first head-coaching job at Bradford High School, where he is also teaching English.

Stilley said he was inspired to go into coaching by the two head coaches he had in high school: Keven Darouse and Chad Goulas. Of Darouse, he said, "We're real good friends now. We travel everywhere watching LSU play."

Stilley went to Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond and began his coaching career while in

school, serving as an assistant at Independence High School for four years. After graduating, Stilley took an assistant coaching job at Doyle, where he spent six years. Doyle went 7-15 prior to his and Head Coach Tim Beatty's arrival. The team went 13-9 their first season there in 2013 and followed that up with 23-9 and 22-8 seasons.

It was enjoyable to bring about

a culture change at a school that hadn't been experiencing success.

"We went to the playoffs all six years I was there," Stilley said. "We went to the semifinals in 2013. It was great. It was really nice to watch what you wanted to implement come to fruition and see those kids grow."

Stilley said he's looking to change the culture at BHS, challenging the players to take playing seriously. He plans to do his part, saying that bringing about such change takes more hours than what practices consist of.

"It's a 24-hour job," Stilley said. "You always have to be mindful of what you want to do, getting your focus and your point across."

Stilley believes he is ready for his first-ever head coaching job because of the duties he had at Doyle.

"I took on a lot of the administrative responsibilities — organizing tournaments, helping make the schedule, fundraising and all that good stuff," he said. "Really, just all of that together kind of prepared me to come into this role and really take on, obviously, more responsibility. It's really been a seamless transition because it's stuff I was already doing to begin with."

Pesky team that improves daily

When asked to describe himself as a coach, Stilley said, "I would say very intense, but also very caring about (players') needs, wanting to push them toward what is best for their future, whether that be going to play at the next level, whether that be going to a four-year university or two-year university for their education, or whether that be going into the workforce, to prepare them for life after this."

"That should be our primary goal, even more than wins and losses. Prepare them to be better people and to be better citizens."

Stilley said his teams' motto will be, "Play fast."

"We want to be that team where even if you come in here and beat us, you leave here going, 'Oh, man. I don't ever want to play those guys again. That was awful.' One of our biggest philosophies is going to be to get in and out of innings as quick as possible. We want to be the team that's kind of pesky and always a pain to play."

What Stilley wants to see more than anything from his players is growth every day. He wants his players to ask themselves how they got better from one practice to the next or from one game to the next.

"Our goal should be to get better every day," Stilley said.

Volleyball regular season starts next week

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Following preseason play, the volleyball regular season begins next week for the Bradford, Keystone Heights and Union County high schools, with the Tigers playing the first match of the three.

The Tigers, who were last year's Class 1A runner-up, play three straight road matches: at Trenton on Monday, Aug. 20, at 6:30 p.m., at Crescent City on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 6:30 p.m., and at Bell on Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. Union then plays its first home match, hosting Williston on Monday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Bradford gets play started with a home match against Pierson Taylor on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m. The Tornados then travel to play Keystone on Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. Bradford travels to play Eastside on Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 6 p.m.

The Bradford match is Keystone's first of the season. The Indians travel to play Columbia on Monday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m. and then host Union on Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Tornado Club offers all-sports passes for Bradford High School athletics

Fans of Bradford High School athletics can take advantage of Tornado Club all-sports passes, which allow admission to all home events for \$100.

For an extra \$35, fans can also get one reserved red seat for football games and a reserved parking pass for football.

Please contact BHS bookkeeper Beth Johnson at 904-966-6086 for more information.

BHS offers football sponsorship packages and individual red-seat pricing

Bradford High School is offering five sponsorship levels for football, and of which include a 4-foot-by-8-foot sign on the field, some type of advertisement in the game program and at least one reserved parking pass.

The F1 level (\$350) comes

with the field sign, one reserved parking pass and a business card-sized ad in the program. The F2 level (\$500) comes with the field sign, one reserved parking pass and a half-page ad in the program as well as two T-shirts, two reserved red seats, two hot dog combos per home game and announcement as a quarter supporter.

The F3 level (\$1,000) comes with the field sign, two reserved parking passes, a full-page ad in the program, four reserved red seats, four hot dog or hamburger combos per home game and announcement as a quarter supporter.

The F4 level (\$1,200) comes with the field sign, two reserved parking passes, full-color ad in the program, four reserved red seats, four hot dog or hamburger combos per home game, four polo shirts, four T-shirts and announcement as quarter.

The F5 level (\$2,000) comes with the field sign, a scoreboard sign, three reserved parking passes, full-color ad in the program, six reserved red seats, six hot dog or hamburger combos per home game, six polo shirts, six T-shirts and announcement as quarter supporter.

The Weekly Paw Print:

It's back-to-school time and everyone is settling into their regular routines. Everyone, that is, except your pet. Suddenly your dog is pottying in the house, won't leave your side, and is destroying things it normally wouldn't touch. If this sounds like your dog, then it might have separation anxiety.

Separation anxiety is a feeling of nervousness, fear, or panic that develops when a dog is unable to be in contact with his or her family. Mild symptoms are often missed by owners or often interpreted as signs that our dogs missed us. But this anxiety can take on more severe forms and is reported as the number one reason pets are surrendered to pounds.

Symptoms of established separation anxiety include:

- * Barking, whining, or howling when left alone.
 - * Destructive behaviors (e.g., chewing and clawing at objects in the home).
 - * Escape attempts through or around doors and windows, crates, or fences.
 - * Prescription and nonprescription anxiety relievers (e.g., medications, nutritional supplements, and pheromone products) can help, but should be viewed as a way of enhancing the effectiveness of rather than replacing behavioral modification techniques.
- Behavioral modification protocols often include recommendations like:
- * Pretend to leave (e.g., pick up your keys or purse) but then stay or walk out the door but immediately come back in. As long as the dog remains calm, gradually increase the amount of time you stay away.
 - * When you do get home, ignore your dog until he or she is calm.
 - * Do not allow your dog to sleep in your bed.
 - * Ask someone else to do things with your dog that he or she enjoys (e.g., going for walks).
 - * Get your dog to look forward to time alone by handing out special toys (food-filled ones work well) when you leave and putting them away when you are home.
 - * If you often have a television or radio on when you are at home, keep it on when you leave.

