

Bradford County Telegraph



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139TH YEAR, 3RD ISSUE

Deputies: Ex-wife stabbed man for drug money

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Bradford deputies arrested a 38-year-old Hampton woman after her ex-husband said she broke into his home and stabbed him after he refused to supply her with money to purchase drugs.

Christina Elizabeth Gibbs was arrested Aug. 19 by Bradford deputies for assault, aggravated battery and burglary.

According to an arrest report, the



Gibbs

victim was lying in bed watching television when the defendant forced open a window with a pocket knife.

"Once Christina entered his residence, she demanded that (the victim) give her money," wrote arresting officer Joseph Silverstein. "(The victim) stated Christina has a drug problem and wanted money to buy drugs."

The ex-husband said Gibbs started throwing things around the house and threatened to kill him if he didn't give her money.

"(The victim) stated that he attempted to restrain Christina at which time Christina bit him on both arms three to four times," wrote the deputy. "During the struggle, Christina stabbed (the victim) with the knife in the stomach area. I observed superficial wounds to both (the victim's) arms and stomach area. He declined medical attention.

The ex-husband said he gave Gibbs \$20 to leave the residence. He then called 911.



Democratic Women meet in Melrose

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet on Thursday, Aug. 23, at the Historic Homemaker's Club, 25728 Park St. in Melrose. The primary is the following week, and last-minute preparations are underway for early voting and getting people to the polls.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. All Democrats (men and women) are welcome.

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.

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.

Grandma tries to protect child, arrested for battery

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Bradford deputies arrested a 49-year-old Lawtey woman after she and her daughter struggled over pills.

Loretta Jenean Dyal was arrested Aug. 19 for battery.

According to an arrest report, Dyal's daughter checked in on her with Dyal's grandson in the daughter's back seat.

During the visit, Dyal accused the daughter of being under the influence of prescription medications and said she would not allow the daughter to drive with the grandson in the back seat.

"Loretta attempted to take the child out of the back seat of the vehicle," wrote arresting officer Kristopher James in a report. "(The victim) was

able to get the child back into the back seat of the car."

Dyal then attempted to grab her daughter's medications, and in the process scratched the woman in the chest area. The meds fell to the ground and the women began struggling over the pills.

"(The victim) grabbed Loretta by the arm holding the pills and began biting her hand, in hope of retrieving her pills," wrote the deputy. "Loretta in turn, began biting (the victim) on the back of her arm."

The victim fought off both her mother and her aunt, who attempted to get the victim's keys and remove the child from the car. She then put the vehicle in reverse and escaped.

The defendant told James that her daughter looked googly-eyed and



Dyal

sleepy and she was concerned about the safety of her grandson. She added that when she asked her daughter to stay, the woman became aggressive

and attacked her.

James wrote that the victim had marks on her chest and a bite mark on the back of her arm that was consistent with her story. The defendant also had marks that she said resulted from the victim biting her.

The deputy said he attempted to interview the aunt, but she appeared to be in shock over the incident and declined to complete a sworn statement.

"It should be noted that while speaking with the victim, she did not appear to be under the influence and appeared coherent," wrote the officer. "Due to testimonial and physical evidence, Loretta was arrested for domestic battery due to being the initial aggressor in placing her hands on (the victim)."

Starke native Loper is new AP at Southside Elementary

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Stephanie Loper is back where she started. However, this time, she's filling the role of an administrator as opposed to that of a teacher at Starke's Southside Elementary School.

Loper, the daughter of Robert and Norma Rhoden of Starke, is the new assistant principal at Southside — her first job as an administrator after working as a curriculum resource teacher the past four years at Brooker and Hampton elementary schools (she was also a guidance counselor as well at Hampton the past year). She began her career in education at Southside as a teacher (substitute 1997-98, full-



Stephanie Loper, the daughter of Robert and Norma Rhoden of Starke, is the new assistant principal at Southside Elementary School, which is where her career started as a teacher.

time 1999-2005).

"I'm excited about the opportunity to be back here," Loper said.

Her role at Southside isn't the only thing that's changed since the last time she worked there. Loper said she can count on one hand the number of people she worked with the first time around who are still at the school.

"Even though I returned to where it all started and made a full circle, it's different," she said.

Then there's the matter of readjusting to a larger school. Hampton Elementary, for example, had 20 faculty and staff and approximately

See LOPER, 6A

Teenager evaluated at scene of S.R. 230 traffic crash

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A teenaged passenger was evaluated by emergency medical workers at the scene of a two-car collision on S.R. 230 Thursday afternoon. The boy was the only person injured, and a law enforcement official at the scene said it was unlikely the victim would be transported to a hospital.

According to an eyewitness, around 4:15 p.m., a gray Ford Focus was traveling toward Starke on S.R. 230 and attempted a left turn onto County Road 230A, also known as Bethel Church Road.

The Focus crossed the path of a silver Ford Mustang that was traveling toward Camp Blanding, and the front of the Mustang struck the Focus.

A Bradford deputy investigating the crash identified the driver of the Focus as 22-year-old Miranda Johnson of Keystone Heights, adding that Johnson was the at-fault driver.

Jenna Ritch, 17, of Starke was driving the Mustang. Her brother was the passenger evaluated by Bradford emergency medical workers at the scene.



City of Starke firefighters attempt to stop a fluid leak from a Ford Focus involved in a collision on State Road 230. The driver of the Mustang, 22-year-old Miranda Johnson of Keystone Heights, is pictured at far left.

Jenna Ritch, 17, of Starke talks on a mobile phone after the silver Ford Mustang she was driving collided with a Ford Focus on State Road 230, at the intersection of County Road 230A.



Elections chief: Early voting steady

Bradford County Supervisor of Elections Terry Vaughan said early voting so far has been steady. Vaughan added that he expects walk-ins at the courthouse to pick up during the last four days of early voting, which is Thursday Aug. 23 through Sunday Aug. 26. The early voting site at the courthouse is the county commission chambers in the north wing and the site is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

As of press time, 1,971 voters, or 12.167 percent of the county's voters have cast ballots, with 523 walking into the courthouse and 1,448 voting by mail. One thousand, one hundred, ninety-six Republicans and 691 Democrats have cast ballots, along with 83 voters with no party affiliation and one voter classified as other.

Vaughan said that during

midterm elections, mailed-in ballots usually outpace walk-ins. However, during presidential election years, more people walk in.

Vaughan also said that with up to eight constitutional amendments on the November ballot, his office ran a vote-by-mail promotion, encouraging residents to vote at home. He said the campaign resulted in around 1,000 additional requests for ballots mailed to homes.

Vaughan said that generally, Bradford County has mirrored the trend in Florida of more people registering with no party affiliation. He added however, that over the past two years, he has noticed an uptick in Republican registrations. Now, 6,032 Bradford citizens are registered Democrat and 7,618 are registered Republican with 2,542 classified as others.



Pictured (l-r) is Vaughan and early voting poll workers Bobbie Agner, Mike Ruskowski, Randy Jones and Pam Woodruff. Photo: Dan Hildebran for the Telegraph.

Budget includes more money for Starke employees

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

One of the goals of Starke's budget is to raise the salaries for some of the most loyal and lowest paid city employees, but commissioners are also struggling with being prudent with public funds and fair to all employees.

Last month, Commissioner Wilbur Waters brought a salary list to the others, asking that several employees be raised to \$13 an hour. There were three public works employees on the list, for example, earning \$11 an hour (one of whom has left and been replaced by a new employee at Waters' target \$13 hourly rate). "We've got people working out here digging ditches in the rain, hot sun, cold weather (at) \$11 an hour. That's ridiculous," he said.

Waters also wanted the commission's other employees to receive an additional \$1 an hour, pending a look at what it would cost.

Few positions in the city dip below \$12 an hour. Other city officials supervising employees find money in their budgets to offer higher starting pay or give raises. Some employees who work for the commission can increase their salaries by raising

their skill level or pursuing new certifications. That path is not open to all employees, and they wait on years when the commission can afford to award a pay raise to all employees — which means they still lag behind the rest.

That is to say those who stick around. Even the higher paid employees are picked off by employers with more competitive salaries as evidenced by the recent loss of the city's electric department supervisor. Loyalty is not promised reward.

"We've got one guy here who's been with us since 2008 and he's only making \$14 an hour," Waters said of one public works employee. It's not just those in the field. There are two purchasing positions that date back to the 1990s. One employee makes less than \$16 an hour, and the other \$18.35 an hour.

"That's why we just lost Kaddy. It's because he can go to work as a lineman at \$3 more an hour," Waters said of former line crew supervisor Kris Kadlec — and he was one of the city's more highly paid employees, earning almost \$29 an hour.

The risk involved in a public safety job does not guarantee higher pay, either. The most recently hired police officers

receive \$13 an hour. Meanwhile, although they are unionized, the city's firefighters also have some of the lowest salaries in the city, including a 2010 hire that is still at \$10.90 an hour. A firefighter hired in 2009 is at \$12.51 an hour, and another is earning just over \$19 an hour although he was hired in the mid 1980s. Salary negotiations have been postponed, however, until the commission decides what it can do for all employees over the next budget cycle.

Given some of the struggles employees are facing trying to keep aging utility infrastructure up and running, Waters said it's time the commission does a better job of taking care of its people.

Milner's proposed budget includes Waters' request for the \$11 employees as well as \$1 more an hour for all city employees.

According to Commissioner Tommy Chastain, anyone hired in the last year would not be eligible for the pay raise. The current personnel rules classify those employees as probationary until after 12 months.

Speaking during the Aug. 14 budget workshop, Chastain said the same rules dictate that anyone receiving a recent raise would also be ineligible for

an increase, although Milner said that particular rule has not always been followed.

"It's hard to live with, but when you come to work, you know what you're coming to work for," said Commissioner Travis Woods. While he said he didn't have a problem with \$1 more an hour, he also said they should be considering how long an employee has worked for the city, what he or she was hired to do and the pay scale when he or she was hired before raising their pay above others.

Commissioner Danny Nugent told Milner to follow policy, be consistent and make sure employees weren't given something the commission had not discussed.

Milner's plan to be more competitive as well as attract and retain qualified employees included seeking permission from the commission to negotiate starting salaries with new employees. The commission was fine with negotiations, but also wanted input on the outcome of those negotiations.

The budget includes \$500 performance bonuses for employees as well as a cost of around \$40,000, but commissioners have not agreed to keep those in the budget.

Commissioners and other elected officials would receive an additional 3 percent in their checks. That comes to \$388 a year for the most recent addition to the board, Janice Mortimer, \$444 for Danny Nugent and Travis Woods, and \$459 for Tommy Chastain and Wilbur Waters. City Clerk Ricky Thompson would receive \$1,432 more a year, and Police Chief Jeff Johnson would receive \$1,818 more.

In other discussion, Chastain pointed out the budget is based on a property tax increase anticipated when the commission approved a higher tentative millage rate for next year. It will raise approximately \$200,000 in added property taxes, but the only way to afford the proposed spending plan is to approve the tax increase or approve a higher transfer of revenue from the enterprise fund.

"It's either going to come from the utility fund (or the enterprise fund) or it's going to come from an increase of the millage rate," Chastain said.

The 2019 budget already relies on a \$595,000 transfer in utility revenue to the general fund to help pay for general government costs, including public safety (police and fire).

Woods said the tax increase

per individual resident would be hardly noticeable. Chastain wanted to see an estimate representing the cost for an average property.

The budget also includes an 8.5 percent increase in the base rate for sewer, the final in three years of planned increases. Having addressed wastewater revenue, Chastain also wanted to see numbers on reducing the number of gallons covered in the base rate for water as a way of increasing revenue from water sales. Nugent questioned the impact on commercial customers.

Based on a past electric rate study, there is a suggestion to look at electric rates as well. According to Milner, the residential electric rate has not increased since 2001.

The city manager is forecasting a reduction in electric revenue given conservation efforts, including the use of LED lighting, as well as the price of natural gas, which is keeping the cost of generation low.

The budget is also balanced with \$370,000 in cash carryforward.

Hearings on the \$19 million budget will take place in September.

Starke seeking passing water grade after another main breaks

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

As of Tuesday night, the city of Starke was still seeking a clean bill of health for its water system after a main water line break seven days before near the city's recreational complex on Edwards Road caused a decrease in water pressure, necessitating a precautionary boiled water notice.

On Thursday, Aug. 16, city Water and Wastewater Superintendent Kyle Jerrels said a lab had cleared the first set of water samples submitted after the Aug. 14 incident.

"I should receive a call or email around this time tomorrow

on the results of the second set of water samples," he wrote.

Jerrels added that once he received word that the lab has cleared the second sample, the city could then cancel its precautionary boiled water warning.

However, the second set of samples revealed the presence of total coliform in a sample taken south of Southside Elementary School. While the city rescinded its precautionary boiled water notice in other areas, the alert remained in effect for the area south of the school and into the county's industrial park on L.M. Gaines Boulevard.

