

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025

146th year, 27th Issue — \$1



Emergency responders successfully rescued the boater and brought the individual onshore for a medical evaluation. No injuries were reported, said Fire-Rescue.

## Boat capsizes on Sampson Lake

BY JENN SAMSEL  
Special to the Telegraph

On Friday, January 10, Bradford County Fire Rescue, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission responded to a distressed boater on Lake Sampson in Bradford

County.

According to Fire-Rescue, at around 6:00 p.m., a 911 distress call was received about a partially capsized Jon boat with the boater still on board.

Emergency responders successfully rescued the boater and brought the individual onshore for a medical

evaluation.

No injuries were reported, said Fire-Rescue.

A law enforcement source said the boater was spotting ducks when the accident occurred.

The scene was turned over to FWC.

## Wawa developer aims for May groundbreaking in Lake Butler

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler City Manager Kim Hayes said the developer of a Wawa Convenience store hopes to break ground in May.

Pritchett Inc. and the Marvin H. Pritchett Family Trust own the two parcels on which the store will be

located. They total nearly two acres and are on the northwest corner of Southwest 6th Street and 6th Avenue, across the avenue from Circle K and across 6th Street from Tiger's Den daycare.

Hayes said the developer applied to the city in December for approval of the site plan and development. She forwarded the application to the North

Florida Regional Planning Council, which handles building matters for the municipality.

The Philadelphia-area-based chain entered Florida in 2012 in Orlando and has expanded since, reaching nearly 200 Florida locations in 2024.

The company's name comes from the Ojibwe word for snow goose, but its logo features a Canadian goose.

## Black Creek project delayed to March

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A director for the St. Johns River Water Management District said that although the pipeline and intake station for the Black Creek Water Development Resource Project are complete, the treatment facility is only 75% finished, and the media used to filter water before its discharge into Alligator Creek is only 11% complete.

Dale Jenkins, the director of the district's Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources, told the district's governing board during its January 14 meeting that he could not say when Black Creek water would start flowing into Keystone Heights area lakes but estimated that March might be the earliest.

The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project is designed to recharge the Upper Floridan aquifer and raise water levels in Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva. The project is part of the lakes' recovery plan, which helps the district comply with regulatory minimum flows and levels.

The project consists of three components: the intake and pump stations at the intersection of State Road 16 and the creek's south fork,

the 17.2-mile pipeline along State Roads 21 and 16, and the treatment facility on Camp Blanding between Lake Magnolia and Lake Brooklyn.

Jenkins said that the pipeline is half full of water now because of previous pressure testing.

The director added that testing of the system controls and data acquisition at the pump station should be complete within three to four weeks.

"So once all the pumps have been tested," he told governing board members, "we'll fill up that pipeline, we'll fill up that tank, and then we'll be ready to put water into the treatment system."

Jenkins said the project's current holdup is the production of the treatment facility's media, through which the brown, tannin, Black Creek water will be filtered before being discharged into Alligator Creek.

"The contractor is doing a major reconstruction of the treatment process," he explained. "There are three brand new conveyors that are being put into place, and the contractor has informed me that they will be done sometime in late January. It should be able to produce media three times quicker than they are right



The treatment facility at Camp Blanding consists of a water tank and six cells for filtering the water.

now."

The treatment facility at Camp Blanding consists of a water tank and six cells for filtering the water.

Jenkins said Cell 1 is almost full of media. Cells 2 and 3 are ready for media whenever it becomes available, and Cells 4, 5, and 6 are still under construction.

The director said the project's final hurdle will be water quality testing once the treatment facility is complete.

## BHS graduation rate up 11.2% in two years

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Both Florida and Bradford County raised their high school graduation rate at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School also graduated a higher percentage of students last year.

Bradford High School's 87.3% graduation rate showed the most improvement, however. School district leaders celebrated the news during Monday's board meeting, with Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke saying, "We're just at that door of 90%, which is pretty incredible in a very short period of time."

Principal Chris Coffey later said, "The Class of 2024's success is a testament to the dedication of our students, the support of their families, and the hard work of the incredible teachers and staff that worked with them from pre-K through senior year. Together, we've achieved a nearly 5% increase in our graduation rate, and we couldn't be prouder of this achievement. Go Tornadoes, Go Big Red!"

Bradford's graduation rate grew 4.8 percentage points over the prior year, and that's more than 11 percentage points in just two years.

Bradford County	
2018-19	87.7%
2019-20*	88.2%
2020-21*	85%
2021-22	76.1%
2022-23	82.5%
2023-24	87.3%

Bradford High graduated 178 of 203 students in the cohort. This included 87% of its 46 Black seniors and 78% of its 41 ESE seniors — an improvement in both categories. The Hispanic group was not large enough for DOE to report the results.

(Years marked with an asterisk are the pandemic years, during which high school graduates were exempt from statewide standardized assessment requirements for graduation. These are marked as a reminder that many districts saw an improvement in the graduation rate, as Bradford did in 2020. Rates during these years could be interpreted as artificially high because of the reduced graduation requirements. Many districts experienced a drop in their graduation rates following the pandemic.)

Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High at 92.9% had the highest of the local high school scores. Like the prior year, this was just under the districtwide rate for Clay County, which was 93.3% in 2023-24.

Clay County	
2018-19	91.9%
2019-20*	93.4%
2020-21*	92.7%
2021-22	89.9%
2022-23	90.9%
2023-24	93.3%

Keystone Heights High graduated

See GRADS, page 3



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## WORTH NOTING

### It's time to plant potatoes

Alligator Creek Garden Club begins this calendar year with Bradford County Extension agent Luke Harlow speaking about planting and growing potatoes. The public is invited to attend. The meeting is this Thursday, Jan. 16, at 2 p.m. at the Bradford County Senior Center located at 1805 N. Temple Ave. (north U.S. 301 in front of the health department).

For more information call Tracy Meadows at 904-585-6692 or Pat Caren at 352-339-3673.

### MLK Banquet and program

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County has announced the eighth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. banquet will take place at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center in Starke on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. Tickets are available now for \$40. Contact 904-964-6532 or ccbc\_inc@yahoo.com for more information.

The annual MLK program will also take place at the conference center on Monday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m. This free celebration is open to the entire community. A meal will follow the service.

### Fairgrounds, Lawley food distributions

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

A second distribution will take place Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 9 a.m. at the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawley.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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### Correction

Our story, "Tallman Says Goodbye to the County Commission," in the November 26, 2024, edition of the Telegraph-Times-Monitor, contained several errors.

In that story, we reported

on a presentation to county commissioners by Bryon Foshay of Atlantic Land and Lakes about his proposed Union County development, Liberty Farms.

We misstated the speaker's name as Brian Brown instead of Bryon Foshay and the project's name as Liberty Acres instead of

Liberty Farms.

In addition, Mr. Foshay told commissioners that his company intended to offer parcels to Union County residents before offering the land to the general public. Our story incorrectly indicated that the offer would also include homes.

Finally, when asked about the price of parcels, Foshay responded that they would likely cost between \$7,000 and \$15,000 an acre. Our story incorrectly stated that the cost would be between \$7,000 and \$15,000 per lot.

### Soil and water conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Bradford County

Extensions Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. (U.S. 301) in Starke. The Lake Sampson workshop and Cypress Run Boat Ramp will be discussed.

Contact Paul Still at 904-368-0291 or stillpe@aol.com for more information and the Zoom link.

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# Bradford ready to request new middle and high school

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Some options for the future of Bradford's middle and high schools were presented during a Jan. 13 school board workshop.

The district has been preparing its case for the state funding needed to replace both schools, which could be united in single campus.

Architect Paul Stressing is finishing up what is known as a Castaldi Report. The report explores the economic feasibility of renovating a school versus replacing it. If the cost of modernization is more than 50% the cost of new construction, then it is considered better to rebuild than invest in "old bones."

According to Stressing, there is no doubt the aging schools along with North Florida Technical College need to be replaced. With the requisite three years having passed since the school district first received money to build Bradford Elementary School, it's time to get back in line with a new funding request.

"When we applied for the elementary school, we had to present the big picture. The big picture was elementary school first, [then] high school, middle school, and that we were going to look at the possibility of doing a consolidated site with a middle school/high school in order to better use the funds and make it more appealing for the state to fund a larger project," Stressing

said. The architect has worked with Operations and Safety Director Jeff Edison exploring all the nooks and crannies of each campus to prepare a Castaldi Report that calls for fully funding the new schools. The report will assist the Florida Department of Education in its assessment of the school buildings.

Financial reality has already impacted past plans, meaning the seventh grade at BMS could not move to the new elementary school as originally planned. Plans for a gymnasium and additional classrooms were cut for cost, Stressing said, and an additional \$2 million had to be spent on extending utilities to the site. That means that talk of a junior/senior high school for grades eight to 12 must now include grade seven.

Stressing said there were three options included in the report, but one of those is probably not finding a new school site. He said several sites were identified by a site selection committee prior to constructing Bradford Elementary, which was eventually judged to be the only viable site to accommodate a new school.

A new school for grades seven-12 could be built alongside Bradford Elementary, but a lot of money would be spent on building up the site and making it construction ready. Stressing said nearly \$5 million was spent preparing the site for the

elementary school.

A second option would be to build on the existing sites. That would be difficult for landlocked BHS, Stressing said. Construction would be extremely disruptive to school operations.

The third option — the architect's recommended option — involves moving classes at North Florida Technical College to the high school campus, which would also eliminate busing students back and forth each day. The 60-year-old vocational education center would be demolished, the first domino to fall as Stressing described it. In its place, the new middle school for seventh and eighth graders would be built. Then, the old middle school would come down and the bus maintenance facility would be moved to one of several potential sites, including Hampton, he said. A new high school would be built in place of the old middle school, sharing amenities like a gymnasium and cafeteria with the new middle school, essentially combining the two schools. Edison described it as a "seven through 12 center." Among other advantages, Stressing said consolidating would result in long-term cost savings.

Access to the high school's sports facilities would be maintained where they are, another reason not to move the school further away. The modern media center could be used by district-level administration. As



## RV Park donates festival funds to schools

Superintendent Will Hartley accepted a \$1,000 check from Keystone Heights RV Park's Mary Abar, Helen Lavarnway and Rita Carter. on Jan. 13. The donation supporting the school district was made from proceeds of a festival held last fall. They acknowledged their sponsors, including the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Jackson Building Supply and Evan Douglas, and said they are planning a festival again this year.

## Watching every dollar

Lake Butler City Manager sees three-year recovery process

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Kim Hayes will mark her first anniversary as Lake Butler City Manager on January 17. She said the last year has been the most challenging of her career.

In addition to the municipality's financial crisis caused by the previous administration, she has restructured the city's workforce.

"I've had to let some people go and bring some people in," she said. "But with that, the team is better, we're stronger, our finances are better, and we're going to move forward, and we're going to keep doing better."

Hayes said that as she looks forward to 2025, the city's wastewater plant and ground storage tank for water will be two of Lake Butler's most important projects.

In addition, Hayes plans on applying for a state parks grant to repair the city's splash park within Lake Side Park. She also aims to improve the city's boat ramp at Butler Lake with an already approved grant of \$100,000.

Hayes is also shooting for a community development block grant that she plans to use for



Lake Butler City Manager Kim Hayes with Finance Director Dave Mecusker.

Lake Side Park improvements: upgrading the lighting around the park and building a dock near the boat ramp.

The city manager has another project that has been grant-approved but not yet funded. That project involves constructing a sidewalk around Union County High School and Lake Butler Middle School.

However, her main focus in 2025 will continue to be the city's budget.

In August, the city's independent auditor, James Moore and Company, noted that the municipality was still recovering from the previous city manager's mispending and that Lake Butler's financial condition was not positive.

At the end of the last fiscal year, the city's general fund was at a three-year low, and the community redevelopment agency had a deficit of \$9.815.

The CPA firm added that Lake Butler's financial condition continues deteriorating, and the

city could face an emergency financial situation.

In a January interview with the Times, Hayes said she did not realize how bad Lake Butler's financial situation was until she settled into the job.

"I was shocked," she said. "It's going to take years to rebuild, and that's what we're doing. It's a slow process, but we're getting there."

She added that she believes it will take three years of belt-tightening before she and other city leaders can breathe easier.

Hayes said nothing at City Hall gets ordered or purchased without her personal approval.

"My nose is in everything," she said. "I'm just running it that tight. Nothing gets ordered unless it goes through me, and I approve or disapprove."

The city manager described Lake Butler's financial condition as out of critical care, as it was when she arrived last year.

"Now, we're in rehab," she added.

## Tax-Aide scheduling appointments for free elderly tax assistance

Elderly taxpayers can receive free assistance in filing through the AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program, which will have volunteers working at the Bradford County Public Library. Taxpayers don't need to be AARP members to receive assistance.

Volunteers will begin offering assistance in February, but you can schedule an appointment now by calling 904-863-6047 or filling out a form online at [tinyurl.com/starketax](http://tinyurl.com/starketax).

Appointments will be available on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. beginning Feb. 6.

Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free tax-assistance service, served 1.7 million taxpayers in 2024.

Taxpayers must present picture IDs for themselves and their spouses and provide a Social-Security card for all who'll be listed on a return. Tax-Aide volunteers gather personal information, including marital and household dependents, income, expenses and life events. All Tax-Aide volunteers sign an agreement to keep all taxpayer information secure, using it only

to complete the individual's tax return. Tax returns are completed by certified counselors and then reviewed for completeness and

accuracy by a second certified counselor. Taxpayers will receive paper copies of their returns, which will be filed electronically.

required will be significant given the increase in construction costs. Stressing said the cost to build a high school has risen from \$250 to \$500 per square foot. Schools that once cost \$40 million to build now cost more than \$100

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## GRADS

Continued from page 1

182 of 196 students in the cohort. The school did not have a large enough group of Black, Hispanic or at-risk students for DOE to report the results.

