

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024

146th year, 19th Issue — \$1

## Whitehead swims to title and into history

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School junior Eva Whitehead faced pressure and her own expectations like a champ, and in the end that's exactly what she ended up being — a champ.

Whitehead won the 200-yard individual medley at the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A state finals in swimming on Nov. 15 at Ocala's Florida Aquatics Swimming and Training center, making her the first UCHS student to win a state title in the sport.

"It feels pretty good," said Whitehead, who earned the school's first region-level championship the previous week.

Whitehead, who has competed at state in each of her three years at UCHS, swam a time of 2:00.01, which bettered her Region 1-championship time of 2:01.45 the previous week.

It was an impressive performance considering that Whitehead was 22nd in the event at the 2023 state finals. She wasn't happy about that and said



Union County High School's Eva Whitehead (center) displays the two medals she earned — including one for a championship — at the FHSAA Class 1A state finals in swimming. Whitehead, pictured with her parents, Brad and Jennifer, earned her school's first-ever state title in the sport by winning the 200 IM.

she worked hard at being more than just good. She focused even more on the work she put in at the pool, what foods she was eating and the amount of sleep she was getting.

Still, was she expecting going from 22nd to state champ?

"I was not — not that big of a jump," Whitehead said. "I was hoping to get top eight."

UCHS Coach Brad Whitehead, who is Eva's father and Union County's sheriff, said, "We knew she was getting stronger and getting faster."

Eva Whitehead said she was looking to improve in all areas of the IM, which includes 50 meters of four different strokes — butterfly, back, breast and freestyle. One particular stroke, however, seemed to be the difference maker.

"My breaststroke has improved drastically since last year," she said.

In fact, Whitehead also competed in the 100-yard breaststroke at state, earning a medal with a fourth-place finish.

See SWIM, page 3



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**WORTH NOTING**

**Create a holiday table arrangement**

For the November meeting of the Alligator Creek Garden Club, Tracy Meadows will demonstrate how to make an easy yet attractive arrangement to grace your holiday table. For a nominal fee to cover materials (\$5), participants can create their own arrangements under Tracy's guidance. She will also show how to modify the arrangement for any of the upcoming holidays.

Join the club Thursday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. at the Bradford County Senior Center located at 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke (north 301 in front of the health department).

The public is invited. They will have refreshments, door prizes and a plant exchange. If you wish, you may bring a plant to share, but more important, bring yourself and your friends.

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

**Enter Starke Christmas Parade**

Secure your place in the Starke Christmas Parade by contacting the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce for an entry form at 904-964-5278 or pam@northfloridachamber.com. The application deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 10 at noon. The parade will take place Saturday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

**Vendors invited to downtown events**

Vendors are invited set up during holiday events in downtown Starke. Shop Small Saturday will take place on Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas on Call Street will take place Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For applications, please contact the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce at 904-964-5278 or pam@northfloridachamber.com.

## Arrested for allowing dog to kill neighbor's pet

Said God told her to

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford deputies arrested a 42-year-old Brooker woman after they said she entered a neighbor's RV without permission and stood by while her dog attacked and killed her neighbor's dog.

Mary Catherine Holton was arrested on Wednesday, November 13, for aggravated animal cruelty. She pleaded not guilty to the charge.

According to an arrest report, the victim arrived home on the evening of Thursday, November 7, to find her small maltipoo dog "Tuxedo" dead in a pool of blood.

The victim also found a pink tumbler cup on her kitchen counter, which she said did not belong to her, and a black



Holton

sneaker outside the residence with the matching shoe in her kitchen.

"(The victim) stated that her dog was very friendly and would run to the front door and bark every time someone approached," wrote reporting officer Zachary Jones in the arrest document. "(The victim) also stated that the previous evening, while turning her vehicle around in her driveway, there was a white female walking a brown dog she described as a boxer in her driveway."

The deputy added that after the victim asked the woman to leave her property, the "woman angrily yelled back before leaving."

Several neighbors told deputies they saw a woman with dirty blonde hair walking around the area with what they described as a tan and brown pit bull.

Surveillance video shot the day after the crime from a nearby home showed a woman walking with a tan and brown dog, and four construction workers repairing the victim's house the day before the incident told deputies they saw the woman in the video walking the dog while holding a pink tumbler cup.

Deputies then contacted the defendant at her home.

"Holton stated that she was walking the brown and tan dog and had gone onto the victim's property and believed that God told her to go into the RV," wrote Jones in the report. "Holton stated that upon entering, the brown and tan dog attacked the victim's dog. Holton stated that she did not know if the dog died or not and left."

## County coordinator cleared by ethics commission

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

In a public report dated Oct. 30, 2024, the State of Florida Ethics Commission has found County Coordinator Jimmy Williams cleared of all three charges brought against him.

Williams was accused of using his position to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, using his position to secure a disproportionate benefit for himself or another, and having an employment or contractual relationship with a business entity that is subject to the regulation of the county...creating a conflict between his private interests and the performance of his public duties. The complaint was dismissed with the issuance of the public report.

The matter started in October 2023 when Union County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Kellie Rhoades and her Deputy Clerk Pam Woodington

brought the three allegations against Williams before the Union County Board of County Commissioners. The claims stemmed from the permitting process on a house Williams was building.