If you believe that your dog might suffer from separation anxiety, it is important to remember that he or she is truly terrified in your absence and not being "bad." Punishment of any sort is absolutely the wrong response to fear and will actually make the situation worse rather than better. Effective treatment for separation anxiety involves avoiding behaviors that reinforce "neediness," teaching the dog to relax, and providing positive reinforcement for doing so. Diagnosis and treatment begins with a trip to your veterinarian.

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announcement as quarter supporter.

Reserved red seats for five home games may be purchased on an individual basis at three different levels. The F1 level (\$50) includes a reserved parking pass, while the F2 level (\$75) includes a reserved parking

pass, hot dog combo and T-shirt. The F3 level (\$100) includes a reserved parking pass, hamburger combo and two T-shirts.

Please contact BHS bookkeeper Beth Johnson at 904-966-6086 for more information.

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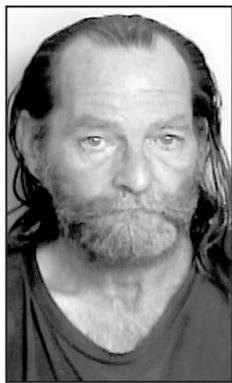
He only can heal
Of his greatness we feel
In His goodness we fall short
We don't do the things we ort.
In His testing there I grow
He is with me this I know.
Oh, His mercy is without end
Where I am he has been.
In our sickness He can heal.
In our sorrow He can feel.
His tender mercy there's no end
His Compassion- a perfect blend.
Eternally secure in Him alone
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There is nobody- like Him.

by Henry Hodges
Lawtey, FL

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CRIME



Windle

Man nearly hit by truck retaliates with gunfire

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Bradford deputies arrested a 51-year-old Hampton man after he allegedly fired a handgun in the direction of a pickup.

Michael L. Windle was arrested Aug. 12 for discharging a weapon in public or on residential property.

According to an arrest report, Windle was walking toward a disabled vehicle near the intersection of U.S. 301 and County Road 18 when a pickup truck nearly hit him. According to the victim and several witnesses, he then got into an argument with the driver of the pickup, took out a handgun from his waistband and fired rounds in the direction of the truck.

A deputy found five 0.45-caliber Smith and Wesson shell casings at the scene.

In other arrests from the Lake Region:

BRADFORD COUNTY

Vanessa Lee Allen, 29, of Live



Merich

Oak was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Lebraun Devan Crawford, 32, of Jacksonville was arrested Aug. 12 by Lawtey police for attaching a tag to a car not assigned to the car and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

James Ray Harris, 32, of Starke was arrested Aug. 9 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Justin Tyler Harris, 28, was arrested Aug. 9 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Cynthia Marie Lavery, 51, of Starke was arrested Aug. 7 by Bradford deputies for resisting an officer and disturbing the peace.

Michael Rodney McCarter, 40, of Starke was arrested Aug. 7 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Daren Peter Merich, 29, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to an arrest report, the defendant became intoxicated and punched a mirror, pieces of which cut a family member's



Spaulding

foot. He also threw a full beer can at the family member, striking her in the head.

Jada Nicole Minter, 20, of Starke was arrested Aug. 9 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.

Erwin Robles-Guerra, 25, of Charlotte, North Carolina, was arrested Aug. 12 by Lawtey police for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Robert Lee Smith, 22, of Starke was arrested Aug. 10 by Bradford deputies for battery.

Richard Lee Soilberry, 32, of Starke was arrested Aug. 8 by Starke police for reckless driving, resisting an officer, driving with a suspended or revoked license and fleeing and eluding.

Joshua Francis Spaulding, 25, of Starke was arrested Aug. 12 by Starke police for burglary and larceny.

According to an arrest report, a resident in the area of Starke's Washington and Church streets caught the defendant burglarizing his vehicle, but declined to press charges because no items were taken. However, police connected Spaulding to a similar theft on Walnut Street in which



Smith

cash and lottery tickets were stolen from a truck.

Reginald Thomas, 40, of Jacksonville was arrested Aug. 7 by Lawtey police for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Allen Lee Williams, 36, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Lawtey police for possession of cocaine.

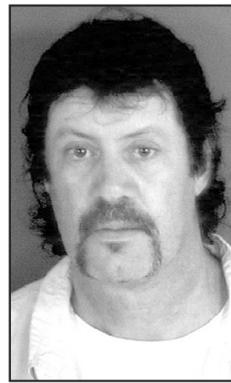
UNION COUNTY

Joseph Edward Baker, 34, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 11 by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Frank Crum, 34, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 6 by Union deputies for disorderly intoxication. According to an arrest report, the defendant and his girlfriend were arguing over a washer and dryer. When a deputy arrived, the defendant grew louder and more disorderly, to a point where he was arrested.

Anjette Anita Smith, 52, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 7 by Union deputies for battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant drove to the victims' house, pulled the hair of a female victim and punched her in the mouth, causing a tooth



Sydenstricker

to loosen. The defendant then scratched a male victim, causing his left hand to bleed.

Corey Lee Thornton, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 8 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AND LAKE REGION

Carl Wayne Chatman, 54, was arrested in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for domestic battery.

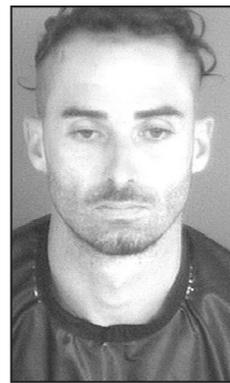
Jesse Lee Harwell, 28, was arrested in Keystone Heights Aug. 12 by Clay deputies for battery on a law enforcement officer.

Joshua Allen Jewell, 29, was arrested in Keystone Heights Aug. 10 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Jillian Kimberly Miranda, 36, was arrested in Keystone Heights Aug. 10 by Clay deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jeffery Sydenstricker, 48, was arrested in Keystone Heights Aug. 9 by Clay deputies for domestic battery and three counts of battery.

According to court papers, on



Taylor

May 1, the defendant became intoxicated and verbally abusive to those in the household. When his girlfriend began to pack her belongings, the defendant kicked a chair into her, striking her on the back. He also closed a door on her, striking her twice with the door.

