

# Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 27th Issue — \$1

## Bella Johns crowned Miss Union County High School

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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Bella Johns, an 18-year-old senior at Union County High School, was crowned Miss UCHS 2025-2026 during the annual scholarship pageant held at the school auditorium. The event, themed "Hometown Crown," showcased eight young women competing for the title.

Johns, the daughter of Jason and Nancy Johns, impressed judges with her performances across multiple categories. She earned top honors in Best Opening Number Presentation, Best Theme Wear, and Best On Stage Question.

For her talent portion, Johns delivered a spoken-word performance in both English and Spanish of "Via Dolorosa," Latin for "the way of suffering."

"Stone kissed with blood," Johns told the audience. "The road remembers his feet. Each step a sermon of love. The crowd breathes scorn, yet heaven leans close as mercy stumbles beneath the wood. No throne, no crown, but thorns. No sword but silence. No triumph but surrender, and still he walks, not

driven by nails, but by love that will not turn back. The way of sorrows becomes the road of hope, or death itself learns to kneel."

For Johns's on-stage question, Miss UCHS 1989, Joy Zapp, asked the 18-year-old about the biggest challenge facing young people today.

"I believe the biggest challenge facing teens today is social media," the contestant answered. "Comparison and just insecurity have really hurt our generation."

Isabelle Kirsten, a 17-year-old senior and JROTC member, was named runner-up. Kirsten showcased her vocal talents by singing "Ur So Pretty" by the Wasai Project and earned Best Interview, Best Evening Gown, and Best On-Stage Question awards.

The pageant, co-directed by SarahBeth Vaughn and Erin Waters, serves as a fundraiser for the UCHS Class of 2028. Funds raised through sponsorships, ticket sales, and the People's Choice Award will benefit the sophomore class.

See UCHS, page 6



Miss Union County High School 2024-2025, Aubrie Muse, crowns the new Miss UCHS, Bella Johns.

## Keystone Heights Popeyes closes as franchisee files for Chapter 11

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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Sailormen Inc., which operated a Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen in Keystone Heights and 135 other restaurants across Florida and Georgia, submitted its bankruptcy petition on January 15 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. The filing puts the jobs of more than 3,200 hourly employees in limbo as the Miami-based company seeks to restructure its operations.

Court documents cite persistent inflation that drove up operating costs, lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic that permanently altered consumer dining habits, and an increasingly challenging labor market that made staffing difficult and expensive.

In response to changing dining habits created by the pandemic, the Keystone Heights Popeyes was built with a dining area half the size of the Starke location. According to one analyst, drive-through

traffic at fast food outlets increased by 30% in the three years following the pandemic, while inside dining fell by 47%.

"The confluence of these economic headwinds created an unsustainable financial situation," according to the bankruptcy filing, which details how declining customer traffic combined with rising expenses created a cash flow crisis the company couldn't overcome.

According to media reports, Sailormen's troubles intensified following a botched asset sale that left the franchisee in an even more precarious position. In late 2023, the company attempted to offload 16 of its Georgia locations to Tar Heels Spice in a deal aimed at generating much-needed capital and reducing its footprint.

However, that transaction never reached completion. By April 2024, Sailormen had stopped paying rent on those 16 locations and subsequently filed a breach-of-contract lawsuit against the would-be buyer. The company remained legally responsible

for the restaurant leases, adding to its mounting financial obligations.

The situation reached a critical point in December, when BMO Bank, Sailormen's primary lender, filed suit against the franchisee and sought a court-appointed receiver to take control of the company's assets.

Founded in 1984 specifically to operate Popeyes restaurants, Sailormen was purchased in July 1987 by businessmen Bob Berg and Steve Wemple, when it operated just 11 Miami-area locations.

The company experienced aggressive expansion during the 1990s and early 2000s, establishing operations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, and Mississippi. However, between 2012 and 2018, management made a strategic decision to consolidate, selling off operations in Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, and Mississippi to focus exclusively on development in the Florida and Georgia markets.



## Hope Christian announces homecoming

Hope Christian Academy's Homecoming Week is Feb. 2-6. The Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned Thursday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. in the HCA gymnasium. The basketball games are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 6. Members for the Senior Homecoming Court are (front, l-r) Lacey Depoe, Lorlai Green, Mackenzie McRaney, Savannah Jewell, Brook Parrish, (back) Addyson Wilson, Mythias Weis, Mason Faulkner, Noah Gaffney, Lydia Jones, Blayne Wilkinson, Landen Perry and Adam White. Photo: Virginia Denmark.

## Starke awaits delayed impact fee ordinance

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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Starke's reintroduction of higher impact fees on new development has been delayed by post-storm legislation.

Not long after being presented its updated impact fee study in November, the city learned that Senate Bill 180 (2025), which limited local governments' ability to regulate land development following hurricanes, also affected the city's ability to increase impact fees.

The legislation prohibits governments from charging impact fees for replacing destroyed structures with like-kind rebuilds. This is to alleviate some of cost of recovery. The problem for Starke, however, is the law also requires a unanimous vote to increase impact fees, and the higher fees must be phased in.

At the recommendation of the city's attorneys at Folds and Walker, City Manager Drew Mullins engaged a law firm in Tallahassee which specializes in impact fee implementation. Mullins said he didn't want to open the city to liability, so for a maximum cost of \$15,000, the firm will write a new ordinance and properly repeal and replace the previous ordinance.

See FEE, page 2

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## WORTH NOTING

### Yesterdays Festival at Gold Head

Gold Head Branch State Park Yesterdays Festival will be Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with family fun for everyone. There are hayrides, kids' games, hands-on activities, historic demonstrations, including cross-cut saw, real cannon fire, re-enactors, old tractors and live music. The event is free to the public, with the gate fee of \$5 per vehicle. For more information email Yesterdays@FriendsofGoldHead.org.

### Church yard sale

Lifeline Ministries will hold a church yard sale Friday and Saturday, Jan. 30 and 31, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located at 325 N. Christian St. in Starke.

### Brain Bus in Starke, Melrose

HCA Florida North Florida Hospital is hosting two stops on the upcoming Alzheimer's Association Brain Bus "tour." The Brain Bus is coming to HCA Florida Starke Emergency from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, Feb. 2., and then to the Senior Healthcare Center in Melrose from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Community members are invited to attend to gather resources and information on Alzheimer's and dementia. Learn about caregiver tips, local resources, advances in research, early Alzheimer's detection and diagnosis, brain health, risk reduction, and more. Services are free and no appointment is needed.

### DAR chapter to meet Feb. 2

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will meet on Monday, Feb. 2, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Judy Jull (14272 S.W. 75th Ave., Starke) for a tea party to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the nation's independence.

As part of the chapter's support of veterans, members and guests will make woven, paper hearts to give to veterans in care facilities on Valentine's Day.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

### Black History Month service

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church of Lawtey will host its annual Black History Month Service on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m. The theme for this Service is "A Heritage of Unshakable Faith." The guest speaker for the occasion will be Pastor H. Wayne Colbert of Victorious Faith Impact Ministries COGIC in Palatka, The.

Mt. Zion's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline L. Dupree, and the Mt. Zion family invites the public to attend.



**FEE**  
Continued from page 1

The city manager reported to the commission Jan. 20, that dealing with the legislation was proving complicated, and a call between the law firm and impact fee consultant was scheduled to

discuss the calculations. Mullins also said there was pending litigation over the state law. Dozens of cities and counties have sued saying the legislation violates home rule.

Determined to bring the commission an ordinance, Mullins said he would report back when it was ready for a

vote. Technically, Starke already had impact fees on the books. Adopted in the 2000s, the commission declared a moratorium to encourage development. Because so much time had passed since the moratorium, a revised study was performed and presented

last November to update the fee calculations. These were the maximum amounts the city could impose, but most commissioners did not agree they should start that high. They discussed raising the former fees by 25%.

The study looked at fees for road improvements, the fire department, parks and public buildings, which were all fees formerly collected. It eliminated fees for the police department, which no longer exists. It proposed adding fees for water and wastewater infrastructure, for which new homes and businesses have previously only been charged a few hundred dollars in connection fees.

The impact fee maximum for a new single-family residence was \$7,658 plus \$6,579 if the new water and wastewater fees were adopted, for a total of \$14,237. Based on the former maximum fees, the total was \$6,204 but only included \$215 as a water

connection fee.

For a multifamily residential development, the total per unit was \$12,176. The prior maximum impact fee was \$4,910 per unit. Again, that only included a water connection fee per unit.

Square footage would be used to calculate the fees for new nonresidential development. The consultant used a typical fast-food restaurant as an example. At 3,000 square feet, the total would come to \$43,755 plus \$32,895, which is the equivalent water and wastewater usage for five residences. The total is \$76,647. That is significantly more than the prior maximum fee of \$29,718, which only included a water connection fee of \$315.

For a 30,000 square-foot grocery store, the total maximum fee would come to \$279,183, up more than \$100,000 from \$171,345.

**Thursday food distributions**

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share distribute food on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The next distributions are Feb. 5 and 19 from 9-11:30 a.m. at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. This is a drive-thru only giveaway.

**The Duncans in concert**

The Duncans will be in concert at Lifeline Ministries in Starke on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 11 a.m. The church is located at 325 N. Christian St. All are welcome.

**Purchase pavers in Rosenberg Garden**

The Woman's Club of Starke is honoring longtime member Della Rosenberg and offering personalized brick pavers to be placed in the Rosenberg Garden. These pavers make meaningful gifts for weddings, anniversaries, Christmas and memorials.

For details, please contact Cleo Elder at 904-796-7427 or Charnelle Whittemore at 352-235-1825.



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<p><b>SATURDAY 1/31</b></p> <p>MERCY- 4:00 &amp; 7:00</p> <p>SHELTER- 4:00 &amp; 7:00</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY 2/1</b></p> <p>MERCY- 4:00 &amp; 7:00</p> <p>SHELTER- 4:00 &amp; 7:00</p>

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# Several honored at MLK Drum Major Service Award Banquet

BY JENN SAMSEL  
jenn@bctelegraph.com

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County held its ninth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Service Award Banquet on Jan. 17 at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center in Bradford County.

The event opened with a powerful speech from the guest speaker, the Hon. Tatum Davis, Bradford County judge.

"We come together to honor Dr. King, a leader whose voice still echoes across time, calling us towards justice, compassion, unity," he said.

Awards were presented for the countless volunteer hours dedicated to Concerned Citizens of Bradford County and the community at large. Maria Hankerson received the MLK Service Award, while the Drum Major award recipients this year were Scott Roberts and Ceolar Johnson Hudson.

According to the Concerned Citizens, Roberts' leadership, integrity and commitment to community service span several decades. "A successful local business owner for 40 years, Scott has demonstrated sound judgment, problem-solving



Ceolar Johnson Hudson

skills, and a steady dedication to serving others through both professional and civic leadership," their profile read.

Of Hudson, they said she is a "humble woman with a very strong Christian faith, love for all mankind and a wonderful sense of humor." A Lawtey native, she had held many official positions within her church affiliation at the local, district and convention levels. She retired from the school district after 32 years.

Unfortunately, Hudson was unable to attend the event, but it was noted that she is celebrating her 100th birthday.



Terrance Davis, David McMillian, Andy Redding, Glenda Ruise, Maria Hankerson, Kate Ellison, Louise Johnson, Alica McMillian, Judy Sumpter, Carolyn Spooner, Sheila Cummings, Scott Roberts, Carnell Williams, Sherry Williams, Brenda Donaldson, Sandra Demps and Jimmy Crosby.



Scott and Kim Roberts



Maria Hankerson



Carol and Commissioner Bob Milner, Commissioner Dimple Overstreet and Starke Mayor Andy Redding. The city was a platinum level sponsor of the banquet.



School Board Member Sheila Cummings



Judge Tatum Davis



County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner



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### HOW HUNGRY ARE YOU? Part 2

want to open today with a verse found in the book of Psalms that I referred to last week. *Psalms 42:1-2 (NIV)* "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you my God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" There is something about being hungry for God that compares to no other hunger. It is so sad to see Christians that were once on fire for God just going through religious motions. Many are only a smoking flax when at one time they were burning brands for the Lord Jesus Christ. What happened? They lost their zeal for God, they lost their hunger for Him. Many Christians became disappointed in other Christians or attended a church that had no hunger for more of God. Some people have the misconception that once one is saved, born-again, that is it. Now they are ready for heaven and they never fully realize that when you were saved your new life in Christ begins.

**W**e read in *2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)*, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation; old things passed away, behold, all things have become new." When a new born baby comes into the world, it comes into the world hungry. It is totally normal for a baby to cry when it grows hungry. It wants to be fed, it has a natural God given desire to eat. If a baby has no appetite, no desire to eat we know that something is wrong. It is perfectly normal for a new born Christian to be hungry for God, to desire the milk of God's Word.

**T**he Bible tells us in *1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)*, "as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." It is normal for Christians to have a desire for God's Word. It is normal for healthy Christians to have an appetite for God, for the Word of God, for spiritual things.

We read in the book of *Hebrews 5:13-14 (NKJV)*, "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the Word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age... Our churches are filled with babies that have been saved for many years. Why are they still babies? They did not maintain a spiritual hunger, they did not eat properly, they lost their hunger for God.

**I**f Christians go for days without reading their Bible, without praying and seeking God they are spiritually weak and sick. You can measure your spiritual hunger by examining your daily spiritual appetite. I get so tired of Christians talking about how busy they are, they don't have time to pray or study or seek God. It is funny that most are never too tired or busy to eat several times a time and throw in a snack or two during the day. What is the real problem? They have lost their hunger for God. I am not saying they don't love God, but pursuing Him is not a priority. If we would only listen to the one that lives on the inside of us, the Mighty Holy Spirit. We would hear Him calling us to a deeper and stronger, more intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer today for you, for myself and the entire Body of Christ is a hunger for more of God. May a real God hunger mature in all of our hearts. When we are hungry we can press in to God through faith and prayer and receive from the Lord that which our soul covets and our heart longs for.

My brothers and my sisters, begin to pray that God will make you hungry for more of Him. *Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)* Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." Blessings! -Pastor Rick

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## 40 apartments planned for Starke

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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The site plan for Starke's new multifamily development has received the city commission's approval.

Ten quadruplex buildings will go up at the corner of State Road 16 and Weldon Road, for a total of 40 new apartments. Each building is approximately 4,560 square feet, and most are arranged along S.R. 16. The only ingress and egress from the development is from Weldon on the south side of the property. The development will also include sidewalks and 60 parking spaces.