The county board investigated and found no issues in the matter. Rhoades and Woodington then drove to the Gainesville office of State Attorney Brian Kramer to submit the allegations.

In response, the board hired labor attorneys Constangy and Brooks to conduct an investigation on its behalf.

While Kramer's report to the board found substance to the allegations, the labor attorneys found nothing and even commented on the inaccuracies in the state attorney's report, including the fact that the custodian of public records (Rhoades) did not supply the requested and subpoenaed records of emails related to the matter.

This was confirmed by Union

County's IT Specialist. Constangy and Brooks found no sufficient evidence of wrongdoing by Williams. The matter was then pushed on to the Florida State Ethics Commission by Kramer and Rhoades.

During much of this legal matter, Williams deemed it necessary to hire the services of an attorney of his own.

The county coordinator was put on administrative leave with pay for most of this time, then allowed to return to his job with stipulations.

When first hired, the board had no issue with the fact that Williams was a contractor who built houses in Union and the surrounding counties. As a condition of his reinstatement, Williams was required by the board to agree not to build any more houses in the county.

The county coordinator said he is glad to be cleared of all charges, but he regrets the effect the process has had on him.

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**Democratic Women meet Nov. 21**

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet early this month, on Thursday,

Nov. 21. They will focus on an election postmortem and make plans for the holiday season. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30. All Democrats are welcome. Meetings are held at the Melrose Center, 309 S.R. 26, Melrose, FL 32666. For further information,

please contact 352-235-4161 or Info@dwc-la.org.




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# Johnson joins Osteen on school board

*Hartley begins second term as superintendent*

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

On the eve of joining the Bradford County School Board as its newest member, Julie Johnson said she was both nervous and excited.

Since June when she found out her candidacy was unopposed, time seems to have sped up.

"I went today and got my badge. So, I said, 'Well, I guess that's pretty official.' But I'm very excited, very ready to get started," she said.

Johnson grew up in Union County, the daughter of Henry and Jana Redding. She graduated from high school there, knowing since the ninth grade her career would be in education. After high school, she met and married her husband, Cody, son of Jeff and Carrie Johnson. They settled here in Bradford County where Cody grew up after marrying in 2012. Today they have two boys, a one-year-old and a nine-year-old who is attending school in Bradford County.

Johnson taught in Lake Butler for six years before making her move to teaching for Florida Virtual School in 2016. FLVS is older than you might think, having started in 1997. But when she joined, the elementary program was still very new, and her experience contributed to building the program.

"Whenever I made the move to Florida Virtual School, it was really just to grow as a teacher and grow in the world of education. Even pre-COVID, doing home school and doing school online is such a big thing. That's where education is going. So much of what we do now is



Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley with Cheryl Canova, who has retired from the school board.

on the computer with artificial intelligence and things like that. So, I really wanted to grow as an educator and learn new things and help students all over the state of Florida, because the students that I'm working with are all the way from the Panhandle down to Miami."

She teaches a class of fifth-graders math, science, social studies and language arts.

Over the years, she's added two master's degrees to her degrees in elementary education, one in reading and literacy and the other in educational leadership.

"Since I was in ninth grade, I declared my major for my AA, and started working on it, so that that's really always been my focus. I don't think I've ever had any vision of doing anything

outside of education," Johnson said.

For her, taking the oath of office to become a school board member is not just a natural next step but the fulfillment of a dream.

"My background in education is definitely the reason why I've always wanted to do this, but this has been kind of a dream of mine forever," she said.

Doing it required overcoming some discomfort.

"I don't think I ever thought I really would have the actual nerve to go out in public and put myself out there like that," she said.

"I'm not a big risk taker, and I'm not one to be in the spotlight, so it was definitely out of my comfort zone. But I'm so glad that I did, because I'm

hoping with this position, I can continue with what's happening in Bradford County and help to make a difference for the kids in this county, because that's really what matters."

While some family and friends, knowing she is naturally shy and risk averse, may have been surprised by her decision, their support made all the difference.

"I don't think I would have had the courage to do it without them, for sure. Cody is so supportive," she said of her husband, who, working for fire rescue, is also active in the community. His support and encouragement are constant, she said.

"My family support, especially Cody, my parents, Cody's parents, everyone in our family is just absolutely amazing."

There was another person whose support meant so much to Johnson, and that is the school board member she is replacing, Cheryl Canova.

"She is such an inspiration to me," she said, mentioning the close bond between Canova and the Johnson family, which has in turn influenced her. She has worked with Canova, getting involved with Communities for Schools by mentoring a highschooler in the Take Stock in Children Program. "She is such an incredible person inside and out."

Johnson said she has big shoes to fill but wants to continue Canova's legacy of service in education, encouraging students to stay in school and take their opportunities seriously in Bradford's schools and beyond.

Johnson was sworn into her new position Tuesday by Judge Tatum Davis alongside returning School Board Member Candace Osteen and Superintendent Will Hartley.



New Bradford School Board Member Julie Johnson with Judge Tatum Davis.



Bradford School Board Member Candace Osteen with Judge Tatum Davis.

