

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 — Keystone Heights, Florida

Thursday, June 19, 2025

52nd Year — 6th Issue — \$1

Racetrack demands money, airport threatens eviction

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A dispute between the Keystone Heights Airport and the Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park reached a new stage in June when new attorneys for the racetrack demanded that the airport pay for a track reconfiguration. The airport responded by threatening to evict its longtime tenant if it did not move part of the track out of a runway protection zone.

According to airport officials, the dispute began after the Federal Aviation Administration discovered, in February 2024, that the airport was not charging the FIRM fair market value for its ground lease. The federal agency also claimed the airport failed to apply for a land use change that would've allowed the racetrack to occupy the western part of the airfield, even though it was not an aeronautical concern.

Most critically, the FAA said that part of the racetrack intruded into the runway protection zone of runway 11/29.

The triangular-shaped former Keystone Army Airfield has two active landing strips. Runway 11/29 runs along the airport's northern boundary adjacent to Camp Blanding. Runway 5/23 is parallel to Airport Road. A third runway, parallel to State Road 100, is no longer active and is occupied by the motorsports park.

Corrective action plan

In April 2025, the FAA approved a correction action plan with the airport authority, outlining the airport's steps to resolve all three issues.

Part of that plan included reconfiguring the track out of the protection zone by June 25.

During a May 6 airport board

meeting, the board's attorney, Jim Taylor, told the panel he did not believe the airport was responsible for paying for track reconfigurations.

The board responded by asking Taylor to get a second legal opinion. The Keystone Heights-based attorney turned to board-certified aviation lawyer Edward Booth, who agreed with Taylor's assessment.

Booth focused his opinion on his assertion that when the FIRM's predecessor, the European Rally and Performance Driving School, built the track in 2006, it not only encroached on the runway protection zone but also exceeded the limits of its leasehold, effectively trespassing on airport property. Booth also said the school failed to get permission from the airport before constructing the track.

Track owners demand money

On June 6, lawyers for the track wrote to the airport board, demanding that the airport pay for the track changes.

"The record is clear," wrote attorneys for the FIRM,



In February 2024, the Federal Aviation Administration told the Keystone Heights Airport board that part of the Florida International Rally & Motorsports track intruded into the runway protection area and the runway object-free area of the airport's runway 11/29.

"• KAA (Keystone Airport Authority) approved construction of the racetrack as early as 2006;

• KAA retained knowledge of the (runway protection zone) conflict since at least 2014, yet failed to act;

• KAA's public comments on May 6, 2025, confirmed it now seeks to shift blame to FIRM despite having full oversight and zoning responsibility."

The FIRM also filed a complaint with the FAA, alleging that despite its many good-faith efforts to resolve the encroachment on the runway protection zone, the airport refused to engage racetrack management and referred all inquiries to its attorney.

Track owners also blamed the

airport for failing to apply to the FFA for the land use change from aeronautical to non-aeronautical.

Airport threatens eviction

The airport board responded to the FIRM's demand to cover the track reconfiguration costs by instructing Taylor to write to the FIRM's lawyers. Taylor's letter denied any legal responsibility for the expenses and informed the track owners that if the FIRM failed to remove the part of the track in the protection zone, the airport might terminate the FIRM's lease.

KH Woman's Club gets new roof, air conditioning

Surprise ant infestation increases costs

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

After several decades of delayed repair, the Keystone Heights Woman's Club finally got a new roof and air conditioning units.

During a severe rainstorm, the club's facility on Woman's Club Road unexpectedly experienced a significant leak, prompting members to begin their roof project earlier than planned. The new roof was initially scheduled to be completed at the end of 2025.

According to Dane Bell, Senior Project Manager at Interstate Roofing, a tarp and some roofing materials were brought in to temporarily cover the hole.

"The Woman's Club strategized and found some very generous donors in the community," Bell said. "We started that project within 10 days of that tarp being on the roof."

along with a local electrician and a pest control company.

Air Innovations initiated the upgrades of the new air conditioning units in April. However, the completion was delayed until the new roof was installed, as removing the units was necessary first.

"We had already raised a significant portion in referral money that his company has been graciously giving for referrals for roofs in the area, and that was a good part of it," said Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin, Woman's Club co-president. "We also had a large donation from 3 Shacks Capital Partners in Keystone Heights. We could pull together the funds from a member who had passed away and left some money behind for us in case of emergency. This was a pretty large emergency that was necessary."

Due to the unexpected damage caused by the ants, the club incurred an additional \$16,400 in materials and labor to replace the infested wood.

Hayes-Yelin said Interstate Roofing had been generous in allowing the Women's Club to make payments.

The club is hosting a fundraiser on June 21 called the Speakeasy, sponsored by Capital City Bank, to reduce its debt related to the repairs. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased online. All proceeds from



Workers from Interstate Roofing replace the roof at the Keystone Heights Woman's Club headquarters.

the fundraiser will go towards the roof.

The co-president said club members intend to host additional fundraisers and community events to eliminate the roof debt.

Hayes-Yelin added, "We have a wonderful referral (arrangement with Interstate Roofing). Dane has been amazing in everything, and he gives 50% of his commission to (our project) when (a customer) mentions that they heard about him through the

Woman's Club."

The club's other co-president, Samantha Key, thanked everyone in the community who helped her organization during the project.

"We had a lot of people step up and help, and it's still ongoing, obviously, and it's not going to end with the roof," Key said. "Our doors are open for anybody who wants to check us out."



(L-r) Keystone Heights Woman's Club Co-presidents Samantha Key and Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin, with Dane Bell of Interstate Roofing.

Scott Oclon with Air Innovations immediately removed some air conditioning units from the roof,

Monday morning fire guts Keystone Heights house

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

An early Monday fire north of Keystone Heights destroyed one home and resulted in a missing dog.

Clay County Fire Rescue received the call about the incident at 4:26 a.m. on June 16 and remained on the scene for four and a half hours.

One man was in the home at the time of the blaze and escaped safely.

However, after first responders arrived, he told firefighters he couldn't find his dog.

The cause of the fire is unknown, and the Red Cross is assisting the resident.



WORTH NOTING

Celebrate KH like it's the 1920s

The Woman's Club of Keystone Heights is presenting a Roaring 20s Speakeasy on Saturday, June 21, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Woman's Club located at 6747 Woman's Club Drive. This event celebrates the 100-year anniversary of establishing the City of Keystone Heights in roaring 1920s style. There will be live music, dancing, light bites, cocktails, photo opportunities and more.

Come dressed in 1920s style. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at keystoneheightswomansclub.com. Kindly note, this is a 21-and-over event.

Bradford Democrats meet June 23

The Bradford County Democratic Party will meet on Monday, June 23, at 7 p.m. All registered Democrats are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings, which are held on the fourth Monday of the month. The meeting will be held at Capital City Bank of Starke, Hwy 301 North, in the conference room. For further information, please contact bradfordcodec@gmail.com.

Democratic Women will meet June 26

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet on Thursday, June 26, at 7 p.m. (with doors opening at 6:30). Sadie Holzmeyer from the Digital Democracy Project will be the speaker. All Democrats are welcome. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Melrose Center, 309 State Hwy 26, Melrose, FL 32666. For further information call 352-235-4161.

Market at Melrose

The Market at Melrose Farmers and Crafts Sale takes place the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mossman Hall in Melrose, 310 S.R. 26. The market features local artists, homemade crafts, one-of-a-kind gifts, a farmers market, plants and animals.

To become a vendor, reach out to "Grumpa Curtis" at grumpa654@gmail.com.

Medicare classes offered online

SHINE offers virtual classes on Medicare basics, prescription drug coverage, Medicare Part C, long-term care planning and more. Visit www.floridashine.org to view the schedule, register and explore information on the latest scams.

For more information, you may also contact Elder Options at 1-800-262-2243 or visit www.agingresources.org.

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Collection site closings

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Thursday, June 19, for Juneteenth. They will reopen Friday, June 20, at 10 a.m.

Cowboys signing up players

Bradford County Cowboys are preparing for their fall football/cheer season. Conditioning

is ongoing, with practice set to start July 1 at 801 Thomas St. in Starke. The signup fee is \$150, and the scheduled is every Monday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Contact Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association on Facebook with any questions.

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share's upcoming food distributions will take place on Thursday, June 19, and Thursday, July 3, from 10 a.m. to noon. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. (Distribution could start early depending on delivery.)

Pastor's anniversary at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries invites the public to celebrate the ninth anniversary of Pastor Jeffrey T. and Sister Daffany Jones on Sunday, June 22, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Minister Dwayne Bailey of St. John Missionary Baptist Church

in Providence will speak at the morning service, and the Rev. Alvin Greene and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Lake City will lead the afternoon service. Dinner will be served.

Magnified VBS at New River Baptist

Join New River Baptist Church, located at 16703 SW 144th Ave. near Brooker, for Vacation Bible School beginning Sunday June 22, and continuing through Thursday, June 26. "Magnified" Vacation Bible School will be for kids 3 years old through fifth grade. Kids will learn about Jesus by discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things. Each evening will begin with a meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by Vacation Bible School from 6-8. For more information, please call 904-796-2359.

Dems meet June 23

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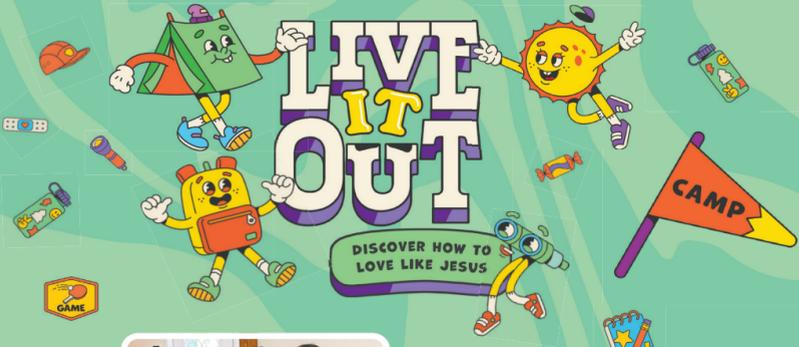
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UNION COUNTY

County complains- trucks destroying roads

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Union County commissioners discussed some possible solutions to their ongoing dilemma of large trucks damaging county roads.

Commissioners Donna Jackson and Willie Croft had previously complained about log trucks making white turns on County roads, damaging shoulders, and eventually compromising the pavement.

Complaints from Providence

In a prior meeting, Commissioner Mac Johns brought to the commission a petition signed by several Providence homeowners complaining about trucks damaging neighborhood streets.

The complaints arose from one of a group of businesses lined up on State Road 238, which include Thomas Hardware, Farm and Lumber, the now vacant Providence Food Mart, Southland Wood and Steel, Allsteel Welding and Repair, and Faithway Powder

Coating.

The petitioners claimed that trucks delivering goods to Southland Wood and Steel exit the business through the back, onto Southwest 86th Street, and then make their way back to State Road 238 by either Southwest 45th Court, passing the Providence Community Center, or on Southwest 48th Avenue.

During the commission's June 16 meeting, Johns, who represents the area, said the damage to the local roads may not be apparent now.

"But what's happening is these 48-foot trailers are coming out, they cannot make that turn and stay on the pavement on either end, by the community center where they come back beside the church and the community center, or if they come out (on the other side)... So...you're seeing a good six to seven, almost 10-foot cut right there on that corner where the back tires of the trailer are coming off the pavement. Well, first thing that's going to happen is the shoulder of that road's going to

start falling."

County Attorney Russ Wade said that even if the trucks stayed on the asphalt, the local streets were not designed to handle large trucks.

Parker Hodgson, a member of the family that owns Southland Wood and Steel, told commissioners that loaded trucks enter the business from the state road and then exit through the back empty. He added that it is impossible for the trucks to turn around on the property and leave onto State Road 238.

If you break it, you fix it

Wade proposed an aggressive stand against the damaging vehicles.

"That's our road," he told commissioners. "It's our ditch, it's our boundary line there. If we want a fence across that, (if) we want to dig a ditch across that, it's not their land."

Wade added that local roads are not built to standard to accommodate 18-wheelers.

The county attorney added that he had researched how other jurisdictions addressed the issue.

