

Lake City Reporter

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SUNDAY EDITION

Prize-winning hat took 8 hours to make

1D



Logano wins at Watkins Glen

SEE SPORTS, 1B



Trey places 4th

CHS junior Trey Rossignol finds joy on the track

1B

Judge's race is heating up

Bryan, McRae at odds over ad placed by political group blasting incumbent.

By CARL MCKINNEY
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is escalating as the Aug. 30 election looms.

The rivalry between the two candidates for Third Circuit judge

Incumbent Paul Bryan, on his campaign's Facebook page and on his website, wrote that

a "shadowy political committee" was spreading "half-truths and political spin" in an ad placed in area publications.

The ad, sponsored by a group called Citizens for Honest Judges, asserts Bryan has

JUDGE continued on 2A



Bryan



McRae

ELECTION COVERAGE

- Superintendent, **Below.**
- Lake City mayor, **Page 3A.**
- City Council, **Page 3A.**
- Candidate Forum, **Page 3A.**
- **Opinion:** Voters seeking answers as election nears, **Page 4A.**

SNEAK PEEK

'Pre-show' offers a glimpse of CHS Marching Band's new routines.



Photos by NICK ROLLISON/Lake City Reporter



New Columbia High School band director Jay Miller speaks to parents late Saturday morning before the "pre-show" begins.

ABOVE: The brass section of the Columbia High School Marching Band steps in unison Saturday during a special "pre-show" on the practice fields behind Tiger Stadium. The event was designed to demonstrate what band members learned during the past two weeks of band camp. The band premiered its patriotic-themed competitive show, "Heroes Fallen, But Not Forgotten." Members also played "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the school's rousing fight song.



Sophomore Jacob Price examines his sheet music as the band rehearses on the practice fields behind Tiger Stadium.

Lowrey plans to sue county

TDC staffer claims he was libeled, defamed by agency's director.

By KAYLA LOKEINSKY
klokeinsky@lakecityreporter.com

A Tourist Development Council employee plans to sue the county commission based in part on a June 12 story in the Lake City Reporter.

An attorney for TDC Sports Marketing Director Kelly Lowrey sent formal notice to the board of Lowrey's intent to sue for libel, slander, defamation of character and infliction of emotional distress.

The document was made public on Friday. According to the July 29 letter from attorney Marie A. Mattox, Lowrey will pursue legal action because of TDC Executive Director Paula Vann's claims that he was responsible for a \$3 million loss in tournament revenue.

The claim, which Lowrey says is false, appeared in the June 12 edition

LOWREY continued on 3A



Lowrey

Race for superintendent: Similar goals, different plans

Candidates agree on boosting teacher salaries, improving tech education.

By KAYLA LOKEINSKY
klokeinsky@lakecityreporter.com

Incumbent Terry Huddleston and Lex Carswell

and L.C. Bradley, who are vying to replace him as superintendent of schools, have similar goals for the district, but different plans on how to

achieve them. All three men advocate raising teacher and instructional staff salaries. Teachers in Columbia County are the third lowest-paid in the state, earning an average of \$40,397 annually. This is nearly \$8,000 less than salaries for teach-

ers in neighboring Suwannee County. Bradley says if elected, he will lobby for state legislators to allocate more funds to the district to raise the average salary for teachers and

SCHOOLS continued on 2A



Bradley



Carswell



Huddleston



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TODAY'S WEATHER

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LOCAL
UWSV receives \$13K from Target campaign, 5A.

The signs of a heart attack can be different in women. Learn the difference at ShandsLakeShore.com.

ShandsLakeShore
Regional Medical Center

If you experience the signs of a heart attack, call 911 and get to an emergency room – fast.

LCPD chief appoints officer to investigation division

From staff reports



Register

Garrett Register of the Lake City Police Department has been appointed to the Criminal Investigations Division.

The appointment was announced by LCPD Chief Argatha Gilmore.

Register, who earned an associate's degree at Santa Fe College, has been with the department since February 2011. He has worked in the Patrol Division and spent time training to assist with crime scene investigation and evi-

dence collection.

In his new position, he will investigate a variety of incidents ranging from fraud to homicide.

"We are pleased to bring a new investigator into CID," Gilmore said in a news release. "I believe Investigator Register will be able to aptly apply his skills to help solve crimes reported to us in a thorough and timely manner."

Flea Across Florida slated

From staff reports

Flea Across Florida will be held Sept. 9-10 along U.S. 90.

The semi-annual flea market and yard sale extravaganza stretches for hundreds of miles across the state — from Macclenny to Pensacola.

Touted as the longest open market, the event draws thousands of bargain hunters to shops, yard sales and flea markets in cities and towns along the highway.

Shoppers will find a wide variety of merchandise, jewelry, collectibles, art, antiques, furniture,

clothes and handmade crafts.

Participation in the event is voluntary, and signing up is free. Last spring's event included more than 100 antique shops, flea markets, novelty shops and other merchants. Many individual residents holding yard sales also participate in the event. An interactive Google map that details each participant.

For more information about Flea Across Florida and to check out the interactive map of sale sites, visit online at www.thefleaacrossflorida.com.

