

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

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146th year, 10th Issue — \$1

Fair board presents manager candidate

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Harlee Hutchinson, introduced as the top-ranked candidate at last Thursday's Bradford County Commission meeting, told commissioners she would bring nonprofit event expertise, community partnerships and a focus on youth agriculture programs to the county's fairgrounds.

Hutchinson, director of events for the Ronald McDonald House in Gainesville and a Lake Butler resident, outlined her background in marketing, event management, operations and logistics and described herself as "an optimistic realist." She said having "a positive mindset when trying to achieve any goal is very important," while also valuing "facts, history and realistic expectations."

"I have a passion for preserving the future of American agriculture," Hutchinson told the commission, saying the idea first struck her when she considered joining FFA. She also quoted Theodore Roosevelt to describe her work ethic: "Get action. Do things; be sane; don't fritter away your time; create, act, take a place wherever you are and be somebody; get action."

Hutchinson reviewed a string of fundraising events she has coordinated at the Ronald McDonald House, stressing partnerships and careful budgeting. She said the nonprofit runs nine annual events and aims to keep event costs modest because "donors do not want to see their dollars being spent on extravagant event costs." She cited recent fundraising totals: \$22,000 raised at an Audi Gainesville Oktoberfest, \$42,000 at a Beyond Bourbon event, and a record \$53,000



Harlee Hutchinson

at a Rock the Runway event.

One of the signature examples she presented was the Red Shoe affair at the University of Florida's O'Connell Center in August. Hutchinson said the event hosted nearly 800 guests seated at 94 tables and required extensive coordination with vendors, catering and UF regulations. "There was a lot of moving parts," she said, and the night raised \$470,000.

She also highlighted a sporting clays tournament in Graham that drew 107 teams and, she said, raised \$250,000. Hutchinson described cultivating sponsors and creative partnerships, including a charitable relationship that resulted in a Bon Jovi guitar and a video message for event guests.

Before joining the Ronald McDonald House, Hutchinson said she served as marketing and events coordinator for Gainesville Harley-Davidson, where she organized bike rides, vendor relations and yearlong sponsorships. She said those roles taught her traffic and safety management skills used in large rides and public events.

For the Bradford County fairgrounds, Hutchinson described a multi-faceted vision: expand youth leadership, career development and livestock contests year-round for FFA and 4-H; host trade shows, alumni events and third-party fundraisers; and improve established community events such as the annual fair, the Strawberry Festival and the Fourth of July bash.

"I think that we could be hosting jackpots, and I think that we could be hosting those leadership and career development events for FFA and 4-H all year long," she said, adding that the fairgrounds' facilities are "much nicer than the places I used to compete in those things at." She urged cultivating "relationships with community partners, sponsors and buyers," saying those ties "are going to be an absolute game changer."

Hutchinson framed the goals in economic terms as well, saying increased fairgrounds activity would bring more visitors to Bradford County "stopping at our gas stations, eating at our restaurants, staying in our hotels." She said she wants to "build a reputation of excellence through exceptional service, efficient operations and positive relationships."

She closed by thanking the commission for the chance to present and expressing eagerness for the role. "I am very much looking forward to this opportunity. I am so grateful that you allowed me to present for you tonight, and I look forward to talking with you again," she said.

Commissioners were enthusiastic about Hutchinson's presentation, offering their own suggestions,

See FAIR, page 2



Help available for those contemplating self-harm

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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With shades of purple and teal in its seal, Bradford County Fire Rescue is drawing attention to Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Fire Chief Brad Carter said this is a time to "remind one another there is always hope, always help and always someone who cares."

"Suicide affects families, friends, neighbors and communities everywhere. No one is immune, and too many lives are lost each year," he said. "For first responders, the risk is even greater because of the weight we carry from seeing people on their worst days. But whether you wear a uniform or not, the message is the same: Strength is not found in silence. True strength is found in reaching out, leaning on others, and knowing it is okay to not be okay."

See HELP, page 4



WORTH NOTING

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share's upcoming food distribution will take place on Thursday, Oct. 2 and 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawley Road in Starke. (Distribution could start early depending on delivery.)

RJE food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 8:30 a.m. at the RJE Complex on Pine Street in Starke.

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

Revival in Lawley

Lawley Church of Christ's revival begins with a celebration of the Minister Curtis White's 30th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Revival with "The Power of the Gospel" as its theme will continue Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 6-8. At 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Minister Adrian Harper Jr. from Gainesville.

Conservation board reschedules meeting

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District invites the community to its rescheduled public meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 4:30 p.m. at 2266 N Temple Ave. in Starke. Agenda items include open supervisor positions and input on upcoming programs. Email a.morie.BSWCD@gmail.com or visit bradfordsoilandwater.org for more info and the agenda.

Donations requested for yard sale

Believer's Worship Center in Melrose will raise funds for its Live Nativity with a yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations of gently used items are requested. Items may be donated beginning Oct. 5. The church is located at 8736 State Road 21 in Melrose.

Pringle/Mosley family reunion

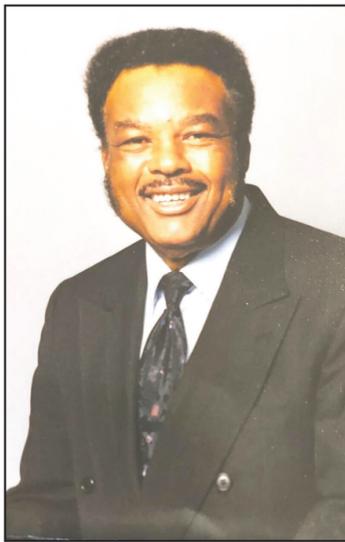
The descendants of Chalker Pringle/Maggie McPherson, Carl Mosley/Daisy Rosier, Chalker Pringle/Daisy Rosier Mosley will be holding a family reunion on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Evergreen Baptist Church in Lawley from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please bring covered dishes. Paper products and beverage will be provided.

Lake Butler rededicates Fletcher Myers Park

See story on page 6



Dedication plaque at Fletcher Myers Park memorializing Lake Butler's first African-American mayor and commissioner.



Fletcher Myers

Union officials tighten restrictions on sex offenders

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Union County Commissioners, during their September 15 meeting, more than doubled the distance sex offenders must reside away from schools, bus stops and other areas frequented by children.

Sheriff Brad Whitehead told commissioners during an August meeting that Baker County recently enacted a similar ordinance, and that Union County residents had been calling him about tightening residency restrictions for sex offenders in Union County.

"We're having some people come into (Union County) and we don't know who they are, and that concerns me," he told commissioners. "Even one of the commissioners told me we probably have eight hundred to a thousand people that we don't even know about out in our woods and all. And...we have found some campers in different places that were just out in the middle of a hunt club, five or six of them, living off the grid basically."

The new law also places travel restrictions on sex offenders, prohibiting them from traveling through or remaining in the 2,500-foot buffer zone, unless they are meeting with an attorney, social service provider, physician, employer, or attending to family obligations.

The ordinance does not apply to offenders who were residing within the buffer zone at the time the law was enacted. Nor does it require sex offenders to move when a new school, bus stop, park, or playground is built within 2,500 feet of where they already live.

Penalties for violating the ordinance are fines up to \$500 and up to 60 days in jail.

The ordinance also prohibits landlords from renting to sexual offenders within the buffer zone and refers violators to the county's code enforcement administration.

Clay school district facing 'unprecedented budget situation'

Spending plan cut by 20%

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Clay County School Superintendent David Broskie recapped what he called an extraordinary budget year, and school board member Ashley Gilhousen said the district was facing an unprecedented budget situation during a September 23 school board workshop.

Broskie reminded the board that the district cut its 2025-2026 budget by 20% after several unbudgeted events shrunk the organization's revenues.

He said the state shorted Florida school districts \$47 million in June, of which Clay County suffered an approximately \$700,000 hit.

"Essentially, what happened in layman's terms," he told board

members, "is the state ran out of money and said: We're not paying school districts."

The superintendent added that the federal government's withholding of Title I money further cut the district's revenues, and an increase in private school vouchers cost Clay County Public Schools an additional \$30 million.

Broskie also said a 2.7% inflation rate increased the district's costs by approximately \$14 million.

The superintendent said the district responded to the revenue cuts by reallocating around 250 employees and trying to maximize student enrollment.

He also said the district cancelled contracts with software vendors like i-Ready Math and Penda Learning, a science learning tool. He also stated that the district has reviewed every contract it has, including the one for substitute teachers.

"We've reduced district budgets by 20%," he declared. "Twenty percent in budget reduction is a huge number...In fact, I would say 20% might be the largest cut that I've ever heard of in a district budget."

Broskie recommended that school officials convey to Tallahassee lawmakers that funding for public schools is the top priority for Clay County educators and administrators.

School board members agreed that maintaining and increasing unrestricted funding for teachers' salaries, increasing funding for career and technical instruction, and increasing funding for exceptional student education would be their top priorities for the 2026 legislative session.

Broskie told board members that with over 20% of its students classified as exceptional, Clay County has one of the highest ESE percentages in the state.



FAIR

Continued from page 1

like reviving Bike Fest and prioritizing the reestablishment of the horse arena.

"I would love to see some rodeos going on here too," Hutchinson said.

Hearing the board's support, County Manager Scott Komegay said they would move forward with contract negotiations.

Questions about process

Vyunda Strong, a member of the Fair Board, warned the

commission that, as with the prior board, there has been a lack of transparency.

"Don't play in my face and think I'm stupid, because some of the things that are happening on this Fair Board are just like the last things that happened on the Fair Board. And I'm not going to go along with it. It's just not going to happen, not with me

on there. Now, either we're going to do things in the Sunshine and above board, or we're not, and some of the things that are happening right now that are going to come before you tonight have not been above board," she said prior to the presentation.

The Fair Board had met the prior night, Sept. 24, and the executive committee, including Vice President Brad Thomas, presented Hutchinson as their top-ranked candidate. When Strong inquired about the process and the other candidates involved, Thomas said the executive board had made the decision and offered to discuss it with her privately.

"We have nothing to hide. It's just not the proper place to discuss that or the professional place to have that discussion here, but it's an open book. More than happy to sit down with anybody on this board that wants to know any particular questions about the process. Nothing to

hide," he said.

Strong pressed about comparison of qualifications and the ranking system. Thomas said every candidate was asked 15 questions, and their answers scored. The information was not shared with the full board prior to the vote to hire Hutchinson, which was approved with two dissenting, including Strong and Greg Alvarez.

Hampton man killed in collision with log truck

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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A 24-year-old Hampton man was killed in a predawn collision Wednesday when his sedan struck the rear of a tractor-trailer near Sampson City in Bradford

County, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

The crash occurred at approximately 5:02 a.m. near the intersection of Southwest County Road 227 and Southwest 70th Avenue, south of Starke. Troopers reported that the semi-truck, driven by a 42-year-old man from St. Augustine, was turning right onto the eastbound lane Southwest County Road 227 from a private logging road driveway. The sedan, traveling eastbound, slammed into the back of the trailer, causing the vehicle to catch fire and leading to a temporary road closure in the area.

The sedan's driver, who was wearing a seat belt, suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. The truck driver was uninjured and is cooperating with investigators.

Union history search

The Union County Historical Society is hard at work on a second book about the county's history and the families that made it happen.

Members are actively collecting family histories and information on Union County history. To inquire about the project or to submit a family history item, interested parties can email the society at theucbook@gmail.com.

Deadline has been extended to Dec. 1.



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Starke bids farewell to Roberts during final meeting

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Scott Roberts' departure from the Starke City Commission was marked by heartfelt recognition and reflection last week.

Mayor Andy Redding presented Roberts with a plaque in appreciation of his four years of outstanding service, highlighting his wisdom, professionalism, and steady composure, and noting that he would be missed.

"I admire Scott's wisdom and the encouragement that he's given me since I've been on the

commission," Redding said.

Roberts delivered a thoughtful reflection on his time with the commission, expressing deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve and emphasizing that his motivation came from a genuine desire to help the community.

Roberts spoke about the challenges and rewards of public service, the importance of making decisions based on the best available information, and the value of working collaboratively even when opinions differ. He credited his success to the support of the community and his family, and he expressed appreciation for the friendships and experiences gained during his tenure.

"I have been so blessed by this community and so blessed to have sat up here for four years, and good or bad, it was something

that I did from my heart. I don't think you get into something like this unless you really have a love for what you want to do and serve," he said, pointing to how much he learned from his father's political service.

Others also shared their appreciation. Commissioner Janice Mortimer thanked Roberts for his wisdom, integrity and calming presence, noting how his demeanor helped others on the board. She said his vision and friendship would be missed.

Redding echoed those sentiments, emphasizing the importance of professionalism and collective decision-making, and again thanked Roberts for being an example to others and for his service to the city.

Dimple Overstreet ran unopposed to replace Roberts on the commission.



City officials bid farewell to Commissioner Scott Roberts at his final board meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Commissioners Bob Milner and Danny Nugent, city clerk-elect and Commissioneer-elect Chrissy Thompson and Dimple Overstreet, Mayor Andy Redding, and Commissioners Roberts and Janice Mortimer.

Starke developing a plan to fund water improvements

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Engineers for Starke have been developing funding strategies for major capital improvement projects, with particular focus at a recent meeting given to drinking water projects.