"The simplest thing you could do would be what Wakulla County did, which is to just put an ordinance in place that says basically if you break it, you fix it," Wade said. "And I don't even know if that ordinance is honestly necessary. It's the only county I found that actually drafted an ordinance."

Wade said that even without an ordinance, the county could sue truck owners for road damage.

"That's just negligence,"



County Commissioner Mac Johns- "But what's happening is these 48-foot trailers are coming out, they cannot make that turn and stay on the pavement on either end...So... you're seeing a good six to seven, almost 10-foot cut right there on that corner where the back tires of the trailer are coming off the pavement.

he told commissioners. "I mean, if they are negligent and overload the road, causing damage to the road, then we can sue them anyway. If they're improperly loading and offloading equipment and it's scratching up and scarring up, damaging things, or driving over your weight, then we don't even need an ordinance. An ordinance would make it even easier in some ways so that you can go to different levels with this."

to obtain a permit. You have to pay in advance." County Coordinator Jimmy Williams said he would meet with county officials and business owners to propose a solution.

Paying in advance

Wade said that a large county between Orlando and Tampa has the most stringent commercial truck regulations.

"Polk County has a provision for permitting," he said. "If you're going to drive an overweight limit, then you have

Jealous girlfriend released on bond

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A woman arrested for attacking a female she thought was sleeping with her boyfriend won two early court wins when a judge denied the state's motion to have the defendant detained until trial, and the judge allowed the defendant to post bond.

According to an arrest report, Bradford deputies arrested 23-year-old Brair Stephens after the victim claimed Stephens entered her Whispering Oaks apartment without permission and grabbed her by the hair, dragging her toward some stairs until the victim fought Stephens off.

The victim told deputies that Stephens accused the victim of sleeping with the defendant's boyfriend, which, according to the victim, is not true.

Stephens told deputies she discovered inappropriate text messages on her boyfriend's phone, and she went to the victim's apartment to confront her. Stephens added that when the victim opened her door, she was holding a gun in her hand. The victim denied that claim, and an eyewitness corroborated the victim's statement.

In a motion to have Stephens detained until trial, prosecutors claimed the 23-year-old was a danger to the community. Judge James M. Colaw denied that motion and allowed Stephens



Brair Stephens

Stephens was released from jail on June 9.

to post a \$6,500 bond for release. During first appearance, the defendant was given a \$5,000 bond for the battery charge and no bond for burglary with assault or battery.

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To the Citizens of Starke,

After thoughtful reflection, earnest prayer, and heartfelt conversations with my family, I have made the difficult decision to withdraw my candidacy for the Starke City Commission, District 4.

This was by no means an easy choice. Serving the people of Starke has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I remain deeply committed to the values that first inspired me to pursue public office—integrity, transparency, and a spirit of service.

While I will not be seeking re-election at this time, my dedication to our city remains unchanged. For over 40 years, I have worked to support and strengthen our community, and I will continue to do so in new ways in the months and years ahead. Starke is not just where I live—it's where I was raised, where I built a business, and where I've proudly invested my time and heart.

Being an elected official has been both a challenging and incredibly rewarding experience. Though not every decision has been met with unanimous agreement, I have always led with fairness and a sincere desire to do what I believed was best for the city. I am grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to serve.

As I step away from elected office, I want to extend my full support to those who continue the often difficult and thankless task of running city government. It is a demanding responsibility that deserves respect, collaboration, and encouragement from all of us.

This decision also comes with a personal shift in focus, allowing me to devote more energy to the people and priorities that matter most:

- My faith and church community, which continue to guide and sustain me.
- My beloved family, whose encouragement and support have never wavered—especially my wife, Kim, whose love and partnership have been my foundation.
- My growing business, which now requires more of my daily involvement as it continues to expand.

To each of you who has offered your support, encouragement, and friendship throughout my time in public service—**thank you**. Your belief in me has meant more than words can express.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Scott Roberts
Starke City Commissioner, District 4

Thompson announces run for clerk's office

The following is an announcement of intention to seek public office paid for by the candidate.

I am happy to announce my candidacy for City Clerk of Starke. A lifelong resident of Starke, I am deeply rooted in the heart of the community that I proudly call home. I have been loyal to the City of Starke and our community for many years.

I started my political career in 1998 when I was elected City Commissioner. I served in this role for four years. I understand how local government works, but more importantly, how it should work for the people of Starke.

I have a background in nursing and deep roots and unwavering dedication to Starke. I am a wife to Ricky Thompson, who had 38 years of dedication to the City of Starke. I am also a mother to three children and a Meme to six grandchildren.

Known for my leadership and entrepreneurial spirit in the community, I own and operate The Downtown Grill, a local restaurant where neighbors gather, stories are shared and community connections are strengthened.

I serve on many boards,



Chrissy Thompson

including Communities for Schools, Education Foundation, ARC of Bradford County, Downtown Merchants and Chamber of Commerce. I am passionate about giving back and host many community and charitable events at my restaurant.

MY GOALS:

1. Enhance transparency and efficiency in City operations.
2. Bring unity to all aspects of the City and other entities.
3. Represent Starke with integrity and compassion.
4. Provide exceptional public service.
5. Protect what matters most in the City of Starke – our city's history and future.

I am deeply motivated by helping others – from volunteering at local events

to supporting community-driven projects. Outside of my professional life, I love to travel and bring a global perspective back home. I value my friends just as much as my family. Their support, honesty, and opinions mean the world to me, and I trust their insight in both my personal life and public service. But above all, I cherish spending quality time with my family and friends. Of all the titles I have held, being called "Meme" is my favorite title of all.

This town raised me, supported me, and now I want to give back in a way that truly matters. The role of City Clerk is not just about keeping records, it's about keeping the public informed, making sure local government stays accountable and servicing with integrity every single day. I'm not a politician. I'm a public servant. I'm not running for power – I'm running to make sure the people of Starke are heard, respected and served with care.

In closing, I am running for City Clerk to ensure that Starke's records are managed with care, the public stays informed, and every voice has a place in city government. I am not accepting donations for my campaign. Instead, I humbly ask for your prayers, support and your vote on August 19, 2025! I ask you to join me in building a better, stronger Starke – together!

Youth Day at New Hope

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1662 Old Lawtrey Road in Starke, will hold its annual Youth Fun Day and Career Day this Saturday, June 21, at noon. There will be free food and drinks, a bounce house, games and education.

The annual Youth Day program will follow on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m. Come out and help lift up the name of Jesus!

At the library...



Children's program director Melanie Jackson and Animal Control Officer Christy Milligan were happy to see so many come to the library's shelter animal event last week. The event has become a regular occurrence at the library after launching last year. During events, adoption fees are waived. Contact the Bradford County Animal Services for more information on available pets and if you missed this library visit, they will have another free adoption on July 15.



Paislee and April read to puppy Kolby at the library during last Tuesday's Read to a Shelter Animal event. The monthly event is one of many summer programs, but this one has the special task of raising awareness about available shelter pets.

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Science Bus returns to RJE Camp

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Special to the Telegraph

Once again, the Science Bus of the Cultural Arts Coalition in Gainesville brought STEM activities for the summer campers at Bradford County's RJE Community Center.

Last year, local and regional environmental groups treated Brooker Community School and the RJE Community Center to a Science Bus visit. Commissioner Carolyn Spooner, a childhood science buff herself, was so impressed she brought the bus back to RJE for this year's campers to explore.

The Science Bus is an old converted yellow school bus, equipped with counters along the sides that hold the STEM activities and demo models. But this is not meant to be a "tour." It is a hands-on, touch, look and listen opportunity. It is an exciting way to engage young people and pique their interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Activities cover a range of science and physics concepts, showing cause and effect. Everything you touch does something in response. The visitors move around at their own pace to explore the different objects with Mr. Marvin standing by to answer questions that arise from the explorations. An aquifer demonstration, for example, shows how a dropper of dirty water gets filtered through the layers of sand, soil and gravel to come out clean at the bottom.

CAC Science Director Marvin Wilson is responsible for coordinating the organization's after-school Science Clubs and



Bradford Commissioner Carolyn Spooner with CAC Science Director Marvin Wilson. Spooner sponsored the event.

Science Bus visits in Alachua County. But he loves making these rural visits to Bradford County and collaborating with local groups that join in to offer their own science activities for the visitors. This time, he was joined by Dr. Paul Still of Bradford Environmental Forum and Carol Mosley, along with a Bridges Across Borders intern from UF, Catherine Uceta.

Still demonstrated how water percolates through different soil textures. The campers felt the different textures and then made bets on which one would "win the race" when water was added. They talked about which soils are good for growing plants and which are not. But, the favorite of campers was the soldier fly maggots that delighted some and made other kids squirm.

It was a day for slime and goo as the campers rotated through

the stations. Next was the earthworm station with Mosley and Uceta. The campers helped to construct a compost bin by adding fruits and veggie scraps, shredded paper, sawdust, and earthworms. A scoop of the mix was put on a paper plate for each camper who poked around with plastic spoons and peeked through magnifying glasses to see the worms up close, looking for segments and identifying head from rear. They saw the rich "black gold" end product that the worms produce from their poo.

Alica McMillian, president of Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, is also director of the RJE Summer Day Camp. Along with Sherry Williams, CCBC secretary and assistant camp director, they provide a safe and nurturing environment for local children to learn while having summer fun.

Celebrating 100 years of Keystone Heights history

Wharton, the first editor, everyone

Growing up as the daughter of the man who owns one of only two gas stations in town is one sure way to get to know just about everyone in a community. It can lead to some interesting "adventures" later in life, as one Keystone Heights woman can readily attest.

Linda Wharton has lived in Keystone Heights since she moved here with her family at the age of two in 1938. Her father, Lindsay Walker, opened a service station at the corner of State Roads 100 and 211, now also known as Walker Drive and Lawrence Boulevard. The business was a success, and later, in the 1940s, he purchased the land across the street and built a newspaper.

When Walker retired in 1964, his daughter bought the business from him and continued to operate it for many years, tearing down the original building in 1978 and replacing it.

Wharton said she worked alone for some time before being joined at the paper by her friend Faye Greek.

"She said things got a little easier after that. Faye took care of all the city business and such, and I wrote the features and the gossip column, 'Keystone Kapers.' I even wrote about sports for a while until we got a young man in to do it."

Eventually, the Monitor moved across the street into its own quarters. Wharton continued as the Monitor editor for 15 years, when she said she finally "just burned out."

Her memories of her childhood and tenure as editor of the local paper give insight into what it was like to grow up and work in a town like Keystone Heights.

Made money on weekends and during the summer

"I grew up on Lake Geneva," Wharton said. "My parents bought a house on the lake in the 1940s. Growing up, I always had a boat. Dad sold boats and motors, and I always seemed to have one of his 'samples' to use. Water skiing was very popular, and we all did it during summer. Lake Geneva was up then, and it was beautiful."



Wharton

Wharton said Keystone was a weekend and summer haven for vacationers and residents of nearby cities. The people came

Monitor knew in town

One of her favorite memories is what she smilingly refers to as the "duck issue" of the mid-1970s.

"The duck issue was really big," Wharton said. "There were ducks on Little Lake Keystone that were becoming nuisances, and the residents wanted to get rid of them."

"The city was less than responsive to the situation until, after a party one night, a group of residents hung a duck (a wooden decoy) in effigy from a noose at city hall. It wasn't too long before the game warden

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Keystone Cops Nab 3 Ducks; 2 Evade Late Night Trap

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because of the lakes and the recreation they provided. The influx of people was an economic boon to the area, and her father's business was no exception.

"The service station business here counted on the summer and weekend trade to survive," Wharton said. "Summertime was when we made our money, and the local trade kept us going the rest of the year."

Wharton said that the close-knit nature of the community made the birth of the Monitor possible, and her knowledge of the community made her quickly accepted as the editor of the new venture.

"When Keystone was a smaller community, everyone knew everyone and wanted to read about what they were doing," Wharton said. "When the Monitor started, much of the material concerned the everyday doings of the local people: who went on vacation and where, who was getting married, and who was starting a family. These were the kind of things people liked to read about."