QUICK HITS

Scripture of the day

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever" (Psalm 119:160, KJV).

Thought for today

I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.

— John Burroughs (1837-1921), American naturalist and essayist. His complete works fill 23 volumes, including a biography of John James Audubon.

Winning lottery numbers

- Cash 3:** (Saturday) 5-9-5
- Play 4:** (Saturday) 3-9-6-7
- Fantasy 5:** (Friday) 1-9-13-28-36
- Florida Lotto:** (Wednesday) 9-12-24-27-50-52-x2
- Powerball:** (Wednesday) 9-11-27-66-67-2-x3

To our readers

- **ERRORS:** The Lake City Reporter corrects errors of fact in news items. If you have a concern, call the editor.
- **SUBMISSIONS:** Send your announcements to eransburg@lakecityreporter.com or U.S. mail to Eleanor Ransburg, c/o Lake City Reporter, 180 E. Duval St., Lake City, FL 32055. Fax items to 752-9400. For more information, call 754-0424.

SCHOOLS

Continued From 1A

non-administrative employees, and he plans to consolidate district administration.

Huddleston believes that improving the financial stability of the district overall will leave more room in the budget for increasing teacher salaries.

"You cannot do anything without financial stability," Huddleston said. "We need to give teachers and employees raises. We have to stay competitive with the surrounding districts."

If elected, Carswell says he will freeze all administrative salaries and freeze hiring completely on day one in order to close the pay gap between administrative and non-administrative employees.

"We want our employees in the trenches to catch up with administrators," Carswell said. "Administrators are great, and they deserve as much money as they can, but I do believe we need to freeze administrative salaries

short-term until we can catch up with the teachers and staff."

As for what's going on inside the classrooms, the three candidates have different ideas on what will make the students prosper and prepare for the future.

Bradley wants to create an International Baccalaureate (IB) Program for the district. The IB program is a more rigorous version of the Advanced Placement program, and is geared toward helping students prepare for a college-level education. He also hopes to create an apprentice program with the vocational schools in the area.

Carswell wants to implement a First Job Program at the high schools. He hopes to have every ninth-grader take a pre-employment work maturity class, and work with community members to teach students about having a job.

"You can't talk about a career until they know what a job is," Carswell said.

Carswell also wants to create a well-rounded career and tech education program.

"I think career and tech [education] are the life and blood of our school," Carswell said "But I think the bell cow might be the robotics program. Those programs are fancy, they catch a lot of people's attention and they do a lot of great things for a lot of great students. But your career and tech ed on the other end of the spectrum, your CNAs, your culinary arts, those things are just as vitally important to our district."

Huddleston plans to put more emphasis on robotics in elementary school and create other tech programs if re-elected.

"This year my goal is to go K-3 with Lego robotics," Huddleston said. "I would just be so thrilled to see what that looks like. That would be the coolest thing to me."

He also hopes to create a veterinary assistant program at Fort White High School and a hospitality academy for students interested in working in tourism and culinary arts.

The candidates all also

spoke of the importance of improving school safety.

Bradley wants to create a more thorough Emergency Action Plan for the district, and work with county emergency management and the community to come up with the best plan to keep students safe. His plan gives guidelines for dealing with intruders, active shooters and inclement weather, and he plans to do routine drills for all these situations.

"You can never be too safe," Bradley said.

If elected, Carswell plans to eventually make all schools single-entry point facilities so that anyone who tries to come on campus is funneled through the front door.

Huddleston plans to make sure all schools have working security cameras throughout campus, especially at the front office and entry points. He also wants to implement a student-ID system for all grade levels that is compatible with the school buses, so students will scan their IDs when getting on and off the bus.

JUDGE

Continued From 1A

been investigated for ethics violations, accused of forging his business partner's signature and filed for bankruptcy. Citizens for Honest Judges filed for incorporation in June and lists Lake City resident Christy Weaver as its manager.

Bryan's statement didn't directly accuse his opponent, T. Bradley McRae, of being involved but did state it would be unethical for a judicial candidate to use a "non-affiliated political committee" to misrepresent facts about an opponent.

Bryan defended himself in a phone interview, saying the state's Judicial Qualifications Commission found no probable cause to investigate him for ethics violations. He filed for a "restructuring," rather than a bankruptcy, he added, and denied any allegations of forgery.

"When you don't tell people the whole story, that's misleading," he said. "You're not to mislead your opponent."

McRae said he wasn't behind the advertisement, despite the implications of Bryan's statement.

"I have nothing to do with any third-party political group," he said. "Period."

It was an attempt to paint him as an unethical candidate, he added.

"It essentially says that I brought North Florida politics to a new low," he said. "I texted him and asked him to take it down."

Bryan's post asserted the ad was "a violation of at least the spirit of judicial ethics."

"I trust the citizens of the Third Circuit will draw their own conclusions about this behavior," Bryan wrote.

McRae responded with a post on his campaign's Facebook page.

"Some people will say just about anything to get re-elected," he wrote. "They will make false statements and accusations."

In a phone interview, McRae elaborated on his position.

"Associating myself or my campaign as being unethical is a very serious allegation," he said. "And one that I do not take kindly or lightly to."