Union County High's graduation rate slipped, falling 3.7 percentage points.

Union County	
2018-19	84.4%
2019-20*	79.6%
2020-21*	88.3%
2021-22	77.8%
2022-23	85.9%
2023-24	82.2%

Union County High graduated 125 of 152 students in the cohort. This included 81% of its 21 Black seniors. There were not enough Hispanic, ESE or at-risk students for DOE to report the results.

The state's graduation rate

reached a new high of 89.7% for the 2023-24 school year. According to the Florida Department of Education, this was an increase of 1.7 percentage points over the previous school year.

The state also pointed to

greater success graduating members of all subgroups, including a 2.1 percentage point increase for Black students and a 2.2 percentage point increase for Hispanic students.

**IMPORTANT TAX FILING INFORMATION**

The IRS announced it will begin accepting and processing tax returns on Monday, Jan. 23, 2025. The filing deadline to submit 2025 tax returns or an extension to file and pay tax owed is **Tuesday, April 15, 2025**, for most taxpayers.

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## Lawmakers thanked for new jail, asked to keep school funding on track

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County leaders thanked state legislators for funding the county's new public safety complex, now under construction, and asked them to keep on track plans for a new Lake Butler Elementary school. County officials also requested up to \$1.8 million for courthouse repairs.

State Senator Jennifer Bradley and representative Chuck Brannen met with Union County officials for a legislative delegation meeting on Wednesday, January 8, at the Lake Butler City Hall.

### Oldest jail in Florida

Sheriff Brad Whitehead pointed out that he oversees the oldest jail in the state and thanked both lawmakers for the facility's replacement, which is now under construction.

He added that the first phase of the public safety complex, the 911 center, is nearly complete. Whitehead said the county will soon open bids for the jail portion of the project, and he estimated that construction would be completed in 18 months.

"My concern has always been inflation," he told the two lawmakers, "but I feel like inflation's leveling off. So, I'm hoping and praying that that's a \$14 million project and we're thinking that should cover it. We're hoping and praying. So we're good."

Whitehead added that the current jail has 32 beds and cannot house women. The new facility will nearly triple the

capacity and allow the sheriff to stop sending female inmates to Bradford County for detention.

"It's going to be great for the staff, great for the inmates, great for everyone," he said.

### Solar farm complaints

County Commissioner Melissa McNeal asked Bradley and Brannen to give control of solar farms zoning and approvals back to the counties.

Bradley responded by briefing the audience on the topic and promising a bill to fulfill McNeal's request.

The senator said that a 2021 bill allowed solar farms on land zoned agricultural, and counties could not object to their construction.

"They could require buffers," Bradley added, "but only to the extent they required it for every other structure on an ag. piece of property."

Bradley said solar farms have proliferated, and communities have no ability to manage their consequences.

"The buffers are insufficient," she said. "You have neighbors who are worried about their property values, you have landscape issues with topsoil runoffs and different things, and the counties just don't have a seat at the table."

She said she is working with the Small Counties Coalition to draft a bill to address the issues.

"We've got to have some solar, and that is good, but the counties need to be able to have a voice in both how much solar can come in on the ag. land and have the

ability to preserve the characters of their communities and protect neighbors and things like that".

### Courthouse flooding

County Coordinator Jimmy Williams told Bradley and Brannen that during Hurricane Debbie, the courthouse's roof allowed so much water into the building that his staff had to take drastic measures.

"It's an extremely old building," he said. "Y'all did help us get the historic preservation grant two years ago, but that cost estimate at the time and with inflation, it was just nowhere near enough to replace the roof."

He added that water damage also affects the building's air quality. He estimated the cost of repairing the courthouse to be between \$1.4 million and \$1.8 million.

County Judge Mitchell Bishop also stressed the need for courthouse repairs, telling the legislators that the building was built in 1936 during the Roosevelt Administration.

"The wings were added probably somewhere in the sixties or seventies and renovated in the nineties," he said. "I'm pretty confident that some of the wooden windows on the second floor of the original part of the building are from 1936, and they are rotting out."

Bishop said that water damage to the structure significantly increased during the last two hurricanes.



State Senator Jennifer Bradley and Rep. Chuck Brannen hold a \$12,236,303 check that represents appropriations to Union County from state government. Brannen said the check represents funding for Phase 3 of the county's public safety complex, a Fire Rescue Station, and money from the state's Small County Outreach Program and Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program. Also pictured are (l-r) County Commissioner Melissa McNeal, Sheriff Brad Whitehead, and County Coordinator Jimmy Williams.

### Keep new school on track

Schools Superintendent Mike Ripplinger reminded the lawmakers that the Florida Department of Education's Special Facility Construction Committee ranked Lake Butler Elementary School as its highest priority project.

"So, we are very delighted, and now we just have to get it through the legislative process, and that's where we're going to really need you guys to kind of do that," he said, "especially, not only with the committees that you're currently on but also your

colleagues."

He added that the \$88.5 million price tag would completely replace the current school, built in 1957.

Ripplinger also asked the lawmakers to loosen the state's stringent requirements for school opening and closing times. He said that now, local schools start at 8 a.m., and the upcoming requirement that starting time be pushed to 8:30 would burden Union County families.

Ripplinger also asked for more flexibility in how school districts spend school safety funds.

### Lake Butler needs water storage

Lake Butler Mayor Melissa Hendrix told Bradley and Brannen that the city is seeking \$280,000 to cover a water storage tank grant shortfall. She explained that the \$875,000 grant the city won for the project is now over a quarter of a million dollars short due to inflation.

Hendrix also said the city needs to replace its wastewater treatment plant, adding that the Department of Corrections uses 77% of its capacity.

## Bradford funding requests support mostly ongoing projects

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Wishlist time comes after Christmas and before the start of the next legislative session for local governments and agencies seeking state funds to supplement their budgets and fund special projects.

It was no different this year, with Sen. Jennifer Bradley and Rep. Chuck Brannen open to presentations, but obviously making no promises but their personal support.

Bradley said leadership in the House and Senate is changing, with Sen. Ben Albritton from Wauchula in Hardee County promising strong support for rural counties. Bradley said he pledged a "Rural Renaissance" that will provide fiscally constrained communities support for economic development, but development that also preserves their way of life.

Bradford County was the last stop on a partial district tour that began that morning in Columbia County, followed by Union County. Bradford's Clerk of Court and County Judge were first to the podium, seeking funding to modernize and help secure the courthouse. Clerk Denny Thompson discussed his concern with the openness of his office and the security needed to protect public information, funds and county employees. The courthouse also needs funding to improve accessibility for all members of the public to be

ADA compliant.

Judge Tatum Davis requested funds to modernize the courtrooms upstairs, which he said are largely unchanged since the building opened in 1968. ADA issues spill over here as well, as does the security of deputies, court staff and jurors.

"We're not trying to also build a Taj Mahal. We're a small county. We understand that, but we stay busy. For a small county, there's always things going on," Davis said.

The price tag for these improvements was \$2.7 million, an amount impossible for the county to fund on its own, Thompson said.

Last year the Bradford County Sheriff's Office requested \$2.5 million to acquire communications equipment compatible with the state platform for deputies and fire rescue personnel. The county received \$1.125 million, so Sheriff Gordon Smith thanked the legislators, requesting support for another \$1.5 million to complete that upgrade.

Other than the request for the courthouse, County Chairman Danny Riddick said the county's focus this year is on finishing projects. With that, he announced the county's support for several local requests, including Brooker's request for a fire station. Last year the town received \$500,000 of the \$1 million estimate to build the station. In addition to



Rep. Chuck Brannen and Sen. Jennifer Bradley address the public at last week's Legislative Delegation meeting.

construction funds, the town is also asking for \$1.325 million for necessary equipment and vehicles to support operations.

Brooker Mayor Gene Melvin and County Commissioner Diane Andrews also appeared to champion the town's request. Melvin said he's seen a lot in his 45 years on the council, including many houses burn to the ground.

"It's not Bradford County's fault. It's just the fact that we're 20-something miles away from getting a fire engine out there to put something out," he said, thanking Bradley and Brannen for the support they've already shown the town.

The county's support also went to Starke's infrastructure funding request, as well as asks from the Keystone Heights Airport and Concerned Citizens of Bradford County.

The extension of water and sewer lines to a future mixed-

use development on S.R. 16 and the bypass is still a work in progress. Starke annexed the land and is working with its engineer on the project design with support from the Florida Department of Transportation. Seeing the economic benefit, Bradford County commissioners committed \$4 million in federal pandemic relief dollars to the project. Because it was such a costly undertaking, Starke Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby said they have been requesting funds piece by piece. The city is requesting another \$2 million appropriation this year. Starke expects to be ready for construction this summer.

The Keystone Airport has constructed an access road with a \$2.3 million grant and the help of the Bradford County Road Department. The road is meant to open landlocked property for commercial and industrial

development. What's left to construct is the road connecting the original and new access roads. Paralleling S.R. 100, the connector road would provide highway frontage for commercial development. The request also included funding for deceleration and turn lanes on the highway for traffic safety.

The third phase of the Concerned Citizens RJE renovation project includes renovating the classroom wings and recreation building. The request was \$500,000. Commissioner Carolyn Spooner and Alica McMillian and Glenda Ruise from Concerned Citizens spoke in support of the request, as did the city of Starke. RJE supports both youth and senior services, including Head Start and summer programs, and is also the site of a Community Health and Wellness Resource Hub serving the entire community.

Another speaker was School Superintendent Will Hartley, who announced the school district had no special requests this year. They are saving that for next year. The district is preparing to get in line for new school funding. (See related story.)

Sen. Bradley said Florida is no longer flush with federal dollars from the COVID response, and so both legislative chambers and the governor's office will be looking closely at spending, considering the amount of available funding to support such requests is expected to drop

in the coming years. Requests to finish projects may be better received by leadership, she said, especially projects that also involve local investment. She said they will fight for these projects but also tried to manage expectations.

Lawley citizen Vyunda Strong also spoke, asking Bradley and Brannen help get Florida Department of Transportation to return a caution light at the intersection of C.R. 200B and Lake Street.

"For some reason that caution light was removed, and the citizens would like for that caution light to go back. DOT doesn't know why it was removed. The city of Lawley doesn't know why it was removed. The county doesn't know why it was removed. Nobody seems to know why," she said.

Bradley said they would find out why and try to get it restored.

Strong also added requests for a highway speed study and road repairs on C.R. 225 to the list as well as sidewalk repairs in the city.

The legislative session starts May 4 and runs 60 days, ending with approval of next year's state budget, which could include some if not all local requests — any of which could be vetoed by the governor before he signs off on that budget.

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# High Ridge Initiative plans for 2025

BY JENN SAMSEL  
Special to the Monitor

The High Ridge Initiative's first meeting of 2025 was a resounding success, setting an optimistic tone for the year ahead. Held on Monday, January 13 at the Mission of the Dirt Road, the meeting highlighted significant accomplishments and ambitious goals for the community.

The High Ridge Initiative is an Impact Clay project, and a Clay County development initiative designed to improve area safety, empower community members, and increase caring among neighbors.

Its steering committee meets on the second Monday of each month at the Mission of the Dirt Road.

## Formation of nonprofit

Isaac Morford, Director of the Community Partnership School at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School, opened the meeting in Carey Morford's place.

He shared updates on the Initiative's 2025 agenda, focusing

on plans to transition into a nonprofit organization capable of sustaining its community advocacy and development efforts.

"One of the main goals is to hire an executive director who can work on this stuff daily," he said. "For the mission of the Dirt Road, we continue to see growth and participation in community center programming, and for the fourth quarter of 2024, we served more meals than we did in the third quarter," he said.

Morford also continued, "In the December cleanup report, we had 7,700 pounds of trash and 2,500 pounds of tires. So, over five tons more were removed from the neighborhood. Fifteen volunteers with 60 hours of service that day. The Community is getting better and better."

He also announced an important update regarding the Kitchen of the Clay County Mission: Starting February 2025, lunchtime will move from Noon to 2 p.m.

## County news

Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon updated several

agenda items, including speed bumps and public works drainage and lighting.

"The Speed Bump—I haven't heard an update on it," she told the group. "Right now, the county does not do speed bumps. They don't like them from an emergency response standpoint; they slow down response and tear up the fire equipment."

"As for the drainage, there is a work order in on drainage, so they will be out there working. I don't know what date, but it's in there," said Condon.

The commissioner continued, "I requested lighting for trafficked areas and bus stops. It's not going to be a 2025 solution. Still, we have requested the county, the Board of County Commissioners, a study through our transportation planning organization on lighting and safety, street lighting specifically on safety."

"Clay County does not have a street light program, and we're getting more and more requests for especially heavily traveled roads. I've got a complaint in the Clay Hill area of a cul-de-sac or a dead end of a road, and at the end of the road, where illegal activity

can occur because it's very dark, and they can hide down there," she said.

"What we are looking at is some sort of partnership with Clay County and Clay Electric on what types of poles we can use to make the cost affordable," she said.

## Community Programs and Events

Clay County Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief Chad Ricks spoke briefly about the Touch a Truck event, tentatively scheduled for February 22 and coinciding with Cleanup Day.

Lake Area Ministry Director Tanya Dennis provided an overview of the Empty Bowls event on January 14. She is optimistic about a great turnout.