## SWIM

Continued from page 1

Whitehead placed third in the 200 IM at the District 1 meet, finishing behind Bolles swimmers Ella Gotham, a fellow junior, and Gracyan Lanning, a senior and Notre Dame commit. She beat both at the Region 1 meet, which meant she was the event's number-one seed going into the state finals.

She admitted she was nervous in the days leading up to state, but once the day arrived, the focus turned to swimming. She stayed close with the Bolles swimmers during the first four laps and began creating a little separation toward the end of the fifth lap (the first in the breaststroke). When Whitehead made her turn into the sixth lap, she began pulling away and held a lead until the end.

Gotham was second with a time of 2:02.36, while Lanning was third with a time of 2:02.39.

Whitehead, a club swimmer since the age of 6, knows the two Bolles swimmers well and has been competing against them for a while.

"I was really happy to beat them," she said.

According to her father, a crowd of approximately 30 people from Union County cheered her on. Whitehead said it was "really cool" to see the people there to support her and enjoyed giving them the number-one sign after her race.

"I've been lucky to have the community support," she said.

Whitehead had already earned All-American status for the 200 IM time she swam at the Region 1 meet. At state, she became an All-American in the 100 breaststroke with a fourth-place time of 1:03.25. She was the event's sixth seed going in and improved upon her Region 1 time, which was 1:03.93, and her sixth-place time of 1:04.23 in the prelims at state.

Victoria Edgar of Bolles won the event with a time of 1:02.48. Addison Bitel of Windermere Prep and Bolles' Lanning placed second and third, respectively, with times of 1:02.65 and 1:02.81.

Coming in behind Whitehead in fifth was Bolles' Savannah

Branon, who had a time of 1:03.43.

Whitehead said she was grateful the 100 breaststroke occurred after the 200 IM.

"There was less stress going into my second event," she said.

This was Whitehead's first year competing in the 100 breaststroke after competing in the 200 IM and 100 backstroke her freshman and sophomore years.

During her sophomore year, she became UCHS' first-ever district champ in swimming, winning the titles in both the 200 IM and 100 backstroke.

Whitehead, who's a USA Swimming Scholastic All-American, had already been receiving interest from collegiate swim programs, but that interest increased after her region and state performances.

"I've had a lot of SEC and ACC schools reach out to me,"

she said.

She's still got one more year of high school to go, though, so the goal is to win another state championship.

Or two.

"That's what I'm hoping for," Whitehead said.

One thing for sure is that she'll put in the work to put herself in position to win. Whitehead swims from 6 until 7:30 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning and then puts in an additional two hours in the evenings. She also swims three hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

On the Nov.18 broadcast of Tiger Talk, Brad Whitehead said, "It's just pure dedication and motivation."

Tiger Talk and the state 200 IM race can be watched via the "Union County Tigers" Facebook page.



Eva Whitehead — the 200 IM Class 1A state champion. She improved upon her 22nd finish at the 2023 state finals and will have one more chance at winning as a senior in 2025.

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# Proposed Union County subdivision gets chilly reception

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

The Union County Board of Commissioners heard a proposal concerning the possibility of a new subdivision located in Union County.

Pete Scerbo, with American Land and Lakes, a development firm from Sarasota, spoke to commissioners about his company's desire to locate a new subdivision in Raiford. This would be the company's second subdivision in Raiford and its third in the county (with the other being located near Lulu).

Scerbo said his company was in the beginning stages of gathering the information for an application for the project but wanted to speak to the commission about it, answer any

questions and let them know the application would be coming soon.

Scerbo also outlined the planned maintenance of the roads in the proposed subdivision, assuring the commissioners that it was not his company's intent to ask the county to take over the roads and maintain them. He said that rather than establishing a homeowner's association in the sales agreement for the homes, company planned to establish an annual fee, charged to all subdivision residents, for the upkeep of the roads. This he noted would put no more demand for service on the road department.

Commissioner Mac Johns said he was familiar with the company's previous two

subdivisions and noted that one, or maybe both were located on swampland. He also stated that he did not like seeing outside developers coming into the county and developing it.

Commission Chair Channing Dobbs, commissioner for District Two, where the new project would be located (as well as one other) expressed concerns of the cost to the county such a development would cause. He said it would require more spraying for mosquitoes, and more calls for fire, rescue and law enforcement services. In answer to these concerns Scerbo simply answered that it would increase county tax revenue.

"The biggest concern is leaving this county better for our grandkids," Dobbs responded.

He also stated that he agreed with Johns' concerns about overextending county services. He also noted that such a project could lead to an increase in tax rates in the future.

All the commissioners agreed that they could not form an accurate opinion based on a small handout and presentation. They asked whether or not his company had already purchased the land and were told no.

Commissioner Donna Jackson said she would have to see a lot more documentation concerning the proposed project saying that in any decision made on such a project "communication is key."

Scerbo was asked to attend next month's regular meeting of the board and to bring the site plans and other documentation

for the project with him for the commissioners to look over. Scerbo agreed.

In other discussion and action, the Union County Board of Commissioners:

Approved the sealed bid made by V.S. Robinson Corp. As the lowest and best bid for phase one of construction on the new Providence Fire Station.

Approved a proclamation declaring October as National Pharmacists Month in the county.

Considered an appointment of a commissioner to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. Jackson made motion to appoint Johns as the board's representative and the motion passed unanimously.