"We had one bacteria sample at 1038 South Water that showed

a presence for total coliform so that is why that area is still under precautionary boil water notice,"

City Manager Bob Milner wrote in a text message Tuesday afternoon. "I am waiting on the lab to email or call me back with yesterday's results. We have collected samples today and sent them to the lab. Hopefully if all passed, we can rescind the notice by noon tomorrow. If it shows another presence for total coliform, we will have to keep testing until we get two, back-to-back clear samples."

Milner added that total coliform is a bacteria but is not likely to cause illness.

"Their presence indicates that the water supply may be

vulnerable to contamination by more harmful microorganisms," he wrote.

While the notice remained citywide, Bradford School District officials purchased bottled water for schools and other facilities served by the city's water system.

Assistant Superintendent David Harris said the district purchased six pallets of water from Walmart for around \$1,600. He added that the district's maintenance department distributed the fluids to the cost centers.

Harris acknowledged some spot shortages at isolated locations, adding that with a staff of only five workers,

the maintenance department sometimes struggled to keep pace with deliveries.

He also said that inefficient rationing at the elementary schools may have contributed to shortages, as teachers gave entire bottles to students instead of lesser portions.

"It might have been better if we cupped it out," he said.

He also said that administrators were instructed to purchase water using a district credit card if shortages occurred.

Deliveries to the schools continued through Friday.

Middle school Principal John Green said students were growing accustomed to the water restrictions.

"I think this is the second or third time this has happened since I've been here," he said.

Starke Elementary Principal Jennifer Vaughan said her students were taking the water restrictions in stride. She said district staff members distributed the bottled water throughout campus and students have had unrestricted access to the supply.

"Some kids bring their own water to school," she said, "others don't drink much during the day. Of course, when you tell them there is no water, then they all want water."

Elect Dimple Overstreet

for Starke City Hall, District 1 City Commissioner

I am Dimple Overstreet. I have been in Starke for over 50 years. If you were to ask any of my friends or family they would say I would be the last person to seek a political office.

In my professional career I successfully ran two businesses simultaneously. I am involved in Altrusa, Bradford County Education Foundation, Relay for Life, and Downtown Merchants Association.

The city of Starke is going to have some changes in the next few years, with the bypass of HWY 301 and the overpass of the railroad on SR 100. I hope to be a part to help the transition go smoothly. With my business experience and being involved in many civic organizations, I feel I have the knowledge to do that. I can help with budget issues and still be mindful of the citizens' needs of Starke. I would ask for your support and your VOTE on September 4th, 7a.m. to 7p.m., at Starke City Hall, District 1 City Commissioner. Lets work together to make it better. Thank you.



~Dimple Overstreet
dimplej@embarqmail.com
904-964-6768

Political ad approved and paid for by Dimple Overstreet for Starke City Hall, District 1 City Commissioner

Starke election Sept. 4

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.

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.

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Daniel Hildebran, General Manager



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Milner: Starke addressing overtime expenses

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

The numbers Starke City Commissioners were reviewing during discussion of employee raises did not offer a complete view of what those employees take home.

The numbers were based on employees' hourly rates, but did not include additional earnings like bonuses or benefits like phone or vehicle usage. Most importantly, the salary totals did not include overtime pay, which for many has greatly enhanced their annual incomes.

In fact, the overtime payments were so generous that state auditors criticized Starke for not exercising enough control of overtime. Then there was a case of a former employee who was let go for falsifying her hours to receive additional overtime, hours that the former city manager approved.

Current Starke City Manager Bob Milner said overtime expenses are down considerable this year. It's something he and Chuck Oliver, the recently hired utilities director, as well as the other department supervisors are working on together he said.

"I'm not taking all the credit for that, please understand, but one of the things I did last year when I reviewed it, it was a lot of overtime everywhere," he said.

Getting overtime under control is no small task. Auditors recently revisited the extent of the problem in a follow-up of their operational audit of the city. Several years after the original finding, the city had still not corrected the problem.

From the audit follow-up: "Our examination of city records and discussions with city personnel indicated that, as

of October 2017, the city had not performed formal overtime and staffing analyses to ensure the most cost efficient and effective use of human resources. According to the city clerk, he and the finance director discussed plans for addressing overtime usage and determined that it was more cost effective to pay for overtime than to hire additional employees. However, although we requested, city personnel did not provide documentation evidencing the determination.

"Excluding firefighters, the city paid overtime pay of \$163,467 to 42 employees, \$193,897 to 48 employees and \$233,422 to 55 employees, during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 calendar years, respectively. As shown in Tables 3, 4 and 5, our examination of payroll records for these overtime payments disclosed:

—Nine employees with total overtime payments ranging from 26 to 62 percent of their base salaries for the 2014 calendar year. The overtime payments to these nine employees was 50 percent of the total citywide overtime paid (excluding payments to firefighters) for the 2014 calendar year.

—Eight employees with total overtime payments ranging from 25 to 74 percent of their base salaries for the 2015 calendar year. The overtime payments to these eight employees was 49 percent of the total citywide overtime paid (excluding payments to firefighters) for the 2015 calendar year.

—Ten employees with total overtime payments ranging from 27 to 86 percent of their base salaries for the 2016 calendar year. The overtime payments to these 10 employees was 55 percent of the total citywide

overtime paid (excluding payments to firefighters) for the 2016 calendar year.

—Seven of the nine employees receiving the largest amount of overtime payments as a percentage base pay during the 2014 calendar year also earned the largest amount of overtime payments as a percentage of base pay during the 2015 calendar year.

—Six employees earned the largest amount of overtime payments as a percentage of base pay during the 2014, 2015 and 2016 calendar years."

A look at this year's budget shows many of the line items allocating overtime budgets to the various department shows many have cut spending, just as the city manager had said. With more than three-quarters of the year gone, less than 57 percent of the budgeted overtime for the enterprise fund had been spent. The police department had spent just 58 percent of its overtime budget.

Only the fire department seemed in danger of overspending its overtime budget with less than \$10,000 to go for the rest of the year.

Milner said they will lower overtime costs for the fire department with the recent hiring of nine new part-time employees. Once certified, the part-timers will be able to "backfill" the station when the full-timers are answering calls. Having the part-time firefighters means the city isn't paying overtime to off-duty firefighters when the on-duty crew is answering calls or someone is using leave time.

A full-time firefighter is being added to the shift rotation as well as the fire chief moves to an administrative shift.

Table 3
Employees With the Largest Amount of Overtime Pay as a Percentage of Base Salary

Employee Position	Total Overtime Hours	Total Overtime Pay	Total Base Salary	Total Wages	Overtime Pay Percentage of Base Salary
Wastewater Plant Supervisor ^a	882.0	\$ 20,465	\$ 33,172	\$ 53,637	62%
Wastewater Plan Operator ^b	103.0	2,023	4,928	6,951	41%
Wastewater Plan Operator ^c	574.0	10,471	26,039	36,510	40%
Public Works Laborer ^d	529.5	7,580	21,135	28,715	36%
Gas Laborer ^e	506.0	8,926	26,063	34,989	34%
Gas Crew Supervisor	511.0	7,128	21,380	28,508	33%
Public Works Laborer ^f	443.0	6,741	22,360	29,101	30%
Electric Lineman ^g	421.0	11,157	38,752	49,909	29%
Public Works Supervisor	399.0	7,479	28,408	35,887	26%

Total Overtime Payments \$ 81,970
Total Citywide Overtime Payments (Excluding Payments to Firefighters) \$163,467
Percentage of Citywide Overtime Payments 50%

a, b, c, d, e, and g These positions were held by individuals who received overtime payments during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 calendar years.

f This position was held by an individual who received overtime payments during the 2014 and 2015 calendar years.

Table 4
Employees With the Largest Amount of Overtime Pay as a Percentage of Base Salary

Employee Position	Total Overtime Hours	Total Overtime Pay	Total Base Salary	Total Wages	Overtime Pay Percentage of Base Salary
Wastewater Plan Operator ^b	1,080.0	\$ 22,565	\$ 30,415	\$ 52,980	74%
Wastewater Plant Supervisor ^a	854.0	20,832	35,516	56,348	59%
Public Works Laborer ^d	616.5	9,303	22,618	31,921	41%
Public Works Laborer ^f	564.5	9,356	24,879	34,235	38%
Wastewater Plant Supervisor	201.0	3,618	9,978	13,596	36%
Gas Laborer ^e	479.0	9,853	32,594	42,447	30%
Wastewater Plan Operator ^c	433.0	8,602	29,579	38,181	29%
Electric Lineman ^g	367.0	11,500	46,152	57,652	25%

Total Overtime Payments \$ 95,629
Total Citywide Overtime Payments (Excluding Payments to Firefighters) \$193,897
Percentage of Citywide Overtime Payments 49%

a, b, c, d, e, and g These positions were held by individuals who received overtime payments during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 calendar years.

f This position was held by an individual who received overtime payments during the 2014 and 2015 calendar years.

Table 5
Employees With the Largest Amount of Overtime Pay as a Percentage of Base Salary

Employee Position	Total Overtime Hours	Total Overtime Pay	Total Base Salary	Total Wages	Overtime Pay Percentage of Base Salary
Wastewater Plan Operator ^b	1,187.0	\$ 26,161	\$ 30,591	\$ 56,752	86%
Wastewater Plant Supervisor ^a	766.0	19,109	35,226	54,335	54%
Electric Lineman ^g	552.5	18,903	48,549	67,452	39%
Waste Water Plan Operator ^c	510.0	10,672	29,381	40,052	36%
Electric Lineman	297.5	5,033	14,960	19,993	34%
Gas Laborer ^e	438.0	9,332	27,922	37,254	33%
Electric Lineman	472.5	9,594	28,884	38,479	33%
Electric Lineman	429.0	13,707	45,438	59,146	30%
Electric Lineman	412.0	10,111	34,189	44,300	30%
Public Works Laborer ^d	388.0	6,583	24,335	30,918	27%

Total Overtime Payments \$129,205
Total Citywide Overtime Payments (Excluding Payments to Firefighters) \$233,422
Percentage of Citywide Overtime Payments 55%

a, b, c, d, e, and g These positions were held by individuals who received overtime payments during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 calendar years.

Health

HEALTHY LIVING

Drink tracker

In the United States, a standard alcoholic drink contains 0.6 ounces of pure alcohol. Generally, this amount of pure alcohol is found in:

- 12-ounces of beer (5 percent alcohol content).
- 8-ounces of malt liquor (7 percent alcohol content).
- 5-ounces of wine (12 percent alcohol content).
- 1.5-ounces of 80-proof (40 percent alcohol content) distilled spirits or liquor (e.g., gin, rum, vodka, whiskey).

To prepare for your next gathering, keep track of how much alcohol you drink using this calculator: <http://bit.ly/DrinkTrackerTool>.

Drinking too much alcohol over a long period of time leads to harmful health effects and the development of chronic diseases. The following chronic diseases may result from long-term overconsumption of alcohol:

- High blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease and digestive problems.
- Cancer of the breast, mouth, throat, esophagus, liver and colon.
- Learning and memory problems, including dementia and poor school performance.
- Mental health problems, including depression and anxiety.
- Social problems, including lost productivity, family problems and unemployment.
- Alcohol dependence or alcoholism.

You can reduce the risk of many short-term and long-term health risks by limiting the amount of alcohol that you consume.

Water safety

The next time you're at the beach, lake or pool and want to participate in water activities, it is important to make sure that you, your friends and your family take the proper precautions before jumping in. Knowing basic swimming safety tips can ensure you have a fun and safe day in the water and avoid mishap or injury.

First, make sure you and your group know swimming skills such as floating, kicking

and basic strokes to stay afloat. Before you get in, check the pool's cleanliness and see if a lifeguard is on duty. When you get in the water, swim with your children or keep an eye on them at all times. In open water, ensure there are swimming boundaries marked by a rope or other marker and water depth indicators separating shallow and deep areas.

Check out the list below to ensure your water safety habits are up-to-date.

- Actively supervise children in and around water, giving them your undivided attention.
- When several adults are present and children are swimming, designate one adult as the "water watcher."
- Install door and window alarms to alert you if a child wanders into the pool area.
- Educate your kids about swimming safety.
- Every child is different, so enroll them in swimming lessons when you feel they are ready.
- No one is too old to enroll in swimming lessons.
- Swim with a buddy, never alone.
- Use life jackets, but don't rely on swimming aids.
- Everyone should learn CPR, including children.
- Educate your children about the dangers of drain entanglement and entrapment and teach them to never play or swim near drains or suction outlets.
- Make sure backyard pools have four-sided fencing that's at least 4 feet high and a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- Keep pool gates locked when

pool is not in use.