According to the site plan review, more than two acres of the nearly 6-acre property is an existing wetlands/flood plain area. It will not be impacted by the development. The four stormwater retention area planned will be interconnected, draining into the southernmost retention point before being discharged into the wetlands/floodplain. The discharge rates and volumes are reduced from existing conditions, resulting in no negative drainage impacts, according to the report.

According to Lance Cambell from Starke's Building and



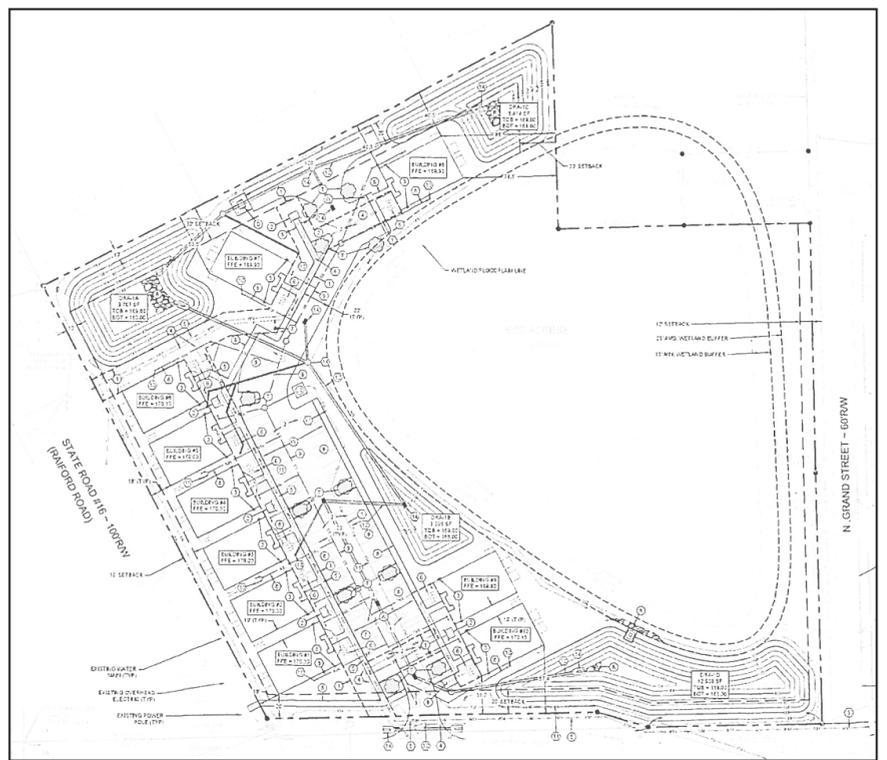
Land cleared at the corner of West Weldon and Raiford Road before construction of the new housing development.

Zoning, the development met all the requirements for site plan approval.

"Our staff has done an in-depth review on this. It does meet all of our land development codes for site plan approval. We will get more into the building aspect through the permitting

process. As of right now, it is a good use for the land and staff's recommendation is to approve the site plan," he said.

The property is owned by HLS Rental LLC, which lists Jeremy Howard of Lawtey and Brian Blake of Alachua as managers.



The site plan shows most of the buildings fronting State Road 16. The only entrance/exit is from Weldon at the south of the property.

## Committee asked to cut Starke charter to 10 pages, keep the essentials only

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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The Starke Charter Revision Committee's latest meeting focused on defining the city's form of government and election cycles.

Members are working to deliver voters an amended charter to consider this fall. Jeff Johnson and Al Hunter were selected as chair and vice chair of the committee to manage meetings, and City Clerk Chrissy Thompson is performing a leadership role, guiding the committee through its work.

That included the goal of cutting the charter from nearly 70 down to 10 or fewer pages.

"There's 411 cities in the state. There's not one identical charter. Every single one is different. Every single town and village has one. The goal and the framework would be just kind of like the Constitution, to have just the framework, the vision, the structure," Thompson said.

That would include defining the number of elected officials, the election process, terms of office and basic responsibilities.

As the first charter review since it was adopted, Thompson explained the importance of citizens carrying out this task.

"The citizens' role is crucial in making sure that what we're doing is giving the city

governmental foundations," she said.

Having said that, there will be input from city officials and staff as well.

"We understand that the 10 of you all are citizens and are voters and are very active in the community, and we appreciate that. But we also want to compromise to everybody, like what you know, some of the things in the clerk's position, what I have as nonnegotiable. What (City Manager Drew Mullins) would like to have. Not necessarily nonnegotiable, but to be put into the charter. What does work and what does not work? You guys may come up with an

idea and say, 'OK, I want this, this and this.' It may not ever work, or it may not come to the commission and pass," she said.

Thompson said the final document should reflect the unity of everyone's input and be a win for everyone.

Some of the topics discussed included the role of the mayor — whether Starke should have a strong or weak mayor. Should the mayor be elected separately from the city commission, or continue as a commissioner appointed by the others. Thompson said an elected mayor wouldn't have a vote, but be a day-to-day position that may or may not be paid. As it is now, no one commissioner has any more authority than another, even if designated mayor. That individual serves as chair of the meetings and signs documents as needed.

Committee member Michael Heeder made the point that an elected mayor would give voters citywide a chance to choose a single person to be the face of the city. Johnson said he initially thought about having a mayor and at least one commissioner

elected citywide, but he now thinks that arrangement could get too political.

"We got five people. They decide who they want to run the meeting. If I've got a voice, I go to my member and say, 'Hey, I want this.' And if I want a louder voice, I'll bring my heinie up here to this council meeting," he said.

Johnson also expressed that exploring every alternative to the current structure would take too long to meet their deadline for this year's ballot and place too much on the attorney's plate.

"We need to get down to a basic charter that tells us what this city is and what we stand for. That's going to change. Guys, if you haven't rode up and down 301, 16, 100, this city is fixing to change its face. I heard the other day, Starke is the new Middleburg," he said.

Another reason not to get too inventive, according to Johnson: a small percentage of the city's registered voters would show up to vote, leaving the impact on the city's future in the hands of a few hundred people.

Increasing voter turnout is one reason city officials want to move elections to the two-year cycle for county, state and federal elections. It will require extending the recently elected clerk and commissioners' terms by one year, so their offices would be open for election in 2030, not 2029.

Committee member Brenda Donaldson said if the current scenario with five commissioners — with one being mayor-commissioner — works, then they should stick with it.

Thompson said, given that referendums to remove the city clerk as one of the elected positions in the charter have failed, it is obvious voters want that position maintained. Modifying the charter to reflect her actual role will be part of the process.

The committee is meeting twice monthly at 4 p.m. prior to the city commission meetings on the first and third Tuesday of the month at city hall. The meetings are open to the public.

## A Place of Grace INC.

and the churches of Bradford County volunteers provide a free hot meal to those in need within our community.

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(behind Powell's)



We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who give their time and care to serve others. Their compassion ensures that our neighbors facing food insecurity are not forgotten.

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## Winter warnings: How to shield plants from freezing temperatures

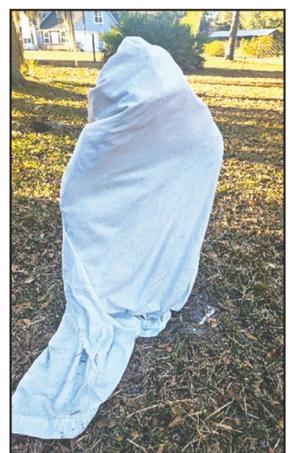
BY LUKE HARLOW  
UF/IFAS Bradford County  
Horticulture Agent

Comparatively, we are in a pretty good location to deal with freezes in Northeast Florida. We don't have to deal with icy roads causing accidents or getting hit in the head by iguanas falling from trees. Our average annual lows for Bradford County are generally in the 40's and 50's for the winter season. Freezes are not something we really have to be concerned about for the most part. However, we have currently had some very cold weather events within the last weeks and if you have sensitive plants, fruits trees or crops on your property, they may have felt the sting of the winter frost. Here are some tips for trying to keep your 'leaf babies' alive during the next cold night.

First, know which of your plants is at risk of damage when temperatures dip below 32 degrees. Any plants that are labeled as tropical (citrus, mangos, papayas, avocados, etc.), tender veggies, and annual flowers may need some extra care during the winter. If you have any tropical or sensitive plants, think about keeping them in nice planters that can be moved indoors for the freeze and then moved back out. Second,



Luke Harlow



Wrapping plants can protect them from freezing temperatures.

even before wrapping them in blankets, give your plants a good healthy watering at least 24-48 hours before the frost hits. Moist soil retains heat better than dry soil and will help protect the roots during the night. Make sure to water only the soil and not the leaves of the plants or to allow overwatering, which can damage the plants during the freeze.

Freeze cloth is a great method to protect your plants quickly. You can absolutely buy freeze cloth from the stores, or a simpler material can be bed sheets, old blankets or burlap. Make sure not to use materials such as tarps or other plastics. While these make sense from keeping cold wind at bay, they do not insulate and can transfer the cold directly to the leaves of the plant, causing freeze burn. Make sure your freeze cloth is completely covering the plant all the way to the ground, so the ground heat can be trapped inside.

One practice we do not recommend is using your irrigation system to try to insulate your plants from the freeze. You might see our local strawberry growers doing this because their irrigation systems are designed to continually apply water with accurate coverage over the crops. This practice keeps the plant tissue from dropping below freezing, preventing colder air temperatures from causing plant damage. Most home irrigation systems are not designed for this practice and can cause more harm than good.

If you do have damaged plants due to the cold weather, we recommend waiting until the spring to prune. Any new growth will be more sensitive to upcoming cold weather. For more thoughts, you can contact me directly at the extension office at 904-966-6299.

# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

The following individuals were recently arrested 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

#### Threatened husband with knife

Lori Bryant, 62, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 19 for aggravated battery.

According to an arrest report deputies responded to a North Water Street residence around 5:41 p.m. in reference to an assault with a deadly weapon.

Upon arrival, Deputy D. Jones spoke with Bryant, who explained that her husband had held a knife to her throat during a verbal argument. Bryant stated she grabbed a knife from a knife box in self-defense, indicating she would defend herself if her partner grabbed her.

However, the 63-year-old man provided a different account to investigators. He told deputies that Bryant grabbed the knife from the knife box and waved it around, threatening to cut him during the argument. He added that he grabbed the knife from Bryant's hand and placed it back in the knife box, denying any physical contact with her.

The husband's brother, who was also present during the incident, corroborated the husband's version of events. He told investigators that Bryant grabbed a knife from the knife box and held it in her husband's face, stating she was going to cut his throat. According to the witness, the husband braced his arm against Bryant's chest to retrieve the knife and return it to the knife box.

Lola Marie Cavanagh, 43, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 19 for DUI.

Donald Levi Evans, 71, of Alachua, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 19 for a conditional release violation.

Rebecca Lynn Gerding, 52, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 20 for DUI.

Gary Dale Hrinda, 37, homeless, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 21 for a probation violation and failure to appear.

#### Put tracking devices on estranged wife's SUV

Loyd Alan Kerr, 50, of Orange Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 20 for aggravated stalking and a domestic violence injunction.

According to a warrant affidavit filed by Deputy Daniel Callaway, the victim first discovered a tracking device attached to her vehicle's wheel well on July 14, 2025. Days later, on July 18, she received a notification on her phone alerting her to a second tracking device near her vehicle, which she located in the hitch receiver.

The woman submitted the two tracking devices as evidence and completed a sworn written statement about the incidents.

The investigation progressed when the victim provided additional evidence in December. She submitted a screenshot she said Loyd Kerr had taken while tracking her GMC Yukon on October 3 using OnStar services. She reported obtaining his account number through OnStar and has since changed the account to her name only.

When Deputy Callaway attempted to contact Loyd Kerr for an interview on December 3, 2025, he learned the suspect was

already incarcerated at the Clay County Jail on unrelated charges, including violation of injunction for protection against domestic violence, violation of probation, and resisting without violence.

Kirstyn Jade Key, 26, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 21 for out-of-county warrants.

Crystal Rose Miller, 39, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 23 for an out-of-county warrant.

Danielle Marie Nicholl, 43, of Fort Pierce, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 21 for an out-of-county warrant and withholding support.

Daniel Scott Nichols, 40, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 21 for withholding support.

Daytrell Antonio Paige, 24, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 20 for a probation violation.

#### Used convenience store phone to contact protected person

Erica Dawn Roman, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 17 for contempt of court.

According to an arrest report, Roman made multiple telephone calls to a protected party from a Circle K convenience store, violating a domestic violence protection order.

The protected party, whose identity is being withheld, contacted authorities around 1:00 p.m. after receiving eight phone calls between 8:45 and 8:52 a.m. from a Starke phone number. According to the report, when the victim answered one of the calls, he heard a female voice say "stop" before crying and disconnecting.

The victim recognized the voice as belonging to Roman, against whom he held an active temporary protection order issued on January 2.

After tracing the phone number to a Circle K convenience store the victim alerted law enforcement.

Deputy Benjamin Norsworthy responded to the scene and confirmed the phone number belonged to the convenience store, which is located near both the victim's residence and Roman's current place of residence.

Upon reviewing security footage at the Circle K, investigators observed Roman entering the store and requesting to use the phone during the exact timeframe when the calls were received.

During questioning, Roman acknowledged she was aware of the no-contact provision in the protection order and stated she had not made contact with the victim.

When presented with evidence of the phone calls and surveillance footage, Roman did not deny being at the store or using the phone. However, she claimed the store phone was not working and that she had returned it to the clerk when it began to ring.

#### Paid for car repair with bad check

Jerry Rushing, 63, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 21 for larceny and fraud with an insufficient funds check.

According to a warrant affidavit, Rushing wrote a check for \$183.13 on May 6, 2024, to pay for mechanic repair services on his 2006 Honda CR-V. However, when the business attempted to deposit the check on May 15, DLP Bank notified them that it had been rejected because Rushing's account had been closed.

A worker at the business told deputies that she made multiple attempts to contact Rushing and a woman to resolve the matter. The woman answered the phone once, but when the employee explained the situation, the woman hung up, according to the complaint. Further attempts

to reach either party were unsuccessful.

When a Bradford County Sheriff's deputy responded to the complaint on June 20, 2024, the officer attempted to make contact with the Rushings, but no one was home.

