

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025

146th year, 16th Issue — \$1

Whitehead swims to another state championship

The Union County senior also earned a runner-up finish

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School senior Eva Whitehead swam her way to her second straight state championship, winning the 200-yard individual medley at the Nov. 8 Class 1A Florida High School Athletic Association Finals, which were held in Ocala.

"Very overwhelming," Whitehead said when asked to describe her feelings. "I was coming into the meet expecting to hopefully be another state champion. I'm just happy I could defend my title."

As was the case last year, Whitehead finished ahead of Bolles' Ella Gotham.



Eva Whitehead is pictured in the 100 breaststroke. She finished as the event's runner-up.

She trailed Gotham after four laps (the butterfly and backstroke), but held a 2-second lead after the breaststroke in the fifth and sixth laps. In the end, after the freestyle portion of the event, Whitehead had a total time of 2:00.11, while Gotham finished at 2:01.63.

Whitehead's time in winning the 200 IM title last year was 2:00.01, so she admitted when she saw her time on the board, she was a little disappointed.

See CHAMP, page 3



Eva Whitehead signifies she's number-one as she stands on the podium as the 200 IM state champ.

St. Augustine pilot dead in Keystone crash

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 46-year-old aerobatics pilot was killed after his plane spiraled out of control and spun to the ground during the Krawlin' for the Fallen event at the Keystone Heights airport on Saturday, November 8.



Warren Chilliers, as a technician for the Red Bull Air Race Team 99 Mike Goulian.

Mark Warren Chilliers was well known at the Keystone Heights airport. He was also a noted figure at his home airport in St. Augustine, and at the Palatka Municipal Airport, where his business, Chilliers Aviation, is based.

Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith said first reports of the crash reached dispatchers at 10:41 a.m. The impact was reported to be in the Bradford County portion of airport property.

Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay said the plane landed on the airfield, a considerable distance from the Krawlin for the Fallen event.

"It was an acrobatic plane," he wrote in a text message, "and it appeared to witnesses that the plane spun out of control and into the ground. The plane was fully engulfed in flames on impact, but we had special event staff, as well as a supervisor and an in-service engine on site for the Krawlin event. They were en route before the plane hit the ground. Quick attack on the fire kept it from spreading through

the airfield."

Smith said the Florida Highway Patrol took control of the scene and initiated an investigation, while local officials notified the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Nearly two hours after the accident, Airport Manager Craig Coon said he and his staff had completed the facility's post-crash checklist and that the airport had reopened for flight operations.

Exceptional aerobatic pilot

The St. Augustine Airport on its Facebook page states, "Our hearts are heavy as we remember aviation legend Warren Chilliers — an exceptional aerobatic pilot, talented mechanic, and dear friend to so many in the aviation community."

Born and trained in South Africa, Chilliers served in the South African Air Force from 2003 through 2007.

For the next eight years, he worked as the director of maintenance for an aircraft business in St. Augustine before launching Chilliers Aviation in 2016.

Chilliers was also a Red Bull Air Race technician for Team 99 Mike Goulian.

Other fatalities connected with the airport

Chilliers' death marks the fourth fatality associated with the Keystone Heights Airport over the past five years, and the sixth since 2016.



Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay said the plane landed on the airfield, a considerable distance from the Krawlin' for the Fallen event.

On December 26, 2016, Lawtey business owner David Starling, 41, left the Keystone Heights Airport with his son Hunter, 8, and girlfriend Kim Smith, 42, bound for the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport in Tennessee.

Although he was not instrument-rated, clouds and rain forced Starling to descend during the approach to Gatlinburg under instrument flight rules.

Moments before air traffic controllers lost contact with the plane, radar indicated it was at an altitude of 5,400 feet, near Mt. LeConte, which has an elevation of around 6,500 feet.

The plane's wreckage was later discovered on an unnamed ridge about 15 miles from the airport.

On November 14, 2020, Miami skydiver Yuset Hernandez, 51, died after his parachute failed to open during a practice before the Krawlin' for the Fallen 4x4 charity event.

Brad Smith of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office said video of the incident showed that the 51-year-old's primary chute failed to deploy, and Hernandez was unable to deploy his secondary chute in time.

Around 150 volunteers searched the woods near the airport for several hours before the Miami man's body was found.

On March 22, 2022, Marianne Fox, 49, was piloting an Extra NG aerobatic

See PILOT, page 7

Teacher keynotes Union County High School veterans' event

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Union County High School Band and JROTC battalion led a Veterans Day ceremony at the school's auditorium, emphasizing the importance of service and the courage of veterans.

Superintendent Mike Ripplinger said the event was broadcast to every classroom on campus. He added that the purpose of the ceremony was not only to deepen students' appreciation for Veterans Day but also to ensure attending veterans felt the respect they have earned through their service.

"Because of you and your service to this grateful nation, we are here today," he told the veterans in attendance. "Our community thanks you... evident by the flags placed along Highway 121, a tribute organized by the Lake Butler Rotary Club and its Interact Club."

Ripplinger said that throughout the nation's history, a special group of people has always answered the call, in times of peace and war.

"They have provided aid and support in times of natural disasters and kept a watchful eye on those who wish to do us harm," he said. "They have also fought and died in the defense of this country and the liberties we too many times take for granted. These men and women represent the very best of what our nation has to offer."

origins of Veterans Day.

"Men and women have answered the call of freedom for this nation even before it began," Lane told the audience.

She reminded the crowd that the Continental Army was formed in June 1775, nearly a year before the Declaration of Independence, and highlighted how, for 249 years, Americans have fought tyranny from World War II to modern counterterrorism.

Lane clarified the distinction between Veterans Day and Memorial Day: "Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans, living or deceased, but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served honorably in war or peacetime."

Originally called Armistice Day in 1919 to mark the end of World War I, the holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 by President Eisenhower.

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Chloe Harris introduced the guest speaker, Petty Officer (Ret.) Angela Johnson, a Union County High School teacher since 2007.

Harris said that Johnson, who has taught everything from U.S. History to Holocaust Studies and coached varsity tennis for 19 years, served in the U.S. Navy from 1988 to 1996. Her assignments included cryptology training in Massachusetts and Florida, a two-year tour in Rota, Spain, and intelligence work at the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland.

After leaving active duty, Johnson earned a master's in education and history from Notre Dame while supporting her husband, Howard Johnson, a



Guest speaker, Petty Officer (Ret.) Angela Johnson has been a Union County High School teacher since 2007.

21-year U.S. Air Force veteran, through postings in Guam, Hawaii, and Japan.

See UNION, page 7

The origins of Veterans Day

JROTC Cadet Major Lillie Lane explained the



DLPbank
Proud to Sponsor

WORTH NOTING

Fairgrounds food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

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.

Call for Deliverance

On-Time Ministries of Wilmington, North Carolina, will hold a Call for Deliverance Crusade Saturday, Nov. 15, at the RJE Center ballpark, 1080 N. Pine St. in Starke, beginning at noon.

Gospel sing and fish fry

New River NCMC will hold its annual gospel sing and fish fry featuring the Combs Family on Saturday, Nov. 15, beginning at 5 p.m. Music begins at 7 p.m. All are invited. The church is located on County Road 125 and 199 in Union County.

Can Bradford be a wildflower tourist destination?

Alligator Creek Garden Club has always been interested in wildflowers and in establishing displays that the public can enjoy. On Nov. 20, Paul Still will give a presentation on this topic at 2 p.m. at the Bradford Senior Center. This program is free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

The senior center is located at 1805 N. Temple Ave. (U.S. 301 north in front of the health department). Refreshments will be served. Bring a plant to share. Bring friends. Most of all, bring yourself.

If you have any questions, call Pat Caren at 352-339-3673.

Conservation District meeting

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District invites the community to a public meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 10:30 a.m. at the UF-IFAS Bradford Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. Agenda topics include BSWCD's 2026 program plan of work and open supervisor positions. Email a.morie.BSWCD@gmail.com or visit bradfordsoilandwater.org for more info and the agenda.



Senior gathering in Union

The next Union County Senior Citizens on the Move gathering, is Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 11 a.m. at the Union County Housing Authority Center, 855 SW Sixth

Ave. in Lake Butler. Come out to meet, greet and eat with a special guest speaker from United Way of North Florida.

Their vision is to unite, inform and provide reliable resources and information to the senior citizens of Union County and surrounding areas. For more information, please contact Alicia Maxwell (352-283-2035)

or Doris Thomas (352-214-5121).

UC Historical Society meeting

The Union County Historical

Society is planning a meeting for Monday, Nov. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at 410 W. Main St. in Lake Butler. The guest speaker for the evening will be Bert Brooks, a Union County native who has written several books, one about his grandmother, Ella Carlton.

Please plan to attend this interesting meeting.

Democratic Women meet Nov. 20

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. (with doors opening at 6:30). Please note this is a schedule

change due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The speaker will be Lucia Valdivia-Sánchez, who has been promoting the education of migrant children for more than 25 years.

All Democrats are welcome to attend this meeting at the Melrose Center, 309 State Hwy 26, Melrose, FL 32666. For more information, call 352-235-4161.

UNLIMITED CAR WASH PACKAGES STARTING AT \$22.99/MONTH!

NOW OPEN!

SNAPPY'S EXPRESS WASH

HALF OFF FIRST MONTH WHEN YOU PURCHASE AN UNLIMITED WASH PACKAGE SUBSCRIPTION!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE OUR WEBSITE!

14685 US-301, STARKE, FL 32091



TEAL TILE

CARPET ONE

Local Flooring Specialists • since 1976

Sales • Service • Installation

Free Estimates
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

THANK YOU
for allowing us the opportunity to serve you for the last 49 years.

Call for DIY specials!

12 months interest free financing on approved credit.
We will beat all competitor pricing!

M-F 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturdays by Appointment

- Vinyl • Carpet
- Ceramic Tile
- Hardwood & Laminate Floors

DISCOUNT PRICING POWER OF OVER 1,400 STORES!!

131 N. Cherry Street
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-7423





PHILLIP McDONALD
PLUMBING AND SEPTIC
904-964-3737
CFC 1428926
(904) 964-3737

- Septic Tank Pump Out
- Liftstation
- Septic System Inspection
- Septic & DF Installation
- Sump Pumps & More
- Residential & Commercial
- Service Repairs
- Repipe
- Water Heater
- New Construction & More!

Scan the QR code for our Google Reviews:





HAPPY Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING DINNER FROM SPIRES DELI

For more information or if you need help creating your order call 386-496-3969

SMOKED OR OVEN ROASTED TURKEY
(DEBONED - ADDITIONAL \$5)
DRESSING & ROLLS
YOUR CHOICE OF 2 SIDES

OR

HAM
SLICED OFF THE BONE HAM & ROLLS
YOUR CHOICE OF 3 SIDES

Side choices include: Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sweet Potato Casserole, Dressing, Broccoli Casserole, Macaroni & Cheese, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw or Green Beans

Additional sides (2qt) - \$17.00
Turkey or Ham Only \$39.99
\$99.99 each
Feeds 8-10 at \$9.99 per person!

See Deli Clerk for order form. Orders MUST be place by Nov. 23rd. Orders MUST be picked up on Nov 26th.



BRADFORD SPORTS UNITED

Bradford County Florida
Founded in 1845

Bradford Sports United Wants YOU!

Are you passionate about kids, community, and sports? Bradford Sports United is launching an exciting new program—and we're looking for a dynamic Athletic Director to help lead the way! This is your opportunity to shape the future of youth sports in Bradford County, make a real difference in the community, and be part of something brand new. If you're ready to bring your energy, ideas, and dedication to our team, we want to hear from you! **APPLY TODAY!**

Annual Salary 55K-65K



Visit www.cityofstarke.org or scan the QR code above to fill out your application and join the movement!



Audit shows Starke positive financial position

Spouse travel expenses among findings

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

At the recent Starke City Commission meeting, auditors from Powell and Jones presented their annual report, offering a detailed assessment of the city's finances for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2024.

The presentation, delivered by Brad Hough, offered both good news as well as some constructive feedback to city leaders.

Hough reported a "clean or unmodified opinion," meaning the financial statements provided are reliable and materially accurate. Notably, the city's general (governmental) fund boasted an unassigned fund balance equivalent to 11.6 months of regular expenditures, far surpassing the Government Finance Officers Association's recommended minimum of two months.

During the fiscal year, the city's general fund balance increased from \$3.1 million to over \$4 million, a combination of both tax revenue and capital grant funding. Proprietary (business) funds from utilities also showed positive cash flow, despite an operating loss due to depreciation. Utilities generated nearly \$12.3 million in revenue. The city had about 4.5 months' worth of utility spending in reserve, Hough said. Grant income boosted net position by nearly \$10 million in 2024.

The auditors reviewed city pension fund liabilities and found them consistent with market trends, noting their fluctuation is typical as they follow economic conditions. The city's net pension liability was \$4.5 million.

With \$12.7 million in federal

award spending and another \$2.7 million in state awards, auditors conducted single audits to ensure compliance. Starke complied with federal and state funding requirements, according to Hough, as it advanced these wastewater projects.

Audits exist to find areas for improvement, and the 2024 audit found a couple. Starke has over the years corrected a few repeat errors, but one holdover from 2023 were errors discovered in the city's Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance. "Certain grant amounts were improperly excluded, and revisions were required to ensure completeness and accuracy," according to the audit. It's this kind of error, if not caught, that can lead to noncompliance with federal and state requirements.

The city has been advised for a second time to strengthen its process for preparing the schedule by assigning it to a dedicated grant manager or staff member with sufficient time and expertise.

In the second finding, the city was charged nonessential travel expenses when the spouses of City Manager Drew Mullins, former City Clerk Jimmy Crosby and former Commissioner Scott Roberts attended a legislative rally in Washinton, D.C. According to the audit, the charges were made to the city credit card without appropriate documented approval and justification why their spouses' attendance was necessary for the performance of their job-related duties.

If the travel expenses were unnecessary, this could be a misuse of public funds and a violation of Florida statute, according to the audit. The city needs to determine the necessity and potentially request reimbursement, which management said it would do.



Jennifer Whitehead gives her daughter a hug after Eva's win in the 200 IM.



Eva Whitehead gets a hug from her father and UCHS Swim Coach Brad Whitehead after he presented her with her championship medal.



Eva Whitehead gets some practice laps in before the state meet begins.

CHAMP Continued from page 1

"Then I realized, 'Oh, I won,'" she said. "(The disappointment) all went away."

Prior to the race, Whitehead's father, Brad, who is the UCHS swim coach, and John Hulvey, who is Whitehead's Gator Swim Club coach, talked about how Whitehead seemed relaxed, without any hint of nerves.

"That would be incorrect," Whitehead said. "I'm good at hiding it."

She said she felt the pressure of defending her state title on the starting block, but that's not to say she didn't feel good about her chances of winning again.

"I came in confident, knowing I had done it before and that I could do it again," Whitehead said.

Whitehead became the sixth individual UCHS student-athlete

to successfully defend a state title and the first to do so since boys weightlifter Christian Simmons in 2023.

She almost became the fifth UCHS student-athlete to win two state titles in the same year as she was the runner-up in the 100 breaststroke, which took place approximately 2.5 hours after she swam the 200 IM. Whitehead finished with a time of 1:03.09, which left her trailing Naiyla Di Sarno (Fort Lauderdale NSU University School), who had a time of 1:02.68. She finished ahead of Addison Bitel (Windermere Prep), who had a time of 1:03.10.

"I was coming in (seeded) fourth," Whitehead said. "I was just kind of hoping for the best, so I'm happy with it."

She was also happy with improving her performance from



Gator Swim Club Coach John Hulvey (right) gives some pointers to Eva Whitehead after her practice laps.

last year's state finals, when she placed fourth with a time of 1:03.25.

If Whitehead had won the race, she would've become the first UCHS student-athlete to win two state championships in one year since C.J. Spiller in track and field in 2006.

Whitehead, a University of Alabama commit, qualified for state all four years of high school. Besides her two state titles and one state runner-up finish, her career included two regional titles in the 200 IM and district titles in the 200 IM and 100 backstroke.

In addition, the process for approving travel will be expanded to include upper management, to include the manager, clerk and commissioners. Mullins will bring a policy for commission approval.

The presentation concluded with thanks to city staff for their diligent efforts and a reminder that keeping processes up to date ensures accountability for residents.

Get help quitting

Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. If you're ready to quit, join the next Tools to Quit Tobacco group. Virtual options by computer and phone are also available.

Pre-registration is required. Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot.

Florida Twin Theatre

904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!

VISIT US ON-LINE AT WWW.FLORIDATWINTHEATRE.COM	WEDNESDAY 11/12 PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 6:30 THE CHRISTMAS RING- 6:30	THURSDAY 11/13 PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 6:30 THE CHRISTMAS RING- 6:30	FRIDAY 11/14 PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 7:00 THE RUNNING MAN- 7:00
SATURDAY 11/15 PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 4:00 & 7:00 THE RUNNING MAN- 4:00 & 7:00	SUNDAY 11/16 PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 4:00 & 7:00 THE RUNNING MAN- 4:00 & 7:00		

Making a Difference, One Patient at a Time

Nurse Practitioners are the trusted faces of care-listening, healing, and guiding with dedication and heart. We celebrate the NPs who go above and beyond to make our communities healthier and stronger.

HOMETOWN
Health & Wellness

260 S Lawrence Blvd #101,
Keystone Heights, FL
(352) 664-7702
www.hometown-hw.com

Thank you for choosing us!

Patients just like you in Union County have rated Lake Butler Hospital among the best in the nation for compassion, communication, & quality care. We're deeply honored by your trust and remain committed to making every experience feel personal, respectful, and exceptional.