Justin de Mello, a vice president and professional engineer for Woodward and Curran, presented a Drinking Water Financial Improvement Plan for the commission to consider. The plan takes the capital improvement plan for the city's water utility and overlays it with funding opportunities.

In an "exhaustive" list of agencies, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection had 11 different funding programs. USDA and legislative initiatives have also been successful for the city. Other agencies included Suwannee River Water Management District, Florida Rural Water Association, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, U.S. Department of Commerce and the Florida Department of Emergency Management.

DeMello said the city can improve the appeal for funding by presenting projects from multiple angles, promising they will provide reliability and resiliency, address climate concerns, make storm water improvements, etc.

Woodward and Curran and

Starke have been successful receiving nearly \$19.8 for multiple utility projects, including upgrades for the sewer collection system, drinking water storage and treatment and downtown revitalization.

DeMello said they are putting in requests for more than \$100 million in additional funding, with most of that being for water, wastewater and storm water resiliency and redundancy. Multiple sources will be tapped for drinking water system improvements.

Revisiting the drinking water alternatives presented in July 2023, the commission opted for partial improvements to both

water treatment plants; a new elevated storage tank, water main and distribution system upgrades; and upgrading to advanced metering.

With \$4.5 million secured and 90% of the design completed, deMello said the city needs another \$15.1 million for those projects, which can be conducted in phases.

Woodward and Curran had calculated a financial improvement plan prior to the most recent \$2 million state award. It included options for issuing a bond or financing through FDEP's SRF loan program. It also looked at combining programs. If the city

could get a partial FDEP grant, for example, it could finance the rest through SRF. Impact fees and developer agreements were also part of the calculations.

The additional cost for customers for the various alternatives ranged from an additional \$1.51 a month for two state funding programs with low annual repayments to more than \$52 a month for a bond issue with the current high interest rate and an annual debt payment of more than \$1.7 million.

"The intent of this is not to show you, hey, this is concrete, and this actually happened. The only thing concrete is the four and a half million that we've secured to date, right? The rest of it is still, hey, let's roll up our sleeves together. Let's continue the partnership. Let's go out and find you grants, because your range of this project could be anywhere from \$0 for existing customers all the way up to \$52 for the existing customer, and it could fall anywhere in between," deMello said. "I think very confidently that we can get to something very achievable here without going back to your rate payers and saying, 'Hey, we have

to borrow \$17 million at 7% and it's going to increase your water bill, just your water bill alone by \$50."

There are a lot of water projects to undertake, both because of delayed maintenance and future growth, deMello said. The water utility needs the same commitment to the wastewater system is receiving. Woodward and Curran will help execute that strategy, pounding the pavement to leverage grant opportunities and alternative financing. An

impact fee analysis is underway, and forging agreements with developers to pay their share is also being discussed.

City Manager Drew Mullins said a new metering system would also increase utility revenue before rates are even touched. In a previous town he managed, revenue jumped 15% after replacing 3,000 meters. DeMello said 15% more revenue can leverage a lot of borrowing potential.

Bradford High School Class of 1980

Class Reunion celebrating 45 years during BHS homecoming weekend

Thursday, Oct. 16

-7 p.m. Sitting together during Tornado Whirl;

Friday, Oct. 17

-1 p.m. Riding together in the homecoming parade

-7 p.m. Special section reserved during the homecoming game

Saturday, Oct. 18

-6 to 10 p.m. Reunion at the Starke Woman's Club

Reserved tickets for the reunion are available through Oct. 1 are \$35 each or \$50 for a couple. Tickets at the door are \$35 each (cash only). Scan code to purchase reserved tickets.



Morgan Road Baptist Homecoming

Morgan Road Baptist Church will hold its 2025 Homecoming Celebration Sunday, Oct. 5, beginning at 10 a.m. Worship with music by Happy Way Quartet and a message delivered by Kenneth Norman.

Lunch will follow.



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RIVERS FLOWING CHURCH
THE RENEWAL OF THE CHRISTIAN MIND - PART 2

We began last week studying God's Word concerning the renewal of the mind. Most Christians are comfortable if you teach and preach on the soul or spirit. It amazes me that it frightens some when you begin to talk about the mind. Nevertheless, the Bible has a great deal to say about the mind and how we ought to think. I have already stated in previous lessons but it bears repeating, most Christians are defeated because of the way they think. Wrong thinking leads to wrong believing, and eventually, wrongful acts. Now, when I say wrongful acts, I am not necessarily talking about sinful acts. For the most part they will talk contrary to scripture and it will be difficult for them to live in the victory that Jesus has provided. For example, most Christians that I have talked with think that it is normal to have a certain amount of anxiety in their life. They think it is normal to worry about certain things or to become fearful at times. People who think that way lack Biblical knowledge and their minds are not renewed with God's Word. God told us in His Word how we should think and He gave us instructions as to what we are to think on in order to have His peace. I am not talking about mind over matter or positive thinking but thinking according to the scriptures. For instance, the Bible says in Isaiah 26:3, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, Because He trusts in You." Now, from that verse of scripture we can conclude that if a person is not at peace or is dealing with anxiety then they are NOT keeping their minds on the Lord. I know that is plain but that is Bible. The Word of God exhorts us to have the

MIND of Christ. Philippians 2:5 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..." How can we have the mind of Christ? By filling our minds with the Word of God. You think Gods thoughts by thinking on His Word. You can read the Word and you can confess the Word. Today we have at our fingertips via our cell phones, ipads or computers. We can actually listen to the Word at our leisure so we do not have any excuses. We can think on the Word of God. If a person can worry and fret about the what they are facing in life then a person can think on Gods Word. It comes down to a choice. You can choose to think on and be overwhelmed with the cares of life or you can choose to think on the Word of God. It may not be easy to start with but it is simple and it is a choice. God is so bold as to even tell us exactly, precisely what we are to think on. We do not have to guess or wonder. He lays it out for us.

Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praise worthy, think (meditate) on these things." It really does make a difference what a person thinks. If we desire to walk in victory and the provisions that God has provided through Jesus then we must renew our minds with the Word of God.

Until next week, may the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Blessings! -Pastor Rick

22610 HWY 301 N, Lawtey, FL 32058

No one knows the future without property taxes

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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If Florida legislators in their upcoming session propose a constitutional amendment that allows voters to cut or get rid of their property taxes, most seem to agree those taxes will disappear.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty thanked Rep. Chuck Brannan for appearing at the Sept. 25 commission meeting to discuss state funding and understanding the importance of that revenue to fiscally constrained counties. He had a question, however, about how the state would help counties, cities and school boards pay for public safety, education and other needs if state eliminates property taxes.

"To be able to still fund fiscally constrained counties, and to be able to fund public safety and schools and, you know, our road projects and things like that. How do you see that looking as far as pulling from other counties to be able to do that?" he asked. "Everybody wants free ice cream, but somebody's got to pay for it."

"Well, it's like dominoes. Everything affects everything else. There are ramifications to everything," he said. While the figure \$300 million has been floated by Gov. Ron DeSantis to make those counties whole, he wasn't sure that was enough. He did find truth to the governor's comparison of the amount to "dust" in the state's massive

\$117 billion budget.

"It's going to have to be made up somewhere," Brandon agreed. "How's the fair and equitable way to do that?"

Television sound bites about eliminating property taxes sound great, he said, asking who would vote against it.

"In places, they're too high, but I know in places like Starke and Macclenny and Lake Butler, it's hard to stitch that budget together and pull it together and make it work," he said.

In his eighth and final session, Brannan said they will have work hard to protect the district and make sure local governments are held harmless. A Select Committee on Property Taxes formed in the House is studying the issue from many angles. Brannan said there have been a lot of proposals.

"I wish I could answer the question of where it's going to end and how it's going to work out. I don't know," he said.

Dougherty pointed out that \$300 million divided by 27 fiscally constrained counties provides less than Bradford County currently receives in property tax revenue.

"We're trying to figure out how that's going to cover all fiscally constrained counties. There's going to be some things that are missing. And if it's raising sales tax, or whatever it is, somebody is going to pay for it," Dougherty said.

Brannan said he's seen proposals as high as a 15% sales tax, which might be fine if property taxes are zero. But then, he said, it would be tough to pay 15% on top of the price of a new car. The easy part is throwing out ideas, but the hard work will be in the details, he said.

"We've got to do it in a careful and proven way that protects small, as you said, the 27 counties," he said.

Mosaics at Melrose Art Walk

"Piece Out: The Art of Community Mosaic!" opens at Melrose Bay Art Gallery, 103 State Road 26, with an Artwalk event from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 3. The exhibition continues through Oct. 26, with gallery hours Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays 1-5 p.m. For more information, call 352-475-3866.

Linda Zidonik, who discovered her passion for mosaic after attending school in Ravenna, Italy, in 2001, is joined by 11 of her students in a show inspired by birds and the natural world. Artists include Karen Kearney, Steven Johnson, Linda Thomas, Barb Chapin, Jean Starobin, Beth Gibson, Debra Rowley, Tatiana Staloff, Randi Faris, Shandi Green and Mary Witoshynsky.



Starke Commissioners Bob Milner and Danny Nugent, Rep. Chuck Brannan, Mayor Andy Redding, and Commissioners Jancie Moritmer and Scott Roberts.

Brannan delivers latest check to Starke

Rep. Chuck Brannan delivered a detailed account of the significant financial support he helped secure for Starke and Bradford County throughout his legislative tenure. Brannan, reflecting on his years in the Florida House, described the process as "Christmas in September" for the community, highlighting the many projects and millions of dollars funneled into the area.

He recounted that in 2023, the city received \$2 million for the Starke Economic Impact and Recovery Program and the U.S. 301 bypass project, along with \$400,000 for the CityWalk downtown revitalization project. That same year, the county fire department got a new engine (\$450,000), a dump truck

(\$100,000), and over \$16.5 million in DOT road resurfacing projects within Bradford County.

In 2024, Brannan's efforts brought half a million dollars for a new fire station in Brooker, \$475,000 for a fire truck, and \$1.25 million for the sheriff's office's statewide law enforcement radio system. Hampton received \$550,000 for water well upgrades and \$50,000 each for two city parks. Starke again benefited with another \$500,000 for the bypass economic development corridor water project.

Despite a contentious legislative session with \$2.5 billion in statewide budget cuts, Brannan proudly noted that Bradford County's projects remained largely intact. For 2025, he announced \$500,000 for courthouse renovations, \$900,000 for law enforcement radio upgrades, nearly \$1 million for the RJE building modernization, \$744,568 for

the State Road 100 connectivity project at the airport, and over \$8.5 million in DOT resurfacing funds. The county also received \$2.3 million from the Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program. Brannan took a photo with city commissioners delivering another \$2 million for the bypass utility extension project.

Brannan emphasized that, in total, his efforts brought nearly \$53 million to Bradford County, with \$4.9 million directly to Starke. He credited teamwork with Sen. Jennifer Bradley and a relentless pursuit of funding, stating, "I root around just as hard as I can to find dollars for you."

Districtwide, the total this year was \$223 million in state funds going to Brannan's constituents, including the first of three installments for a new elementary school in Lake Butler.

Commission deals with critics following fire fee decision

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The backlash to the approval of a new fire assessment fee has continued through Bradford County's budget approval process, with calls for replacing commissioners and a state investigation into county spending.

While they cannot prevent hurt feelings, commissioners are speaking out about misinformation presented in recent meetings and online.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty said the county manager's office is working on a more comprehensive response, but he mentioned "the \$21,000 pizza party" accusation after a misreading of the county budget. The amount was not an expense at all but revenue from space leased to the CareerSource North Central Florida in the courthouse annex.

Pizza Hut is only mentioned in the budget because the county also rented that space before the

restaurant moved and the county sold the building to the current owner. The blank line item remains in the revenue budget.

Dougherty countered another claim about how much money the county could have raised through impact fees to avoid a fire assessment, saying impact fees are a nonrecurring revenue source that only apply to new construction.

"The number that was brought up was a ridiculous number," he said, of the \$20 million claim. "I don't think St. Johns County brings in that much money."

Dougherty said when the public has questions, there is paid staff available to help them throughout the week, and they can even make an appointment meet with them alongside their commissioner.

To anyone dangling the threat of the Department of Government Efficiency coming

to Bradford, Dougherty said he welcomes it.

"I'll open the door for DOGE when they come," he said. "We get audited every year, and we have clean audits every year, and I will stand there and open the door, and when they leave hear them say, 'How do you do so much with so little?'"

It's tough to operate as a fiscally constrained county, he said, when just like families cannot control the price of eggs, commissioners cannot control the price of fuel, materials or the cost of living.

"I think we're doing a pretty good job," he said.

To improve communication, Commissioner Carolyn Spooner has suggested the manager's office use the county website and social media to share information. But she also suggested dissecting their largest departments and spending for professional

services to see if there are things the county can live without. She added once the commission has a concrete idea of how much revenue will be raised by the fire assessment, then commissioners could begin looking at lowering the property tax rate.

Commissioner Diane Andrews agreed with efforts at better communication, but said people must learn to listen. Commissioner Danny Riddick was called a liar at a budget hearing when he said the county had not raised the tax rate.