#### Took fight too far

Hunter Tetstone, 25, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 18 for felony battery.

According to an arrest report, Deputies responded to the Patriot Saloon at approximately 10:51 p.m. on January 17 after reports of an intoxicated person and a physical altercation between two patrons.

According to a female witness, the conflict began inside the bar when the victim made unwanted advances toward her and other women, making them uncomfortable. Tetstone confronted the man and told him to stop, the woman told investigators.

The confrontation escalated when the other man challenged Tetstone to fight outside, according to the arrest report. Both men then went into the parking lot where the physical altercation occurred.

Tetstone told deputies he had gone outside to urinate when the other man followed him and struck him first. He claimed he acted in self-defense after being attacked.

The victim, whose identity was not released, told emergency medical personnel that Tetstone struck first but refused to provide additional details. He was transported by EMS to North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville with a possible concussion.

Surveillance footage from the bar's security cameras told a more complete story, according to deputies.

The video showed both men assuming fighting stances and exchanging blows in the parking lot. However, the footage allegedly shows Tetstone gaining control of the situation and "repeatedly" striking the victim in the face and head while the man was on the ground.

The video purportedly shows Tetstone repeatedly lifting the victim's torso and slamming his head against the pavement before the bar owner and other patrons intervened.

The victim sustained significant injuries, including severe facial swelling that forced one eye completely shut, bleeding from the nose, substantial abrasions to both knees, and injuries to his right index finger. EMS personnel suspected he had suffered a concussion.

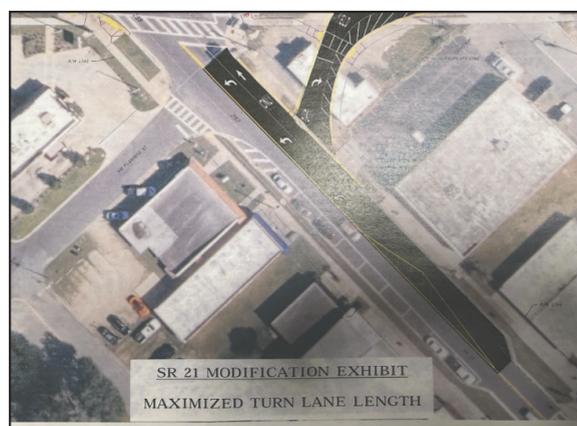
Tetstone had abrasions on his right hand, a bite mark on his right forearm, and a scratch extending from the corner of his mouth to his hairline, according to the report.

After reviewing the surveillance footage, deputies

## Right turn lane at Keystone's main intersection scheduled for 2027

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth said state officials have budgeted dedicated turning lanes at South Lawrence Boulevard (State Road 21) and Walker Drive (State Road 100) for 2027. The mayor said around five street parking spaces in front of Keystone Gifts and Guns and Clyde's Cozy Corner Cafe will be lost in the process.



Rodenroth added that FDOT officials are willing to change the design if the city council wishes, but any changes would likely push the project beyond 2027. An exhibit provided by the

mayor shows a dedicated left-turn lane, another solely for crossing Walker Drive, and a dedicated right-turn lane across what used to be the China Chef Restaurant.

read Tetstone his Miranda rights. The defendant initially maintained his account of events, but admitted he could not remember some details. Later, Tetstone said he could recall more of the incident.

"The events of the night were starting to return to him, and he remembered what happened," Deputy Brampton wrote in the report. Tetstone acknowledged the victim had bitten him but added, "he should not have done what he did."

Dendrea Wallace, 32, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 21 for failure to appear.

### Union

Johnnie Lee Alexander, 59, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 23 for a probation violation.

Lakisha Goolsby Douglas, 47, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 21 for probation violations.

Casey Faith Williams, 50, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 19 for failure to appear for a misdemeanor offense.

Frederick Lythell Williams, 56, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 23 for use of a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony, sale of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a place of worship or business, child neglect, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

### Clay

#### Tried to throw daughter out, arrested instead

Dawn Michelle Allman, 49, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 17 for domestic battery.

According to an arrest report, deputies were dispatched to the McRae area at approximately 9:53 a.m. in response to a 911 hang-up call. Dispatchers reported hearing yelling in the background of the call that

sounded like an argument.

Upon arrival, Deputy A.M. Moreno made contact with Allman at the front door. The defendant stated that she and her two biological daughters had gotten into an argument over household responsibilities and unpaid rent.

The alleged victim, a 23-year-old female, and her sister also spoke with law enforcement at the scene.

According to the report, the 23-year-old told deputies that around 9:30 a.m., Allman entered her bedroom yelling at her. She stated that Allman began going through her personal belongings and throwing things around while attempting to force her to leave the house. When the daughter tried to prevent Allman from taking her possessions, the situation escalated.

The sister told deputies she heard the commotion and entered the room, attempting to de-escalate the situation by positioning herself between the two. According to witness statements, Allman then punched the 23-year-old in the face with a closed fist.

The sister recorded video footage of the incident on her phone. While the video does not capture the punch itself, it shows the two arguing and the victim attempting to prevent Allman from taking her belongings. The video also shows Allman slapping the phone out of the sister's hand shortly after the alleged punch.

Makyla Marie Gilley, 21, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 22 for breach of the peace.

#### Punched pregnant woman

Andre Lavar Glover, 23, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 21 for aggravated battery on a pregnant female.

According to the arrest report, deputies responded to Hitchcock's in Keystone Heights around 1:45 p.m. on January 17, where they made contact with the victim, 22, who told them that Glover, her boyfriend of approximately 10 months, had assaulted her at their shared

residence on Fourth Avenue.

The woman reported that Glover had been upset and was punching holes in the bathroom wall. When she approached him and told him to stop, he allegedly struck her in the face with a closed fist, causing a cut to her bottom lip. The victim said Glover then forced her to the ground and pulled her hair while standing over her.

The victim's sister, who was also present in the home, corroborated the account. She told deputies she had been sleeping and was awakened by her sister's cries for help. When she emerged from her bedroom, she witnessed her sibling on her hands and knees outside the bathroom door while Glover held her by the hair. He released the victim when he saw the witness.

According to the report, when the victim said she was calling law enforcement, Glover allegedly followed her and told her not to call police. The victim stated she saw him reach for a knife, at which point she and her sister fled the residence.

The 22-year-old told deputies she is pregnant and had taken multiple positive at-home pregnancy tests approximately two weeks before the incident, though she had not yet visited a doctor to confirm the pregnancy.

Glover, who listed his address as homeless in Macclenny, was arrested four days after the incident.

Robert Daniel McGee, 22, of Melrose, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 19 for domestic battery.

Matthew Ray Smith, 42, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 22 for being a fugitive from justice and attempted assault.

Ashlee Christine Stewart, 20, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 20 for DUI, blood alcohol level of 0.15 or higher with a person under 18 in the vehicle.

Edward Allen Westberry, 39, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 21 for a probation violation.

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## Lake Butler awards parade winners, approves grant application

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Lake Butler City Commission approved pursuing two state historic preservation grants during their regular meeting Monday evening, while also recognizing winners of the 2025 Christmas Parade float contest.

Lake Butler Hospital took first place in the parade competition, receiving a certificate and \$200 prize for their decorated float. Union County Soccer Club placed second with a \$150 prize, while Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts Troop 40 earned third place and \$100.

The commission gave the green light to pursue grant funding for the Townsend Green building and the historic holding cell. Doug Sanders of Andy Easton and Associates, presenting the grant opportunities, explained that the state historic grant cycle opens in May and is highly competitive, requiring early preparation.

The Townsend building project, estimated at under \$20,000 with a city match of just under \$5,000, would complete window replacement and flooring repairs on both floors of the building. Commissioners expressed concern about the condition of the first floor after learning that people had fallen through sections of the flooring.

"We've had enough issues with people falling through the floor," Mayor Melissa Hendrix

noted during discussion about ensuring the first floor receives needed repairs alongside the second floor.

The commission also approved the city's first budget amendment for fiscal year 2025-2026, effective January 1. Finance Director McCusker reported the budget increased by approximately \$39,236 to \$1.336 million, while keeping costs down and maintaining financial health.

One notable budget adjustment involved wastewater flood-sludge removal services, which showed a \$50,000 increase after the contractor caught up on billing for previously unbilled October and November services.

Commissioner Annette Redmond reported on the January 10 Farm Share distribution, which served approximately 150-160 families with help from about 30 JROTC volunteers. Excess food was donated to a church program in Raiford that serves elderly residents and operates additional food distribution services.

City Manager Kim Hayes provided an update on a pending property sale, noting the potential buyer was arriving this week for well and septic tank inspections.

The commission authorized the mayor, city manager, and attorney to execute closing documents and handle routine transaction modifications without requiring additional board meetings.



Holding the first-place award for the Lake Butler Christmas Parade float are Reid Carswell (left) and Randall Griffis of Lake Butler Hospital. Also pictured (l-r) are commissioners Annette Redman, Mayor Melissa Hendrix, Vice Mayor Rondoll Huggins (on screen), Joe Stephenson and Fred Sirmones.

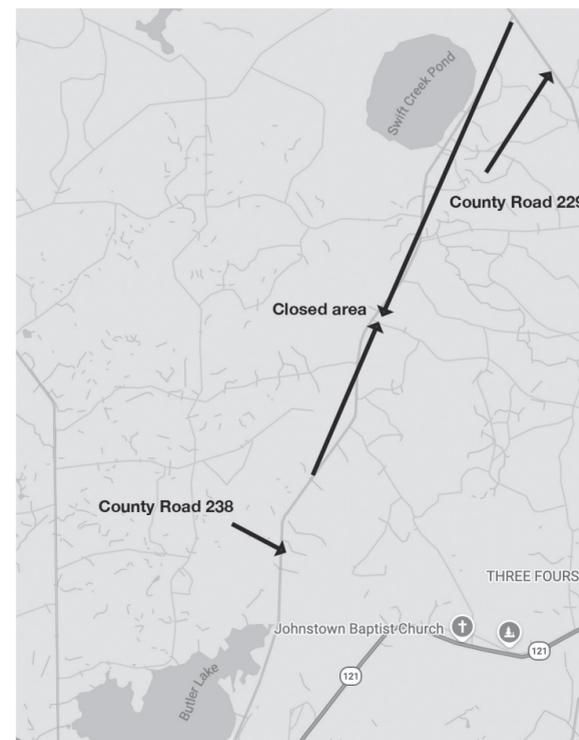


Doug Sanders of Andy Easton and Associates, presenting the grant opportunities, explained that the state historic grant cycle opens in May and is highly competitive, requiring early preparation.



Holding the third-place award for the Lake Butler Christmas Parade float are Cheyanne Kelley and Tyler Kelley of the Boy Scouts.

## Part of Union County Road 238 closing for road work



BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Union County officials said part of County Road 238 between Butler Lake and Swift Pond will close to traffic while workers replace culverts as part of a resurfacing project.

County Coordinator Jimmy Williams said there are no houses along the closed

portion of the road and that, after the culverts are replaced, the road will reopen to traffic while resurfacing work continues.

The closed portion of the road will be around Northeast 27th Terrace on the south end, extending north to County Road 229.

## UCHS

Continued from page 1

### Award winners

The competition featured multiple categories, with contestants demonstrating talents ranging from comedy and baton twirling to piano performance and sign language. Special award winners were:

Miss Congeniality: Addison Wright  
Most Photogenic: Kenli Jenkins  
Best Talent: Addison Wright



Bella Johns earned top honors in Best Opening Number Presentation, Best Theme Wear, and Best On Stage Question.

People's Choice Award: Kenli Jenkins

During the talent competition, Wright, an 18-year-old senior and cheerleader, delivered a speech about overcoming challenges posed by her congenital cataract

condition.

"I have taught myself that you can't let someone who doesn't know you define who you are and only you can write your story," she told the audience.

### Hometown heroes honored

In keeping with the "Hometown Crown" theme, each contestant honored a local hero who has made a difference in their community. Johns recognized Candace Brannen, a medical education teacher at UCHS, praising her dedication to students and her role in shaping



Isabelle Kirsten, a 17-year-old senior and JROTC member, was named first runner-up. Kirsten showcased her vocal talents by singing "Ur So Pretty" by the Wasai Project and earned the Best Interview, Best Evening Gown, and Best On-Stage Question awards.

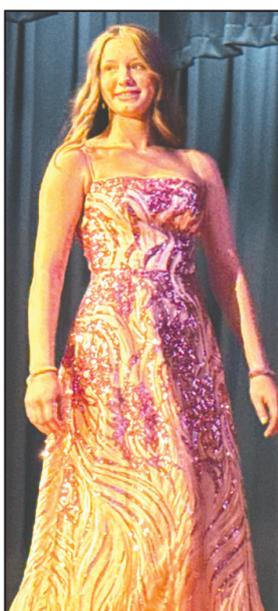
future healthcare professionals.

Other honored hometown heroes included JROTC Senior Army Instructor LTC Kevin Steverson, agricultural teacher Tom Williams, and various community members who have impacted students' lives through education, military service, and mentorship.

### Community support

The pageant was made possible through community sponsorship. TL Squared Builders, Inc. was the Queen Level sponsor. Nutrition Hideaway, Jessica Godwin: AFLAC, Beyond Brains and Beauty Consulting, Karly Ann Raulerson: Miss UCHS 2021, and Tim and Kim Rose were Princess Level sponsors. Muse Modern Construction sponsored the opening number. Beyond Brains and Beauty Consulting, Right Path Ranch, and TL Squared Builders sponsored Best Theme Wear, Best Interview, and Best Talent, respectively. Patsy Fortner: Miss UCHS, 1968, underwrote Best Evening Gown and Best Onstage Question. Terry's Florals sponsored the runner-up prize and the first-place prize.

Judge Sarah Weaver, a former title holder in the Miss America organization and director of major gifts at One More Child, joined Kaity Prevatt, a registered radiologic technologist and former pageant co-director, and Robin Steele, who works for the Florida House of Representatives, in evaluating



Summer Shaw is a member of FFA, the Tigerettes, the cheer squad, and the golf team. After high school Shaw hopes to become a realtor.

the contestants.

The evening concluded with outgoing Miss UCHS 2024-25 Aubrie Muse delivering her farewell walk and words of gratitude to those who supported her throughout her reign. Musical entertainment was provided by Sage Waters, a member of the Class of 2028.