Considered and approved the State Aid to Libraries Grant and Certification of Hours

unanimously.

Considered a newly updated fee schedule for the Union County Building Department in which fees would be raised in an effort to help make the department self-sufficient. The proposed new fees would still be lower than those in surrounding counties. The matter was tabled on a motion by Jackson until the November meeting to allow a comparison spreadsheet of the current fees and the proposed new fees could be given to the board.

Approved an amendment to the county's holiday policy on holiday pay issues. The amendment will bring county policy in line with state policy on holiday pay.

# Old pipes complicate Starke sewer rehab project

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke has been working to improve its aging infrastructure, but that infrastructure is putting up a fight.

Drew Mullins, Starke's general manager for public works, told commissioners completion of its wastewater collection system project will be delayed by two to four months because of issues with the aging pipes.

According to Mullins, as the contractor was working to reline the pipes, the pipes were crumbling.

"This kind of goes into the whole broad area of the infrastructure issues that we've

got," said Mullins, who has encouraged the commission to reprioritize its spending to remedy the past neglect.

"When they got in, the pipes just started disintegrating. This is leading to open cuts now," he said, explaining a need to replace sections of the pipes collecting wastewater and carrying it to the treatment plant.

The city knows about compromises in the system having already videoed and smoke tested the collection system. Starke is also under a consent order from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection because stormwater infiltration has resulted in flooding and sewage spills.

Mullins said the areas with issues included Redgrave and Laura Streets, and Alligator Creek, where relocation of a sewage lift station has gotten underway on Call Street.

Despite the issues, work has shifted to alternative areas as the first phase of the project proceeds.

Mullins said the areas with issues included Redgrave and Laura Streets, and Alligator Creek, where relocation of a sewage lift station has gotten underway on Call Street.

Despite the issues, work has shifted to alternative areas as the first phase of the project proceeds.

## Treatment plant

Mullins reported to the commission that the wastewater treatment plant is operating as best as it can. Efficiency will increase "dramatically" once the new treatment plant is complete, he said.

The contractor should reach

substantial completion by the end of the year with final completion in April.

## Electric improvements

Mullins communicated ongoing electric system improvements, including SCADA implementation at the substation to collect data and better identify and report outages. Additional modernization at the substation will update hardware to decrease stress on the system.

Florida Municipal Power Agency is working with Florida Power and Light for a secondary electrical feed to the substation

to improve redundancy. The agency is also working with a vendor on tagging electric poles and mapping them with GPS locations.

Tree trimming will resume this winter. Keeping this up has improved system reliability by reducing outages.

In other business:

—marketing of the city's gas utility will begin in December or January with the assistance of Florida Gas Utilities, which is designing the materials. System upgrades are also being discussed.

—Florida Department of Transportation has removed sod from under the railroad

overpass and replaced it with artificial turf. Other streetscaping improvements are ongoing and will be completed in early spring.

—As Christmas decorations have gone up around the city, the city's Christmas tree has found a home this year in Charles J. Schaefer Veterans Memorial Park on East Call Street. Anticipated construction in the Downtown Square made the relocation necessary.

—Demolition of the remaining Badcock storage structure downtown will commence after a stone base layer is applied to the parking area. The city is working with Bradford County Public Works on the parking area.

# Resurrecting failed treatment solution could save money

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

The completion of Starke's new wastewater treatment plant is on the horizon, but there is one last-minute design change that could save on future operational costs.

Repurposing a failed investment could lower the city's annual cost of sludge removal from the plant, according to Justin deMello, principal project manager with Woodward and Curran.

Woodward and Curran has already improved the ratio of solids in the sludge since taking over operation of the plant. Employees have been

considering the usefulness of an existing screw press already on site to further dewater the sludge.

Since the city is charged by the gallon for what is removed from the plant, removing more water from the mix reduces disposal costs and opens up more disposal options.

The screw press is part of the "Neutralizer" the city acquired from BCR Environmental in the late 2000s. Then, too, the plan was to reduce or eliminate sludge hauling costs by removing the water and turning what was left into a high quality fertilizer. The system rarely worked as intended and its inoperability became a source of conflict between the city and the company.

DeMello told city commissioners the new plant was designed with dewatering boxes for the sludge instead of the digester currently used, but they've asked the contractor to hold off as they attempt to get approval from USDA to rehabilitate the screw press. USDA is funding the project, providing a partial grant, as well as a partial loan that the city must repay.

A standard 5% of the funding was set aside as contingency to cover any unforeseen costs, but the \$23 million project has had only \$156,000 in change orders, which deMello said is unheard of. It leaves room to fund rehabilitating the screw press,

which has just been sitting there like a "paperweight," he said. Additional costs for engineering and tying the press to the plant could be covered if USDA approves the project changes.

Savings could be significant. The city spends around \$180,000 a year on sludge removal and disposal. That will go up as the hauler raises the price per gallon and as the city grows, deMello said. A larger volume of wastewater coming into the plant will lead to more solids removal on the back end. The less water in that sludge, the less the city will pay to haul it away.

It will also mean the city can get some return on its initial investment in BCR's system,

which was scheduled to be sold for scrap.

"We've always felt that was a shame. And then, since Woodward and Curran took over operations, our team is like, 'Hey, this is great stuff. We can reuse this. We can make it run again. We can make it sing,'" he said.