Lake Butler Hospital Earns National 5-Star Rating from the National Rural Rating System (NRRS)! This 5-Star Rating is a national recognition awarded to rural hospitals that demonstrate the highest levels of patient satisfaction & quality of care, based on verified patient survey data.

Expect Better. Experience 5-Star Care, right here in Union County.

COMPASSION IN ACTION

This Nurse Practitioner Week, we celebrate the professionals who bring knowledge, kindness, and courage to every patient we encounter. Your dedication inspires better health and brighter futures.

808 COLLEY RD,
STARKE, FL 32091
904-964-6220
RIVERWOODHRC.COM

EXPECT *Better.*

OUTPATIENT CARE

Get Fast Imaging, Labs, Rehab & Therapy Locally.

**LAKE BUTLER
HOSPITAL**

**LAKE BUTLER
FAMILY & PEDIATRIC
CLINIC**

(386) 496-2323 | LakeButlerHospital.com | 850 E Main St.
Rooted in Community. Built on Trust. Led by Care.

f @ in v

/LakeButlerHospital

Bradford High Class of 1980 holds 45th reunion

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's Class of 1980 held its 45th reunion at the Starke Woman's Club on Saturday, October 18.

Class President Robbie Pierce presided over the event, which featured a catered food bar from the Downtown Grill.

Pierce credited committee members Mike Akridge, Christie Faulkner Allen, Pam Underhill Whittle, Lisa Reddish Gault, Judy Hankerson Sumpter, Danny Nugent, Virginia Crawford Denmark, Cindy Lawson Hildebran and Teresa Gaskins Phillips for producing the event.

Nineteen-Eighty graduates also remembered their classmates who had passed on, which were Robert Allen, Frazier Bass, John Bennett, Janice Berry, David Boree, Paul Carter, Terrie Cogdill, James Cramer, Sandy Crutchfield, Junior Daughtery, Michael Davis, Guy DeSue, Shari Evans, David Fussell, Cathey Holtz, Andrea Jenkins, Jimmy Mann, Marsha McElhenny, Kim Norman, Lori Norman, Ricky Patrick, Esther Pearson, Marty Ricks, Byron Roberts, Adam Rosier, Tod Samons, Linda Sawyer, Selma Shouppe, Joey Starling, Brenda Williams, Renee Williams and Johnny Williamson.



Class President Robbie Pierce (background) awards the top vote getters for "Least Changed Since High School." Tim Gissy placed second and Virginia Crawford Denmark placed first. Jimmy Tomlinson won for traveling the longest distance for the reunion, over 1,300 miles from Minnesota, and Teresa Hilliard Faulkner won for being married the longest to the same person, 47 years.

Nineteen Eighty was the year Ronald Reagan beat Jimmy Carter for the U.S. Presidency, Mount St. Helens erupted, and the "Dallas" television episode of "Who Shot J.R.?" captivated the nation.



Row 1 (l-r): Fred Hollis, Rob Pierce, Antoninette Berry, Myra Hankerson, Peggy Cooper, Diana Davis, Sherry Strong, Brenda Tyson, Nancy Sylvester, Cindy Lawson, Brenda Wilkerson, Becky Coleman, Mike Akridge. Row 2: Deborah Thomas, Barbara Pearsall, Angela Jenkins, JoAnn Hall, Pam Underhill, Vivian Bell, Tony Robinson, Sylvia Jenkins, Robin Williams, Judy Hankerson, Dan Hildebran, Brenda Smith, Cindy Dodd, Cathy Grider, Christie Faulkner, Sandy Quiente. Row 3: Lorissa Mosley, Ginger Crews, Robin Hodges, Danny Nugent, Sherree Shin, Genene Dorminey, Teri Bement, Karen Macy, Elise Johns, Richard Knight, Cheri Starling. Row 4: Chub Johnson, Harvey Rhoden, Edward Hamilton, Mike Williams, Tim Gissy, Allen Scott, Teena Norman, Teresa Gaskins, Martin Hersey, Virginia Crawford, Connie Thomason, Betty Herndon, Teresa Hilliard, Jenny Shannon. Row 5: Jim Tomlinson, Ricky Edmondson, Dale Belford, Eddie Saxon, Richard Smith, Randy Andrews, Randy Reddish, Kevin Miller, Denny George. Not pictured: Kim Kimberly.



(L-R) Danny Nugent, Dan Hildebran, Richard Smith, Denny George, Kevin Miller, Chub Johnson and Jimmy Tomlinson.



(L-R) Mike Akridge, Pam Whittle, Judy Sumpter, Christy Allen, Diana Crawford, Teri Nicklin, Robbie Pierce, Teresa Philips and Karen Ledford.

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



- Personal Injury
- Divorce and Family
- Bankruptcy
- Criminal Law
- Auto Accidents
- Real Estate
- Traffic/DUI
- Wills, Trusts, Probate
- Estate Planning

(904) 964-4111

407 W. Georgia St. • Starke

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you information about our qualifications and experience.

Letters

Call for seniors to hold reps accountable

Dear Editor:
Senior citizens can expect to see only a 2.8% Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in 2026. This will not be enough for seniors struggling

to pay monthly bills. The COLA will be the second lowest COLA since 2021 and only slightly higher than the 2025 COLA. Any increase in benefits surely helps. On average, retirees will receive about \$52 more per month next year from Social Security. But because of the predictable hike in Medicare Part B premiums, nearly half of the COLA will be taken by that increase. Medicare Part B is projected to rise to \$206 a month starting in January, \$31 more than in 2025. This will be the first time the premium has exceeded \$200.

Seniors on fixed incomes are rightly concerned that the Social Security COLA won't keep up with inflation. Have you seen the price of beef lately? How about prescriptions, housing costs and everyday groceries? Instead of working to protect Social Security, too many members of Congress (ours) want to raise the retirement age, cut benefits and even privatize the program. Older Americans have earned these benefits through a lifetime of work. They are not entitlements, and we should not have to fight to keep them. Senior

citizens should be aware of what our congressional representative and two U.S. senators are doing about this, and call their offices to let them know how their policies affect us, and remind them that we vote.

Kate Ellison
Melrose

Elderly food assistance

Older adults in need of food are encouraged to contact their local senior center or lead agency to learn more about congregate meal schedules or home-delivered meals. For Bradford and Union counties, call Suwannee River Economic Council at 904-964-6696.

Elder Options provides support for seniors across North Central Florida. The helpline is 1-800-262-2243 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call for more information and referrals for older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers in need.



Rivers Flowing Church

We would like to invite you to come and join us at Rivers Flowing Church. We are currently experiencing a wonderful display and outpouring of God's Spirit. People are being saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and healed by the power of God. There have been many marvelous answers to prayer as we continue to find that God is always faithful to deliver what He has promised and provided through the shed blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Are you hungry for God and ready to go deeper and become stronger in your Christian faith and walk? If so, Rivers Flowing Church could be the place for you. Come visit with us and see what God is doing.

What we Believe

The word of God is inspired: The holy scriptures, both the Old and the New Testament are inspired by God. The word of God is infallible and the authoritative rule of faith and conduct. It is the revelation of God to man. (2 Timothy 3: 15-17; Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21)
There is one True God. God has revealed Himself is the eternal self-existent one. He is the Great "I AM". He is the creator of all and the Redeemer of the human race. The Lord our God is One Lord and a Trinity of three persons; the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43: 10-11; Matthew 28:19; Corinthians 13:14).

The Salvation of Man:

Man by voluntary transgression fell and incurred both spiritual and physical death. Spiritual death is separation from God. The human race is lost and needed a Redeemer to bring them back into relationship and fellowship with God. (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6). Man's only hope is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Salvation is through the blood of Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus. Man is justified by grace through faith and receives eternal life becoming an heir of God. Man must be born again by receiving Jesus Christ as personal savior. Jesus is the only way to God (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10; 8-13; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:4-7).

Church Ordinances:

Water Baptism is an ordinance of the Church and is commanded by the Scriptures.
Water baptism by immersion declares that the new

believer has died with Christ and that they have been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life. Holy Communion consist of bread and the wine and is the symbol of expressing our sharing and divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:4; Corinthians 11: 23-24)

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

All Believers are entitled to and should seek and expect to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. With the baptism a person is endowed with power of the Christian life and service. The experience is distinct and subsequent to a person being born again. The initial physical evidence is witnessed by the sealing with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:5-6; Corinthians 14:2; 4: 14-15)

Divine Healing:

Divine Healing is an integral part of the Gospel and is included in the atonement of Jesus Christ. Healing is the privilege of all believers. (Isaiah 53:1-5; Matthew 8:16-17; Acts 10:38; James 5:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24)

The Blessed Hope:

We believe in the resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Jesus and their translation together with those in Christ who are alive and remain unto the coming nod of the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-52).

Available Services and Ministries:

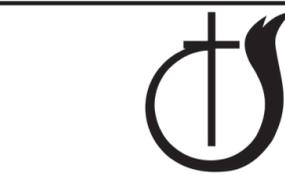
Healing School: Sundays 9 AM
Worship Services: Sundays 10 AM
Wednesday 7 PM
Youth Service: Awaken Youth every Wednesday 7PM
Young Adults: Spoken 4 (ages 18-39)
Last Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 PM

The first **RFBS (Rivers Flowing Bible School)** begins in January of 2026. This is a two year program with certification and the availability of ministerial licensing upon completion. Classes every other Sunday 6-8 pm.
Special Worship Service: Rush First Sunday each month at 7:00 p.m

Church Address - 22610 Hwy 301 N. Lawtey, FL. 32058
Pastor Rick Norman (904) 226-3053
Visit us on Facebook and YouTube.

-Pastor Rick

22610 HWY 301 N, Lawtey, FL 32058



LAWTEY CHURCH OF GOD
U.S. 301 South • Lawtey, FL 32058

Sunday: 11:00 AM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

*Exalting the Saviour • Edifying the Saints
Evangelizing the Sinners*

lawteychurchofgod@yahoo.com

THE ORIGINAL BRADFORD • UNION • CLAY COUNTIES REGIONAL CHURCH DIRECTORY		
Supported by Nearby Local Businesses, Services & Merchants who encourage you to		
Worship in the house of the Lord... Somewhere this week!		
JBS JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY "I am the way, the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father but through me" John 14:6 Starke 904-964-6078 Lake Butler 386-496-3079	R ROBERTS INSURANCE EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES Starke Keystone Heights Middleburg Lake Butler 904-964-7826 352-473-7059 904-292-7665 386-496-3411 www.georgerobertsins.com	Bryan's ACE Hardware Starke 904-964-4642 Melrose 352-475-2400 Keystone Hts 352-473-4006 The helpful place.
Southland Surveying & Mapping, Inc. Professional land surveying and mapping services since 1975 www.SouthlandSurvey.com 386-496-3107 Licensed AL, FL, GA	A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Starke Funeral Home Chapel 904-964-5757 Lake Butler Chapel 386-496-1400	FOUNDATION CHURCH 200 N. Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-6864 foundationchurch.cc info@foundationchurch.cc
JONES-GALLAGHER FUNERAL HOME Distinguished Caring Service for Over 50 Years Joe Gallagher - Owner Starke 904-964-6200 Keystone Heights 352-473-3176	DLPbank Starke Lake Butler Interlachen	Rev. Diane M. Wilson Pastor First Presbyterian Church of Starke 921 E. Call Street Starke, FL. 32091 "With God All Things Are Possible" Matthew 19:26 Email: dadydiane@earthlink.net Work: (904) 964-7337 Cell: (904) 956-9228
Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. Competitive Rates, non-profit, right here in your community A Touchstone Energy Cooperative Keystone District Office 352-473-4917 • clayelectric.com	After Church on Sunday Come to Powell's Dairy Freeze "Home of the Foot Long Steak" Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night! US 301 NORTH • STARKE, FL	Come Worship with us STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St • Starke, FL
DOUGLAS BATTERY OF STARKE We rebuild starters, alternators, generators. Auto • Marine • Cycle Batteries 407 N. Temple • 964-7911	YOUR BUSINESS COULD BE HERE! CALL 904-964-6305	Morgan Road Baptist Church 3784 NW CR 233 Starke Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Evening Worship 6pm 964-4422 Wednesday Evening 7pm
REGIONAL OUTREACH HERE • thousands weekly • 904.964.6305 classads@bctelegraph.com		

Economic development meeting highlights strategy, international markets

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation held its annual meeting on Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Keystone Heights RV Resort.

The principal objectives of the corporation are to increase employment opportunities and expand business and industry in Bradford and Union Counties and portions of Clay, Putnam and Alachua Counties.

During the annual meeting, Amber Shepherd, the organization's strategic alliances business partner, recapped the corporation's achievements over the past year.

She highlighted the release of Bradford County's comprehensive economic development strategic plan. The 77-page document details goals the county should achieve to attract more employers to the area.

Immediate goals include identifying funding sources for infrastructure upgrades, formalizing a business attraction, retention and expansion plan, improving school grades and supporting workforce development and creating a business park and innovation hub within the community.

Longer-range goals include constructing water and sewer utilities to the Starke truck route, increasing workforce housing, bringing advanced manufacturing to the community, and expanding incentives for potential employers.

Shepherd also recounted two recent meetings she had with prospective employers interested in moving to the area.

One would create 100 jobs paying around \$50,000 a year. The company converts biowaste into 100%, comparable diesel fuel.

"Not like the biodiesel you hear about that turns to jelly when it gets cold," she said. "One



Select Florida Orlando/Central Florida Director Joseph Bell



Vice President of Business Development for FloridaCommerce Heather Shubirg



Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation board of directors. Front (l-r): retiring 2023-2024 Chair Sandra Kahle, Patricia Evans, 2024-2025 Chair Dawn Strickland, Amber Shepherd, Marty Shaw, and Soo Gilvarry. Back: Dean Weaver, Gen. James Eifert, James Coats, A.J. Graves, Evan Douglas and 2025-2026 Chair Derick Thomas.



North Florida Economic Development Corporation Strategic Business Partner Amber Shepherd

hundred percent comparable to fossil diesel."

The second prospect could bring 400 jobs after building a \$400 million research and development and manufacturing hub for aviation, aerospace and defense products.

"Of course, there are still many hurdles to jump over, many details to iron out," she said, "but

I think it's really valuable to share with everybody some of the progress that we're making."

Make a bolt that goes on a rocket

Heather Shubirg, Vice President of Business Development for Florida

Commerce, informed the crowd about Florida Commerce's business development team, which she said is focused on key sectors including aviation, aerospace, manufacturing, life sciences, technology, financial services, and headquarters operations. She said the team also supports international trade and foreign direct investment, working to position Florida as a prime destination for business expansion and job creation.

Shubirg said she recently hosted a delegation from Taiwan that is interested in importing North Florida Beef into the Chinese democratic republic.

She also emphasized opportunities in aerospace manufacturing.

"It doesn't matter where you are in the State of Florida," she said. "You might have an opportunity for some type of job creation in that industry. Sometimes something as small

as a bolt that goes on a rocket can be manufactured anywhere across the state."

'Made in the USA' still carries clout

Joseph Bell, the Orlando/Central Florida director for Select Florida, explained how his agency helps local businesses with between three and 500 employees reach international markets. He said his agency removes much of the uncertainty small companies face when exporting to foreign countries. Bell added that local businesses are already competing internationally, whether they realize it or not.

"The U.S. is the largest economy in the world, and for that reason, you have a lot of competition from overseas companies that want to come and (sell their products) in the

US," he said. "So why not go and challenge them on their own playing field?"

Bell said the label "Made in the USA" still carries clout around the world.

"There is a certain quality standard that goes with USA products," he said. "Oftentimes you have people say, 'Well we cannot beat the Chinese on the price of the product.' That's not the case. If you are producing a great quality product in the US, which is what we're known for, there is a market for it out there."

Dawn Strickland, the development corporation's 2024-2025 board chair, introduced the 2025-2026 board. The board members are Patricia Evans, Strickland, Amber Shepherd, Marty Shaw, Soo Gilvarry, Dean Weaver, Gen. James Eifert, James Coats, A.J. Graves, Evan Douglas and 2025-2026 Chair Derick Thomas.

Starke signs MOU for recreation

Questions about who sits on the Bradford Sports board

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke has joined Bradford County in a memorandum of understanding for recreational funding, but not before contemplating changes to the Bradford Sports United board.

Seeing that two of the three funding entities — Bradford County and the Tourist Development Council — had voting members on the BSU board, Starke Commissioner Janice Mortimer said a city commissioner should also be on the board.

Starke is currently represented by Cathy Bradley, who is City Manager Drew Mullins' chief assistant. Bradford County appointed Commissioner Danny Riddick and TDC appointed Gene Melvin from the town of Brooker.

Recalling that former City Commissioner Scott Roberts was active in the formation of Bradford Sports United, Mortimer suggested Commissioner Danny Nugent of Commissioner Bob Milner represent the city on the recreation board. Having city commission representation would provide parity in terms of influence as well as the ability to report directly back to the commission.

Mayor Andy Redding explained Bradley was appointed because of her sports background. Also, the organization will evolve from a joint government venture as it claims a private nonprofit status. From there, membership will be up to that independent board.

"It gets hard to keep those lines from being blurred, and people would say, OK, well, because they're the city, they're on the board, they're donating the money, they can affect how we operate and how we do things in the future. So that was my thought process on that position, and that's why I didn't insert myself in that because I'm relying on this organization being autonomous," Redding said.

Mortimer said the city commission should have

someone with equal authority to the county and TDC on the BSU board.