• Only jump or dive in an area with deep water.
According to the CDC, about 10 people die from unintentional drowning a day in America. In Florida, drowning is the leading cause of death among children ages one to four. To learn more about water safety, please visit the CDC's healthy swimming page or Safe Kids Worldwide at www.safekids.org.

Recipe of the Week

Zucchini and Potato Bake

- Ingredients**
- 2 medium zucchini, quartered and cut into large pieces
 - 4 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
 - 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
 - 1 clove garlic, sliced
 - 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
 - 1/4 cup olive oil
 - paprika to taste
 - salt to taste
 - ground black pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).
In a medium baking pan, toss together the zucchini, potatoes, red bell pepper, garlic, bread crumbs, and olive oil. Season with paprika, salt and pepper.
Bake 1 hour in the preheated oven, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are tender and lightly brown.

Democrats meet Aug. 27

The Bradford County Democratic Party will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Capital City Bank meeting room, 350 N. Temple Ave. in Starke, just north of the Santa Fe College Andrews Center. All Democrats are welcome.

Ja'brianna Reed and Annie Perkins of Lawtey would like to thank each and everyone that contributed to her education.



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Candidates address environmental issues at forum in Brooker

Area residents and friends came to the Brooker Community Center on Saturday to talk about water and land use issues.

The Bradford Environmental Forum offered state and local candidates the opportunity to deliver their environmental platforms. Though only five candidates attended, a crowd of about 50 listened to the candidates' views and questioned them on issues such as flooding, preserving sensitive lands and phosphate mining in Bradford and Union counties.

The speakers were Tom Wells and Yvonne Hinson running for Congressional District 3 from Gainesville; Paul Still running for Florida House District 19 from Sampson City; and Bradford County Commission District 4 candidates Tom Germano and Stasia Rudolph of Melrose. District 4 candidate Danny Riddick had a family emergency.

Wells is a nuclear physicist, and Still has a doctorate in plant pathology. Hinson has a master's degree in education, while Germano and Rudolph have degrees in business administration. The crowd was pleased to see people with scientific backgrounds and higher education willing to serve in elected office.

Despite differing party affiliations, the candidates shared common ground on environmental issues. They all acknowledged the fragility of the aquifer; all were keenly aware of the flooding issues and the flood mitigation efforts underway. Still said by re-directing excess water from Chemours to Keystone, the state could save most of the \$41 million that is currently allocated for the Black Creek Project that would pump water from Black Creek at Penny Farms to Keystone. Taking the Chemours water out of Starke would also reduce flooding along Alligator Creek in Starke, according to Still.

The candidates talked about land preservation and conservation as an economic



Tom Wells



Yvonne Hinson



Tom Germano

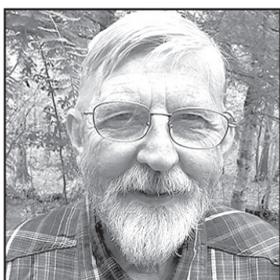


Stasia Rudolph

boost in ecotourism and related commercial enterprises. They even talked about affordable housing and the need for careful planning, in-fill rather than sprawl. All were opposed to the phosphate mine proposal in Bradford and Union counties as a risk to the wells and the aquifer, and as a detriment to property values and future growth.

Refreshments were served, and it was announced that "to walk the talk," no Styrofoam would be used. The plastic cups and glass mugs would be washed and reused, and the paper plates composted or burned. At the end, less than half a bag of trash was headed to the landfill. All agreed it had been a great success.

The Brooker Community



Paul Still

Center also gained a podium, donated by Rudolph.

Emcees Carol Mosley from Graham and Kate Ellison from Melrose timed the candidates and asked for audience respect for all points of view. Rather than rowdiness, they suggested a thumbs up or down, or American Sign Language silent clapping (holding hands up and shaking them). The audience enjoyed silent clapping, and it provided needed comic relief.

The Bradford Environmental Forum group said this is just the start of bringing together thinkers and doers to share environmental expertise and planning ideas with local stakeholders.

bowls, etc.

Farm Bureau seeks auction donations

The Bradford County Farm Bureau is looking for donations to be used in an auction at its annual membership dinner to fund the Bradford County Farm Bureau Youth Agricultural Scholarship. If you or your business are interested in donating, please contact Brandi Sterling for details at brandi.sterling@ffb.com or 904-964-6369.

Church

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.



New River NC Methodist Church will host a gospel sing Sunday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. The featured group will be The New River Ramblers, a bluegrass gospel group and local singers. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy an evening of fellowship. For more information, please call 904-966-9312.

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.

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. through Sept. 30 for grades 1-8. For more information, please call 964-6155.

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.

Center closed

The senior center will be closed on Tuesday, Aug. 28, for the Florida primary elections and Monday, Sept. 3, for Labor Day.

Medicare 101

Medicare open enrollment will be here in October. Medicare 101 will help explain the different plan options available to you whether you're already receiving Medicare or about to turn 65. Medicare 101 will empower you with the knowledge needed to make decisions about insurance and prescription plans that are right for you. Presented by SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Thursday, Sept. 6, from 1:30-3 p.m.

Zumba for seniors

For the active senior, Zumba Gold is a low- to no-impact dance fitness class. Join the fun Mondays at 1:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Participants enjoy easy-to-follow moves with exciting rhythms. So much fun, you hardly notice you're exercising.

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, Sept. 24, at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions about our exercise classes, please call 904-368-3955.

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.

Starke Sewing Group

New at the senior center is the Starke Sewing Group which meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 9-11 a.m. Learn about patterns, fabrics and techniques involved in sewing. Beginners to advanced are welcomed. Next class will be Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Sunshine Quilters

The Sunshine Quilters is another talented group that meets at the center. Learn new techniques and ideas in quilting when these ladies get together on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1-3 p.m. Join the Quilters on Sept. 12 and see what they have going on.

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.

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.

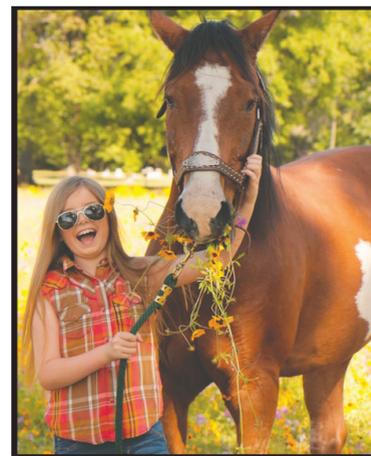
Local CoDA meeting at FUMC

Co-Dependents Anonymous is a 12-step fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence and the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. CoDA meetings have resumed on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Starke's firehouse building on Jefferson Street. For further information, go to www.CoDa.org or call 904-966-1014.

Animal adoption drive Aug. 25

Tractor Supply Company in Starke is hosting pet adoptions, a pet supplies drive and more on Saturday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of Out Here with Animals, its monthlong event for animals of all kinds and the people who care for them. Participating organizations include Guardian Angels Horse Rescue II and Bradford County Animal Shelter.

In addition to a chance to adopt, supplies are being collected, including new sealed food, toys, cleaning supplies, beds, leashes,



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HRC Respiratory Care Like us on Facebook 417 Edwards Rd. Suite B - Starke 904.966.0520	The STEAKHOUSE in STARKE From all of us at U.S. 301 South 964-8061	First United Methodist Church 200 N. Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-6864 9:45 am Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship	GREATER ALLEN CHAPEL Sunday School 10 a.m. Church Service 11 a.m. 746 N. Pine Street Starke, FL 904-964-6995
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Be Still AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD -PSALM 46:10	Virgil A. Berry, D.C. Back & Neck Pain Clinic 601 E. Call St. • 964-8018	Your Ad Here! as low as \$9/week Call BETH 904.964.6305	I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH Christ WHO STRENGTHENS Me

LOPER

Continued from 1A

200 students. Southside has 75 faculty and staff and more than 600 students.

"That was an adjustment, and I'm still adjusting to it," Loper said. "Previously, I would know just about all of the kids' names. I'd like to be able to do that here. I don't know how possible that'll be."

Whatever position she's worked in, Loper has kept in mind what her father, who worked for Bradford County's road department, and her mother, who worked for Starke Uniform, taught her.

"They instilled in me that you are judged on the job you do," Loper said. "I've always tried to do the best job I could and to lead by example."

Loper has had several others serve as examples in her life in regard to working in education, including a teacher she had at Bradford Middle School.

Inspired to work in education

A nurse. A surgeon.

Those were a couple of ideas Loper had when she thought about what she wanted to be when she grew up. She eventually became interested in being a teacher, finding her inspiration in the form of Linda Sheffield at BMS.

"I remember sitting in her class and really enjoying it and just being so engaged in whatever she was talking about," Loper said, adding, "I could just stay in her class all day. My thought was, 'Hey, I can do that.'"

Loper liked the fact that Sheffield formed strong bonds with her students. In fact, Sheffield kept in touch with Loper after she moved on to Bradford High School. The two were pen-pals.

"She made it a point to have a personal relationship with her students and to connect with them," Loper said.

Loper, a 1993 BHS graduate as well as a graduate of Santa Fe and Saint Leo colleges, began her teaching career as a

substitute at Southside during the 1997-98 school year. She said the experience made her feel right at home. She had chosen the right career to pursue and enjoyed helping children.

"Teaching them or making them excited about learning is the biggest greatness there is to being teacher," Loper said.

She began working full-time at Southside in 1999, teaching first grade. Loper also taught third grade over the course of six years at Southside. She then became a teacher at Lawtey Elementary School, where she taught kindergarten for nine years.

It was at Lawtey Elementary where Loper met a mentor in Lynn Bryan, who would serve as principal after a stint as a reading coach. Bryan encouraged Loper to pursue educational leadership and move into administration, noting that Loper already held leadership roles on several school committees. Loper said Bryan told her, "I really see a lot of traits in you that would lend themselves to being a really good school administrator."

Loper thought her career path would lead her into exceptional student education due to raising her son, Myles, who is autistic. Bryan's words got her to considering a move into administration — that and the fact her husband, John, had already been suggesting such a move.

"For a few months, I tossed that around in my head because I had really never given it any thought," Loper said. "With the encouragement of my husband, who had been telling me that for years, I jumped all in."

While working toward that end, Loper began working at Brooker and Hampton elementary schools as a curriculum resource teacher in 2014. She described working for Principal Brenda Donaldson, who is now retired, the "greatest gift in the world." It helped her prepare her for the role she now fills at Southside.

"She was professional. She was ethical. She was approachable. She was really great at communicating with teachers, students and parents," Loper said. "She wasn't afraid to give me the ability to help out with some of those roles and

in the everyday running of the school. She liked to call it on-the-job training."

Loper received support from both Donaldson and Bryan when she was hired as Southside's assistant principal. Bryan sent her a card, "reminding me I do have people cheering for me," Loper said, while Donaldson sent her a text that read, "You've worked hard for this. I know you're going to do a great job."

Interacting with students and parents, bonding with staff

One of Loper's goals as an administrator is to become familiar with students. She wants them to see her around campus and in their classrooms. She wants them to see her out in the community away from school.

"I want to be approachable," she said, adding, "I want (students) to be able to say, 'She cares about me. She's always around, even when I don't need her.'"

Another goal is to be a facilitator when it comes to opening avenues of communication between the school and parents. Loper wants to let parents know what their children are learning and what events are taking place at the school.

Communication takes on many forms, but Loper said she really wants to focus on the school's social media presence.

"Facebook is a really big deal, so I'm trying to stay current and increase our Facebook page interactions, letting parents know we're out there," she said. "Even though they may not have internet access at home, they have their phones. They can easily pull it up."

"I'm looking for other ideas and ways to communicate with parents."

As an administrator, relationships with school faculty and staff are important as well. Loper said she'd like to organize outings and activities to build upon the family type relationship that she's found already exists at Southside.

She also wants to pay particular



Stephanie Loper, who was then still Stephanie Rhoden, is pictured with her first class at Southside Elementary School during the 1999-2000 year. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Jolina Fowler, Anquil Jackson, Devonna Rusk, Andrea Wanton, Samule Coe, Bryan West, Chyna Lynum, (middle, l-r) Christopher Dinkins, Cody Smith, Janice Thornton, Dallas Teague, Lindsay Haddock, Courtney Russell, (back, l-r) Loper, Imaria Smith, David Harper, Kendall McCord and Felicia Swafford. Will Alderman, who was also in the class, is not pictured.

attention to teachers and help them take care of themselves. As a former teacher, she knows it's easy to neglect your own well-being — such as skipping lunch — by getting so wrapped up in work.

"I want them to be healthy and happy and at peace with themselves," Loper said.

At home and on the road with family

Just as its important for teachers to not forget about their own well-being, it's important to leave work at work and focus on family when at home. For Loper, family is husband, John, who coaches PE at Bradford Middle School as well as coaching BMS and BHS cross country and track and field, son, Myles, and twin daughters Lauryn and Layne.