According to deMello, the screw press has the potential to double the concentration of solids in the sludge. The estimated cost of the rehabilitation, engineering and other construction is \$410,000, which is available in the project contingency funds. This additional investment would be paid back in a few years by the reduced disposal costs. DeMello

said a conservative estimate of the savings was around \$100,000 a year, even with the additional maintenance costs for the screw press. Part of the savings is the potential to dispose at a local landfill instead of a landfill north of Orlando where the hauler currently transports the sludge, and deMello mentioned the possibility that the city could one day take over transportation.

USDA wanted to see the city commission approve an amended agreement with Woodward and Curran before approving the project change, so the board unanimously approved a resolution to that effect.

# Emergency medical services brings in \$1 million to Union County

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

The Union County Board of Commissioners and the Clerk of Court and Comptroller work hard every year to see that each department gets the budget it needs to operate well and improve where possible.

It is a great help to the county when departments that have the capability of bringing funds into county coffers does so, with the money going into the general fund, where it can be disbursed as needed for situations where money outside a department's budget is needed for an emergency purchase.

Not only does this help the county government, it also helps keep ad valorem taxes paid by county residents low, without the need for increases. Not all departments operate in a way that will allow them to be paid for their services, but those that do are encouraged to make the effort to do so.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is one of the departments that can gain income from transport agreements with FDOC and Lake Butler Hospital and insurance billing.

There are also quite a few grants, appropriations, Medicaid and opioid settlement monies available that can be used for special projects and purchases.

The entire EMS budget is made up of about \$500,000 per year from the general fund and about \$300,000 per year from the special assessment that all taxpayers pay as a part of their ad valorem taxes.

The county also pursues grants, appropriations and other income sources.

Department head Toby Witt sets the budget up in a profit and loss structure and has been working to improve insurance billing and transfer income since he was hired three years ago, and it seems to be working.

At the October meeting of the board, he announced that, in the previous year (2023-24), his department had brought in over \$1 million (in the year before Witt started the department only collected about \$600,000). It has increased every year since he has headed up the department.

This has been done through increased accuracy, completeness and timeliness in insurance billing, with an emphasis on getting the money owed from the insurance companies and

improved billing for hospital and DOC transfers.

"Increased billings offsets the need to ask for more money from the general fund when we have a problem," Witt said. "We are working towards not needing any money from the general fund."

Witt reported that the department's needs from the general fund when he first started was \$800,000; now it is \$500,000. He said he hopes to only need \$300,000 next year.

"We are still providing the same, or better, level of service and are improving while taking less funding from the taxpayers," Witt said. "We have a total of 20 employees, full-time and part-time) and see 2,000 patients a year. As with any workplace, we occasionally have issues between employees, but we are working hard to reduce that as much as possible. As for the people we serve, we only get an average of four complaints a year. We have good people and we have worked

to see that we are a good paying county, where employees come and stay instead of just staying for a few years to gain experience and then leaving for better pay."

The department is dedicated to getting the monies owed it, but Witt stressed that they do not do hard collections on uninsured patients who require service.

"We are all family, employees, county residents, and their loved ones, and we try to treat everyone in that way," Witt said.

## Legion hosts holiday dinner

American Legion Post 56 will host its annual holiday dinner on Friday, Nov. 22, at 6 p.m. at the post home located at 715 Edwards Road in Starke. All veterans and their families are welcome to attend.

Smoked turkey and ham will be served. Please bring a covered dish to compliment the meal.

Veterans need not be a member of the American Legion to join in this holiday event, so get the family together and come

celebrate the season.

## COG food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share plan a food distribution on the following Thursdays from 10–11:30 a.m.: Nov. 21 and Dec. 5. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawley Road in Starke. This distribution may begin early depending on the arrival of the food truck.

BUDGET SUMMARY							
City of Keystone Heights – Fiscal Year 2024-2025							
General Fund	Milage Rate	3.8847					
ESTIMATED REVENUES		General Fund	Special Revenue CRA	Enterprise Fund Cemetery	Enterprise Fund Airport	Capital Projects Infrastructure	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
<b>Taxes:</b>		<b>Milage Per \$1000</b>					
Ad Valorem Taxes	3.8847	453,765.00					453,765
Sales and Use Taxes		290,399.00			859,002		1,149,401
Charges For Services		84,138.41			462,896		547,034
Intergovernmental Revenue		348,045.03	233,846.00				581,891
Miscellaneous Revenue		27,987.96			38,393		66,381
Licenses And Permits		10,930.84					10,931
Grants		0					0
Internal Service Charges		21,000					21,000
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>		<b>1,236,266</b>	<b>233,846.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,360,290.85</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,830,403</b>
<b>Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets</b>		<b>752,378.00</b>	<b>230,346.00</b>	<b>290,590.00</b>	<b>824,554</b>	<b>760,833</b>	<b>2,858,701</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS, &amp; BALANCES</b>		<b>1,988,644.00</b>	<b>464,192.00</b>	<b>290,590.00</b>	<b>2,184,845</b>	<b>760,833</b>	<b>5,689,104</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Culture & Recreation		292,500	67,324				
General Government		1,067,742	38,550		728,469		1,834,761
Public Safety/Code Enforcement		46,000					46,000
Human Services		174,000					
Transportation		103,500			631,339.04		734,839
Personnel Services (Public Works)		267,000					
Debt Service							0
Economic Development			127,900				127,900
Grants							0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>1,950,742</b>	<b>233,774</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,359,808.28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,544,324</b>
<b>Transfers Out</b>		<b>37,902</b>	<b>72.43</b>	<b>290,590</b>	<b>482.57</b>	<b>760,833</b>	<b>1,089,880</b>
<b>Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets</b>		<b>39,594.00</b>	<b>230,345.57</b>	<b>290,590</b>	<b>824,554</b>	<b>760,833</b>	
<b>Total Appropriated Expenditures Transfers, Reserves &amp; Balances</b>		<b>1,988,644</b>	<b>464,192</b>	<b>290,590</b>	<b>2,184,845</b>	<b>760,833</b>	<b>5,689,104</b>