There was also discussion with the city attorney about potential conflicts with having elected or appointed members of a public board voting to fund a private board of which they are also a member. The city manager said he has advised the county to reconsider "entangling" public and private board members.

"I would just caution about entangling ourselves with elected officials or higher management, entangling ourselves too closely with a 501(c)(3) like that," Mullins told city commissioners, addressing the need for public officials to operate in the sunshine.

"Mr. Riddick had an awful lot to do with getting this thing up off the ground. I want to give him a lot of credit," Commissioner Milner said, "but it may be time for him to look at it and say, OK, he can now back out and an appropriate county staff member or somebody that they appoint be on there rather than himself. And I think I would rather see that than either one of us have a representative."

Mortimer agreed. Ultimately, the commission decided against mandating an elected official from the city be on the Bradford Sports United board, instead favoring staff or community appointees while encouraging the county to consider a similar approach. Redding said he and the city manager would follow up on that discussion with the county.

The memorandum of understanding was unanimously approved. Each of the funding entities contributed \$150,000 during the first year. In the MOU the city and county agree to another \$150,000 in BSU's second year, although beyond that the youth rec organization is expected to become largely self-supporting. As a nonprofit, however, it may still rely on generous donations and fundraisers in addition to its business activities.

Bradford Sports United is overseeing management and improvement of the city's ballpark facilities and is pursuing a Babe Ruth charter. It is currently advertising for

a full-time manager to run the organization. The youth sports organization is expected to expand beyond baseball and softball, offering children and adolescents a place to play multiple sports in Bradford County and encouraging travel to the county for tournaments, benefiting the local economy



Bradford Sports United board members Joann Jackson, Clint Collins, Gene Melvin, Cathy Bradley, Danny Riddick, Josh Davis and Marty Shaw.

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS
Drageset Team
352-339-3649
4011 NW 43rd St,
Gainesville, FL 32606

For Sale!
1ST HOME- 4bed/2bath

Ground floor 3bed/2bath corner unit in Creek's Edge condominium community in Gainesville, FL. The complex has been maintained & has desirable amenities that include a pool, a clubhouse, tennis courts, a fitness center, two entrances, onsite garbage & community maintenance. The neighborhood offers a mix of tranquility and convenience, so you'll enjoy a peaceful home environment while still being near what matters! Call today to schedule your private tour of this Creek's Edge home!

MLS #GC535096
1810 NW 23RD BLVD #180
GAINESVILLE, FL 32605

Justis Smith
352-258-4619
100 E Nightingale St.
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
justis@southland-realty.com

MLS #11590224
15221 SE 25th Lane
Starke, FL 32091

For Sale!

• 3BED/1.5BATH
READY MOVE IN
READY HOME
JUST OUTSIDE
OF TOWN!

SouthLand REALTY & MANAGEMENT CO
PORCH - STORAGE OUTSIDE!

COLDWELL BANKER
SMITH & SMITH REALTY

Garrett Bishop
904-509-8892
415 E Call St,
Starke, FL 32091

For Sale!

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN FLORHOME!
DISCOVER THIS STUNNING 3-BEDROOM, 2-BATH SEMI-CUSTOM HOME PERFECTLY SITUATED ON A .34-ACRE HOMESITE SHADED BY BEAUTIFUL LIVE OAK TREES.

MLS #2094170
1264 Coral Farms Road
Florhome, FL 32140

MeLissa Pellerito
352-494-1829
275 S Lawrence Blvd • Ste 1
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

MeLissa Pellerito
352-494-1829 call/text
mpelleritorealtor@gmail.com
275 S Lawrence Blvd • Ste 1
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

For Sale!

Beautiful Kitchen
Aerial View
Spacious Rooms

MLS #2117360
6012 Indian Trail
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Susan Smith
352-745-1307
2518 State Rd 21,
Melrose, FL 32666

For Sale!

• 3BED/2BATH
• OPEN FLOOR PLAN
• INDOOR LAUNDRY
• WALK IN SHOWER
• DOUBLE PANTRY
• LOTS OF CABINET SPACE

CB ISAAC REALTY

MLS #2105800
601 SE 4th Ave
Melrose, FL 32666

FIND YOUR DREAM HOME TODAY!

FOR SALE

Lake Region

Keystone Heights hosts veterans' breakfast

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The City of Keystone Heights hosted nearly 50 veterans and their supporters at a breakfast on November 8 at the Keystone Beach Pavilion.

The Rotary Club prepared the meal, and Mayor Nina Rodenroth and City Manager Jamie Booth hosted the event.

Heritage of veterans

Gen. James Eifert, the retired commander of the Florida National Guard, reminded the veterans in attendance of their heritage, tracing the actions of the country's earliest freedom fighters.

Eifert told his fellow veterans that 250 years ago, in November 1775, American patriots faced one of their most perilous moments.

"Two months (prior), on



Gen. James Eifert, the retired commander of the Florida National Guard, reminded the veterans in attendance of their heritage, tracing the actions of the country's earliest freedom fighters.



Rich Carey, Clay County's Senior Veterans' Officer, informed the audience that over 28,000 veterans now reside in Clay County.

August 23, 1775, King George III issued his Proclamation of Rebellion, declaring us rebels and traitors," he said. "That decree took six to eight weeks to cross the Atlantic, arriving

in ports like Philadelphia and Boston by almost exactly this date—250 years ago today."

Eifert then recounted the struggles of the American army over the next 12 months

- April 1775: The Siege of Boston began after Lexington and Concord, where ordinary farmers faced the world's most powerful army.

- June 1775: The Battle of Bunker Hill, fought mostly on Breed's Hill, where low-ammunition Patriots held fire until seeing "the whites of their eyes," inflicting over 1,000 British casualties.

- September 1775: General Richard Montgomery captures Montreal; months later, he would fall in a snowy assault on Quebec.

- December 1775: The Battle of Great Bridge in Virginia—a 30-minute rout of

British and Loyalist forces by Patriot militia.

- October 1775: British ships burn Falmouth, now Portland, Maine, leaving 1,000 homeless, yet hardening colonial resolve.

"These were carpenters, tanners, fathers, and brothers," Eifert emphasized. "Merchants like John Hancock risked ruin. Enslaved and free Black Patriots like Peter Salem fought at Bunker Hill. Women like Lydia Darragh smuggled intelligence past British sentries."

Drawing a direct line to the veterans in the crowd, he declared, "You are their heirs. Just as those colonists stood firm when branded traitors 250 years ago this month, you defended the principles of 1776, here in Keystone Heights, amid the lakes and pines of Clay County."

He closed with a declaration that the courage of the colonists and the bravery of today's veterans are the foundations of the United States.

"The American experiment is a living promise," he said, "that when brave men and women stand for what is right, their courage will be rewarded in the long run. We are evidence of that truth."

Getting veterans the benefits they deserve

Rich Carey, Clay County's Senior Veterans' Officer, informed the audience that over 28,000 veterans now reside in Clay County. He added that his office helped more than 3,000 veterans unlock over \$563 million in veterans benefits over the past year.

The Orange Park native and 24-year Army veteran then shared several examples of veterans who were denied benefits to which they were entitled.

"It hurts me when I get a call and I'm told, 'Hey, I've got a veteran in my nursing home... and they're dying and they're on their last breath and they're going to hospice. Can we do something?'"

"Well, if you're not already enrolled in VA healthcare," Carey told the audience, "VA cannot come in and help out. They cannot do that legally."

Carey then urged the audience to encourage their veteran friends to enroll in VA healthcare, adding that even though the bureaucracy may have frustrated them in the past, it is worth the effort. He also stated that the government has streamlined the enrollment process, removed income limits, and expanded eligibility



Mark Alexander, the newly appointed coordinator for the Keystone Heights Wreaths Across America, alerted audience members to a crisis the local event is facing.

Students honor veterans at Park of the Palms

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School JROTC program and band honored veterans at the Park of the Palms assisted living facility during a November 10 ceremony.

The program began with a bugle rendition of "Reveille" by Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Reagan Sames, followed by opening remarks from Tanza Conneely, Administrator of the Park of the Palms Assisted Living Facility, and welcoming comments from Richard Hall, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired),



Cadet Private Tyler Clark (right) and Cadet Private Brooklyn Nunez way a wreath in honor of veterans after passing through Company C's Saber Guard.

Senior Army Instructor, and high school Principal Laurie Burke.

Cadet Major Cali Chamberlain, the battalion's Executive Officer, led the audience in rising for the presentation of the Colors by the Indian Battalion Color Guard: Cadet Captain Austin Phillips, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Nicole Vetrano, Cadet Sergeant Major Otto Sweat, and Cadet Private First-Class Olivia Hale.

The KHHS Band, directed by Justin Coker, played the National Anthem. Chaplain Michelle Lawson, a retired Army Captain, delivered the invocation.

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Bryan, the Battalion Commander, led the entire battalion in the recitation of the Cadet Creed.

Command and staff team

Hall then introduced the command and staff team, who shared their roles and missions.

Bryan, the battalion commander, ensures efficient command and upholds JROTC values.

Chamberlain, the executive officer, assists in management and goal achievement.

Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Gale, the command sergeant major, advises on discipline and traditions.

Sweat, operations sergeant major, supports operations and cadet guidance.

Cadet 1st Lt. Devin Roberts, the personnel officer, handles administrative matters.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Nicole Vetrano, the security officer, manages security protocols.

Sames, the operations officer, plans training and events.

Cadet 1st Lt. Hope Yarbrough, the logistics officer, oversees supply and logistics.

Photographer Cadet 2nd Lt. Oliver Miller documents the battalion's activities.

Military skills showcased

Chamberlain introduced the KHHS Indian Marching Band, under the direction of Drum Major Sames, and the Color Guard, led by Captain David Robinson. She emphasized the importance of military branches in creating a cohesive force, then invited active and retired service members to stand during the Armed Forces Medley for a moment of recognition.

The group then showcased JROTC skills, with Alpha Company, led by Cadet Captain Miranda Dukes, performing basic facing movements to highlight discipline and teamwork. Bravo and Delta Companies, commanded by Cadet Captains Bailey Roberts and Tyler Kerner, executed the 15-count Manual of Arms. Cadet Corporal Harry Lawrence led the same in German, underscoring the importance of continuous learning.

Vetrano sang "America the Beautiful" as a flag-folding detail prepared.

The flag was folded by Sames, Phillips, Cadet Captain Earnest Williams, Dukes, Cadet 1st Sgts. Kristopher Storey, Raven Crumpton, and Morgan Lauria-Hillard, and Cadet PFCs Cali Garza and Olivia Hale.

Lori Hall, a former Army Nurse and MASH unit Wardmaster,

See PARK, page 7



Mayor Nina Rodenroth (right) and City Manager Jamie Booth hosted the event.

FLORIDA PACE FUNDING AGENCY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Florida PACE Funding Agency, a public body corporate and politic, (the "Agency"), hereby provides notice, pursuant to Sections 163.08, 163.081, 163.082 and 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, each as amended from time to time, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for more than one year to be levied within the area encompassed by the boundaries of every county in Florida, or any of the municipalities therein, served by the Agency's statewide provision of funding and financing to assist property owners who wish to construct, install or otherwise obtain qualifying improvements identified by the Legislature including, but not limited to, energy conservation and efficiency improvements, renewable energy improvements, and wind resistance improvements, in accordance with Section 163.08, et seq., Florida Statutes, as amended (collectively, the "Qualifying Improvements"). By law and resolution of the Agency, a property owner may apply to the Agency for funding and financing of Qualifying Improvements. The non-ad valorem assessments contemplated by this notice are voluntary and are only imposed by the Agency with the prior written consent authorized by or on behalf of affected property owners who determine to obtain financing for Qualifying Improvements from the Agency. The Agency is authorized by state law to fund and finance Qualifying Improvements and is required to annually collect repayment by non-ad valorem assessments to be collected by the Tax Collector in each County. The Board will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, after a public hearing to be held at Kissimmee Gateway Airport-Executive Conference room located at 401 Dyer Blvd Kissimmee FL on December 9, 2025, at 1pm. In the event of a local or national emergency, a hurricane, or any other interfering circumstance, if necessary, the meeting may be continued to a time, date, and place certain, and notice thereof, along with appropriate means for public attendance and participation, if other than in-person, will be posted on the Agency's website. Such resolution electing to use such uniform method will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property that may be subject to the levy - which is the entirety of the State of Florida. A copy of the proposed form of resolution and other information may be viewed at the Agency's website: www.FloridaPACE.gov. All affected property owners have the right to be heard on the matter via advance written objection or by appearing in person at the public hearing. Advance written communication will be given equal weight to comments or objections made in person, and may be submitted to the Board via email to Info@FloridaPACE.gov; and should be received by the Agency on or before December 8, 2025, at 9am so that copies can be distributed to Board members for advance review and hearing preparation purposes. Any person desiring to speak in person may appear at the public hearing. If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this public hearing, such person will need a record of proceedings and for such purpose such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made at their own expense and which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is based. Any person requiring special accommodation at this meeting due to disability or physical impairment or needing an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Agency at 850-400-PACE at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If hearing impaired, Florida Relay Service numbers for assistance are (800) 955-8771 (tdd) or (800) 955-8770 (voice).

Publish on November 13, 20, 27, December 4, 2025 by Order of the Board of Directors of the Florida PACE Funding Agency.

Assessments to be levied pursuant to written consent on various parcels within the State of Florida

for toxin exposures, such as those from burn pits.

The senior veterans officer then addressed another common problem he encounters: surviving spouse benefits.

"I get surviving spouses in my office all the time," he said, "and they think they're going to get the veteran's benefits."

Carey added that he has to break the news to them that unless the veteran enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan upon retirement, the spouse has no benefits.

He said one exception to the rule is that if the veteran's death is due to a service-connected disability, then the surviving spouse can get paid for the rest of his or her life.

He recounted a recent crisis: A veteran's death from "blunt force trauma" after a fall. Questioning the attending physician on speakerphone, Carey uncovered

underlying service-connected diabetes and hypertension as contributing factors.

"That veteran right there... the family got paid. If that had not happened, the family would not have gotten paid."

This led to action in Clay County.

Carey said he collaborated with county commissioners, health officials, and physicians to demystify death certificates.

The result is a simple, wallet-sized card for veterans: One side declares, "I'm a United States military veteran. Please provide this card to the attending physician and to the funeral director. This can have profound effects on my family." The back lists service-connected conditions and medical issues, urging updates even if not yet claimed.



Nearly 50 veterans and their supporters at a breakfast on November 8 at the Keystone Beach Pavilion.

The Genuine. The Original.



Overhead Door Company of Gainesville
• Garage Doors & Openers • Springs, Cables & Sections Replaced
• Residential & Commercial • Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured
Sales - Installation - Service
352-468-2733 www.OverheadDoor.com

UNION COUNTY

UNION

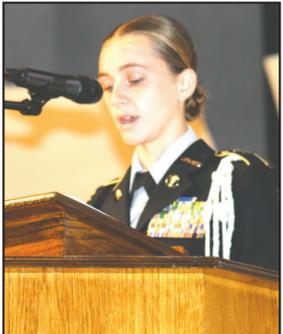
Continued from page 1

A call to service

The theme of Johnson's talk was service, and she began by recounting her own family's service to their countries.

She said her British grandfather, Arthur Sander, served in the Royal Navy and Merchant Marine during World War II, his body covered in tattoos—a rarity at the time.

Her maternal grandfather,



Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Chloe Harris introduced the guest speaker.



Union County Judge Mitchell D. Bishop concluded the ceremony with a combination of quotes from Thomas Jefferson, John F. Kennedy and George W. Bush.

Donald McIntyre, drove a tank on D-Day, suffering permanent frostbite that turned his feet black.

"He said he was the lucky one," Johnson recalled, "because he still had his feet."

Great-uncle David McIntyre, a Marine, fought in the Pacific, including Iwo Jima.



JROTC Color Guard members, Color Guard Commander, and American Flag: Cadet Command Sergeant Major Hunter Smith, American Weapon: Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Chloe Harris, State Flag: Cadet Major Lillie Lane, State Weapon: Cadet Captain Jamaal Reynolds.

"I remember Uncle Dave as a farmer, a quiet and kind individual," she said, "but he never slept. He couldn't."

Uncle Richard McIntyre served in Korea. Johnson said she remembered the Korean veteran as running a strict household.

Uncle Robert Norton completed three tours in Vietnam, haunted by survivor's guilt after his squadron was wiped out while he was home for his daughter's funeral.

Johnson's husband, Howard, was deployed during Desert Storm, often during blizzards that left Angela shoveling five feet of snow alone in Maryland.

Johnson herself served in naval intelligence, briefing top leaders and receiving late-night transmissions that included horrific images from Iraq's Kurdish crisis, moments that "saved me from the front lines but not from seeing what man is capable of doing to each other."

The veteran-instructor spoke about the unseen cost of service: sleepless operations, relentless training, lifelong bonds forged in hardship, and the unique burden on military spouses.

"Military spouses work just as hard," she said. "You pack the house, manage the kids, open your home to lonely airmen on holidays, and you put your career on hold because service to family and country matters."

Johnson said that after Howard retired, the family faced a tough transition, with no military housing and no support network. At one point, her husband worked three jobs.

But after she landed the teaching job in Lake Butler, Johnson said Union County welcomed the family with open arms.

"Union County has treated us



JROTC Cadet Major Lillie Lane explained the origins of Veterans Day.



Superintendent Mike Ripplinger said the event was broadcast to every classroom on campus.

like family since our arrival," she said. "This community raised our children with us."