"We did not raise the millage, and sometimes it gets very difficult to repeatedly explain when sometimes it's almost like some people don't want to know the truth," she said. "I don't mind interacting, but at the same time, I don't want to be cussed out or yelled at and screamed at, and I think that we all have to act professionally when we're

trying to find answers to these problems."

To combat the spread of misinformation, she agreed with Spooner they need to spend time trying to educate people.

"But at the same time, there has to be an element of trust that we're telling the truth and not just lying for no reason," she said.

Riddick thanked Andrews for sticking up for him.

"There's some pretty hateful comments, you know. I'll just tell you when people write that they hope that the whole board — I'll just say it — burns in hell, I mean that's pretty hateful," he said.

"Anybody that's called me and mentioned DOGE? I welcome DOGE. IF they could come here and show us how we can save money, don't you think I'd be all for it?"

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Starke, Florida, serving as the Board of Adjustment of the City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing on October 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

SE 25-03, a petition by Miyong Fitzpatrick, to request a special exception be granted as provided for in Section 4-99.B.3(b) of the Land Development Code, to permit Auto sales and service within a COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL (B-2) zoning district, in accordance with an application dated September 8, 2025 and site plan dated September 22, 2025, to be located on property described, as follows:

Lots Eight (8) and (9) of Block Eleven (11), Temple's Addition to Starke, according to plat thereof recorded in Deed Book G, at Page 304, public records of Bradford County, Florida.

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

Copies of the petition are available for public inspection at the City of Starke Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions 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 City Hall at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.



A PORTION OF THE CITY OF STARKE
A portion of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East
Bradford County, Florida

HELP

Continued from page 1

"To everyone in our community: you matter. Your life has value and tomorrow needs you. If you are struggling, please reach out, whether to a trusted friend, a loved one or a professional. Asking for help is a sign of courage, not weakness.

"As a community, let's make a commitment to checking in on each other, offering a listening ear and breaking the stigma around mental health. Together, we can create a culture of hope, compassion and support."

The Florida Department of Children and Families is also highlighting prevention by sharing information about mental health resources.

"Suicide Prevention Awareness Month presents an opportunity to emphasize our interconnected roles as a community in suicide prevention and our potential for impact. By building awareness, learning and sharing the risk factors and warning signs, promoting

resiliency, decreasing stigmas, and sharing available resources, we send a powerful message that you are not alone and every life has value," the agency stated in a press release.

DCF shared the following.

Mental well-being

Suicide prevention begins with connection. Staying engaged with community, social groups, family, friends and religious groups provides a foundation of support that can make all the difference. These connections foster resiliency, create a sense of belonging and remind us that no one has to face their challenges alone. Each of us has the power to play a role in supporting mental well-being by reaching out, listening, offering hope and providing connection to resources. Your support can make a significant difference for someone who is thinking of suicide. We call on Floridians to "Be the One," the one to check in, the one to extend a hand, the one to ask the question, and the one to help someone know their

life matters.

Recognize the signs

Your awareness can make a difference. If you see warning signs such as changes in behavior, like withdrawing from loved ones, feelings of sadness or hopelessness, increased substance use, and impulsive behavior, start by expressing care and concern. Listen without judgment, give them space to share, and let them know they are not alone. Offer to connect them with professional help or trusted resources that can be the critical step toward safety and recovery.

You're not alone

If you or a loved one need mental health support or are in a crisis, help is available. Call, text or chat the 988 Florida Lifeline 24-hours a day, seven days a week to be connected with a mental health professional for free, confidential support which includes a specific peer support path for Veterans by calling 988 and pressing 1.

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, the 988 Florida Lifeline received 144,981 calls, of which 96 percent were resolved without need for higher-level intervention, and all 1,374 of total calls made during an active suicide attempt in progress, resulted in everyone making it to the next level of care alive.

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Lake Region

Clay Behavioral provides mental health services in the Lake Region

Assistant county manager warns prospective residents about roads

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Focus on prevention

Three workers from Clay Behavioral Health Center spoke to a Lake Region civic group about the mental health services their organization provides to the Keystone Heights area. Crystal Riviere, Khelsea Boyd, and Debbie Carter told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that in addition to an office on State Road 21 North, the center also treats children at McRae and Keystone Heights Elementary schools.

The trio discussed service accessibility, insurance options, outreach strategies, specific interventions for youth and adults, and current mental health trends in the community.

Boyd, who shuttles between the Lake Region's two public elementary schools, said her

than elementary schoolers," she said. "When we're preventing or intervening with elementary school kids, by the time they get to high school, the idea is that they're not having to go into counseling, or they have the



(L-R) Khelsea Boyd, Debbie Carter and Crystal Riviere address the Keystone Heights Rotary Club on Wednesday, September 24.

Riviere, who oversees the Keystone Heights office, said the 7412 State Road 21 location accepts walk-ins without a referral, and patients may be seen in person by a clinician on the same day or through a telehealth session.

position, and six other clinicians throughout the county, is funded through a contract with the school district.

skills to deal with difficult things that might come up in their lives."

The Keystone Heights office is open on Mondays from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and on Thursdays from 12:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

She added that her caseload capacity is around 40 students and that her slots typically fill up after the Christmas break.

Boyd said some people may argue that the approach is unfair to older students, but with limited resources, governments and agencies cannot cover every need.

Riviere added that trauma, substance use disorder, and anxiety and depression are the most common conditions that the office sees.

"We don't know if that's because things happen over the breaks or people are adjusting to the time off and then have to come back into a different routine," she said.

Parents need help

Carter explained that fees are covered by private insurance, Medicaid, and public support the organization receives.

Boyd explained that her case load is now around half of its capacity.

Boyd said the conditions she sees include trauma from family displacement, including placement into foster care, adjustment disorders due to life changes, and mild depression and anxiety.

Fees are based on a sliding scale that considers household income and the number of individuals in the household.

She said that this year, she is seeing more students from McRae, even though Keystone Heights is a much larger school.

Riviere added that mental health disorders in children are often rooted in the behavior of their parents, rather than the behavior of the students.

The administrative assistant said patients are not required to provide proof of income.

"It's been different in previous years," she explained. "It's not always something I can predict because challenges can be different."

She explained that Clay Behavioral is promoting an in-home parent education program run by Kids First of Florida.

"We trust your information," she said. "If you meet a certain threshold, it's very affordable. Fifteen dollars for a first assessment, \$10 for individual visits, and \$5 for group sessions."

Boyd noted that Clay Behavioral does not have a clinician in the high school, adding that the school district decides where the clinician's work.

"They teach parenting skills, communication, appropriate rules, boundaries, and address LGBTQ issues," Riviere said. "This has been valuable, as many cases involve parenting issues. We work more with parents than kids, focusing on parent education and behavior modification, which isn't our primary scope. We've utilized Kids First of Florida, aiming to develop a parent education group here."

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The assistant county manager who oversees Clay County's economic development efforts spoke to the Clay Chamber's Lake Region Prosperity Partners on Wednesday, September 25, at the Keystone Beach pavilion.

Chereese Stewart briefed the group on county growth trends, the board of County Commissioners' strategic plan, property taxes, current infrastructure projects, and the county's efforts to spare large tracts of land from development.



Assistant County Manager Chereese Stewart displays a copy of the Clay County strategic plan during her talk to the Lake Region Prosperity Partners at Keystone Beach Pavilion.

'You are out of luck'

The county official also warned people considering a move to Clay County to check who owns the roads that will lead to their houses. She said a significant number of dirt roads in the county are privately owned.

Stewart said homeowners who live on bad, private roads can ask the county to create a special taxing district that will pay for the county to maintain the road, but added that most property owners are not willing to pay the additional assessment on their property tax bills that come with the special taxing district.

"If it's a public road, that means the county will come approximately every three weeks and grade it, improve it, and make it better when there are potholes, etc.," she said. "If it's a private road...you are out of luck."

Stewart said three massive developments will account four times its 2015 head count. Another growth hotspot will be the Green Cove Springs area, which is expected to have doubled in size by 2045 compared to the previous 30 years.

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Stewart said three massive developments will account

226,000 new people

Stewart, who represented Keystone Heights on the county commission from 2006 to 2014, told the group that when she was born, only 30,000 people inhabited her home county. The county's population is expected to exceed 256,000 by 2045, an addition of 226,000 residents over her lifetime.



Around two dozen business leaders attended the event at the Keystone Beach pavilion.

The official stressed that population growth has not been, nor will it be, evenly distributed. One of her slides revealed that from 2015 through 2045, the Lake Region is expected to experience a growth rate of 5.7%, while the 2045 population in the Lake Asbury-Penny Farms area is projected to be more than

for the population explosion around the county seat. Saratoga Springs, Governor's Park, and Agricola are expected to bring over 16,000 new homes to Green Cove Springs.

hotspots are still growing, with Fleming Island essentially built out, Oakleaf Plantation having room for 10,000 more homes, and the Lake Asbury-Penny Farms area projected to see over 28,000 more homes in the next 20 years.

Stewart noted that the county is holding steady at about 2,000 new single-family homes being built per year. She explained that impact and mobility fees paid by builders on every new home help fund services like libraries, parks, and roads.

Investing in Infrastructure

Stewart said that to accommodate the growth, Clay County is undertaking numerous road and infrastructure projects, backed by a \$180 million bond issue secured in 2020.

Recently completed projects include the new Cathedral Oak Parkway, described by Stewart as a "game changer" and a crucial east-west connector, as well as resurfacing work on State Road 21 between Keystone Heights and Middleburg, and County Road 215 between Camp Blanding and Middleburg.

The First Coast Expressway is also having a significant impact, with Stewart sharing that she was able to travel from downtown Green Cove Springs to Oakleaf

in just 25 minutes. Ongoing work includes projects on U.S. 17 from Green Cove Springs to Orange Park and County Road 218, which stretches from U.S. 301 through Middleburg to Penny Farms. The county has also budgeted \$11 million for road resurfacing and paving dirt roads this fiscal year.

in just 25 minutes.

Ongoing work includes projects on U.S. 17 from Green Cove Springs to Orange Park and County Road 218, which stretches from U.S. 301 through Middleburg to Penny Farms. The county has also budgeted \$11 million for road resurfacing and paving dirt roads this fiscal year.

Balancing Growth with Conservation

The county official said a key component of the county's strategy is a new conservation land program, which voters approved in the last election.

Starting in November, the county will accept applications from landowners who wish to sell their property for conservation or sell their development rights.

The option to sell development rights allows ranchers, farmers, and other property owners to retain ownership and continue using their land while ensuring it can never be developed.

"It's a great way to save the property," Stewart said, encouraging residents to nominate land for the program.

New Jobs on the Horizon

Stewart also shared news of a major economic development. A new business park is planned for the Green Cove Springs area that is expected to employ at least 500 people. The first building alone will be 457,000 square feet, signaling a significant commercial investment in the county. The project aims to provide more local job opportunities, as roughly 70% of the county's population currently commutes elsewhere for work.

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UNION COUNTY

Lake Butler's Fletcher Myers Park rededicated

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler officials, the family of Fletcher Myers, and others gathered to mark the rededication of Fletcher Myers Park on Saturday, September 27. Former Florida Gators Chaplain Patrick Maxwell began the ceremony with an invocation, recalling that Myers, whom he called "Uncle Flash," took him to Gator games on Saturdays and ensured he attended church the following day.

"He taught me about commitment and dedication to God," Maxwell told the crowd. "And for that, I am very grateful."

Myers, who died on February 1 at the age of 87, was Lake Butler's first African American commissioner and mayor, leading the city from July 1991 to July 1992, and serving on the commission for 31 years.

'He did not want it to be about race'

The honoree's wife for 62 years,

Louvonnia Myers said her late husband was a politician before the couple moved from Baker County to Lake Butler. She said he did not hold office in the MacClenny area but worked at Northeast Florida State Hospital and was always concerned for the well-being of others.

Myers's daughter, Debbie Fuller, remembered campaigning for her father when she was in the seventh grade.

"We went to everybody's churches," she remembered. "It didn't matter what church you were from because he said, there's no one race that can do everything."

Myers's daughter said that even though her father wanted African Americans to improve their lives, his highest priority



Vice Mayor Rondoll Huggins credited City Manager Kim Hayes and her staff for upgrading the park and repairing damage caused by vandals a few days before the ceremony.

was to unite the city.

"He wanted the community to come together," she said. "He did not want it to be about race. He wanted everybody to be part of the community."

Vice Mayor Rondoll Huggins said that shortly after he decided to run for the city commission, Myers talked to him about what it takes to succeed in public service.

"You've got to have thick skin," Huggins recalled of the advice the seasoned politician gave him. "He said, you can't wear your feelings on your shoulders. So, I shared with him, in (my management job), that I walk around with duck feathers, meaning today's events roll off, not carrying them into tomorrow. I thanked him for the words of

wisdom he shared with me."

'After a year, I thought he hated me'

Commissioner Fred Sirmones told the crowd that Myers recruited him to take Myers's place on the commission.

Sirmones added that Myers taught him the ropes of local politics and that he is grateful for the time the retired commissioner spent with him, even though Myers may not have agreed with some of his protégé's votes.

"After a year, I thought he hated me," remembered Sirmones, adding that one of the realities of public service is that you cannot please everyone.