The tentative adopted, and / or final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record

# Save Our Lakes meeting enthusiastic

BY JENN SAMSEL  
Special to the Monitor

The Save Our Lakes meeting was in full attendance, and nothing short of residents coming out and making their voices heard with enthusiasm and some concerns on the Lake Geneva restoration project.

The event occurred on Tuesday, November 12, at the First Baptist Church in Keystone Heights.

Vivian Katz-James spoke throughout the meeting about the ongoing status of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project, Lake Brooklyn, and the effort to prepare the Lake Geneva lakebed for rising water levels, which was the hottest topic of the meeting.

According to Katz-James, the area's monthly rainfall in October was 8.41 inches, compared to the average of 4.01.

"For the year," she said, "our average is 51.01, and this year, rainfall totals around 61.29. So, we're up about 10.28 inches for the year."

Katz-James also said Lake Brooklyn's water level is 112.1 feet above sea level, an increase of 0.8 feet in October.

"We are less than two feet away from the top level," she said. "This is all due to Mother Nature. No pumping (from the Black Creek Project) has started as of yet."

She added that much of the additional rainfall was due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

"The last time Lake Brooklyn and Lake Geneva were full to the tree lines was in 1998," she added.

The Save Our Lakes president said the October 25 event at Camp Immokalee, celebrating the impending opening of the Black Creek Project, went extremely well.

"There were a lot of people, plenty of food and entertainment, and a huge thank you to everyone coming out to support us," said Katz-James.

## Status of Black Creek Project

The lakes advocate gave a quick update on the status of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project. The 17-mile pipeline could pump up to 10 million gallons daily to Keystone Heights-area lakes and recharge the Upper Floridan Aquifer.

Katz-James said the pipeline is 99% complete, and the treatment facility is complete.

"So, we were waiting for the pipeline to get through," she added. "The treatment facility is 65% done. The actual treatment fields have been constructed and await the actual filtering process. There was a backlog or delay on that, but it is now coming along, and we're hearing that testing will happen sometime in December or January. Everything is ready to roll in February or late winter."

## Removing trees from Lake Geneva

The hot topic of the evening was what was happening with the Lake Geneva Restoration Project.

It has been roughly 50 years since Lake Geneva's water levels have been where they should be.

Katz-James said much of the lake's depletion has been due to population growth and very dry conditions throughout the decades.

A couple attending the meeting stated that in 1998, they bought a home on Lake Geneva because the lakes were very high.

Many of the residents remember boating the entire lake.

However, after 1998, Lake Geneva's water levels declined throughout the decades. At one point, residents could see their fishing piers high and dry with no water. With all the dryness, trees grew, blocking the pathway of the boat launch and creating a forest at Nelson's Point.

The meeting addressed the

restoration project, which involves removing about 78 acres of trees, including at Nelson's Point and around the county boat ramp near County Road 214 west of Keystone Heights. While there was little concern regarding the tree removal from the residents from the lake, there were concerns about how quickly the process would get going due to the water rising quicker than expected, plus how the removal process would work.

One member addressed the animals and their future, as Nelson's Point has become essentially their habitat.

According to Katz-James, they are waiting for the Department of Environmental Protection to tell them how many trees they plan to remove.

"My concern is that if the trees aren't removed soon," she said, "the areas will be flooded due to the rising water levels, becoming a liability because the trees will fall, making the passageway hard and dangerous for the boaters."

A few residents had questions about the elevation of the land on their properties, how far it would impact them, and who owned what part of the land as they got closer to the lake.

Scott Slater, a Save Our Lakes board member, briefly addressed the land elevation question. He said that now that the water is rising, residents with docks should ensure their piers are high enough to avoid submersion once Geneva levels rise.

The SOLO officer added, "I saw a survey done at the beginning of this year that (Florida's Department of Environmental Regulation) puts a high-water mark at 97.2 feet for a residence on Lake Geneva, so anything below 97.2 feet, based on that survey, would be considered state property. That would change once the lake begins to fill."

According to Save Our Lakes monthly newsletters, Lake Geneva is 94.2 feet, three feet from the state's high-water mark.

Slater believes that documents assert the Lake has been as high



Vivian Katz-James addresses the November 5 meeting of the Save Our Lakes Organization.