Ducks, streakers, and sewer

Wharton said that during her tenure as editor, she witnessed many changes and happenings in the community she called home.

showed up, and the ducks were removed."

Wharton also remembers two other 1970s phenomena that affected the Keystone area: the fight over a city sewer system and the streakers.

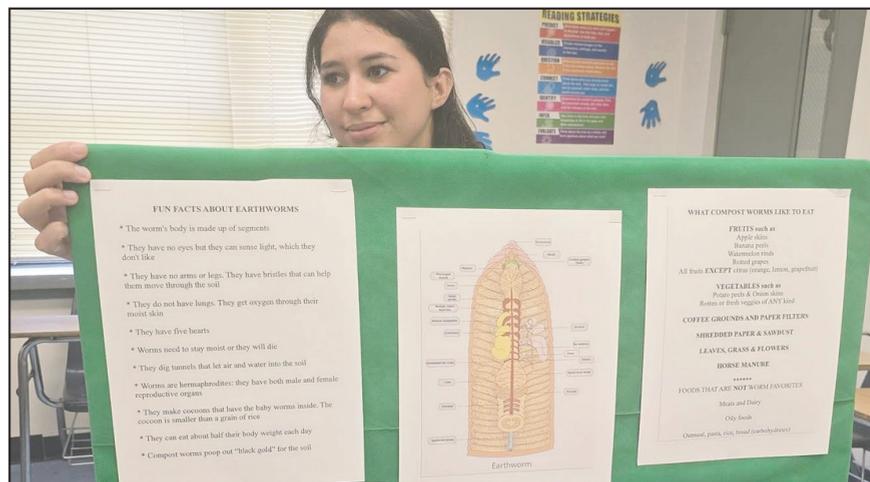
"When there was a move to put in a sewer system for the city there was a group of people who called themselves 'the rebels' who opposed the project. After a big fight, they won."

The streakers were just high school kids. There was a plan for them to streak through the center of town. Word got out and people were lining the street, and the sheriff's office had people on hand. The plan fizzled.

Although she was one of the first women to serve in the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department, where she and her husband were emergency medical technicians, she stopped actively participating in calls when the county took over medical services.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my life and cannot imagine having spent it anywhere else but here," Wharton said. "I have done what I wanted, tried new things, and have always felt like I was a part of a community and a family here. That's a wonderful way to spend a life."

Wharton died in 2017 at the age of 81.



Catherine Uceta, an intern from Bridges Across Borders, shares information about earthworms.

Two plead to drug charges

Thomas Allen Lyons, 50, of Starke, was sentenced to three years with the Department of Corrections, and Herbert Ernest Thompson, 47, was committed to five and a half years in state custody during June hearings before Circuit Judge James M. Colaw.

According to an arrest report, Bradford deputies conducted a search warrant of Lyons's County Road 225 property last October and found several firearms, 3.9 grams of marijuana, a digital scale with methamphetamine residue on the device, and other drug paraphernalia.

At the time of the search, the defendant had eight felony convictions. The state dropped two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and Lyons pleaded

to one count. The defendant also pleaded to possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and use or possession of drug paraphernalia.

Thompson pleaded to one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell. Colaw sealed the details of the state's complaint against him because of an ongoing investigation.

Stabbed woman in head with pocketknife

A 49-year-old Starke woman was sentenced to two years after pleading to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

According to court papers, witnesses told Bradford deputies that on February 18, Tracy Nicole "Spanky" Bryant of Starke's Old Lawley Road, visited the victim's North Oak Street residence and the two began to argue.

"During the physical altercation," wrote Deputy Devin K. Jones, "Tracy stabbed (the victim) in the top of her head with a silver pocketknife."

Jones added that the victim's mother took her daughter to HCA Starke ER for treatment and called law enforcement.

"(The victim) sustained an approximately 6 cm stab wound to the top of her head," wrote Jones, "a scratch on her upper back about six inches long, an approximately four inch scratch on the forehead, approximately one inch scratch on eyelid, approximately two inch scratch on nose, approximately three inch scratch on right facial

cheek, (on her) right forearm (was an) approximately six inches long (scratch). (The victim) had to have staples for the stab wound on her head."

Other officers found Bryant at a nearby Circle K and took her into custody.

Bryant told deputies that the victim attacked her and that she did not fight back.

The defendant's prior convictions include child abuse, driving without a valid license, felony petit theft, robbery, burglary, battery, and grand theft.

Pleads not guilty to forgery, bond reduced

A Lake Butler woman remains behind bars at the Bradford County Jail after she pleaded not guilty to

forgery, and a judge reduced her bond from \$25,000 to \$10,000.

In May 2023, Starke police accused Marie Evette Black of altering a check from her former employer, a Starke physician's office, and cashing the note at a Starke pawn shop for \$875.

The State Attorney's Office accused the 44-year-old of forging

and cashing another check from an individual the previous month.

In May 2024, prosecutors obtained an arrest warrant for Black, who was arrested on the charges on May 27, 2025.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charges on the day of her arrest, and on June 4, Circuit Judge James M. Colaw reduced her bond by \$15,000.

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Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024 City of Starke

Florida Department of Environmental Protection • Public Water System ID # 2040211



We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of quality drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water sources are three groundwater wells located in the community. The wells draw from the Floridan aquifer, one of the world's most protected sources, at depths of 520, 600, and 607 feet. Our water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes, and aerated for odor control. In 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are four potential sources of contamination identified for our water system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at: <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/Welcome/detailsByPublicOutreachDate/2040211/10012023>

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Starke City Hall, (904) 964-5027, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm). We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled City Commission Meetings. They are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at 5:30 pm, at City Hall: 209 N Thompson St, Starke, FL 32091.

The City of Starke routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Data obtained before January 1, 2024 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing performed in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

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

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial growth.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

N/A – Not applicable

Not Detected or 'ND' – Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L) – One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L) – One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	(ppm)	09/2023	No	0.013	0.010-0.013	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	(ppm)	09/2023	No	0.31	0.31-0.38	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; water additive that promotes strong teeth when at level of 0.7 ppm (Note: our system does not use fluoride as a water additive)
Mercury	(ppb)	09/2023	No	0.055	ND-0.055	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Sodium	(ppm)	09/2023	No	15	15-15	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil

For Inorganic Contaminants, "Level Detected" is the highest level detected at any sampling point. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected.

Stage 1 Disinfectants

Disinfectant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	(ppm)	Monthly 2024	No	1.14	0.26-3.52	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.

For Chlorine, "Level Detected" is the highest Running Annual Average (RAA) that occurred in 2024, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2024.

Stage 2 Disinfectants By-Products

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5s)	(ppb)	09/2024	No	14.80	4.80-14.80	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	(ppb)	09/2024	No	37.33	9.30-37.33	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

For HAA5s and TTHMs, "Level Detected" is the highest level detected at any sampling point in 2024. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2024.

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded (Yes/No)	90th Percentile Result	No. of Samples Exceeding the AL	Range of Tap Sample Results	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	(ppm)	08/2022	No	0.14	0	ND-0.45	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	(ppb)	08/2022	No	1.2	0	ND-5.5	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

What does this mean?

As shown in the tables above, our system did not exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) on any of the samples collected in 2024 or other applicable testing years. Lead and Copper samples were collected in 2022, and results were under the Action Levels (ALs). Complete lead tap sampling data from August 2022 (and previous monitoring periods) is available for review upon request. Please contact the City of Starke at (904) 964-5027 for instructions on accessing the data.

Statement on Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The City of Starke is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the

filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact City Hall at (904) 964-5027. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. In 2024, the City of Starke prepared and submitted a lead service line inventory to the Department of Environmental Protection. Customers may request the results of our lead service line inventory by contacting City Hall at (904) 964-5027.

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

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
A.) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
B.) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
C.) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
D.) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
E.) Radioactive contaminants, which may be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some

contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 1-800-426-4791.

Vulnerable Population Statement

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

Closing Statement

The City of Starke would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call City Hall at (904) 964-5027.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

'Healer' caught with Suboxone strips

Jodi Bottomley, of Zainsville, Ohio, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

According to an arrest report, the 51-year-old was a passenger in a vehicle flagged by a license plate reader as stolen. Deputy Hayley Flynn wrote in the report that when she stopped the vehicle, "Jodi stated that she was a 'healer' and was helping her friend, the driver, Justin."

"Jodi advised that she has Buprenorphine and Naloxone (suboxone) strips in her purse but does not have a prescription," the officer added.

The defendant subsequently consented to a search of her purse. Flynn found the strips, which are used in the treatment of opiate addiction.

Breakup leads to

stabbing

Carla Cray, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for aggravated battery.

Deputy Michael Gillick wrote in an arrest report that after responding to a call about someone bleeding at a Florida Street residence shortly after midnight, he found the victim with a stab wound to her upper right back shoulder.

During the investigation, the defendant told another officer that she wanted to talk to Gillick.

"Post Miranda, Cray stated that she and (the victim) had been in a relationship for the past 6 years," reported the deputy. "Cray stated that they had broken up and (the victim) was now dating a man. As a result, Cray was jealous, and it caused issues between the two."

Gillick added that, according to Cray, the victim entered the Florida Street home and started an argument with her.

"When asked who stabbed (the victim), Cray stated that she got a knife and stabbed her," Gillick wrote.

The officer later recovered the weapon in the defendant's purse.

Free to leave, winds up in jail

Shelton Dell, 48, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 12 for possession of cocaine.

According to an arrest report, the defendant was a passenger in a vehicle deputies stopped, in which the driver did not have a valid license, and the tag on the vehicle was registered to another car.

"While speaking with Shelton," wrote Detective Hunter Redding in the report, "I advised him that he was free to leave the traffic stop; however, he did not and asked to speak to (the driver). While Shelton was speaking with (the driver)," Det. Flynn was conducting a tow inventory of the vehicle."

During the inventory, Flynn found a scale in the vehicle's center console with cocaine residue on the device.

"At this time," Redding reported, "Shelton approached me and asked if he could have Dallas's cell phone. Due to the scale being located in the vehicle, I conducted a search of Shelton's person."

Redding wrote that Dell became very agitated and gave the officer a green leafy substance, within a plastic bag, from his right shorts pocket.

"While continuing the search of Shelton's person," the detective reported, "I located a bag in his lower right cargo pocket which contained multiple pieces of a rocklike substance. Based on my training and experience, I know this substance to be crack cocaine. Shelton was then placed under arrest. A field test of the substance was conducted, which yielded a presumptive positive for cocaine and came to a gross package weight of 8.6 grams."

Broke into her home while she was in the shower

Philip Dennison, 44, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for burglary with assault or battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told Deputy David Hall that after dropping her kids off and returning to her Pleasant Grove area home, she got in the shower and heard a knock at the door.

"(I) hurried to get out and get dressed," wrote Deputy Tyler Oliver, quoting the victim. "He was in my living room, and I told him to leave, and he kept coming towards me. He said I was just like Tiffany and grabbed my arms and pushed me into the wall."

The victim added that a nail in the wall tore her shirt. The intruder then entered a nearby bedroom, and the woman ran out of the mobile home, called a neighbor, and waited for police.

Hall reported that he found a tear in the victim's shirt and observed damage to the wall.

Oliver added that on his way to the scene, he saw and stopped a vehicle that matched the description of the defendant's Nissan.

"Upon pulling up to the vehicle in my patrol vehicle," the deputy wrote, "a white male subject placed his hands out the driver's side of the vehicle."

"I asked the subject if his name was Philip, to which he responded 'yes,'" Oliver reported. "Philip then spontaneously uttered that he knew he shouldn't have gone over there."

The deputy added that Dennison denied entering the woman's home.

Jay Fournier, 24, of Fruitland Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for a probation violation.

Gabriel Gonzalez, 20, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 11 for child cruelty and lewd and lascivious behavior.

Danwwandre Green, 25, of

Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 11 for a probation violation.

Hid meth in bra

Tanya Green, 50, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for possession of drug equipment, possession of amphetamine, and possession of drugs.

According to an arrest report, Green was a passenger in a Ford F-150 pulled over on County Road 229 for an inoperative headlight.

While the driver was detained in the back of Deputy Mark Juen's patrol vehicle, the officer received consent from Green to search the car.