Today, their oldest son, Christopher, is a teacher, their daughter, Lithia, is a doctor, and their younger son, Sidney, is a pastor.

Johnson challenged students: "If you want to serve, embark on the adventure. You'll find the most amazing opportunities."

She closed with gratitude. "To veterans, thank you for your sacrifice. To spouses, thank you for your unseen strength. To the community, thank you for supporting us like family."

Union County Judge Mitchell D. Bishop concluded the ceremony with a combination of quotes from Thomas Jefferson, John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush, and a quote that is not attributable to any one person but is universally recognized as a tribute to veterans.

"All gave some," he said. "Some gave all."



The Union County High School Band, led by Kelly Dorsey (right), played "Flying Fortress," the National Anthem, "Armed Forces on Parade," and "The Message on the Rock."

PILOT

Continued from page 1

plane when she departed Keystone Heights around 4:45 p.m. She was flying with her fiancée, Jim Bourke, president of the International Aerobatic Club. Bourke was in a separate Extra



First responders at the site of Fox's Extra NG, overturned beyond the end of the runway. Photo: St. Johns Fire Rescue

NG. Fox overshot the runway in St. Augustine, overturned, and landed upside down in a marsh beyond the landing strip. The 49-year-old survived the impact, telling the tower, "I had too much speed; I should have come in slower."

However, by the time rescuers arrived on the scene in airboats, the water level in the cockpit had risen, and the pilot was no longer visible. Rescuers extracted Fox from the plane 50 minutes after the crash. The cause of death was drowning.

On November 14, 2023, Adrien James Valentine, 21, crashed his Piper PA-28-180 in the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park near

Micanopy.

The Melrose resident had departed Kissimmee Gateway Airport and was bound for Keystone Heights.

According to an NTSB report, the 2020 Keystone Heights High School graduate made several erratic 360-degree turns, as well as numerous climbs and descents to a maximum altitude of 6,900 feet and a minimum altitude of 500 feet between 1:35 p.m. and 2:09 p.m. before losing radar contact.

"Preliminary review of air traffic control communications revealed that during the erratic maneuvering, the pilot called 'mayday' and stated he 'was lost in weather,'" the report states. "During this period, the pilot reported multiple times that he was having issues with his instruments, he 'mistakenly flew into weather,' 'it's completely white,' and he could not see anything outside."



Indian Battalion Company E uniformed reenactors demonstrate the American Flag being passed between generations over the country's 250-year history.

PARK

Continued from page 6

narrated the 13 folds' symbolic meanings.

Company E, led by Williams, formed a historical line with Cadet Noah Lawson as General George Washington and reenactors in period uniforms from the Camp Blanding

Museum.

The reenactors passed the flag down the line, symbolizing 250 years of generational defense of freedom.

Hall quoted President Ronald Reagan: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction," noting JROTC's role in fostering service, adding that about one-third of graduates enter military or emergency services.

Hall recited "My Name is Old Glory" to the soft strains of "God Bless the USA," with volume rising as the flag passed.

The ceremony concluded with Charlie Company, under Cadet 1st Sgt. James Doty, forming a Sabre Arch to honor deceased veterans, and Cadet PFCs Tyler Clark and Brooklyn Nunez walking through the arch and laying a wreath.



Cadet Second Lieutenant Nicole Veterano sings "America the Beautiful."



U.S. Marine retirees (left) Fred Sames and Cliff Sames stand while the band plays the Marines' Hymn.

A Place of Grace INC.

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

225 Andrews Street Starke, FL
(behind Powells)



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

Together, we serve. Together, we care.

City of Lake Butler piles up \$2 million in cash

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

City of Lake Butler Finance Director Dave Mekusker announced during the October 21 city commission meeting that the municipality had accumulated \$2.2 million in its bank accounts, up from \$1.4 million a year ago.

Mekusker called the cash increase significant.

"And that increase," he told commissioners, "was due to the leadership and the operations being conservative and regrouping from some bad, I won't say bad I'll just say some issues that occurred in the past."

Just two years ago, the city was facing a financial crisis, fired its city manager, and ordered a forensic audit.

The audit concluded former City Manager Dale Walker overspent the city's budget by over \$1 million, including misspent ARPA funds, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other spending irregularities uncovered by auditors were nearly \$14,000 in state sales tax paid by the city, which local governments are not required to pay, and \$19,000 in alcoholic beverages.

Other issues identified by auditors included improper financial oversight of spending, expenditures exceeding budget without commission approval, depletion of fund balances, inadequate balance sheet reconciliations with insufficient financial documentation, unreconciled bank statements (including credit card statements), and a lack of sufficient emergency funds.

Last July, commissioners approved an amended wastewater contract with the Department of Corrections' Reception and Medical Center, its largest customer.

The amendment tripled the revenues the facility pays Lake Butler,

New officer overhauling Lake Butler code enforcement

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler's new code enforcement officer said he is looking through the city's ordinances and is seeing red flags.

City commissioners hired Glen Ward in October. He told city commissioners during their October 21 meeting that he spent 20 years working in the Gainesville code enforcement department.

In 2023, he started working for the City of Starke and upgraded that municipality's code enforcement structure.

"We brought in the International Property Maintenance Code for them, which is pretty standard now throughout the US," he said, "and it worked really well."

Ward said he also rewrote Starke's abandoned vehicle ordinance and initiated foreclosure proceedings on properties that were out of compliance.

"I think this week or next week they're supposed to be finalizing foreclosure on four different properties," he said, "two residential and two commercial properties."

The new city official added that he is now reviewing Lake Butler's codes and is finding outdated and unenforceable rules.

Ward said he is also bringing the city's code enforcement structure in line with Florida Statute 162, which he said governs the process in the state.

The new official also said he wanted commissioners to update the city's ordinance on abandoned vehicles and add a towing ordinance, "so that you can do tows off the right of ways and public properties and you can get rid of dangerous and hazardous vehicles."

Ward also stated that he was revising the city's definition of overgrown vegetation from a subjective standard to an objective one.

Community center trashed, officials respond

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler City Commissioners revised their policies for renting the Hal Y. Maines Community Center at Lakeside Park following a recent incident of vandalism at the facility.

City Manager Kim Hayes requested that commission members grant her the right to refuse to rent the center to people who have damaged the building in the past.

She said that recently, one group created \$1,000 in damages. "They did pay for it," she said of the renters. "I reached out to them. They admitted it."

Hayes said the revelers flushed glow sticks and vape pens down the commodes, causing public works employees to work until four in the morning to repair the damage.

"It flooded sewage all over the floors, across the whole floor," she said.

Mayor Melissa Hendrix said reimbursing the city for damages is not good enough.

"It's not just a thousand dollars and stroke a check," she said. "Just like the other group that thought they could go ride through the park and tear it up in the middle of the night. They don't care."

"We have to draw the line," declared Hayes.

"I was shocked," she said of the damage. "They put their boots on the wall. They were dancing in raw sewage."

Hayes said the event was school-related, but the rental was not arranged through a school. She added that school groups like the JROTC have a record of respecting the center and not causing damage.

Commissioners not only granted Hayes the right to refuse to rent the facility but also gave her the authority to terminate events in process that are causing damage to the community center.

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

Nathaniel Harrison Cercy, 19, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 3 for petit theft.

Clarence Edward Desue, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 6 for battery.

Marquel C Fimple, 21, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 4 for petit theft and use of an anti-shoplifting countermeasure device.

Jason Samuel Fishbourne, 37, of Holiday, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 1 for a moving traffic violation.

Torrance Larmont Flowers, 54, of Orange Park, was arrested by FHP troopers on November 7 for DUI.

Kerri Joanne Hall, 33, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 5 for an out-of-county warrant.

Quantavon Corey Harris, 25, of Gainesville, was arrested by Lawtey police on November 5 for a moving traffic violation, making a false report, and out-of-county warrants.

Wife of fired detention deputy uncovers additional thefts

Francis William-Rashad Highland, 37, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 4 for larceny and fraud-swindle.

According to court papers, after the defendant, a fired Bradford County Sheriff's Office detention deputy, was arrested on October 29 for stealing jail funds from an ICE detainee, his wife discovered prepaid debit cards in his belongings.

She contacted the sheriff's office, and investigators traced the debit cards to three former inmates of the jail.

Detective Hunter Redding wrote that Highland stole \$5 from a North Carolina man,

profiled town residents and promoted the area.

However, the freezes of Dec. 29-30, 1894 and Feb. 8-9, 1895 forced citrus growers to replant farther south and wiped out any hopes of a citrus industry in northern Florida. Around the same time, the railroad, which was never financially stable, finally went under and ceased operations. The railroad was in and out of receivership from 1886 onward and underwent reincarnations as the Green Cove Springs and Midland Railway, Western Railroad and Southwestern Railroad before going belly-up.

By the turn of the century Belmore City was mostly abandoned. The small school, at the corner of Geneva Street and Naples Avenue, remained until around 1915.

However, 28 years later, the area bordering present-day C.R. 315, also known as Sharron Road, once again stirred with activity.

During World War II, the U.S. Navy built several outlying landing fields to support its Naval Air Stations around the country. The Navy used the outlying fields mostly for training, where students would not be distracted by heavy air traffic. Outlying fields supporting Naval Air Station Jacksonville

\$74.07 from a Brooker woman and \$192.35 from a Jacksonville man.

Thomas Adam-John Hill, 42, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 2 for possession of a weapon by a felon.

Alana Nicole James, 35, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 3 for a probation violation.

Anthony Loyde Johnson, 26, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 6 for possession of a controlled substance and drug equipment.

Gary Allen Jones, 33, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 5 for sexual assault.

Amanda Marie Kruk, 43, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 1 for battery.

Charles Edward Kulbacki, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 7 for failure to appear.

Richard Hadden Lamb, 30, of Oakfield, Georgia, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 7 for an out-of-county warrant.

Amos Daniel Lamoree, 49, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 4 for withholding support.

Elder Reginaldo Lopez Cuxum, 22, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 2 for a moving traffic violation.

Mario Arkill McClain, 46, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 7 for a probation violation.

Daniel John Meyer, 64, of Saint Petersburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 2 for a moving traffic violation.

Ronald Oneal Mills, 57, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 5 for an out-of-county warrant.

Ja'Quez Deshondre Mosley, 25, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 4 for discharging firearms in public, neglect of a child, aggravated assault with a weapon, battery, and resisting an officer.

Adam Lee Nelson, 28, of Pensacola, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 4 for a probation violation.

Brittany Anne Sheline, 31, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 3 for battery.

Debra Ann Wesley, 66, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 6 for DUI, neglect of a child, and resisting an officer.

Travis Wayne Westberry, 34, of Melrose, was arrested by FHP troopers on November 6 for DUI and by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Andrew Brett Wiseman, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 3 for failure to appear.

Hunter Dianne Fowler, 32, of Hampton, was arrested by Union deputies on November 9 for an out-of-county warrant.

Tony Hodges, 67, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 9 for battery.

James Calvin Todd Jr., 32, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 5 for a probation violation.

Jefferey Emil Underwood, 42, of Trenton, was arrested by Union deputies on November 4 for conditional release violations.

Macklane Lawson Edenfield, 22, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 1 for assault and battery during a burglary and simple battery.

Zachary Dustin Hurt, 24, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 6 for domestic battery.

James Edwin Jones, 52, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 5 for domestic battery.

Union

Hunter Dianne Fowler, 32, of Hampton, was arrested by Union deputies on November 9 for an out-of-county warrant.

Tony Hodges, 67, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 9 for battery.

James Calvin Todd Jr., 32, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 5 for a probation violation.

Jefferey Emil Underwood, 42, of Trenton, was arrested by Union deputies on November 4 for conditional release violations.

Clay

Macklane Lawson Edenfield, 22, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 1 for assault and battery during a burglary and simple battery.

Zachary Dustin Hurt, 24, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 6 for domestic battery.

James Edwin Jones, 52, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 5 for domestic battery.

22-year-old arrested for 10 counts of possession of child pornography

Tyler Michael Roberts, 22, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 6 for possessing, controlling, or viewing depictions of child sexual conduct.

According to the Clay County Sheriff's Office, a SWAT team served a search warrant at a home on West Osceola Court in Keystone Heights, and the occupants were interviewed by Internet Crimes Against Children detectives while the residence was processed for evidence. As a result of the investigation, probable cause was developed to arrest one of the occupants, Roberts, for 10 counts of knowingly possessing and intentionally viewing child sexual abuse material.

Belmore was once a 'city', site of naval airfield

Celebrating 100 years of Keystone Heights history

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

BELMORE — Thirty-five years before the Lawrence Developing Company marketed land along Lake Geneva to Pennsylvania residents, laying

the foundation for Keystone Heights, another developer executed a similar business plan 15 miles northeast.

The Belmore Florida Land Company, headquartered in Chicago, with branches in Jacksonville and Belmore City, offered 40-by-100-foot lots in Belmore City for \$10.

Flanking the Green Cove Springs and Melrose Railroad, Belmore City never existed as a

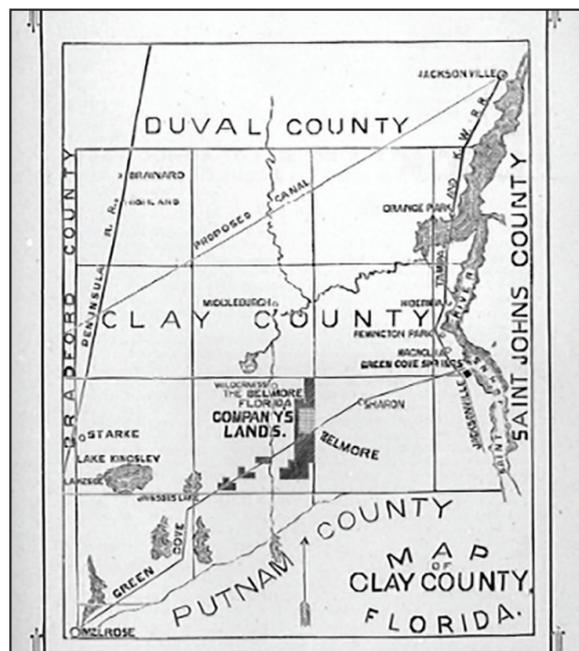
legal, Florida municipality, but was platted by the land company into 350 blocks containing 20 lots each. The east-west streets were mostly named for trees, such as Walnut, Orange, Pine and Palmetto, but also included the names Clay, State, Spring and Summer. The town's north-south avenues were named after places: Michigan, Florida, Chicago, Brooklyn, Belmore and other locales. Anderson Park anchored the community in the center and a public school was 10 blocks north of the park.

The land company purchased 4,000 acres that straddled the railroad, which stretched from Green Cove Springs, west. The line reached Sharron in 1884 and Belmore in 1886, the same year the railroad entered into receivership for the first time. The line reached Melrose in 1890.

The Belmore Florida Land Company promoted the area as an ideal location to grow citrus. A 35-page book promoting the town contained chapters entitled "How to Make an Orange Grove," "Orange Culture in Florida," "How Much Shall I Need to Start a Grove in Florida," and "How Orange Groves Pay."

The publication: "Florida: The Land of Sunshine, Oranges and Health," also highlighted timber and vegetable agriculture, as well as the health benefits of living in the Sunshine State.

The company also published a monthly newspaper: "The Belmore Florida Journal," which



This map, from a 35-page book promoting the City of Belmore, shows the community on the Green Cove Springs and Melrose Railroad.



Russ WADE

Attorney at Law

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

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate

included Whitehouse; Branran Police and Fire Pension Fund for Field, which also included the

Spencer Bombing Target; Fleming Island, now the site of Thunderbolt Elementary School; Foremost, near present-day Lake Asbury; Stengel, now the site of Butler Plaza in Gainesville; and Middleburg, across S.R. 21 from present-day Middleburg High School.

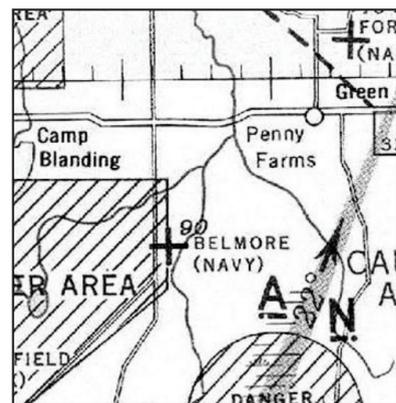
Around 1943, the Navy also constructed an outlying landing field on the east side of S.R. 21, north of Sharron Road. The Belmore field was a baseball field-shaped, grass field with no structures.

By 1949, even though a U.S. Geological Survey topography map still showed the Belmore Airfield, by then the property had been abandoned.

Over the next 50 years, individuals, timber companies and investment funds acquired land in the area.

In 2008, the State of Florida purchased an 8,736-acre tract south of C.R. 315 from the Dallas

\$13 million and established the



The 1945 aeronautical chart was the last that showed the Belmore Navy Outlying Landing Field.

Belmore State Forest.

Now, the community consists of agricultural land, with the Ates Creek Tract of Belmore State Forest lying on the southern part of the community.

However, more changes may soon be coming to the area. In 2016, Clay County commissioners increased the density for 4,000 acres east of S.R. 21 and north of C.R. 315 from one house for every 10 acres to one house for every 10 acres.

Kiser receives Leon Co. Schools' honor

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County native Shanon "Shane" Kiser was named Leon County's Glenn Howell Distinguished Educator of the Year.

"I still feel at a loss for words," said Kiser, who learned he was the award recipient on Oct. 27. Kiser, a 2010 Bradford High School graduate and son of Emanuel "Joe" and Cassandra Kiser, works at Tallahassee's Springwood Elementary School.