In November, Lake Brooklyn's water level reached 112 feet, only three feet from its maximum, at which point water begins to outflow toward Lake Keystone and, ultimately, Lake Geneva. The outflow travels through a creek south and under Hebron Avenue, State Road 100, Nightingale Street, and State Road 21. However, on November 14, water was already visible in the creek that leads from Brooklyn to Lake Keystone, approaching Hebron Avenue near Park of the Palms. The photo with the white plastic bag in the distance was taken from Hebron Avenue. The close-up shows water from Lake Brooklyn inching its way south.

as 106.2 feet.

So, we are looking at around 10 feet of water rising on Lake Geneva, said Slater. "Our goal is to get DEP to give us that elevation and say, everything below this elevation is state

sovereign land."

Slater also mentioned that Heritage Timber is ready to go out to Nelson's Point and the county boat ramp to clear the areas of trees once permission from the state is received.

He added that the Save Our Lakes goal is to restore Lake Geneva to its original form before Black Creek water flows south toward the Lake Region in early 2025.

# NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

THE PREVIOUS NOTICE PLACED BY THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW, NECESSATING THIS SECOND NOTICE.

The City of Keystone Heights has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy

A. Initially proposed tax levy:	\$ 376,935
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board And other assessment changes	\$ (1,750)
C. Actual property tax levy	\$ 378,685

This year's proposed tax levy **\$ 477,647**

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on November 25th, 2024

5:00PM  
at

555 S Lawrence Blvd  
Keystone Heights FL 32656

**A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax hold and the budget will be made at this hearing.**

## Pipeline complete, other work remains

### Water from Black Creek may arrive in January

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

An official with the St. Johns River Water Management District said that although the pipeline for a Lake Region water project is complete, more work remains before water will be pumped to a creek north of Lake Brooklyn.

The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project combines pumps, a filtration system, and 17 miles of pipe to transport up to 10 million gallons daily from the creek to Keystone Heights lakes and the

Floridan Aquifer. The project is critical to the district's recovery plan for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva, which have fallen below regulatory minimum flows and levels.

Dale Jenkins, the district's Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources Director, said engineers must pressure test 11 miles of the pipeline before pumps begin to take water from Black Creek and push it east and south to the treatment facility.

However, Jenkins told the district's governing board during its November 12 meeting that the biggest holdup to starting the pumps near the creek at its intersection with State Road 16 is a problem with the water filter media at the Camp Blanding treatment site.

He said the contractor producing the media, which will filter the creek's brown, tannin water before it goes into Alligator Creek, has experienced production difficulties.

"The primary one is residual moisture in the media," he explained, "so that was kind of delaying the processing of the media."

The official added that the contractor hired a process engineer to remedy the problem. Once the contractor fills the first of six cells at the treatment facility, pumps will move Black Creek water to Camp Blanding to test the filtration system.

Jenkins said he hoped the project would be operational sometime in January.

## KHES named School of Excellence

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights Elementary School was one of 11 Clay County schools recognized as schools of excellence during the November 5 school board meeting.

The designation is reserved for schools that score in the top 20% for school grade calculation, compared with other schools in the same grading group.

Schools of Excellence are granted certain administrative exemptions required under Florida law. For example, schools of excellence are not required to meet state classroom size requirements at the school level or to provide daily minimum reading instruction as dictated by state law or rule.

Superintendent David Broskie noted that Keystone Heights Elementary students scored eight percent above the state average in overall math proficiency.



Keystone Heights Elementary School Principal Beth Turbeville and Clay County Superintendent of Schools David Broskie, following Broskie's announcement that the state designated Keystone Heights Elementary as a School of Excellence.

# New playground dedicated for RJE community center

BY AMBER J. CRAFT  
Special to the Telegraph

The community came out on Oct. 31 to witness the ribbon cutting of the newly constructed playground dedicated to the RJE Community Center in Starke.

Children dressed in Halloween costumes, accompanied by their parents, ran and played on the field, rode hayrides, and giggled while jumping in an inflatable bouncy house. Ring toss games and food were also available for participants to enjoy.

A collaboration between the city of Starke and the Florida Department of Health resulted in grant money being awarded and earmarked for this project, providing more activities for its citizens.

Once given the green light to begin construction, it only took six weeks to complete the playground.

"The Health Department was on board," said city of Starke General Manager Drew Mullins. "It was very fast how we got everything working."

Mullins also credited city



Mom Sabrina Carter with Briella Curry, 2, and Horace Curry, 6.



Concerned Citizens President Alicia McMillan



Bradford Commission Chair Carolyn Spooner

public works employees for the fast completion.

## Gym in need of repair

Alicia McMillan, president of Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, was in communication with the state and the city throughout the process.

"We received a grant from the Health Department," she recalled. "The city asked us, and we said yes— we need something out here for the kids."

The collaboration was soon in full swing.

"We went in and picked out all the different elements of the park, and then the city workers came in and installed them for us," the Concerned Citizens leader said.

According to McMillan, the playground installation is Phase 1. In Phase 2, additions that will benefit seniors are planned.

"We have a second phase where we want to add some pavilions and a trail for the seniors to walk," she said.

Phase 3 is focused on restoring the gymnasium, a crucial part of the community center, which needed a new roof and interior

renovations when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The health crisis shut down all activities at the gym.