The defendant also threw a two-liter bottle of Pepsi at one of his girlfriend's sons, striking him in the chest. He also hit the girlfriend's other son and her nephew on the shoulder and back, trying to entice them to fight him.

Justin Edward Taylor, 25, was arrested in Keystone Heights Aug. 8 by Clay deputies for armed burglary.

According to an arrest report, when the victim opened her front door after returning home from work, she heard the back door of the house open and what sounded like someone running away from the home through the bushes.

Deputies later found the defendant loitering at a Lake Region business, in possession of a knife and in possession of jewelry that belonged to the defendant.

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be yelled at, hit or humiliated; and to make their own decisions. No one has the right to abuse our elders physically or emotionally, to threaten them, or to take their money or property without consent.

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becoming a victim of elder abuse. Talk to your clergy, doctor or someone you trust and call the confidential Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873) if you or someone you know is being abused.

Letters

What we can learn from children

Dear Editor:

Don't be childish. We have all heard or said those words, implying being childlike is a negative thing. A letter on Saturday to the Gainesville newspaper pointed out the folly of learning from young people. I learned that somehow tadpoles can talk to frogs.

Last week I took my kids to see "Christopher Robin." He has grown up and left the forest behind. A "happily married man" with an important job in post-war England.

It seems that Christopher forgot some of the simple things he learned with his friends in the Milne classic. That friends/family are more important than you realize and that the world around you can bring you insights to magic that children can easily see. Of course, their minds are not clogged up with adult problems like bills and bosses and efficiency reports.

I worked with children for 40 years in my career as a teacher, most of it on the PE field and playground. Sometimes, I think, I was at the door of a

portal between childhood and adulthood. Let's have fun but not too much fun. Let's do this but not too much of that. I finally realized that children can self-regulate much of their play and experience during play and that adults can do much to mess it up. My goal became to teach them enough and lay just a few ground rules and then step back to see if they could do it on their own. I discovered they could and actually had more fun doing it. I will admit that back in the early 80s I had more children that were prepared to cooperate in a group than I do now, but it was still my goal.

But back to the lesson of Pooh and Christopher. Children are honest and more open to revealing what they feel. Adults learned long ago to keep those cards close to their chest. Children want love and to love you back. They want to know things because of their limited knowledge. They like to laugh and create things. They know how to live in the minute. "Kid stuff" we might call it.

I can tell you from watching the news and listening on social media that children are doing a much better job of being mature about life than many adults. If being an adult means taking everything seriously 24/7 and chasing money all day long

without regard to those around us, we are doomed to the life Christopher found himself in.

You are probably thinking this guy is Peter Pan and never grew up. I think I grew up but with the aid of kids realized there are lessons we learned as a child that are eternal and need to always be incorporated into our daily lives: kindness, patience, empathy, and listening to our friends, family and children. We can still learn. We can return to a more civil society, but it begins with each of us.

Steve Acree
Brooker

Reader supports Putnam for governor

Dear Editor:

I strongly believe that it is important for everyone to vote in the upcoming primary election as we are choosing the leaders who will determine the direction of Florida's future. In every race, we should cast our vote for the person who most closely mirrors our values and our hopes. For

See LETTERS, 5B



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

RE-ELECT DANNY RIDDICK BRADFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

There is not one day that goes by that I don't think about how to make Bradford County better. This is Bradford County on the move.

- Resurfacing CR 325 has begun.
- New Fire Station/County Annex Office floor has been poured. The steel building coming in September.
- Chip seal project starting in a couple of weeks.
- Comcast bringing High-Speed Internet to Starke.
- Four-Story Holiday Inn Express proposed for south end of Starke.
- Around 2020/2021, DOT scheduled to extend Rails To Trails from SR100 through Hampton and pave SE 49th Ave.

LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

PLEASE VOTE AUGUST 28 - YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

Check out my facebook page @DannyriddickBCC. Please Like and Share!



Pol. Adv. Pd. for and approved by Danny Riddick, Republican
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Obituaries

Mary Carver

STARKE — Mary Delorese Carver, age 83, of Starke passed away Friday, Aug. 10, 2018, at NFRMC in Gainesville. She was born in Wausau, to the late Rev. M.C. and Essie (Pitts) Curlee. She grew up and graduated high school in Chattahoochee, where her father was pastor at a local church. She married Donald Andrews and had three sons while working at Florida State Hospital and the Florida Department of Corrections, where she retired after 30 years. She enjoyed bowling in a league and shooting her pistol, as well as playing bingo and collecting glassware.

She is preceded in death by: her parents; husband, Robert Carver; son, Ronald Andrews; sister, Verdine (Curlee) Davis; brothers, Garrie, Paul, Felton and Olan Curlee; and granddaughter, Suzi Andrews.

She is survived by: sons, Joseph Andrews of Waldo and Kenneth Andrews of Keystone Heights. Surviving grandchildren are: Nick Andrews of Louisville, Kentucky, Matt and Kristin (Andrews) Franks of Lawtey, and Mary O'Neal of Middleburg. Survivors also include many nieces and nephews and six great-grandchildren. She will be truly missed by the many friends and family that knew her as a good, caring, loving and generous person.

A celebration of life service for friends and family will be held Sunday, Aug. 19, at 6565 NW C.R. 125 in Lawtey at 3 p.m.



PAID OBITUARY

Carolyn Dyal

BROOKER — Carolyn Kelley Dyal, age 83, of Brooker passed away Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018, at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. She was born Nov. 15, 1934, in Brooker to the late Clyde Otis Kelley and Doris Sue Sowell Kelley. Carolyn was a lifelong resident of Brooker and graduated from Bradford High School in 1952. She found the love of her life, Bobby Eugene Dyal, in fourth grade and they later married June 12, 1953.

After high school, Carolyn attended the University of Florida and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree. Carolyn implemented her degree by becoming a teacher with the Bradford County School System. She enjoyed a long and successful career and retired after 30 years of service.

Carolyn was a member of Brooker Baptist Church and was the church pianist for many years. She enjoyed all sports especially, Gator football and basketball. To relax Carolyn would play the piano, read and tend to her garden. Most of all, she was very family oriented and loved her children and grandchildren dearly.