The annual award is named after Devurn Glenn, Leon County's first Black assistant superintendent of schools, and Aquilina Howell, who was the first Black woman to serve the district as assistant superintendent. Howell also played a role in helping to desegregate Leon schools.

"We are incredibly proud of Shanon Kiser's selection as Leon County School's Glenn Howell Distinguished Educator," Springwood Principal Sylvia Lynn said. "His work has helped to transform the way we serve students, turning data into directions, challenges into opportunities, and growth into a shared victory for our entire school."

Kiser, who is Springwood's intervention coach and technology support lead, said nothing seemed unusual about his day when the school's math coach sent him a text message asking him to accompany her on a walkthrough to observe one of the math teachers. He had his Surface Pro, ready to take notes, while the match coach had her phone out.

"We oftentimes do trainings where we have teachers allow us to video certain parts of their lesson so that we can show other teachers a great example of what something looks like," Kiser said. "She had her phone out, and she's recording a certain part of the lesson. Again, I think nothing of it because it's typical. It's nothing different."

Yet it was different. The coach was preparing to record Kiser upon learning that he was the award winner.

The ordinary soon became out of the ordinary as a parade of people entered the classroom

Kiser was in, beginning with Springwood administrators and district-level administrators.

"The line just keeps coming," Kiser said. "Then, I see my mom and my little brother. I see my pastor and bishop and my (former Springwood) principal."

"Literally, it was like person after person."

Even though he knew receiving the award was a possibility since he was named one of five finalists for the honor, Kiser said, "It was a great surprise."

From nominee to finalist to winner

Leon County consists of 43 schools. Each school nominates a teacher for the Glenn Howell Distinguished Educator of the Year. Each nominee submits a packet to a central person, with the packet including their nomination form and letter of recommendation from their principal or assistant principal. The person who receives the packets redacts the nominees' names and any information that would indicate what schools they work at. The information is then sent to a committee, which selects five finalists and then the winner.

"That selection committee consists of past winners, administrators, district personnel and people who are just in the community," Kiser said.

Kiser said he was on another campus when he learned of his selection as a finalist on Oct. 17 — a Friday. He was at Florida State University School (often referred to as Florida High), helping with some tech issues, when Lynn called him. She asked him if he saw the news. When Kiser replied he had been too busy working to be aware of any news, Lynn asked him to check his email.

The surprise must've registered on his face because the people he was with asked him, "Is everything OK?"

"I was like, 'The craziest thing happened. Apparently, I made top five for the Glenn Howell Distinguished Educator Award.' They all congratulated me," Kiser said.

He then looked at his phone



Shane Kiser (right) is pictured with his mother, Cassandra, after being named Leon County's Glenn Howell Educator of the Year.

and saw that he had 50-some text messages from people congratulating him.

"It still didn't hit me at that point," Kiser said. "I was still in kind of disbelief."

The five finalists all participated in interviews with the selection committee, which were scheduled one week from the announcement of the finalists, so the reality eventually sunk in.

"It wasn't until Monday when I was back at school when I realized, 'Man, I've got this interview on Friday. I've got no idea what these people are going to want to hear or want me to say or want to ask me.' I think that's when it really hit me," Kiser said.

Kiser was the last of the finalists to interview with the committee. He found out later that the committee made its decision to name him the Glenn Howell Distinguished Educator of the Year following the conclusion of that interview.

Upon his return to his school, Kiser said his principal called him into her office to ask him how the interview went. While he was talking to her, she received a phone call. Lynn told Kiser she had to take the call, so he waited outside her office until she was done.

"I didn't know that it was the assistant superintendent calling her to let her know that I had won," Kiser said.

Kiser said Lynn called him back into the office and asked him to continue his story, never letting on that she already knew he was to be announced as the award winner.

Lynn wasn't the only one able to keep a secret. The principal communicated with Kiser's wife, Megan, via text messages, telling her he won the award and asking her to contact friends and family to see if any would be able to go to the school and help surprise Kiser with the official announcement.

"The whole weekend my wife knew. I had no clue that she knew," Kiser said, adding, "She somehow orchestrated everything between Friday night and Sunday afternoon."

Going into education

Kiser was working with students before he even graduated from high school, whether it was serving as a tutor for one of his BHS teachers or assisting the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County with its afterschool and summer programs.

"I've always enjoyed working with students and teaching students," Kiser said.

He went to Santa Fe College for two years, earning his AA degree, and then attended Florida State University. He graduated from there with his degree in Elementary Education in the spring of 2014.

Kiser interned at Springwood Elementary School his final two semesters at FSU. He was hired at Springwood after graduating. He taught third grade his first five years and then taught fourth

See KISER, page 10

Blanding speaker: How do we thank our veterans?

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

On a day that's all about expressing gratitude to those who served in the military, one of the speakers at a Veterans Day ceremony at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center posed the question of just how one goes about thanking those individuals.

Clay County Superintendent of Schools Dave Broskie was one of three speakers at the Nov. 11 ceremony, which was a result of a partnership between Camp Blanding, the Camp Blanding Museum, Clay County and Fleming Island's Hibernia Baptist Church.

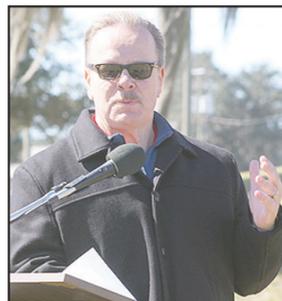
"The real question of the day is, 'How do we honor the service members and our veterans today?' We honor them by being worthy of their sacrifice," Broskie said. "We honor them by valuing the freedoms they protect. In our schools, we honor them by teaching their history, instilling patriotism and ensuring our military connected families are supported and celebrated."

As he continued, Broskie said, "We honor them by hiring veterans, supporting veteran-owned businesses and reaching out the service organizations that provide critical support to our veterans."

"Every single day, we honor them by remembering that our flag — that banner of hope and liberty — is kept flying with their vigilance."

U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean (Florida's Fourth District), who was the event's first guest speaker, said, "Veterans Day is the time to commemorate the valor in sacrifices of the courageous men and women who enlisted in our armed services and fought to protect and preserve our American liberties, values and way of life. It is on this day that we salute you, our fearless patriots who have kept America safe."

"We remember the men who ran ashore at the beaches of Normandy to end World War II, those who fought in the snows



Clay County Superintendent of Schools David Broskie

of Korea and those who bravely fought in the jungles and the unbearable heat of Vietnam as well as the men and women who were called to serve in the aftermath of 9/11.

"Because of our veterans' selfless dedication, unmatched valor and unsurpassed devotion to our nation's values, we the people have the opportunity to experience life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is because of you — our veterans — that our hearts burst with pride, our enemies shiver in fear and America flies on the wings of freedom."

The congressman stressed the importance of teaching the next generation "what true service is and to value the veterans' service and military sacrifice." Bean said he was reminded of President Ronald Reagan, who once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Bean talked of how he and other members of congress can nominate candidates to the nation's service academies, saying, "It's a tremendous responsibility, and dozens and dozens of young people will apply to be our military's elite. There's only one thing to do if you're a congressman to make that happen and to ensure that we get the best of the best, and that is to ask our veterans to run our committee to make that happen."

See THANK, page 13

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Nov. 13, 2025

BRADFORD

PUBLIC AUCTION
Ron Denmark Mini storage will hold a public auction on the following units containing personal items on November 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Unit 89 - Belonging to N. Williams Unit 59 - Belonging to B. Sanders
11/6 2tchg 11/13-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
File # 2025-CP-126

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF NICHOLAS L. GILL, DECEASED.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of NICHOLAS L. GILL, who died on September 26, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court of Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE and her attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate on whom a copy of this NOTICE is required, to be served must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or

demands against the DECEDENT'S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

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

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

The date of first publication of this NOTICE TO CREDITORS is November 6, 2025.

JONATHAN P. HARVEY
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
7617 Jesse Trail
Oklahoma, OK 73150
Owens Penrod, P.A.

By: /s/ VeRonica R. Owens, Esq.
Fla. Bar No.: 73568
VeRonica R. Owens, Esq.
189 South Lawrence Boulevard
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
Telephone: (352) 473-5000
Pleadings@OwensPenrod.com
VeRonica@OwensPenrod.com
Attorneys for Petitioner

Offices: Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Tallahassee
11/6 2tchg 11/13-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 04-2024-DP-000132
IN THE INTEREST OF:
D.C.A. DOB: 8/9/2010,
K.M. DOB: 4/5/2016,
D.A. DOB: 3/16/2022,
E.A. DOB: 5/21/2025,
MINOR CHILDREN

NOTICE OF ACTION
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

TO: Kristy Alvarez, address unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights and permanently commit the following children for adoption: D.C.A. born on 8/9/2010; K.M. born on 4/5/2016; D.A. born on 3/16/2022 and E.A. born on 5/21/2025. You are hereby commanded to appear on **December 16, 2025, at 11:10 AM** before the General Magistrate Bridget Baker at the Bradford Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue Starke, FL 32091, for an **ADVISORY HEARING**. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD (OR CHILDREN), IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD OR CHILDREN NAMED IN THIS NOTICE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, 201 E. University Avenue, Room 414A, Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

WITNESS, my hand as Clerk of said Court and the Seal thereof, this 7th day of November, 2025.

Denny Thompson, Clerk of Court
By: Tasher Allen
As Deputy Clerk
11/13 4tchg 12/4-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED

that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on November 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM, 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.
11/13 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Georgia Gill and Bret Wilkinson, 4702 Yacht Club Road, Jacksonville, FL 32210, JOINT owner, doing business under the firm name of: Deus Agricola D.B.A. Resurrection Farm, 9072 NW 196th St., Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 7th day of NOVEMBER A.D., 2025, in BRADFORD County.
11/13 1tchg-BCT

UNION

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on 11/28/25 at 12:01pm on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.
Unit Number(s) NAME
#46 Shirley \$327.04
#17 Leonard Johnson \$235.20
#76 Yolanda Webb \$147.38

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details.
11/6 2tchg 11/13-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.
11/13 1tchg-UCT

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

CASE NO.: 63-2024-CA-0125
GP MATERIALS, INC., a Florida corporation,
Plaintiff,

v.
5600 BARN, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, and WILLIAM S. WILSON, individually,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 28, 2025, in the above-styled action, the clerk of court, Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, CPA, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Union County Courthouse located at 55 W Main Street #1654, Lake Butler, Union County, Florida 32054, at 11:00 a.m., on February 26, 2026, the following described property in Union County, Florida: Legal Description: (Parcel "A") A parcel of land containing a total area of 1.9 acres, more or less, lying, being and situate in sections 14 & 23, Township 6 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida, more particularly described as follows: COMMENCE at the Northwest corner of said Section 23, and run South 89 degrees 52 minutes 34 seconds East, along the North line of said Section 23, a distance of 801.88 feet to the intersection with the Easterly right of way line of County Road Number 18-A; thence run South 20 degrees 52 minutes 01 second East, along said Easterly right of way line, a distance of 13.58 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of the hereinafter described parcel of land; Thence run North 82 degrees 21 minutes 29 seconds East a distance of 502.63 feet; thence run South 15 degrees 32 minutes 37 seconds East a distance of 410.84 feet; thence run South 74 degrees 21 minutes 31 seconds West a distance of 453.07 feet to the intersection with said Easterly right of way line; thence run North 20 degrees 52 minutes 01 second West, along said Easterly right of way line, a distance of 6.13 feet; thence run North 74 degrees 02 minutes 11 seconds East a distance of 447.98 feet; thence run North 17 degrees 17 minutes 40 seconds West a distance of 280.82 feet; thence run South 73 degrees 07 minutes 04 seconds West a distance of 464.97 feet to the intersection with said Easterly right of way line; thence run North 20 degrees 52 minutes 01 second West a distance of 202.37 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. DATED this 11th day of November, 2025.
TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A.
By: /s/ Katelyn T. Hardwick
Katelyn T. Hardwick
Florida Bar No. 118454
420 S. Lawrence Blvd.
Keystone Heights, Florida 32656
Primary Email: katie@tah-law.com
(352) 473-8088 (telephone)
(352) 473-8161 (facsimile)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
11/13 2tchg 11/20-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph
USPS 062-700
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Bradford County Telegraph
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: Macie Hamilton
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:

Subscription Rate in Trade Area
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months

Lake Region Monitor
USPS 114-170
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lake Region Monitor
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628
John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Dan Hildebran
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: Macie Hamilton
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:

Subscription Rate in Trade Area
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months

UNION COUNTY TIMES
USPS 648-200
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: UNION COUNTY TIMES
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
uctimeseditor@gmail.com
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628
John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: Macie Hamilton
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:

Subscription Rate in Trade Area
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months

Obituaries

Mary Anderson

Mary Juanita Anderson, 92 and a beloved matriarch, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, at Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville. She was born May 18, 1933, in Starke to Percy and Rosa Griffis. She dedicated many years of her life to serving others, working tirelessly in the kitchen at Northeast Florida State Hospital until her well-earned retirement. In her personal life, she was an avid reader. She loved visiting people and places, finding joy in social connections and admiring the growth of her surroundings. She found enjoyment watching butterflies, which gave her peace and tranquility.



Mary was a cherished mother to her son, Jack (Shelby) Anderson, and her daughters, Cindy Anderson Crews, Kris Prevatt, and Danielle Griffis (Jim Williams). She also took immense pride in her role as a grandmother, with a legacy that includes her grandchildren, Tyler Anderson, Ashley Collins, Justin (Jassy) Crews, Brittany Crews (Dino Harold Zink), Christopher Anderson, Kaleb (Lexis) Anderson, Kyle Griffis (Jeannie O'Steen), Jared Rice, Knightley Rice (Billy McAlpine), Kinton Williams, and Joey Williams. The light of her life extended further to her great-grandchildren, Jay Collins, Austin Collins, Braydon Crews, Braxton Crews, Emma Whittle, Lily Zink, Jordan Zink, Nadalynn Ramer-Anderson, Elijah Anderson, Albury Anderson, Cains Anderson, Zinnayah Anderson, Kristen Williams, Jimmy Williams, Dalton Griffis (Krista Certain), Hailey Griffis, Harmony Rice, L.J. Rice, Karson McAlpine, Oaklynn McAlpine, and one great-grandchild on the way.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Anderson; her brother, Lester Griffis; and her devoted parents. Mary leaves behind a legacy of love and family that will continue to be celebrated by those fortunate enough to have known her. The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Macclenny Nursing and Rehab for the dedicated care and compassion provided to their mother and grandmother over the past several years.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Barbara C. Owens

Barbara Christoffers Owens walked in a lot of shoes. She was born Dec. 7, 1932, the daughter of Bernhardt Christoffers, a chemist turned entrepreneur and business owner, and Gertrude Murray Christoffers, among the first women to enlist in the Navy in the first World War. In her baby shoes, she grew up as Babs, Daddy's little girl, and a little sister to Bert, military pilot; Donald, veteran and civilian doctor; and Dorothy, noted Florida artist; first on Long Island, New York, then later in Keystone Heights, where her family relocated about the time of the Second World War. Her ninth birthday coincided with the infamous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Too young to serve at the time, she still grew up when everyone laced up their boots as part of the Great Generation. She spoke often of the blackouts and rationing, and especially how everyone looked out for each other. Most of all, she would recall how she and her friends would get together and play records and dance either at their houses or at the Keystone Pavilion. Such were the earliest recollections of when she buckled on her dancing shoes. In high school, she was fitted for glass slippers as the first May Queen, the city's once-upon-a-time beauty pageant. In her saddle oxfords, she earned an Associate of Arts degree from Stetson University in secretarial skills, meanwhile slipping into office pumps to work as a secretary on campus. While there, she married Byrns Lezelle Owens and so strapped on gospel sandals as a preacher's wife. She later worked logistics for Standard Oil while putting her husband through seminary. In house slippers, she reared three children, Kyle, Erin, and Eric. She entertained and ministered to Apollo engineers and their families at the pastorium in Cocoa Beach, planted a new sustaining congregation in Oldsmar, worked as a secretary and bookkeeper to Clay County schools, and served on the Keystone Heights City Council. As a widowed empty-nester, she helped organize and manage the local chapter of the Singles Club and dedicated time at AMVETS. In the evenings, when she would finally take her shoes off, she spent time talking with the Lord in prayers that were audible across the house. At the end of her life, you could say she had slipped into a pair of ruby slippers: she just wanted to go home. Jesus called her from her own bedroom on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, with her children around her. She left very big shoes to fill.

Those working on filling them include her children, Kyle (Priscilla) Owens, Erin (Ron) Manning and Eric Owens (Marie); and grandchildren, Caitlin Owens, Austin Owens, Justin Minor, Rachel (Minor) Juchniewicz, Jarrod Minor, Andrew Smith, Angela Smith, Olivia Owens, Victoria Owens, Alexandra Owens, Judson Owens; and 12 great-grandchildren.