"During my vehicle search," Juen wrote, "in a pink bag I located an orange pill container containing 2 orange pills imprinted 970 which was later verified by drugs.com as Buprenorphine hydrochloride naloxone hydrochloride which is a controlled substance, and a small plastic baggie containing a white crystal-like substance that I know to be methamphetamine."

The deputy said he asked Green about the pills, and she responded that she had a prescription for the medication, but she did not have the prescription with her.

According to Juen, Green later handed over to Deputy Michael Gillick, 22 grams of methamphetamine, which she had hidden inside her bra.

Ex-boyfriend terrifies Lawtey woman

Robert Hatcher, 36, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 12 for aggravated stalking.

According to a May 20 complaint, the Lawtey-area victim told deputies her ex-boyfriend came to her house and

started an argument.

"(The victim) advised that Robert stated that he knows that (the victim) has a new boyfriend," wrote Deputy Paul Moody, Jr. in the complaint. "(The victim) tried to tell Robert she had no one staying with her and was not talking to anyone."

The woman added that after Hatcher looked through her Snapchat messages to confirm she was not communicating with anyone new, he tried to take her phone away.

"(The victim) advised she demanded her phone back, and Robert started to go out the door," Moody wrote. "(The victim) screamed for help outside of the residence. (She) then stated that Robert grew more angry."

The 34-year-old added that when Hatcher drew his fist back as if he was going to strike her, she fell over the couch and wound up lying on her back with the defendant standing over her with clenched fists.

"(The victim) advised that she stated that she was going to call the cops," Moody continued. "Robert then gave (the victim) her phone back, and she called 911. Robert was not on the scene when I arrived."

Moody reported that during the interview, the woman was shaking and lost her breath, exhibiting the emotional and physical stress of fearing for her life.

"(The victim) informed me that Robert was in a motorcycle club and they would come after (the victim) and kill her," the deputy wrote.

Robert Herndon, 59, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 9 for a parole violation.

Steven Jones, 30, of St. Augustine, was arrested by

See ARRESTS, page 7



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Lake Region

Two artists featured at Mossman during art walk

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Mossman Hall displayed the works of two area artists during the June 6 Melrose Art Walk.

St. Simons Island resident Alyson Tucker was raised in Atlanta and moved to Georgia's Golden Isles in the 1970s to escape the city.

"That was when the drug culture was so strong," she said, "and I wanted to get out of the city, and St. Simons was the perfect place to be. It's a beautiful

area." The Peach State's southeastern coast provided Tucker with a treasure of scenes, including wetlands, rivers, beaches, historic structures, sunrises, and most importantly for the artist, the people who interact in those scenes.

The joy in life's simple experiences

When asked what she enjoys painting most, Tucker replied,



Mary Ann Clawson

"Probably people; I like to have people in paintings."

Many of Tucker's works feature paths, walkways, roads, and trails.

"The reason I think I'm so drawn to paths is because we're all on a path," she said. "We all have a journey we're making, and some of them are different, some of them are alike, and I

think that's why I'm drawn to paths."

Tucker's work amplifies the joy of the simple moments in life: a newlywed couple watching the activities on the beach from a pier, a man and his dog sitting on the dock, the joy of a young father gazing into the face of his newborn.

"I like to find people that are doing what they love doing, and then I like to capture them in a painting."

During her show in Melrose, Tucker pointed to one oil-on-canvas she created from the Fort Frederica area on St. Simons.

"I was painting the path that went to General James Oglethorpe's house," she said, "and all of a sudden, these two girls, they were in their teens. They both had on red shorts and white shirts, and they were holding hands as they went down the path."

Tucker said she quickly grasped the moment and the joy of the teenagers walking down the trail.

"Those girls just filled it with life for me," she recalled.

Tucker said art was her therapy growing up in a troubled childhood.

"I kept up with it all my life," she said, "and then I got to where I could sell a few here and there. It's a passion."

Called to teach, called to paint

While Tucker's art occupied the first floor of the Mossman, Mary Ann Clawson's collection filled the second floor.

Clawson said she was a ward of the state and adopted at age 13. Her adopted mother owned a woodcraft shop in McIntosh.

"As soon as I could hold a crayon," she remembered, "I was drawing."

Her mother saw talent in the 13-year-old, encouraging the teenager to develop her creativity.

In college, she studied early childhood education and art, but after completing her education, she briefly chose a different vocation.

"I decided I wanted to be a police officer," she recalled.

But after finishing the academy and six months on the streets, Clawson realized her calling in life was rooted in the wood crafts she helped her mother create in McIntosh.

"It wasn't for me," Clawson said about her law enforcement career. "But I am, without a doubt, called to teach, called to paint, and be creative."

She added that she believes every person was created to create.

"We are created in the image of God," she said. "And if we're created in His image and He's the master artist, then we're all created to create."

Clawson added that all occupations possess an element of creativity, from building construction to music performance, and from service writing in an auto repair shop to writing for a newspaper.

"No matter what you're doing," she said, "I think that you need to have a level of creativity."

After leaving law enforcement, Clawson combined her training in art and teaching. She taught art in both private and public schools in the Brunswick, Georgia area.

A big turning point in Clawson's artistic development came in the form of a phone call from a friend.

"One day somebody calls me and says, 'Hey, would you like to come and have lunch with Al Black?'"

Black was one of the 26 Florida Highwaymen, African-American artists who painted landscapes on construction materials and sold their work from the trunks of their cars along the Sunshine State's highways.

Clawson accepted the



Alyson Tucker

invitation and the two became friends.

"He really influenced my art," Clawson said. "I like to paint Florida landscapes. Watching him really kind of taught me how to speed up my paintings and to just see in depth."

"I had opportunities to spend time teaching him," she added. "I've had him in my home and he's been here; he's taught some classes here."

Black also gave Clawson some branding help, nicknaming her Florida's Legacy Artist.

"And so, I'm like, you know what? I really like that name, so I'm going to use that," Clawson recalled.

Black died on May 12, leaving just four of the original Highwaymen still alive. He was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2004.

Now, Clawson owns Painted Planet School of Art in Melrose.

"I teach children drawing and painting, and I teach adult painting classes," she said. "I also do Paint-and-Sit type parties where you come in, and I do step-by-step. So, if you want to just come and have a good time painting, you can do that and do a step-by-step class."

She also offers options for students who want to develop their talents further.

"It just kind of depends on what people's goals are," she said.

ARRESTS

Continued from page 6

Bradford deputies on June 11 for an out-of-county warrant.

Thomas Marshall, 46, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for possession of drugs.

Tried to steal boat motor

Joshua Matthews, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 9 for trespassing, larceny, burglary, and withholding support.

According to an arrest report, one witness told deputies she observed Matthews and Thomas Cole Smith attempting to remove a motor from a boat parked in the backyard of a Southeast 21st Avenue home, between Starke and Theressa.

Matthews told the witness that he obtained permission from a family member of the boat's owner to take the outboard.

The witness said she went home to get her cell phone, call the police, and notify family members about the encounter. When she returned to the scene, she saw a family member and deputies looking for Smith, who had run into the woods after being confronted.

Deputies later located Matthews at a County Road 225 residence and Smith on a County Road 100A property. Smith told deputies it was Matthews's idea to steal the motor.

Curtis McCloud, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for resisting an officer and a probation violation.

Brittany Milligan, 36, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for battery.

Justin Moore, 44, of Zainsville, Ohio, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for an out-of-county warrant.

Ax attack results in collapsed lung, fractured ribs

Andrew Paris, 19, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for aggravated battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies he visited his aunt on the morning of Friday, June 6, to have coffee with her, adding that he lives next door to the woman between Starke and Theressa.

"While in the kitchen with (the aunt)," wrote Deputy Logan Hough in the report, "(the aunt's roommate) came into the kitchen and began yelling at him for knocking on the door too early in the morning."

During an ensuing argument between the roommate and the victim, Paris entered the kitchen holding an ax.

"Andrew then said to (the victim), wrote Hough, "'You see this ax, next time you talk to her like that I am going to sink this ax in your skull.'"

"(The victim) stated that he looked and saw Andrew holding an ax, so he went to stand up. As (the victim) stood up, Andrew

hit him in the back with the ax, knocking him down."

The victim and defendant then struggled over the weapon, and Paris went to the ground, allowing the victim to break free and flee outside. The aunt took him to a hospital, and on the way to HCA Starke ER, instructed her nephew not to report the incident to law enforcement. However, after discovering the victim's hospitalization, the man's stepmother reported the incident to the sheriff's office. The stepmother said the victim was transferred to North Florida Regional in Gainesville and then to UF Health Shands.

Hough wrote that he met with the victim, who suffered a collapsed lung and fractured ribs from the attack. The deputy added that he observed a five to six-inch laceration in the victim's back, with the injury held together by staples.

Hough wrote that he interviewed Paris and that the 19-year-old said he was tired of the victim and intended to scare him with the ax.

"(The victim) then started taunting him, saying, 'I know you're not going to do anything,'" wrote Hough, quoting the defendant. "Andrew stated that he then swung it halfway towards (the victim's) back while (the victim) was standing up. Andrew stated that it then hit him in the back."

The victim's aunt told Hough she saw Paris hit her nephew with the ax, "but stated that he didn't mean to hit him."

Rafael Rodriguez, 43, was arrested by Lawtey police on June 12 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of drug equipment.

Thomas Cole, 27, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 9 for burglary, possession of drugs, and trespassing.

Charles Sodek, 57, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 8 for battery.

Dallas Sylvester, 51, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 12 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, attaching a license plate not assigned, and possession of cocaine.

Robert Terrell, 55, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Blakely Trueblood, 27, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, fleeing and eluding, resisting an officer, and a probation violation.

Cierra Young, 21, of Interlachen, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 10 for failure to appear.

Union

Ysland Argote, 30, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on June 10 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Sahara Canada, 20, of Raiford,

was arrested by Union deputies on June 9 for failure to appear.

Jordan Ditullio, 19, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 13 for a probation violation.

Jamari Jean, 27, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on June 11 for battery by a person detained in prison.

Eric Knight, 36, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 10 for conditional release violations.

Bridget May, 31, was arrested by Union deputies on June 1 for an out-of-county warrant.

Daniel Shuler, 21, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 13 for a probation violation.

Clay

Bernadine De Jonge, 49, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 11 for child abuse without great bodily harm.

According to an arrest report, the defendant pulled the victim's hair and hit the victim several times.

Arrested after taking mother to hospital

Lavena Hill, 63, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 8 for violating an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

According to an arrest report, the defendant's sister called law enforcement to report that Hill was at her parents' home, violating the injunction.

Deputy David Justice wrote that when he arrived at the Holman Road residence, "I made contact with the defendant, and she spontaneously uttered 'I know, I am not supposed to be here.'"

Hill told the officer that her mother had been sick for a couple of days and wanted to go to the hospital.

"The defendant came to the residence, picked up (her parents), and transported them to the Emergency Room in Starke," wrote Justice. "I asked Lavena why she did not call Public Safety to transport her mother to the hospital and keep her from violating the Injunction. Lavena replied that it was not an option, they are her parents, and she is willing to go to jail for them."

Haley McMinn, 23, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 13 for domestic battery.

Dale Ryan, 79, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 9 for grand theft.

Anthony Terry, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 11 for child abuse without great bodily harm.

According to an arrest report, the defendant pulled the victim's hair and hit the victim several times.

Probation for attacking elderly person

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A Bradford County woman was sentenced to two years' drug offender probation after pleading to attacking an elderly person in 2024.

Carol Lynn Sanders, 48, pleaded to one count of battery on a person 65 years or older, and the state dropped a second count.

According to an arrest report, witnesses told deputies



Carol Sanders

the defendant became angered after overhearing a telephone conversation and struck a female victim with a closed fist on the left side of her head and struck a male victim with a walking stick in the right knee. When the male attempted to restrain Sanders, she punched him in the head and face with closed fists.

The male was eventually able to restrain Sanders until law enforcement arrived.

State: inmate pimping from Bradford jail

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A judge granted a prosecutor's motion to restrict the communications of an inmate at the Bradford County Jail after the prosecutor said the inmate made over 1,000 calls from the lockup directing a female to prostitute herself.