She continued, "Food numbers are through the roof. We have fed 498 families in two weeks."

"We've been open four days a week, and it costs \$28,000 a month. So, we are looking forward to the Empty Bowls fundraiser on January 14 at the Keystone Heights Woman's



File photo: High Ridge Initiative Steering Committee Chair Carey Morford (left) and County Commissioner Betsy Condon.

Club."

## Events this month in the Community

Saturday, January 18 - Impact Clay Train  
Tuesday, January 28 - Community Class with the Clay County Sheriff's Office (requires

a minimum of 10 households to attend).

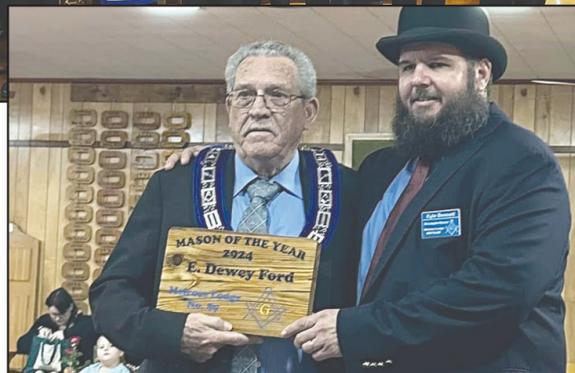
In 2025, the High Ridge Initiative will continue demonstrating its commitment to fostering growth, safety, and community collaboration.

For more information, visit Missionofthedirtroad.com.



## Melrose lodge installs officers

Melrose Lodge 89 A.F.M. has announced its newly installed officers for the 2025 Masonic year. The annual installation ceremony took place on Dec. 28. RW Dewey Ford was also awarded 2024 Mason of the Year by Kyle Bennett (pictured at right). This is a long overdue and well-deserved award for Ford, the lodge said in a press release. The following officers were elected and appointed: Worshipful Master Donald H. LePrel, Senior Warden Kyle Bennett, Junior Warden Bruce Ford (to be installed at a later date), Treasurer Michael Clay, Secretary Eric Dean, Chaplain Ben McKenzie and Tyler Michael LeeBove. The installation ceremony was officiated by RW Bruce Ford, with RW Dewey Ford as installing marshal and RW Gregory Jasmin as installing chaplain. Worshipful Master Donald LePrel declared "Masonry by Example" as the lodge motto for the 2025 Masonic year.



## Gift giving in Melrose

Laughter and fun were the highlights of the Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area (DWCLA) gift wrapping party! The club wrapped the gifts their shoppers purchased for the little children Santa told them needed extra gifts under the trees. The club "adopts" four or five local families to make their Christmases brighter. Part of the club's mission is giving to the community. Gift giving, which they have done for the past four years, is just one of the ways the women and men of the Democratic Women's Club serve the four corners of Melrose. Linda Osborne connects with a teacher or two to find the families and get their wish lists. With money from the club, shoppers have a ball finding gifts. Then, they gather to wrap gifts and celebrate the holiday with a buffet of goodies. Each child receives a big bag of presents and parents receive a gift card. Pictured are Sandy Stephenson, Linda Osborne and Theresa Marriott sharing the joy.

# Woman's Club leader in second term

BY JENN SAMSEL  
Special to the Monitor

Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin is in her second term as president of the Keystone Heights Woman's Club and said she is grateful and excited to continue serving her community and the club. She previously held the position from 2023 to 2024.

Hayes-Yelin is a native of Keystone Heights who returned to her hometown in 2015 after living away since high school. After spending some time in California, where she met her husband, she moved back to Keystone Heights while expecting their now 9-year-old son. She said she is eager to raise her family in the community she loves.



Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin

have been proud members of the Woman's Club," she said. "Continuing their legacy by giving back to the community they loved is a privilege, especially now that I am raising my own child here."

She added that building relationships with like-minded women and making new friends are just some of the benefits of serving in the group.

"Being part of the Woman's Club allows me to honor the ladies of my family while helping shape the future of this place we all cherish."

Hayes-Yelin said this year's goals for the club will be to further strengthen its community presence, expand the clubhouse rental program, and continue raising funds needed to replace the structure's roof.

"While we've made remarkable progress with updates such as fresh paint inside and out, a kitchen renovation, and more, the cost of the roof remains our biggest future challenge," she said. "We take immense pride in the improvements we've accomplished, pouring our



(L-R) Heather Abrahamsen, Samantha Key and Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin welcome guests to the Keystone Heights Christmas Market in December.

hearts, hard work, and dedication into every step. It's incredibly rewarding to see our community using the building for life's joyous occasions, and we're honored to play a small role in those special moments," she said.

## What is happening in 2025?

Hayes-Yelin said upcoming events for the Keystone Heights Woman's Club include, January 25-Monthly Memory Maker, February 15-Paint Your Partner Fun Night, March 1-Third Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, March 11-12-Say YES to the Dress Prom Dress Giveaway, April 12-Mom Prom, September 27-Fourth Annual Almost Fall Festival.

## New initiative

The Woman's Club leader said her group will roll out new events this year, including a new program called Monthly Memory Makers. "Each month, we'll create unique, photographer-approved photo setups for you to capture

special moments with your little ones, pets, or anyone you'd like to bring along," she explained. "The best part? You'll take the pictures using your phone, giving you instant access to your memories and making it easy to create a personalized calendar at the end of the year!"

Time slots will be available on the group's website for easy sign-ups.

Hayes-Yelin also emphasized the return of the club's golf tournament on March 1 at the Keystone Golf and Country Club.

"Last year's tournament was such a hit it resulted in a waitlist, and we're excited to bring that same energy this year," she said. "Registration is now open on our website—don't miss out!"

For more information about the Keystone Heights Woman's Club, visit their Facebook page at Woman's Club of Keystone Heights or check out the website at www.keystoneheightswomansclub.com.

The club meets on the third Monday of each month at 6747 Woman's Club Dr, Keystone Heights, FL.

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

2025 SUPER TUESDAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS  
City of Green Cove Springs  
City of Keystone Heights  
Town of Orange Park

Pursuant to Section 100.021 of the Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the 2025 Super Tuesday Municipal Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at each respective Municipality.

City of Green Cove Springs  
321 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

Seats Three (3), Four (4), and Five (5) for a three (3) year term of office on the Green Cove Springs City Council.

City of Keystone Heights  
555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Seats One (1) and Two (2) for a three (3) year term of office on the Keystone Heights City Council.

Town of Orange Park  
2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073  
Seats Four (4) and Five (5) for a three (3) year term of office on the Orange Park Town Council.

Qualifying for all seats will open Monday, January 27th at NOON and remain open until Friday, January 31st at NOON at the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Those interested in qualifying for Seats on the aforementioned City or Town Councils must be a qualified elector, a citizen of the United States and meet all other qualifying requirements as outlined in each respective Municipal Charter.

A Run-off Election, if necessary for any Municipality will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of May.

For further information, please contact the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office at (904) 269-6350.

In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, this meeting is open to the public.

Note: Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she 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.

## AVISO DE ELECCION

ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES DEL SÚPER MARTES 2025  
Ciudad de Green Cove Springs  
Ciudad de Keystone Heights  
Ciudad de Orange Park

De conformidad con la Sección 100.021 de los Estatutos de Florida, se notifica que las Elecciones Municipales del Súper Martes 2025 se llevarán a cabo el martes 8 de abril de 2025, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. en cada Municipio respectivo.

Ciudad de Green Cove Springs  
321 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

Asientos Tres (3), Cuatro (4), y Cinco (5) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo de la Ciudad de Green Cove Springs.

Ciudad de Keystone Heights  
555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Asientos Uno (1) y Dos (2) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo de la Ciudad de Keystone Heights.

Ciudad de Orange Park  
2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073  
Asientos Cuatro (4) y Cinco (5) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo Municipal de Orange Park.

La calificación para los asientos se abrirá el lunes 27 de enero a mediodía y permanecerá abierta hasta el viernes 31 de enero a mediodía en la Oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Clay.

Aquellos interesados en calificar para Asientos en los Consejos Municipales o Municipales mencionados anteriormente debe ser un elector calificado, un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos y cumplir con todos los demás requisitos de calificación como se detalla en cada Carta Municipal respectiva.

Una segunda vuelta electoral, si es necesario para cualquier municipio, se llevará a cabo el segundo martes de mayo.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Clay, (904) 269-6350.

De acuerdo con la Ley Sunshine de Florida, esta reunión está abierta al público.

Nota: La Sección 286.0105, Estatutos de la Florida, establece que si una persona decide apelar cualquier decisión de la junta, agencia o comisión con respecto a cualquier asunto considerado en una reunión o audiencia, necesitará un registro de los procedimientos, y que, para tales fines, él o ella puede necesitar asegurarse de que se haga un registro literal de los procedimientos, el cual incluye el testimonio y la evidencia sobre los cuales se basará la apelación.

## 5 to compete for Miss UCHS title on Jan. 23

Union County High School's Class of 2027 is excited to announce the Miss UCHS 2024-25 pageant, which will be held Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the UCHS auditorium. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Tickets, which are \$10, can be purchased at the door on online at [gofan.co](http://gofan.co). Enter "Union County High School" in the [gofan.co](http://gofan.co) search bar, click on the appropriate school link and select the pageant.

"Timeless Elegance" is the theme for this year's pageant, which consists of five contestants.

Contestants are scored in eight categories: Highest GPA, Teacher Recommendations, Interview, Opening Performance, Theme Wear, Talent, Evening Gown and On-Stage Question.

Besides the crowning of Miss Union County High, awards will be presented for Most Photogenic, Miss Congeniality, Director's Award and People's



**Isabelle Kirsten**

Choice.

People's Choice was added to the pageant in 2020 and is determined by the total amount of money donated by each contestant's supporters. You are encouraged to bring cash and vote for your favorite contestant.

Souvenirs and bottled water will be available for purchase.

This year's contestants are as follows:

—Isabelle Kirsten, a 16-year-old junior who's the daughter of Julie Kirsten and Jonny Kirsten.



**Ava Westmoreland**

She's a member of JROTC, FFA and the track and field team. After high school, she plans to enlist in the Army National Guard as an E3, thanks to her time in JROTC. She also plans to attend Santa Fe College and take ROTC courses at the University of Florida at the same time.

—Ava Westmoreland, an 18-year-old senior who's the daughter of Forrest and Sara Westmoreland. She's a member of FFA and the varsity cheer team. She plans to attend Santa



**Aubrie Muse**

Fe College to study Ultrasound Technology.

—Aubrie Muse, a 17-year-old senior who's the daughter of Brad and Kristin Muse. She's a member of FFA, FCA, Beta Club, Performing Arts Club and cheer. She's currently dual-enrolled at Florida Gateway College, where she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Upon high school graduation, she will be receiving her AA degree and plans to transfer to the University



**Chloe Harris**

of Florida to major in Business and minor in Graphic Design.

—Chloe Harris, a 16-year-old junior who's the daughter of Rebecca Harris and Timothy Allen and Doney and Sarah Harris. She's a member of JROTC, where she's also a member of the Raiders Team, the Military Police, Air Rifle Team, Drill Team, JLab, and Honor Guard. She's also a member of FCA and Junior Friends of the Library. She plans to complete her AA before she graduates high



**Zoe Elixson**

school. She then plans to become an esthetician so she can work while attending Florida Gateway College to begin her study of Dermatology.

—Zoe Elixson, a 17-year-old senior who's the daughter of Justin and Leyla Elixson. She's a member of FCA, SWAT, Beta Club, the cheer team and the golf Team. She plans to attend college to study Musical Theater and Dance and pursue a career in Performing Arts.

## Tallman looks back on 16 years as Union commissioner

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
*Special to the Times*

After 16 years on the Union County Board of County Commissioners, Jimmy Tallman made the decision to retire from public service, anticipating spending time on his farm and running his business.

He did not anticipate a smokehouse exploding while he was inside, life-threatening injuries, two months in the hospital, or the long road back to his anticipated retirement.

But as is his way, he faced (and is still facing) the challenge of recovery, as he has always faced the challenges life has thrown his way.

### Pritchett was mentor

Tallman is a lifelong resident

of Union County. His father passed away when he was still quite young, but he was lucky to find a friend and mentor in the late Marvin Pritchett, who befriended the boy and taught him about life, with Tallman working for him when he got old enough.

Pritchett served on the Union Board for several years, and Tallman thought about doing the same. He talked to his mentor about it and Pritchett encouraged him to try. The then-commissioner of Tallman's district, the late Red Clyatt, also said he felt Tallman would do well.

Tallman began attending meetings, doing so for 13 consecutive months.

"It seemed to me that the board was very much influenced by one commissioner and that it was unevenly balanced," Tallman

said. "I felt like I could make a difference."

In 2008, Clyatt was retiring, and Tallman ran for the board seat in District 3. He beat several candidates, including Doyle Williams and Kenneth Parrish, and said he then entered a different world.

"Back then, there was no education available to be a county commissioner," Tallman said, "the only way to do it was to jump in and learn from experience."

### You will lose friends

Tallman said he always kept something Pritchett had told him foremost in his mind. He said to always remember that "the most popular thing is not always the best thing."

"I served for 16 years with that in my mind all the time, and I

learned that I should always vote with my heart and strive to do the right thing every time," Tallman said.

Tallman said that serving the people came with a price of sorts.

"You will lose friends in the job and some of your family members will become distant," Tallman said. "I considered myself a servant, answering to everyone and not just in my district. One day, when my son was still a youngster, we were out running errands and stopped to get gas. A man came up to me, a little on the tipsy side, and began ranting about a tree blocking his driveway. We followed him home and moved the tree. When we got back on the road, my son asked me why that man had talked so bad to me, and I told him the truth — that he was my boss."