PAID OBITUARY

Margaret TrimbleHaslach

Margaret "Peg" Mary Tierney TrimbleHaslach, 73, of Starke passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, at home, surrounded by her loving family — her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Peg moved with her late husband, Ray, to Starke 43 years ago from Toms River, New Jersey. Together, they raised their five children with deep faith and devotion as parishioners of St. Edward Catholic Church, where Peg became an integral part of the parish community. A dedicated Sunday school teacher for 13 years, Peg also served as the church secretary for seven years during this time and as the CYO youth director for six years, always fostering a spirit of love and service to others. Her passion for education was lifelong. After completing her Bachelor of Education and graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of North Florida in 1992, she began a rewarding 22-year career in the Bradford County School System. Long before becoming a certified teacher, she was deeply involved in the school community, volunteering for over 13 years as a class mom, PTA member, and school volunteer. Among her many achievements, in 1984, she co-created the beloved school-wide reading program, "The R.A.T. Race," at Southside Elementary, which inspired a love for reading in countless children. Peg also played a key role in ensuring that all students had access to participate in the annual eighth-grade Disney field trip, making sure no child was left behind. In 1996, Peg was Bradford County District Teacher of the Year. Her belief in educating the whole child, not just the parts that read and write, was central to her life's work of cultivating the emotional and spiritual growth of every child. In her quiet and steadfast way, Peg touched the lives of all who knew her. Her legacy of love, faith, and service will continue to live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and all those she taught and mentored. As a mother, her home was always open to those in need, whether it was for a weekend or for an entire school year. There was rarely a time when the Trimble household was without company. Peg and Ray's home became a sanctuary for many, providing a safe, adventurous, and loving space for all who entered. After being widowed at the age of 49, in 2006 Peg found love again when she met Bob. The two married Nov. 22, 2008, and together they shared 18 years filled with joy and adventure, traveling, camping, reading, and cherishing their time in retirement with family and friends.

Peg is survived by her beloved husband, Bob; sons, Raymond E. (Jacqueline) Trimble II of Keystone Heights and Jeremy (Stephanie) Trimble of St. Augustine; three daughters, Melanie (Marvin) Sanders of Starke, Casey Wingerter of Jacksonville, and Kelly Trimble of New Orleans, Louisiana; three stepsons, Michael (Raine) Haslach of Freehold, New Jersey, Tommy (Donna) Arthur of Forked River, New Jersey, and Danny (Justine) Arthur of Jackson, New Jersey; 17 grandchildren, Jeremy Andrew (Abbie) Trimble, Tristen Barton, Raychel (Manny) Rodriguez, Dylan (Jessey) Trimble, Raymond E. Trimble III, Elizabeth (Dylan) Smith, Rebecca (Jeff) Rittmer, Madison Wingerter, Bailey (Alex) Jarmusch, Younger Wingerter, Tierney Wingerter, Jonathan Haslach, Ryan Walder, Bobby (Ashley) Walder, Tiffany (Peter) Gowsky, Tommy (Summer) Arthur, Laura (Rick) Drahos; and 24 great-grandchildren, Coast, Cove, and Cast Rodriguez, Baby Rittmer (due 2026), Raygen and River Trimble, Adelynn and Avery Smith, Jeremy and Aurora Trimble, Finn Jarmusch, Emerson and Logan Walder, Jack, Connor, and Owen Walder, Noah, Grace, and Leah Gowsky, Willow, Izzy, and Luke Arthur, Maverick and Sawyer Drahos. She is also survived by her two brothers, James G. (Donnie) Tierney II of Merchantville, New Jersey, Kenneth (Anne) Tierney of Toms River, New Jersey; and sisters, Kathryn (Tye) Ferlsan of Bayville, New Jersey, and Jennifer (Ron) Palmerson of Toms River, New Jersey. Peg was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond E. Trimble; parents, James G. and Maryanne E. Tierney; sisters, Patricia Mary Tierney and Barbara Ann MacFarlane; and brothers Robert McAnnally, and Edward Trimble.

A Memorial Mass in honor of her life will be celebrated at St. Edward Catholic Church, with Father Andy Mitera presiding. The memorial funeral Mass will be held Thursday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m. Interment will take place at a later date in a private family ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the American Liver Foundation or the American Heart Association. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home.

PAID OBITUARY

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

Terry McCarthy
Complete
TREE SERVICE
& STUMP GRINDING
Free Estimates Provided!

We do tree removal, tree trimming, and skid steer mulching. We have a lift for those hard-to-reach heights and places! **WE DO IT ALL!**

904-364-7065 Fully Insured

Charles Custom Memorials
Serving Families in North Florida since 1973

The area's largest supplier of Colored Granite
When Quality Counts, You Can Count On Us

561 NW Hilton Ave. Lake City, FL
(386) 755-4001
Open Mon-Fri 8-5, Closed from 12-1 for lunch

CharlesMonuments.com
Member of Better Business Bureau
Monument Builders of North America
Florida Monument Builders
FL Lic. # F037700

Ronda Stringer

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Ronda Louise Stringer, whose journey came to rest at her home in Lake Butler on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. Born Sept. 7, 1967, in Logan, Ohio, Ronda lived a life full of love for her family and anyone blessed to have known her. For 11 years, she shared her life and love with her husband, Joseph Stringer Jr. Together, they merged their families, including six children, Angel Louise Coakley, Terra Lee Cole, Jerry Lee Coakley (Kristine Rodriguez), Jason Junior Bratcher, Adam (Deitra) Stringer, and Lonnie (Pam) Stringer. Each child held a special place in her heart, and she embraced the chaos and joys of motherhood with grace and open arms. Her love only grew as she became a proud grandmother to her precious grandchildren, Michael Junior Coakley, Issac Edward Warren, Zackery Norman, Mackenzie Cole, Dalton Cole, Ellowyn Louise Coakley, Adelise Louise Coakley, Brody Morrison, Samatha Bratcher, Colton Coakley, Mason Tomlinson, Kinsley Stringer, and Mason Stringer. To them, she wasn't just "Grandma," she was a source of boundless love and inspiration. She is also survived by her siblings, Mary Sue and George Edward Coakley Jr. Beyond her pride in her family, she had a spirit that simply couldn't be tamed. Be it crafting up a storm or shopping to her heart's content, the girl loved to keep herself busy! Whether she was soaking up the sun on sandy beaches or camping under the starlit sky, anytime she could be on the go brought her pure joy, and her adventurous spirit encouraged others to join in on the fun. She is reunited with her parents, George Edward Coakley Sr. and Mary Louise Callahan Coakley; and her sister, Georganne Louise Coakley.

As we gather our hearts and minds to remember Ronda, let us carry forward her rebellious spirit, her artistic flair, and her fierce love for family. Her final memorialization will be by cremation under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com



PAID OBITUARY

KISER

Continued from page 9

grade his sixth grade for the 2019-20. Kiser was then asked if he would serve as the school's digital academy site coordinator, beginning with the 2020-21 year.

"I was basically the principal of our digital academy," Kiser said.

He became an intervention coach in 2021, saying his job "was basically to get our intervention program up and going — to help

reach our lowest students and pull them up to grade level and then enrich our higher students, to continue to make sure they didn't just learn, but learned at their own individual level — be it on grade level or above."

It's a job he still does, but he added the additional duties of technology support lead this school year. His technology predecessor retired at the end of the 2024-25 year. She had health issues that limited her physical movements. Kiser said he assisted her during her final year.

That led to Lynn asking Kiser if he'd be willing to step into the position.

"I kind of have two jobs as of this year," Kiser said.

Everything he does at the school hasn't gone unnoticed. Kiser said when he told his school's math coach that he didn't feel like he deserved to be nominated for the Glenn Howell Distinguished Educator of the Year honor, she replied, "You do probably more on this campus than anybody."

"That in itself was kind of

overwhelming, that these other teachers see what I do, and they felt I deserved this nomination," Kiser said.

Lynn said, "Shanon leads with humility and consistency," Lynn said. "He is the kind of educator who doesn't seek the spotlight, but somehow makes others shine. This award isn't just a recognition of his talent — it's a celebration of his heart for students, his belief in his colleagues, and the lasting impact he's made on my leadership team and on our entire school community."

Coffee & Conversation

Join us for a casual morning of coffee and conversation with our Licensed Preneed Specialist and Family Service Counselors.

Learn more about planning ahead and the services we offer in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

When & Where:
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Ferreira Funeral Services & Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel
14397 US Hwy 301 S, Starke, FL 32091

Friday, November 21, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Ferreira Funeral Services
435 West Main St., Lake Butler, FL 32054
We look forward to seeing you there!

EARNING YOUR TRUST, NOT JUST YOUR TRANSACTION

WE ARE PROUD TO BE THE ONLY SMALL INDEPENDENT FUNERAL HOME IN THE UNION/BRADFORD COMMUNITIES.

Lake Butler, FL

ARCHER-MILTON

FUNERAL HOME

386.496.2008

Cameron Wilson - AnnaDayle Milton - Garrett Milton
Owner and LFD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Highly Rated Local Businesses! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

<p>DLPbank™ Dream. Live. Prosper.</p> <p>STARKE 131 N Cherry St (904) 964-7423</p> <p>LAKE BUTLER 255 SE 6th St (386) 496-3333</p>	<p>TEAL TILE CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME</p> <p>131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7423</p> <p>"Installers were great, prompt, & their work was excellent."</p>	<p>CF AC FALSTREAUX HEATING & AIR, INC.</p> <p>Craig Falstreux Heating & Air, Inc 228 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-2241</p> <p>"Love Craig and his team. They are honest and always go above and beyond to take care of the issues we have." ★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>
<p>ANDREWS SITE PREP</p> <p>386-867-0572 SERVICES 20 DIFFERENT COUNTIES!</p> <p>"I highly recommend them for installation and repair."</p>	<p>BRADFORD COUNTY EYE CENTER</p> <p>292 Lafayette St Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8076</p> <p>"Everyone was great. They went above and beyond. Very happy with the way I was treated. Looking forward to my next visit."</p>	<p>"Rod was a pleasure to work with! He nailed it! Thank you Rod! I'll be calling on you again for sure!"</p> <p>(904) 769-9779 Serving Lawtey & surrounding areas</p> <p>ROD CRAWFORD PLUMBING</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>
<p>"Great set of guys that came. Found my issue. Quick work."</p> <p>904-964-7061 864 N Temple Ave STE C Starke, FL 32091</p> <p>Durance PUMP</p>	<p>THE CHIROPRACTIC & INJURY CLINIC</p> <p>601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8018</p> <p>"Amazing staff & doctor! Very satisfied."</p>	<p>Gainesville and surrounding areas! (352) 327-7663 4739 NW 53rd Ave STE A, Gainesville, FL 32653</p> <p>Atlantic Roofing & Exteriors, LLC</p> <p>"The folks at Atlantic Roofing are top-notch"</p>
<p>STARKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 15501 NE 14TH Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-5441</p> <p>OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK GREENS FEE: \$10 CART RENTAL: \$20</p>	<p>R ROBERTS INSURANCE</p> <p>EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES</p> <p>Starke 904.964.7826 Keystone Heights 352.473.7209 Middleburg 904.282.7685</p> <p>We Are Your Local Healthcare Enrollment Center AUTO • HOME • MOTORCYCLE • BUSINESS ATV • BOATS • RV • LIFE • HEALTH www.george-roberts.com</p>	<p>PRITCHETT TRUCKING, INC.</p> <p>(386) 496-2630 1050 SE 6th Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054</p> <p>"EXCELLENT SERVICE!"</p>
<p>WORLEY CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIATES, INC.</p> <p>GENERAL & MARINE CONTRACTING STATE LICENSED GENERAL CONTRACTOR</p> <p>352-481-2255 CGC 060228 www.worleyconstruction.net</p>	<p>PHILLIP McDONALD PLUMBING AND SEPTIC 904-964-3737</p> <p>904-964-3737 740 S Orange St Starke, FL 32091</p> <p>"I absolutely recommend Phillip McDonald Plumbing and Septic!"</p>	<p>Bradford County Sheriff's Office Sheriff, Gordon Smith "We Care"</p> <p>945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 966-6161</p> <p>"They take care of business And take care of people at the same time."</p>
<p>TOWN & COUNTRY VETERINARY CLINIC</p> <p>1051 S Water St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-6411</p> <p>The staff showed they really cared about my boy... Went above and beyond!</p>	<p>AUNTIE LIL'S CHILD CARE CENTER</p> <p>904-303-1014 407 W. Washington St. Starke</p>	<p>"Very knowledgeable and caring staff!"</p> <p>HOMETOWN Health & Wellness</p> <p>260 S Lawrence Blvd, Suite 101 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 352-664-7702</p>
<p>Lake Area HEATING & AIR</p> <p>7415 State Rd 21 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-9595</p> <p>Formerly Mike Bertie Heating and Air, Serving Keystone Heights and surrounding areas since 2008.</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>	<p>SPORTING CHANCE</p> <p>218 Temple Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7434</p> <p>"Fast, friendly service! Kudos to Sporting Chance!"</p>	<p>Welcome to Rivers Flowing Church- where the river of God never runs dry!</p> <p>904-964-7061 22610 HWY 301 N Lawtey, FL 32054</p> <p>RIVERS FLOWING CHURCH</p> <p>SUN: 10AM WED: 7PM</p>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Classified Ads - 904-964-6305 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Class Ads for week Nov 13 2025

40 Notices

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

669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323

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

1BR/1BA. Clean, nice

safe area. \$850/mo. Lawn care included. 1/2 mi. N of Starke. Low utilities with FPL. Call 904-613-5715.

MOBILE HOME for rent. 2/1. All utilities included. 904-796-0818.

3 BR 1 Bath for \$900 a month. 415 W. Andrews St., Starke. Call 904-263-9645.

2 BR 2 Bath w/ Big carport for \$1500 a month. Only 2 people. No Animals. 1609 Deer Run. Lot 12, Starke. Call 904-263-9645.

3 BR 1 1/2 Bath. \$1500 a month. 13963 NE 144th Ave., Waldo. 904-263-9645

51 Lost/Found

LOST WALLET 10/28 at or in the vicinity of Huddle House. Wallet contains family photos, irreplaceable. Reward. Please contact Lynn @ 904-796-7233.

53 A Yard Sales

Famous Eunice Garage Sale-Fri. & Sat.8a til ? Women, men and girls

Where one call does it all!

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Southern Villas of Starke

Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.

Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL
Call 904-964-7295
TDD/TTY 711
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County **Telegraph** Lake Region **Monitor** UNION COUNTY **TIMES**

INDEX

40 Notice	57 For Sale
41 Vehicles Accessories	58 Building Materials
42 Motor Vehicles	59 Personal Services
43 Rv's & Campers	60 Secretarial Services
44 Boats	61 Scriptures
45 Land for Sale	62 Vacation/Travel
46 Real Estate Out of Area	63 Love Lines
47 Commercial Property Rent, Lease, Sell	64 Business Opportunity
48 Homes for Sale	65 Help Wanted
49 Mobile Homes for Sale	66 Investment Opportunity
50 For Rent	67 Hunting Land for Rent
51 Lost/Found	68 Rent to Own
52 Animals & Pets	69 Food Supplements
53 Yard Sales	70 Money to Lend
54 Keystone Yard Sales	72 Sporting Goods
55 Wanted	74 Computers & Computer Accessories
56 Trade or Swap	

Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay

Worded Classified Ad up to 25 words is \$10
Classified Display Ad is \$7.35 per col. inch
Deadline for Classified ads - **Tuesday 12 noon**

904-964-6305
classads@bctelegraph.com

WE ACCEPT
VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

WELL DRILLING

24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE

QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964

964-7061

STATE LICENSE #1305

DURANCE PUMP

Set Right Mobile Homes

Specializing In Relocations, Re-Levels, Set-Ups & Disposal

Rodney A. Carmichael, Owner
Email: set_right_homes@yahoo.com

904-364-6383

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Lic# IH/1025656



The Union County High School JROTC Raider Team: (front, l-r) Jordan Burgess, Ayleana Reeves, Joey Marmon, Davien Presley (team commander), Hunter Smith (co-commander), (middle, l-r) John Boyette, Phoenix Forbes, Jamaal Reynolds, Adrionna Clarke, Chloe Harris (Tiger battalion commander), Alexis Wills, Jacob Ferguson, (back, l-r) Parker Franck, Harbor Belot, Isabelle Kirsten, Mercedes Webb, Kaesin Ingram, Kaleb Bass and Kamerohn Wilson.

Union High JROTC Raider Team qualifies for state championship

BY CADET CAPT. KAESIN INGRAM
UCHS JROTC Public Affairs Officer

Once again, the Union County High School JROTC Raider Team qualified for the State Raider Championship, winning the overall Raider competition for the Northeast-Florida area in the Male-Mix category.

"We went in and showed the result of our hard work, not only to the other teams, but to ourselves," said Team Commander Davien Presley. "Glory to God."

The team gave its all at this year's annual Raiders State Qualification Meet, showing

incredible determination, teamwork and pride. Every cadet pushed past their limits, tackling tough events that tested both their strength and mental endurance. Their hard work and dedication caught the attention of judges and fellow teams, earning Union well-deserved respect and recognition.

Co-Commander Hunter Smith said, "Competition was stiff, but the best team always comes out on top. Again, all glory to God."

One cadet who truly stood out was Cadet Capt. Jamaal Reynolds. As a key member of the team, Reynolds led by example, pushing through every obstacle and motivating his

teammates to keep going, no matter how tough it got. He gave everything he had, pouring his blood, sweat and tears into every event to help lead the team to success.

Thanks to the efforts of Reynolds, his commander, assistant commander and the combined efforts of every determined team member, the UCHS Raider Team went beyond expectations. Their performance showed what it really means to be a Raider — strong, united and unstoppable.

The following is a brief description of the five events in

See RAIDER, page 14

Woman's cross-country walk brings her through area and overnight stay in Keystone

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Age is just a number. Judy Benjamin believes that. As she likes to say, "You don't have to curl up on the couch if you're turning 65 or 70 or 75 or 80."

Yet at 81, Benjamin is doing something most of us wouldn't attempt at any age — walking from one end of the U.S. to the other.