Johns plans to complete her Associate of Arts degree at Florida Gateway College

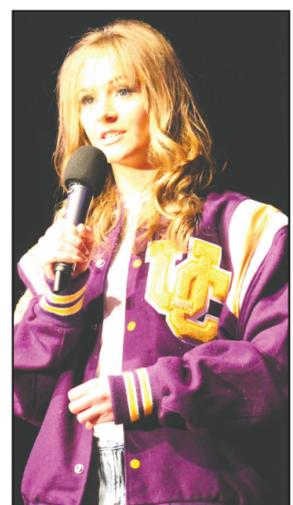


Kenli Jenkins won Most Photogenic and the People's Choice Award. For her talent, she performed sign language to the classic Christian hymn, "How Great Thou Art."



Musical entertainment was provided by Sage Waters, a member of the Class of 2028.

before attending Palm Beach Atlantic University to pursue a degree as a physician assistant specializing in dermatology. As an active student leader, she currently serves as student council secretary and vice president of the Beta Club,



During her talent competition, which featured a stand-up comedy routine, Chloie Harris poked fun at her JROTC instructor, LTC Kevin Steverson. However, when highlighting her hometown hero, she said Steverson fulfills JROTC's mission statement of motivating young people to be better citizens.



Taylor Lesch is a member of FFA as well as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. After high school, Lesch plans to attend college for biblical studies, start a women's ministry, and be a role model to those around her.

while participating in volleyball, FFA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Students Working Against Tobacco group.



During the talent competition, Wright, an 18-year-old senior and cheerleader, delivered an inspiring speech about overcoming challenges posed by her congenital cataract condition.



Lillie Lane is a member of JROTC as well as the Beta Club. After high school, Lane plans to attend a university, join its ROTC program, and become a lawyer in the military.

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## Murray Ford Opening \$6.2 Million Quick Lane Facility



General Manager Amir Asadi said he is planning to hold a soft opening before the end of January for the new Quick Lane building, with a grand opening celebration planned for March that will include Ford representatives and local officials.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Murray Ford is set to unveil an 18-bay Quick Lane service facility this month, marking a major expansion for the dealership that has grown from 14 service bays to nearly 40 in just 16 years.

The 18,000-square-foot, \$6.2 million facility represents the latest chapter in a growth story that began in 2009 when Dale Murray purchased what was then a struggling Town and Country Ford dealership with only 30 vehicles in stock.

General Manager Amir Asadi said that the dealership was in such bad shape when Murray took over that Ford required him to sign an acknowledgement that the store could be shut down.

"At that time, they didn't substantiate this place staying open," Asadi recalled. "This was a failing store, and they basically had him sign an agreement saying, Hey, we don't recommend that you purchase the store. We're shutting stores down and there's not enough people in this market. There's no sustainability for you to be able to generate a profit. But in (Murray's) mind, location is not important. It was all about the people, and that was his vision. He brought me here with him. I came here with him on Day 1. It was just him and me. And immediately, we started selling cars."

Asadi added that the growth of the dealership's service department caught him and the boss off guard.

"We didn't realize the growth that we were going to see in this area," he said. "Over the years, we've really kind of reached capacity within our service department."

The Quick Lane concept is a Ford trademark that allows dealerships to service all vehicle makes and models, not just Fords.

The typical Quick Lane handles common, light maintenance services, like oil changes, tire rotations and replacement, and brake work, competing with quick-lube chains.

However, the new Quick Lane facility in Starke also features specialized equipment to handle heavy-duty trucks, RVs, and commercial vehicles. Mobile columns can lift up to 54,000 pounds, allowing technicians to work on everything from 45-foot motorhomes to utility trucks and school buses.

"We can put two motorhomes inside the building and shut the doors and lift them," said David Green, fixed operations manager, who has worked with Ford dealerships for 60 years. "These mobile columns slide under the wheels, and we can pick it up, put it on jack stands, put tires, brakes or wheels on it, whatever."

Green also highlighted water and power hookups in the back of the building, allowing an RV customer to overnight at the facility if needed.

Green said that with its expanded capability, the dealership plans to extend its service business to RVs and commercial fleets.

The facility is divided into two sections — a front area for light maintenance and repairs visible to customers, and a back section for more intensive work, such as engine rebuilds and rear-end repairs.

### Growth from 30 to 400 vehicles

Murray Ford has grown significantly since Murray acquired the dealership in November 2009. The company now operates two Ford



(L-R) Fixed Operations Manager David Green, Quick Lane Manager Danny Nugent, Service Manager Mike Catman, and General Manager Amir Asadi in the light maintenance area of Murray Ford Superstore's new Quick Lane facility.



Mobile columns can lift up to 54,000 pounds, allowing technicians to work on everything from 45-foot motorhomes to utility trucks and school buses.

dealerships, in Starke and Kingsland, Georgia, as well as a Murray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram store in Starke. In Kingsland, the company recently completed a \$13 million project that included tearing down the old facility and building a new 31,000-square-foot dealership.

"Seventy-five percent of the people that we sell cars to are from outside of this area," Asadi said of the Starke dealership, noting that the U.S. 301 north operation has built a regional reputation. The store now stocks close to 400 vehicles compared to the 30 on hand when Murray took over.

### Addressing technician shortage

Like many dealerships nationwide, Murray Ford faces challenges in recruiting qualified technicians. Ford CEO Jim Farley has cited a nationwide shortage of 50,000 technician positions. To address this, Murray Ford has developed an in-house apprenticeship program where master technicians mentor newer employees.

"We take technicians from the Quick Lane department who start out as oil guys, filter guys, and based on their abilities, we try to groom them," Asadi explained. The company pays for training, lodging and transportation for employees attending technical schools, and provides tool allowances that increase with tenure.

Green, who graduated from high school in 1965 and received a Ford award as an outstanding technician, celebrated his 60th year with Ford dealers last June. Now 78, he advocates for bringing vocational training back to high schools.

"Most young men and women, they like cars," Green said. "If they have an interest, they need to come to us. We'd be happy to give them a guided tour and show them a program."

Asadi and Green said they plan to reach out to local high schools to promote careers in automotive technology.



Parts Manager Marcos Torres

### Hometown dealership philosophy

The dealership also operates seven mobile service vehicles between its three locations, allowing technicians to perform light maintenance at customers' homes.

Asadi said he is planning to hold a soft opening before the end of January for the new Quick Lane building, with a grand opening celebration planned for March that will include Ford representatives and local officials.

Both Green and Asadi credited Murray for setting an organizational tone that puts people first.

Asadi said two of the owner's three children, Savannah and Austin, work in the company.

"If you take care of the people, if you take care of the employees and they subsequently take care of their customers, the business will be there," Asadi said, describing the company's philosophy. "We treat every customer like an honored guest at our home."

Asadi added that Murray is generous in supporting local causes, especially schools and school athletics. When I interviewed Green and Asadi

## Starke's Holiday Inn Express approaching 3-year mark

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Starke's Holiday Inn Express will be celebrating its third anniversary on March 30.

The 80-room hotel, which opened its doors in 2022, represents a significant investment in Bradford County's hospitality infrastructure by F&R Enterprises, a company with seven hotels and numerous convenience stores across Florida.

General Manager Jolene Carwise, who has been with the property since it was just a frame during construction, oversees daily operations while Director of Sales Tia Jackson focuses on building business relationships and securing group bookings.

### Strategic location drives success

The hotel's position on the corridor between Jacksonville and Gainesville has proven advantageous, particularly during major events. When University of Florida football games fill Gainesville hotels to capacity, the Holiday Inn Express captures overflow traffic from alumni willing to drive an extra 30 minutes for more affordable rates.

The hotel's location northeast of Gainesville makes it particularly attractive for Gatornationals attendees.

"We're about 25 minutes from the Gator Nationals racetrack, the same distance as hotels on Archer Road in Gainesville," Carwise explained. "Plus, our rooms are a little cheaper than what Gainesville offers during game days."

The property also attracts business travelers and construction crews. During the recent Wawa construction project, the hotel housed numerous workers, demonstrating its appeal to the commercial sector.

### Meeting brand standards in a changing industry

Operating under the IHG (InterContinental Hotels Group) portfolio, which now includes 23 brands, the Starke property must adhere to strict brand standards that govern everything from towel quality to breakfast offerings.

"If our market isn't 70% full, IHG can fine us," Carwise noted. "We have to have specific cinnamon rolls at breakfast, certain types of towels, and two fruits available every morning. Everything is brand standard."

This attention to detail sets traditional hotels apart from competitors like Airbnb, according to both managers. The Holiday Inn Express offers security features, including interior-access rooms requiring key cards, 24-hour surveillance cameras on the exterior, and consistent quality standards.

"We are the only hotel here in the area where all rooms are located on the inside of the hotel," Jackson emphasized.

in Murray's office, a Union County High School baseball cap sat prominently in a bookshelf behind the owner's desk.

"Starke is my second home," the general manager said. "We've met a lot of great people out here. We've formulated a lot of great relationships, whether it's with the folks in public service or some of the local businesses. We've been very, very blessed."

The company's advertising reach extends from Tampa to



Holiday Inn Express General Manager Jolene Carwise (left) and Director of Sales Tia Jackson.

"That gives guests security. With an Airbnb, you don't know if there are cameras in your room."

### Industry challenges post-COVID

The hospitality industry continues to face headwinds following the pandemic, with traditional hotels competing against the growing short-term rental market. Carwise acknowledged that Airbnb has "really slowed hotels down."

"Hotels didn't get back to where they once were after COVID," she said. "Even right now, we're still recovering."

Adding to operational challenges, brand requirements remain unchanged despite shifting market conditions. Hotels must maintain white linens and specific amenities even as guest behaviors evolve and costs increase.

"When construction workers sleep on a white sheet one time, it's ruined, and we have to replace it because of brand standards," Carwise explained. "We're losing product to keep up with what's expected."

### Amenities and services

The Holiday Inn Express offers a range of amenities designed for modern travelers:

- 24-hour fitness center and business center.
- swimming pool.
- guest laundry facilities.
- express shop for snacks and sundries.
- complimentary hot breakfast bar with fresh-ground coffee and specialty teas.
- free high-speed internet throughout the property.
- outdoor patio area.

The hotel maintains a non-smoking policy and accepts service animals.

### Community involvement

Jackson serves on the Bradford County Tourist Development Council (TDC), which receives 4% bed tax based on the hotel's revenues. She views the partnership as mutually beneficial.

"If we're occupied, that's more for us and more for the city," Jackson said. "Revenue comes in for other businesses because guests need food and gas. It helps the whole economy."

Looking ahead, the team is exploring package deals that would encourage visitors to explore Starke attractions rather than simply using the hotel as a waystation between destinations.

### Room for growth

Despite maintaining steady business, Jackson acknowledges the hotel hasn't reached its full potential. "We haven't reached the max of where we want to be with our sellouts," she said. "There's still a lot of opportunity."

The hotel continues to pursue more corporate group business, with a particular focus on attracting meetings and extended-stay business clients for 2026.

As Starke's premier lodging option, there's no Hilton or Marriott in the area; the Holiday Inn Express serves as a critical piece of infrastructure supporting tourism, business travel, and the local economy. Its success, according to management, is tied directly to the community's growth.

"If the city grows, we grow," Jackson said. "The more people know of Starke, the better it is for all of us."

relationship with Dale," he said. "He takes care of me, and he takes care of his employees. And once again, we take care of our customers. I mean, why would anybody want to drive to Starke to buy a vehicle when you have so many other Ford dealerships in the area? Price is important, but it's also about the experience, and we try to give people a different type of experience. That's been our recipe, our formula for success."

## Russ WADE Attorney at Law



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# Obituaries

## Richard Baleno

Mr. Richard Baleno, 70, of Starke died Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at Windsor Health and Rehab in Starke. He was born on May 5, 1955, in Orlando to the late Samto and Ora (Sears) Baleno.

There are no scheduled services per Richard's request.

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

## Larry Baugess

Larry "Mr. Larry" David Baugess, 79, of Lawtrey passed away Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at his residence with his loving family by his side. Larry was born in Beaver, Ohio on Jan. 31, 1946, to the late Richard Baugess and Mary Porter Baugess. He was raised in Kentucky, where he completed his schooling before beginning a lifelong career as an industrial mechanic. He married the love of his life, Deloris Jean "D.J." Baugess, and together they shared a beautiful life built on love, hard work, and devotion to family. In 1971, they made Bradford County their home, where they raised their four children and created countless cherished memories. A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he took great pride in his family and treasured every moment spent with them. He worked for many years at Owens Joist Steel Mill in Starke and later dedicated nearly 40 years of service to Gilman Sawmill in Maxville. When not working, he enjoyed watching football and spending time in conversation. He loved talking about the weather and staying up to date with politics. A loyal Florida Gators fan, he cheered them on with enthusiasm, win or lose. He was a true treasure and will be remembered for his deep love for his family and the quiet joy he found in life's simple pleasures. His presence will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Carl Baugess; sister, Verna Mae Johnson; wife, Deloris Jean Baugess; daughter, Mary Baugess; grandson, Tommy Baugess; and son-in-law, Jerry Westberry.



He is survived by his loving children, Loretta Westberry of Starke, Albert (Jackie Christine) Baugess of Lawtrey and Richard Baugess of Starke; a cherished bonus daughter, Tina and Bill Gatlin of Starke; brother, Wilbur (Chloe) Baugess of Grayson, Kentucky; grandchildren, Paul Allen (Erica) Holt, Joey Baugess, and Kenneth Andrew (Katie) Wallace; adopted grandkids who knew and loved Mr. Larry as "Papa Larry," Carter and Ivey Jones; great-grandchildren, Reminton Paul Holt, Trenton Holt, and another great-grandson, Lafoy Wallace, on the way; along with several extended family members and friends.

A Graveside Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Jan. 30, at 11 a.m. at Keystone Heights Cemetery with Chaplain Jim Cox officiating. The family will receive friends Thursday, Jan. 29, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

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

PAID OBITUARY

## Steve Beard

Carl "Steve" Beard, 79, of Melrose died at his home Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026.

Survivors are his son, Scott (Nikki) Beard of Keystone Heights; daughters, Kelly Sue Beard of Pearce, Arizona and Kimberly Ann (Jim) Powell of Leigh, Nebraska; and extended family.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Indiana, with details to be announced.