"I'm trying very hard to plug into my family when I'm home and unplug from work," Loper said. "I think I'm doing a pretty good job of that so far."

The family enjoys just being together, but also enjoys going to movies and traveling. This past summer, for example, the

Lopers went to New Jersey and New York.

Loper and her husband believe traveling is a benefit for their children.

"I just want to visit as many places as I can," Loper said. "Growing up, I didn't have the opportunity to travel and go on vacations because my parents had to work. We just didn't have that opportunity. John and I try to find a way to give our children that experience."

Loper has assisted her husband with his cross country and track and field endeavors in the past and now enjoys being a cross country mom as both daughters participate in the sport at BMS.

Because of her son, Loper has devoted time to raising awareness of autism. For example, a May 20, 2010, Telegraph-Times-Monitor story chronicled how Loper spearheaded Autism Awareness Week events at Lawtey Elementary School. Students donated 50 cents each day to dress up in accordance to a day's particular theme. Money raised was donated to the University of Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, which serves 14 counties,

including Bradford and Union.

"Since Myles was diagnosed in 2008, we've made a lot of growth with awareness," Loper said.

Heading into the 2018-19 school year

Now at the start of her 20th full-time year in education, Loper finds herself in a new role at the school where her career began. Southside staff and faculty have been welcoming.

"They've been receptive," Loper said. "Sometimes I'll find little treats they've left for me. That makes me feel really good. It makes me feel like, 'OK. I'm doing a good job.'"

Doing a good job includes keeping her word.

"At the end of the day, I ask myself, 'OK. Did I do what I said I was going to do?' I think with teachers and parents — and even students — when you say I'm going to do this, I'm going to follow up on it or I'm going to get back to you, you need to do that," Loper said. "That's vital in building relationships."

Bradford County residents. My name is Jeremy Pilcher and I am seeking election to the Bradford County School Board District 2. I am a 1997 graduate of Bradford High School with honors and attended K-12 in the Bradford School System. I currently work as a firefighter / paramedic Lieutenant with Jacksonville Fire Rescue. My wife and I have three children; all three attend Bradford County Schools. Our daughter is a freshman at BHS, our middle son is in the 7th grade at BMS, and our youngest just started pre-K at Southside Elementary. From day one, my platform has been school security as a top priority; improving school grades along with improving the teacher retention. Having three children in the Bradford School system gives me a vested interest in the future of this county's school system. The system cannot be fixed overnight and I cannot fix it on my own. I will work to do what is right for kids and is in the best interests of the kids who attend this school system. I will ask questions and find answers. These issues affect the students, and again, I will do what is right for the students. Vote Jeremy Pilcher for Bradford County School Board District 2, the only candidate with a vested interest in the future of the Bradford County School System.

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for **School Board** District 2
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JEREMY PILCHER FOR BCSB DISTRICT 2

Register disabilities with emergency management

Every Floridian needs to prepare for hurricane season and that includes people with disabilities and access and functional needs. Disasters affect everyone but some—like seniors, people with chronic conditions, the economically disadvantaged, and those with access or functional needs—are often disproportionately affected.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management partnered with every local emergency management agency in the state to create a registry so residents with disabilities or access and functional needs can receive assistance during a disaster. Floridians can register with their local emergency management agency through the Florida Special Needs Registry at snr.floridadisaster.org. The statewide registry provides first responders with valuable information to prepare for disasters or other emergencies.

Registration is free and confidential. Information you offer will only be used to plan for and provide services during a disaster.

Additional information on preparedness for individuals with disabilities, including how to create a disaster plan, is available at Ready.gov.

Food Pantry changing distribution days

The Bradford Ecumenical Food Pantry is now receiving deliveries of fresh produce and dairy three times a week, meaning clients can pick up these items more often.

Beginning Sept. 1, clients can pick up fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, and bread and pastries every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Full orders are still available to clients once every two months.

VOTE GAYLE SHUFORD FOR School Board District 2

NICULA

People often ask me why I am running for the Bradford County School Board and my answer is always: it's for the kids.

I have deep roots in Bradford County, born and raised here, proud to work and live in this community.

I will be easily accessible to the community as your School board member.

It is important to me to support the teachers, parents and students of Bradford County.

The passion that I have for my family, friends, church and community will be the same passion I will bring to our school system.

I greatly appreciate your support and vote.

Pol. Adv. paid for and Approved By Gayle Nicula for Bradford County School Board District 2



REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

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EDITORIAL

Bradford native's actions result in receiving Navy Commendation Medal

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Zach Griffis displayed composure during a time when it was most vital and earned a medal in the process.

Most importantly, though, he helped save someone's life. Griffis, a 2013 Bradford High

School graduate, was recently presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his actions at the scene of an accident involving a motorcyclist.

"I felt like God put me in that position to be there at that moment in time," said Griffis,

the son of Jody and Staci Griffis of Starke.

Griffis serves in the Navy as aviation ordnanceman, third class, stationed in Bremerton, Washington, aboard the USS Nimitz. He and his wife, Hannah, were traveling home after visiting a lake. Griffis said they drove behind a male motorcyclist for approximately two minutes before the accident occurred.

"He lost control of his

motorcycle," Griffis said. "At that point, he ran into a guardrail and then hit a light pole."

Griffis stopped to check on the man, noting he was bleeding profusely from his right leg. Griffis applied a tourniquet, while his wife dialed 911. While waiting for help to arrive, Griffis kept talking to the man, trying to keep him alert and conscious. He credited his naval experience with helping him act during the

situation.

"We do training on board the ship here," Griffis said via his telephone interview with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor. "It's very real training. They prepare us for all kinds of situations."

Griffis said he and his wife kept searching online to see if they could come across any news



A close-up view of the Commendation Medal.

See MEDAL, 2B



Zach Griffis (right) receives the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his actions in caring for a person injured in a motorcycle accident. Griffis, a 2013 Bradford High School graduate, serves in the Navy aboard the USS Nimitz in Bremerton, Washington.

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Distinguished Service

17 YEAR VETERAN ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ Returning from a combat zone deployment, and awarded a medal for his service, Major Robertson is a veteran who proudly served America overseas
- ★ Military justice experience includes serving in the roles of prosecutor, defense counsel, legal advisor and Major Subordinate Command Judge Advocate
- ★ David's honorable service distinguishes him as a uniquely qualified defender of our Constitution and all Amendments, without legislating from the bench

AT HOME: Attorney with 20 years experience: private practice, city attorney, Florida DOT Chief Counsel. Handled thousands of cases & transactional work.

HUSBAND ★ FATHER ★ VETERAN

Political advertisement paid for and approved by David Robertson, nonpartisan candidate for Circuit Judge, 8th Circuit, Group 8

Julie
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for
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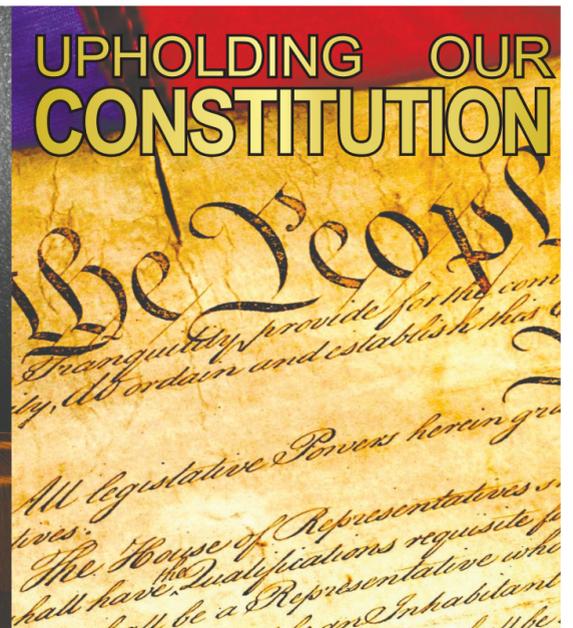
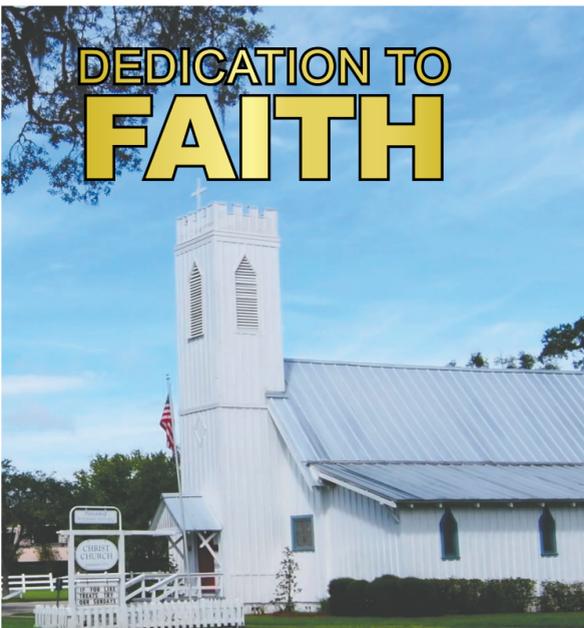
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Ciena, Vaughn combine for 4 TDs in Bradford's 26-15 win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Adrien Ciena and Jeremiah Vaughn combined for four touchdowns and more than 350 all-purpose yards in the Bradford High School football team's 26-15 win over host Newberry in an Aug. 17 preseason kickoff classic.

Bradford, which opens the regular season with a road game against Taylor County on Friday, Aug. 24, at 7:30 p.m., trailed at the half, but Vaughn scored the first of three straight Bradford touchdowns when he returned the second-half kickoff 95 yards.

Vaughn had approximately 200 yards on kick returns.

"I love that kid," Bradford Head Coach Brian Tomlinson said of the senior. "I'm going to miss him, but I'm going to enjoy him for a whole year."

While Ciena helped increase the lead with a touchdown reception and a touchdown pass, the defense held the Panthers to 51 yards on their first three second-half drives before Newberry marched 65 yards for a score on its final possession. The Tornados forced three turnovers, with Nathaniel "Nedro" Davis intercepting a pass and Shaytron Cotton recovering two fumbles.

"I couldn't ask for anything more," Tomlinson said. "If we're giving up 15 points a game, we're going to win a lot of them."

The Tornados got two big plays on their first possession. Quarterback Pedro Carter broke three to four tackles and carried another three to four defenders on a 25-yard run that got Bradford out of the shadow of its own end zone, while Ciena, on a fake punt, ran for 17 yards for a first down just shy of midfield. The Tornados, however, would eventually punt.

Three plays later, Bradford had the ball back at the Newberry 24



Bradford quarterback Pedro Carter (far right) avoids being tackled on the one-yard line and ultimately fights his way for a 25-yard gain in the first quarter.

when Malik Hankerson forced a fumble, which was recovered by Cotton. Carter completed an 11-yard pass to Jackson Smith for a first-and-goal at the 10. Vaughn carried the ball for a touchdown on the next play, but the score was nullified on a holding penalty. After an illegal-procedure penalty backed the Tornados up five yards to the 22, Vaughn turned the corner and made his way down the visitors' sideline for a touchdown that counted with 38 seconds left in the opening quarter. Davis' PAT put Bradford up 7-0.

Cotton recovered another fumble on the next Newberry possession, but the Bradford offense, taking over at its own 41, went three-and-out.

Newberry's offense had 47 yards after Kobe Delima was tackled for a three-yard loss to start the Panther's fourth possession. The Panthers, however, surpassed that total on the next play when quarterback Wyatt Parrish hooked up with

Trovon Banks for a 78-yard gain to the Bradford four-yard line. Delima found the end zone from there, cutting Bradford's lead to one at the 4:32 mark of the second quarter. Though the snap on the PAT looked good, Delima, who was the holder, took off and scrambled, looking for a teammate to throw to before he was tackled by Kam Thomas.

The Panthers put together another scoring drive after Bradford's offense again went three-and-out. Delima picked up first downs on a six-yard run and an 18-yard reception, the latter of which put Newberry at the Bradford 15. Parrish then had a six-yard run on first down before Bradford's Tylan Davis dropped Banks for a loss of three yards on second down. Parrish intentionally spiked the ball on third down to stop the clock with seven seconds remaining in the half and allow the Panthers to set up for Garrett Wood's 29-yard field-goal attempt, which was good. Newberry led 9-7.

When play resumed in the second half, it took Bradford 12 seconds to regain the lead. That's how long it took Vaughn to field the ball at his own five-yard line,

hesitate just a second and then turn on the jets for a touchdown. Davis' PAT was blocked, making the score 13-9.

Bradford increased the lead after Newberry turned the ball over on downs at its own 49. Most of the yardage the Tornados covered came on two pass plays from Carter to Ciena — one a 23-yard reception and the other a 24-yard reception in the end zone at the 7:50 mark of the third quarter. The PAT was no good, but Bradford led 19-9.