Carolyn is predeceased by her parents and sister-in-law, Edwina Kelley. Carolyn is survived by: her loving husband of 65 years, Bobby Eugene Dyal Sr. of Brooker; children, Bobby Eugene (Jane Willcox) Dyal Jr. and Dana (Joseph) Shuler, both of Brooker; brothers, Roswell C. (Alma) Kelley of Brooker, Charles B. Kelley of Waldo, Winston D. (Verdene) Kelley of Brooker, Lenox S. Kelley of Ormond Beach, and Hollis Jerome (Robin) Kelley of Brooker; sister, Dottie K. (Terry) Cranford of Branford; five grandchildren, Tori (Aaron) Inman, Amy Dyal, April Dyal, Zeke (Sunshine) Scaff, Cailyn Scaff; and one great-grandson, Kaleb Bass.

A celebration of Carolyn's Life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 18, at 10 a.m. at Brooker Baptist Church with Pastor Paul Samson and Pastor Terry Cranford officiating. Interment will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery in Hampton. The family will receive friends on Friday, Aug. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. In addition to flowers, donations may be made in honor of Carolyn's life to Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606 or Brooker Baptist Church, P.O. Box 96, Brooker, FL 32622. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel of Starke — 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.



PAID OBITUARY

Patricia Gauthier

GRAHAM — Patricia Ann Gauthier, 74, of Graham died on Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018, at Acosta Rua Center for Caring in Jacksonville. She was born on March 7, 1944, in Mayo to the late Willard Thomas and Hazel Hart Thomas. She was a wife and homemaker. She worked in the cafeteria for the Bradford School System. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Gerald Thomas.

She is survived by: her husband of 34 years, Eugene Joseph Gauthier of Graham; sons, Terry Holt and Gerald Holt, both of Alaska, and Grady Gosnell of Hampton; sister, Ida (Billy) Cox of Starke; brother, Mitchell (Grace) Thomas of Hampton; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A graveside celebration of life was held on Monday, Aug. 13, at Santa Fe Cemetery in Hampton. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.

LETTERS

Continued from 4B

me, in the governor's race that person is Adam Putnam.

We need a governor with a deep understanding of our state, as well as our region, both urban areas and rural — and someone who appreciates the complexity of the issues we face. We also need a governor with a positive vision for Florida's future and the depth and span of experience to steer our state into that brighter future. Over the last eight years, Adam Putnam has been an active and important part of the conservative leadership that has created an environment in Florida where our citizens can find work and their families can prosper.

Adam is a proven leader who is guided by his principles. He has a vision to make Florida the launch pad to the American dream, and he has plans to make that vision a reality. Of special interest to the people in our area, Adam has taken action to provide rural communities with greater economic opportunities. He is also in vast support of funding for both our vocational/technical training schools and state colleges in order to provide career and trade specific training and certifications — which are so desperately needed in our state. His goal is to strengthen workforce training so that people have the opportunities, as well as the necessary skills, for meaningful careers here locally and so that our best and brightest will not have to leave home to find good jobs. These opportunities will allow the area to thrive without losing the qualities that make it special. Adam is a proven leader, an innovative thinker and an honorable man. To me, those are the qualities that will keep Florida moving forward in a positive direction, and that is why on August 28th I am voting for Adam Putnam for governor.

I urge all of the eligible voters to please take the time to go vote for their candidate of choice in the upcoming primary election.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely,
Avery C. Roberts

Basketball tournament features \$10K cash prize

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County presents a basketball tournament Saturday through Sunday, Aug. 18-19, at Bradford High School. The double-elimination tournament features NBA Finals referee Eric Lewis and a \$10,000 cash prize.

The entry fee is \$550. Play takes place from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Aug. 18 and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Aug. 19.

Admission for spectators (all-day pass) is \$10 and \$5 (students K-5). Admission is \$10.

For more information on the tournament, please call Sherry at 352-278-3540, Alica at 904-966-1100 or Jimmy at 386-688-2200.

For more information on the comedy show/after party, please call 386-295-4189.

Hunter safety courses offered in September

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is offering free hunter safety internet-

completion courses in 13 counties — including Bradford — during September.

Courses will be held in Starke on Sept. 6 (6-9 p.m.) and in Graham on Sept. 8 (8 a.m. until complete), Sept. 15 (8 a.m. until complete) and Sept. 29 (8 a.m. until complete). Specific locations will be revealed to those registering in advance.

Students who have taken the online course and wish to complete the classroom portion must bring the online-completion report with them.

All firearms, ammunition and materials are provided free of charge. Students should bring a pen or pencil and paper. An adult must accompany children younger than 16 at all times.

Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975, must pass an approved hunter safety course and have a hunting license to hunt alone (unsupervised). The FWC course satisfies hunter-safety training requirements for all other states and Canadian provinces.

Those interested in attending a course can register online and obtain information about future

John Koski

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — John Eino Koski, 76, of Keystone Heights died on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. He was born on May 28, 1942, in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He moved to Gainesville in the early 1960s where he raised a family and worked in the automotive industry. He later moved to Keystone Heights, which he called home for more than two decades. He was preceded in death by: his brother, Charles; parents, Winifred and Eino Koski; and daughter, Judy.

He is survived by: his wife, Liz, and daughters, Faye, Michelle, Stephanie and Amy; his former wife, Sandy, and their daughters Dee and Mary; his sisters, Nancy and Jean; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

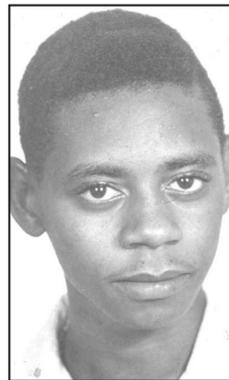
A memorial service was held at Koski's home, Aug. 10. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Lessly Spates

STARKE — Lessly George Spates, 76, of Starke died Friday, Aug. 10, 2018, at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. He was a lifelong resident to Starke and was baptized at Greater Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church in 1953. He worked in construction and maintenance for many years.

He is survived by: sons, Eddie Dean Sr., Joseph Beard Sr., and Anthony Spates; daughter, Lessly Christine Spates; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, in the Greater Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church with the Rev. Dewayne McBride, eulogist, and the Rev. Alvin Green presiding. Interment will be in Oddfellow Cemetery, Starke. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke. Visitation will be held in the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel. Friends from: 3-6 p.m. The cortege will form at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Dean at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, 802 Parkwood Place, Starke.