Michael Brandon Morris was arrested on April 10 following a March 18 complaint in which a Hampton area man said the 44-year-old stole mail from his mailbox.

Deputies identified Morris using security camera footage, which revealed the tag of the car he was using and tattoos on his arms.

In a May 23 motion, Assistant State Attorney Ryan King asked Circuit Judge James M. Colaw to restrict the defendant's use of communications from inside the jail after telephone call

recordings revealed the defendant was directing a female to engage in prostitution to raise money for his legal defense.

"On recorded phone conversations from the Bradford County Jail..." wrote King, "Defendant directs (the woman) how to solicit herself, what sexual acts to engage in, how much to charge for the various sexual acts, and then debates her as to the prices she is charging for her various customers."

King said that since May 8, 2025, the defendant has made 1,871 calls from the jail.

"Defendant's calls are not only



Michael Brandon Morris

abhorrent," King added, "but also evidence of Defendant's conspiring (to) violate Florida law."

King highlighted one May 23, 11:45 a.m. phone call in which Morris listened in while the female negotiated a deal for sexual services for \$130.

"In a subsequent call at 11:53 a.m.," wrote King, "Defendant becomes outraged that she accepted...\$130 for services discussed."

King also pointed out another May 23 phone call in which Morris complained to the woman that he had given her a month and a half to raise money for his legal defense and that she was not working hard enough.

"Defendant goes on to discuss how he plans on accepting an offer involving the Department of Corrections since (the woman) is not selling herself sufficiently at his request," King wrote.



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Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(Across from Subway Plaza)

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 19, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 679 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 02949-0-00310 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-001 Description of Property: Lots 10 and 11 of Block C in Blanding S/D and Lot 12 Except West 150' of S 1/2, also described in Official Records Book 113-043-3000- 2/26/73 Name in Which Assessed: HERMINIGILDA B DEKEYZER Name on last tax roll, if different: HILDA DEKEYZER (DAUGHTER) %MELY CLARKE All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 322 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 01268-0-00106 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-003 Description of Property:

A parcel of land lying in Lots 45 and 52 of Woodlawn, in Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 22 East as per plat recorded in Plat Book 1, page 17 of the public records of BRADFORD COUNTY, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Southeast corner of said Section 19 and run North 01 degree 21 minutes 56 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 2664.18 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of Lot 33, thence South 89 degrees 32 minutes 33 seconds West, along the Northernly boundary thereof, 349.34 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of the W 1/2 of said Lot 33; thence South 01 degree 30 minutes 46 seconds West, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 660.27 feet to an iron rod found at the Southeast corner thereof; thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 49 seconds West, along the Southerly boundary of said West 1/2 and along the Southerly boundaries of Lots 34 and 35, a distance of 1690.33 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of said Lot 45 for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described, run South 00 degrees 49 minutes 42 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof and along the Easterly boundary of Lot 52, a distance of 819.93 feet to an iron rod set on the Northernly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225, said Northernly boundary being on a curve, concave to the Southeast and having a radius of 7689.49 feet; thence Southwesterly, along said Northernly boundary and along to arc of said curve, 630.24 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 71 degrees 46 minutes 08 seconds West to an iron rod set at the beginning of a curve, concave to the Northeast and having a radius of 50.00 feet; thence Northwesterly, along the arc of said curve, 82.24 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 49 degrees 46 minutes 14 seconds West to an iron rod set on the Easterly boundary of the right of way of Country Road 225-A; thence North 05 degrees 33 minutes 18 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 971.40 feet to an iron rod set on the Northernly boundary of said Lot 45; thence South 89 degrees 41 minutes 49 seconds East, along said Northernly boundary 555.52 feet to the Point of Beginning. Name in Which Assessed: WILLIAMSON LAND DEVELOPMENT INC Name on last tax roll, if different: WILLIAMSON LAND DEVELOPMENT All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on June 20th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. 2015 KIA VIN# KNDJN2A24F7151067 2010 FORD VIN# 2FMDK3JC4ABA36193 6/12 2tchg 6/19-BCT

INVITATION TO BID

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting sealed proposals for the CR 100A (SE 44th Ave.) Sidewalk Improvements. All bidders must be FDOT pre-qualified for all categories of work required for this project. Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the required products or services must submit two (2) packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed Proposal for CR 100A (SE 44th Ave.) Sidewalk Improvements" to the Bradford County Clerk located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 no later than 2:00 PM local time, on July 24, 2025. All proposals MUST have the responder's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Proposals will be opened, and respondents announced at 2:15 PM, local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on July 24, 2025, in the Board of County BOCC Chambers located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. No faxed or emailed proposals will be accepted. RFP will be provided to interested parties via email. Interested parties are to contact Jenni Bennett with CHW at jenni.bennett@nv5.com to obtain an FTP link for download of the RFP. Project is funded entirely through FDOT, Financial Project ID: 443251-1-58-01. Design of the project is being handled by STV Incorporated. CEI services will be provided by an FDOT CEI consultant. A non-auditable pre-bid conference will be held at the Board of County BOCC Chambers located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 on July 8, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Representatives of Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference, but attendance is not required for submittal of Bid. The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all proposals, to cancel or withdraw this solicitation at any time and waive any irregularities in the RFP process. The County reserves the right to award any contract to the lowest responsive responsible bidder. The County is not bound to award any contract. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process. Additional information may be obtained from: Jason Dodds, Director of Public Works (904) 966-6243 jason.dodds@bradfordcountynv.gov BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Bradford County, Florida 6/19 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 1086 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 06203-A-04100 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-004 Description of Property: Lot 41, GENEVA LAKE ESTATES, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, Pages 36A and 36B of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida, Name in Which Assessed: DENNIS MAHONEY Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/17/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. ENG: DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA

The City of Starke, Florida will hold a City Commission Meeting on July 1, 2025 at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091 during which the second reading and a vote will occur for the following ordinances: **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, CREATING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON

FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 431 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 01872-0-01400 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-005 Description of Property: 35 5S 22 LOT 14 IN PEETSVILLE Name in Which Assessed: MARTHA J WHITLEY Name on last tax roll, if different: MARTHA J WHITLEY (DEC) % VERONICA WHITLEY All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/17/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE XI OF THE CITY OF STARKE CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE TO ADOPT THE 2024 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE; PROVIDING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS THERETO TO CONFORM TO FLORIDA LAW; CREATING REFERENCES TO DELETED PORTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE 2024 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, APPLICABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 25-02, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM AGRICULTURAL (AGR) TO HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (B-3) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **ORDINANCE 2025-11** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA PROVIDING VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES BEYOND CITY LIMITS FOR UTILITY SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. These ordinances are available for public inspection at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Interested parties may appear and have an opportunity to be heard at the meeting with respect to the proposed ordinances. 6/19 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: 04-2025-CP-000037 In re: DARLA FRANCES HOLLIFIELD, also known as DARLA F. HOLLIFIELD and DARLA HOLLIFIELD, Deceased. NOTICE OF ACTION TO: SHERRI WYRICK CLINE: YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Petition for Summary Administration has been filed in the above-referenced court, with the above-referenced case style and caption, and you are required to serve any objections on the undersigned, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, within 28 days of the first publication of this notice of action, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the undersigned or immediately thereafter; otherwise the Court in this action will consider and may grant the relief requested in the above-identified petition. Dated on June 12, 2025. DENNY THOMPSON Clerk of the Court BY: TASHER ALLEN Deputy Clerk 6/19 4tchg 7/10-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 24000204CAAXMX SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES, Plaintiff, V. NICHOLAS R. HAHTO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF NICHOLAS R. HAHTO; ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendant(s). NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated April 28, 2025 entered in Civil Case No. 24000204CAAXMX in the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for County, Florida, wherein SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES, Plaintiff and NICHOLAS R. HAHTO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF NICHOLAS R. HAHTO are defendants, Denny Thompson, Clerk of Court, will sell the property at public sale at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 beginning at on July 24, 2025 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: LOT 2 OF "ELI MANOR" (AMENDED PLAT), ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE(S) 8, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. TOGETHER WITH THAT 2021 MANUFACTURED HOME, ID NO. SBHGA22002423A AND SBHGA22002423B Property Address: 17360 NW 55th Ave, Starke, FL 32091 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE. NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN. Kelley Kronenberg 10360 West State Road 84 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324 Phone: (954) 370-9970 Fax: (954) 252-4571 Service E-mail: fitrealprop@kelleykronenberg.com /s/ Taij. S. Foreman Taij S. Foreman, Esq. FBN: 0058606 6/19 2tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on July 15, 2025. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on July 08, 2025 and end at 10AM on July 15, 2025. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837 Time: 10:00AM CST A39, Bradley, Cathy, A48, Wallace, Marisa, B20, Davis, Jiyemeece, B31, Denman, Ashley, B66, Robinson, Pertamina Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wyzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837. 6/19 2tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on July 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Z 25-02, an application by Tommy Lee Alexander, owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas Series of the Land Development Regulations by amending the Official Zoning Atlas classification from RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY -1 ("RSF-1") to RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY/ MOBILE HOME-1 ("RSF/MH-1") for the property described, as follows: A tract of land situated in the South ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said tract being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a concrete monument at the Northeast corner of the SW ¼ of said NW ¼ and run S.00°30'32" West, along the east line of said SW ¼ of the NW ¼, a distance of 784.00 feet to a concrete monument and the Point of Beginning; Thence run S.88°16'48" East, 179.86 feet; Thence run N.19° 57'02" West, 695.52 feet to the easterly right of way line of a 60 foot county graded road; Thence run N.19° 57'02" West, along said easterly right of way line, 174.96 feet; Thence run S.88° 16'45" East, 463.95 feet to the Point of Beginning. containing 2.5 acres, more or less. TAX PARCEL NUMBER 05819-0-01031, 05819-0-01032, 05819-0-01033, 05819-0-01034, AND 05819-0-01035 The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no future notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact (352)498-1206 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service (800)955-8771. All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. 6/19 1tchg-BCT

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on July 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Z 25-02, an application by Tommy Lee Alexander, owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas Series of the Land Development Regulations by amending the Official Zoning Atlas classification from RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY -1 ("RSF-1") to RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY/ MOBILE HOME-1 ("RSF/MH-1") for the property described, as follows: A tract of land situated in the South ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said tract being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a concrete monument at the Northeast corner of the SW ¼ of said NW ¼ and run S.00°30'32" West, along the east line of said SW ¼ of the NW ¼, a distance of 784.00 feet to a concrete monument and the Point of Beginning; Thence run S.88°16'48" East, 179.86 feet; Thence run N.19° 57'02" West, 695.52 feet to the easterly right of way line of a 60 foot county graded road; Thence run N.19° 57'02" West, along said easterly right of way line, 174.96 feet; Thence run S.88° 16'45" East, 463.95 feet to the Point of Beginning. containing 2.5 acres, more or less. TAX PARCEL NUMBER 05819-0-01031, 05819-0-01032, 05819-0-01033, 05819-0-01034, AND 05819-0-01035 The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no future notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact (352)498-1206 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service (800)955-8771. All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. 6/19 1tchg-BCT

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on July 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Z 25-02, an application by Tommy Lee Alexander, owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas Series of the Land Development Regulations by amending the Official Zoning Atlas classification from RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY -1 ("RSF-1") to RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY/ MOBILE HOME-1 ("RSF/MH-1") for the property described, as follows: A tract of land situated in the South ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said tract being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a concrete monument at the Northeast corner of the SW ¼ of said NW ¼ and run S.00°30'32" West, along the east line of said SW ¼ of the NW ¼, a distance of 784.00 feet to a concrete monument and the Point of Beginning; Thence run S.88°16'48" East, 179.86 feet; Thence run N.19° 57'02" West, 695.52 feet to the easterly right of way line of a 60 foot county graded road; Thence run N.19° 57'02" West, along said easterly right of way line, 174.96 feet; Thence run S.88° 16'45" East, 463.95 feet to the Point of Beginning. containing 2.5 acres, more or less. TAX PARCEL NUMBER 05819-0-01031, 05819-0-01032, 05819-0-01033, 05819-0-01034, AND 05819-0-01035 The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no future notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Z

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 19, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on July 1, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Z 25-01, an application by Newman Real Property, LLC., owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas Series of the Land Development Regulations by amending the Official Zoning Atlas classification from AGRICULTURE-2 ("A-2") to COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE ("CI") for the property described, as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SE ¼ AND RUN N.00°30'W, ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 980 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE S.88°00'20"W, 1,800.00 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE S.00°30'E., 304.54 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE S.00°30'E., A DISTANCE OF 152.27 FEET; THENCE S.88°00'20"W., A DISTANCE OF 432.26 FEET TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD 200; THENCE N.15°46'E., ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, 158.96 FEET; THENCE N.88°00'20"E., A DISTANCE OF 387.84 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Containing 1.46 Acres, more or less TAX PARCEL NUMBER 04760-0-00101

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any

continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no future notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

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

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact (352)498-1206 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service (800)955-8771.