The Panthers marched from their own 33 to the Bradford 30, but Nedro Davis put an end to the threat when he intercepted a pass, giving the Tornados the ball at their own 24.

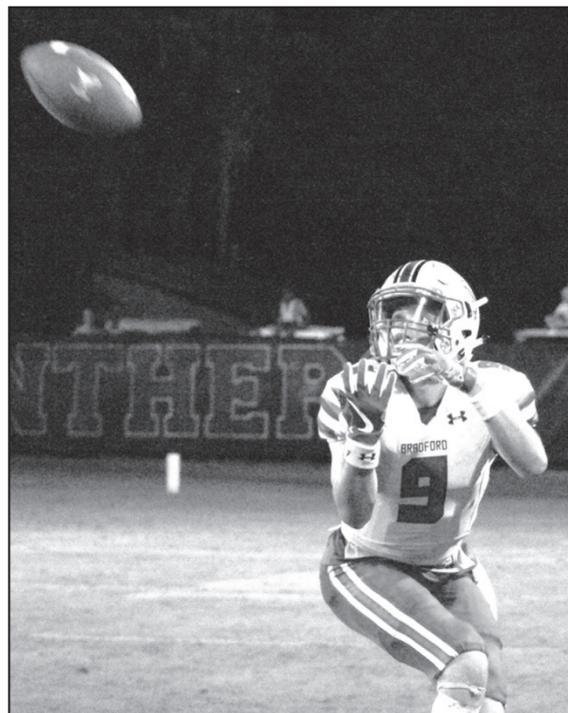
Bradford picked up first downs on two big run plays — one of 16-yards by Vaughn and the other of 31 yards by Ciena, who was now playing quarterback. Ciena completed a 14-yard pass to Thomas to set up first-and-goal at the 10. One play later, Ciena's pass didn't find its original target — Smith — but the tipped ball fell into the hands of Austin Lovell, who was in the end zone. The touchdown came with 11:36 remaining in the game. Davis' PAT made the score 26-9.

Newberry eventually added the final score of the night, which capped a 65-yard drive that consisted of 11 plays after an incomplete pass started the possession. Rashad Opat found the end zone on a six-yard run with 1:35 left to play. Banks' run on the two-point conversion was stopped short of the goal line.

Bradford finished with 134 yards on the ground, with Ciena rushing for 53 on four carries and Vaughn rushing for 46 on 11. Carter had 26 yards on six carries.

Three quarterbacks combined to pass for 100 yards. Carter was 5-of-9 for 60 yards, Ciena 2-of-4 for 24 yards and Smith 1-of-2 for 16 yards.

Tomlinson said the position is still being evaluated.



Adrien Ciena prepares to catch a 23-yard pass in the third quarter.



Jeremiah Vaughn (right) eludes a would-be tackler in his own end zone.

BHS, KHHS volleyball teams square off Aug. 23

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Bradford and Keystone Heights high school volleyball teams, which are both members of District 4 in Class 5A, will play each other on Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. in Keystone.

It will be the Indians' first match of the regular season, while the Tornados played district opponent Pierson Taylor

this past Tuesday.

After playing Keystone, Bradford travels to play Middleburg on Friday, Aug. 24, at 6 p.m. The Tornados then travel for a 6 p.m. match against Eastside on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

Keystone travels to play Columbia on Monday, Aug. 20, at 6:30 p.m. The Indians return home to play Union County on Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

MEDAL

Continued from 1B

as to how the man fared once he was transported to the hospital.

"We were praying for him," Griffis said.

Eight days after the accident, the man's daughter got in touch with Griffis' superior, who then put her in touch with Griffis via phone. She let Griffis know her father was doing fine. Griffis and his wife later met the man — and his family — in person.

"I was able to shake his hand and look him in the eye, which was an awesome feeling," Griffis said.

Griffis was waiting for that bit of good news. Receiving an award, however, was a surprise. He admitted he didn't know much about the Commendation Medal he received until several people who rank higher than him called him and let him know that its recipients are few and far between.

"It really was a humbling experience. Not many people

receive this award," Griffis said, adding that most Commendation Medals seem to be presented to people toward the end of their service careers.

People who've received the award include Sen. John McCain, Apollo 13 Commander Jim Lovell and actor Glenn Ford.

"It was a pretty cool deal all the way around," Griffis said of being honored.

Also pretty cool are the frequent phone conversations he has with the man whose life he helped save. At first, the man would ask Griffis to recount the specifics of the accident as he saw it, but the two have since tried to move on and put the accident behind them, getting to know each other better.

"We keep in touch and make small talk now," Griffis said.

Griffis said he would willingly help anyone in an accident if he was able to do and counts it as a blessing that he was in the right place at the right time to help the person he did.

"I thank God," he said.

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CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY

Tigers' defense is key to start of 2018 season

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School Head Football Coach Ronny Pruitt said his team is still seeking an offensive identity, which will be determined once a starting quarterback is named, so to start out with, the play of the defense figures to be a key to early success.

"We're going to have to have a good defense because I don't really know what our MO is yet (on offense)," Pruitt said.

The good news is the Tigers have plenty of experience back on defense, including the top four tacklers in junior defensive back Hosea Robinson (71 tackles), senior linebackers Trevor Rogers (67) and T.J. Robinson (45), and junior lineman Agelu Nunu (38). Nunu also led the team in sacks last season with eight.

In regard to Rogers and T.J. Robinson, Pruitt said, "They're probably two of the better linebackers I've had in quite a while as far as consistently playing well together. They both play downhill. They'll strike you, obviously. They're not super-fast, but they've got good speed



Clayton Connelly (left) and T.J. Robinson work against each other in practice.

to get to the edge. They close on the ball quick."

Pruitt said Rogers has a knack for always knowing where the

ball is going to be and getting there, while Robinson plays well in coverage on the edge.

"Both of them will hit you,"

Pruitt said. "They like to hit. That's what you want in linebackers."

Nunu 1 of 3 experienced linemen

The defensive line returns starters such as Nunu, senior Sidney Johnson and junior J.B. Godwin. Pruitt said Nunu, who was the state runner-up in weightlifting last year, is a force to be reckoned with.

"You can't block him," Pruitt said of the 6-1, 330 lineman. "Even if you double team him, you can't block him. He's just a physical force."

Pruitt said Nunu and Godwin are the two primary leaders of the linemen. He described Godwin as "just a little bulldog. He's just a short, stocky, bulldog-type kid that's quick. He isn't going to run you down by any means, but from tackle to tight end, he moves pretty well."

Johnson may not be as strong,

2018 UCHS Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 24	at Williston	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	Merritt Island Christian	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Interlachen	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	at Dixie County	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Baldwin	7 p.m.
Sept. 28	Newberry	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	Santa Fe (Homecoming)	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	Fort White	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Taylor County	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	Zephyrhills Christian (SN)	7:30 p.m.

SN Senior Night

quick or talented as some other players, but he's good at everything he does and possesses tremendous knowledge of the game, Pruitt said.

"He does everything the way you coach him," Pruitt said. "He's always in the right spot and

plays with the right technique."

Pruitt said junior Allan McClellon could be a factor on the defensive line as well, or at linebacker or on offense at tight end. McClellon is the younger

See PREVIEW, 9B



Quarterback Lake Harris pitches the ball to a running back.

UCHS volleyball team opens with loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School's volleyball team opened the regular season against another Class 1A team that qualified for the postseason last year, losing 3-0 (25-19, 25-11, 25-22) to host Trenton on Aug. 20.

Trenton was a regional finalist last year, while the Tigers

advanced all the way to the state championship before losing to Sneads.

Maegan Beatty had 17 assists for Union, while Emily O'Neal had seven digs. Sabrena Howard had five digs, while Summer Fulgham had seven kills and four digs. Mackenzie Bradley and Kylie Stevens each had four kills.

The Tigers played District 6 opponent Crescent City this past Tuesday and will travel to play Bell on Thursday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. Union plays its first home match on Monday, Aug. 27, against Williston at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Aug. 28, the Tigers travel to play Keystone Heights at 6:30 p.m.



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BRADFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER District 4

On or before August 28th

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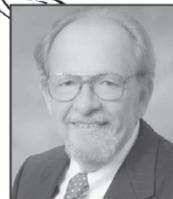
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CRIME

Woman arrested after accusing neighbor of killing dog

Bradford deputies arrested a Starke woman after she struck her neighbor, knocking a mobile phone out of his hand while he was recording an argument.

Kimberly Ann Nugent, 32, was arrested Aug. 15 by Bradford deputies for battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim got into an argument after Nugent accused the man of killing her dog.

"Kimberly stated that the victim told her yesterday that he was going to kill one of her dogs today if it kept going into his yard to defecate," wrote arresting officer Tanner R. Foreman in a report.

Tanner added that he walked to the back of the residence and verified that the dog was dead. He noted that the dog had no signs of abuse and had no gunshot wounds.

"Kimberly stated (the victim) poisoned the dog, which was how it died," wrote Tanner.

The deputy then interviewed the victim who agreed that he was tired of the dog coming over to his yard to defecate. However, he denied threatening the dog's life and said he did not poison the animal.

"(The victim) then showed me a video of him having the verbal confrontation with Kimberly across each other's fence line," Tanner wrote. "In the video footage, (the victim) told Kimberly he did not kill her dog after she had accused him of doing so. The video then reveals Kimberly coming across the fence line and striking (the victim's) arm, causing the phone to fall to the ground. (The victim) stated when he went to pick up his phone, Kimberly struck him on his shoulder."

The deputy wrote that later, the defendant admitted to striking the victim, after he called her profane names during the argument.

Lawtey man arrested after confrontation with skateboard, box cutter and gun

Bradford deputies arrested a 36-year-old Lawtey man after he allegedly pointed a handgun at a 19-year-old, then tried to hit the teenager with his vehicle.

Matthew Thomas Franks was arrested Aug. 15 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

According to an arrest report, the victim said he was riding a bicycle beside his brother, who was skateboarding along County Road 125 when he saw his boss drive by.

The victim said after he waived to his supervisor, the vehicle in front of his boss stopped and the driver was Franks, adding that he and Franks have had previous confrontations.

"(The victim) stated that Matthew exited the vehicle with a utility knife/box cutter and began making threats to harm (the victim)," wrote arresting officer Joseph Silverstein in the report.

The victim added that when he grabbed his brother's skateboard to defend himself, Franks returned to his vehicle and produced a black and silver handgun, pointing it at the victim and racking the slide back several times.

"(The victim and his brother) both stated that was when Matthew made threats to blow (the victim's) brains out," wrote the deputy.

The two pedestrians said they then fled and Franks returned to his vehicle and attempted to run over them.

The deputy then interviewed two Centurylink employees who were working in the area. Both said they were too far away to see the details of the confrontation, but they did confirm that they saw what could have been a handgun in Franks' possession and they



Nugent



Franks



Homer

saw the defendant adjusting the object. They also said they saw the defendant's vehicle swerve in the direction of the victim and his brother.

Franks told Silverstein that as he was driving by the cyclist and skateboarder, the victim "flipped him off."

He added that he stopped to ask the 19-year-old if he was still upset about their previous disagreement.

Franks said the victim said yes, started hurling vulgarities at him and grabbed the skateboard from his brother, swinging it toward Franks. The defendant said he then attempted to defend himself by producing the box cutter.

"Matthew advised that as (the victim) continued to approach him, he retreated to his vehicle and grabbed his firearm," wrote Silverstein. "Matthew stated that he did rack the slide back a few times, but he never pointed it at (the victim)."

Franks also said that while he did make a U-turn on the road while leaving the scene, he never tried to hit the brothers with his vehicle.

In other arrests:

BRADFORD COUNTY

Javares Lamar Barnes, 37, of Starke was arrested Aug. 19 by Lawtey police for possession of cocaine and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Kimberly Anne Callan, 41, of Starke was arrested Aug. 15 by Starke police for a probation violation.

Garrett Lamar Drayton, 26, of Gainesville was arrested Aug. 16 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Daniel Smith Griffis, 34, of Starke was arrested Aug. 17 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant and two probation violations.

Teresa Ashley Hollingsworth, 30, was arrested Aug. 13 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Dustin Ziek Homer, 29, of Keystone Heights was arrested

Aug. 14 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to an arrest report, the defendant came over to her house and began acting wild, fighting with her. As the day wore on, the defendant grew angry and spat in the victim's face.

"At this time she got up to let him out when he spat on her again and she slapped him in the face," wrote arresting officer Dalton Sumner in a report.

Leslie Michelle Parrish, 36, of Lake City was arrested Aug. 16 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Andrew Warren Simmons, 28, of Valdosta, Georgia, was arrested Aug. 16 by Starke police for two probation violations.