When asked what achievements he was most proud of while on the board and initiatives he spearheaded, he listed the gas-to-energy project at New River Solid Waste, succeeding in stopping phosphate mining in the county, growth and development in the recreation department, and daily

working to help the people of the county. He said that sometimes the job took its toll outside of the boardroom, listening and trying to assist county residents and seeing that their needs were met.

"Sometimes people needed help with the simplest things, things that you would never expect, and which sometimes took more time to fix than the more complicated things," Tallman said.

### Growth is inevitable

Tallman said that growth in the county was inevitable and had to occur to keep the county viable financially. "We need proper management and planning for growth, but it needs to happen. Many people are afraid of it that it will change our way of life in this county, but it has to happen."

Tallman said he had enjoyed his 16 years of service, during which he only missed one meeting, his last one as a commissioner when he was in the hospital. He has attended one meeting since and plans on coming regularly. He has told all the commissioners that he is more than happy to serve as a resource



**Retired Union County Commissioner Jimmy Tallman**

for the board and a mentor for new commissioners. As he had already become the memory of the board, remembering how things happened or were handled long before most of the present commissioners had even thought about serving.

"I enjoyed my 16 years of service," Tallman said. "I am humbled by the faith that the people of the county put in me and honored to have served them. I am proud of what we all (on the board) managed to do and the results of that through the years."

### Business partner appreciation

At the November school board meeting, the Union County School District had the privilege of recognizing Shatto Heating and Air Inc. for its continued support for the students and athletes of Union County. Accepting the plaque of recognition was Kim Shatto. Kim and her husband, Tim Shatto, have been long-standing supporters of the students and multiple programs in the Union County School District and many have benefitted from their generosity. The school district is greatly appreciative of the support provided to the students and athletes and the partnership shared with Shatto Heating and Air.



At the December School Board Meeting, the Union County School District had the privilege of recognizing Williams L.P. Gas for its continued support of the students of Union County. Doyle Williams, Katie Thomas and Karl Williams were present to accept the recognition plaque. Williams L.P. Gas and the Williams Family have been long-standing supporters of Union County football and band programs, and many students have benefitted from their generosity. You will always find them supporting and cheering for our band and football team at home or away games. The Union County School District greatly appreciates the support provided to its students and athletes and the partnership with Williams L.P. Gas. Pictured are Doyle Williams, Katie Thomas, Karl Williams and Superintendent Mike Ripplinger.

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# 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

Sara Bedford, 63, of Waldo, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 10 for tax revenue and sales tax violations.

Rebecca Crafton, 43, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 7 for withholding support.

James Dixon, 32, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 7

for possession of drug equipment and driving with a suspended or revoked license

Karlisha Henderson, 26, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 9 for DUI.

Christy Jones, 47, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 5 for a probation violation.

Eric Lane, 40, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 7 for possession of drug equipment, possession of drugs, and possession of cocaine.

Priscilla Manning, 57, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 10 for larceny and criminal mischief with property damage.

David Stegall, 70, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 10 for battery.

Douglas Terrell, 50, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 5 for burglary, robbery, possession of a weapon by a

convicted felon, resisting an officer, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and an out-of-county warrant.

Allen Thompson, 53, of Archer, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 5 for an out-of-county warrant.

Michelle Vasquez, 49, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 4 for making a false report.

### Union

Deonte Ford, 29, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on January 6 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

William Young, 42, of Sanderson, was arrested by Union deputies on January 8 for a probation violation.

### Clay

Samuel Hartley, 21, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 8 for burglary.

## Gives mom thumbs up after prison sentence

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A woman on probation for burglary and petit theft was sentenced to a year in prison after admitting to driving without a valid license, triggering both a criminal felony conviction and a violation of her probation.

Gretchin Dianna Crews was first arrested on January 4, 2023, after witnesses told Starke Police they saw her running in and out of traffic from McDonald's to Bradford Square.

According to an arrest report, a Bradford deputy told police he saw a car nearly strike the defendant and that after the near collision, Crews entered an unlocked vehicle parked in front of Harbor Freight, grabbed cigarettes that were in the car, and tried to start the vehicle.

The car's owner told police he did not know the defendant and did not give her permission to enter the car.

Six months later, the defendant signed a plea agreement admitting to the burglary and theft of the cigarettes. She was sentenced to two years' probation.

On September 26, 2024, Crews, who did not have a valid driver's license, crashed a vehicle into a semi-tractor trailer.

According to a probation violation report, the defendant claimed she had just left Walmart after buying supplies as Hurricane Helene approached the area. After leaving the store, she hit a grease puddle, lost control of her car, and hit the truck.

### Mother pleads for leniency

During a hearing on December 10, 2024, the defendant's lawyer, Assistant Public Defender Eddie Edwards, told Circuit Judge James Colaw that his client's probation officer recommended 30 days of weekend jail for the violation. Edwards added that once Crews found out about her arrest warrant arising from the violation, she turned herself in.

"This was not someone who was trying to duck and dodge the court," Edwards said. "She's



Crews

here today to try and get this all resolved and accept whatever the court gives her. We're asking for leniency."

The defendant's mother, Sandra Crews, also asked the judge for leniency.

"She was in rehab for like six months this past year and is doing well," the defendant's mother told the judge. "She's done her best. She's tried to have a job even though she has to have transportation provided, and during the hurricane, I mean, I wasn't able to help her at that time either because I had other things too for myself."

Christina Boyd, who said she is a friend of the defendant, also addressed the judge on Crews's behalf.

"She tried to contact me during the hurricane to get her a ride," Boyd said of her friend. "She needed water and dog food. She had a new puppy. I was out getting sandbags. We were all really petrified about the hurricane because it was supposed to hit dead in the middle of Bradford County."

Boyd added that Crews had maintained a steady job, is working on getting her driver's license back, and has been assisting her mother in caring for a disabled grandchild.

Crews told Colaw that she understood that whatever he sentenced her to was what she had earned. She added that she is close to getting her license back, having paid all her tickets except for the latest.

## Easters in concert

Hope Baptist Church welcomes you to enjoy Jeff and Sheri Easter in concert on Friday, Jan. 24. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge to attend, but a love offering will be accepted.

## Veterans Service Office closed

The Bradford County Veterans Service Office will be closed from Jan. 27 – Feb. 3. The Union County Veterans Service Office will be closed on Jan. 29. For more information, please call

Barbara Fischer at 904-263-0647.

## Chamber banquet Feb. 8

North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting and banquet is set for Saturday, Feb. 8. The social hour begins at 5 p.m. and the banquet begins at 6 p.m. at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center in Starke. The chamber will honor its Board of Governors and present special awards to deserving businesses and individuals. The Bradford County Education Foundation will also be raising funds through live and silent auctions.

Tickets are \$90 each or \$850 for a table of 10 and must be purchased by Feb. 3 (Jan. 31 for

payment by check). Sponsorship opportunities are available for the entertainment, bar, desserts, venue and more. For more information, please contact the chamber at 904-964-5278 or pam@northfloridachamber.com.

## Sign up now for flea market

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 230 is holding a community flea market at the post home on March 1 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each 15-by-15 space can be reserved for \$15. The auxiliary will serve a pancake breakfast as well as lunch. Contact 352-481-4483 for more information. The post home is located at 20370 E. Hawthorne Road (S.R. 20) in Hawthorne.

## Man crashes truck into technical college fence

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A man crashed a Nissan pickup into the front fence of North Florida Technical College Monday afternoon.

Bradford Sheriff's Office Lt. Shaun Burgin, supervisor of the office's School Protection Deputy unit, said the crash was an accident.

"His foot slipped off the brake and onto the gas pedal," Burgin said after the incident.

The lieutenant added that the driver has a family member who works at the school and was stopping by to see her.



## Guardsman killed while walking in Camp Blanding

The Florida Highway Patrol said a 38-year-old Keystone Heights man was killed after being struck by a Jeep within Camp Blanding on Friday, January 10.

According to an FHP news release, a 28-year-old woman from Green Cove Springs was driving eastbound on Avenue B when the collision occurred. The 2018 Grand Cherokee was traveling in the same direction as the pedestrian.

The accident occurred around 6:56 a.m. FHP said the driver remained on the scene after the crash.

## Arrested for burglarizing car, pleaded to making sex tape

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 21-year-old Keystone Heights man was arrested for breaking into a car parked at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School.

Samuel Eugene Hartley was arrested at his Firetower Road home on January 8 for burglary.

According to court papers, on September 30, 2024, a student reported the break-in to the school's resource officer. Surveillance video showed an offender driving onto the campus parking lot and taking several items from the victim's vehicle.

"(The victim) discovered that his radio, amp, and subwoofer box were missing from the vehicle," wrote a Clay County Sheriff's deputy in a warrant affidavit. "The total value of the items is \$650."

The officer added that when questioned about the burglary, Hartley denied involvement in

the misdemeanor, saying he left his car unlocked and that another person could have committed the crime.

According to the deputy, after viewing the burglary video, Hartley identified another person whom he said resembles the offender in the video. He suggested the other individual likely stole his car and committed the break-in.

"The Suspect did not report his vehicle stolen and did not provide an explanation of why (the other person) would steal his vehicle," wrote the deputy. "When The Suspect was asked about suddenly saying that (the other person) took his vehicle, the Suspect said, 'Because y'all are looking at me some type of way, and I kind of have a feeling that I know somebody that may have done something like that, and I don't want to get accused for it.'"

In 2018, the defendant



Hartley

was issued two citations for possession of tobacco by a minor. He pleaded no contest to cyberstalking in 2024.

In the 2024 case, Hartley was sentenced to nine months' probation after admitting to recording a video of himself and a woman engaged in sexual activity and sending the video to the woman's father.

## Missed parking spot, put vehicle at front door

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

John M. Erwin, 49, of Starke, was sentenced to a year in jail followed by a year of probation after pleading to DUI, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to an arrest report, on September 12, a Starke KOA Campground worker noticed a gray Chevrolet Silverado parked at the business's front door rather than a parking spot.

When she asked the driver to move the truck, Erwin struck a parked golf cart.

"(The complainant) advised the driver seemed confused about where he was or where he was supposed to be," wrote Deputy Devin Jones in an arrest report.

When Jones asked the defendant why he was at the campground, he replied that he was meeting his boss, who lived at the KOA. However, when Erwin called his supervisor, the employer told him he lived and worked in St. Augustine.

The defendant then told Jones that he lived in the campground, which the KOA worker verified.



Erwin

Jones's supervisor arrived on the scene and conducted field sobriety tests on the defendant, and based on those tests, the officers arrested Erwin.

While performing an inventory of the Chevrolet prior to it being towed, the officers found a pipe, which Sergeant Jared Mallard wrote was commonly used for smoking marijuana. The officer reported that he also found a small baggie with blue, oval pills.

"Next to the pills was a glass pipe commonly used for smoking

methamphetamine and a clear plastic baggie with a white crystal-like substance inside," the sergeant added.

The two officers said they found two blow torch-style lighters, which they said were commonly used for smoking methamphetamine, in the defendant's pockets. They also found a pill bottle in which blue pills had been crushed into a powder-like substance.

The officers identified the pills as alprazolam, a prescription medication used to treat anxiety and panic disorders.

"A presumptive field test kit on the glass pipe and a clear plastic baggie with a white crystal substance inside indicated a positive result for methamphetamine," one of the officers wrote.

At the jail, the defendant blew 0.00 twice in a breath alcohol test.

Erwin's prior convictions include trespassing, driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, issuing a worthless check, forgery, battery, and assault.

## Democratic Women meet Jan. 23

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet on Thursday, Jan. 23.

Membership fees are due, and members will be voting on the budget and action plan for the coming year.

There is a special election in Putnam County's sixth district, and candidate Josh Weil will speak.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

with doors opening at 6:30. All Democrats are welcome. Meetings are held at the Melrose Center, 309 S.R. 26 in Melrose. For further information, please contact 352-235-4161 or info@dwc-la.org.

# Russ WADE

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## KHHS girls keep rolling in soccer with win over Crescent City

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Kayden Huntley scored two goals for the Keystone Heights High School girls soccer team, which won its sixth match in a row by defeating host Crescent City 3-2 on Jan. 10.

Kaylee Park scored a goal as well, while Kayle Buchanan, Tayler Buchanan and Kaleigh Coffey each had one assist.

Goalie Aspen Krohn made nine saves. The win capped a week in which the Indians went 3-0.

On Jan. 7, Keystone got one goal each from Huntley and Halea Lam in a 2-0 win over visiting Ridgeview on Jan. 7. Alexis VanNordstrand recorded an assist, while Krohn made four saves.

The Indians earned a 3-2 road win against Newberry on Jan. 8, getting two goals from Huntley



**Kayden Huntley (right) has five goals in Keystone's last three matches — all part of a six-match winning streak.**

and one goal from Park. Kayle Buchanan had three assists, while Krohn made six saves.

On Jan. 13, Keystone was awarded a forfeit win over Suwannee. The Indians are now 14-4-2.

Keystone played Columbia

this past Tuesday and will travel to play Episcopal on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5:30 p.m.

## KHHS boys soccer win streak ends with 4-3 loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Visiting P.K. Yonge put a halt to the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team's winning streak, defeating the Indians 4-3 on Jan. 10.

Keystone (10-5-1) had won five in a row.

Aaron Wiley scored two goals in the loss, while Sammy Wach had one goal. Noah Jaramillo and Garrett Jones each recorded one assist.