"Regardless of whatever you do, and how well you do it, some people are going to be against you," he said. "Just do what you think is best for the city."

Huggins said the city has recently made improvements to the park, located on Southeast Sixth Street, across the street from Little Rainbow's Learning Center.

He said the city fenced the property, placed a sign on the pavilion, and erected a monument



Seated on front row, Fletcher Myers family members (l-r) Kevin Paige, Essie Dye, Jackie Ruise, Louvonnia Myers, Debbie Fuller, Harold Jefferson and Barbara Jefferson.

near the park's entrance commemorating Myers's public service.

Neighbor, mentor and unwavering advocate

During the ceremony, the vice mayor read a proclamation that commissioners had approved shortly after Myers's passing and then read a rededication statement.

Huggins, reading from the statement, said Myers's accomplishments far exceeded his role as a government official.

"Calling him commissioner barely scratches the surface of who he truly was," Huggins said. "Mr. Myers was a neighbor, mentor, and an unwavering advocate for the

community's well-being and progress. He believed deeply in public service to touch and uplift lives, tirelessly working in the street and water departments or guiding city commissioners during his tenure and retirement."

Huggins added that the park will symbolize the values Myers stood for: dedication, community, and a belief in creating a brighter future together.

"So, as laughter fills these playgrounds," Huggins said, "(families) gather for picnics, let these joyful sounds echo as parts of his enduring legacy."

"May Mr. Fletcher Myers's spirit," the Vice Mayor concluded, "be a guiding light in this community, sparking the same integrity and passion in future generations that he modeled daily."

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Threatened to kill with a hammer

William Dean, 46, of Palatka, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 24 for aggravated assault.

According to an arrest report, the defendant got into an argument with several people. During the dispute, Dean left the room and then returned with a hammer, stating that he would kill everyone in the house. As a result, the victim fled into his bedroom and locked himself inside. The victim stated that he was in fear for his life as a result of the threat.

Kevin Donley, 48, of Melrose, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 25 for a parole violation.

Marcus Glover, 50, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 23 for a probation violation.

Carlos Jones, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 22 for withholding support and a probation violation.

Heather Lamb, 40, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 24 for a probation violation.

Kimberly McVey, 37, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 24 for failure to appear.

Randall Padget, 58, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 23 for possession of drugs, selling drugs, and unlawful use of a two-way communications device.

Pulled knife during argument

Jonathan Poche, 26, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 24 for battery and aggravated assault.

According to an arrest report, while the defendant and victim were arguing over the defendant's use of a four-wheeler and a bike, Poche pulled out a knife and held it to the victim's stomach.

The defendant claimed that he used the knife in self-defense.

John Raulerson, 47, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 26 for an out-of-county warrant.

Forced woman out of car

Jonathan Rizer, 49, of Raiford, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 21 for battery and a probation violation.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and a woman argued over the defendant using the victim's car.

Rizer ordered the woman out of her car so he could use it, and when she refused, he grabbed her and pulled her out of the vehicle.

According to deputies, several neighbors witnessed the incident.

Albert Smith, 30, of Lake Butler,

was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 22 for an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Wade, 63, of Havelock, North Carolina, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 25 for DUI, possession of drugs and resisting an officer.

Caught with fentanyl, struck officer

Austin Webb, 28, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 23 for possession of drug equipment, battery, possession of drugs and a weapons offense.

According to an arrest report, deputies responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Southwest 92nd Street near Graham, where they found the defendant asleep in the driver's seat.

"I observed an open needle in Austin's possession, as well as a silver spoon with a purple residue sitting on Austin's lap," wrote a deputy in the report. "After multiple verbal attempts to awaken Austin, as well as announcing the sheriff's office, Austin eventually became conscious."

The deputy added that once the defendant woke up, Webb struck the officer in the face.

After detaining Webb, officers tested the purple residue, and the substance tested positive for fentanyl.

The defendant said the spoon in his car belonged to a friend that he had previously dropped off in Lawtey. A deputy later discovered a cigarette box in the defendant's shirt pocket, which also contained fentanyl.

Union

Shattered picture frame while holding child

Todd Hutcheson, 32, of Raiford, was arrested by Union deputies on September 24 for child neglect.

According to an arrest report, a woman who had been in a multi-year relationship with the defendant requested law enforcement to the scene so that she could take possession of her items at the defendant's home.

The defendant was holding a child while the woman and her mother were gathering the woman's property inside the home.

During this time, Hutcheson threatened the woman and, at one point, picked up a photograph and slammed it to the floor, shattering the picture frame's glass.

"I instructed (the woman) to take possession of the child and make sure he was not injured from the glass," wrote Deputy Jason Lepanto in the report. "After the child was safe and in the care of (the woman), I then took Todd into custody, placing him in hand restraints and escorting him to my patrol vehicle."

Lepanto reported that while searching Hutcheson, he discovered a bottle of urine in one of the defendant's pockets. Hutcheson told the officer he had the fluid in order to pass a drug test.

Christopher Lariscy, 47, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 23 for a probation violation.

Alan Smith, 44, of Lawtey, was arrested by Union deputies on September 23 for battery. According to an arrest report, during an argument with a family member, the defendant pushed the victim to the ground.

Clay

Garry Boyd, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 25 for vandalism and violating an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

According to an arrest report, the defendant violated the injunction by visiting an Oak Forest Road home.

He then argued with a female occupant of the house and threatened to fight a male resident of the home.

When leaving the property, he slammed a gate shut, causing approximately \$300 worth of damage.

Christopher Sherhouse, 37, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 21 for assault.

Robert Ware, 31, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 24 for reckless land burning.

Henry Wimberly, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 24 for operating a motorcycle without a motorcycle endorsement and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Lake Butler signs off on \$11.25 million wastewater loan

Grant will cover \$9.65 million of principal forgiveness

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Lake Butler City Commission authorized Mayor Melissa Hendrix to execute a \$11.25 million loan agreement with the state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund for wastewater infrastructure upgrades during its September 16 meeting.

Under the loan agreement, the city is pledging revenues from its water fund to repay the loan.

Hendrix noted that a grant will cover \$9.65 million of the principal, leaving the city to repay the remaining \$1.6 million over 30 years.

In a letter to the fund, City Attorney John E. Maines, IV, noted that water fund revenues are already pledged for a 1998 bond issue.

Engineer John Petrohovich with CHP Consulting said one benefit of the infrastructure upgrades will be replacing the clay piping that is in some areas of the municipality.

"It is just like the piping you plant tomato seeds in that you're going to put out in your back patio," he told commissioners. "That's the type of infrastructure—that's just the age—so this will get you modern infrastructure, it's going to save you on (repairs and maintenance) costs because of less emergency repairs to make, less storm water and sand and things getting in your system, that then put additional strain on your wastewater plant. So it is really tremendous."

Complaint about sulfur smell

Public comments kicked off with resident Lisa Huggins expressing frustration over the "rotten egg" smell in the water, questioning how long residents would have to endure it.

Jason Dodds, water and wastewater supervisor, explained the odor stems from ongoing

aeration and chlorine issues during wastewater treatment upgrades.

Dodds added that the contractor had paused work for two weeks but would return, estimating another month before the issue was resolved.

Hendrix noted recent impacts on laundry and drinking water, while Huggins said she avoids bathing or brushing her teeth with it. No immediate fixes were announced, but officials assured that the issue is temporary.

Townsend Green roofing project moves forward

Progress on the Townsend Green Building rehabilitation, a historic structure housing the Union County Historical Society Museum, advanced with the award of a roofing contract to Perry Contracting of Gainesville.

The bid, \$140 over the grant budget, prioritized the roof due to its urgency, with plans to seek future funding for windows and flooring.

Grant Administrator Doug Sanders, with Andy Easton and Associates, recounted the laborious process the grant application has gone through.

"Four public hearings, hurricanes, labor shortages, materials absent, it took two public hearings to get the architect, which was in Tallahassee, and it took another two public hearings to get this bid tonight," Sanders recalled.

The administrator informed commissioners that he would return to them in October with a Perry Roofing contract for their approval.

"Then we'll have a pre-construction conference, and at that time his scope of service will include his project schedule, and we're giving him until the end of the year, which was the extended period that was given to us by the state," Sanders said. "He's going to do some infrared drone inspections of the building as a final check of the condition of that roof, and he'll come in and get it done."

Sanders added that preserving

the building's contents is worth the frustration of repairing the roof.

"It's an amazing collection," he said of the historical society's displays. "I've never seen a church, a museum—and it has so many newspaper articles on Union County history. It's worth every bit of the frustrations we went through to get to this point."

Occupational license fees, Halloween date, code enforcement officer

The commission maintained the current occupational license fee schedule, opting against changes that could impact the recently approved budget. Commissioners also reconsidered Halloween trick-or-treating, moving it from Friday, October 31, to Thursday, October 30, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., to avoid conflicting with a high school senior night football game.

In reports, City Manager Kim Hayes announced the hiring of Rick Ward as a part-time code enforcement officer starting October 1, with 20 years of experience from Gainesville.

She updated the commission on community center improvements and progress on a boat ramp grant.

Public Works Director Michael Gray reported on park enhancements, pothole repairs, and new hires.

Water and Wastewater Supervisor Jason Dodds detailed meter repairs, minor breaks, and spray field work.

Finance Director Dave Mecusker indicated the city is on track for a strong fiscal year-end on September 30.

The meeting concluded with condolences for the passing of Martha Powell, a longtime educator and community pillar who passed away at the age of 92. Commissioners agreed to contribute personally toward flowers for her family.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 21.

KH house fire displaces family

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

A fire occurred at 7460 Hilltop Street in Keystone Heights, FL, at approximately 7:40 a.m. on Sunday, September 28th, according to Clay County Fire Rescue.

No pets or people were injured, and no one was home at the time of the incident. However, the fire left the residents displaced. The cause of the fire is currently unknown.



Retired teacher finds pair of rattlers



Retired high school agriculture teacher Greg Alvarez said he was mowing a pasture near the Union-Bradford County line, off County Road 229, when his dog started barking and circling an area. While investigating, the former instructor found a pair of rattlesnakes, between four and five feet long. Alvarez, who now serves on the Bradford County Fair Board, said he suspects the snakes were mating when his dog found them in the area of the Dyal and Connor cemeteries.

Woman's Club hosts 4th Annual Almost Fall Festival

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

Despite rainy weather, the Keystone Heights Woman's Club hosted its 4th Annual Fall

Festival on September 27 with 50 vendors taking part.

Participants enjoyed crafts, food, and a variety of fun activities for kids.

Lake Region Kiwanis and Costello's Tree Service both sold food, helping raise \$1,625 for the Women's Club.

"On behalf of the Woman's Club of Keystone Heights, we want to thank our neighbors and community for making this year's festival such a success,"

said Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin, co-president of the Keystone Heights Woman's Club. "Despite the weather, several hundred people came out to support local businesses, and many of our vendors sold out."

The co-president singled out Kiwanis and Costello's for their support of the event.

"I love to see our town show up for each other and the community spirit," she said.



Lake Region Kiwanis Club members (l-r) Tina Santillo, Fred Goetzman and Karen Lake



Woman's Club members Heather Abrahamsen, Tori Gentry, Kathleed Mullins and Toni Capretta.



Dane Bell, Reagan Darty and Christopher Manuel



A total of 50 vendors were present.



Russ WADE

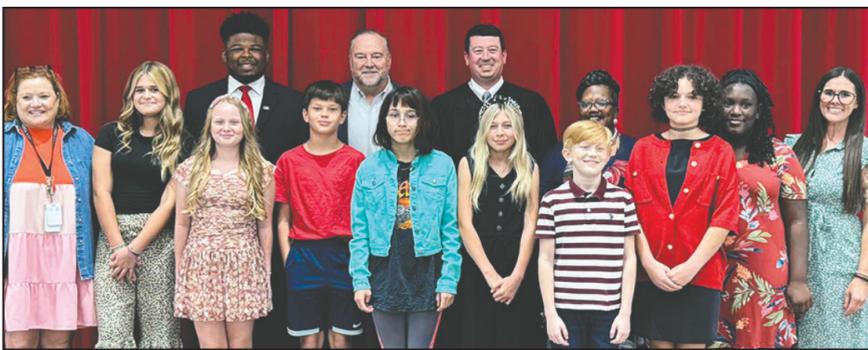
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Bradford Elementary School's student-council members were sworn in for the 2025-26 year. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Assistant Principal Michelle Cino, President Addison Jackson, Vice President Jaycee McDaniel, Secretary Lexington Mills, Treasurer Faelynn Jones, representatives Ansley Weiss and Elijah Dongles, Historian Harper Harrell, Representative Chloe Cruger, (back, l-r) Student Council Sponsor Jaquan Bryant, Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith, Bradford County Judge Tatum Davis and student council co-sponsors Natalya Cruger and Vanessa Sweeney.

Student council sworn in at Bradford Elementary School

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford Elementary School's 2025-26 student council was sworn in by Bradford County Judge Tatum Davis on Sept. 16.

The council members are as follows: President Addison Jackson, Vice President Jaycee McDaniel, Secretary Lexington Mills, Treasurer Faelynn Jones, Historian Harper Harrell and representatives Chloe Cruger, Elijah Dongles and Ansley Weiss.