Paula Waldron

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA — Paula Marie Waldron, 72, of Augusta, Georgia, died on Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, at her residence. She was born in Washington, North Carolina, on Nov. 4, 1945, to the late Roy Hoffer and Pauline Smith Hoffer. She was raised in North Carolina and Florida and graduated from Tavares High School. She was a wife, mother and homemaker.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; her husband of 22 years, Robert Warren Waldron; and her sister, Wanda Thompson.

She is survived by: children, Sidney (Lisa) Booth of Tennessee, Wayne (Hollie) Dykes, Robert "Robbie" (Jennifer) Waldron, Terri Taylor, and Nicholas Mattox all of Florida, Alycia Burch and Roberta Waldron, both of Georgia, and Ryan (Necole) Waldron of Texas; brother, Rocky Hoffer of Florida; and 13 grandchildren.

A graveside celebration of life was held on Aug. 8 at Santa Fe Cemetery in Hampton, with Pastor Larry Johnson officiating. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.

Agnes Wainwright

LAWTEY — Agnes Thomas Wainwright, age 93, of Lawtey passed away Monday, Aug. 13, 2018, at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. Agnes was a lifelong resident of Bradford County and a longtime member of Grace United Methodist Church. She met and married the love of her life, James T. "Cobby" Wainwright, and together they lovingly raised their son and daughter. Agnes was a devoted homemaker who loved her family dearly. She enjoyed cooking, taking care of others and always put her family first.

Agnes was preceded in death by: her parents; her loving husband of 59 years, James T. "Cobby" Wainwright; her daughter, Elaine Steinmeyer; her son-in-law, Harold Stienmeyer; her three brothers, Carl, M.J., and Russell Thomas; and her sister, Doris Starling.

Agnes is survived by: her loving son, Wayne (Rhoda) Wainwright of Starke; her two grandchildren, Kenneth (Kim) Wainwright and Kristen (Pete) Quinones; her six great-grandchildren, Tyler Wainwright, Carson Wainwright, Kencie Wainwright, Ava Quinones, Luka Quinones, and Malia Quinones.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, Aug. 15, from 2-3 p.m. at the Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel. A celebration of Agnes' life will be held on Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the funeral home with the Rev. Marty Starling and Pastor Roman Alvarez officiating. Interment will follow at Kingsley Lake Cemetery in Starke. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke — 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.



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Flashback

Starke woman bakes up Christmas joy

Editor's note: In support of the Aug. 23 Leave a Legacy event, the Telegraph-Times-Monitor presents this story, originally published Dec. 19, 2002, on Laurie Mullins' tradition of baking cookies for friends and family prior to Christmas. Mullins' husband, who is mentioned in the story, has since passed away (May 25, 2015).

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas at the Mullins household in Starke.

Laurie Mullins has been baking cookies. That can only mean that Christmas is approaching. Mullins bakes approximately 35 varieties of cookies every year and then invites friends and family over to collect cookies in their own tins.

It has become a tradition. Mullins starts baking around Thanksgiving — not long after people begin asking her if she has started yet.

"I feel like Christmas has started when I start my cookies," Mullins said.

The tradition of baking cookies for friends and family began when Mullins was in college. She said it was an inexpensive way for a student to give Christmas presents.

When she first started, Mullins said she bought her own tins, packed the cookies and then gave them to people. At that time, she said tins were 25 cents apiece.

As the price of tins increased, coupled with the time-consuming task of packing them, Mullins decided to invite people over and



Laurie Mullins lays out the dough for chocolate mint cookies, which she baked approximately a week before her annual cookie party. Mullins bakes approximately 35 varieties of cookies and stores them in gallon jars.

have them use their own tins.

"I just invite people over on a certain day, and we have some punch and cookies," she said.

That has been going on now for 15 years, but Mullins began baking cookies 50 years ago.

Mullins' mother was a home economics major and did a lot of baking. That included baking cookies. Mullins' mother used what she called a "refrigerator" dough. Mullins uses that same dough today for many of her cookies.

"About a third of the cookies

I make is with the refrigerator dough, which means that you make it, roll it and put it in the freezer," Mullins said. "It will store for months that way. When you're ready to use it, you can just slice and bake as much as you want."

Using the refrigerator can have a possible downside — that is if someone in the house enjoys eating raw cookie dough as Mullins did as a child.

"(My mother) would think she had enough in the refrigerator to bake for some occasion, and



Patricia Carney reaches into a jar for a cookie. She and her sisters, Dana and Marjorie, were just some of the many people who took home some of Laurie Mullins' cookies.

she'd go in and I would've eaten too much," she said.

Mullins, as you would expect, uses some of her mother's recipes, but she has collected recipes from other sources as well. The M&M cookies she

makes, for example, are from a recipe she found on a bag of the candies.

As a teacher at Southside Elementary School in Starke, Mullins had the opportunity to try many cookies children

brought from home at school parties. If she tasted a cookie she particularly liked, she would ask for the recipe. Once, a student copied a recipe for Mullins, complete with a smiley face at the bottom.

Every year, Mullins will usually unveil a new cookie. However, she leaves no doubt as to what her favorite recipes are.

"I think the best ones I've gotten, I've gotten from my mother," Mullins said.

Mullins usually spends three weeks baking cookies. She stores the cookies in gallon jars, which she said will keep the cookies fresh for six weeks.

The cookie-filled jars are stored in a room of her house, awaiting the day when people come to collect them. That day this year was this past Tuesday.

Mullins makes so many cookies, however, that there are always plenty of leftovers. Family members who visit for Christmas then help themselves to the cookies. Whatever's left after that, Mullins takes to Southside Elementary School.

Well, maybe not all that are left over.

"I may pick one or two of my favorites and keep those jars to pick at a little," she said.

Don't think Mullins' husband, Bob (Doc), gets left out. He gets the rejects.

Before you feel too sorry for him, though, bear in mind that the "rejects" are simply cookies that are too big or broken.

"I bag or put those in a Cool Whip tin, and my husband eats all of those," Mullins said.

COURT

Man sentenced for possession of fraudulent credit cards

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A Tampa man was sentenced to 36 months' probation after Bradford deputies discovered 18 fraudulent credit cards in his possession.