The Indians entered the match off a 4-3 win at Newberry on Jan. 8 in which Jaramillo scored three goals.

Luke Brunt scored a goal as well.

Wiley had two assists, while Wach had one.

Keystone was scheduled to play at District 4-3A opponent

North Marion on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. and will travel to play Episcopal on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7:20 p.m. The Indians return home to play Clay on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

## Hubbard has double-double for KHHS girls

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Daisy Hubbard scored 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team's 65-40 loss at North Marion on Jan. 7.

Brynn Creekmore led the team in scoring with 17 points, while the Indians also got seven points from Riley Shuford, four each from McKinlee Kirkland and Alexandria Papaioannou and three from Kadence Massey.

Massey grabbed 10 rebounds, while Kirkland had seven.

The Indians (2-9) played Palatka on Jan. 10, Union County on Jan. 14 and Duval Charter on Jan. 15. Keystone will host Baldwin on Friday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

## Griffin pours in 81 points in 2 victories for BHS girls hoops

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ar'Nayshia Griffin outscored both opposing teams as the Bradford High School girls basketball team returned to action after the holiday break with two 30-plus-point wins.

The Tornadoes (11-2) got what was then a career-high 38 points from Griffin in a 60-28 win over visiting Baldwin on Jan. 10. Cherish Bing added 16 points, while Ky'lee Johnson and Wynter Barrington had three and two points, respectively.

Barrington led the team in rebounds with 10, while Griffin and Johnson had six and five, respectively.

Griffin led the team in assists with four and steals with nine.

Barrington and Bing had three and two steals, respectively.

On Jan. 13, Griffin set a new career high again in points, scoring 43 in a 66-31 win at

Suwannee.

It was the fifth time this season Griffin has scored at least 30 points in a game.

Nichelle Brown had eight points, while the Tornadoes also got four each from Barrington and Kailyn Teal, three from Nyasia Lopey and two each from Bing and Johnson.

Barrington again led the team in rebounds with 10.

Griffin grabbed six rebounds to go along with a team-high three assists and a team-high five steals.

Barrington and Lopey each had two steals, with Barrington also adding two assists.

Griffin has scored a total of 332 points this season, which is the 15th most in the entire state when compared to players who've had their stats entered on MaxPreps. Only one player on a

See BHS, page 13

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## BHS' Banda, White have 5 wins each at wrestling event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School went 2-4 as a team, with Daniel Banda and Tremeze White each earning five wins at the Jan. 11 Dual at the Dunes at Fernandina Beach High School.

The Tornados lost their first three matches by scores of 59-24 to Fernandina, 51-30 to Interlachen and 77-0 to Clay. They then defeated Ed White 36-30 before losing 42-24 to Gainesville.

Bradford's last match was a 35-30 win over West Nassau.

Banda, who wrestled in the 157-pound class, won by forfeit in the team's loss to Fernandina. He had wins by pinning Interlachen's Logan Juraszek in 39 seconds, Ed White's Isaac Smith in 2:32 and Gainesville's Elijah Martin in 1:58. Banda defeated West Nassau's Kolton Wright by a 15-0 technical fall.

All of White's wins were in

head-to-head competition. The 165-pound-class wrestler pinned Fernandina's Logan Fancher in 3:31, Interlachen's Gary Keen in 3:03, Ed White's Jacob Jurtzke in 1:05, Gainesville's Tevin Greer in 19 seconds and West Nassau's Chris Messer in 1:42.

Aiden Scott (120 class), Jonathon Armstrong (126) and Miguel Rivera (150) each had four wins on the day.

Scott pinned Fernandina's Carson Sawyer in 37 seconds, Interlachen's Jayden Perry in 2:51 and Ed White's Gunner Ganey in 53 seconds. Scott also earned a win by forfeit in the match against West Nassau.

All four of Armstrong's wins were by forfeit in the matches against Fernandina, Ed White, Gainesville and West Nassau.

Rivera pinned Interlachen's Kenneth Swift in 36 seconds, Ed White's Quincy Lester in 57 seconds and West Nassau's Riley Atkins in 2:22. He also earned a win by forfeit against Gainesville.

Wyatt Acevedo (144) earned two wins, pinning Interlachen's Keegan Brown in 57 seconds and West Nassau's Ian Blanton in 1:17.

Jayden Prevatt (132) earned one win by forfeit.

## Ivey wrestles way to 3 wins for UC at Billy Saylor Duals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

It was a tough outing for the Union County High School wrestling team at the Jan. 11 Billy Saylor Duals at Suwannee High School, but C.J. Ivey did earn three wins.

The tournament saw Union, as a team lose matches to Bay, Zephyrhills Christian, Florida High, Wakulla and Mosley.

Ivey, who wrestles in the 215-pound class, earned his first win in the team's 47-18 loss to Florida High. He pinned Asher Bryner in 25 seconds.

Elijah Roberts (157 class) and Wyatt Elixson (165) also earned points, with Roberts pinning Myles Dupont in 49 seconds and Elixson pinning John Schee in 50 seconds.

In a 78-6 loss to Wakulla, Ivey pinned Wyatt Brown in 1:05.

Ivey recorded another pin in a 54-12 loss to Mosley, defeating James McMillan in 1:54.

Gavin Sparkman (138) had Union's other win against Mosley, pinning Tenoch Gomez Nguyen in 58 seconds.

## 2 from KHHS place 2nd at Marine Corps Challenge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School wrestlers Atreyu Contes and Mikey McCall finished as runners-up in their weight classes at the Jan. 11 Marine Corps Challenge at Jacksonville's Terry Parker High School.

Contes earned his second-place finish in the 113-pound class. He had a first-round bye before pinning Terry Parker's Journi Huggans in four minutes. That put him in the championship match, where he lost 4-1 to Beachside's Walter Howard.

McCall went 2-0 in head-to-head matches to reach the championship final in the 138 class. He pinned Beachside's Nick Avignone in 45 seconds and then pinned Beachside's Leon Butterfield in 1:01. McCall was pinned in 1:18 by Stanton's Diego Torres in the first-place match.

Keystone's Adam McGarvey and Cason Burton both wrestled in the 120 class, placing third and fourth, respectively. The two faced each other in the first round, with McGarvey pinning Burton in 55 seconds. McGarvey was then pinned in 1:25 by Wolfson's Gay Doh before pinning Beachside's Nicholas Walford in 29 seconds to reach the third-place match.

Burton pinned Stanton's Angelo Gigena in 1:24 to set up another match against his teammate, which McGarvey won by recording a pin in 1:01.

Burton was one of four Keystone wrestlers to place fourth. Luciano Moncada earned one of those fourth-place finishes, wrestling in the same class as

Contes. Moncada was pinned in 22 seconds in the first round by Beachside's Howard (who would go on to defeat Contes in the championship match) before earning a 10-4 win over Terry Parker's Huggans. That put Moncada in the third-place match, where he was pinned in 49 seconds by Wolfson's Asher Nathanson.

Jared Goetzman wrestled in the 126 class. He lost by a 20-2 technical fall to Stanton's Leonardo Torres, but bounced back to pin Baldwin's Ian Rhoden in 52 seconds. In the third-place match, Goetzman was pinned in 3:18 by Beachside's Preston Masar.

Arthur Durning took fourth in the 132 class. He started his day by pinning Beachside's Bryce Holden in 2:57. Durning was then pinned in 1:42 by Wolfson's Tristan Martinez, but he put himself in the third-place match by pinning Baldwin's Isaiah Breen in 1:47. The Keystone wrestler had to face Beachside's Holden again, with Holden recording a pin in 3:24.



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53A  
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GARAGE/ESTATE Sale. Saturday 9am-5pm. 5246 181st Way, Starke. Furniture, DVD's, VHS tapes, small kitchen appliances,

knickknacks, record player, old typewriter, antique sewing machine, dishes, silverware, seasonal decor, etc.

65  
**Help Wanted**

THE UNION County Housing Authority (UCHA) is dedicated to providing quality housing and services to our community. We are currently seeking a highly motivated and skilled Maintenance Technician to join our team in a full-time position. Responsibilities include but are not limited to, performing a variety of home repairs, including appliances, plumbing, carpentry and electrical work. Knowledge in inventory and work order software a plus. Engage in physical labor tasks, ensuring all maintenance activities are completed efficiently. Collaborate with team members in a fast-paced environment. Maintain a professional and courteous demeanor when interacting with residents and colleagues. A minimum of 2 years experience in maintenance or a

related field. A valid driver's license is required and the ability to work weekends as needed. A background check will be performed. Relevant certifications or licenses in plumbing, electrical work, or HVAC are highly preferred. Ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs. Strong teamwork skills and the ability to work well under pressure and meet deadlines. Benefits include a competitive salary, health and life insurance, retirement plan, and paid time off. Interested candidates should submit their resume to: UCHA at 715 W Main Street, Lake Butler FL, 32054 or email housing@uchaf.com by 5pm on January 23, 2025. The UCHA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are committed to providing a work environment that respects the dignity and worth of each individual. We do not discriminate against any

employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

## Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County  
**Telegraph**

Lake Region  
**Monitor**

UNION COUNTY  
**TIMES**

Classified

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TDD 771  
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

**Orangewood Apartments**  
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Starke, FL 32091  
904-964-4214  
TDD/TTY 711  
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!  
1, 2, & 3 bedroom HC & Non-HC accessible apartments.  
\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.\*  
\*Equal Housing Opportunity\*

**Lake Butler Apartments 1, 2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**  
HC & Non-HC accessible.  
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Lake Butler, FL  
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TDD/TTY 711.  
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!  
\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.\*  
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**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**  
**Southern Villas of Starke**  
Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.  
Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL  
Call 904-964-7295  
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\*Equal Housing Opportunity\*

# Obituaries

## Deborah Hart

Deborah Denise Hart, 62, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at Haven Hospice, Lake City, following an extended illness. She was born, and lived most of her life, in Lake Butler. She was especially proud of her service to her country, in both the Florida Army National Guard and Florida Air National Guard with over 24 years of service, to include participation in Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom, and time spent in Qatar. She retired from the Florida Air National Guard as a Staff Sergeant and was a disabled veteran. She was awarded several medals and ribbons for her outstanding service. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Butler. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. When she was not able to visit in person, she would spend hours catching up over the phone. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Walter Brown Jr.; parents, Homer F. Hart, Shirley Rosier Stalvey and LeRoy Stalvey; sisters, Teresa Collins and Amy Hart; nephew, Justin Eaves; and nieces, Staci Eaves Arvin and Faith Gray.



She is survived by her daughter, Jordan (Kerry) Touchstone; granddaughter, Avery Touchstone; grandson, Kash Touchstone; and step-grandson/great-nephew, Kanten Touchstone, all of Lake Butler; step-daughters, Sonnett Brown (Christopher Dal Porto) of Seattle, Washington and Dakota (William) York of Shelton, Washington; step-daughter, Jacqueline (Doug) Marshall of Tampa; step-son, Kenneth (Megan) of Tampa; brother, Franklin Hart of Canton, Georgia; sisters, Merrell (Evon) Colchiski of Ocala and Shawn (Keith) Gray of Live Oak; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

A memorial service commemorating her life, and celebrating her 63rd birthday, will be held Saturday, Jan. 18, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 325 S.W. Sixth St., Lake Butler 32054, with Pastor Keith Gray and Pastor Danny Fouraker officiating. Burial will follow at Dekle Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to Trinity Baptist Church or Disabled American Veterans.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. 386-496-2008  
PAID OBITUARY

## Gail Jordan

Mrs. Gail L. Jordan, 84, of Starke, died Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025, at home. She was a member of Grace Baptist Church.

Her husband was Robert F. Jordan. She had two children, Mike Jordan (the late Theresa) and Cindy (Ed) Williams. She was a grandmother and great-grandmother.

A graveside service will be held Friday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m. at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

## Warren Kelly

Warren "Scobby" Kelly moved on to his next journey on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, after 91 years of a well-lived life. He passed away peacefully with family by his side.



His story began on July 29, 1933, when he was born to Annie Reddish Kelly and Enoch Kelly in Starke. In addition to his trademark Stetson, he wore a lot of hats in life. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, followed by a career as an electrician. Farming was in his blood, and he later established a poultry farm in Keystone Heights, the city where he lived and raised his family. He was also known for his various side hustles, which are the stuff of local legend. Maybe best described as a redneck renaissance man, he lived life his way. His was a life filled with adventures big and small, with many of the stories of those adventures being true! One day, you might find him on his farm, sitting on his tailgate and swapping stories...with Tom Petty. The next day, you'd spot him on the campaign trail with Ronald Reagan (both true). Most often, however, you'd find him surrounded by the multitudes who wandered into his orbit. Whether cruising the roads in his red, Ford truck (always red, always Ford) or holding court on a tailgate, he had a knack for making life's simple moments memorable and fun. That red Ford wasn't just a vehicle; much like his Stetson, it was an extension of his personality. Everyone knew it was Scobby coming down the road, and you knew you were about to get a big smile and a wave! His farm was much more than a business. For decades it was the social hub of Keystone Heights. Friends, family and even strangers quickly became part of his circle; once you were in, you were in for life. His pole-barn parties were legendary; generations grew up laughing, dancing, eating and drinking under that roof. The tales of these parties continue to be shared to this day. Scobby wasn't only a guy who never met a stranger; he was a guy who made strangers feel like they had known him forever. He didn't just leave a mark on his corner of the world, he left tire tracks, footprints and a sense that life was meant to be filled with laughter, friends and a few shenanigans. At his core, he was a happy man, and he was dedicated to bringing happiness to those around him. He crafted life into his own unique art form. They truly broke the mold when they made him, but the world will always be brighter because he was here. His absence leaves a huge hole in the lives of Marion, Joey and Alan, and the legions of family and friends who knew and loved him. But he wouldn't want us to dwell on that void. Instead, honor his memory by living life as he did. Talk to a stranger, wave to random cars you pass on the street, chat with someone much longer than you should, explore a controversial "enterpriser," and definitely work "that's what she said" into your conversations.