Jaquan Bryant is the student-council sponsor, while Natalya Cruger and Vanessa Sweeney are co-sponsors.

Bryant talked to the students about being leaders, stressing that a leader doesn't have to be somebody famous or whoever is smartest or strongest. Leadership,

he said, is simply about helping others, making good choices and working together.

"Let's start with a simple question: What makes someone a leader? Is it wearing a crown, giving orders or being in charge? No," Bryant said. "Being a leader is about inspiring others to do their best. It's about setting an example through your actions, whether big or small. When you choose to be kind, honest and fair, you're already showing qualities of a great leader."

Bryant told the students they may have already been leaders without realizing it.

"Think about this: Have you ever helped a friend who was struggling with classwork? Have you ever included someone in a game who was feeling left out? Or maybe you've stood up for

what's right, even when it was hard. If you've done any of these things, you've been a leader," Bryant said. "Leadership isn't about power; it's about making the school around you better — one step at a time."

"Another important thing: Leaders never stop learning. They listen to others, ask questions and grow from their mistakes."

Bryant then talked about kindness, saying, "A smile, a kind word or a helping hand can make a big difference in someone's day. When you treat others with respect and care, you show the true heart of a leader."

In closing, Bryant asked the newly elected council members, "What can you do today to be a leader?"

BHS defeats KHHS 53-0 in 1st District 5-2A game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's football team scored four touchdowns in the first quarter in winning its District 5-2A opener 53-0 over host Keystone Heights on Sept. 26.

The Tornadoses (5-1), who travel to play district opponent Palatka on Friday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., had no trouble with the Indians and most likely didn't expect to. Keystone (0-5, 0-2 in District 5) has struggled mightily this season, with most of its team made up of freshmen and sophomores after multiple would-be starters transferred out and several others simply deciding not to play this season. The Indians have been outscored 230-37 in their five games.

Since Jamie Rodgers became Bradford's head coach, the Tornadoses have outscored Keystone 179-6 in four games.

Still, it wasn't a game to take lightly for a team that has a goal of winning a district championship.

"That was the first box we needed to check — to get the win tonight," Rodgers said.

Bradford, which got four touchdown passes from Cy Cubbedge, finished with 268 yards to Keystone's 25.

The Indians, who travel to play West Nassau on Friday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m., not only struggled moving the ball against the Bradford defense, but also had issues with its shotgun snaps, which resulted in a net loss of 48 yards and two safeties.

Keystone also committed three turnovers, one of which would've put another touchdown on the board for the Tornadoses if not for a penalty.

It didn't take long to show what kind of a night it was going to be. The game began with a sky kick from the Indians, who were obviously hoping to prevent a long return. Instead, Bradford's Jordan Cason caught



Bradford's Chase Phillips (center) breaks into the open field as Keystone's Luke Bacorn (far left) gives chase.

the ball at his own 41-yard line and took it back the distance for a touchdown. Tyler Sapp added the extra point to make it 7-0.

Sapp then booted a deep kick that Keystone's Hunter Crumpton fielded at the 4-yard line and returned to the 11. A bad snap on the Indians' second play of their possession resulted in a loss that backed them up to the 4. The Tornadoses' Parviele Lee then tackled Cole Crabtree in the end zone on third down for a safety, putting Bradford up 9-0 at the 9:51 mark of the first quarter.

The Bradford offense began its first drive at its own 44 following the free kick awarded by the safety. A holding penalty on first down negated most of a Chase Phillips run deep into Keystone territory, but the result was a first-and-1 at the Keystone 47. A lateral to Cason hit the ground, but Cason scooped the ball up and ran for a 7-yard gain to pick up a first down. A 16-yard reception by Kamontae Nixon on the next play gave the Tornadoses a first down at the 24. Keystone's Trase Wooden made a tackle for a loss, while Crabtree nearly intercepted a pass. However, on third-and-11, Cubbedge connected with Elijah Lawrence over the middle of the field for a 25-yard touchdown with 7:11 remaining in the first quarter. Sapp added the PAT for a 16-0 lead.

Two plays after the ensuing kickoff, the Tornadoses got the ball back when Nate Raymond caused and recovered a fumble at the Keystone 17. After a penalty for delay of game, Nixon had a 16-yard reception to give Bradford first-and-goal at the 6. Nixon, who finished with three catches for 38 yards, then caught a touchdown pass from Cubbedge with 5:36 left in the opening quarter. Sapp was again successful on the extra point, making the score 23-0.

A bad snap put the Indians in the shadow of their own end zone again, with quarterback Crumpton falling on the loose ball at the 4-yard line. On fourth-and-24, another bad snap sailed over punter Ryder Thomas' head and out of the end zone for a safety, making it a 25-0 game.

Bradford drove 44 yards for its next score following the free kick. A 28-yard run by Cason, who finished with two carries for 35 yards, put the Tornadoses at Keystone's 16-yard line. Cubbedge then hooked up with Peyton Jones for a 16-yard touchdown pass. With Sapp's PAT, the Tornadoses led 32-0 with 1:46 to play in the first quarter.

The Indians picked up a first down on their next series. An 8-yard run by Crumpton set up fourth-and-3, with Crumpton

See BHS, page 13

Local DAR chapter meets Oct. 6 in Keystone

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will meet on

Monday, Oct. 6, at 10:30 a.m. at the Keystone Heights city hall.

If you're a member and haven't attended a meeting in a while, the

club would love to have you.

All members and perspective members are welcome.

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Biz 3 _____	Biz 10 _____	Biz 17 _____
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DROP BY OR EMAIL US YOUR ENTRY see rules below***

****Tiebreaker Score:** _____
Total points scored by both teams in the **GATORS game**

This Week's Winner:
Steve Griffis
missed 6; won with tiebreaker



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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

* CONTEST RULES 1. Anyone (except Telegraph/Times/Monitor employees and their immediate family members) is welcome to enter. One entry per person per week please. Persons winning one week are not eligible to win again for at least three weeks. 2. When picking up winnings, the winner will have their photograph taken for the paper. 3. Entry must be on an official form from the BCT/UCL/IRM and submitted to one of our drop off locations: BC Telegraph, 131 W. Call St., Starke; Spires Market in Lake Butler; Capital City Bank in Keystone Heights OR *** email a photo/scan of your official entry form to csmelley@BCTELEGRAPH.COM — ALL entries due before 5 p.m. on Fridays. Entrants consent to be added to our email list and having photo taken for paper. Fill in all the blanks with the name of the team you think will win, matching the biz & card numbers. The person who picks the most games correctly will win \$50 cash from the pool of BCT/UCL/IRM entries. 4. **In case of a tie, the total points scored in the GATORS' game this week is the tie breaker. Please fill in the points you think will be scored by the GATORS and their opponent, combined, in the tie breaker blank. (For instance, if the score of the game was GATORS 19, opponent 7, the correct tie-breaker score is 26 points). 5. Decision of the judges is final. A second, follow up tie-breaker will be used if necessary. Results will be tabulated on Monday and winners notified by telephone. Don't forget to list a phone number where you can be reached. INFO: 904-964-6305. [GATORS WILL BE USED FOR TIEBREAKER.]



Union County's Kiptyn Shuler (left) and Cadenz Merriex scramble after a Paxon fumble.

Tigers bounce back from 2 losses, defeat Paxon 21-17

BY LISA HOLTZENDORF
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Jeffrey Brugh rushed for touchdowns that totaled 113 yards as the Union County High School football team rebounded from two straight shutout losses to defeat visiting Paxon 21-17 on Sept. 26.

It was a much-needed victory for a young Tigers team, who not only struggled in their last two games but lost leading rusher Drew Simmons, who transferred to Columbia.

Interim Coach Lamar Waters praised his team, telling his players they played the way he knew they could, with the team looking totally different from the one that was coming off a 47-0 loss to Fort White.

"The defense rose to the occasion, and the offense executed," Waters said. "Great football was played by every single player."

Union (2-3) made some personnel changes, with freshman Cadenz Merriex taking over for senior Brugh at quarterback. Brugh moved to running back and wide receiver and is also now a part of special

teams.

Paxon (3-3) kicked off to start the game, with the Tigers starting a drive at their own 37. The Golden Eagles wouldn't allow Union to move the ball, forcing a punt.

The Eagles began their first drive at their own 40, but the Union proved to be tough on defense as well, stifling the Eagles on fourth-and-2.

That gave the Union offense the ball at the Paxon 48. Brugh took a handoff from Merriex, exploding out of the backfield and taking it the distance for a touchdown at the 7:58 mark of the first quarter. Brugh kicked the extra point, making the score 7-0.

Paxon answered with its own touchdown as Ja'Bron Ray scored on a pass play with 4:16 remaining in the first quarter. William Montelongo added the PAT to tie the score at 7-7.

After trading possessions several times, with both defenses playing tough, Montelongo kicked a 35-yard field goal to put the Eagles up 10-7 with 6:27 left in the second quarter.

Union's defense would come up with a big play when it forced a fumble deep in the Tigers' territory. The Tigers fumbled several times themselves, with the ball rolling toward the Paxon end zone before Union recovered at the 6-yard line. On fourth-and-goal at the 1, C.J. Ivey got the call, punching it in for a

touchdown with 2:22 remaining in the first half. Brugh kicked the extra point as the Tigers took a 14-10 lead.

The Eagles began the third quarter with a bang when Javier Dixon completed a 65-yard touchdown pass to Ray — his favorite target. With Montelongo's PAT, the Eagles were in the lead again by a score of 17-14.

Unlike the week before against Fort White, this Tigers team was fired up and ready to win. Brugh took a handoff and blew through the middle of the Paxon defense for a 65-yard touchdown. He barely had time to catch his breath when he booted the extra point to put the Tigers ahead 21-17 at the tail end of the third quarter.

The rest of the game was a battle between the defenses, with the Tigers shutting down the Eagles on six fourth-down attempts.

Union will celebrate homecoming when it hosts Jacksonville's Zarephath Academy on Friday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Zarephath (2-4) is coming off a 30-0 win over West Oaks Academy. That broke a two-game losing streak as Zarephath lost 46-6 to Middleburg on Sept. 12 and 43-14 to Lafayette on Sept. 19.

Weather only thing to slow down BHS JV football team

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Monetrez Aldridge threw three touchdown passes for the Bradford High School junior varsity football team, which built a 28-0 lead over visiting Bishop Kenny on Sept. 25 before the game was called due to lightning with approximately four minutes remaining until halftime.

The Tornados entered the game with a 4-0 record, having defeated Ridgeview 22-0 on Aug. 28, Trinity Christian 14-6



Damarion Dodd carries the ball for a first down in Bradford Middle School's win over Bishop Kenny.

on Sept. 4, Clay 30-6 on Sept. 11 and Specially Fit Academy 44-6 on Sept. 18.

Bradford got off to a quick start against winless Bishop Kenny, as Eden Carabello caught a pass from Aldridge on the game's first play from scrimmage and took it the distance for a 48-yard touchdown to put the home team up 6-0. The two-point conversion attempt was no good.

The Crusaders picked up two first downs on their first series, but Bradford got big defensive plays from Jareem Jenkins, who made a tackle for a 2-yard loss, and Greyson McClellan, who broke up a pass on a third-down play. Bishop Kenny went for it on fourth-and-5 at the Bradford 44, with Jenkins sacking quarterback T.J. Belton for a 4-yard loss.

Peyton Jones carried the ball for a 7-yard gain on the first play following the turnover on downs, while a 9-yard run by Damarion Dodd gave Bradford a first down at the Bishop Kenny 36. On third-and-4, Aldridge kept the ball for a 17-yard gain to the 13. Dodd capped the drive with a 10-yard touchdown run, making it 12-0 with 2:08 to play in the first quarter. The two-point play failed.

Bishop Kenny's next possession went in the wrong direction, with Bradford's

Braxton Durant sacking Belton for a 4-yard loss and a fumble resulting in a 14-yard loss. A short punt was returned 21 yards by Jones, setting the Tornados up with a first-and-goal at the 4-yard line.

Bradford cashed in, with Jones catching a 2-yard touchdown pass at the 9:55 mark of the second quarter. Dodd's run on the two-point conversion made the score 20-0.

The Tornados' Andy Gomez came up with an interception on the Crusaders' ensuing series, but Bradford gave the ball right back when Bishop Kenny's Tristan Lackovich made an interception. The Crusaders, however, were backed up inside their own 10-yard line and punted after three straight run plays.

Jones returned the punt 35 yards for a touchdown, but a penalty called the play back, giving the Bradford offense the ball at the Bishop Kenny 43. Aldridge, who rushed for 48 yards on three carries, had a 28-yard run to the 15. The next play saw the quarterback hook up with Dillon Ruise in the end zone for a touchdown with 4:09 remaining in the first half. Dodd's successful run on the two-point play made it 28-0.

Aldridge was 3-of-7 passing for 65 yards.

Bradford rushed for 75 yards on just seven carries. Dodd rushed for 20 yards on three attempts, while Jones had one carry for 7 yards.

The Tornados' final game will take place Thursday, Oct. 2, at Newberry at 6:30 p.m.

BHS is 2nd in FHSAA Region 2-2A football power rankings

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School was number one in the inaugural Florida High School Athletic Association Region 2-2A football

power rankings, which were released Sept. 23, but dropped one spot in the latest rankings, which were released Sept. 30.