Junior Alvarez-Gordon was also sentenced to 10 days in jail with credit for 10 days already served for using a scan device to defraud, driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of more than five or more fraudulent credit cards.

According to an arrest report, on March 8, Sgt. Terrell Williams of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office noticed a suspicious vehicle parked at the MJM Food Store, located at the intersection of U.S. 301 and C.R. 18. The store was closed, and the defendant's car was the only vehicle in the parking lot.



Alvarez-Gordon

When the sergeant got out of his vehicle, the suspect was bent down putting air in his tires. The defendant did not speak English well and told Williams he needed air in his tires.

Williams left the scene but took the precaution of running the vehicle's tag. The check revealed that the tag had been expired for six months and that the owner did not have a valid driver's license. Williams caught up to the vehicle, which

had already pulled out onto the highway, and conducted a traffic stop. The driver was informed of the situation and he advised Williams that he was not a U.S. citizen. Williams was then notified by dispatch that there was a warrant outstanding for the suspect from Tampa on a driver's license charge. While doing an inventory on the vehicle before it was towed, Williams found a laptop computer on the backseat. He then received a call from the deputy who had transported the suspect to the jail and was told that numerous credit cards had been found on the suspect tucked in his shoe. Tucked in his pants was a pink cord, which mimicked some sort of skimmer device.

The suspect had a total of 11 credit cards in his shoe and another seven in his wallet. All of the cards had the suspect's name on them.

In other dispositions from Bradford County felony court on Aug. 7:

Nicolis Chase Altman was sentenced to 31 days in jail and

18 months' probation for the July 8 offense of felony habitual driving with a suspended or revoked license and attaching a tag not assigned to a vehicle.

Jahron-Jaekwon Robinson was sentenced to 18 months' drug offender probation for the Aug. 29, 2017 offense of possession of more than 20 grams of cannabis.

Joshua Ethan Wilkerson was sentenced to 100 days in jail for the April 26 offense of possession of a concealed weapon by a convicted felon.

Richard John Miller was sentenced to 36 months' probation for the Sept. 14, 2017, offense of child neglect without great physical harm.

Misdemeanor court dispositions from July 24

Robert James Burton was

sentenced to six months' probation for the June 27 offense of driving with no valid license.

Gretchen Dianna Crews was sentenced to 60 days in jail for the Feb. 27 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license — second offense. Related charges of not providing proof of insurance and driver not wearing a seat belt were dismissed.

Gianna Grace Guercio was sentenced to 12 months' probation and three days in jail for the April 30 offenses of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Joshua William Johnson was sentenced to 180 days in jail for the May 20 offense of battery.

Wendy Jo Kinnard was sentenced to 12 months' probation and three days in jail for the May 14 offenses of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

David Michael Laylock was sentenced to 30 days in jail and three months' probation for the Dec. 11, 2017, offenses of criminal mischief causing \$200 or more in property damage and trespassing. A charge of trespassing for a May 23 offense was dismissed.

Charges were dropped against Alexis Danielle McGahee for the May 19 offenses of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Maria Angelina Pernell was sentenced to six months' probation for the June 9 offense of petit theft.

James Rodell Riley was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the June 27 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Quintavon Emon Stokes was sentenced to 30 days in weekend jail and two months' probation

See COURT, 7B

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Flashback

Hurse's reputation outlives that of pink Thunderbird

Editor's note: In support of the Aug. 23 Leave a Legacy event, the Telegraph-Times-Monitor presents an edited version of an Aug. 31, 2000, story in which has former BHS Head Coach Lennard Register reminisces about David Hurse, who he hired as an assistant coach in 1957. Hurse became head coach when Register left after the 1961-62 school year to take another head coaching job. Register has since passed away (Oct. 16, 2014).

BY MARCIA MILLER
Telegraph Staff Writer

He most remembers his years working with David Hurse as being characterized by cooperation, dedication and a deep and abiding love for football.

And then there was that pink Thunderbird.

Former BHS Head Football Coach Len Register hired Hurse as his assistant in 1957. Register left after the 1961 season to coach at another school. Hurse took over as head coach, and a local legend was born.

Register said he and Hurse always seemed to be on the same wavelength during the time they coached together. There were few disagreements between the two. Decisions made about the team almost always involved the

whole coaching staff.

Register did have some reservations, however, about that car.

"One day (a year or two after he was hired), David drove up in a pink Thunderbird, and I thought, 'Oh, my Lord,'" Register said. "I was a conservative rat, and that car was just outside the margins. Everyone teased him about that car, even the players. He traded it after a year or two, but while he had it, it got to be a popular thing. Everyone knew when Coach Hurse was coming because he drove that pink Thunderbird."

Driving what must have been an outlandish car in the late '50s or early '60s in Bradford County may have been a mark against Hurse among the most conservative members of the community, but it was an exceedingly small mark when compared to the mile-long footprints (with cleats) this man left.

Register said he was impressed with Hurse from the very beginning. That was why he hired him as an assistant football coach and head track and field coach.

Most people remember the state championships Hurse won and the times he took the Tornadoes to the playoffs, but not that many remember the earlier years before the playoffs existed when the Tornadoes



David Hurse, as he appeared in 1962, his first year as head football coach at Bradford High School.

were a force to be reckoned with. Register and Hurse, along with the other assistant coaches, led the program to undefeated seasons in 1960 and 1961. At one point, the team was lauded for a

32-game winning streak (plus one tie).

"David Hurse was responsible for a great deal of that," Register said. "He was my right arm."

Register said the Tornadoes

had several years of talent and a coaching staff that worked well together. The records, championships and other honors the Tornadoes earned under Hurse's guidance can be laid directly at Hurse's feet, Register said.

"He is a super person. He's a great football coach and a super person as well," Register said. "He and his wife both have given Bradford County a lot to be thankful for." (Myrna Lou Hurse worked for Register when he was the principal at Bradford Middle School.)

Hurse worked mainly with the offense for the Tornadoes during his time with Register. Coaching duties were divided up then as they are now, Register said. An assistant wasn't assigned a specific squad to work with, but Hurse spent most of his time working with the offensive backfield and kicking staff.