Heather Lucille Smith, 23, of Lake City was arrested Aug. 16 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Mark Duwayne Williams, 62, of Starke was arrested Aug. 17 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

James William Young, 45, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 17 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

UNION COUNTY

Mark Estin Crawford, 35, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 18 by Union deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Michael David Dudley Jr., 37, was arrested Aug. 15 by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Richard Leroy Hall, 25, of Middleburg was arrested Aug. 9 by Union deputies for criminal mischief with property damage, burglary and larceny.

Calvin Leonard Hill, 21, of Gainesville was arrested Aug. 13 by Union deputies for a probation violation.

Teresa Phillips Kent, 54, of Alachua was arrested Aug. 17 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

Marty Hunt Kuczenska, 27, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 13 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

Willie Jerome Newsome, 19, of Lawtey was arrested Aug. 14 by Union deputies for battery.

Ashley Seay, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 14 by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

See ARRESTS, 5B

Obituaries

Rosemary Daurer

MELROSE — Rosemary Baxa Daurer, 90, died unexpectedly Friday, Aug. 10, 2018, at her home in Melrose. She was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from Northern Illinois State Teachers College with a major in physical education. She taught in Chicago and later worked at the Museum of Science and Industry.

She and her late husband, Joe Daurer, moved to the Melrose area more than 60 years ago. She earned a master's degree from the University of Florida and taught at the P. K. Yonge Laboratory School before retiring in 1973. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Daurer; her parents, James and Mary Kubat Baxa; and brothers, Robert Baxa and James Baxa Jr.

Surviving are her cousin, Evelyn Veri of Homer Glen, Illinois; niece, Carol (Kent) Strang; and nephew Randy (Sue) Overmyer from Indiana.

A graveside funeral service was held Aug. 17 in the Eliam Cemetery in Melrose, with the Rev. Tony Powell officiating. Forest Meadows Funeral Home in Gainesville is in charge of arrangements.



Thomas Gillmore

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Thomas "Tom" Daniel Gillmore, 78, of Keystone Heights died Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, at the V.A. Hospital in Gainesville. He was born Oct. 1, 1939, in Salamanca, New York, to Bradley and Jennie (Phillips) Gillmore. In 1957, he joined the United States Navy and retired as chief in 1978. Following his first retirement he started a new career and retired a second time as a QA Specialist from the Civil Service. In 2006, he made Keystone Heights his home and was of the Presbyterian faith. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sons, David Mills Gillmore and Thomas Daniel Gillmore II; and his son-in-law, Michael Higginbotham.

Survivors are: his wife of 59 years, Marjory Ann (Freyermuth) Gillmore, and daughter, Janean Higginbotham, both of Keystone Heights; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Friday, Aug. 31, in the Jones Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with military honors. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Tyrone Tyson

ORLANDO — Tyrone A. Tyson of Orlando died Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, at Vitas Inpatient Care Center. He attended the local churches in the community. He retired as a laborer and truck driver.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra DeSue Tyson; son, Tyrone A. Tyson Jr.; daughters, Shardee Tyson and Tierra Tyson; father, Albert Tyson; mother, Ruthell Tyson; brother, Stanley Tyson; sisters, Jeanett Tyson, Charlene Early and Lynett Register; four grandchildren; mother-in-law, Jarutha DeSue; brother-in-law, Glen DeSue; sister-in-law, Carol Jones; and many other family members.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 25, in the St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Lawtey with Pastor James E. Rackley conducting the services. Interment will be held in Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke. There will be no viewing on Friday. The repast will be held at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church immediately following the interment. The family will line up at the church at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25.

Calvin Watson

LAKE BUTLER — Calvin Gene Watson, 69, of Lake Butler died on Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018. He was born on March 22, 1949, in Cullman, Alabama, to the late Etheridge and Annie Watson. He worked as a truck driver for 50 years.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy Watson; children, Julie, Kevin, Brandi, Tonja, Jennifer and Misty; stepchildren, Crystal and Josh; siblings, Carol, Charlotte, Sheila, and Ricky; 20 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren and many other family members.

Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

In Memory

*In Memory of
Levi Aaron Grant
Gone but not forgotten.
I will never forget your
birth date. I will never
forget you. I still love
you and miss you so very
much. Until we meet again,
Happy Birthday in Heaven.
Love,
Mom*

In Memory

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Jimmie J. Osteen
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dearly!*

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COURT

Gravesite Grinch sentenced to 3 years

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A woman who Bradford deputies said stole hundreds of dollars in gravesite decorations to support a methamphetamine addiction was sentenced to three years in prison.

Jenni Marie Hudkins was also sentenced to two years drug offender probation.

The sheriff's office said Hudkins swiped Christmas decorations from graves in Crosby Lake and Brown cemeteries before Christmas 2017 and sold the items to a Starke thrift store.

In other news from the Aug. 14 Bradford County criminal court dockets:

James Dwight Akins pleaded not guilty to the June 16 offense of lewd and lascivious molestation on a child under 12. According to an arrest report, the victim was sleeping alone in a bedroom when the defendant entered the room around 4 a.m. The girl told investigators that Akins rubbed his hand both under and over her clothing. When she turned over to make him stop, the defendant ran out of the room.

The State Attorney's office dropped charges against Abdulrahman Alshammari for the July 1 offense of driving without a valid license.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Christopher Alan Bibby for the June 11 offense of attaching a tag not assigned.

Crystal Lynn Braswell was sentenced to 12 months' probation and 50 hours of community service for the Oct. 19, 2017, offense of DUI. She was also ordered to pay a \$500 fine and court costs and her driver's license was suspended for six months.

Timothy Lee Brooks was sentenced to 30 days in jail and one-month probation for the July 29, 2017, offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license. He was also ordered to pay a \$50 fine and court costs.

Malina Gayle Browning was sentenced to 120 days in jail for the June 30 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked



Hudkins

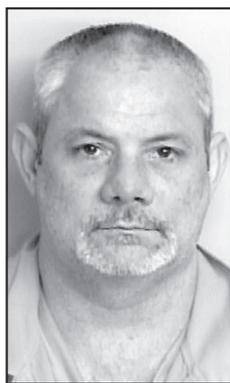
license – habitual offender.

Daylon Cayl Burnette was sentenced to six months' probation for the June 18 offense of leaving the scene of an accident with more than \$50 in property damage.

James A. Conn was sentenced to 90 days in jail, 364 days' probation and 50 hours of community service for the Feb. 19 offenses of DUI and leaving the scene of an accident with property damage. His license was suspended for six months and he was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine.

Brian Sean Copeland was sentenced to 36 months in prison for the Nov. 22, 2017, offense of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. According to an arrest report, the defendant threatened the victim with a butcher knife, and when the victim attempted to leave the residence, he attacked her. Arresting officer John Riles of the Starke Police Department wrote in a report that he found the victim at the Griffis Loop Circle K, wearing only panties and covered in blood. He wrote that the victim had a laceration on her right shoulder, a contusion under her left eye, a fracture on her right hand and a small laceration on her left foot.

John Joseph Danella Jr. was sentenced to 80 days in jail, 12 months' probation, ordered to attend anger management counseling and was prohibited from contact with the victim for the May 25 offense of improper exhibition of a dangerous weapon. According to an arrest report, the defendant pulled a pocket knife on a man at the Lost Valley Campground. The defendant told a deputy that he showed the knife because he thought three men were about to attack him. However, witnesses contradicted the defendant's claim.



Copeland

Eddie Devon Dean was sentenced to 12 months' probation and 50 hours of community service for the March 25 offense of resisting an officer without violence. According to an arrest report, a Bradford deputy was investigating an assault complaint when the intoxicated defendant repeatedly interfered in an interview the deputy was conducting.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Edgar Garcia-Hernandez for the June 24 offense of driving without a valid license.



Danella

Marie Green was sentenced to 120 days in jail for the March 21 offense of possession of cocaine.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Shamira Deloris Green for the July 5 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Charles D. Henley was sentenced to 120 days in jail for the June 2 offenses of fleeing and eluding, driving with a suspended or revoked license and resisting an officer without violence. His license was also suspended for one year.



Miller

Michael Thomas Ivey Jr. was sentenced to 30 days in jail and three months' probation for the June 16 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Kimberly M. Johns pleaded not guilty to the July 24 offenses of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Mark Timothy Kurimay was sentenced to 14 days in jail and 18 months drug offender probation for the April 26 offenses of possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis and possession of



Thompkins

drug paraphernalia.

Cecil Alton Litton was sentenced to 15 days in jail for the April 25 offenses of attaching a tag not assigned and driving with a suspended or revoked license. He was also ordered to pay a \$75 fine for the June 6 offenses of driving a vehicle not registered and driving without a valid license.

David Kelly Long was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the July 5 offense

See COURT, 7B

OFFICIAL PRIMARY SAMPLE BALLOT BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA ~ AUGUST 28, 2018

REPUBLICAN For Voters Registered with the Republican Party (REP)	DEMOCRAT For Voters Registered with the Democrat Party (DEM)	NONPARTISAN For Voters Registered No Party Affiliation (NPA) or with a Minor Party
UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente REP <input type="radio"/> Rick Scott REP	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 3 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Dushyant Jethagir Gosai DEM <input type="radio"/> Yvonne Hayes Hinson DEM <input type="radio"/> Tom Wells DEM	CIRCUIT JUDGE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GROUP 8 Nonpartisan (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> David Robertson <input type="radio"/> Julie Waldman <input type="radio"/> Gloria Walker
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 3 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Judson Sapp REP <input type="radio"/> Ted Yoho REP	GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (NO LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS DESIGNATED AT TIME OF PRINTING) (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Andrew Gillum DEM <input type="radio"/> Gwen Graham DEM <input type="radio"/> Jeff Greene DEM <input type="radio"/> Chris King DEM <input type="radio"/> Philip Levine DEM <input type="radio"/> Alex "Lundy" Lundmark DEM <input type="radio"/> John Wetherbee DEM	SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2 (Vote for One) (Precincts 1, 3, & 4 Only) <input type="radio"/> Gayle Shuford Nicula <input type="radio"/> Jeremy Pilcher
GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (NO LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS DESIGNATED AT TIME OF PRINTING) (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Don Baldauf REP <input type="radio"/> Ron DeSantis REP <input type="radio"/> Timothy M. Devine REP <input type="radio"/> Bob Langford REP <input type="radio"/> John Joseph Mercadante REP <input type="radio"/> Bruce Nathan REP <input type="radio"/> Adam H. Putnam REP <input type="radio"/> Bob White REP	ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Sean Shaw DEM <input type="radio"/> Ryan Torrens DEM	SAMPLE BALLOT NOT FOR VOTING
ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Ashley Moody REP <input type="radio"/> Frank White REP	COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Nicole "Nikki" Fried DEM <input type="radio"/> Jeffrey Duane Porter DEM <input type="radio"/> Roy David Walker DEM	PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS Precinct 1 Grace United Methodist Church 1822 Madison St Lawley, FL 32058 Precinct 2 Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church 2496 Lake St Lawley, FL 32058 Precinct 3 Bradford County Senior Center 1805 N Temple Ave Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 4 Heilbronn Springs Baptist Church 21354 NW SR 16 Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 5 Madison Street Baptist Church 900 W Madison St Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 6 Bayless Highway Baptist Church 11798 NW CR 225 Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 7 Church of God by Faith 730 Old Lawley Rd Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 8 Starke Golf & Country Club 15501 NE 14th Ave Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 9 Madison Street Baptist Church 900 W Madison St Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 10 Theresa Community Center 1748 SE 81st Ave Starke, FL 32091 Precinct 11 Victory Baptist Church 5340 Pine St Hampton, FL 32044 Precinct 12 Keystone United Methodist Multi-Ministry Bldg 4004 SR 21 South Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Precinct 13 Praise Christian Assembly 10813 SW CR 18 Hampton, FL 32044 Precinct 14 Brooker City Hall/Community Center 17435 Telstone Ave Brooker, FL 32622
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> Matt Caldwell REP <input type="radio"/> Denise Grimsley REP <input type="radio"/> Mike McCallister REP <input type="radio"/> Baxter Troutman REP	ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> David Robertson <input type="radio"/> Julie Waldman <input type="radio"/> Gloria Walker	PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS
COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (Vote for One) (Precincts 10, 11, & 12 Only) <input type="radio"/> Tom Germano REP <input type="radio"/> Danny Riddick REP	COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> David Robertson <input type="radio"/> Julie Waldman <input type="radio"/> Gloria Walker	PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS
CIRCUIT JUDGE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GROUP 8 Nonpartisan (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> David Robertson <input type="radio"/> Julie Waldman <input type="radio"/> Gloria Walker	SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2 (Vote for One) (Precincts 1, 3, & 4 Only) <input type="radio"/> Gayle Shuford Nicula <input type="radio"/> Jeremy Pilcher	PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS
SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2 (Vote for One) (Precincts 1, 3, & 4 Only) <input type="radio"/> Gayle Shuford Nicula <input type="radio"/> Jeremy Pilcher	For additional information contact the Supervisor of Elections office at (904) 966-6266 or visit our website www.bradfordelections.com	PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS

ARRESTS

Continued from 4B

Joey Richard Snerperger, 22, of Alachua was arrested Aug. 17 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

James D. Willis, 32, was arrested Aug. 15 by Union deputies for possession of drugs and possession of narcotics equipment.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AND LAKE REGION

Ryan Edward Brunsmann, 21, was arrested in Keystone Heights Aug. 18 by Clay deputies for retail petit theft.