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

6/19 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at public hearing on July 1, 2025 at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The title of said ordinances reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. XXXX-XX
AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 96-07, BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO APPLICATION BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM AGRICULTURE-2 ("A-2") TO COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE ("CI") OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED LIMITS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised

that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no future notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

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

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact (352)498-1206 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service (800)955-8771.

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6/19 1tchg-BCT

FAIR ASSOCIATION BOARD THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Fair Association will have an executive board meeting on June 24, 2025, at 5:30 PM followed by the full board meeting at 6:00 PM inside Building 3 located at the Bradford County Fairground, 2300 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL.

6/19 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2025-CP-0001

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN ANTONIUS TABAH, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the Estate of JOHN ANTONIUS TABAH, deceased, whose date of death was May 30, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME

OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is June 12, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative: s/ Marilyn A. Cangro Belo Marilyn A. Cangro Belo Attorney Charles Tabah Florida Bar Number: 22390 5745 SW 75th Street #363 Gainesville, Florida 32608

Telephone: (352) 448-4500 Fax: (352) 448-4510 E-Mail: lyan@mcbelolaw.com Secondary E-Mail: eservice@mcbelolaw.com Personal Representative: CHARLES TABAH 17527 NW 240th Terrace High Springs, Florida 32643 6/12 2tchg 6/19-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 63-2025-CP-000016-CPAM Estate Division

IN RE: The Estate of ROSCOE SEAY, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Roscoe Seay, deceased, whose date of death was March 26, 2025, File Number 63-2025-CP-000016-CPAM, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main St., Lake Butler, Florida 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS June 19, 2025. Attorney for Personal Representative: Gary D. Grunder Grunder & Petteway, P.A. 23349 Northwest CR 236, Suite 10 High Springs, Florida 32643 (386) 454-1298

Florida Bar I.D. 199486 garygrunder@grunder-petteway.com amykenner@grunder-petteway.com Personal Representative: Paula Seay 3652 SW 122nd Place Lake Butler, FL 32054 6/19 2tchg 6/26-UCT

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- **Get better service.** In a local business you know the person behind the counter and they know you. They have a deeper understanding of the products and services they are selling and they take the time to serve their customers.
- **Create & keep good jobs.** Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally and account for the vast majority of job growth. Growing local businesses mean more jobs for residents and more taxes to invest in our own communities, churches, schools and groups.



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Obituaries

Alfonso Espinoza

Alfonso "Cruz" Espinoza, 22, of St. Augustine died in a motorcycle accident Saturday, June 7, 2025.

He is survived by parents, Angela Provencio and Hector Espinoza; siblings, Trey, Talise, and Antonio; and extended family.

The Rosary will be 6 p.m. Friday, June 20, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel in Starke, with visitation following from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, June 21 at 12 p.m. at St. Edward Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery. A reception will follow at The Barn at Lakeside Ranch in Hawthorne.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights.

Maranda Plym

Mrs. Maranda Nichole Plym, 33, of Keystone Heights passed away unexpectedly at her home Monday, June 9, 2025. She was born in Orange Park March 10, 1992, and graduated from Keystone Heights High School in 2010, where she was active in sports, playing softball and volleyball. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and enjoyed animals, but mostly she loved being a mom and was known as the world's best soccer mom. She leaves behind her husband of 8.5 years, Marty Plym; and their children, Rylenn Kaye Plym (8) and Harper Jean Plym (4); her parents, Bruce and Shelley (Baird) Gibbs; and siblings, Morgan S. (Gibbs) (Jeff) Reid, Heather Gibbs Weaver (Guy Gautreaux) and Joshua A. (Katie) Gibbs. Also left behind are numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and a host of friends who will miss her dearly.

Visitation was held Monday, June 16, at Trinity Baptist Church. Funeral services followed with Pastor James Peoples and Pastor Scott Standland officiating. Interment followed at Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to your local humane society.

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



Adel Starling

Mrs. Edna Adel Starling, 88, of Starke passed away Thursday, May 15, 2025, at her home. She was born March 8, 1937, in Lawtey to the late Maxie and Lois (Sarling) Tanner. She was a retired sergeant from the Florida Prison System. She made many friends over the years and will be missed dearly.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, with Pastor Steve Conner officiating. Interment will be at Long Branch Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

Michael Tew Sr.

Michael "Mike" Steven Tew Sr., 73, of Lawtey passed away on Friday, June 6, 2025, at his residence. He was born in Jacksonville on Aug. 22, 1951, and raised by his loving parents, Shirley Joiner Gaskins and James "Jimmy" Gaskins. He resided in Jacksonville with his family until they relocated to Bradford County in 1960. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1970, and shortly after proudly served our county in the United States Army. Upon completing his service, he spent the next 22 years as a professional truck driver. When he wasn't working on the road, he found the most joy and purpose when tending to his family farm with his father. Together they plowed the fields, raised cattle and poultry, and cared for their strawberry fields. Mike was also an animal lover. He had a passion for horses as well as breeding and raising Treyline Southern Bred Swamp Curr dogs, a proven guard dog. More than anything, he enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. He was preceded in death by his mother; and sons, Michael Tew Jr. and Trey Tew.

He is survived by his father, James "Jimmy" Gaskins of Starke; children, Emily DeWitt of Starke, Ginger (Matt) Jacob of Winter Garden and Jeremy (Melissa) Brown of Fayetteville, North Carolina; sisters, Diane (Kent) Graudons of Starke and Jacque (Rick) Bailey of Ohio; grandchildren, Zachary (Kelsie) DeWitt, Brayden Jacob, Lane Brown, and Justin Brown; great-grandchildren, Decklyn DeWitt and Holdyn Dukes, along with a great-grandson on the way; companion, Sandy Ellis of Lawtey; and several extended family members and friends.

A memorial gathering in honor of his life was Thursday, June 12, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel.

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

Warren Project delivers hygiene items to schools

The Warren Project Corp. is pleased to announce that its first program — Accessible Hygiene for Students — was a success, with 1,046 items being divided among the five public schools in Bradford County to give to students in need.

Thanks go to community members for donating 767 of the items through a drive hosted by the former Fun Point in Starke. In addition, The Warren Project

Corp. received a \$150 gift card from Publix (Jacksonville division), which was used to purchase toothpaste and boys' body wash, \$32 from individuals and \$500 from the Starke Walmart as part of a Spark Good Local Grant. The grant funds were used to supplement multiple categories of hygiene products after the Fun Point drive.

The Warren Project Corp. is blessed to have more than \$100 to put toward the hygiene program in the fall of the 2025-26 school year.

Personnel at all schools were excited and grateful for the supplies, sharing how big of a need there is for them. Very basic items, such as deodorant and socks, were among the items most requested by schools.

The Warren Project Corp. is grateful to Bradford County for ensuring that the students' needs were met. The organization looks forward to continuing the program and improving it over the years to come.

If you'd like to know more about The Warren Project Corp., please visit thewarrenprojectcorp.org or call 904-769-9353. You may also send email to thewarrenprojectcorp@gmail.com.

The Warren Project Corp. consists of Founder/President Sarah Mosley, Secretary/Treasurer Leisa Sims and directors Patricia Evans, Amy Lewis and Gerald Smith.



Sarah Mosley (center) delivers supplies to Starke Elementary School and School Resource Deputy Jarred Altman (far left) and Assistant Principal Michelle Ware.



Amy Lewis (left) and Sarah Mosley are pictured with boxes of hygiene supplies delivered to Bradford Elementary School.



LEFT: Sarah Mosley (right) is pictured with Lawtey Elementary Secretary Karen Henry. BELOW: BMS Assistant Principal Rob Charles (second from left) and Principal Crystal Williams (second from right) accept supplies from Sarah Mosley (far right) and Gerald Smith.



State-champ livestock judging team visits Starke Kiwanis Club

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The last time Lizzie Whitehead brought a Bradford County 4-H livestock judging team to a Kiwanis Club of Starke meeting, she said the team had "completed the impossible" by winning a state championship.

That was in 2023. When she brought the 2025 team to the Kiwanis Club's June 10 meeting at The Downtown Grill in Starke, she got to share that the impossible had once again become the possible.

"We've done it again," said Whitehead, the UF/IFAS livestock and natural-resources agent for Bradford County who coaches the team.

The work toward this year's state championship began at the end of October 2024. The team will continue its training as well as attend camps at the University of Florida and University of Tennessee in preparation for nationals, which take place in November in Louisville, Kentucky.

"They get a whole year with me," Whitehead said, adding, "These kids have really improved. I'm excited to take them to Louisville."

Competing on this year's team are Jake Markham, Kelsey Reddish, Madison Stein and Macie Wilson. Each spoke at the Kiwanis meeting.

Wilson said this is her fourth year on the Bradford team, adding, "I was actually the alternate on the past state-championship team." She then talked about how being on the team has benefited her in the areas of public speaking and livestock shows.

"I'm now able to be comfortable in public, talking to so many people," Wilson said.



The Bradford 4-H livestock judging team, which won its state competition and will compete at nationals, visited the Kiwanis Club of Starke on June 10. Pictured (l-r) are Kiwanis President George Konkell, livestock judging team members Jake Markham, Kelsey Reddish, Macie Wilson and Madison Stein, and Coach Lizzie Whitehead.

"It has also taught me so many things about showing. I show steers and heifers in the Union County fair. It has taught me how to properly pick the right animal to make sure that I will have a good chance up there."

Wilson, who's entering her senior year of high school, wants to earn a master's degree in Animal Sciences at the University of Florida, but would welcome the opportunity to be a part of another college's livestock judging team.

"I'm most likely going to take (that opportunity) because that is the avenue I want to go down," Wilson said.

Stein is in her sixth year of livestock judging, though this is her first year on the Bradford 4-H team.

"I can truly say that Ms. Lizzie has made a world of difference in the way that I judge," Stein said.

Like Wilson, Stein talked about how being on the team has

taught her so much more than how to judge livestock.

"Over time, judging becomes so much more than just evaluating livestock or giving oral reasons," Stein said. "It taught me how to think critically, communicate clearly and make decisions with confidence."

Stein said the lessons she's learned she'll "carry with me beyond the contest room."

The laughter she's shared with her teammates and how they've pushed each other to be their best have created special memories.

"For me, this team has become more than just judging," Stein said. "It represents friendship, growth and the kind of connection that comes from spending countless hours chasing a shared goal."

Stein, who is entering her senior year of high school, wants to do livestock judging for a junior college in the Midwest and then transfer to a four-year

school. Markham, who's in his first year of livestock judging, said he's excited to see what he and his teammates can accomplish after winning state.

"I'm so proud of how we did (at state), and I'm ready for all these camps and to get better," he said.

Markham said livestock judging has helped him with his public-speaking skills. He said the fact he was talking before the Kiwanis Club was proof of that.

He'll have a couple of more years of competing in livestock judging in 4-H as he'll be a high school junior this upcoming school year. Markham would like to be part of a team after high school, too.

"I want to see if I can continue at the collegiate level with livestock judging," he said.

Like Markham, Reddish is in

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The Genuine. The Original.