The inaugural rankings had Bradford (5-1) ahead of The Villages, but The Villages (6-0) now occupies the top spot.

Rankings, which take record and strength of schedule into account, will be updated weekly and be used to determine playoff seeding and at-large qualifiers.

The four district champions in each of the four regions in 2A automatically qualify for the playoffs. Each region will also have four at-larger qualifiers.

In Region 2, the top eight, besides The Villages and Bradford, consists of Santa Fe (4-1), Cocoa (2-3), Clearwater Calvary Christian (3-3), Titusville Astronaut (4-2), Tampa Catholic (1-5) and Newberry (2-3).

Bradford is ranked fifth in Class 2A regardless of region behind Jacksonville Bolles (5-1), Sarasota Cardinal Mooney (4-1), St. Petersburg Lakewood (6-0) and The Villages.

Two of the Tornados' victories have come against two current top-10 teams: Mandarin, which is fifth in Class 6A and South Sumter, which is ninth in Class 3A. Bradford also has a win over Eastside, which is 11th in Class 3A.

Complete rankings can be viewed at fhsaa.com.

BMS football team to play for SMAC title at home Oct. 7

Bradford Middle School's football team will host the Suwannee Middle Athletic Conference championship game on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 6 p.m. at Bradford High School's David Hurse Stadium.

The Tornados (5-0) played at Suwannee this past Tuesday to conclude the regular season. Bradford is the conference's number-one seed.

Bradford's opponent for the SMAC title game was unknown by deadline.

GAME ON 2025: FOOTBALL CONTEST

YOU COULD WIN \$50 CASH

IN THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR

FOOTBALL CONTEST



SEE ENTRY FORM ON PREVIOUS PAGE

9 **Texas Tech Red Raiders vs. Houston Cougars**
DURRANCE PUMP
864 N Temple Ave. • Starke
(904) 964-7061

10 **Boise State Broncos vs. Notre Dame Fighting Irish**
PIPELINE CONSTRUCTORS INC.
Site & Utility Contractor
2117 N Temple Ave
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-2019

11 **Iowa St. Cyclones vs. Cincinnati Bearcats**
BMS Tornados of the Week
TITAN CHEVROLET
J'QUEZ CASON #1 (LEFT)
CY CUBBEDGE #15 (RIGHT)
titanchevy.com
(904) 964-3200

12 **Virginia Cavaliers vs. Louisville Cardinals**
TEAL TILE
131 N. Cherry St.
Starke, FL
904-964-7423
CARPET ONE®

13 **Michigan St. Spartans vs. Nebraska Cornhuskers**
STARKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
(904) 964-5441
15501 NE 14th Ave • Starke, FL
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
GREENS FEE: \$10
CART RENTAL: \$20

14 **Minnesota Golden Gophers vs. Ohio State Buckeyes**
Jackson Building Supply
JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY
Starke Lake Butler
904-964-6078 386-496-3079

15 **Duke Blue Devils vs. California Golden Bears**
NORTH FLORIDA PHARMACY
405 S. Lawrence Blvd
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
352-478-2057

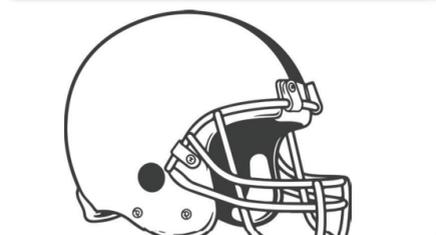
16 **Dallas Cowboys vs. N.Y. Jets**
DLP BANK
STARKE, FL • (904) 964-7830
LAKE BUTLER, FL • (386) 496-3333
DURABLE AND TOUGH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

17 **Miami Dolphins vs. Carolina Panthers**
LAKE AREA TITLE SERVICES, INC.
Keystone Hts Location
7404 State Road 21
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(352) 473-9009
Lake Butler Location
25 East Main Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(386) 496-8238

18 **Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Seattle Seahawks**
A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST
V. Todd
Ferreira Funeral Services
V. TODD FERREIRA
We're Here For You

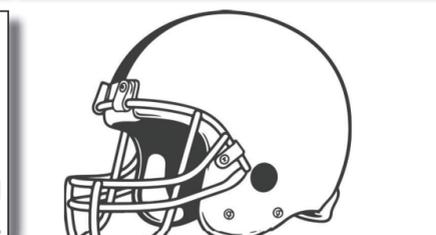
19 **Minnesota Vikings vs. Cleveland Browns**
THORNTON & CO REALTY
50 West Main Street
Lake Butler, FL
904-364-6890
Thornton & Co. Realty

20 **Houston Texans vs. Baltimore Ravens**
QUALITY PLUMBING
(352) 377-1009
Quality-Plumbing.com



21 **Detroit Lions vs. Cincinnati Bengals**
HOMETOWN INSURANCE
904-964-3375
hometowninsurance.com
hometown insurance agency

22 **Las Vegas Raiders vs. Indianapolis Colts**
HANDI HOUSE OF STARKE
Handi-Houses - THEY'RE PORTABLE
(904) 964-3330
1670 S Walnut St • Starke, FL



* CONTEST RULES 1. Anyone (except Telegraph/Times/Monitor employees and their immediate family members) is welcome to enter. One entry per person per week please. Persons winning one week are not eligible to win again for at least three weeks. 2. When picking up winnings, the winner will have their photograph taken for the paper. 3. Entry must be on an official form from the BCT/UCT/LRM and submitted to one of our drop off locations: BC Telegraph, 131 W. Call St., Starke; Spires Market in Lake Butler; Capital City Bank in Keystone Heights OR *** email a photo/scan of your official entry form to csmelley@BCTELEGRAPH.COM — ALL entries due before 5 p.m. on Fridays. Entrants consent to be added to our email list and having photo taken for paper. Fill in all the blanks with the name of the team you think will win, matching the biz & card numbers. The person who picks the most games correctly will win \$50 cash from the pool of BCT/UCT/LRM entries. 4. **In case of a tie, the total points scored in the GATORS' game this week is the tie breaker. Please fill in the points you think will be scored by the GATORS and their opponent, combined, in the tie breaker blank. (For instance, if the score of the game was GATORS 19, opponent 7, the correct tie-breaker score is 26 points). 5. Decision of the judges is final. A second, follow up tie-breaker will be used if necessary. Results will be tabulated on Monday and winners notified by telephone. Don't forget to list a phone number where you can be reached. INFO: 904-964-6305. (GATORS WILL BE USED FOR TIEBREAKER.)

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Oct. 2, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 313 Year of Issuance: 2023 Parcel Number: 01195-0-00000 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-006 Description of Property: Commence at the intersection of the North line of the Southeast quarter (SE1/4) of the Southeast quarter (SE1/4) of Section 14, Township 5 South, Range 22 East and run West 500 feet, thence South 18 degrees and 40 minutes West 869.1 feet for point of beginning. Thence continue South 18 degrees West 440 feet to North line of State Road No. 125. Thence West 243 feet along said State Road No. 125, 243 feet, thence North 420 feet, thence East 386 feet to point of beginning, containing 3.14 acres more or less and lying in the Southeast quarter (SE1/4) of the Southeast quarter (SE1/4) of Section 14, Township 5 South, Range 22 East. Name in Which Assessed: THELMA CORNWALL (DEC) ET AL Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 11/19/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: September 10, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2025; SEPTEMBER 25, 2025; OCTOBER 2, 2025; OCTOBER 9, 2025 9/18 4tchg 10/9-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2025 CA 000189 FLORIDA CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, vs. MARGARET SILCOX, JASON SILCOX, U.S. SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, STARKE HMA, LLC., AND UNKNOWN PARTY IN POSSESSION., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Margaret Silcox 18859 NE 30th Place Starke, FL 32091 Jason Silcox 18859 NE 30th Place Starke, FL 32091 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property in Bradford County, Florida: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF BRADFORD, STATE OF FLORIDA, TO WHIT: THE EAST ONE-HALF OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND: COMMENCE 200 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST 1/2 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF NORTHWEST 1/4 AND RUN SOUTH 517.4 FEET FOR POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 170 FEET WEST, 419 FEET TO EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD 200; THENCE NORTH ALONG ROAD 170 FEET, EAST 406.75 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, LYING AND BRING SITUATED IN SECTION 10,

TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22. TOGETHER WITH A 2003 MOBILE HOME ID# FLHML2F157826979A AND ID# FLHML2F157826979B WHICH IS PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO THE LANDS ABOVE DESCRIBED AND, AS SUCH DEEMED TO BE A FIXTURE AND PART OF THE REAL ESTATE. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Stephen Orsillo, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 3637, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-3637, within 30 days after the first publication date and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition. Dated this 12th day of September, 2025. Denny Thompson, Clerk As Clerk of the Court By: K. JENKINS As Deputy Clerk

9/25 2tchg 10/2-BCT

LEGAL NOTICE BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD BUSINESS MEETING The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited. DATE AND TIME: October 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. PLACE: Bradford County Emergency Operations Center Board Room located at 945 N Temple Ave # B, Starke, Florida DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008 CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272 GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200. Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the business meeting to Lynn Franson, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued. 10/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, whose title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Town Council of the Town of Brooker, Florida, at a public hearing on October 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Community Center, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida. Copies of the ordinance are available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested

persons may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO CHANGING THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND ON THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION BY SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 2 DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE) TO PUBLIC OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 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 Office of the Town Clerk at 352.485.1022 or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8771 at least 48 hours prior to the proceedings. 10/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: HOLCOMB AND FAMILY INC., 781 Glendale St., Starke, FL 32091, JOINT owner, doing business under the firm name of: CUSTOM REMAN GROUP, 781 Glendale St., Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 25 day of SEPTEMBER A.D., 2025, in BRADFORD County. 10/02 1tchg-BCT

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF ORDER GRANTING VARIANCE

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its determination pursuant to section 120.542, Florida Statutes, in File No. MMR-137482-029 to grant a variance to The Chemours Company FC, LLC, under Rule 62C-37.008(11)(b), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) and Section 378.601(4)(i), Florida Statutes (F.S.), in order to delay reclamation of 523 acres of land mined for heavy minerals to allow coordination with the Suwannee River Water Management District, located in Sections 1 and 12, Township 6 South, Range 22 East; Section 6, Township 6 South, Range 23 East; Section 31, Township 5 South Range 23 East; and Section 24, Township 5 South, Range 22 East. 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 e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; 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 will be affected by the agency determination; A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision; (c) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petitioner must so indicate; (d) 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; (e) 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 (f) 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, or via electronic correspondence at Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. In accordance with rule 62-110.106(3) of the Florida Administrative Code, petitions for an administrative hearing must be filed within 21 days of publication of this notice or receipt of written notice, whichever occurs first. However, any person who has previously asked the Department for notice of this 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. 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.

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, this process may result in a modification of the agency action or even a denial of the request for a variance or waiver. A copy of the Order may be obtained by contacting: The Mining and Mitigation Program, (850) 245-8336, MiningAndMitigation@dep.state.fl.us during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. 10/2 1tchg-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on October 7, 2025, 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. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted. 10/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a variance, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on October 16th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida. V 25-09, an application by William Campbell, to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.8 "RSF" Residential Single Family, Section 4.8.7, Minimum Yard Requirements Setback, Special Provisions from a minimum undisturbed vegetative buffer of fifty (50') feet measured from the generally recognized river bank of all perennial rivers to a requested forty (40') along the Northerly boundary of the property being described as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 25, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida and being Bradford County Parcel Number 06034-A-00903

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. Aforementioned public

hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal. Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

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. 10/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on

October 16th, 2025^h at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. SE 25-02, a petition by Karavan Starke, LLC, to request a Special Exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.6 "RR", Rural Residential, Section 4.6.5, Special Exceptions, # 13 of the Bradford County Land Development Regulations to allow for a Recreational activity (Travel trailer park or campground) to be located at the property being described as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Sections 10 and 15, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, lying East of US Highway 301 and lying within Bradford County Parcel Numbers 02102-0-00000 (Section 10) and 02138-0-00200 (Section 15), containing 34 acres, more or less. The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal. Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

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. 10/2 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION Case No. 2025-CA-0063 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Plaintiff, vs.

The Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, and all other parties claiming interest by, through, under or against the Estate of Marvin E. Noegel Jr. a/k/a Marvin Edward Noegel Jr., Deceased; Louis Eugene Noegel a/k/a Louis Noegel Sr.; Cynthia Marie Noegel a/k/a Cynthia M. Noegel a/k/a Cynthia Noegel Cugno a/k/a Cynthia Cummings Cugno a/k/a Cynthia Marie Cumming Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: The Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, and all other parties claiming interest by, through, under or against the Estate of Marvin E. Noegel Jr. a/k/a Marvin Edward Noegel Jr., Deceased Last Known Address: Unknown YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Union County, Florida:

PARCEL 14 A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF

SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST AND RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 31, A DISTANCE OF 1969.93 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN CORPORATION RAIL CORRIDOR; THENCE RUN NORTH 48 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1329.55 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHWEST; THENCE RUN ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 05 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 43 SECONDS, HAVING A RADIUS LENGTH OF 2814.93 FEET, WHOSE CHORD BEARS NORTH 51 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 280.51 FEET, FOR AN ARC LENGTH OF 280.63 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 15 SECONDS, HAVING A RADIUS LENGTH OF 2814.93 FEET, WHOSE CHORD BEARS NORTH 54 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 39 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 17.40 FEET, FOR AN ARC LENGTH OF 17.40 FEET; THENCE DEPARTING SAID SOUTH LINE, RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 13.81 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 01 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 10.58 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Julie York, Esquire, Brock & Scott, PLLC., the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 4919 Memorial Hwy, Suite 135, Tampa, FL 33634, within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication on or before

and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. DATED on September 11, 2025. Kellie Rhoades

As Clerk of the Court By C HOLLINGSWORTH Deputy Clerk

THIS NOTICE SHALL BE PUBLISHED ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS PUBLISH IN: Union County Times 9/25 2tchg 10/2-UCT

LEGAL NOTICE UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited. DATE AND TIME: October 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. PLACE: Union County Transportation Facility located at 255 SW 9th Avenue, Lake Butler, Florida DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008 CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272 GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200. Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the meeting to Lynn Franson, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued. 10/2 1tchg-UCT

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USPS 062-700

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Union County Times

USPS 648-200

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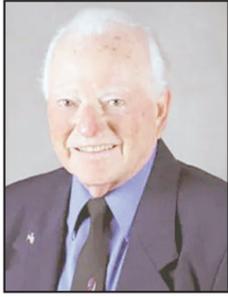
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Obituaries

Col. Arley McRae

Col. Arley Wayne McRae, USAF (retired), 91, of Starke passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025. Born July 30, 1934, in Lakeland, Arley was the son of Wesley and Anna Mae McRae and grandson of the late Harley and Ardelia (Johns) McRae. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1952 and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1956. He later received a master's degree from Troy State College in Alabama. Col. McRae, call sign "Gator," proudly served in the United States Air Force for 30 years, retiring in 1986. A decorated fighter pilot, he flew more than 130 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His distinguished military career was recognized with numerous honors, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, and several other commendations. Beyond his military service, he was a dedicated member of First Presbyterian Church of Starke and an avid reader who enjoyed puzzles and golf. He had a deep commitment to serving others and was especially passionate about helping those facing food and housing insecurity. Through the Colonel Arley W. McRae Bradford Food Pantry, his work with the local Children's Table, and Habitat for Humanity, he helped provide vital resources to countless families in need. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, John "Edwin" McRae, Earl McRae, and Eugene McRae.



He is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Gladys (Bundy) McRae; brother, James "Jim" McRae; children: Wayne (Cherri) McRae, Maria (Paul) Thomas Kish, Barry (Amy) Thomas, Diego (Gabriela) Lopes, and Bruno (Alana) Lopes; and sister-in-law, Emily Johns (Rod) McDonald. He was a proud and devoted "Papa" to his grandchildren, Josh (Abby) Acree, Madelyn Kish, Brian Kish, Landon Thomas, Amelia Thomas, Vivian Picard, Luisa Lopes, Lucas Lopes, and Matteus Lopes. Arley was also a "Papa" to three great-grandchildren, Norah Grace Acree, Elaine "Lainey" James Acree, and Mildred "Millie" Ruth Acree. He was a beloved uncle to several nieces and nephews.

Col. McRae will be remembered not only for his service to his country, but for his generosity, humility, and lifelong commitment to his faith, family, community, and country.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Starke on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 10:30 a.m., with Rev. Diane Wilson officiating. Interment will be at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Colonel Arley W. McRae Bradford Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1094, Starke 32091. www.jonesgallagherfh.com 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

Gard of Thanks

Thank you for taking the time to pay your respects and provide a sense of comfort during the recent home-going of our dearly beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin and friend,

Christy "Chris" Chandler.

Your unwavering support through phone calls, visits, food, prayers and concern during this most difficult moment meant more than words can express and gave us courage and strength when we needed it most. Seeing so many people whose lives were touched by Chris was truly heartwarming.

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McRae: a life of service to country, community

Bradford County lost a resident with a true servant's heart with the passing of Arley McRae on Sept. 27.

McRae, 91, dedicated his life to serving his country in the Air Force, being instrumental in upgrading technology related to nuclear bombs and smart bombs, and then turned his efforts toward serving his community after his military service, working with such organizations as Habitat for Humanity and Bradford County's food pantry, which now bears his name in recognition of his efforts. McRae also served as a Santa Fe College trustee.

The following information and quotes were previously published in the Telegraph-Times-Monitor as part of three stories written by Mary W. Bridgman, Cliff Smelley and Tracy Lee Tate.

Early life

Although McRae is a fifth-generation Bradford Countian, he was born in Lakeland, where his parents — Wesley and Anna Mae McRae — were employed in the citrus industry during the Depression.

"I was named after my paternal grandparents," McRae said of his unusual first name. "He was named Harley, and she was Ardelia (who at one time wrote for the Telegraph). My parents just combined the two names and got Arley."

The family moved back to Bradford County when McRae was 6. He attended the three-room Rising School, a three-room schoolhouse, for grades 1-8 and then went on to Bradford High School.

With a father who had played semi-pro baseball, McRae was interested in sports. He played football and baseball and ran track.

McRae graduated from BHS in 1952. He attended the University of Florida on a football scholarship as a wide receiver/defensive back, majoring in Physical Education and earning a bachelor's degree in 1956.

Air Force

McRae's interest in flying began early, nurtured by photos of World War II airplanes that appeared on the back of boxes of Kellogg's Pep cereal.

"I cut those out, had a big collection of them during the war," he said.

In 1942, one of those warplanes literally fell from the sky and crashed right across the road from his home, while his mother and a friend were sitting on the front porch shelling peas. The plane caught fire and caused the live ammunition it was carrying to go off.

Although one of the crew — its tail gunner — perished in the fire, that didn't quell McRae's interest in flying.

"It made me more determined than before," he said. "I didn't think about crashing."

After a brief stint as a high school coach after graduating from UF, McRae began his Air Force career. He earned his wings in 1958, graduating number three in his class of 50.

At that time, there wasn't a war going on, so pilots were not in high demand. McRae was able to continue his training. During an air-gunnery exercise, his plane was hit by another,

which took off his left wing. Thrown from the plane, McRae was still in his seat. He pulled his parachute prematurely, which could have caused the chute to become entangled in the seat and cost him his life. Instead, the seat caught on his boot, and though the landing was rough, he survived.

"With the health and physical education training I had, I was able to cut my parachute and bandage myself," McRae said.

The crash occurred at 10:10 a.m. By mid-afternoon, the rescue team had not found McRae or the other pilot. One of their classmates told the crew they were looking in the wrong area and went and found them. He then recruited a helicopter pilot and a doctor to make the rescue despite unfavorable weather conditions.

"I'm very thankful they got us," McRae said.

After recovering, he spent several years flying in Europe during the Cold War, on full nuclear alert. By 1964, McRae had achieved the rank of captain.

U.S. involvement in Vietnam was escalating. McRae became involved in determining where its planes should be located. Later, he was assigned to Ubon, Thailand, and flew 133 combat missions — more than the 100 normally required of pilots. He was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest military decoration for valor that can be given to any person serving in any capacity within the U.S. armed forces.

After his tour of duty in Vietnam, McRae was asked by the Air Force to upgrade the technology and training in its planes destined for Southeast Asia. He pioneered the Smart-Bomb program, which dramatically reduced casualties, both civilian and military. The result was much better accuracy, with fewer airplanes, pilots and bombs — and casualties — required for the same job.

Later, McRae was called on to implement the same technology in nuclear bombs. That assignment propelled him into the highest circles of the Air Force, resulting in his assignment as commander of Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska for three years and then Luke Air Force Base in Arizona for four years.

While at Luke, McRae rebuilt the facility, removing more than 100 World War II trailers and building permanent structures for the workers on the flight line. Luke went from having 58 percent of its planes in commission to 95 percent and became the number-one military base in the country.

When asked about the sacrifices his military service required of him, McRae said he put his personal life on hold for the military, deferring marriage and a family until he was in his mid-40s.

McRae retired from the Air Force as a full colonel and eventually moved back to Bradford County in the early 1990s.

Community service

Upon his return to Bradford County, McRae re-met the woman who would become his wife — Gladys Thomas, whom he had known in high school. When he became reacquainted with her in 1992, she had just lost a son — Brian Bundy Thomas

RIGHT: Arley McRae, as a lieutenant in the Air Force, is pictured with an F-100 fighter jet. BELOW: Arley McRae (front) is pictured with (back, l-r) Madelyn Kish (granddaughter), Maria Kish (daughter), Gladys (wife), Brian Kish (grandson) and Paul Kish (son-in-law) at the 2022 ceremony naming the Bradford Food Pantry after him.



— in an automobile accident. At the time, she was raising three children. The couple started dating and were married in 1994.

The couple raised Gladys' children — Maria Thomas Kish and Barry Thomas — as well as partly raising McRae's son from a previous marriage, Wayne Robin Story-McRae.

Living in Bradford County, McRae became involved as an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Starke. Through that association, he became involved in the Bradford Food Pantry, where he eventually became director. He also became executive director for the local branch of Habitat for Humanity, which built five homes during his tenure.

In 1997, McRae also became affiliated with The Children's Table in the Levy County/Bronson area. The Children's Table not only collects food for those in need, but its members go out and glean the fields of local farmers to collect food that would otherwise be wasted.

McRae is a strong and outspoken advocate of education as a means of fighting poverty and improving lives. In 1999, Gov. Jeb Bush appointed him a trustee for Santa Fe College, a position he still holds after re-appointments by two more governors. He was selected as Florida State Colleges Trustee of the Year in 2014. In 2018, he was named Santa Fe's first trustee emeritus.

In another means of supporting education, McRae and his wife

have hosted two exchange students from Brazil — brothers Diego and Bruno. Both have stayed in touch with their host family and have gone on to be successful and accomplished adults. The McRaes are very proud of them.

On Aug. 21, 2013, McRae had a double stroke in the middle of the night — one right after the other.

"I felt a tremendous tension in my whole body, and I went completely rigid," McRae said. "When the tension released, it felt like my leg had been dislocated. The second time, my hand felt like it was semi-truncated. I went back to sleep or went into a semi-conscious state where I was not aware of what was happening."

"When I woke up in the morning, I went down the hall to the bathroom and started into my morning routine. I showered. Then, when I was drying off, I lost the left side of my body. I just wilted to the floor, totally limp."

The strokes, which left him confined to a wheelchair, affected his involvement with the food pantry, but he was able to attend the grand-opening ceremony held in September 2017 when the food pantry moved into its current building adjacent to the fairgrounds (the former Gold Key building). In speaking at the event, McRae quoted Matthew 25:35-40 and encouraged those in attendance to also go home and read it themselves: "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

In June 2022, McRae attended another ceremony at the food pantry. He was surprised when it was revealed that the food pantry was being renamed the Colonel Arley W. McRae Bradford Food Pantry.

Betty Warren, a food pantry board member, described McRae as the backbone of the organization, saying, "I've been at the pantry a long time, and I've worked closely with Arley for many years. I don't think the pantry would exist — definitely not as it does today — if it had not been for Arley."

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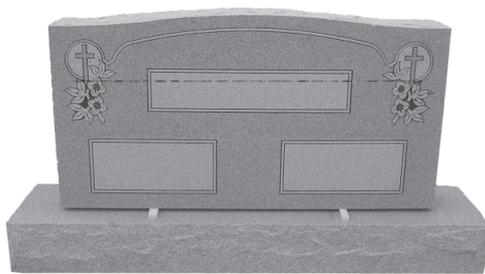
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BHS volleyball team defeats Interlachen 3-0

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's volleyball team swept Interlachen for the second time this season, defeating the visiting Rams 3-0 (25-16, 25-12, 25-8) on Sept. 25.

Autumn DeKorver, Ar'Nayshia Griffin and Ky'lee Johnson had six kills each, while Leila Roberts added five.

DeKorver and Roberts led the team in blocks with three each. Griffin had two.

Kingslee Phillips and Shelby Cole recorded 12 and 11 assists, respectively. Phillips also had six digs and four service aces, while Cole added three aces.

Manduo Wei led the team in digs with eight, while Tatum Burkhalter had five to go along with a team-high five aces.

DeKorver had four aces.

The Tornadoes (7-4), who've won three in a row and seven of eight, played at Baker County on Sept. 29 and at Palatka on Sept. 30. Bradford was scheduled to host Hilliard on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 6:30 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 5:30 p.m.

Bradford travels to play Baldwin on Thursday, Oct. 2, with the JV teams playing at 6 p.m. and the varsity teams playing at 7 p.m. The Tornadoes then end the regular season with a varsity only match at Fort White on Monday, Oct. 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Tigers defeat Indians 3-1 in volleyball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Union County High School's volleyball team snapped a four-match losing streak with its 3-1 (23-25, 25-11, 25-18, 25-23) win over visiting Keystone Heights on Sept. 25.

Stats for Union weren't available by deadline, but Keystone got 18 kills, 10 digs and two blocks from Mia Rivera, 15 digs, seven kills and seven service aces from Kadence Massey and two blocks from Mackenzie Castevecchi. Kaleigh Marquart had 32 assists.