Benjamin's walk, which brought her through Bradford and Union counties on Nov. 7 and had her staying the night at Keystone Heights' The Inn at Palmetto, is about sharing a wonderful story about her life — the fact that lifestyle changes have led to a reversal of early onset Alzheimer's symptoms.

More importantly, she hopes sharing her wonderful story will lead to others being able to share wonderful stories about their lives.

"I've come a very, very long way," Benjamin said in an interview with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor on the morning of her departure from the Inn at Palmetto. "I just want to stay on this path, and I want to encourage other people to get on the path and stay healthy — physical health and mental health."

Rising from the 'depths of despair'

Benjamin was familiar with the devastating effects of Alzheimer's. Her mother struggled with the disease for 20 years before passing away.

When Benjamin was diagnosed with early onset symptoms at the age of 67, she said, "I was just in the depths of despair. I was so depressed. It was like, 'What can I do? I don't want to put my son through what my sister and I went through with our mother.'"

Benjamin was having trouble remembering things such as her phone number and her



Judy Benjamin, standing outside Keystone's The Inn at Palmetto, where she stayed the night on Nov. 7, holds a sign of the number of miles she's walked on a cross-country journey that began April 5.

grandchildren's names. She got lost when driving.

A friend of Benjamin's recommended she see Dr. Dale Bredesen, a neurologist who developed a protocol he believes reverses the cognitive decline in those with Alzheimer's.

Benjamin, who lives in Norfolk, Virginia, went to San Francisco, where she met with Bredesen for 2.5 hours, trying to record his theories that he was describing for her.

"At that point (in my life), I couldn't remember anything," Benjamin said. "I was furiously writing notes."

The result was that Benjamin became Bredesen's first patient to follow the neurologist's protocol, which consists of such things as exercising, eating right and getting good sleep.

Benjamin said she's careful not to stay she's been "cured" of Alzheimer's. As she put it, "you never know what's around the corner."

What she does know is that the symptoms she once had are now gone.

"I don't have foggy thinking anymore," Benjamin said. "I can read a newspaper article and remember it. When I get to the end of a column, I can remember

what it was about. I couldn't do that when I had the symptoms. I'd have to start at the beginning again."

The difference in her life inspired Benjamin to become a National Board-Certified Health and Wellness Coach.

"I studied hard and passed their tests," Benjamin said. "I have a health-coaching class. I specialize in brain health."

Bredesen's protocol isn't universally accepted as having a positive effect on those with Alzheimer's. Some skepticism has centered around Benjamin herself, who said she's heard neurologists and doctors say she's simply an exceptional case or that she didn't really have early onset Alzheimer's symptoms.

However, Benjamin said "hundreds" have shared stories like hers via the Alzheimer's Survivors Foundation, which she created.

"That is something to note," Benjamin said.

Ocean to ocean

The idea for a cross-country walk occurred to Benjamin while she was, of all things, walking.

See WALK, page 15

GAME ON 2025: FOOTBALL CONTEST

YOU COULD WIN \$50 CASH

IN THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR FOOTBALL CONTEST

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CONTEST SPONSORS!

1 AVON PARK RED DEVILS VS. BRADFORD TORNADES
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE
620 N Thompson St
Starke, FL 32091
904-368-1114

2 TEXAS LONGHORNS VS. GEORGIA BULLDOGS
EVAN DOUGLAS CONSTRUCTION, INC.
352-745-0935

3 N.C. WOLFPACK VS. MIAMI HURRICANES
BRYAN'S ACE HARDWARE
251 East Walker Drive • KH
Keystone Heights
352-473-4006

4 FLORIDA GATORS VS. OLE MISS REBELS
CLYATT WELL DRILLING
5941 SW State Rd 121 • Lake Butler, FL
386-496-2488

5 MISSISSIPPI ST. BULLDOGS VS. MISSOURI TIGERS
SPIRES IGA
610 SW 1st Street
Lake Butler
386-496-3361

6 VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES VS. FSU SEMINOLES
REDDISH & WHITE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
REDDISH & WHITE, CPAs
134 E. Call St. Starke, FL
904-964-7555

7 IOWA HAWKEYES VS. USC TROJANS
MURRAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP SUPERSTORES
Murray Ford Superstore
904-964-7200

8 CLEMSON TIGERS VS. LOUISVILLE CARDINALS
FALSTREUX HEATING & AIR, INC.
Serving All Of Florida
CRAIG FALSTREUX HEATING & AIR
228 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091
904-964-2241

PAGE 1

TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR WEEKLY FOOTBALL CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Pick the Week's Winners Win \$50 Cash

ENTER one TEAM Winner in space for each of GAMES OF THE WEEK.

Deadline: FRIDAY AT 5 pm

Biz 1 _____	Biz 8 _____	Biz 15 _____
Biz 2 _____	Biz 9 _____	Biz 16 _____
Biz 3 _____	Biz 10 _____	Biz 17 _____
Biz 4 _____	Biz 11 _____	Biz 18 _____
Biz 5 _____	Biz 12 _____	Biz 19 _____
Biz 6 _____	Biz 13 _____	Biz 20 _____
Biz 7 _____	Biz 14 _____	Biz 21 _____

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 Winners:

John Adkins & Pat Dickinson
missed 4 each; won with tiebreaker



Pat Dickinson
not pictured

John Adkins

ENTRANT INFO:

Name _____

Email _____

Phone# _____

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/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.)

Noble gets hat trick in 6-1 KHHS boys soccer win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Trenton Noble scored three goals as the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team defeated visiting Oak Hall 6-1 on Nov. 6.

Allowing only one goal was notable as freshman Mayson Youngblood stepped in to take the place of starting goalie Elijah Ortiz, who dislocated a finger during warmups.

Noble scored his team's first goal on a penalty kick in the ninth minute.

Kipton Spence found the net from approximately 30 yards out to put the Indians up 2-0 in the 23rd minute. Oak Hall had yet to attempt its first shot on goal, which would finally occur in the 27th minute.

Tucker Price's penalty kick in the final minute was stopped by the Oak Hall goalie, but Price



Trenton Noble (right) has his eye on the ball in the Indians' 6-1 win over Oak Hall.

was able to corral the rebound and put it in the net, sending the Indians into the break with a 3-0 lead.

Noah Jaramillo and Noble put shots in the net in the 48th and 49th minutes, respectively, before the Eagles scored their lone goal off a penalty kick in the 51st minute.

Noble got his hat trick with a goal in the 66th minute.

The Indians' Josef Ferdinand

recorded two assists, while Brayden Bell had one.

Keystone's junior high team played prior to the varsity match, getting four goals from Jovani Maldonado in a 6-3 win over Oak Hall.

Niko Jaramillo and Ben Tillman each scored a goal, with Jaramillo recording two assists and Tillman recording three.

See KHHS, page 15

KH girls lose 2-1 to Oak Hall

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School fell behind 2-0 in the first half and couldn't complete a successful rally, losing 2-1 to visiting Oak Hall in a girls soccer match on Nov. 7.

The Eagles scored goals in the 10th and 25th minutes, but failed to put together many serious scoring threats the remainder of the match.

Keystone's Kayden Huntley had a close-range shot in the 18th minute, but it was deflected before the ball was scooped up by Oak Hall goalie Zoe Ben-Soshan.

The Indians had several good looks in the final 14 minutes, but their shots were either off target or stopped by Ben-Soshan.

Keystone took more shots on goal than the Eagles in the second half, but it wasn't until Halea Lam connected from approximately 15 yards out in the 63rd minute that the Indians finally got on the board.

Oak Hall had a breakaway attempt in the final five minutes, but the Indians' Xana Briley prevented the Eagles from adding to their lead.

The Indians (1-2) went 1-1 in their previous matches, beginning with a 3-1 loss to visiting Newberry on Nov. 5 to open the regular season. Huntley scored Keystone's lone goal off a Kayle Buchanan assist, while Briley made five saves.

On Nov. 6, Keystone traveled to Ridgeview, winning 2-1. Huntley scored off a Tayler Buchanan assist and recorded an assist herself on a Lam goal. Briley made six saves.

Keystone's junior varsity team also played Ridgeview, winning 4-1. Abbygelle McGee scored two goals, while Juliette Marini and Ryleigh Thomas each scored one. Marini also had an assist.

It was the JV team's season opener.

The Indians varsity and JV teams played Suwannee this past Monday and were scheduled to play at Crescent City on Wednesday, Nov. 12. The varsity team travels to play Fernandina Beach on Friday, Nov. 14, at 5:30

p.m. On Wednesday, Nov. 19, Keystone hosts Buchholz, with the JV team playing at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity team playing at 7:20 p.m.

UCHS football team to play Holmes Co. in invitational

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's football team will continue its season as part of the Rural Class' Florida Invitational Tournament, with the sixth seed Tigers (2-7) traveling to play third seed Bonifay Holmes County (5-5) on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m.

If the Tigers win, they'll play second seed Port St. Joe (4-5), seventh seed Milton Central (3-6) or 10th seed Wewahitchka (2-7).

The FIT is for schools that aren't part of the Florida High School Athletic Association's state series.

THANK

Continued from page 9

Two of the members of Bean's committee were in attendance at the Veterans Day ceremony: Matt Johnson, former Camp Blanding post commander who currently serves as mayor of Green Cove Springs, and Howard Wanamaker, who is Clay County manager. Bean thanked both for their service.

Bean said it is a "treat" to talk to young people on the phone about their acceptance into a service academy. He recalled such a call he made last year in which "some young lady started crying."

"Then, I started crying," Bean said. "She got her dad on the phone, and we all started crying. We were just proud."

Bean told the crowd that Florida is second only to Texas in number of veterans and that when all 435 of the congressional districts in the

U.S. are considered, Florida's Fourth District ranks in the top five in number of veterans.

"So many veterans, in fact, that our office has two dedicated individuals who are military service agents," Bean said. "So, for any veteran here, it would be an honor to assist you with any type of military request or VA or any benefit request. I can't promise that we're going to get you the answer that you want, but I can promise you that at least we'll put it in front of the decision maker, where you shouldn't have to wait."

In his closing remarks, Bean said gratitude for this nation's veterans isn't confined to one day.

"Today is Veterans Day, but in America, every day is Veterans Day," Bean said.

Retired Rear Admiral James Aiken, who last served as the commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, was also a featured speaker. He chose to talk about the words in

the phrase, "Thank you for your service."

"The first word we're going to talk about is 'thanks.' It's a sense of gratitude," Aiden said. "It's to think well of. When we say, 'Thank you for your service,' it's beyond courtesy. It's not like when you go to the gas station, and they give you your receipt, and you say, 'Thanks.' No, it's a heartfelt thanks."

In talking about the word "you," Aiken said, "It's personalized gratitude. It's not for a broad group, but it's for an individual, an individual who raises his right hand and says, 'I will defend, and I will support, the Constitution of the United States against all enemies.'"

Aiken said "you" doesn't just refer to a service member, but also to his or her family. He said he was reminded of the words President Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter: "Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor also to the citizen



U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean, Florida's Fourth District



Retired Rear Admiral James Aiken



Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon

who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as he best can, the same cause."

In talking about the word "service," Aiken said it doesn't refer to service to self, but service to others.

"It's doing something that's bigger than ourselves," Aiken said. "It's embracing humility. It's embracing duty. I'm reminded of what Jesus said. He

said, 'The greatest among you will be your servant.'"

Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon read a Veterans Day proclamation the board of commissioners adopted on Oct. 28. It reads in part: "Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Florida, does hereby recognize and honor the bravery, dedication and service of

all United States veterans on this day and every day. We express our deepest gratitude to these patriots for their unwavering commitment to our country and the freedoms we hold dear."

The event also consisted of historical displays, bounce houses and slides for children and hamburgers and hot dogs sold at "World War II prices."

GAME ON 2025: FOOTBALL CONTEST

YOU COULD WIN \$50 CASH

IN THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR

FOOTBALL CONTEST



PAGE 2

SEE ENTRY FORM ON PREVIOUS PAGE

9 SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS VS. TEXAS A&M AGGIES
DURRANCE PUMP
864 N Temple Ave. • Starke
(904) 964-7061

10 SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS VS. NAVY MIDSHIPMEN
PIPELINE CONSTRUCTORS INC.
Site & Utility Contractor
Ben Denmark
President
2117 N Temple Ave
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-2019

11 WISCONSIN BADGERS VS. INDIANA HOOSIERS
BHS TORNADO OF THE WEEK
JACKSON PARMETER won the BHS Homecoming drawing for \$100, and decided to donate it back to Bill Goodge!
titanchevy.com
(904) 964-3200

12 ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS VS. LSU TIGERS
TEAL TILE
131 N. Cherry St.
Starke, FL
904-964-7423
CARPET ONE

13 OKLAHOMA SOONERS VS. ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE
HANDI HOUSE OF STARKE
Handi-Houses
THEIR PORTALS
"the economical building with hundreds of uses"
(904) 964-3330
1670 S Walnut St • Starke, FL

14 NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH VS. PITTSBURGH PANTHERS
Jackson Building Supply
JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY
Starke Lake Butler
904-964-6078 386-496-3079

15 MINNESOTA GOPHERS VS. OREGON DUCKS
NORTH FLORIDA PHARMACY
405 S. Lawrence Blvd
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
352-478-2057

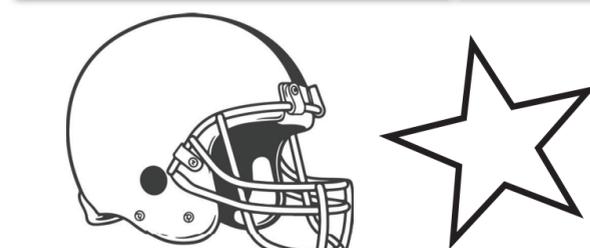
16 L.A. CHARGERS VS. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
DLP BANK
STARKE, FL • (904) 964-7830
LAKE BUTLER, FL • (386) 496-3333
Member FDIC
EDWARD DURANT CY CUBBEDGE
DURABLE AND TOUGH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

17 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. BUFFALO BILLS
LAKE AREA TITLE
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

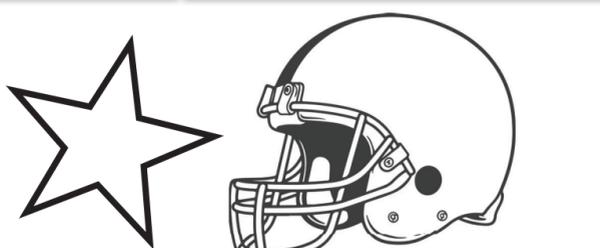
18 WASHINGTON COMMANDERS VS. MIAMI DOLPHINS
A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST
V. Todd
Ferreira
Funeral Services
"Brooks Turner Memorial Chapel 904-964-5757
Lake Butler Chapel 386-496-1400"
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU
www.ferreirafuneralservices.com

19 CHICAGO BEARS VS. MINNESOTA VIKINGS
THORNTON & CO REALTY
50 West Main Street
Lake Butler, FL
904-364-6890
Thornton & Co. Realty

20 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS VS. L.A. RAMS
QUALITY PLUMBING
(352) 377-1009
Quality-Plumbing.com
QUALITY PLUMBING OF GAINESVILLE INC.



21 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS VS. DENVER BRONCOS
HOMETOWN INSURANCE
904-964-3375
hometowninsurancecfl.com
hometown insurance agency



* 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.]

Tornadoes to begin playoffs vs. Avon Park Red Devils

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's football team will host a Region 2-2A quarterfinal game against the Avon Park Red Devils on Friday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

The Tornadoes (9-1) found out their opponent and seeding during the Florida High School Athletic Association's bracket-release show on Nov. 6. Bradford is the number one seed in Region 2, while Avon Park (6-4) is the eighth seed. Both teams were champions of their respective districts.

If the Tornadoes defeat the Red Devils, they will host a Friday,

Nov. 21, semifinal game between fourth seed The Villages (9-1) or fifth seed Tampa Berkeley Prep (4-4), who'll play each other in the quarterfinals.

The region's other quarterfinal matchups pit second seed Clearwater Calvary Christian (7-3) against seventh seed Alachua Santa Fe (7-3) and third seed Cocoa (5-4) against sixth seed Newberry (5-5).

Matchups in the other three regions in Class 2A are as follows.

—Region 1: top seed Jacksonville Bolles (9-1) vs. eighth seed DeFuniak Springs Walton (4-6); second seed Pensacola Catholic (9-1) vs.

seventh seed Panama City Bozeman (6-4); third seed Santa Rosa Beach South Walton (7-3) vs. sixth seed Freeport (5-4); fourth seed Tallahassee Florida High (4-6) vs. fifth seed Baldwin (7-3).

—Region 3: top seed Cardinal Mooney (9-1) vs. eighth seed Coconut Creek North Broward Prep (5-5); second seed St. Petersburg Lakewood (9-1) vs. seventh seed Boynton Beach Somerset Academy-Canyons (5-5); third seed Belle Glade Glades Central (9-1) vs. sixth seed West Palm Beach King's Academy (5-5); fourth seed Fort Lauderdale Calvary Christian (7-2) vs. fifth seed Fort Myers Bishop Verot (4-6).

—Region 4: top seed Miami Immaculata-La Salle (10-0) vs. eighth seed Miami Somerset Academy (7-3); second seed Fort Lauderdale Cardinal Gibbons (7-3) vs. seventh seed Miami Monsignor Pace (4-6); third seed Miami Killian (7-2) vs. sixth seed Miami Carol City (6-4); fourth seed Miami Gulliver Prep (6-3) vs. fifth seed Miami Ransom Everglades (6-4).