"His strong points were an ability to teach and relate well with the players and (having) the strength to demand strict discipline," Register said. "He had great ideas. Whenever we made decisions about the team, we did it as a staff. I was blessed to have David and some other fine coaches as assistants. I always got the credit for the wins, but the other coaches had as much to do with that as I did."

"Dedication" is a word

most coaches understand well. Register said Hurse had a bigger dose of dedication than most.

"When David and I were coaching, we hardly knew our children's names during football season," Register said. "We lived and breathed football day and night."

Register and Hurse stayed friends, even after Register left to go to another county. When Register returned to the area, the friendship continued, and it is still in force today.

"David Hurse still lives and breathes football — more so now than I do," Register said.

Football may be just a game to some people, but Register said he has always felt it was important in the lives of young men in Bradford County.

"I'm a firm believer that football makes a man out of a young adolescent," Register said. "It teaches him something he can't get anywhere else. It teaches him to get out there and take the hard knocks and learn to take the bad with the good. When they get knocked down, they learn to get back up and go at it again. They learn to never give up."

Register said Hurse was able to teach those concepts to the players on his teams.

LEGACY

Continued from 1B

championship in track and field in 1961 and state runner-up finishes the next two seasons.

Canova said when it came to selecting a woman to honor alongside Hurse, she thought of Mullins, who teaches her

Sunday school class at First United Methodist Church of Starke. Foundation board members thought Mullins, who was Bradford County's first-ever Teacher of the Year, was a perfect choice, Canova said.

Mullins and her now-deceased husband, Bobby, moved to Starke in 1954 so that Bobby could establish a veterinary

clinic there. Mullins taught second grade at Starke and Southside elementary schools. She later taught kindergarten when it became part of the school curriculum.

She taught for 32 years and continued to volunteer and fill in as a substitute teacher after she retired.

"She's shared letters with us in

Sunday school from students that had her in kindergarten and, as adults, had written and thanked her," Canova said.

Mullins was active in Girl Scouts locally, earning a Thanks Badge in the process. Besides teaching Sunday school, she is active in First United Methodist Church's women's ministry, vacation Bible school and

missions studies.

The Telegraph-Times-Monitor was unable to reach Mullins for comment, but Hurse said the Bradford County Education Foundation could've solely honored her.

"She the most deserving of all," Hurse said.

While Leave a Legacy's goal is to honor people who've had a

positive impact on the county's schools and students, Canova said she also views the event as a sort of pep rally to drum up support for the schools.

"My goal is to get the community back involved in the schools and to get excited about Bradford schools," Canova said.

COURT

Continued from 6B

for the Jan. 14 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Amber Gray Tharpe was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the Feb. 15 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Kaitlyn Nicole Watkins was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the June 26 offenses of possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Heather J. Wells was sentenced to 12 months' probation, 29 days rehab and 40 hours of community service for the March 18, 2017, offense of petit theft.

David Wilburn was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the Oct. 28, 2015, offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

James Alan Williams was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the Feb. 11 offenses of disorderly intoxication and battery.

Misdemeanor court dispositions from Aug. 7

Alan Eugene Crawford was sentenced to 30 days in jail for the Feb. 8 offenses of driving with a suspended or revoked license and driving a vehicle without a tag. Charges of no proof of insurance and failure to yield at an intersection were dismissed.

Tyler Charles Lewis was fined \$25 and court costs for the Oct.

22, 2016, offense of reckless driving.

Sabrina Lynnette Bexley was sentenced to six months' probation for the May 26 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Shannon Marie Frady for the April 19 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Rebecca Lynn Gerding was ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs for the April 19 offense of driving without a valid license.

Shelby Blake Gonzalez was ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs for the May 6 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Jimmie Lee Jones for the June 23 offense of attaching a tag not assigned.

Amos Daniel Lamoree was sentenced to 12 months' probation for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Heather Rae Morgan was ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs for the Jan. 19 offense

of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Dakota Lee Schmidt was sentenced to six months' probation for the May 3 offense of driving without a valid license.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Beverly Diane Silver for the June 21 offenses of driving with a suspended or revoked license and driving a vehicle not registered.

Tamara Alicia Tosen was sentenced to six months' probation for the Oct. 9, 2011, offense of petit theft.

Lake Swan Camp dedicating Billy Graham Chapel in Melrose

Lake Swan Camp, where Billy Graham first started his preaching ministry, will honor America's Preacher and Evangelist, at its 2018 Homecoming Reunion and Vision 2027 Banquet, Saturday, Aug. 25, at 647 State Road 26 in Melrose.

During three days of fun, food, and fellowship (Aug. 24-26) partners, individuals and friends will attend:

- a homecoming reunion.
- the dedication of the Billy Graham Chapel in Minder Hall, the camp's main meeting hall. Keynote speaker will be Gigi Graham, Billy Graham's daughter. Local, regional and state officials and church leaders will be in attendance.

- the second annual Vision 2027 Banquet, Lake Swan Camp's renewal campaign, in anticipation of its 2027 centennial anniversary.

Free and open to the public, the day's festivities on Saturday, Aug. 25, will begin at 10 a.m., but guests must register at <https://lakeswancamp.com/celebration-weekend/>.

The schedule also includes

the Gatorland Ski Show Team at 11 a.m., a beach picnic at noon, the chapel dedication at 3 p.m. and the Vision 2027 Banquet at 6 p.m. A special lunch and parking and valet transportation will be provided in anticipation of hundreds of guests and visitors. The camp invites all to participate.

Other guests and speakers

include Congressman Ted Yoho, State Sen. Keith Perry, State Rep. Bobby Payne, and county commissioners from Alachua, Putnam and Clay counties Ken Cornell, Larry Harvey and Gavin Rollins.

Ministry and church leaders will include Mark O'Farrell, president, Trinity College of FL (Graham's alma mater); Chuck

Hughes, district superintendent, alliance southeast, Christian and Missionary Alliance; and Paul Alford, friend of Billy Graham, former vice president of Christian and Missionary Alliance, and president of Toccoa

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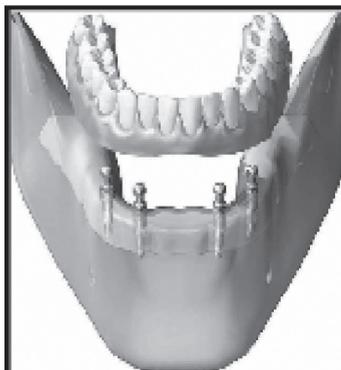
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INDIANS

Continued from 2B

running back gaining 60-70 yards as opposed to 15-20 yards.