Lynn Idell Conner, 41, was arrested in Keystone Heights Aug. 15 by Clay deputies for simple battery.

Donald Jack Warren, 51, was arrested Aug. 13 in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Service

Cornwall graduates basic military training

U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class Ethan Cornwall graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the



Ethan Cornwall

Community College of the Air Force.

Cornwall is the son of Jerry Cornwall of Starke. He is a 2016 graduate of Hope Christian Academy.

Tigers trump Trojans in 20-6 triumph

BY KIM BOX

Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

A sparse crowd of die-hard Union County Tiger and Hamilton County Trojan football fans persevered first under umbrellas and then through high humidity as they cheered on their teams in an Aug. 17 preseason classic in Lake Butler.

The Tigers' varsity team ended the first half with one touchdown to Hamilton's none. While the Trojans did score a touchdown in the second half, the Union junior varsity team came out on top in that half as well, with the final score of the full game being 20-6.

If Hamilton County was seeking an excuse for its loss, deep digging would not have been required. Just four days before Friday's game, Hamilton's head coach, Ric Whittington, resigned.

Coming from Williston High School, Whittington had only been in his position as head coach at Hamilton since March. Another assistant coach that had come from Williston resigned as well. He accepted an assistant coaching position at Madison County.

On the Tigers' sideline, the coaching staff looked much the same as last year, with one exception. Rufus Jefferson, last year's defensive line coach, was fired last year as Union County's head basketball coach and, as a result, is no longer part of the football staff either.

The Tiger defense gave a strong performance, giving the offense a lot of play time. Sidney Johnson and J.B. Godwin stopped the Trojans' first plays of the game short. With assistance from Chesley Bivens, Godwin also completed a sack before the end of Hamilton County's first drive.



Union quarterback Lance Thornton (far right) carries the ball. Photos by Lola Lacy.

On the Tigers' first play of its first possession, Trevor Rogers ran the ball up the middle. Throughout the game, Rogers gained significant yardage with that same play. It was Jaelen Watkins' turn to run the ball next.

Keyshawn Young picked up the next first down on two runs, and Watkins came close to another first down, bringing up third-and-short at the 15-yard line. Watkins picked up the first on a carry to the 12-yard line, but second down brought no gain and ended the first quarter.

On the first play of the second quarter, Young carried the ball to the seven-yard line, with five yards to go for the first. The fourth down brought the Tigers to the five-yard line. Watkins was the first to carry the ball across

the goal line, scoring the first touchdown of the game.

Hamilton County's next possession was almost ended by a near interception by Union's Alonzo Perry. A few plays later, the Trojans punted to the 19-yard line.

The last Tigers possession of the half was a nail-biter with a heartbreaking outcome. Hamilton County's punt rolled dead at the 50-yard line. On the first play, junior quarterback Lance Thornton kept the ball and ran up the middle.

The Tigers then lost some yardage on the next few downs. Young then ran seven yards for a first. Watkins caught a pass from Thornton and ran it to the 38-yard line.

After the Tigers gained a first down and found themselves within scoring range, Thornton, who had a great premiere as varsity quarterback, unfortunately showed his inexperience in his last few minutes of play time. With time running down on the clock, in the last few seconds of the half, Thornton lost valuable seconds on several plays before realizing he should spike the ball to stop the clock.

With time so crunched, all the players tensed up. Jaylon Diston barely missed a pass in the end zone, which he would most likely have been completed had everyone not been so on edge.

The buzzer blared, and the Tigers dejectedly headed for the locker room. One of the water

boys said, "This ain't going to be a good halftime."

Something must have turned around for the team in the locker room because the Tigers who emerged hit the ground running, but then so did their opposition. Hamilton County never gave up the entire game.

On the Tigers' first possession



Mitchell Rizer (foreground) gives the touchdown signal on a score by Jaeln Watkins.

after stopping the Trojan punt on the 40-yard line, minutes into the second half, Rogers ran the ball in a fantastic series of plays. His longest run of 37 yards ended with a first down on the seven-yard line.

Rogers then ran the final yard on a third down for six points. The PAT by Alex Perez was good.

Union intercepted a Hamilton County ball after only three downs. Within only a few plays of

their next possession, the Tigers scored their last touchdown of the game, making the score 20-0.

In a totally unexpected twist several possessions later, the Trojans fielded a punt and ran it all the way back for a touchdown. The game ended in a 20-6 Tigers win much the same way the half ended, with the Tigers carrying the ball all the way to the four-yard line before the buzzer sounded.

Freshman quarterback Martin Odom, JV running back Holtzendorf and a host of other JV players worked extremely well together in the second half.

Another active game player who left it all on the field was right tackle and defensive tackle Jamari Williams. He is a tall, well-built junior, who looks like he was born to play football, but this is his first year playing.

When asked why he decided to play this year, he said, "Just to try it."

Well, he has now tried it and decided that he likes it.

"I really enjoyed it," Williams said. "I want to get off the line quicker in the coming games."

The interaction of the JV Tigers players made the second half of this season opener quite memorable and entertaining.

"I had a lot of fun that second half. Did y'all have fun?" Head Coach Ronny Pruitt asked his team in the post-game huddle.

"This was something to build on, and the young guys got some play," Pruitt said. "That's what I wanted."

Union's next varsity game is a match-up with Williston High School at Williston on Friday, Aug. 24, at 7:30 p.m.



Keyshawn Young (foreground) looks to sprint past a Hamilton County defender.

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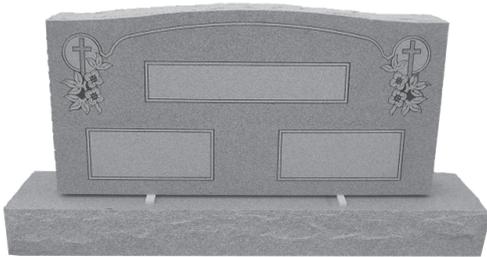
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BHS offers football sponsorship packages and individual red-seat pricing

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 game sponsor. 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 supporter.

The highest level, F5 (\$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.

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.

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.

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Varsity Indians drop preseason half 23-0

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Ridgeview's Tyler Huff passed for 151 yards and a touchdown leading the varsity Panthers to a 23-0 win over Keystone Heights in the first half of the two team's preseason game. The schools' junior varsity teams faced off in the second half.

Huff completed 13 of 15 passes en route to the double-digit margin of victory.

The Panthers' first score came on an eight-play, 67-yard drive midway through the first quarter. Huff threw for completions of 17, 8 and 20 yards while Jaiden Turner tacked on rushes of six and nine yards, completing the drive with a 5-yard walk into the end zone.

Matt Koziolk added the point after touchdown giving the visitors a 7-0 lead.

The Indians came to life with just over 10 minutes left in the second quarter when the Keystone defense forced a Ridgeview fumble at the Keystone 1-yard line. However, two plays later Panther defenders caught Keystone's quarterback in the endzone, resulting in a safety and a 9-0 Panther lead.

With the Indians backed up deep in their own territory midway through the second quarter, Ridgeview's Jacob Myer



The Keystone defense, including Carter Semione (22) and Josh Hughes (63), close in on Ridgeview running back Jaiden Turner.

picked off a Keystone pass on the Indian 7. On the next play Huff connected with Turner on a 7-yard completion and Koziolk added the extra point, extending Ridgeview's lead to 16-0.

The Panthers completed their scoring with 2:58 left in the half after recovering an errant

Keystone pitch on the Indian 33.

A Keystone penalty and two Nathan Schad rushes of 5 yards each took the ball to the Keystone 5, where Rey Gonzalez capped the drive with a 5-yard run.

Keystone travels to Fernandina Beach for its season opener tomorrow night at 7.



Ty Friedlin gets off a punt.



Keystone quarterback Gage Stevens scrambles while Andrew Cox (7), Joey Baxter (78) and Tyler Cumbus (56) provide protection.

Meals served to seniors

Suwannee River Economic Council has a meal site for seniors 60 years of age and older where breakfast and lunch are

served on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to noon.

You must speak with the meal site aide the day before you plan to eat at the site. Contact Donna at 904-964-4545, ext. 24.

SREC can provide busing to and from the meal site as long

as (limited) seating is available. If you are signed up as a regular, seating will not be a problem. (You must be able to get on and off the lift bus by yourself and get around the meal site without assistance.

The SREC office is located at 1210 Andrews Circle in Starke.

COURT

Continued from 5B

of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Samantha Joy Lumpkins was sentenced to 30 days in weekend jail, 12 months' probation and 50 hours of community service for the April 28 offenses of DUI and leaving the scene of an accident with property damage greater than \$50. Her driver's license was suspended for six months.

Johnathan Joseph Martinez was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the June 6 offense of leaving the scene of an accident with greater than \$50 in property damage.

Traci Hunter Mickel signed a pre-trial intervention agreement for the Dec. 19, 2017, offense of introduction of contraband into a county detention facility.

Mariam Hodge Miller was sentenced to 105 days in jail and 36 months' probation for the Sept. 14, 2017, offense of child neglect without great bodily harm. She is also required to wear a GPS tracking device and may have no contact with the victim.

According to an arrest report, the defendant was verbally abusive to a child in her custody, homeschooled the student, but failed to offer individual help, leaving the child on a computer with educational software that the student could not understand. In addition, when the minor told the defendant she was sexually involved with an adult neighbor, the defendant failed to protect the child from the neighbor.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Francisco Morales for the June

27 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Lou Jean Oats was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the July 11 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license — third conviction.

Earnest James Pearcey was ordered to pay a \$50 fine and court costs for the July 3 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Vanessa Lynn Phillips was sentenced to two days in jail and 18 month's drug offender probation for the July 8, 2017, offense of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Giovanna Carman Rey pleaded not guilty to the July 14 offense of introducing contraband into a state prison. According to an arrest report, a correctional officer caught the defendant trying to smuggle two, vacuum-sealed pouches containing 400 cigarettes into Florida State Prison by concealing the pouches in her crotch area.

Reeva Vendell Rogers was ordered to pay a \$50 fine and court costs for the June 27 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against John David Ruble for the July 2 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Judith Diana Salle pleaded not guilty to the July 23 offense of grand theft.

Randolph Lee Salle Jr. pleaded not guilty to the July 23 offense of grand theft.

The State Attorney's Office dropped charges against Alexis Sherree Sanders for the May

22 offense of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Raymond Anthony Smith was ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs for the June 17 offense of driving without a valid license.

Kevin Laroy Sullivan was sentenced to 30 days in weekend jail and three months' probation for the May 19 offense of driving without a valid license.

Philip Leigh Taylor was sentenced to 364 days' probation for the June 13 offense of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Eddie L. Thompkins III was sentenced to 110 days in jail for the April 25 offense of felony battery. According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim have a child in common and got into an argument after leaving Starke's Walmart because they had forgotten something. The defendant struck the victim two to three times in the face with his fist before the victim hit back and stated, "Stop hitting me." After the fight, the couple picked up their daughter from daycare.

Brandon Joseph Willey was ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs for the June 15 offense of driving without a valid license.

The State Attorney's Office

dropped charges against Daniel offense of petit theft. Presley Woods for the April 29

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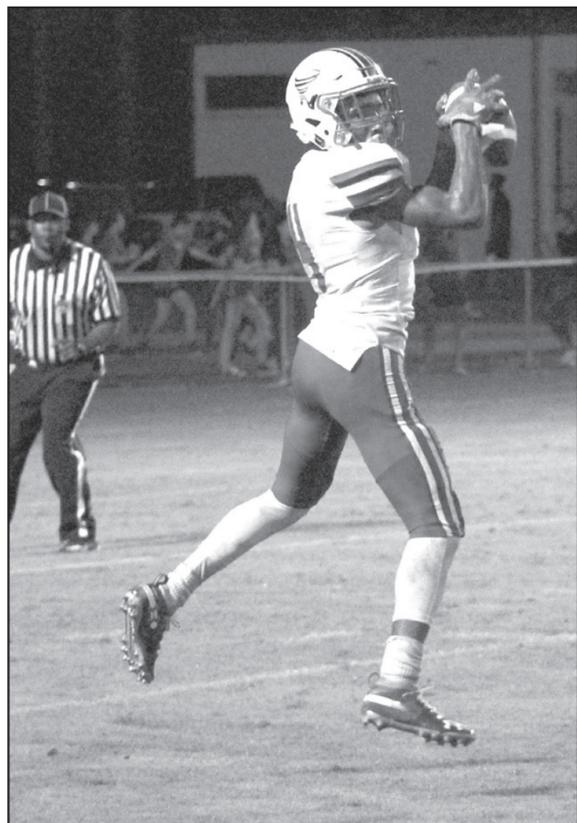


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Nedro Davis intercepts a pass in the third quarter.