Services/celebrations will be announced at a later date. Until then, celebrate Scobby by sharing his stories. Stories of a man who turned life into one fabulous ride.

Arrangements are under the care of Milam Funeral Home, Inc., 311 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601. 352-376-5361. www.milamfh.com  
PAID OBITUARY

## Carol Prins

Carol Joyce Prins, born July 24, 1940, in Worthington, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at Magnolia Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Gainesville. Her life was a vibrant tapestry woven with the threads of love, laughter, and unwavering devotion. She never met a stranger. She could light up any room with her warm smile and engaging spirit. She was an exceptional storyteller whose tales captivated audiences, bringing to life moments that felt both grand and intimate. A true matriarch, her home was a sanctuary where family and friends gathered, nourished by her culinary delights and surrounded by the flourishing gardens she cherished. Cooking, gardening, art, and writing were her passions, avenues through which she expressed her creativity and her devotion to those she loved. Her journey through life was painted with remarkable accomplishments, as she excelled as both an artist and an author. Her creative expressions rendered the world a more beautiful place, echoing the beauty she saw in each moment and each person. Carol was married to her beloved husband, Rodney Prins, for an incredible 65 years. Together, they built a life filled with cherished memories and the kind of love that inspired those around them. Their union steered the ship of their family, guiding their children, Tammy (Barry) Ryan, Lourie Albanese, Daniel Prins, and Scott (Kim) Prins. As a mother, she was devoted, instilling values and providing unconditional support to her children, ensuring they walked the paths of life with confidence and courage. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Hulda Brinkhous Licht; and brothers, Ardell, Loyed, Stanley, and Loyed Lee Licht.



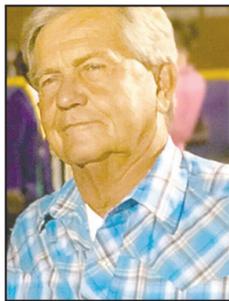
Her legacy lives on through her grandchildren, Caitlin, Joseph, Kristen (Blake), Stephen (Alexis), Emily, Kenna, Max, and Kelsey, who were inspired by her stories, and who filled her heart with pride and joy. All of them, including her great-grandchildren, Avery and Austin, were kissed with her creativity and love, each a testament to her life's work.

In honoring her memory, everyone was invited to pay their respects during a visitation on Jan. 11 at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler, followed by a funeral service. Immediately following the service, she was laid to rest at Elzey Chapel Cemetery.

It was the pleasure of Archer-Milton Funeral Home to honor the life of Carol Prins. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com  
PAID OBITUARY

## James Trowell

James Trowell, lovingly known as "Pop," passed away Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at HCA North Florida Hospital, surrounded by his cherished family. He was born June 18, 1950, in Georgia, to the late Joe and Gladys Trowell and lived a life full of purpose, laughter, and love. For an impressive 50 years, he proudly owned and operated Trowell Construction, building not only structures but lasting relationships within his community. His career was marked by his hardworking nature and unwavering commitment to excellence, which earned him the respect and admiration of clients and friends alike. When "Pop" wasn't overseeing construction projects, he could often be found at his beloved barn, working tirelessly on his race car, engaging in his favorite pastimes of hunting and fishing, or playing music on his guitar and bass. His interesting sense of humor might catch you off guard, but his big heart showed his true character. Known for his generous spirit, he took pride in ensuring that his family and friends never went without. His love of cooking displayed his generosity, and it gave him great pleasure to prepare a meal for his loved ones. He was predeceased by his parents, Joe and Gladys Trowell; and 11 siblings.



He is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Joann Tomlinson Trowell, who stood by his side through every season of life; and his three children, Jessica (Ben) Myers, Chris (Heather) Trowell and Leslie (Maryann) Trowell. "Pop" took immense pride in his legacy, which lives on through his nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, who brought him boundless joy and moments of laughter. He is also survived by his sister, Maggie (Kenny) Keen.

A visitation was held Friday, Jan. 10, at Johnstown Baptist Church in Lake Butler, followed by a funeral service. "Pop" will be laid to rest at a later date.

It is the pleasure of Archer-Milton Funeral Home assist the family as they honor James Trowell, "Pop," 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com  
PAID OBITUARY

## Hunter Walker

Hunter Lee Walker, a cherished son, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away unexpectedly in a tragic motor vehicle accident while in West Virginia on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024. Born on Aug. 17, 2001, in Gainesville, he was a joyful spirit whose laid-back personality and love for life endeared him to everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He was raised in Lawtey and graduated from Bradford High School in 2018. Three years ago, he moved to West Virginia with his sister and was a warehouse worker for Pactiv Evergreen. He was known for his easygoing demeanor, embodying the essence of a country boy who found immense joy in the simplicity of life. He loved listening to music, riding dirt roads in his beloved Ford Ranger truck, and spending quality time with friends. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Lester Walker.



He is survived by his father, Lester Walker; mother, Marie Walker; twin brother, Clay Lee Walker; and his sisters, Sarah Marie Thomas and Ashlee (Anthony) Montgomery. His family also includes his cherished nieces and nephews, Ryder, Leighton, and Mollie, who brought him and the family great delight. Additionally, he leaves behind his grandmother, Marla Walker; and a daughter on the way, Dove Lee Walker, who will carry on his legacy.

The Celebration of Life was held on Friday, Jan. 10, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler, Florida. Family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched were welcome to join in honoring a life that was, though brief, profoundly impactful. Hunter Lee Walker's memory will forever be etched in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.  
PAID OBITUARY



The Telegraph's printing press is removed from the premises in late November 2024.

# Bradford County Telegraph says goodbye to its '70s-era press

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Bradford County Telegraph has been chronicling the history of Bradford County within its pages for more than 140 years, but the weekly newspaper recently said goodbye to a bit of its own history when its printing press was dismantled and hauled away.

In September 1977, the Telegraph heralded its purchase and installation of a four-unit web offset press. For approximately 44 years, the Telegraph and the organization's other two weeklies (the Lake Region Monitor and the Union County Times) were printed in-house.

The papers have been printed by an outside source since late 2021 (currently Florida Sun Printing in Callahan), but the press, which had since had another unit installed in 1999 to allow for color printing, remained on the Telegraph premises until it was removed in November 2024.

Web presses print upon continuous rolls of paper that are fed into them on rollers. A web offset press is one in which metal plates are used to transfer images onto cylinders, with pressure and ink being used to print those images onto paper.

At the time of the purchase of the four-unit Speed King rotary web press in 1977, the Telegraph was being printed in Green Cove Springs. Prior to that, it had been printed in various places, such as Callahan and Ocala and hadn't been printed in-house since 1964. That changed, mainly due to the purchase of both the Lake Region Monitor and the Union County Times. With those acquisitions, publishers Bobby Ferguson and John Miller deemed it feasible to own and operate their own press.

That press was capable of printing and folding up to 16,000 16-page newspapers in an hour.

The Sept. 15, 1977, issue, which was the first to be produced on that press, proclaimed it "another milestone in the 98-year-old history of the Bradford County Telegraph."

An announcement on the editorial page in that issue recounted some of the history of the printing of the Telegraph and read as follows:

"No one knows just what type of printing equipment was used by William W. Moore and his son, Sterling, when they printed the first copy of The Florida Telegraph, as it was then called, during the third week of July in the year 1879, but it must be assumed it was either an old Washington hand press or some type of job press that would print only one page of a paper at a time. The modern equipment in use today was not dreamed of at

that time. "Fortunately, the Telegraph, at first, was small in size (only four pages), and few copies were needed (probably only 200 or 300) in the tiny town of Starke in 1879. Otherwise, the publishers would never have made it if they had to produce the more than 5,000 copies of the Telegraph printed weekly today, usually containing 16 or more pages.

"After the original Washington hand press was discarded, the Telegraph was printed for several years on a job press that was capable of printing only one page at a time. The sheet of newsprint had to be folded in the middle, making four smaller sheets — then the front and back were printed, one page at a time. After that operation, the paper must be refolded so the other two pages could be printed before the completed paper was finished. It was a slow and laborious operation and would be impossible with the large circulations of today.

"Later, the Telegraph, after moving to its present location after 1900, bought a secondhand, flat-bed cylinder press that could print four pages, all on one large sheet of paper; then the printed sheets were run through the press again, printing the reverse side, after which the paper was run through an intricate folder in a separate operation, emerging as an eight-page paper.

"Later still, in the 1940s, the paper installed a secondhand web press, which operated from a continuous roll of paper, so that each sheet did not have to be fed into the press by hand. This sped up the operation, but the quality of printing could not compare with today's offset method of printing.

"The paper changed to the offset (photographic) method of printing in 1964, doing all of the operation in its own plant except the final printing. This improved the quality of printing — especially photographs — and sped up the printing process. The printing in a central plant continued until this week, when the final step — that of keeping the paper in its own plant throughout the entire operation, including the press run — was made possible.

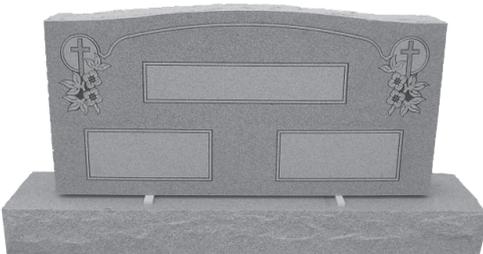
"Throughout its entire 98 years of operation, the Telegraph could not have made these great advances, all of which involved considerable expense, without the solid support of the community and its loyal readership in Starke and surrounding area.

"It is significant, perhaps, that this latest advancement is being made during National

See PRESS, page 13

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# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 16, 2025

## BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 23000430CAAXMX JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs. RYAN RUSSELL RAMSEY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RYAN RUSSELL RAMSEY; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE (Please publish in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure filed November 12, 2024 and entered in Case No. 23000430CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, wherein JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is Plaintiff and RYAN RUSSELL RAMSEY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RYAN RUSSELL RAMSEY; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; are defendants. DENNY THOMPSON, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN THE LOBBY OF THE COURTHOUSE, at 945 NORTH TEMPLE AVENUE, STARKE IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA 32091, at 11:00 A.M. EST, on January 23, 2025, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A parcel of land situated in the South One Half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said NE 1/4 and run S 89 deg 39 min 07 sec W, along the South line of said NE 1/4 a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, 495.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, along the center-line of a 60 foot easement for Utilities and general road purposes, 140.00 feet; thence run S 70 deg 11 min 40 sec E, 390 feet more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said centerline to a point bearing S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, from the point of beginning; thence run N 75 deg 41 min 40 sec W, 352 feet to the point of beginning.

SUBJECT TO an easement for Utilities and general road purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof. SUBJECT TO the easement right of way as recorded in Deed book 90, Page 377, of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.

LOT 8 A parcel of land situated in the South One Half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said NE 1/4 and run S 89 deg 39 min 07 sec W, along the South line of said NE 1/4 a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, 355 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, along the center-line of a 60 foot easement for Utilities and general road purposes 140.00 feet; thence run S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, 352 feet more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said center-line to a point bearing S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, from the point of beginning; thence run N 75 deg 41 min 40 sec W, 335 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO an easement for Utilities and general road purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof.

LOT 9 A parcel of land situated in the South One Half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said NE 1/4 and run S 89 deg 39 min 07 sec W, along the South line of said NE 1/4 a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, 215.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E along the center-line of a 60 foot easement for Utilities and general road purposes, 140.00 feet; thence run S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, 335 feet more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said center-line to a point bearing S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, from the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO an easement for Utilities and general road purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof.

TPN: 00551-0-00700 (lots 7-9) Together with 1989 PINE Doublewide Mobile Home with Title No's 47469171 and 47501543 located therein AND BEARING VIN# HMLCP28151504104A AND HMLCP28151504104B. a/k/a 8462 NW 210TH STREET, STARKE, FLORIDA 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. Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2024.

Eric Knopp, Esq. Bar. No.: 709921 Kahane & Associates, P.A. 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220 Sunrise, Florida 33323 Telephone: (954) 382-3486 Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380 Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 945 North Temple Avenue, Rm. 137, Starke, FL 32091, Phone No. (904)966-6280 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-995-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services). Submitted by: Kahane & Associates, P.A. 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220 Sunrise, Florida 33323 Telephone: (954) 382-3486 Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380 Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com 1/9 2tchg 1/16-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO. 24000397CAAXMX VYSTAR CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,

vs. ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, CREDITORS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARIAN KATHLEEN MCRAE, DECEASED; MICHAEL JAMES MCRAE; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION

To the following Defendant(s): ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, CREDITORS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARIAN KATHLEEN MCRAE, DECEASED (LAST KNOWN ADDRESS) 1210 BRADFORD STREET, STARKE, FLORIDA 32091 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property: LOT SIXTEEN (16), BLOCK SIX (6), SARATOGA HEIGHTS, UNIT II ACCORDING TO PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 70, PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. a/k/a 1210 BRADFORD STREET,, STARKE, FLORIDA 32091 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220, Sunrise, FLORIDA 33323 on or before \_\_\_\_\_, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 945 North Temple Avenue, Rm. 137, Starke, FL 32091, Phone No. (904)966-6280 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-995-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services). WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 27TH day of December, 2024.