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



## Glenda Borgner

Glenda Wade Borgner, 91, from Oxford, Mississippi died peacefully Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, surrounded by her family. A devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she will be remembered for her kindness and dedication to her family. As a Jehovah's Witness she loved talking about the Bible and about her God Jehovah and his son, Jesus.

The family will be having a private gathering.

Arrangements are with Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke, 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

## Nancy Buz

Nancy "Nana" Buz, 75, who spent her entire life in Melrose, was born July 20, 1950, in Starke and went to be with the Lord Jesus on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose life was rooted in faith and family. She shared 60 years of marriage with the love of her life, Roger Buz. Two young hearts that God brought together for a lifetime. She was the proud owner of Melrose Florist for 22 years, where her creativity and kindness touched many lives through flowers. She was a faithful member of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church for 45 years, where her faith guided her life. Known lovingly as "Nana" by most, she found her greatest joy in spending time with her family. She loved attending bluegrass festivals where music and laughter filled her heart. She also found joy working as a bluegrass booking agent, had her own bluegrass radio show, and hosted pickin' jams at a 100-year-old schoolhouse she had relocated to her property for unbelievable "jams" each month.

She is survived by her husband, Roger Buz; her two children, Carl Buz and Tresa Buz; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered for her gentle but strong spirit and her unwavering Christian faith.

A Victory Service will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3760 State Road 21, Keystone Heights, 32656. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Christian Life Resources, P.O. Box 56, Reinfield, WI, 53076, www.Christianliferesources.com, 1-800-729-9535

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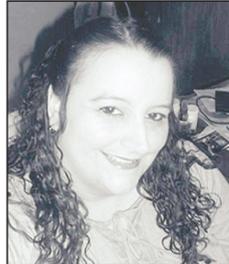
## Lori Greek

Lori Ann Greek, a beloved wife, mother, daughter, and friend, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Lake Butler on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026. Born on March 23, 1973, in Macclenny, Lori brought warmth and love to all who knew her and had an enduring dedication to her family. A proud graduate of Baker County High School, she embraced life with a quiet demeanor, often keeping to herself but radiating kindness in her interactions. She married Ray Greek, with whom she shared 33 wonderful years of partnership. Together, they raised three loving children, Jonathan Daniel Greek, Bradley Isaiah Greek, and Alora Ann Greek. Her commitment to her family defined her life, as she cherished moments spent with them, nurturing their dreams and aspirations. She found joy in simple pleasures, particularly in her hobbies, which included collecting stuffed animals and visiting the beach. Her modest interests belied the depth of her character, which was marked by a serene presence and a unique ability to bring calm to those around her. She was preceded in death by her mother, Ethel Bryant.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Ray Greek; her children, Jonathan, Bradley, and Alora; and her father, Authur Bryant. The memories of Lori's gentle spirit and loving nature will forever remain in the hearts of her family and friends. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Her final memorialization will be by cremation under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

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## Cynthia Hardenbrook

Cynthia Earleena Hardenbrook, 88, a lifelong resident of Starke, passed away Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at her residence with her loving family by her side. She was born in Starke on Feb. 25, 1937, to the late George Troy Norman and Lula Mae Tomlinson Norman. After graduating from Bradford High School, she married her best friend and lifelong companion, Edward Lee Hardenbrook. Together, they shared a beautiful life and were blessed with four precious children, 11 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and, throughout the years, made many cherished memories. Cynthia had a servant's heart and took great pride in helping others. For nearly 20 years, she worked as a waitress at Famous Amos Restaurant on Normandy Boulevard in Jacksonville, a career that brought her much joy. She genuinely loved serving meals and brightening the days of those around her. In her quieter moments, she found happiness in playing her clarinet and listening to music. She loved gardening, especially caring for her plants and petite roses. She also enjoyed relaxing at home, watching her favorite soap operas and NCIS crime shows, often with a Snickers ice cream bar and a Coca-Cola close by—thoughtful treats lovingly brought to her by her husband. She was deeply devoted to Edward. He was truly the love of her life, and their bond was the center of her world. She faithfully attended First Baptist Church of Macclenny for many years. Above all, she loved her family and was most passionate about spending time with her grandchildren and her beloved chihuahua. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of her family and all who were fortunate to know her. She was preceded in death by her parents; loving husband of 67 years, Edward Lee Hardenbrook; brother, Jeremiah Norman; sons, Timothy Hardenbrook and Danny Hardenbrook; and granddaughter, Shelby Hardenbrook.

She is survived by her daughters, Tammy (Dale) Hand of Starke and Joy (Tim) Davis of Jacksonville; daughter-in-law, Vicky Hardenbrook of Macclenny; brother, Earl Norman of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; grandchildren, Stewart, Thorne, Bailey, DeWayne, Timothy, Alexis, Triston, Cory, Jessie, Mariah, and Brandon; great-grandchildren, Asher, Aubrie, and Allie; along with several extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. at V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Chapel with Pastor John Shultz officiating. Interment will follow at Macedonia Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday an hour prior to the service at the funeral home chapel.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, 250 N. Lowder St., Macclenny, 32063 904-259-5700. Please visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

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If you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks you'd like to publish, please email to [socials@bctelegraph.com](mailto:socials@bctelegraph.com) or call 904-964-6305.

## Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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## Robert Kitchens

Robert Lenwood Kitchens, known to friends and family simply as Lenwood, was born Sept. 25, 1938, in Glenwood, Georgia. He spent his days in faithful service, working as a tile contractor throughout his life. He proudly owned and operated Kitchens Tile, where he took great joy in his work, crafting beautiful spaces for others. He was not just defined by his profession. He was an outgoing and generous man who had a true heart for helping others. He always placed God first in his life, embodying this devotion in the way he treated those around him.

His character shone brightest on the baseball field, where he was known for coaching, playing, and watching the game he loved. In his younger days, he also enjoyed playing flag football. After an extended illness, he passed away on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at the Haven Hospice in Orange Park. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jessie and Dessie Kitchens; his beloved wife, Bonnie Kitchens; his son, David Scott Kitchens; his daughters, Susie Mosley and Linda Hodges; his grandson, Marcus Mosley; and siblings, Gene, Tommy, and Corrine Kitchens.

He leaves behind a loving family that includes his children, Michael Kitchens, Adam Kitchens, Donna Mapel, and Jackie Spears. He was a proud grandfather to Kevin, Katrina, Josh, Joey, Jackie, Michael, Lindsay, J.R., Sonya, Johnny, Charlie, and Kristen; and cherished by his 27 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren. He also shared wonderful bonds with his brothers, Wedrell, Carlton, and Johnnie Kitchens; and had a bonus mother in Hazel Hanson and a bonus brother, Joe Bodick.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate his life. Visitation will take place on Friday, Jan. 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., followed by a memorial service beginning at 11 a.m. Both services will be held at God's Rescue House, 9830 SW 104th Ave., Hampton. He will be remembered for his kind spirit, unwavering faith, and love for his family, who will carry his memory in their hearts forever.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to once again serve the Kitchens family. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



## Loca McDavid

Loca Renfro McDavid, a beautiful and sweet soul, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at UF Health Shands Gainesville after an extended illness at the age of 94. She was born June 15, 1931, in Union County. Her life was one marked by love and faith. For many years, Loca dedicated her professional life to sales at Maas Brothers, where her warm personality and commitment to customer service left a lasting impression on all who had the pleasure of working with her. Outside of her career, she found joy in various pursuits, yard sales, collecting antiques, and the gentle art of quilt making. Her quilts were more than just fabric and stitches; they were a labor of love, and she lovingly created a unique quilt for each of her grandchildren, wrapping them in her warmth and care. She was a loving believer in Jesus Christ, a faith that guided her throughout her life and inspired her to touch the lives of those around her. Her legacy is felt deeply by her family, including her two sons, Steve Martin O'Steen and his wife Sandra, and Scott Stanton O'Steen. She was a cherished grandmother to Rebecca, Mark, and Sarah; bonus grandchildren Rusty and Jennifer, and her great-grandchildren, Gavin, Dylan, Colin, Halle, Jack, Adaline; bonus great-grandchildren, Sawyer, Laila, Levi, Sienna, Aamyah, Brooklynn, Miracle, and Ellianna, who brought her immense joy and happiness. She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul Renfro and Loca Parrish; her husbands, Eldred O'Steen and Albert McDavid; her grandson, Mark O'Steen; her sisters, Conetha Renfro, Nevada Dukes, Eunice Evans, Eletha Malphurs, and Ella Mae Willis; and her brothers, Wilmer, T.L., and Reamer Renfro, all of whom welcomed her with open arms into eternal rest is our hope.

She is survived by her beloved sister, Dorothy Clyatt; and many nieces and nephews who shared countless memories and family bonds with her throughout their lives.

A visitation will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler, Florida. This will be followed by a funeral service at the same location, beginning at 11:30 a.m. She will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Loved ones are invited to come together to honor her life, share their stories, and celebrate the remarkable woman she was. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to UF Health Shands. [giving.ufhealth.org](http://giving.ufhealth.org)

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve Loca's family during this time. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

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## Carol Parrish

Mrs. Carol Ann Parrish, 86, of Keystone Heights passed away Friday, Jan. 16, 2026. She was born July 14, 1939, in Jacksonville, to James and Mary (McCranie) Parrish. She dedicated her life to her family and home, spreading love and warmth to everyone she met. A woman of deep faith, she loved Jesus and found solace in playing the piano and singing hymns. She had a special talent for nurturing her garden and enjoyed spending time with birds and flowers, reflecting her vibrant spirit and love for nature. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Gordon Leon Parrish; and their son, Gary Parrish.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her children, LeeAnn (Andrew) Anderson, Roy Parrish, and Steve (Michelle) Parrish. Also left behind are her sister, Mary Hawkins; and brothers, Glenn Bryant and Dale Bryant. She was also a proud "Memaw" to her grandchildren, Ryan, Alexandra, Erin, and Drew; and a loving great-grandmother to Carter and Beckett. Her heart swelled with joy as she welcomed her great-great-grandchildren, Julia and Jack, into the family.

A family memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

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## Theresa Rhoden

Mrs. Theresa Hunt Rhoden, 63, of Keystone Heights, passed away Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, at Shands Hospital following a short battle with cancer. She was born Oct. 22, 1962, to Robert Hunt and Jenny Crowley. She was a wonderful homemaker, mother, and wife. She loved being outdoors near the water fishing and crabbing. She also loved family time and being with others. Her father preceded her in death.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her loving and devoted husband of nearly 34 years, Henry Gerald Rhoden; two sons, William Scott and Thomas Scott; along with her mother and sisters, Donna Williams and Caroly Bigall Hunt. She also leaves behind several grandchildren and a precious great-granddaughter.

There are no scheduled services at this time.

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

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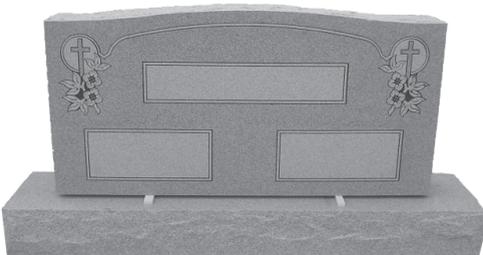
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# Obituaries

## John Skinner



Mr. John Charles Lewis Skinner passed away at his home Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at the age of 61. Born Sept 29, 1964, in Los Gatos, California, John lived most of his later years in Starke. He had a passion for the simple joys in life. Whether it was casting a line on a fishing trip, enjoying meals, or jamming to his favorite tunes, he embraced each moment with enthusiasm. His love of music spanned all genres, and he could often be found reminiscing about the songs that made up the soundtrack of his life. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Skinner and Veazie (Parks) Jones.

John was a constant presence in his family's lives, a brother to Kevin Skinner, Lisa MacMillan (Bill), Dana Skinner; and his stepfather, Thomas Jones. He held a special place in the hearts of his nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews, who will remember him as a loving and generous soul. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

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## Frank Smith

Francis "Frank" Almon Smith, 78, of Hampton died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026, at Community Hospice Bailey's Family Center for Caring.

Survivors are his wife, Donna Smith; children, Shannon Lewis, Kim Smith, Jennifer (Chris) Leo, and Bryan Smith; two stepdaughters; two brothers; and extended family and friends.

His family will celebrate his life at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness in Hampton.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, Starke. 904-964-5757.

## Sherry Strickland



Sherry Margaret (Yetman) Strickland, 82, of Melrose, passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at Bailey Center for Caring in St. Augustine. She was born March 10, 1943, in Marianna and lived in Jacksonville until 1972, when she moved to Keystone Heights and eventually to Lake Santa Fe in 1984. In addition to her mother, Sadie Tipton McCallister, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert (Bob) Strickland; and daughter-in-law, Michelle Strickland.

Sherry is survived by her sons, Bobby Strickland, Tim (Deborah) Strickland and Joe (Emily) Strickland; as well as grandsons, Joseph Strickland and John Strickland.

Her memorial service will be held Monday, Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. at Community Church of Keystone Heights, 345 SE Palmetto Ave., Keystone Heights, 32656. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests memorial donations be made to Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, 32257 or online at thefoundationcares.org/give.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

# Tigers' Christmas to play ball at NC school

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School senior Evan Christmas has put in a lot of work and time to get to this moment — signing a letter of intent to play baseball at the next level.

Christmas, an outfielder/pitcher, took part in a signing ceremony on Jan. 16. He'll be attending Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, North Carolina.

"It's super exciting," Christmas said. "In today's world of recruiting, it's truly a blessing and an opportunity that I'm super excited and grateful for."

Union Head Coach Jiwan James said Christmas' work ethic is impressive. He noted that the team had 52 workouts scheduled this past fall — workouts that began at 6 a.m. Christmas attended all but two. He missed one because he was attending a camp and another because he was on a college visit.

James said after the fall workouts ended, Christmas would still spend every day in the batting cage after school.

"As long as he keeps working the way that he does, he'll be successful at the junior-college level, and he will move on to play at a four-year school someplace," James said. "(Southeastern is) getting a good ball player."

Christmas said being able to play the sport he loves at the next

level is an idea that he embraced as a possible reality his first year of high school.

"It really set in my freshman year of high school when I witnessed other kids sign," he said. "I realized that this is what I want to do, and if I want it, I can make it happen."

He credited that work ethic that James talked about.

"I pride myself on that," Christmas said.

Christmas, a Union County native who previously played for Santa Fe High School, batted .317 over the last two seasons, driving in 25 runs and scoring 28. He had a perfect fielding percentage his junior season.