Neither candidate would firmly state whether they believed the other to be in violation of judicial ethics, saying they had to themselves be careful of what they claim.

McRae said if Bryan wanted to know who was behind the advertisement, he should question his former business partners.

One of them, Daniel Dukes, is currently engaged in a lawsuit against Bryan.

Dukes said he wasn't involved in the group that sponsored the ad, but he would like to know who they are.

"Because I'm trying to get with them," he said.

Dukes, Bryan and a third man, William Woodington, were originally equal partners in the BWD Land Trust, according to court documents.

Another Third Circuit judge, Andrew Decker, faces sanctions partially due to his representation of BWD while he was an attorney.

Decker faces charges from the JQC relating to his failure to disclose conflicts of interest to clients whose cases Bryan oversaw. Decker faces possible removal from office.

Though the JQC was only charged with investigating Decker, it took an opportunity to criticize Bryan for his failure to disclose conflict of interest as well.

"We would be remiss if we did not mention that we were deeply troubled during the trial by the conduct of Circuit Judge Paul Bryan," the JQC wrote in a March 2015 document. "We received testimonies concerning obvious conflict of interest issues involving Judge Bryan and then-attorney Decker. During that time, several court matters were scheduled in front of Judge Bryan with Mr. Decker appearing as counsel. Judge Bryan failed to disclose any conflict of interest to parties who appeared before him. However, this panel was not charged with addressing this matter and therefore shall not comment further."

Dukes said Bryan and Decker conspired with each other at the cost of the other BWD partners.

His lawsuit alleges Woodington executed a deed in 2012, giving Bryan a controlling interest in the trust, though it lacked his signature.

It was a mistake on Woodington's part, the complaint states, but it might have been induced by Bryan.

Dukes also accused Bryan of forging his signature on documents for a loan to purchase land in Hamilton County.

"Paul sure ain't telling the whole story," he said.

THE WEATHER

7 SUN HI 87 LO 76	08 MON Slight chance of storms HI 86 LO 74	09 TUE Chance of storms Cloudy HI 87 LO 74	10 WED Chance of storms HI 86 LO 74	11 THU Chance of storms HI 89 LO 74
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REGIONAL FORECAST MAP for Sunday, Aug. 7

Sunday's highs/Sunday night's low

City	Monday	Tuesday
Cape Canaveral	87/76/ts	89/76/ts
Daytona Beach	86/74/ts	87/75/ts
Fort Myers	88/78/ts	88/78/ts
Ft. Lauderdale	88/79/ts	90/80/ts
Gainesville	84/74/ts	86/74/ts
Jacksonville	86/74/ts	87/75/ts
Key West	89/82/ts	90/83/ts
Lake City	84/74/ts	86/74/ts
Miami	89/80/ts	90/80/ts
Naples	87/78/ts	91/79/ts
Ocala	84/74/ts	86/74/ts
Orlando	85/75/ts	87/76/ts
Panama City	87/79/ts	85/78/ts
Pensacola	90/78/ts	89/78/ts
Tallahassee	87/76/ts	86/75/ts
Tampa	85/76/ts	86/78/ts
Valdosta	88/74/ts	87/74/ts
W. Palm Beach	89/79/ts	90/80/ts

LAKE CITY ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES	SUN
High Saturday: 82	Sunrise today: 6:53 a.m.
Low Saturday: 75	Sunset today: 8:18 p.m.
Normal high: 91	Sunrise tom.: 6:53 a.m.
Normal low: 72	Sunset tom.: 8:17 p.m.
Record high: 98 in 1899	
Record low: 66 in 1926	
PRECIPITATION	MOON
Saturday: 0.02"	Moonrise today: 11:15 a.m.
Month total: 4.03"	Moonset today: 11:21 p.m.
Year total: 27.92"	Moonrise tom.: 12:07 p.m.
Normal month-to-date: 1.20"	Moonset tom.: 11:55 p.m.
Normal year-to-date: 30.38"	

Aug 10 First Aug 18 Full Aug 24 Last Sept 1 New

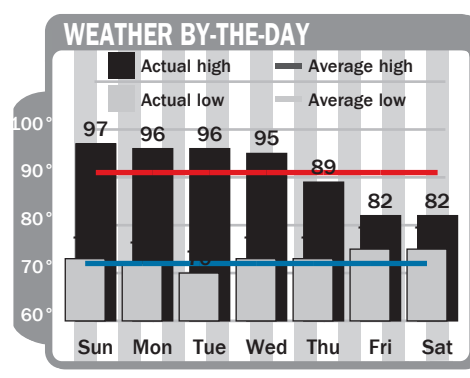
UV INDEX

8

Very High
20 mins to burn
Today's ultra-violet radiation risk for the area on a scale from 0 to 10+.

FYI
An exclusive service brought to our readers by The Weather Channel.

The Weather Channel weather.com



WEATHER HISTORY

How would you like to be in a city that receives over 60 consecutive days of 100 degree heat? Well, the citizens of Phoenix, Ariz. suffered through the 62nd day of plus 100 degree heat on this date in 1989. Ironically, on the same day, 40 other national cities reported record lows.

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