DENNY THOMPSON As Clerk of the Court By Kyrh Smith As Deputy Clerk Publish: (Please publish in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH)

Submitted by: Kahane & Associates, P.A. 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220 Sunrise, Florida 33323 Telephone: (954) 382-3486 Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380 Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com 1/9 2tchg 1/16-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2024 CA 000227 MTGLQ INVESTORS L.P., Plaintiff, VS. MELINDA R. MURWIN; JOHNATHAN KIRK; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING

BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on December 23, 2024 in Civil Case No. 2024 CA 000227, of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein, MTGLQ INVESTORS L.P. is the Plaintiff, and MELINDA R. MURWIN; JOHNATHAN KIRK; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Denny Thompson will sell to the highest bidder for cash at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 on February 27, 2025 at 11:00:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING PARTLY IN THE W 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 AND PARTLY IN THE W 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT AN IRON ROD LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID W 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 AND RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 30.00 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 15 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID W 1/2 OF NW 1/4 OF NE 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 206.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST, 270.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST, 206.00 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH SAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 383.87 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE CENTERLINE OF A 6 FOOT BRANCH; THENCE NORTH 65 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, 16.09 FEET; THENCE NORTH 51 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, 26.57 FEET; THENCE NORTH 69 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 43 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, 86.87 FEET; THENCE NORTH 65 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 43 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, 42.22 FEET; THENCE NORTH 52 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 06 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, 147.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID W 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 548.55 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 4.11 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. 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. Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2025.

ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff 5300 West Atlantic Avenue, Suite 303 Delray Beach, FL 33484 Telephone: 561-392-6391 Facsimile: 561-392-6965 By: FBN: 106751 Primary E-Mail: ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com 1/16 2tchg 1/23-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on February 18, 2025. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on February 11, 2025 and end at 10AM on February 18, 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 B23, STONEMAN, MIKE, B51, Green, Cherish 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 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837. 1/16 2tchg 1/23-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: 04-2025-CP-000004 Inre: THE ESTATE OF MARVINA LOUISE STALLINGS STEADMAN, also known as MARVINA LOUISE STEADMAN, MARVINA L. STEADMAN, and MARVINA S. STEADMAN, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Marvina Louise Stallings Steadman, also known as Marvina Louise Steadman, Marvina L. Steadman and Marvina S. Steadman, whose date of death was October 2, 2024, and whose Social Security Number is \*\*\*\*-\*\*-\*\*\*\*, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 845 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address 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 WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 16, 2025. Personal Representative: Daniel Lee Stallings 202 Mulberry Circle Crawfordville, Florida 32327 Attorneys for Personal Representative: TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A. By /s/Jennifer T. Arrubla James J. Taylor Jr. Florida Bar No. 334057 Jennifer T. Arrubla Florida Bar No. 98804 420 S. Lawrence Blvd. Keystone Heights, Florida 32656 Primary Email: Jennifer@tah-law.com Secondary Email: Jim@tah-law.com Kim@tah-law.com 352-473-8088 (telephone) 352-473-8161 (facsimile) 1/16 2tchg 1/23-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: 04-2025-CP-000003 Inre: THE ESTATE OF VIOLET LOUISE FORGETTE, also known as VIOLET L. FORGETTE and VIOLET FORGETTE, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Violet Louise Forgette, also known as Violet L. Forgette and Violet Forgette, whose date of death was May 26, 2024, and whose Social Security Number is \*\*\*\*-\*\*-7878, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 845 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address 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 WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 16, 2025. Personal Representative: Daniel Lee Stallings 202 Mulberry Circle Crawfordville, Florida 32327 Attorneys for Personal Representative: TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A. By /s/Jennifer T. Arrubla James J. Taylor Jr. Florida Bar No. 334057 Jennifer T. Arrubla Florida Bar No. 98804 420 S. Lawrence Blvd. Keystone Heights, Florida 32656 Primary Email: Jennifer@tah-law.com Secondary Email: Jim@tah-law.com Kim@tah-law.com 352-473-8088 (telephone) 352-473-8161 (facsimile) 1/16 2tchg 1/23-BCT

com Secondary Email: Jim@tah-law.com Kim@tah-law.com 352-473-8088 (telephone) 352-473-8161 (facsimile) 1/16 2tchg 1/23-BCT

INVITATION TO BID Allstate Construction, Inc. (CGC1518758), the Construction Manager, will receive sealed bid proposals from pre-qualified subcontractors for Florida Department of Corrections, Florida State Prison Window Replacement project, Raiford, Florida, for the following work:

08A - Detention Windows Subcontractor Bid Proposals will be received until 2:00pm EST on February 13, 2025, at Allstate Construction, Inc., 5718 Tower Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Pre-Bid Site Visit will be held on January 30, 2025, 10:00am EST at 23916 NW 83rd Avenue, Raiford, FL 32083. Background checks are required prior to the Pre-Bid Site Visit. Contact Allstate Construction for specifics. Bid Proposal documents are available from Allstate Construction, Inc. Email: Dlarson@allstateconstruction.com Phone: 904-388-9845 Allstate Construction, Inc. reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or reject any and all Bid Proposals. 1/16 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Lawtrey Special Election Qualifying to finish term ending January 2026 CITY COMMISSION GROUP 3 Qualifying will be from noon January 27 until noon January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Voting Registration ends at 5 p.m. March 3, 2025 Election Day is April 1, 2025 1/16 1tchg-BCT

Request for Proposals The City of Lake Butler, Florida, is requesting proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide grant administration services for a Florida Boating Improvement Program grant that has been awarded to the city (Grant #24073). The grant will be used to improve the boat ramp at Lakeside Park. Please submit 6 copies of a proposal for grant administration services. The proposal should be unbound, paper clipped or stapled only and should not exceed 10 pages. The proposal should provide a description of your organization and staff, grant management experience, familiarity or ability to become familiar with local conditions, areas of expertise and proposed approach and fee. Deadline for Submission The deadline for submitting proposals is **2:00 p.m. on February 6, 2025** at the following address: Lake Butler City Hall (Attention: City Manager), 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054. Please indicate on the outside of the envelope: "Sealed Proposal for Grant Administration Services - Lake Butler Florida Boating Improvement Program Project". 1/16 1tchg-UCT

## UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 22000014CA SOUTHWEST STAGE FUNDING, LLC DBA CASCADE FINANCIAL SERVICES Plaintiff(s),

vs. RANDALL A. GRIFFIS, JR.; et al., Defendant(s).

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale entered on November 21, 2024 in the above-captioned action, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door lobby of the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 27th day of February, 2025 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure or order, to wit:

A parcel of land lying in Section 30, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Union County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a found 2 inch iron pipe located at the Northwest corner of said Section 30 and run North 84 degrees 29 minutes 06 seconds East, along the North line of said Section 30, for a distance of 1528.89 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron rod located on the Westerly right of way line of County Road 793 (80 feet right of way); thence run South 11 degrees 59 minutes 17 seconds East, along said Westerly right of way line, for a distance of 987.20 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described continue South 11 degrees 59 minutes 17 seconds East, along said Westerly right of way line, for a distance of 110.09 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron rod; thence run South 84 degrees 27 minutes 55 seconds West, for a distance of 409.74 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron rod located on the West line of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 30; thence run North 01 degrees 08 minutes 07 seconds West, along the West line of said Northeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4, for a distance of 109.51 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron rod; thence run North 84 degrees 26 minutes 06 seconds East for a distance of 388.97 feet to the Point of Beginning. Subject to any covenants, easements, and/or restrictions of record. Together with that certain 2018 mobile home bearing Serial Numbers: LOHGA21833204A and LOHGA21833204B. Property address: 11311 Northeast Country Road 793, Raiford, FL 32083 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.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org. Kellie Hendricks-Rhoades CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court 1/16 1tchg-UCT

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Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
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# Hope boys get 19 from Wilson in 52-44 win over Northside

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Hope Christian Academy made three three-pointers in the final quarter in maintaining its lead in a 52-44 win over host Northside Christian in a boys basketball game on Jan. 9.

The Lions (5-6), who led almost the entire game, made seven three-pointers in all, getting four from Aiden Wilson, who finished with 19 points — the game high he shared with the Eagles' Waylen Kahakua.

Hope scored six of the game's

first eight points and took a 9-4 lead into the second quarter. Mason Masciocchi scored following a turnover to put the Lions up 4-2, giving them a lead they'd never relinquish the rest of the half. Hope missed a shot after another Northside turnover, but Gunner Loften grabbed the rebound, which led to Griffin McCloud knocking down a jump shot to put the Lions up 6-2.

A three-pointer by Hope's Walker Munroe made it a 9-3 game.

Kahakua had a strong start to

the second quarter for Northside (6-4). He grabbed a defensive rebound after Hope missed its first field-goal attempt and later sank a jump shot following an offensive rebound by teammate Nathan Banks. Kahakua then blocked the Lions' second field-goal attempt of the quarter.

Kahakua later made 1 of 2 technical free throws to pull the Eagles to within 9-7.

Hope answered with a 7-0 run that was all Wilson. First, he made his first three-pointer of the game. Wilson rebounded his own miss on another offensive series and put it back successfully. He then scored off his own steal to put the Lions ahead 16-7.

Another Wilson three-pointer later in the quarter gave Hope a 22-12 lead, but the Eagles closed out the half with nine straight points. The run began with consecutive three-pointers by Nathan Rhoden and Kahakua. Kahakua then went 3 of 4 at the foul line to send Northside into halftime trailing only 22-21.

The Eagles took their first lead of the game when Kahakua made a three-pointer to start the third quarter. Wyatt Harden then had a steal and was fouled on his way to the basket. He made both free throws to give Northside a 26-22 lead.

Hope struggled coming out of the break, missing its first four field-goal attempts and committing two turnovers. It was 27-23 in favor of the Eagles before the Lions finally made a bucket, with McCloud scoring after a Wilson steal. McCloud later added another score off an offensive rebound that tied it up at 27-27.

It was 29-29 when the Lions outscored Northside 10-1 to close out the third quarter. Zenik Patrick scored off an offensive rebound before Munroe got a basket off a Wilson steal. After the Eagles' Harden made a free throw, Hope got one free throw from Wilson and two free throws from Loften. Wilson later sank a three-pointer to send the Lions into the fourth quarter leading 39-30.

The final quarter began the same way the previous quarter ended, with Wilson knocking down a three-point basket.

Northside brought its deficit back to single digits, with Kahakua scoring off an offensive rebound and also making a three-pointer of his own, which left the Eagles trailing 42-35.

Loften and Patrick each made a three-point shot, while Patrick also added a two-point basket as Hope increased its lead to 14 points.

Rhoden had a couple of steals late in the quarter for Northside, scoring off one of them, but the Eagles couldn't get closer than eight points the rest of the way.

Loften joined Wilson in double figures with 11 points, while Hope also got seven points each from Loften and McCloud, five from Munroe and three from Masciocchi.

Harden and Rhoden just missed scoring in double figures for the Eagles with nine and eight points, respectively. Northside also got four points from Banks and two each from Michael Green and Noah Liston.

The win was Hope's second in three games. On Jan. 7, the Lions hosted High Springs' First Christian, winning 51-43. Wilson and Munroe scored 20 and 10 points, respectively. Patrick added nine points, while the Lions also got five each from Loften and Caden Hertzog and two from McCloud.

It was the second straight loss for Northside, which attempted to end the streak against Westwood Christian this past Monday.

The Lions and the Eagles played each other again this past Tuesday at Hope.

Hope next hosts Corinth Christian on Friday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. The Lions then travel for two straight games, playing Gainesville Christian Community on Monday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. and Open Bible of



Hope's Mason Masciocchi (center) drives to the basket between Northside's Waylen Kahakua (far left) and Nathan Banks.



Hope's Griffin McCloud (center) pulls down a rebound between teammate Mason Masciocchi (far right) and Northside's Nathan Banks.



Northside's Wyatt Harden (left) drives to the basket against Hope's Aiden Wilson.

Valdosta, Georgia, on Tuesday, to play Westwood Christian on Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5:30 p.m. Northside travels to Live Oak

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## Welsh has big second half in Northside girls win over Hope

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ava Welsh scored seven of her 13 second-half points in a third quarter that saw host Northside Christian Academy outscore Hope Christian 16-3 en route to a 49-34 Eagles win in a girls basketball game on Jan. 9.

Northside (2-4) held a three-point lead going into the second quarter, thanks to a basket by Welsh with four seconds left in the first quarter.

Hope (0-7) scored the first seven points of the second quarter. Addyson Wilson, who was fouled going to the basket after her own steal, made a free throw. She then came away with another steal and sank a three-point shot. Wilson later added another three-point basket for a 15-11 Hope lead.

Bella Smith scored off an offensive rebound for the Eagles' first points of the quarter, but the Lions responded with two straight baskets. Autumn Hunt scored off her own steal, while Mackenzie McRaney got a basket off another Northside turnover, putting Hope ahead 19-13.

The teams then traded baskets. Northside got a score from Welsh, followed by Hope scoring on a McRaney basket off an Aubriana Clark assist. The Eagles then got a basket from Caydance Slayton, while the Lions got one from Clark off an offensive rebound.

Northside scored the final four points of the half, getting a basket from Slayton and two free throws from Kaylea King. That left the Eagles trailing 23-21.

Welsh knocked down a jump shot to start the third quarter, which evened the score, but Wilson answered for the Lions with a three-pointer.