James described Christmas as a "complete player."

"He does everything really well on the field," James said. "He runs well. He throws well. Plays good defense. Good hitter. He's just consistency across the board. Anytime you can get somebody who can do everything well, you've got yourself a good player."

Christmas said he doesn't have the physical size of a lot of players, so he's worked hard at excelling despite that.

"It's truly just from learning the game, studying the game and taking advantage of every opportunity you can," he said.

Though he strives to excel in all areas, Christmas admitted he takes a lot of pride specifically in his defensive play.



Evan Christmas signs his letter of intent to play baseball at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, North Carolina. He's seated between his parents, Daniel Christmas and Stephanie Hendricks Christmas.

"That's definitely my game," he said, adding, "It's repetition, working every day. It's really just taking the ground balls, even when you don't want to do it. It's just repeating that. Then, it comes to you in the game."

It sounds like Christmas has a lot of upside for a college program. The one thing he's focused on is getting bigger and stronger.

"If you want to compete at that level, you have to be physical," Christmas said.

Before he gets to Southeastern, Christmas will for UCHS for the first time. He's no stranger to James, though. Christmas was 14 when he began playing on

James' travel-ball team. "I'm not getting a brand-new player I don't know anything about," James said.

The coach won't be surprised if Christmas does great things as a UCHS Tiger.

"I'm expecting him to actually have a really big season just because of his work ethic," James said. "He should leave his mark."

After that, he'll have the chance to leave his mark on the Southeastern program.

"I think it's going to be awesome," Christmas said. "It's going to be a dream come true, for sure. The dream since I was a kid was to play college baseball."

# KH boys soccer team loses 3-2 in district semis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Trenton Noble scored both goals for the Keystone Heights High School boy soccer team in its 3-2 loss to Eastside in the Jan. 23 District 4-3A tournament semifinals in Alachua.

The third seed Rams (6-8-3) played top seed Santa Fe (10-4-3) for the championship this past

Tuesday. Second seed Keystone (11-8-3) fell behind 1-0 in the second minute, but soon evened the score on a Noble goal in the fifth minute.

It remained 1-1 until Eastside's Ryder Wubble scored with less than six minutes remaining in the first half.

Keystone goalie Elijah Ortiz made a save on a close-in shot

attempt by the Rams in the 43rd minute, but Eastside was successful in the 44th minute, with Wubble scoring and giving his team a 3-1 lead.

The Indians' Noah Jaramillo took a shot that was just high and left of the mark in the 58th minute, while teammate Ryder Thomas had a good look in the 63rd minute that the Eastside goalie made a save on.

Noble made it a 3-2 game with a goal in the 68th minute.

Jaramillo came close to tying it up in the final seconds with a long shot that took a bounce that almost got past the Eastside goalie.

Nathan Benson and Garrett Jones recorded assists on Nobles' goals.

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<p><b>PHILLIP McDONALD</b> PLUMBING AND SEPTIC 904-964-3737</p> <p>904-964-3737 740 S Orange St Starke, FL 32091</p> <p>"I absolutely recommend Phillip McDonald Plumbing and Septic!"</p> 	<p><b>BRADFORD</b> Agricultural Fair STARKE FLORIDA</p> <p><b>The Bradford County Fair</b> Returns Feb 26-March 8!</p> 	<p><b>CF AC FALSTREAUX</b> HEATING &amp; AIR, INC.</p> <p>Craig Falstreux Heating &amp; Air, Inc 228 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-2241</p> <p>"Love Craig and his team. They are honest and always go above and beyond to take care of the issues we have." ★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p> 
<p><b>BRADFORD COUNTY</b> EYE CENTER</p> <p>292 Lafayette St Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8076</p> <p>"Everyone was great. They went above and beyond. Very happy with the way I was treated. Looking forward to my next visit."</p> 	<p><b>DLPbank</b> Dream. Live. Prosper.</p> <p><b>STARKE</b> 131 N Cherry St (904) 964-7423</p> <p><b>LAKE BUTLER</b> 255 SE 6th St (386) 496-3333</p> 	<p><b>R ROBERTS</b> INSURANCE</p> <p>EXPERIENCE, SERVICE &amp; GREAT RATES</p> <p>Starke 904.964.7826 Keystone Heights 352.473.7209 Middleburg 904.282.7685</p> <p>We Are Your Local Healthcare Enrollment Center AUTO • HOME • MOTORCYCLE • BUSINESS ATV • BOATS • RV • LIFE • HEALTH www.georgerobertsins.com</p> <p>Scott Roberts Agent/Owner Lori Thompson Agent</p> 
<p><b>THE CHIROPRACTIC &amp; INJURY CLINIC</b></p> <p>601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8018</p> <p>"Amazing staff &amp; doctor! Very satisfied."</p> 	<p>"Rod was a pleasure to work with! He nailed it! Thank you Rod! I'll be calling on you again for sure!"</p> <p><b>RCP</b> ROD CRAWFORD ROD CRAWFORD REALTY INC.</p> <p>(904) 769-9779 Serving Lawley &amp; surrounding areas</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p> 	<p><b>NORTH FLORIDA</b> TECHNICAL COLLEGE</p> <p>609 North Orange Street • Starke FL 904-966-6764</p>
<p>Welcome to Rivers Flowing Church - where the river of God never runs dry!</p> <p><b>904-964-7061</b> 22610 HWY 301 N Lawley, FL 32054</p> <p><b>RIVERS FLOWING CHURCH</b></p> <p>SUN: 10AM   WED: 7PM</p> 	<p><b>TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b> VETERINARY CLINIC</p> <p>1051 S Water St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-6411</p> <p>The staff showed they really cared about my boy... Went above and beyond!</p> 	<p><b>WORLEY</b> CONSTRUCTION &amp; ASSOCIATES, INC.</p> <p>GENERAL &amp; MARINE CONTRACTING STATE LICENSED GENERAL CONTRACTOR</p> <p><b>352-481-2255</b> CGC 060228 www.worleyconstruction.net</p>
<p><b>HOMETOWN</b> Health &amp; Wellness</p> <p>260 S Lawrence Blvd, Suite 101 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 352-664-7702</p> <p>"Very knowledgeable and caring staff!"</p> 	<p><b>Lake Area</b> HEATING &amp; AIR</p> <p>Formerly Mike Bertie Heating and Air, Serving Keystone Heights and surrounding areas since 2008.</p> <p>7415 State Rd 21 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-9595</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p> 	<p><b>TEAL TILE</b> <b>CARPET ONE</b> FLOOR &amp; HOME</p> <p>131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7423</p> <p>"Installers were great, prompt, &amp; their work was excellent."</p> 
<p><b>AUNTIE LIL'S CHILD CARE CENTER</b></p> <p>904-303-1014 407 W. Washington St. Starke</p> 	<p><b>Bradford County</b> SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p> <p>Sheriff, Gordon Smith "We Care"</p> <p>945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 966-6161</p> <p>"They take care of business And take care of people at the same time."</p> 	<p><b>SPORTING CHANCE</b></p> <p>218 Temple Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7434</p> <p>"Fast, friendly service! Kudos to Sporting Chance!"</p> 
	<p><b>STARKE</b> GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</p> <p>15501 NE 14TH Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-5441</p> <p>OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK GREENS FEE: \$10 CART RENTAL: \$20</p> 	

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 29, 2026

## BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
2024 CA 000274  
PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION,  
Plaintiff,

VS.  
RACHEL PARSONS; UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, SURVIVING SPOUSE, GRANTEEES.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RACHEL PARSONS; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; NICOLE VERNITA PARSONS A/K/A NICOLE PARSONS; MICHELLE A. PARSONS A/K/A MICHELLE PARSONS; MAURICE GAYLE, SR. A/K/A MAURICE GAYLE; 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 January 12, 2026 in Civil Case No. 2024 CA 000274, of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein, PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION is the Plaintiff, and RACHEL PARSONS; UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, SURVIVING SPOUSE, GRANTEEES.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RACHEL PARSONS; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2; NICOLE VERNITA PARSONS A/K/A NICOLE PARSONS; MICHELLE A. PARSONS A/K/A MICHELLE PARSONS; MAURICE GAYLE, SR. A/K/A MAURICE GAYLE; 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 March 12, 2026 at 11:00:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**LOTS 12, 13, AND 14, BLOCK 11, LIVINGSTON, TRUBY AND COMPANY'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF STARKE, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

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.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on January 15, 2026.

CLERK OF THE COURT  
Denny Thompson

Deputy Clerk  
TO BE PUBLISHED IN: Bradford County Telegraph

ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
401 W. Linton Blvd.  
Suite 202-B  
Delray Beach, FL 33444  
Telephone: 561-392-6391  
Facsimile: 561-392-6965  
Primary E-Mail: [ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com](mailto:ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com)  
BY: *vs* Zachary Ullman  
FBN: 106751  
Primary E-Mail: [ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com](mailto:ServiceMail@aldridgepite.com)

IMPORTANT

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, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 East University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711.

1/22 2tchg 1/29-BCT

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

Case No.: 2024-CA-000425  
Division: C

JOHN A. PALUMBO,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

ALONZO C. STEWART, GLORIA A. STEWART, VEROS CREDIT, LLC, FLORIDA PREMIER ROOFING, LLC, et al.  
Defendants

### NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in Civil Case No. 2024-CA-425 in the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein JOHN A. PALUMBO, Plaintiff, obtained judgment against ALONZO C. STEWART and GLORIA A. STEWART, et al., Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at 11:00 a.m. on the 9th day of April, 2026 at the Bradford County Courthouse lobby, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:  
Commence at the NW corner of the intersection of State Road No. 16 (formerly known as State Road No. 48) and State Road 229-A in the SE1/4 of NE1/4 Section 36 Township 5 South, Range 21 East and run Northerly along the West Right of Way line of State Road No. 16, a distance of 730 feet for a Point of Beginning; Thence continue Northerly along the West Right of Way line of State Road No. 16, a distance of 150 feet; thence Westerly at right angles to State Road No. 16, a distance of 290.4 feet; thence run Southerly parallel to State Road No. 16, a distance of 150 feet; thence run Easterly 290.4 feet to the Point of Beginning, lying and being in S1/2 of NE1/4, Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 21 East.

Along with that certain 1997 Fleetwood Mobile Home with VIN Nos. GAFLV34A25735SL21 (Title No. 73253742) and GAFLV341125735SL21 (Title No. 73253744)

A parcel of land lying in the South 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: commence at a found 20 penny nail located in a curve concave to the Northeast and having a radius of 5779.58 feet at the intersection of the North R/W line of County Road 229-A and the Southwesterly R/W line of State Road 16 and run in a Northwesterly direction along the arc of said curve as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 40 degrees, 11 minutes, 21 seconds West along said Southwesterly R/W line, for chord distance of 729.53 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod; thence continue in a Northwesterly direction along the arc of said curve as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 36 degrees, 11 minutes, 26 seconds West for a chord distance of 76.71 feet to a found 5/8" iron rod and end of said curve; thence run North 35 degrees, 48 minutes, 37 seconds West, along said Southwesterly R/W line, for a distance of 73.29 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described continue North 35 degrees, 48 minutes, 37 seconds West, along said Southwesterly R/W line, for a distance of 16.69 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run South 54 degrees, 11 minutes, 23 seconds West for a distance of 233.76 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run South 15 degrees, 50 minutes, 53 seconds East for a distance of 17.76 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run North 54 degrees, 11 minutes, 23 seconds East for a distance of 239.82 feet to the Point of Beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT  
A parcel of land lying in the South 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: commence at a found 20 penny nail located in a curve concave to the Northeast and having a radius of 5779.58 feet at the intersection of the North R/W line of County Road 229-A and the Southwesterly R/W line of State Road 16 and run in a Northwesterly direction along the arc of said curve as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 40 degrees, 11 minutes, 21 seconds West along said Southwesterly R/W line, for chord distance of 729.53 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod; thence continue in a Northwesterly direction along the arc of said curve as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 36 degrees, 11 minutes, 26 seconds West for a chord distance of 76.71 feet to a found 5/8" iron rod and end of said curve; thence run North 35 degrees, 48 minutes, 37 seconds West, along said Southwesterly R/W line, for a distance of 73.29 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod; thence run South 54 degrees, 11 minutes, 23 seconds West for a distance of 239.82 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run South 15 degrees, 50 minutes, 53 seconds East for a distance of 148.14 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod; thence run North 35 degrees, 48 minutes, 37 seconds West for a distance of 139.24 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod; thence run North 54 degrees, 11 minutes, 23 seconds East for a distance of 50.58 feet to the point of Beginning.

I HEREBY CERTIFY a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished to all parties on the attached service list by e-Service or by First Class U.S. Mail on this 12th day of January, 2026.  
KING & MANNION, P.A.  
/s/Candye M. King

Candye M. King  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Florida Bar Number: 307210  
King & Mannion, P.A.  
2129 Park Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
Telephone: (904) 387-9886  
Fax: (904) 209-4847  
E-Mail: [kingcandye@bellsouth.net](mailto:kingcandye@bellsouth.net)  
2nd E-Mail: [mannon.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:mannon.sarah@gmail.com)  
1/22 2tchg 1/29-BCT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on February 18, 2026. 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, 2026 and end at 12PM on February 18, 2026. The public sale will take place on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091, (952)-491-6837 Time: 12:00PM CST  
A05, Lindsey, Tony, A78, Henke, John, B13, Hamm, Luciera, C09, Munnerlyn, Francesca  
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://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.  
1/22 2tchg 1/29-BCT

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

CASE NO.: 2025-CA-000087  
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
GIANNA MORRISON, et al.,  
Defendants.

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that Denny Thompson, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Bradford County, Florida, will on February 26, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. ET, at the front Lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 in accordance with Chapter 45, F.S., offer for sale and sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Bradford County, Florida, to wit: The Southerly 114.25 feet of Lot 12, OTT'S SUBDIVISION according to the plat thereof as recorded-in Plat Book 1, Page 33, of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida. Together with that portion of a closed alley lying between State Road and Lot 12, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the Southeast corner of said Lot 12; thence North 17 degrees 04'26" East along the Easterly boundary of said Lot 12, 114.25 feet to a point; thence North 72 degrees 54'33" West, 139.18 feet to the Easterly right of way of State Road 200 B (a 80 foot right of way as now established); thence Southerly along and around said curve in right of way a arc distance of 115.80 feet, said curve being concave to the East having a radius of 914.93 feet to the Southerly boundary of said Lot 12; thence South 72 degrees 54'33" East along said Southerly boundary 120.81 feet to the point of beginning. Property Address: 22979 CR 200B, Lawley, FL 32058

pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in a case pending in said Court, the style and case number of which is set forth above.