The Tigers added a second straight win when they defeated visiting Newberry 3-1 (18-25, 25-12, 25-18, 25-19) on Sept. 29.

Union scored the final six points of the fourth set, with a Bella Johns ace being the match-winning point.

Stats were unavailable by deadline.

Keystone entered the Union match off a 3-0 (25-15, 25-15, 25-18) win over visiting Orange Park on Sept. 23, getting 14 kills, six digs and two blocks from Rivera and nine digs and six aces from Massey.

Marquart recorded 22 assists.

Union (13-7) played Bell this past Tuesday and will host Dixie County on Monday, Oct. 6, at 6:30 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 5:30 p.m. The

Tigers then host Baker County on Tuesday, Oct. 7, with matches scheduled for 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Indians (13-7) played Newberry this past Tuesday and will travel to play Palatka on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 6 p.m. Keystone hosts Hawthorne on Monday, Oct. 6, and Interlachen on Tuesday, Oct. 7, with matches scheduled for 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Hope Lions still unbeaten after victory over Northside

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Hope Christian Academy's volleyball team defeated host Northside Christian 2-1 (23-25, 25-16, 15-1) on Sept. 25 to remain undefeated.

The Lions (9-0) got six assists, three blocks and three kills from Addy Wilson. Briley Parrish and Allyssa Wilson also had three kills each.

Loralai Green led the team in service aces with five, while Mackenzie McRaney had four.

Hope played Gainesville Community Christian this past Tuesday and will travel to Jasper to play Corinth Christian on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 5:30 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 4:30 p.m.

Northside fell to 6-9 on the season with 2-0 losses to both Savannah Christian on Sept. 26 and South Effingham on Sept. 27. The Eagles played First Christian this past Tuesday and will travel to play Corinth Christian on Friday, Oct. 3, at 5 p.m.

The Eagles and the Lions will both play in Northside's annual Dig Pink Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 4. Six teams in all will take part, with team monetary donations going toward benefitting someone with cancer.

Action begins with round-robin play at 2 p.m. with Hope taking on Hawthorne and Northside playing Hilliard. At 3 p.m., Cedar Key will play Hawthorne, while Crossroad Christian will play Hilliard. At 4 p.m., Hope will play Cedar Key, while Northside will play Crossroad Christian.

Round-robin results will determine 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. matchups, with championship and consolation matches then being played at 7 p.m.

Trophies will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place teams.

An all-tournament team will be selected, with one player earning MVP honors.

Admission is \$10 adults and \$5 for children.

Northside will host Gainesville Community Christian on Monday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 4:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Oct. 7. Both Eagles teams will travel to Live Oak to play Westwood Christian, with matches taking place at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

KHHS teams run in Sept. 27 Bale 'n' Trail

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Keystone Heights High School's Noah Yara placed 43rd out of 304 at Bartram Trail High School's Bale 'n' Trail cross-country event, which was held Sept. 27.

The boys varsity race consisted of 31 teams, with Keystone placing 20th.

Yara, who ran a time of 17:51, was one of three Keystone runners to finish in the top half of the field. Ryder Thomas and Hunter Sheppard placed 80th and 145th, respectively, with times of 18:28 and 19:37.

Also competing were Ryeland Wahl, who had a time of 20:01, Jason Parales, who had a time of 21:19, and Oliver Miller, who had a time of 24:25.

Keystone's Olivia Griffin finished 163rd out of 271 in the varsity girls race with a time of 25:05. Teammate Schiley Starling had a time of 35:11.

The Indians' Ryleigh Thomas took second out of 200 in the freshman-sophomore girls race with a time of 21:40, which left her trailing Trinity Christian's Kenzie McCollum, who had a time of 19:55.

Melody Tyre ran an eighth-place time of 22:54 for Keystone, while teammate Tessa Gray was 80th with a time of 26:42.

The following also ran in the race: Clara Beth Robinson 28:31, Bailee Morris 28:36, Kirsten Lavin 31:18 and Raina Daniel 31:23.

Keystone placed seventh out of 16 teams.

In the freshman-sophomore boys race, the Indians were 13th out of 18 in the team standings. Hunter Gray led Keystone with a time of 19:10, which placed him 17th out of 198.

Gavin Morford ran an 83rd-place time of 21:43, while the Indians also had the following results: Alex Mahaffey 22:21, Mason Gray 23:16 and Eli Rabe 23:48.

Prior to the Bale 'n' Trail, Keystone competed in the Sept. 27 Orange Park Raider Invite, with Yara winning the varsity boys race with a time of 18:05.

The boys race consisted of 66 runners. Besides Yara, the Indians had five finish in the top half of the field: Thomas, who was third with a time of 18:55, Hunter Gray, who was 17th with a time of 20:16, Sheppard, who was 22nd with a time of 20:54, Parales, who was 29th with a time of 21:39, and Morford, who was 31st with a time of 21:59.

Also competing were Wahl 22:34, Mason Gray 23:58, Mahaffey 24:00, Rabe 26:12 and Miller 27:20.

Keystone placed third out of six in the team standings.

The Indians were third out of five teams in the varsity girls race, led by Thomas' second-place time of 22:08. She trailed Ridgeview's Emily Turner, who had a time of 21:47.

Tyre and Gray placed 10th and 20th, respectively, out of 50 runners with times of 24:03 and

25:39.

Keystone also had the following results: Lavin 29:32, Morris 29:44, Baily Roberts 34:52, Daniel 34:54 and Starling 36:33.

KHHS, BHS place 2nd and 3rd in Sept. 23 golf match

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Bradford High School hosted a three-team boys golf match on Sept. 23 at the Starke Golf and Country Club, with Middleburg taking the top spot ahead of the second-place Indians and the third-place Tornadoes.

The Indians had a score of 174, which left them trailing the Broncos by 11 strokes. The Tornadoes had a score of 178.

Keystone's Landon Spence was the medalist, finishing with an individual score of 38. He had a birdie and made par on five holes, putting him one stroke ahead of Middleburg's Logan Wahlstrom.

Bradford's Patrick Pendarvis finished in a two-way tie for sixth with a score of 43. He made par on two holes.

The Indians Nate Bardier and Baylor Ford and the Tornadoes' Charlie Zink each shot a 44 to tie for eighth. Bardier and Zink made par on four holes, while Ford made par on three.

Bradford's Avery Burgin finished in a two-way tie for 11th with a score of 45. He had a birdie and made par on two holes.

Tucker Griffis, who made par on one hole, shot a 13th-place score of 46 for the Tornadoes.

Keystone's Will Begue shot a 14th-place score of 48, while the Tornadoes' Steven Carter and Indians' Luke Lewis each shot a 52 to tie for 15th. Carter and Lewis each made par on one hole.

The Indians' Jackson McDaniel and the Tornadoes'

Mason Stone placed 17th and 18th, respectively, with scores of 54 and 57. McDaniel made par on one hole.

Carter medalist for BHS boys in win over UC

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Steven Carter placed first for Bradford High School, which defeated visiting Union County in a boys golf match on Sept. 25.

The Tornadoes had a team score of 172 to the Tigers' 205.

Carter had a birdie and made par on four holes in finishing with a score of 40. Teammates Charlie Zink and Tucker Griffis were second and third, respectively, with scores of 42 and 43. Each had a birdie, with Zink making par on two holes and Griffis making par on three.

Bradford's Patrick Pendarvis and Mason Stone each shot a 47 to tie for fourth. Pendarvis had a birdie and made par on one hole, while Stone made par on two.

The Tornadoes' Avery Burgin, who made par on one hole, had a sixth-place score of 48.

Ayden Tomlinson and Gavin Kuhn led the Tigers, tying for seventh with scores of 49. Each made par on one hole.

Union's Brysen Tomlinson had a ninth-place score of 50, while teammates Emery Muse and Fenix Norman placed 10th and 11th, respectively, with scores of 57 and 69.

The Tigers entered the match off a loss to host Taylor County on Sept. 23.

Union had a team score of 210 to Taylor's 187.

Kuhn and Ayden Tomlinson tied for third with scores of 46. Each made par on three holes in finishing two strokes behind Taylor's Wyatt Towles and Grant Turner, who were co-medalists.

Brysen Tomlinson and Muse were eighth and 10th, respectively, with scores of 58 and 60, while Norman had a 14th-place score of 67.

It's Seay, Seay in 1st and 2nd for UCHS vs. BHS in golf

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Bradford High School hosted Union County in a girls golf match on Sept. 25, with the Tigers' Kerissa Seay and Katelyn Seay taking the top two spots.

Kerissa Seay earned medalist honors for the Tigers, who had a team score of 234, making par on one hole and finishing with a score of 51. Katelyn Seay also made par on one hole and finished with a score of 52.

Bradford's two players took the third- and fourth-place spots. Alexis Fuhrman had a score of 54, while Sarah Rantz had a score of 62.

Union's Sophia Elixson shot a fifth-place score of 64, while teammates Sierra Bell and summer Shaw were sixth and seventh, respectively, with scores of 67 and 68.

Brooks is 2nd for KHHS girls golf team in Sept. 23 match

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Keystone Heights High School lost to Branford in girls golf on Sept. 23, but got a second-place finish from Aubrey Brooks.

The Indians had a team score of 233 to finish behind Branford's 199 at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club.

Brooks had a birdie and made par on 10 holes. Her score of 49 left her 10 strokes behind Branford's Claire Bond, who was medalist.

Amber Wagner, who had a birdie, and Zoey Gill placed sixth and seventh, respectively, with scores of 59 and 62. Rebecca Binet shot an eighth-place score of 63, while Jillian Huntley had a 10th-place score of 67.

Averi Hemphill shot a 73 to finish in a two-way tie for 12th.

BHS Continued from page 8

then able to get the Tornadoes to jump offsides, which moved the chains. However, the next play was a bad snap that resulted in a 17-yard loss, which eventually forced Keystone to punt on fourth-and-28 from its own 16.

Keystone finished the first half with minus-20 yards.

One play following the Indians' punt, Bradford increased its lead, with Phillips taking a short pass 31 yards for a touchdown. Sapp kicked the extra point, with the 39-0 score enforcing a running clock with approximately eight minutes remaining in the second quarter.

That scored ended the night for most of the Bradford starters, including Cubbedge, who completed 7 of 9 passes for 120 yards.

"The best thing for me about a game like tonight's was we lined up right with our 2s and 3s, which are our JV starters and their backups," Rodgers said, adding, "Every single person got in. Every single person knew

where to line up."

The Tornadoes' offense had one more drive in the half. Backup quarterback Jackson Parmeter scored on a 54-yard touchdown run as time expired, putting Bradford up 46-0 after Sapp's PAT.

Parmeter finished as the game's leading rusher with 51 yards on two carries.

Bradford's Jayden Hudson recovered a fumble on the third play from scrimmage in the second half. That led to the game's final score — an 11-yard touchdown run by Raimond Pedro on fourth-and-6. Sapp completed his perfect night, kicking the extra point and making the score 53-0.

Keystone ran 13 offensive plays in the second half, with 12 of them being carries by Crumpton for 49 yards.

The Tornadoes' Montrez Aldridge intercepted a pass on the game's final play and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown, but a holding penalty on the return took the score away.

In playing an overmatched opponent, one of the main things a coach wants to see is his players

doing what they're supposed to do. Rodgers liked what he saw in his team's first district game.

"I don't believe in getting up super high to play one team or going way down to play another team," Rodgers said. "You're playing against the execution. If you're supposed to block down, block the guy down. If you're supposed to tackle the guy, tackle the guy. That kind of thing."

"So, this week, that's what we preached. Let's win against execution. We did tonight."

The Tornadoes, who've played four of their six games away now go on the road for the final time to play a Palatka team that is coming off a 21-13 district loss to Newberry. The Panthers (1-5) are 0-2 in the district.

Bradford is looking to go 4-1 in road games.

"If you can finish your season with a winning road record, and you take care of business at home, that's usually a pretty good season," Rodgers said. "That's kind of what we're looking for."

Keystone next plays a West Nassau team that is 6-1 after a 32-21 win over Fernandina Beach.

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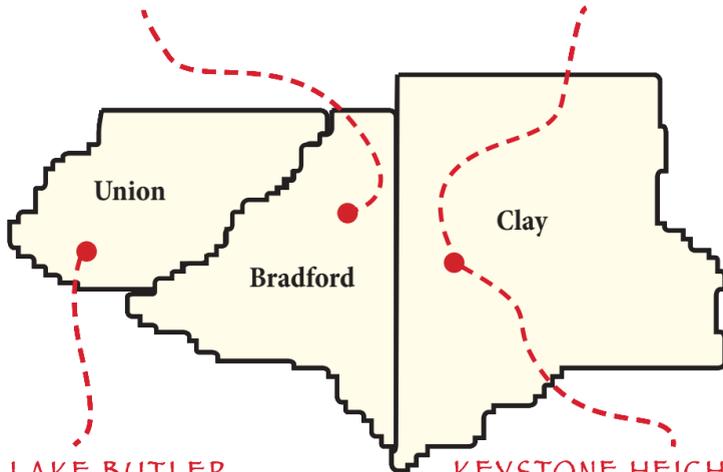
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