Wilson's basket accounted for Hope's only points in the quarter as the Eagles scored 14 straight in taking the lead for good. Piper Kite made a three-point shot, followed by a basket by King. Slayton made a free throw before Jaycee Smith sank a foul-line jumper. After a Maddey Garrison free throw, Welsh scored off a Kite steal. Another turnover led to a three-pointer by Welsh and a 37-26 Northside leading going into the fourth quarter.

The final quarter began with a three-pointer by the Lions'



ABOVE: Northside's Ava Welsh (center) blocks a shot by Hope's Alyssa Hunt. LEFT: Northside's Maddey Garrison (right) looks for a shot opportunity while being guarded by Hope's Mackenzie McRaney.

Wilson, but the Eagles answered with four straight baskets. King and Welsh sank consecutive jump shots before Jaycee Smith scored off a Welsh assist. Slayton then added a basket for a 45-29 Eagles lead.

Hope's Alyssa Hunt scored consecutive baskets off a pair of steals, but it was too little too late for the Lions.

Welsh finished with a game-high 18 points. The Eagles also got eight points each from King and Jaycee Smith, seven from Slayton, four from Bella Smith, three from Kite and one from Garrison.

The Lions were led by Wilson's 14 points. McRaney and Alyssa Hunt scored seven and six points,

respectively, while Clark had four. Autumn Hunt added two points.

Hope and Northside played each other against this past Tuesday at Hope.

Northside travels to Floral City to play New Testament Christian on Friday, Jan. 17, at 5 p.m. The Eagles then travel to Callahan to play West Nassau High School on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 4:30 p.m.

The Lions host Union County High School on Friday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. Hope then travels for two straight games, playing Gainesville Christian Community on Monday, Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m. and Open Bible Christian of Valdosta, Georgia, on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m.

## Bradford boys improve to 10-2 with win over Baker Co.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
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Maliki Cobarris had 15 points in a second half that included a 15-0 run that helped the Bradford High School boys basketball team defeat Class 4A Baker County 54-44 on Jan. 11 in Starke.

The Class 3A Tornadoes (10-2) have now won six in a row, with their last loss occurring on Dec. 18.

Bradford shot less than 20 percent from the field in the first half, but managed to lead most of the way until halftime.

The Tornadoes made just 2 of 16 field-goal attempts in the second quarter, with the first basket not occurring until 3:19 remained in the half. That basket was a three-pointer by Maliki Cobarris that put the Tornadoes up 16-11.

Breion Johnson scored off an offensive rebound with less than 30 seconds on the clock to make it 18-14, but Baker's Gerald Ruise sank a three-point shot that left the Wildcats trailing 18-17 at halftime.

Cobarris, who led all scorers with 22 points, had two baskets early in the third quarter, but a 6-0 Baker run gave the Wildcats a 23-22 lead.

It was 26-25 in favor of Baker when the Tornadoes went on an 11-0 run to close out the third quarter. The run began with Jordan Cason grabbing a defensive rebound and dribbling the length of the court for a basket that gave Bradford the lead for good. A successful jump shot by K.J. Taylor was followed by two free throws from Johnson. Cobarris then scored off a Steven Carter steal, while Carter scored the quarter's final points on a three-pointer, making the score 36-26.



Jy'Quez Cason (right) puts up a shot in the lane in Bradford's win over Baker County.

The run carried over into the fourth quarter, with Carter and Cobarris each scoring on a drive to the basket and making it a 40-26 game.

Three three-pointers by Will Johnson helped the Wildcats cut Bradford's lead to seven, but the Tornadoes got consecutive scores, with Taylor getting a basket off an offensive rebound and Carter grabbing a defensive rebound, dribbling the length of the court and scoring after a spin move in the lane for a 51-40 lead. Carter finished with 10 points, while Taylor and Jy'Quez Cason each had six. Johnson and Jordan Cason each added five points.

Jordan Cason grabbed a game-high 14 rebounds, with the Tornadoes also getting six from Johnson.

Cobarris had a game-high four assists, while Carter had three.

Carter came away with a game-high four steals, with Jordan Cason and Jy'Quez Cason each recording three.

Earlier in the week, the Tornadoes earned two wins at home, beginning with a 52-43 win over Class 5A Middleburg on Jan. 9.

Jordan Cason scored 19 points and added six rebounds and three steals, while Cobarris had 13 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Taylor and Kyren Green each had six points, with Bradford also getting three each from Carter and Jy'Quez Cason and two from Johnson.

On Jan. 10, the Tornadoes had three players score in double figures in a 72-43 win over fellow Class 3A team Baldwin.

Jordan Cason and Cobarris had 18 and 16 points, respectively, while Carter added 13. Bradford also got nine points from Jy'Quez Cason and eight each from Green and Johnson.

Carter and Jordan Cason each had eight rebounds, with Carter also dishing out eight assists and coming up with four steals.

Cobarris had seven assists and three steals.

Green and Jy'Quez Cason each grabbed five rebounds, with Cason also adding three assists and four steals.

Bradford played Palatka this past Tuesday and will travel to play Crescent City on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The Tornadoes then travel to play Oakleaf on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. before returning home to play P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

## UCHS boys beat Branford again for 4th straight win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School defeated visiting Branford for the second time in a week, coming away with a 67-47 victory in a boys basketball matchup on Jan. 11.

The Tigers (7-2) got 17 points and six rebounds from Jeppson Dang in winning their fourth straight game. Tyrese Chandler and Gavin Jenkins scored 13 and



Union's Tyrese Chandler (right) had team highs in rebounds and assists in the Tigers' 67-47 win over Branford.

11 points, respectively. Chandler added six rebounds and six assists, while Jenkins also had five assists.

Isaiah Folaji and Adrian Manns had seven and six points, respectively, while Union also got four points from A.J. Chandler, three from R.J. Odom and two each from Bubba McGhee, Jacques McKenzie and Erick Lasseter.

McGhee grabbed five rebounds, while Manns blocked four shots.

Odom added five assists and two steals to his totals.

The win came seven days after the Tigers traveled to Branford and topped the Bucs 60-55 in overtime on Jan. 4.

Jenkins scored 24 points as Union rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit. The Tigers also got eight points from Manns, seven from Folaji, six each from McKenzie, Odom and Tyrese Chandler, two from Jashuan Green and one from Lasseter.

Manns led the team in rebounds with 13, while McKenzie had 10.

Odom and Folaji dished out four and three assists, respectively.

In between the two games against Branford, the Tigers defeated Dixie County 54-44 on Jan. 7 in Lake Butler.

Manns and Tyrese Chandler combined to go 11 of 16 from the field, with Chandler scoring 14 points and Manns adding 11.

Union also got nine points from Folaji, six from Lasseter, five from Odom, four from Dang and two from McKenzie.

McKenzy grabbed seven rebounds, while Manns and McGhee each had six.

Tyrese Chandler, who had five rebounds, and Odom led the team in assists with five each. Dang had three assists.

Folaji added a team-high four steals.

The Tigers, who are 13th in the Florida High School Athletic Association/MaxPreps Rural Classification power rankings, played Keystone Heights this past Tuesday and will host Baker County on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Union travels to play Fort White on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. before returning home to play Bell on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 8 p.m.



Ar'Nayshia Griffin (right) has been lighting up the scoreboard for Bradford with a total of 81 points in the Tornadoes' last two games.

## BHS Continued from page 8

fellow Class 3A team has more points than Griffin — Freeport's Jasmine Miles (341).

In looking at points-per-game average, Griffin's 25.5 ranks her second in Class 3A behind Pine Crest's Isabella Sangha (26.0).

Griffin's average is 10th best in all classifications.

Bradford will host District 3-3A opponent Newberry on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. The Tornadoes are currently 16th in the Florida High School Athletic

Association/MaxPreps Class 3A power rankings, while Newberry is 18th.

Out of the 15 schools ranked ahead of Bradford in 3A, 11 are private. Another two are public charter/magnet schools.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, Bradford travels to play Oakleaf at 6 p.m. The Tornadoes return home to play Eastside on Monday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. Bradford then hosts P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Bradford travels to play Hawthorne on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m.

## PRESS

Continued from page 10

Newspaper Week (Oct. 9-15), for it was Winston Churchill who once said, "Where free institutions are indigenous to the soil, and men have the habit of liberty, the press will continue to be the Fourth Estate, the vigilant guardian of the rights of the ordinary citizen."

"We hope that during our 98 years of publication we have, in some measure, lived up to the words of the great English statesman and war-time leader and can think of no better dedication for our new press than to hope that the newspaper it prints will always remain 'the vigilant guardian of the rights of the ordinary citizen.'"

## Creating the words for the pages

Printing newspapers has come a long way, as you might imagine. New inventions left old ways of doing things behind them in a world that has seen technological advances in so many areas.

The staff of the Telegraph and its sister newspapers began

using electronic typesetting equipment in 1979. In 1990, Apple Macintosh computers were purchased. Journalists and other staff members continue to use Apple computers to this day.

It's the type of technology that W.W. Moore and his son Sterling couldn't have imagined when they founded the Telegraph in 1879. In those days, every printed word had to be composed from handset, metal type, with individual letters plucked from a wood type case. After the paper was printed, the ink was washed from the metal type with gasoline. Each column of type was broken down, with the letters being returned to their individual slots in the type case.

It may not be surprising to know that the first issue of what was then called the Florida Telegraph consisted of only four pages. Yet even composing four pages by hand was too time consuming, which is why the Telegraph and other newspapers relied upon what was known as "ready type." Ready type consisted of pre-printed pages that were ordered from a firm in Atlanta. Those pages consisted of items of general interest, such as short stories, Sunday school

lessons and patent-medicine ads.

The first issue of the Telegraph consisted of two ready type pages. In those early days, ready type was used for the front and back pages, which the owners tried to keep a secret. That puzzled readers, who noticed that the inside pages were always smudgy and full of errors compared to the nicer-looking front and back pages. It was said that the only conclusion readers could come to was that the Telegraph typesetter was drunk.

People naturally wanted to speed up the process of printing, which resulted in the invention of what became known as the Linotype. Invented by Ottmar Mergenthaler in 1884, the Linotype produced a line of metal type all at once. A person typed on a keyboard, with the machine releasing a mold of each corresponding letter from a storage magazine. The letters, which were called "matrices," formed a mold into which hot metal was poured. Each metal-cast line of type was called a "slug."

It would take some time, though, for small newspapers like the Telegraph to utilize a Linotype or similar hot-metal



The Bradford County Telegraph purchased this press in 1977 and used it to print the Telegraph, Lake Region Monitor and Union County Times for approximately 44 years.

machines because of their cost. The Telegraph purchased a Model 8 Linotype in the early 1900s. It was the first such machine sold in Florida.

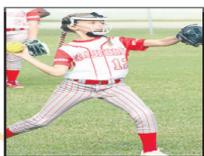
Such a machine weighed in the neighborhood of 3,000 pounds. In fact, when considering such a purchase, it was determined that the Telegraph needed to

move from the second floor of the building it occupied due to the machine's weight. The paper's office moved into the one-story, West Call Street building it occupied for most of its existence.

Owner/Publisher Eugene L. Matthews installed a web press during the economic boom

Starke experienced during World War II as a result of its proximity to Camp Blanding.

In-house printing ceased in 1968. Staff still prepared pages for printing at the Telegraph office, but the pages were taken to an offsite printer. That remained the case until the web offset press was purchased in 1977.



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**\$715,000**



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Custom built, two owner home was originally built by a restaurant owner and ready for ultimate entertaining on coveted Kingsley Lake! Over 7000 SF under roof with lake views, large windows and French doors from all bedrooms, living & dining rooms provide for gorgeous sun rises. Commercial grade gas oven, griddle & burners. Granite countertops, gas cook top @ food prep and cooking island (sink) in kitchen and a large bar with wet sink in the living room. Owner's suite upstairs is spacious and has deluxe bath with built ins and washer/dryer connections. Main laundry room is down stairs and houses a washer/dryer and utility sink. Central vacuum system, 2 gas water heaters, living spaces on all three levels. Ground level ceramic tile patio and second level deck for relaxing and entertaining. Recently updated light fixtures, ceiling fans, toilets, hard wired smoke detectors, LED lighting, tankless water heater, exterior paint/stain and garbage disposal. Updated dock has new jet ski lifts, led lights, steps and ropes.

**\$ 3,499,999**



**182 Cargo Way, Keystone Heights, FL 32656**  
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Solid CB home with stucco and metal roof tucked away at a dead end road on Lake Brooklyn. Close to downtown, shopping, eateries, banks and medical offices. Large lakeside deck and fenced lakeside yard. Split BR plan, FL room on lakeside, indoor laundry and fireplace in the living room make this home cozy! Large window in the dining area for views of Lake Brooklyn and sunsets. Owner's suite has French doors to lakeside deck and both bathrooms have been updated as well as the kitchen.

Don't miss this lovely lake home!

**\$399,900**



**5822 Silver Sands Circle, Keystone Heights, FL 32656**  
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Well maintained and updated brick home on Silver Sands Lake. Updates include roof, two HVAC, Brazilian Tigerwood flooring, solid surface countertops and more! Attached garage has been converted to heated/cooled living space for an extra bedroom, office, work out room, etc. It has French Doors to the driveway and parking area. Open dining and living room with front room that can be used as formal dining, family room or office. Living room has wood burning fireplace. Large 55x12 lakeside room has a wood burning grill/fireplace and can be accessed from the living room or primary suite. Detached insulated (with AC) shed as well as an insulated metal building with mini split system. Slab floor, 10x10 roll up door and attached two car carport. Don't miss all that this property has to offer!

**\$549,900**