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.

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.  
Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337-6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.  
SUBMITTED on this 16th day of January, 2026.  
TIFFANY & BOSCO, P.A.  
/s/ Kathryn I. Kasper, Esq.  
Anthony R. Smith, Esq.  
FL Bar #157147  
Kathryn I. Kasper, Esq.  
FL Bar #0392669  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
OF COUNSEL:

Tiffany & Bosco, P.A.  
1201 S. Orlando Ave, Suite 430  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
Telephone: (205) 930-5200  
Facsimile: (407) 712-9201  
PUBLISH: BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH  
Copies furnished to:  
Gianna Morrison  
1332 NW 81st Ave.  
Plantation, FL 33322  
U.S. Bank National Association, as Owner Trustee for NYMT Loan Trust 2014-RP1  
425 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
1/22 2tchg 1/29-BCT

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a Workshop to discuss Subdivision Regulations and Comprehensive Plan on February 3, 2026, at 10:30 AM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.  
1/29 1tchg-BCT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TOWN OF BROOKER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED, AND THE TOWN OF BROOKER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED, HERINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, OBJECTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION, AS DESCRIBED BELOW, WILL BE HEARD BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, AT A PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M., OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE MATTER CAN BE HEARD, IN THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL, LOCATED AT 17435 TETSTONE AVENUE, BROOKER, FLORIDA.

SE 25-01, a petition by the Town Council, to request a special exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.6.5 of the Land Development Regulations to allow a fire station as a public facility within the RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY-2 (RSF-2) zoning district in accordance with a petition dated October 25, 2025 and a site plan dated October 21, 2025, revised on October 27, 2025 and revised on December 21, 2025 Rev #3 to be located on property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 8, Township 7 South, Range 20 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described, as follows: Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20 and 21 of Block 8 of the Town of Brooker, Florida, as recorded in the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida. Containing 0.97 acre, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the special exception.

Copies of the special exception are available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk, at 352.485.1022 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

1/29 1tchg-BCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on December 30, 2025:

Karavan Starke LLC, 30 N Gould St, Ste R, Sheridan, WY 82801-6317 has submitted an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Application number ERP-007-253440-1.

The project is located in Bradford County, Section 15, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, and includes 54.0 acres of total project area. Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live

1/29 1tchg-BCT

Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

PUBLISH: no later than February 6, 2026 /tm  
1/29 1tchg-BCT

### PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Lawtey Special Election  
Qualifying to finish term ending  
January 2027

CITY COMMISSION GROUP 2  
Qualifying will be from noon  
February 16th until noon February  
20th, 2026

Voting Registration ends at 5 p.m.  
March 9, 2026

Election Day is April 7, 2026  
1/29 1tchg-BCT

### THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED

that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on February 3, 2026, at 9:30 AM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: [www.bradfordcountyfl.gov](http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov). Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.  
1/29 1tchg-BCT

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: SYBRINA CHAPMAN, 9890 SE CR 325, HAMPTON, FL 32044, SOLE owner, doing business under the firm name of: CHAPMAN CREATIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT, 9890 SE CR 325, HAMPTON, FL 32044 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 21st day of JANUARY A.D., 2026, in BRADFORD County.  
1/29 1tchg-BCT

### ESCAMBIA COUNTY HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY

2026 SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Escambia County Housing Finance Authority (the "Authority"), hereby announces its intention to sponsor a program to reduce home loan financing costs within Escambia County, Florida (the "County") and within Alachua County, Bay County, Bradford County, Franklin County, Gadsden County, Gulf County, Hernando County, Indian River County, Jackson County, Jefferson County, Leon County, Madison County, Marion County, Martin County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, St. Lucie County, Taylor County, Wakulla County and Walton County, Florida (each a "Participating County"), and collectively with the County, the "Participating Counties").

The Authority intends to establish a 2026 mortgage credit certificate program which will entitle first-time homebuyers to a federal income tax credit (the "Program"). A tax credit is a direct reduction of taxes due. Under the Program a homebuyer would receive a mortgage credit certificate entitling homebuyers to reduce their taxes by ten percent (10%) to fifty percent (50%) of the amount of interest paid on their home loan (not to exceed \$2,000 per year if the credit percentage exceeds 20%). The tax credit is available each year that the borrower continues to live in the home financed under the Program. In order to qualify for the Program, federal law requires that a homebuyer satisfy each of the following guidelines:

1. Principal Residence. The homebuyer must occupy the home financed under the Program as his/her principal residence within a reasonable period, not to exceed 60 days, after the financing is provided. A principal residence is a home occupied primarily for residential purposes. A principal residence does not include a home used as an investment property, as a recreation home or a home 15 percent or more of the total area of which is used in a trade or business.

2. First-Time Homebuyer. Each homebuyer must be a first-time homebuyer. Any person who has not owned his/her principal residence at any time during the three years prior to closing a loan financed in connection with the Program is considered a first-time homebuyer. This requirement does not apply to loans in certain areas designated as targeted areas (collectively, the "Targeted Areas").

3. Purchase Price. Under the Program, the purchase price for residences may not exceed 90 percent (110 percent with respect to residences located in Targeted Areas) of the average area purchase price applicable to the residence. For this purpose, the "average area purchase price" is based upon the average

purchase price of single family residences determined pursuant to applicable federal law with respect to both new and existing one unit residences. The current maximum purchase prices for homes under the Program in Bradford County is as follows:

Bradford County-  
New and Existing Homes  
One Unit

Non-Targeted Areas \$544,232.70  
Targeted Areas \$665,173.30

These limitations are subject to adjustment periodically.

4. New Mortgage. The mortgage loan financed in connection with the Program is required to be a new mortgage loan and may not replace a prior mortgage loan on the home (whether or not previously repaid).

The mortgage credit certificates are available in connection with any not to exceed 30 year, fixed rate mortgage loan which is (i) a government loan eligible for purchase by GNMA, (ii) a conventional loan eligible for purchase by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, or (iii) a special loan offered by lending institutions and approved by the Authority. Any lending institution is eligible to provide mortgage loans in connection with the Program as long as they are willing to follow Program requirements. A list of lenders that has agreed to follow Program requirements can be found at [www.ehousingplus.com](http://www.ehousingplus.com).

5. Income. Under the Program, the maximum family income for households of 3 or more persons may not exceed 115 percent (140 percent with respect to residences located in Targeted Areas) of the applicable median family income, subject to adjustment for high housing cost areas. For a family of 2 or fewer persons, the maximum family income may not exceed 100 percent (120 percent with respect to residences located in Targeted Areas) of the applicable median family income, subject to adjustment for high housing cost areas. The current limits on annual gross income for households under the Program in Bradford County (after adjustment for high housing cost areas) are as follows:

Bradford County  
Families of 1 or 2 persons  
Non-Targeted Area \$99,774.22  
Targeted Area \$114,360

Families of 3 or more persons  
Non-Targeted Area \$114,740.35  
Targeted Area \$133,420.00

These limitations are subject to adjustment periodically. Gross income includes salary and wages, including overtime, as well as dividends, alimony, public assistance, social security, unemployment compensation and investment income.

6. One Family Home. The residence financed in connection with the Program must be a one family residence. A one-family residence includes a detached home, one unit of a duplex, a townhouse or a condominium unit. Land adjoining the home is considered part of the home only if it maintains the home's livability and is not, other than incidentally, a source of income to the owner.

7. Program Area. In order to be eligible for a certificate, the home financed in connection with the Program must be located in a Participating County.

8. Homebuyer Education Class. Each Homebuyer must agree to participate in a Homebuyer Education Class approved by the Authority prior to being eligible to receive a mortgage credit certificate.

Under the Program, mortgage credit certificates will be issued to eligible borrowers on a first-come, first-served basis. The certificates are available in connection with only those types of new mortgages as discussed in paragraph 4 above.

Any lending institution that signs a Participation Agreement or which otherwise confirms to the satisfaction of the Authority its agreement to follow Program requirements is eligible to provide mortgage loans in connection with the Program.

This notice contains only a summary of the requirements under the Program. Additional information about the Program is available from: eHousingPlus

15175 Ludlum Road, Suite 203  
Miami Lakes, FL 33014  
Phone: 954-217-0817  
email: [sue@ehousing.cc](mailto:sue@ehousing.cc)  
1/29 1tchg-BCT

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 29, 2026

## UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA 2024 CA 000059 NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff, VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS/BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, SURVIVING SPOUSE, GRANTEE(S); CANNON SHEA FOSS, IN THE CARE OF HIS MOTHER AND NATURAL GUARDIAN.; CONNER STERLING FOSS, IN THE CARE OF HIS MOTHER AND NATURAL GUARDIAN.; 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, GRANTEE(S), 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 January 12, 2026 in Civil Case No. 2024 CA 000059, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein, NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC is the Plaintiff, and UNKNOWN HEIRS/BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, SURVIVING SPOUSE, GRANTEE(S); CANNON SHEA FOSS, IN THE CARE OF HIS MOTHER AND NATURAL GUARDIAN.; CONNER STERLING FOSS, IN THE CARE OF HIS MOTHER AND NATURAL GUARDIAN.; 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, GRANTEE(S), OR OTHER CLAIMANTS are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Kellie Hendricks-Connell will sell to the highest bidder for cash at 55 W Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 on March 12, 2026 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, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE NORTH 3/4 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, AND RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, A DISTANCE OF 739.25 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING SOUTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 395.61 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 352.26 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 79 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST A

DISTANCE OF 190.36 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. S-238 -A; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 380.95 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH SAID NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19; THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 204.39 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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. WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on January 14, 2026. CLERK OF THE COURT Kellie Hendricks-Rhodes BY: C. Hollingsworth Deputy Clerk ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff 401 W. Linton Blvd., Suite 202-B Delray Beach, FL 33444 Telephone: 561-392-6391 Facsimile: 561-392-6965 Primary E-Mail: ServiceMail@aldridgepите.com TO BE PUBLISHED IN: The Union County Times

IMPORTANT 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, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 East University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. 1/22 2tchg 1/29-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 63-2025-CA-0053 TD BANK, N. A., a national banking association, Plaintiff, vs. LINDA ANDREWS SCOTT (A/K/A LINDA P. SCOTT); UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LINDA ANDREWS SCOTT (A/K/A LINDA P. SCOTT), IF ANY; JEFFREY ANDREWS; KIMBERLY ANDREWS; TENANT AND UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION, IF ANY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 12, 2026, and entered in Case No. 63-2025-CA-0053 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida wherein TD Bank, N.A., is Plaintiff, and Linda Andrews Scott (a/k/a Linda P. Scott), et al., are Defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder at in the lobby of the Union County Courthouse at 55 West Main Street on February 26, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to wit: A PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 31, AND RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 426.28 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND: THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING SOUTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTH LINE OF THE WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 828.50 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 31; THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREE 12 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 2650.78 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 31; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 303.79 FEET TO THE END OF SAID 30.00 FOOT EASEMENT (LEFT (SOUTHERLY) RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE TO BE SHORTENED OR LENGTHENED TO TERMINATE ON A

LINE WHICH BEARS SOUTH 00 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST FROM SAID END). PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 31-05-18-00-000-0101-2 Property Address: 9534 NW 44th Lane, Lake Butler, FL 32054 IF YOU ARE A SUBORDINATE LIENHOLDER CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. DATED THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF January, 2026.

KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CPA Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: C. HOLLINGSWORTH Deputy Clerk ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS: Danielle Rundlett Burns, Esq. Duane Morris LLP 5100 Town Center Circle, Suite 400 Boca Raton, FL 33486 Email: DRBurns@duanemorris.com The above is to be published in the Union County Times 1/22 2tchg 1/29-UCT

COMMISSION MEETING The Union County Board of County Commissioners will hold their February Business Meeting/Town Hall Meeting on February 2, 2026 at the Providence Community Center, 8562 SW 84<sup>th</sup> Court, Lake Butler, Florida at 6:00 PM. 1/22 2tchg 1/29-UCT

NOTICE OF ACTION Union County BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING IN RE: The license to practice Licensed Practical Nursing Idowu ID. Adeola, L.P.N. 39 Young Avenue, Floor 2 Hillside, NJ 07205-1021 CASE NO.: 2024-11755 LICENSE NO.: PN5256451 The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Caitlin Harden, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 558-9870.

THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID "PROVIDENCE NORTH"; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID "PROVIDENCE NORTH", A DISTANCE OF 69.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREE 11 MINUTES 51 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID "PROVIDENCE NORTH", A DISTANCE OF 15.50 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SAID SECTION 31; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREE 12 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID NORTH 1/2 OF WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 2650.78 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST 1/2 OF EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 31; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 303.79 FEET TO THE END OF SAID 30.00 FOOT EASEMENT (LEFT (SOUTHERLY) RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE TO BE SHORTENED OR LENGTHENED TO TERMINATE ON A

LINE WHICH BEARS SOUTH 00 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST FROM SAID END). PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 31-05-18-00-000-0101-2 Property Address: 9534 NW 44th Lane, Lake Butler, FL 32054 IF YOU ARE A SUBORDINATE LIENHOLDER CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. DATED THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF January, 2026.

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If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by March 12, 2026, the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Board of Nursing in an informal proceeding. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4640, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service. 1/29 4tchg 2/19-UCT

NOTICE OF PERMIT ISSUANCE The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) gives notice of issuance of an Environmental Resource Individual Permit to Florida Power & Light Company, located at 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL 33408, to construct a battery energy storage system (BESS) in Union County, Florida over a total of 17.33 acres comprised of a BESS pad, battery boxes, transformers, underground collector lines, maintenance pathways, two laydown areas, and perimeter security fence. The project is located on parcel ID 03-06-20-00-000-0060-0 in Lake Butler, FL 32054 off of State Road 100 in Sections 3, 4 & 9, Township 5 South, Range 20 East, at lat/long 30.006525, -82.293694. The permitting authorization has been fully scanned and is available for public inspection via the Department's Information Portal: https://dep.dems.dep.state.fl.us:443/Oculus/servlet/shell?command=getEntity&[guid=23.1660703.1]&[profile=PermittingAuthorization

If you have any questions or are experiencing difficulty viewing the electronic application, please call the Department of Environmental Protection Northeast District Office at (904) 256-1700 and reference DEP File No. 63-0367376-004-EI. This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a timely petition for an administrative proceeding is filed pursuant to the provisions of Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the hearing process may result in a modification of the agency action or even denial of the application. A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination;
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the

petition must so indicate; (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to Caleb Goertzen, Florida Power & Light Company Project Manager, at the Florida Power & Light Company address indicated above at the time of filing.