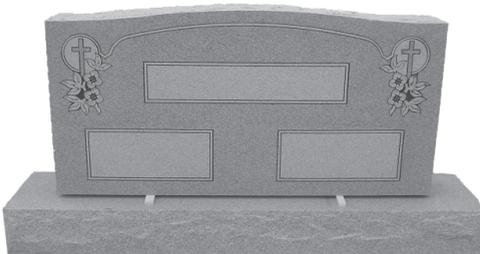


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UCHS numbers grow during workouts

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Despite the drama surrounding the Union County High School football program, young men are putting in the work to get ready for the 2025 season.

Interim Head Coach Lamar Waters couldn't be more pleased with what he's seen to this point, with the number of participants doubling since workouts began. Waters, who assumes the reins of the program this year in the aftermath of the firing of Andrew Thomas on May 29, said the Tigers had 23 players at the end of the school year. The first day of summer workouts consisted of 21 players. That increased to 28 the second day.

On June 16, the Tigers had 47 participants.

Waters, who was named interim coach for the 2025 season on June 2, is seeing kids who haven't played football before as well as kids who were once a part of the program, but who haven't played the last couple of years.

"It's kind of steadily grown since (the first day)," Waters said of the participation.

Working with the players is a group of "awesome people," Waters said. The program went pretty quickly from having no coaches to having 8-10 people stepping up to do whatever they can to help, including some who are doing so as volunteers right now.

UCHS Wrestling Coach Edwin Johnson and Lake Butler Middle School Athletic Director Aaron Tetstone offered their services to Waters on the day he was named

interim coach.

"Both of those guys are fixtures in these hallways (at the school)," Waters said.

Craig Slocum was one of the assistant coaches who announced his resignation after Thomas was fired, but he changed his mind and has returned to the program.

"Him stepping in is a big deal," Waters said, adding, "He changed his mind (about resigning) the next day. I understand. I've been on both sides of that."

Slocum is one of five former UCHS players who are helping out this summer. Joining him are Maurice Strong, Daquin "Buddy" Edwards, Caleb Williams and Gerard Warren.

Warren, a defensive lineman, played on the Tigers' 1994, 1995 and 1996 state championship teams and went on to play at the University of Florida and in the NFL for the Cleveland Browns, Denver Broncos, Oakland Raiders and New England Patriots.

"He's been here just about every day," Waters said of Warren. "Of course, his name carries a lot of weight in the hallways here at the school."

Williams is running the strength-and-conditioning program this summer. The son of longtime Union County agriculture teacher Tom Williams, Williams has experience at the collegiate level (LaGrange College, University of Mississippi, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Tennessee, University of North Florida, University of North Florida). Waters said Williams, who had been the strength coach at Jacksonville's Bolles, told him, "Coach, I'd much rather wear purple and gold than wear orange and blue."

Whitehead said her goal is for the team to place in the top 10 at nationals. Bradford's 4-H team will be one of approximately 40 competing.

"We have a lot of work to do," Whitehead said. "We have a lot of talented people in this county who do livestock judging."

Of course, she believes her team consists of four talented people as well.

"They're a good group of youth who have a huge future ahead of them in the agriculture industry," Whitehead said.

Waters described Williams as "probably the biggest hire," saying, "We may very well have the best strength staff in North Florida."

Williams is also a professor in kinesiology at the University of North Florida, so he can't be the team's full-time strength coach in the fall due to his schedule, but Waters said Williams is "going to train these other coaches to do what he does."

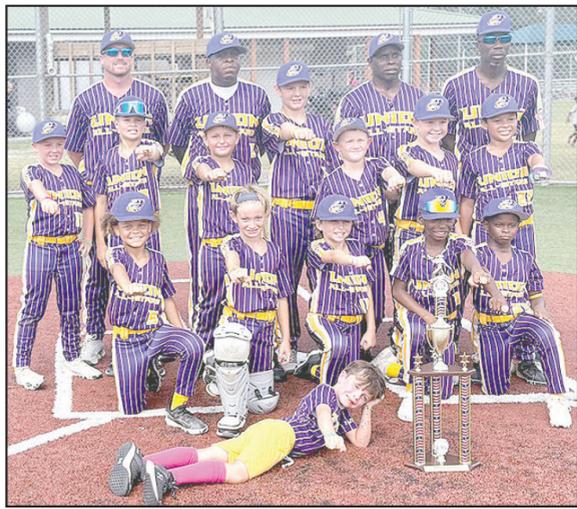
Waters will also get help from Steve Hoard, whom he's coached

with. They were both members of Head Coach Robby Pruitt's staff at UCHS in the 1990s.

"Coach Hoard's still around to give advice," Waters said. "He's always there. That's invaluable. We coached together a long time. He's kind of a sounding board, if you will."

Kyle Halfacre has also been lending his support, leading the team during devotions and being

See UCHS, page 13



The Union County 10U Minor All-Stars have gone 4-0 in three straight tournaments, with the latest outing giving the team the district-championship trophy. Pictured are: (lying down) Kayden Klein, (front, l-r) Jayden Alexander, Lawson Roddenberry, Rafe Alvarez, Ryder Odom, Kyron Cohen, (middle, l-r) Daylen Klein, Luke Alvarez, Judson Vickery, Easton Box, John Carter Hunt, Royal Jenkins, (back, l-r) assistant coaches Nick Klein and Johnathan Alexander, Maisen Bonds, Assistant Coach Kyler Cohen and Head Coach Randy Odom.

Union's 10U Minor All-Stars win district

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County's 10U Minor All-Star baseball team scored five runs in the first inning en route to defeating Madison 10-6 to win the District 6 championship — the program's first in 27 years.

It was the second straight win over Madison as part of a 4-0 outing in the June 5-8 tournament in Live Oak. It was also the third straight tournament swept by the Union team, which went 4-0 in the May 16-18 All-Star Warmup in Citra and then 4-0 in the May 24-25 All-Star Warmup in Newberry.

Union got off to a strong start in the District 6 championship game, getting three consecutive singles from Kyron Cohen, Rafe Alvarez and Judson Vickery to lead off the bottom of the first. Vickery's hit scored the game's first run.

The inning continued, with Maisen Bonds and Royal Jenkins hitting back-to-back one-out singles. Two runs scored on Jenkins' hit to put Union up 3-0.

Two more runs were put on the board in the inning when Luke Alvarez hit a two-out triple.

Rafe Alvarez and Easton Box each drove in a run to put Union up 7-2, while a three-run fifth

featured a two-run, two-out triple by Lawson Roddenberry and a run scored on an error.

Jenkins, Roddenberry and Luke Alvarez each finished with two RBI. Alvarez and Roddenberry each batted 2 for 3, as did Cohen and Vickery.

Box, Vickery and Rafe Alvarez each drove in one run.

Starting pitcher Rafe Alvarez gave up two runs, seven hits and no walks in four innings. He struck out two.

Union's run to the championship began with an 11-4 win over Lake City on June 5.

Vickery, Luke Alvarez and Daylen Klein each had an RBI as part of a three-run first. Lake City tied the score with three runs in the top of the third, but Union answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning. Singles by Klein and Luke Alvarez and a walk to John Carter Hunt loaded the bases. After a force play at home, Jenkins drove in a run with a single. After Box walked to load the bases again, Hunt scored on a passed ball. Jenkins then scored on a steal of home to put Union up 6-3.

It was 7-3 before Union

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Gavin Smith (right) gets assistance from Strength Coach Caleb Williams during a stretching session.

TEAM

Continued from page 10

her first year of livestock judging.

"Livestock judging has truly helped me overall, as the others have said, with public speaking and learning how to judge an animal," Reddish said. "I show cattle, so it helps me be able to decide what cattle I should have on my ranch and in my breeding program."

Reddish, who is entering her senior year of high school, said her plans are to major in Animal

Sciences and become a large-animal veterinarian.

"I also plan to follow livestock judging at the collegiate level," she said.

Reddish also expressed her thanks to the Kiwanis Club, saying, "You all really help build our community. We probably wouldn't be here without you all. We truly just want to thank you all for your support."

Support from the Kiwanis Club and the community as a whole paid fully for the 2023 team's trip to nationals.

This year's team is in the midst of raising funds for this

year's trip as well as for the trips to the livestock judging camps at the University of Florida and University of Tennessee.

If you'd like to make a donation in support of the team, please call Whitehead at the UF/IFAS Extension office in Bradford County at 904-966-6224. You may also email her at liz.whitehead@ufl.edu.

Donations of at least \$150 get your name/company name on team members' T-shirts. Donations of at least \$1,000 (received by July 1) get your name/company name on team members' jacket patches.



RIGHT: Keegan Shuler pushes a weighted sled while getting encouragement from teammate C.J. Ivey (background, left) and Strength Coach Caleb Williams. BELOW RIGHT: Coach Maurice Strong (right) gives encouragement to Jamarrion Ford during a June 16 workout session.



Waters described Williams as "probably the biggest hire," saying, "We may very well have the best strength staff in North Florida."

Williams is also a professor in kinesiology at the University of North Florida, so he can't be the team's full-time strength coach in the fall due to his schedule, but Waters said Williams is "going to train these other coaches to do what he does."

Waters will also get help from Steve Hoard, whom he's coached

with. They were both members of Head Coach Robby Pruitt's staff at UCHS in the 1990s.

"Coach Hoard's still around to give advice," Waters said. "He's always there. That's invaluable. We coached together a long time. He's kind of a sounding board, if you will."

Kyle Halfacre has also been lending his support, leading the team during devotions and being

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Tri-County Classifieds

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Classified

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40 Notices

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Clark selected for 1st-team all-conference again for CCF

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

College of Central Florida sophomore softball player Leah Clark earned first-team All-Citrus Conference honors after again being one of the top offensive players for the Ocala junior college.

Clark, a 2023 Union County High School graduate who was also a first-team all-conference selection her freshman season, led the Patriots in hits (69), home runs (10), RBI (54), runs scored (52). She shared the team high

in doubles (17) and stolen bases (30). Clark was successful on all of her stolen-base attempts and was 75 for 75 in her two-year career.

The numbers, which also include a .390 batting average that was second on the team, led to Clark being named Central Florida's Offensive Player of the Year. She also received the James D. Harvey Department of Athletics Achievement Award.

Clark has committed to Florida International University to continue her career.

Some of her highlights this past season included:

—2 for 3 with a run scored in a 9-1 win over Polk State Jan. 24.

—3 for 4 with a double, a home run, four RBI and a run scored in 14-1 win over USAF

See CLARK, page 14

DISTRICT

Continued from page 11

pushed its final four runs across in the fifth. Vickery walked, stole second and third and the scored on a passed ball. Jenkins walked and moved to second on a wild pitch. After Box was hit by a pitch, Jenkins stole third and then scored on a steal of home. A two-out error allowed Ryder Odom to reach and a run to score. Odom would score the last run on a steal of home.

Jenkins, Klein, Vickery and Luke Alvarez each had one RBI, with Klein batting 2 for 2 and Alvarez going 2 for 3.

Jayden Alexander pitched two innings, giving up three runs

(two earned) and two hits, while striking out two. Box allowed no runs, three hits and no walks in three innings, striking out two.

Vickery threw the final inning, giving up one unearned run and no hits, while striking out two.

Union fell behind 8-1 in its second game — also played on June 5 — but eventually defeated Suwannee 13-8.

After cutting into the deficit with a two-run second, Union pushed 10 runs across in the fifth. Rafe Alvarez drew a leadoff walk. Hunt and Vickery each singled, with Vickery's hit scoring a run. Box walked to load the bases before Alexander was hit by a pitch to force a run in. Bonds then cleared the bases with a three-run double, tying the

score at 8-8.

The inning continued, with Bonds driving in a run on a ground out and Alexander scoring on a passed ball. Rafe Alvarez added an RBI single before Vickery hit a two-run double to complete the game's scoring.

Vickery batted 3 for 4. He and Bonds each drove in three runs.

Hunt also batted 3 for 4, while Roddenberry went 2 for 3 with an RBI.

Alexander, Luke Alvarez and Rafe Alvarez each finished with one RBI.

Rafe Alvarez pitched the final four innings, giving up no runs, four hits and no walks, while striking out three.

Union had a six-run fourth inning in defeating Madison 6-5

on June 6.