A look at Avon Park

The Red Devils have won two state championships, winning the Class 2A title with a 34-0 win over Bonifay Holmes County in 1987 and successfully defending their championship the following season with a 14-7 win over Williston.

Avon Park was the Class B state runner-up in 1966 and had three seasons (1965, 1989, 1997) when it was one win away from playing for a state title.

However, in nine playoff appearances since 2001, the Devils have a postseason record of 3-9, with their last trip occurring in 2020. Their last playoff win was in 2017.

Avon Park's overall postseason record in 17 appearances is 14-15.

The Red Devils may have a

record above .500 this year (after going 1-9 in 2024), but all six of their wins have come against teams that finished the season with four wins or less. The combined record of the teams Avon Park has beaten is 15-44.

Avon Park's results are as follows.

- 24-18 overtime loss to 3A Mullberry.
- 30-13 win over 3A Arcadia DeSoto County.
- 14-8 win over Sunshine State Athletic Association member Wauchula Hardee.
- 21-8 loss to SSAA member Frostproof.
- 17-14 loss to SSAA member LaBelle.
- 29-19 win over 5A Cape Coral Ida Baker.
- 12-6 overtime win over 2A Lakeland Tenoroc.
- 60-6 win over 2A Lake Alfred Discovery.
- 34-0 win over 2A Lake Placid.
- 30-28 loss to 7A Kissimmee Tohopekaliga.

The Red Devils are scoring an average of 24.7 points per game. They rush for 148 yards per game and pass for 92.9 yards per game.

Senior Tayvion Jones leads the ground attack, having rushed for 720 yards and six touchdowns on 97 carries. Senior Jahem Williams has 399 yards and two touchdowns on 75 carries.

Senior quarterback Jabhari Payne has completed 73 of 137 passes for 929 yards and 11 touchdowns. He's been intercepted nine times.

The receiving corps is led by senior Tayon Jones, who has 14 catches for 282 yards and four touchdowns, and senior Chris Kelly, who has 20 catches for 264 yards and three touchdowns.

Opponents are scoring an average of 14.4 points per game.

Avon Park is led in tackles by senior linebacker Tyler Slate, who has 87, with 16 for loss. Senior linebacker Frankie Robinson has 70 tackles, while Williams, a linebacker, and William Phillips,



Important Info:

- Road closed beginning at 4:00 pm (indicated in red).
- All guests will enter through metal detectors at both entrances.
- No re-entry
- Tickets are non-refundable after you enter metal detectors.

Metal detectors will be placed at both entrances to David Hurse Stadium for the Nov. 14 playoff football game. The portion of Washington Street in front of the school district offices will be closed to traffic beginning at 4 p.m.

a senior lineman, have 55 and 51, respectively. Phillips has made 16 turnovers off 12 fumbles and 10 tackles for loss. The Red Devils have created four interceptions.

RAIDER

Continued from page 12

the competition.

—5K. Cadets run a 5-kilometer run against all other teams in their division. Union ranked first with a time of 27:13.

—Cross-Country Rescue.

Cadets carry a simulated human body, ranging from 80 to 150 pounds, and carry 35-pound rucksacks while they go over and under different obstacles and obscurities. Our team ranked first with a time of 7:03.

—Item Relay. Cadets carry 25-35-pound objects from zone to zone, with each cadet traveling 60 yards and around a cone into the next zone. Union ranked second with a time of 5:37.

—Raider Fitness Challenge. Cadets complete an obstacle course, including a low crawl, over obstacle, zig-zag path, and heavy object carry. Union ranked first with a time of 1:57.

—One-Rope Bridge. Cadets construct, navigate and deconstruct a one-rope bridge, using a variety of complex knots. Union finished first with a time of 1:38.

UPON ENTERING THIS FACILITY PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

APPROVED BAGS

12"x6"x12" clear plastic bag

1-gallon freezer bag

clutch with wrist strap "no larger than 4.5"x6.5"

clutch with shoulder strap "no larger than 4.5"x6.5"

MEDICALLY NECESSARY ITEMS (AFTER PROPER INSPECTION)

PROHIBITED BAGS

BACKPACKS	COMPUTER BAGS	FANNY PACKS
BINOCULAR CASES	CAMERA BAGS	LUGGAGE OF ANY KIND
BRIEFCASES	CINCH/DRAWSTRING BAGS	PURSES

ANY BAG LARGER THAN THE PERMISSIBLE SIZE

ALL BAGS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION

TOBACCO PRODUCTS OR SUBSTITUTES ARE NOT ALLOWED

ALCOHOL IS NOT ALLOWED

COOLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED

OUTSIDE FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS ARE NOT ALLOWED

PETS AND ANIMALS ARE NOT ALLOWED

EXCEPT SERVICE ANIMALS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY TRAINED TO AID A DISABLED PERSON
Florida Statute 413.08

Please make note of the bag policy at David Hurse Stadium before attending the Nov. 14 playoff game.

Pair Up for a

\$600 Bonus

Now through October 31, 2025

1. Open a free checking account with select activities and receive a **\$300 bonus!**¹

THEN

2. Open a new 13-month CD at 4.25% APY² and receive an additional **\$300 bonus!**³

Scan QR code and use promo code: **25SUMMERBONUS**

Shining Stars of the Week!

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

Rhett Jefferson
5th grade
Bradford Elementary
Rhett is always ready to learn. He's kind to others, respectful to his teachers, a hard worker, a good friend, with a kind heart and Spirit. He's the biggest Tornado Fan!

Derek Warren
2nd grade
Starke Elementary
While waiting in the front office with several other kids, Derek was very quiet and followed the rules. He even reminded the other students to quiet down when it became noisy!

Violet Holcomb
3rd grade
Providence Christian Academy
Violet's teacher says she has worked very hard to improve herself this year. Violet is a friend to all of her classmates and is willing to go the extra mile to help anyone in need.

Sebastian Flores
4th grade
Lighthouse Elementary
This is the third year that Sebastian Flores has attended Light Christian Academy. He is an Honor Roll Student and he excels in all subjects. He gets along well with his classmates and teacher, and he loves coming to Light Christian Academy. He truly is the definition of a Shining Star.

Parker Hutchins
K5
Hope Christian Academy
Parker Hutchins is a diligent student and a super friend to many!

Thank you... to our sponsors!

Florida Credit Union 904-964-1427
fclu.org/600-bonus

1. Offer can be canceled at any time. Free membership is open to anyone within Florida Credit Union's 48 county field of membership. Anyone who has held a checking account with FCU in the past 24 months will not qualify for the incentive. Must be 18 years old or older to qualify. One per household. Credit approval and initial \$5 open deposit required. \$500 cumulative direct deposit amount must be made to this account within the first 60 days of account opening. Your direct deposit needs to be an electronic deposit of your paycheck, pension, or government benefit (such as SSI) from your employer or the government. Person-to-person payments (such as Cash App, Venmo, or PayPal) are not considered a direct deposit. If the requirements are met and the account remains open and in good standing for 90 days, the \$300 bonus will be credited to the account. \$300 is considered interest and will be reported on IRS form 1099-INT. Prior terms subject to change. Full-service checking includes direct deposit, Visa debit card, online banking, and eStatements. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 10/07/2025. Limited time offer subject to change at any time without notice. See share certificate agreement for current rates, terms and requirements. Minimum balance required to open share certificate varies per certificate with a maximum of \$5,000,000. After maturity, if you choose to roll over your CD, you will earn dividends according to the CD agreement or at the then current APY as stated on fclu.org at that time. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawals which may reduce earnings. Fees may reduce earnings. 3. To receive the \$300 CD bonus, you must qualify for the \$300 checking bonus and open a new 13-month Certificate of Deposit (CD) with a minimum deposit of \$25,000. Must be funded with money currently not on deposit at Florida Credit Union. The CD must be opened between July 28 and October 31, 2025, and remain open for the full term. If both the checking and CD account requirements are met and accounts remain in good standing for 90 days, the \$300 bonus will be credited to the checking account. Bonus is considered interest and will be reported on IRS Form 1099-INT. Early withdrawal penalties may apply, in addition, if the 13-Month Promotional CD is closed for any reason before the maturity date, you will be required to reimburse the full \$300 CD bonus back to Florida Credit Union. CD must be opened within 30 days of the checking account opening date to be qualified for the promotion. *Insured by NCUA* FCUMKNP0582-1025

Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.

WALK

Continued from page 12

"I was out for a short walk. I like walking," Benjamin said. "I thought, 'You know? I bet I could walk across the United States. Wouldn't that be something? I could carry a message.'"

The more she mulled the idea over, the more she became convinced she could do it.

"It's really just putting one foot in front of the other," Benjamin said.

Finally, what was an idea in late 2024 became reality on April 5, 2025, in San Diego, with the end goal of reaching St. Augustine.

"I started by dipping my toes in the Pacific, with the objective of dipping my toes in the Atlantic Ocean," Benjamin said.

When she stayed the night in Keystone, Benjamin had walked 2,700-plus miles. Those miles consisted of walking up to 12 hours a day prior to the time change. She's recently been walking six to seven hours a day.

Benjamin said she's had good weather for most of her trip, with only a few days where it rained too hard to do any walking. On those days, she stayed inside the RV that accompanies her. The RV, which has had multiple drivers along the way, carries supplies and offers a place to sleep when she can't find a motel or inn.

If the rain's not too bad, she'll walk in it — up to a point.

"I've got a huge, orange poncho that I put on," Benjamin said. "I walk as long as I can



Judy Benjamin is pictured leaving California, where her journey began. The walk, which began in San Diego, will end in St. Augustine.

stand wet feet."

Besides the weather, Benjamin's only concerns have been keeping an eye on traffic as well as being on the lookout for loose dogs. She said she loves animals and isn't afraid of them, but admitted "it's a little scary when six dogs surround you."

"I've started carrying dog biscuits in my pocket," Benjamin said. "I also have walking sticks. At one point in Arizona, when I had a bunch of (dogs) surround me, I just beat the sticks together

— metal sticks — and went in a circle. They looked at me like, 'This lady's crazy. We're not going to bother her.'"

Besides putting one foot in front of the other, Benjamin passed the time listening to classical music, podcasts and books.

"I've listened to all of Agatha Christie's murder mysteries, and I've listened to historical novels and biographies — Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt. It's just been

so joyful."

On her stops along the way, Benjamin has passed out cards with information about her and the Alzheimer's Survivors Foundation. She has shared her story with others and often has had no trouble finding someone else whose life has been touched by Alzheimer's in some way. Benjamin said she was at a convenience store when she learned a man in line with her had a grandmother who passed away with Alzheimer's. The clerk behind the counter then said she had an aunt with Alzheimer's.

"It's just amazing how many people are suffering with this," Benjamin said.

If you'd like to learn more about Benjamin and her journey, visit judywalks.com, which also features links to her social-media sites.

For more on her foundation, please visit alzheimerssurvivors.org.

When Benjamin dips her toes in the Atlantic Ocean in St. Augustine, it will bring an end to a routine of walking all day every day that has lasted over half a year.

"I have no idea what I will do next because I am so used to getting up every day and putting on my walking shoes and going out the door," Benjamin said.

Whatever she does, you can be sure it won't be curled up on a couch.

"I'm looking forward to an active future," Benjamin said. "I've got lots of plans on continuing to spread the word. Who knows? I might walk across another country."



Noah Jaramillo (right) and an Oak Hall player chase after an airborne ball.

KHHS

Continued from page 13

Justin Perez had an assist as well in what was the team's first match of the season.

Keystone's varsity team opened the regular season with a 4-2 win at Orange Park on Nov. 4. Jaramillo, Noble, Luke Buchanan and A.J. Nilsen each had a goal. Sammy Wachua recorded two assists, while Landon Spence had one.

On Nov. 5, the Indians lost 4-2 to visiting Newberry. Nilsen and Spence each had one goal, while

Noble and Wachua each had one assist.

Keystone played Columbia this past Monday and was scheduled to host Crescent City on Wednesday, Nov. 12. The Indians will travel to play Fernandina Beach on Friday, Nov. 14, at 7:20 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, Keystone plays at Middleburg at 7:20 p.m.

The junior varsity team will host P.K. Yonge on Monday, Nov. 17, at 5 p.m. and play prior to the varsity match at Middleburg at 5:30 p.m.



PRITCHETT
TRUCKING, INC.

1050 SE 6th St,
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(386) 496-2630

WAY TO GO
EVA WHITEHEAD!
2X STATE CHAMPION!

1

Congratulations on making history!



WAY TO GO
EVA WHITEHEAD!



CLYATT
WELL DRILLING
386-496-2488

Licensed & Insured

Sales & Service for

- Well Drilling
- Pumps
- Water Treatment

5941 SW SR-12
Lake Butler, FL 32054



CONGRATULATIONS
EVA WHITEHEAD!



610 SW 1st St,
Lake Butler, FL 32054
spiresmarket.com
386-496-3361

We would like to congratulate our daughter,
Eva Whitehead
for having another stellar season!
2X STATE CHAMPION!



- 1ST PLACE 200 METER IM
- 2ND PLACE 100 METER BREASTSTROKE

We love you Eva!
- Mom & Dad

Congratulations Eva Whitehead!
Union County High School Swim
2x STATE CHAMPION!

UNION COUNTY TIMES

Celebrate Eva's Success!
If you'd like to place an ad congratulating Eva on her accomplishments in next week's publication, please call 904-964-6305

**Forever Faithful.
Forever Remembered.**



Honoring the Loyalty and Love That Saved Lives!



Bradford Pet Care Hospital
701 E Call St, Starke, FL
(904) 964-3906 •

To our brave, four-legged friends who fought for freedom and country...

Thank You!



**The Clipping Corner
Pet Spa**
(352) 475-5270
265 NE Commercial Cir,
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

BRONCO DRILLING INC.

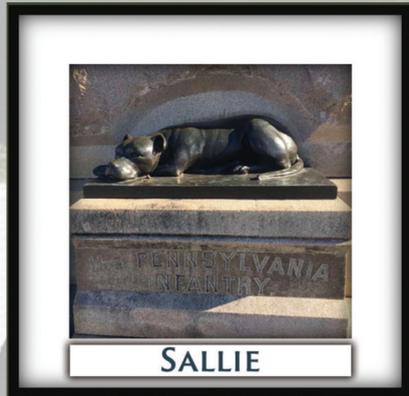
Thank you to all our furry, four-legged veterans... WE OWE YOU OUR DEBT OF GRATITUDE!



969 SE State Road 100 • Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(352) 473 0534 • broncodrillinginc.com

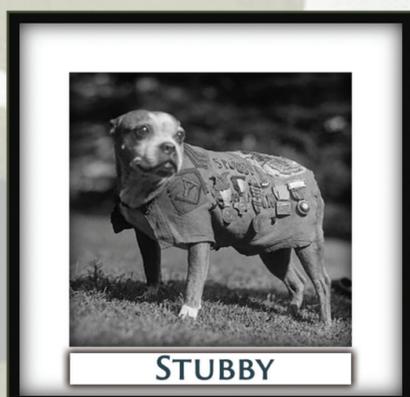
IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE SERVICE

ANIMALS WHO STOOD BESIDE OUR HEROES.



SALLIE

During the Civil War, Sallie was the mascot of the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry. She was with the unit from puppyhood, licking the wounds of her human comrades and lifting their spirits. Two months before the war's end, she died of a bullet wound on the front line.



STUBBY

Stubby was a stray, smuggled to Europe by a soldier with the 102nd Infantry Regiment during World War I. He charmed troops by learning bugle calls and how to salute with his right paw. But he contributed in more important ways too: He alerted soldiers to gas attacks and even captured a German spy dressed as a U.S. soldier, ultimately serving in 17 battles. His heroics earned him the distinction of being the first dog to receive a rank – sergeant – from the U.S. armed forces.



GABE

One heroic pooch from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Gabe, was a pound puppy before he was adopted and trained for military service. Just weeks after completing training in 2006 with his handler, Army Staff Sgt. Chuck Shuck, the two deployed to Iraq, where Gabe sniffed out insurgent explosives, ammunition and other weapons. He was exceptionally productive, racking up 26 finds during his 170 combat patrols. Gabe returned home laden with accolades, and Shuck adopted him when he retired.



LUCCA

A Marine Corps explosives detection dog, Lucca served deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan during her six-year career, leading nearly 400 patrols and identifying about 40 improvised explosive devices. Not a single Marine was injured while following the half German shepherd, half Belgian Malinois. Shortly after she found an IED, another device detonated, badly injuring Lucca. Her handler applied a tourniquet and she was quickly medevaced for advanced treatment. She survived, but she lost her left front leg.

Thank

You!



CHIPS

A German shepherd-collie-husky mix, Chips served overseas during World War II as one of the members of the military's newly formed K-9 Corps. During the invasion of Sicily in 1943, Chips attacked an enemy machine gun team firing at soldiers in his platoon. He got a scalp wound and powder burns, but was credited with saving the lives of his human teammates. Some 75 years later, Chips received a posthumous Dickin Medal, a prestigious international award for valor in animal warriors.

Silent Heroes. Eternal Courage.



(904) 964-6411
1051 S Water Street
Starke, FL 32091

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PAST AND PRESENT SERVICE ANIMALS.

WE HONOR THOSE FRIENDS WHO WENT BEFORE US...

Charles
Custom Memorials
561 NW Hilton Ave. Lake City, FL
(386) 755-4001

A Bond Unbroken, Your Service has not been in vain...

THANK YOU!

DOGGY
Day Spa
(386) 213-7744

2638 SE State Road 21 Ste 2 • Melrose, Florida
(386) 213-7744