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 21 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 21 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon. Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

The applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1)(a) or 373.4275, F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under Section 373.114(1) or 373.4275, F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when this order is filed with the Clerk of the Department. 1/29 1tchg-UCT

# Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads for week January 29, 2026

40 Notices

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.** All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland

850-488-7082 ext. #1005

47 Commercial Rental Property

OFFICE SPACE, 4 rooms and reception area. Downtown location. \$950/ mo. 1<sup>st</sup> & last. 904-964-6305.

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 904-966-1887.

NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW Lake Butler. No pets. 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

DOWNTOWN 1BR upstairs apartment. \$950/mo. 1<sup>st</sup> & last. Call 904-964-6305.

SEVERAL RENTALS available. 1, 2, & 3 bedroom. Located in Starke/Bradford (City & County) Please call 904-613-5715 for info.

ROOM AVAILABLE in Lake Butler. Looking for a mature, non-smoker, non-drinker. Must be clean, no pets, fully

furnished. \$550/mo. Call 904-966-1896 after 3pm. ROOM AVAILABLE in Lake Butler. Looking for a mature, non-smoker, non-drinker. Must be clean, no pets, fully furnished. \$550/mo. Call 904-966-1896 after 3pm. ROOM AVAILABLE in Lake Butler. Looking for a mature, non-smoker, non-drinker. Must be clean, no pets, fully furnished. \$550/mo. Call 904-966-1896 after 3pm.

4BR/4BA 2-story located in Lawtey. 2 car garage, fireplace, fenced yard w/ balcony. HUD ok. \$1450/ mo. 813-369-4454.

65 Help Wanted

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR Position. The City of Lawtey is taking applications for a Maintenance Supervisor.

**Orangewood Apartments**  
801 South Water Street  
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.  
1005 SW 6th St.  
Lake Butler, FL  
**386-496-3141**  
TDD/TTY 711.  
Accepting Applications!  
Rental Assistance!  
\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.\*  
\*Equal Housing Opportunity\*

**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  
TDD/TTY 711  
\*Equal Housing Opportunity\*

**SPACE FOR LEASE**  
- Starke, Close to downtown 1800+ sq.ft. Professional, general office, insurance, realtor, attorney, etc. Two restrooms, space flexible for small business. Rent \$1500/mth, utilities not included.  
Call **(904)964-7404**

N. Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091, or downloaded from the City of Starke website at [www.cityofstarke.org](http://www.cityofstarke.org). Completed applications may be returned in person, by mail to the address above, attention Stephanie Mann, or emailed to [smann@cityofstarke.org](mailto:smann@cityofstarke.org). The City of Starke is an EOE/Drug Free Workplace.

**Tri-County Classifieds**  
Bradford County  
Telegraph  
Lake Region  
Monitor  
Union County  
TIMES  
Classified

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Classified Display Ad is \$7.35 per col. inch  
Deadline for Classified ads - **Tuesday 12 noon**

904-964-6305  
classads@bctelegraph.com

**WE ACCEPT**  
MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

# Indians lift their way to 4th straight district titles

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School won five weight classes each in Olympic and traditional to win the championship trophies in both events for the fourth straight year at the District 6-1A girls weightlifting meet on Jan. 21 at KHHS.

The Indians had a team score of 83 in the Olympic event, putting them 33 points ahead of runner-up Fort White. In traditional, Keystone had a score of 78 to runner-up Fort White's 37.

Winners in each weight class automatically qualified for the Region 3 meet, which will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2:30 p.m. at West Nassau High School in Callahan.

Punching their tickets to regionals in the Olympic event were Ashlyn Brown, Kaylee Park, Alyssa Sanford, Chloe Still and London Williams.

Brown, Park and Still were winners also in the traditional

event. The Indians' other champions were Ava Herman and Kylie Scott.

Earning at-large berths in Olympic were Herman, Scott, Xana Briley, Makenzi Brinson, Tayler Buchanan, Tatum Hall, Natalie Layfield, Keira Miller, Morgan Wilson and Bella Woods.

The following were at-large qualifiers in traditional: Briley, Brinson, Buchanan, Hall, Layfield, Sanford, Williams, Wilson, Woods and Virginia Baxter.

## Olympic

The Indians had the champion and runner-up in four classes.

Williams won the 101-pound class with a 165-pound total (70 snatch, 95 clean and jerk), while Scott was second with a 135 total (55, 80).

The 119 class saw Sanford take first with a 210 total (90, 120), while Buchanan was second with



Chloe Still and Morgan Wilson hold the two championship trophies the Keystone girls weightlifting team earned from winning the District 6-1A Olympic and traditional events as a team. The Indians had five individual champs each in the Olympic and traditional events.

a 180 total (75, 105).

Park's 250 total (100, 150) was best in the 129 class. Layfield was runner-up with a 210 total (85, 125).

Brown and Wilson took the top two spots in the 169 class, with Brown lifting a 265 total (115, 150) and Wilson a 220 total (95, 125).

Still, who was Keystone's

other Olympic winner, finished with a 245 total (90, 155). She was 60 pounds ahead of runner-up Tina Duncan of Fort White.

Brown, Park, Sanford and Still were also district champions last season.

Hall was the runner-up in the 154 class with a 235 total (100, 135), while four lifters earned third-place finishes: Miller with a 165 total (65, 100) in the 139 class, Briley with a 155 total (60, 95) in the 183 class, Woods with a 160 total (60, 100) in the 199 class and Herman with a 250 total (95, 155) in the unlimited class.

Baxter and Brinson had fourth-place finishes for Keystone, with Baxter lifting a 120 total (50, 70) in the 110 class and Brinson a 215 total (90, 125) in the 154 class.

Annie Blair had a sixth-place total of 95 (40, 55) in the 110 class.

Utilizing the Schwartz/Malone Formula, which factors body weight vs. pounds lifted, Park was the event's top overall lifter. The formula determined that Still was third overall, Sanford fourth overall, Brown fifth overall and Williams sixth overall.

## Traditional

Scott and Williams flipped places in the traditional event, with Scott earning the top total in their class at 185 (80 clean and jerk, 105 bench press). Williams was second with a 175 total (95, 80).

Park took the win in her class with a 280 total (150, 130), which was 40 pounds better than runner-up Emma Handley of Union County.

Still also was a winner by 40 pounds with a 330 total (155,

See TITLES, page 13

## BHS lifter Randolph wins district title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School girls weightlifter Destiny Randolph automatically qualified for region-level competition by winning her weight class in the traditional event at the District 6-1A meet, which was held Jan. 21 at Keystone Heights High School.

Randolph won the 183-pound class with a 275-pound total (140 clean and jerk, 135 bench press). That put her 45 pounds ahead of runner-up Danni Calabrese of Bishop Snyder.

Utilizing the Schwartz/Malone Formula, which factors body weight vs. pounds lifted, Randolph was the event's eighth-best overall lifter.

The class winners received

**Destiny Randolph competes in the clean and jerk. She won the 183-pound class in traditional at the District 6-1A meet to automatically qualify for regionals.**



automatic berths in the Region 3 meet, which will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. at West Nassau High School in Callahan.

Bradford will have three other Region 3 participants as Kolee LeMire, Rhylee Schaffer and Addison Thornton received at-large berths.

LeMire placed fourth in the 129 class with a 210 total (105, 105), while Thornton placed fifth in the unlimited class with a 280

total (135, 145).

Earning sixth-place finishes for the Tornados were Mallory Frazier with a 190 total (100, 90) in the 139 class and Schaffer with a 215 total (105, 110) in the 154 class. Schaffer also competed in the Olympic event, finishing sixth with a 160 total (55 snatch, 105 clean and jerk).

Schaffer will compete in both Olympic and traditional at the region meet.

## Gibson, Haight lift their way to district titles for UCHS Tigers

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
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Union County High School girls weightlifters Riley Gibson and Briena Haight won their weight classes in the traditional event at the District 6-1A meet, which was held Jan. 21 at Keystone Heights High School.

The Tigers placed third as a team in the traditional event with a score of 31, finishing behind champion Keystone and runner-up Fort White, who had 78 and 37 points, respectively.

Gibson had a 240-pound total (115 clean and jerk, 125 bench press) in the 119-pound class, putting her 25 pounds ahead of runner-up Alyssa Sanford of Keystone. Haight finished 40 pounds ahead of Hayden Herndon of Baldwin with a 370 total (160, 210) in the 199 class.

Class winners automatically qualified for the Region 3 meet, which will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. at West Nassau High School in Callahan.

Six Union lifters earned at-large Region 3 berths: Allaya Blocker, Alexia Cyr, Emma Handley, Brooke Hunt, Courtney Manning and Kieren Seay.

Cyr and Handley were district runners-up, with Handley compiling a 240 total (115, 125)

**Briena Haight competes in the bench press. She won the District 6-1A traditional championship in the 199-pound class by 40 pounds and automatically qualify for regionals.**



**Riley Gibson competes in the clean and jerk in the 119-pound class. She joined teammate Briena Haight as a District 6-1A champion. Gibson and Haight will be two of eight UCHS lifters to compete at regionals.**

in the 129 class and Cyr finishing with a 290 total (145, 145) in the 139 class.

Blocker was fourth in the unlimited class with a 285 total (140, 145).

Seay was fifth with a 165 total (85, 80) in the 183 class, while Hunt also earned a fifth-place finish with a 205 total (100, 105) in the 199 class.

Union's Jessa Dekle placed seventh in the 119 class with a

165 total (90, 75), while Manning was eighth in the 154 class with a 205 total (105, 100).

Brooklyn Coffman was ninth in the unlimited class with a 230 total (110, 120).

Utilizing the Schwartz/Malone Formula, which factors body weight vs. pounds lifted, Haight was the event's third-best overall lifter, while Gibson was fifth overall.

## Cobarris and Johnson score 36 in BHS boys win over Oakleaf

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Maliki Cobarris scored all but two of Bradford High School's 17 fourth-quarter points as the Tornados defeated visiting Oakleaf 56-51 in a boys basketball game on Jan. 24.

The Tornados (15-2) trailed 14-13 before opening the second quarter with a 12-4 run. Dylan Ruise scored the first basket of the quarter, followed by two consecutive baskets by Cobarris. After Oakleaf's Tre Pierce made two free throws, Kemontae Nixon scored off an offensive rebound to put Bradford up 21-16.

Oakleaf (11-10) got a free throw and a basket from Jerry Compere to cut the Tornados' lead to two. K.J. Taylor scored on a drive to the basket for the Tornados and then had a steal, leading to a Breion Johnson basket and a 25-19 Bradford lead.

Bradford opened the third quarter with a 9-0 run to go up 38-25. Taylor scored the quarter's first basket. Cobarris got a bucket off a steal and was fouled, making the free throw to complete the three-point

play. Taylor then scored off an offensive rebound, followed by Cobarris scoring off another steal to make it a 13-point game.

The Knights were able to make it a single-digit game until Johnson made a three-pointer, which helped the Tornados end the third quarter with a 45-35 lead.

Cobarris scored six points early in the fourth to make the score 51-39.

Oakleaf went on a 9-0 run to make it a four-point game before Johnson got a layup off a Jy'Quez Cason assist.

After the Knights' Compere went 1 of 2 at the foul line, Oakleaf got a steal from Gunnar Castle. Castle, however, missed a three-point attempt, which was rebounded by Cobarris. Cobarris, who was fouled on the play, went to the foul line and made both free-throw attempts to put the Tornados ahead 55-48.

The Knights' Pierce got to the foul line with a minute remaining, but he made just one of his free-throw attempts. Pierce, though, came up with a steal that led to a basket by Compere, making the score 55-51 with 40 seconds left.

Cobarris, who finished with 19 points, made a free throw for

the game's final point. Oakleaf missed two field-goal attempts after that, with Johnson and Steven Carter rebounding each miss.

Johnson finished with 17 points, while the Tornados also got six from Taylor, five from Nixon, three from Cason and two each from Ruise, Larry Ardley and Jordan Cason.

Bradford entered the game off a 43-24 win at Fort White on Jan. 20. Jy'Quez Cason had 12 points, six rebounds and five assists, while Cobarris had nine points and six assists.

Taylor finished with seven points, while Bradford also got five from Bryston Williams, four from Nixon and two each from Johnson, Ruise and Jordan Cason.

Johnson also had seven rebounds.

Bradford played Buchholz this past Tuesday and will host Trenton on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m., following a junior varsity boys game at 4 p.m. and a varsity girls game at 5:30 p.m. The Tornados then travel to play Crescent City on Friday, Jan. 30, with the JV team playing at 6 p.m. and the varsity team playing at 7:30 p.m.

## Shining Stars of the Week!

Recognizing the following outstanding students for their amazing character and academic achievements!



**Kalyna Aviles**  
Bradford Elementary  
Kalyna strives hard to have good grades and good attendance. Kalyna is kind and always willing to help others. She is a good friend to her fellow classmates and a good helper to her teacher and others.



**Vanessa Garcia**  
4th Grade  
Hope Christian Academy  
Vanessa is an amazing student who always puts forth 100% effort and energy. She is a bright star in our 4th grade class.



**Kaydence "KK" Gaskins**  
6th Grade  
Providence Christian Academy  
KK is very kind, and her teacher loves having her in her class!



**Layla Grayer**  
5th Grade  
Starke Elementary  
Layla is very responsible and ready to help.



**Kallianne Sapp**  
2nd Grade  
Light Christian Academy  
Kallianne started at L.C.A. when she was in the 1st grade. We have seen her grow in all areas during her time at L.C.A. She is a joy to have in the classroom, and she is a good friend to those around her. We are proud that she is a part of our school!



**Library Trip**  
2nd Grade  
Rainbow Learning Academy  
Library field trip!



**Karsyn Kerr**  
1st Grade  
Lawtey Elementary  
Karsyn is very dedicated to learning and wants to be a friend to everyone. She is quick to help and tries to motivate everyone to do their best in school.

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