With his team down 2-0, Klein hit a single, advanced to second on an error and then moved to third on a passed ball. He scored on a Luke Alvarez single. Union later had the bases loaded when Box hit a two-run double, putting his team up 3-2. Alexander followed with a two-run single and then later scored the team's final run on a passed ball.

Madison scored two runs in the sixth to make it a one-run game. With two on with two outs, pitcher Alexander recorded a strikeout on a 2-2 count to end the game.

Box and Alexander each finished with two RBI, while Luke Alvarez had one.

Cohen batted 2 for 3.

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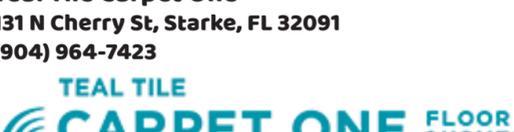
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SHOP LOCAL ALL 2025



Gibbs finds a passion in making people dance

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Pablo Picasso is credited with saying, “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

Brighton Gibbs’ art helps people dance away the dust of everyday life.

Gibbs, a 2015 Keystone Heights High School graduate who lives in Orlando, has found a passion in electronic dance music, which has led to him creating his own music and working as a DJ. He recently released an EP — “Brighton’s House” — and has several singles to his credit. His music is available on Spotify as well as Apple Music and SoundCloud.

He has his dreams, of course, of improving as a producer, growing his fanbase and performing as a DJ on larger stages at larger venues. The main thing, though, is that he’s doing something that gives him joy.

“All it is is art,” Gibbs said, adding, “It’d be nice to get recognition for it, but at the end of the day, I’m expressing myself and putting something out into the world. Hopefully, people enjoy it. If they don’t, at least I contributed something.”

Gibbs, the son of Kenny and Tonya Gibbs, has been making music for a few years now and has been a DJ for about a year and a half at events in Orlando as well as throughout the state. “It’s just slowly growing,” he said.

Gibbs considers himself a full-time producer/DJ, but added he can’t pay all of his bills through just music at his point. To help him with that is the business he and his father have — Floor Busters, which provides interior demolition for houses, condos and businesses.

His family is “extremely supportive” of his career, Gibbs said, adding, “They give me all the time I need. If I need to go to a gig that somewhere far away, or I need a day off to do a show or do something, there are no questions asked. It’s just constant support.”

Becoming a music producer and DJ wasn’t a lifelong dream, but Gibbs couldn’t help but go down that path after attending the Electric Daisy Carnival Orlando.

A really good vibe

EDC Orlando is a three-day music festival that Gibbs said attracts approximately 250,000

people annually. It consists of multiple stages, rides and artwork.

“I fell in love with the community and the people who were there,” he said. “It’s kind of like the peace-and-love movement of the ‘70s, where everybody’s just really kind and loving.”

Gibbs said he wasn’t even aware of electronic dance music — also known as EDM — growing up in Keystone, but he said the crowd he was a part of at EDC Orlando “sucked me in” and created an interest in producing EDM himself.

“All you need, really, to make the music is a laptop,” Gibbs said. “It’s all electronic. It’s all off synthesizers and stuff you can get off the internet. Getting into it isn’t really that hard. It’s not super expensive.”

Today’s world makes it easy for people to learn how to do new things. Gibbs said YouTube was a valuable resource.

“There are so many people on there to teach you how to go about making music and designing drums and doing things with the synthesizers — to get them to work the way you want them to.”

“The learning curve has just been brought down so much over the last few years with all the things you have at your fingertips to help you learn. I just went all in on it and learned as much as I could, and I continue to learn every day.”

An art — not just pressing a button

While getting into it is easy, EDM producing/DJing is anything but. Gibbs said many people think DJing, for example, is just pressing a button and playing music.

“There’s a whole art, especially with what we do with electronic music,” Gibbs said. “DJing isn’t just like playing a song necessarily, but the ability to shift from one song to another flawlessly without anybody noticing and keeping the whole crowd with you the whole time.”

Gibbs said he can play two songs at once, but because of how he mixes them, they sound like one song.

“It creates a whole new sound and a whole new song that no one’s ever heard before,” Gibbs said, “but it has vocals from a track that everybody knows. You put them over a new set of drums



Brighton Gibbs, a 2015 Keystone Heights High School graduate, is trying to make a name for himself as an electronic dance music DJ and producer. The shirt he’s pictured wearing is part of a clothing brand he and his wife, Torri, created called “Dogs and House Music.”

or a new beat, and you create a whole new thing that’s your own in that moment.”

Gibbs said it can take years for someone to learn how to seamlessly mix different pieces of music together.

“Music comes in different beats per minute and different keys,” Gibbs said. “If you just press play on two tracks at the same time, it could clash really bad and sound horrible. You have to learn to get that to blend and sound like one good, cohesive song.”

A DJ also has to be able to read the room. That’s something Gibbs learned during his first-ever gig, which took place in a wine bar in Orlando.

“It was just trying to keep a nice, cool vibe for everybody while they were relaxing,” Gibbs said, adding, “You didn’t want things that were really fast and heavy.”

Gibbs said a music producer is the person “who makes the beat behind the vocals.” When it comes to EDM, the producer is making a track on a computer that would be impossible for a conventional band to perform in a live setting because of how many instruments go into creating it.

A producer such as Gibbs, though, does perform his creation in a live setting as a DJ.

“That’s our way of putting on a show,” Gibbs said.

Scratching an itch

County or have Union County connections.”

Waters said he’s heard of others who have expressed a desire to help, and he’ll reach out to them when he finds their contact information.

The help goes beyond coaching. Waters said so many in the community have stepped up in some way, such as donating meals or donating money for meals. The coach described the support as “incredible.”

“All I know is every day something new happens that’s positive,” Waters said.

That has been a boost for a program that many people may have viewed as being in trouble following the firing of Thomas,

who won 77 percent of his games in five years, and the resignation of most of the assistant coaching staff.

No matter what happened or is yet to happen, Water knows one thing — whoever suits up for the Tigers is stepping onto the field with confidence. That comes from being part of a program with a storied past.

“I told the kids last week they have a bit of an advantage over other teams in the area,” Waters said. “This is not a knock on any other program, but the kids in Union County believe that when they put that jersey on, they’re going to win. You don’t have that everywhere.”

Gibbs played football at KHHS and received a scholarship to play at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. Once his playing days were over, he admitted “there was just a big hole in my life.” He no longer experienced the thrill (as well as the anxiety) that comes from performing in front of others.

That changed with his foray into EDM.

“This is definitely something that brings that back into my life and gives me something to be excited about,” Gibbs said. “It gives me something to be competitive about as well.”

As in football (and other sports), not everything goes the way you want it to.

“There are nightmare stories,” Gibbs said.

One such story involved him being hired by a venue to close the night out following the performance of a Frank Sinatra cover band.

“I come in and play like disco music for everybody — to move the room,” Gibbs said. “They wanted me to move the room into more of a nightclub feeling. It was just a horrible situation for me as a DJ. I had an elderly man come up to me and tell me my music taste was absolutely horrible and that I should never do whatever it is I’m doing anymore.”

Gibbs laughed as he recounted the incident and went on to say that DJs are going to have nights that are “miserable” and interactions with people who aren’t kind.

“You have to deal with parties and the more-crazy side of people sometimes,” he said.

Mostly, though, Gibbs is surrounded by people who are dancing and enjoying themselves. He said that’s typically all he needs to see to know he’s doing a good job.

That, in turn, leads to him enjoying himself as well.

“The whole job of a DJ is to create an environment of fun,” Gibbs said. “You have so much fun doing that. At least I do.”

Moving forward

Gibbs has worked venues such as Elixir, Fixtion, McQueens and Pretty Please — all in Orlando — and will be in the lineup for “It Just Doesn’t Stop” Season 4, an EDM festival that will take place in Venice July 31-Aug. 3.

Getting gigs, though, is the hardest part of what he does.

“Once you get a little bit of notoriety, it’s still a dog-eat-dog world,” he said. “There are always people at the same level as you, and you’re all going out for the same job. Everybody’s trying to get the same gig.”

“Until you get to that level where you have a hit track, and you’re selling based off of your name alone, it’s tough.”

Gibbs, though, said he’s been “enjoying the ride” as he hopes to accomplish several goals, the biggest of which is to play the main stage at EDC Orlando.

“Hopefully, I’ll hit that goal, but there are a lot of small goals along the way,” Gibbs said.

He’d like to DJ at a big venue in Orlando called The Vanguard and has been in talks with the owners about possibly doing that. Gibbs is also looking forward to breaking the 100,000-stream mark on Spotify.

“We’re at 80,000,” he said. “We’re almost there.”

Besides the music, Gibbs and his wife, Torri, have a clothing brand called “Dogs and House

See GIBBS, page 14



Brighton Gibbs DJs an event. His music, according to his website (brightonofficial.com), “fuses cinematic emotion with hypnotic rhythm” and “lives at the crossroads of melodic tech, deep house and progressive.”

UCHS

Continued from page 11

an uplifting presence overall, Waters said.

When he looks at the men who have come forward to help, Waters can’t help but see God’s hand at work, especially when several of the men are there because they called Waters “out of the blue” to offer their services.

It’s a “God thing,” Waters said, and is certainly an answer to prayers.

“I asked (God) to send me good people to work with young men,” Waters said, adding, “All these people are from Union

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CLARK

Continued from page 12

on Jan. 26
 —3 for 4 with a stolen base in a 5-4 loss to Volunteer State on Feb. 8.
 —2 for 4 with a home run, three RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases in a 7-4 win over Polk State on Feb. 27.
 —2 for 4 with a double and a run scored in a 10-2 win over Polk State on Feb. 27.
 —3 for 4 with a double, two home runs, five RBI and two runs scored in a 13-7 loss to Eastern Florida State on March 1.
 —Four stolen bases in an 8-0 win over Florida State College at Jacksonville on March 3.
 —2 for 5 with a double, a



Union County High School graduate Leah Clark (center) is pictured with FIU Head Softball Coach Mike Larabee (left) and Assistant Coach Mike Meyers. Clark is transferring to FIU after playing two years at Ocala's College of Central Florida.

home run, three RBI and two runs scored in a 10-0 win over Florida State College at Jacksonville on March 3.

—2 for 5 with two RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases in a 13-7 win over St. Petersburg College on March 4.
 —2 for 4 with a run scored and a stolen base in a 5-3 win over Hillsborough on March 11.
 —2 for 3 with a home run, three RBI, three runs scored and a stolen base in a 19-2 win over Hillsborough on March 11.
 —3 for 3 with a home run, two RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases in a 14-3 loss to St. Johns River State on March 12.

—2 for 4 with an RBI, three runs scored and two stolen bases in a 12-11 win over Seminole State on March 25.
 —2 for 4 with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored in a 10-4 loss to Daytona State on April 1.
 —2 for 4 with a run scored and two stolen bases in a 9-2 loss to Polk State on April 3.
 —2 for 5 with two doubles, four RBI and a run scored in a 16-15 loss to Polk State on April 3.
 —4 for 5 with three RBI, two

runs scored and two stolen bases in a 13-6 win over St. Petersburg on April 8.
 —2 for 3 with a triple, two RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base in an 11-3 win over Hillsborough on April 15.
 —3 for 4 with a double, a home run, four RBI and three runs scored in a 20-1 win over Hillsborough on April 15.
 —2 for 4 with a double, two RBI and a run scored in a 10-8 loss to Florida Southwestern State on April 17.

GIBBS

Continued from page 13

Music.”
 “It’s really been an adventure,” Gibbs said.
 An adventure that wasn’t even on his radar as he was growing up in Keystone.

“I think he would’ve doubted it very much,” Gibbs said if the younger version of himself had been told what he’d be doing in his future, “but I was pretty open-minded back then. I might have just been down for it.”
 The current version of Gibbs is definitely down for it. He wishes he would’ve gotten into EDM sooner, but also said, “I’m happy

it happened the way that it did.”
 If you’d like to know more about Gibbs, visit brightonofficial.com. The website includes links to his music on Apple Music, SoundCloud and Spotify as well as to his YouTube channel and Facebook, Instagram and TikTok accounts. You can also access Dogs and House Music merchandise via the website.

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