"We've got to have wide receivers that block," Dickinson said.

He also likes the fact Thompson is willing to play wherever he's needed. In practices, Thompson will also line up at tight end and offensive guard.

"He's going to do whatever it takes to help the football team," Dickinson said.

Senior Chandler Padgett is one of the other players vying for time at wide receiver, while the tight end corps features players such as senior Carter Semione, junior Colby Townsend and sophomore Ian Schofield.

Who's the QB?

Last year's starting quarterback Adrien Ciena transferred to Bradford, so three players are battling for the position this year: Cox, junior Kaleb Wiggins and sophomore Gage Stevens.

Dickinson said Cox probably has the strongest arm, but the junior, as mentioned earlier, is also getting reps at running back. Plus, he'll be a starter in the defensive secondary.

"It's a good thing for him to learn quarterback even if he doesn't end up being the quarterback," Dickinson said, adding, "With him getting reps there, I think that's going to make him a better football player."

Wiggins is a transfer from P.K. Yonge, but he previously attended KHHS. However, the KHHS offense has changed since he was last there.

"He throws a good ball," Dickinson said. "Of course, this is his first year with us and what we're now doing offensively. He's behind the curve on the learning end because he wasn't here in the spring."

Dickinson said Stevens probably has the best handle on the offense right now.

"He does a good job of knowing what to do and calling the plays," Dickinson said.



Michael Touchton (right) breaks up a pass intended for Kaleb Wiggins.

Secondary is experienced

Half of the defense's six returning starters will line up in the defensive backfield: Cox, Crane and Horton. Cox actually played linebacker last season — and was second on the team with 57 tackles (40 solo) — but he played in the secondary as a freshman. Dickinson hopes Cox's play at linebacker benefits him at free safety, allowing him to be a factor in an opponent's run game.

"We've got somebody back there who can come up and make some tackles in the open field," Dickinson said.

Crane played free safety last year but will most likely be a corner this year. He led the team in tackles last season with 62 (40 solo).

"At the beginning of the year, he was real aggressive," Dickinson said. "He was able to come up there and make some tackles."

Horton was fifth on the team last year with 42 tackles (28 solo) from his strong safety position.

"I think he learned a lot last



Quarterback Gage Stevens (foreground) gets wrapped up by Dylan Thompson.

year, so we're expecting him to be able to play that position a lot better this year," Dickinson said.



Defensive lineman Colby Townsend (right) prepares to take on Preston Anderson.



Lineman Dan Dodd brings down a ball carrier in practice.

Experienced trio fill LB, DL positions

Though they were primarily linemen last season, returning starters Hughes and Semione will fill two of the three linebacker positions. Dickinson said the two, who combined to make 84 tackles last season, had a good spring at their new positions, which, of course, come with added responsibilities.

"At the line positions, they were primarily run stoppers,"

Dickinson said. "At the linebacker position, they've got to understand the drops and the routes and what people are trying to do (in regard to the pass game). That's where the learning curve comes in."

Dickinson expects big things out of Dodd, who will remain on the line.

"I think Dan likes defense better than he does offense," Dickinson said. "In the spring game, I thought he made some good plays defensively. He was a lot more aggressive. He looks like he's gotten quicker. He's

worked hard."

Baxter should be a key on the line, too. Dickinson said Baxter is hard to block and expects him to line up at nose guard.

A newcomer Dickinson is excited about is Townsend, who has been playing soccer, but went out for football this past spring.

"He's very strong. He's done a good job in the weight room," Dickinson said. "He seems to be enjoying it."

Junior Layton Murphy, who was moved up from JV to varsity late last season, could be a contributor on the line, too.

"Last year, he played defensive lineman," Dickinson said. "He's not real big (5-10, 180), but he gave great effort. Hopefully, he'll learn and be able to help."

Punter settled, kicker up in the air

Friedlin punted last season, averaging 37 yards per attempt. The Indians, though, are looking for someone to replace placekicker Alex Cruz, who graduated. Right now, Schofield, Townsend and junior Anthony Briseno are battling for the job.

Dickinson said strong special-teams play as a whole is one of the keys for Keystone having a successful season.

"We've got to be better than the teams we play on special teams," Dickinson said. "Even if we don't that kicker that's better, we've got to be able to cover well. We can't give up the big play on special teams. We've got to do a great job on our coverages."

With only 26 players currently on the team, the biggest key of all is avoiding injuries.

"We've got to have a little luck in the sense of injuries," Dickinson said. "We've got to avoid the injury bug. I think we can have a very successful year if we can avoid injuries — or have the chance to be successful."

Keystone hosts Ridgeview in a preseason kickoff classic on Friday, Aug. 17, at 7 p.m. The Indians open the season in earnest with three straight road games, beginning with Fernandina Beach on Friday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. Keystone's first home game is against Umatilla on Friday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

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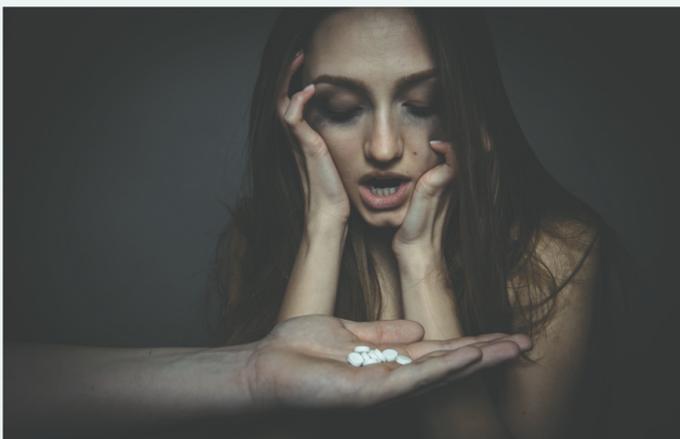
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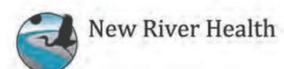
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