Shaytron Cotton (background) tries to disrupt a play as Newberry players scramble to recover a fumble.



Nedro Davis (left) and Tylan Davis bring down Newberry running back Rashad Opat.

BHS
Continued from 2B

"I'd love to be able to tell you who's going to start (against Taylor County)," he said. "I think we're going to be all right with whoever we choose."
Ciena led the Tornadoes in receiving with 47 yards on two catches. Thomas caught two passes for 17 yards.
Tomlinson liked some of

what he saw offensively and defensively, saying, "When they execute like we teach them to, they do some things well. I'm pleased with that."
However, Tomlinson told his players after the game that some positions were going to be up for grabs, so he expected to see tremendous effort in practices.
"There are a few (positions) where we're going to make some changes," Tomlinson said. "Hopefully, it lights a fire under them."

Socials

Kembro celebrates 90 years

Jessie Kembro celebrated her 90th birthday on Aug. 9 at a dinner in her honor with friends, family and all of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren present.



Jessie Kembro

Emergency home energy assistance for the elderly

Energy Assistance is available for those 60 and older who are having problems keeping their home warm during the winter or cool during the summer.
The program can help with electricity bill payments; purchasing energy-related supplies such as fuel, fans, space heaters, wood and air conditioners; and repairing heating and cooling systems.
Households with at least one person who is 60 years or older with an energy crisis are eligible.
An energy crisis is an electricity cut-off or impending cut-off, lack of fuel, fans, wood, blankets and heater, or a broken heating/cooling system.
Households must also meet income guidelines.
Call the Elder Helpline for

the emergency home energy assistance service provider in your area — 1-800-262-2243, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Voice mail available after hours.

Victim services include education and counseling

The Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center offers a variety of services to victims of sexual violence, including services that extend to Bradford and Union counties.
For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/1XvhUXK> or the center's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ACVSRCC>. The 24/7 Rape Crisis Hotline phone number is 352-264-6760, and the toll-free income guidelines is 866-252-5439.

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Tri-County Classifieds
Bradford County Telegraph Lake Region Monitor UNION COUNTY TIMES

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PREVIEW

Continued from 3B

brother of a former Tiger who's been a standout at North Carolina Central University.

"He's fast and likes to hit," Pruitt said. "That's Alden McClellon's little brother. If I can get him as good as Alden was, I'll be smiling."

Robinson a leader in defensive backfield

Hosea Robinson returns as a starter at strong safety. Pruitt said what he likes about Robinson is that he's a leader and a physical player who at 6-0, 190, can have an impact as a college player.

"He knows where everybody's supposed to be and comes downhill to strike you. He's one of those kids who can have a good career at the next level."

Senior Jaylon Diston also brings experience at one of the corner positions. Diston recorded 30 tackles last season.

Other players in the mix in the secondary include senior Jaalen Watkins, junior Alonzo Perry and sophomore B.J. Harvey.

Pruitt said a lot of those secondary players lack height, but they make up for it in speed and their physical style of play.

OL is experienced, while players must step in to fill leading rusher's shoes

Offensively, the strength of the team is its line, which returns four starters in Godwin, Johnson and seniors John Manning and Jackson Pilcher. Pruitt said Johnson is probably the leader of that group because of his knowledge and versatility.

"He can play all five positions," Pruitt said. "He can remember all the plays. On the field, he's one of those guys that brings his lunch box and is going to give you his best effort. He's not a real verbal, loud guy. He's somewhat quiet, but he'll do any and everything you ask. He's just a soldier and a quiet leader on the team."

Manning and Pilcher are "just now getting back into the groove," Pruitt said, alluding to Manning's return from a broken hand in the spring and Pilcher's return from knee surgery.

The line won't be paving the way for Charles Strong anymore as Strong, who accounted for all but 685 of the team's 2,083 rushing yards, has graduated and is now at Texas A&M University.

Two of the players Union will rely upon in the backfield are senior Keyshawn Young and Rogers, who rushed for 248 and 199 yards, respectively, last season. Each averaged six yards per carry in 2017.



Lineman Sidney Johnson gets work in with a tackling sled.



Defensive lineman Agelu Nunu gets some agility and speed work in.



Jackson Pilcher (above) is one of four returning starters on the offensive line along with J.B. Godwin, Sidney Johnson and John Manning.

"Trevor's one of our leaders," Pruitt said. "Last year, he shared the backfield with (Strong), so he was able to play a whole lot more defense. This year, we really need him on defense, but he's going to have to come over to the other side."

Rogers has played fullback, but Pruitt said Rogers took reps at halfback during the team's Aug. 13 practice and looked as if he had been playing that position

all along. "Trevor brings so much football intelligence to the game," Pruitt said. "He is one of those you want — a coachable kid. You tell him something, and he knows what to do. He's played the game so long, he's got the instincts to play any position and play it well."

Young is valuable at multiple positions. He'll line up in the backfield and at wide receiver.



Keyshawn Young looks to be a threat at running back and wide receiver.

He led the team last year with 22 catches for 261 yards and four touchdowns.

"Keyshawn's an athlete," Pruitt said. "He's that receiver, running back, DB-type kid that can play."

As to Young's versatility, Pruitt said, "It makes things on the sideline a little easier on Friday nights."

Hosea Robinson, described by Pruitt as a "big, fast kid," looks to figure in the mix in the backfield as well, along with Watkins and junior Tevon Lee. Pruitt said Lee, who moved up from junior varsity late last season, could be a vital part of the offense if fully healthy (he's on crutches right now).

"He isn't very big, but when he turns it up, he gets north and south quick," Pruitt said. "For

what we're running, that's kind of what you have to do."

QB spot up for grabs, while Perez returns to give boost to special teams

Who'll hand the ball off to those backs is still to be determined as junior Lance

Thornton and sophomore Lake Harris are both taking snaps in practice. Thornton is 5-6, 130, but Pruitt said, "He's got good feet. Runs the ball real well. Tough as nails." Harris is more of the "drop back-type kid" at 6-0, 150.

"They're both great kids. Very smart," Pruitt said. "If I could combine both of them, then I'd be doing really well. We've got one that's stronger in one area and one is stronger in the other."

Besides Young, other players who'll factor in at wide receiver include Diston and Perry. Pruitt said Diston is "super-fast," while Perry, a basketball player who went out for football this past spring, "can get out in space and do well."

Also look for junior Mitchell Rizer to contribute at receiver.

The special-teams unit has a key returner in senior Alex Perez, who handles placekicking duties. Perez made 23 of 27 PATs last season.

Pruitt said punting will most likely be handled by Watkins, who not only punts well, but "gives us a lot of options for fakes and stuff."

Staying healthy

Pruitt said with so many of his players needing to play both offense and defense, or multiple positions on one side of the ball, it is vital that the Tigers keep players on the field.

By his own admission, Pruitt said the Tigers have a couple of smaller schools on the schedule, which could benefit the Tigers at the beginning of the season and at the end. However, the schedule consists of six teams in classes 3A or 4A, including playoff qualifiers Newberry and Taylor County. Fellow Class 1A teams on the schedule are playoff qualifiers Dixie County and Williston.

"We've got to try to avoid injuries," Pruitt said.

Younger players may have to step up. Union has as many sophomores as it does seniors.

"There's a whole lot to be learned and a whole lot of potential," Pruitt said of his younger players, "but we've got to develop it."

Union, which played a preseason kickoff classic against Hamilton County on Aug. 17 (see related story), opens the regular season at Williston on Friday, Aug. 24, at 7:30 p.m. The Tigers play their first home game the following week against Merritt Island Christian on Friday, Aug. 31, at 7 p.m.

The Weekly Paw Print:

Cooler mornings should be here in just a few weeks, which means we'll be seeing ticks in greater numbers soon. Are you prepared?

While there are over 900 species worldwide, there have only been 7 species of concern in the United States. However, this year a new tick has arrived in the U.S. from the Asia Pacific region, the Longhorned Tick, bringing the total to 8.

Narrowing it down to just Florida, we see 5 specific species which are the Brown Dog Tick, American Dog Tick, Black Legged Tick, Lone Star Tick, and Gulf Coast Tick. Ticks are close relatives to spiders as they are members of the class Arachnida, which is just one more thing that makes them disgusting.

Ticks feed on animal blood and they often harbor dangerous disease-causing organisms. These organisms are transferred while the tick is feeding. This is why it's important to remove ticks as soon as they are found. There are currently at least 12 different tickborne HUMAN illnesses in the United States, not including the strains that can infect your pet. While Lyme disease gets a lot of attention in the media, it is definitely not the only disease that should be ruled out when symptoms or suspicion of disease is present. At our clinic, we often see Rocky Mountain Spotted fever rather than Lyme disease. This is why it's important to run complete tick panels to determine what may be going on with your dog.

The good news for your pet is there are ways to prevent ticks. With the approval of Bravecto a couple of years ago, we now have a very effective means of stopping ticks in their tracks. Bravecto is effective against most ticks for 12 weeks. In fact, based on research emerging, Bravecto may actually be able to block transmission of some of these diseases due to its ability to quickly kill ticks.

Even if your pet is on a tick preventive measure, it's important to check you pet regularly when returning from areas where tick exposure may have occurred. Here's hoping you and your pet have a tick free Fall!

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Teal Tile serves area for more than 40 years

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Keeping a business running and successful these days, with all of the economic ups and downs over the past several decades, is an achievement. Keeping a business running and successful for more than 40 years takes skill, luck and a great deal of dedication. In Starke, one such enterprise is Teal Tile, a family business that has become a mainstay in the downtown area.

Ken Teal was born in Durham, North Carolina, in 1944. After high school and the Air Force, he moved to Orlando in 1968 to work for a bank, then in 1970 took another job while attending Valencia Junior College.

He drove a truck delivering newspapers to the old Jackson Building in Starke, which is now property owned by Teal Tile. He earned an associate degree in business and met his wife, Vicki, while in Orlando. While in Central Florida, he also went to work at the order desk of Atlantic Distributors, a flooring wholesaler.

The couple moved to Lake City when he took a sales job, covering north Florida and southeast Georgia for a floor covering business there. A year later, Teal went to work for a company in Gainesville, moving to Keystone Heights. When the Gainesville company was sold in 1976, he decided to open his own business in Starke, first located in the storefront that now is filled by Scarlett's.

"I always did sales," Teal said. "I was never an installer, but I knew installers and hired them. Then, as now, most of my installers are from out of town and I am still very selective about who I hire."

Vicki came to work at Teal Tile after the first year. Their only child, Kim, was born in 1973 and came to work in the family business in 1992 when she was 19 years old.

Kim and her husband, Kevin Hamilton, are the future of the business. The Teals grandchildren, Ty and Kensley, have also participated in the family enterprise, working summers. Ty is now attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural



(L-R) Kim Hamilton, Vicki Teal and Ken Teal work as a family to provide quality floor covering to all their customers.

College in Tifton, Georgia, and Kensley is a senior at Union County High School and has a softball scholarship to attend Lander University in South Carolina in the fall of 2019.

Teal said he started with a couple of installers and a secretary. Now, he employs about

40 people, plus subcontractors.

"The stock here never changes," Teal said. "We sell carpet, flooring and ceramic tile. The specifics of the items may change, with so many things getting improved over the years, but the basic type of things we sell never changes — simply

floor coverings."

Teal said that customer demand has changed over the years. He said people are mostly buying hard surface flooring now, mainly because it is easy to keep clean.

Teal Tile sells and installs for individuals, but Teal said about

80 percent of their business is commercial.

"We do government buildings, schools and offices," he said. "We have annual contracts with University of Florida Housing, Duval County schools, Alachua County Schools and most of the other school boards in northeast

Florida."

Teal said there are few unexpected occurrences in his businesses, and the ones that come to mind when asked are usually pleasant ones.

"Sometimes we will get a job and, when the installer goes out to do his work, he will find an old Teal Tile business card under the old flooring, dated and left there by the previous installer. It may have been years, but it makes us feel good that a customer comes back to us."

Teal Tile works to be involved in the community. The company annually funds two scholarships through Communities in Schools' Take Stock in Children program, is among the original backers of the annual Shop with a Cop program and is a major supporter of FFA and 4-H through the swine and beef sales at the Bradford County Fair.

"Starke has been good to us," Vicki said. "We have been blessed with the support of this great community for 42 years and we are proud to take care of all of our customers, both new and returning. None of this would have been accomplished without the dedication of our employees — the Teal family."

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