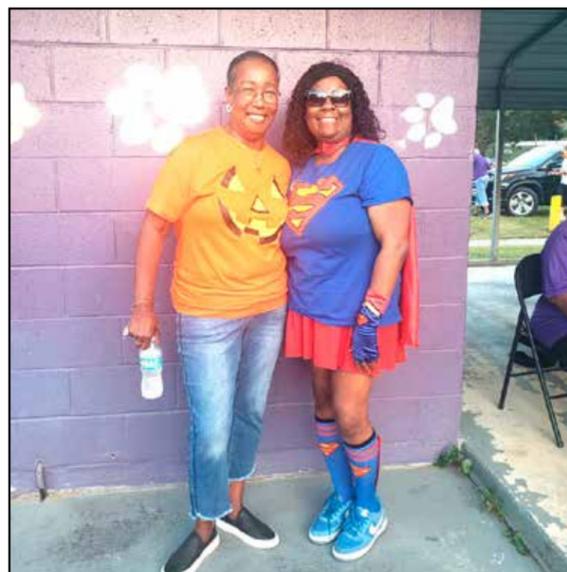
"When COVID came, it took everything. So right now, we're trying to get back, but right now, our limited resources won't allow us until we can get that gym," McMillan said. "That gymnasium is our main source. So, since it's been down for the last four to five years, we are really struggling with fundraising because that was our main fundraiser. We do our summer program here. We need to renovate the campus. Right now, the only one in function is the Head Start [program]."

McMillan added that the county provided funds for the gym's roof repair, and her organization has a grant pending for the interior renovations.

## Looking Forward to the Future

Carolyn Spooner, chair of the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners, has followed this project from its inception to witnessing the ribbon cutting. She believes this is the start of great things for the children in the community.

"When I was a kid, many, many moons ago, this was a haven of all kinds of activities for the community, and I'm just overjoyed to see it start to get back to what it used to be," Spooner said.



(Left) Starke City Commissioner Janice Mortimer with Kiki Jackson.

When asked where she sees the park's progress in five years, Spooner commented, "I see that gym being completed so the children can play inside different sports activities. I see people all around coming and enjoying the gym."

Spooner also stated, "Eventually, on the other side of the gym, there will be a community garden that would also enhance the Feeding America program. The children will be able to participate in that as well."

The community center was also a source of economic gain for the community because people from Live Oak, Lake City, Jacksonville, and surrounding

areas would come to participate in or watch sports and other events.

There is currently an after-school program that allows children to get extra help and excel academically.

"In the first wing, there is a Head Start program, and when those areas get renovated, they will be able to offer more programs," Spooner said.

Participants who gathered at the event appeared hopeful that the future would foster an environment of play and fellowship within the community.



10-year-old Jahziya Hutchinson and 12-year-old Harmoni Thomas.

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# Keystone serves breakfast to vets

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The City of Keystone Heights held its first veteran's breakfast at the beach pavilion at the beach on Friday, November 8.

Mayor Nina Rodenroth said she hoped the event would be an annual affair, adding that she got the idea from meetings of the Florida League of Mayors.

"This has been a dream of mine since late last year," she told the crowd. "I'm very excited that we're able to put this on this year and hope to do it again next year."

## Florida has third-highest veteran population

The mayor continued with a slide deck, which she said was from a Florida League of Mayors presentation by Bob Asztalos, the Deputy Executive Director for Florida's Department of Military Affairs.

According to the presentation, Florida has the nation's third-largest veteran population, with more than 1.45 million veterans living in the state. Around half of those are over age 65, and 401,000 are service-connected disabled veterans.

The mayor outlined the benefits available to Florida veterans, including access to six hospitals and 49 outpatient clinics.

County Commissioner Betsy Condon added that Clay County's nearly 60,000 veterans make up 25% of the county's population.

Richard Carey, Clay County's Veterans Service Officer, said he and the county's two other accredited service officers help residents through the myriad of federal Veterans Affairs rules.



Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth and Clay County Veterans Service Officer Richard Carey.

## Don't volunteer information

Tips he offered to the crowd included:

—When communicating with Veterans Affairs, don't volunteer information. Some information veterans reveal during the evaluation process could disqualify them from benefits.

—When benefits are denied, the VA has an appeals process of which veterans can take advantage. Carey added that a significant amount of his time is spent on appeals.

"When you get that little report from the VA, it tells you why you got denied or why you got 10% and why you didn't get the next higher rating," Carey explained. "Most veterans don't read that. They just look at it and go, I'm done. I'm tired of messing with the VA."

## When the veteran dies, the benefits die

—Spouses of veterans need to know that when their spouse passes away, all the benefits from the VA stop.

"This one breaks my heart," Carey said. "I get a veteran that passes away. A surviving spouse comes in and says, 'They cut off the pay. I don't have any money.' They don't understand that when the veteran passes away, all their benefits pass away with them. So, the VA disability pay goes away. Military retirement, if they had it, goes away. That all goes with the veteran."

—If a death certificate of a veteran states the death was connected to his or her service or that a service-connected issue contributed to the veteran's



Lake Region residents participating in Keystone Heights's veterans breakfast. Clockwise from bottom left, Martha Huddleston, Wayne Hudleston, Julian Fuller, and Joyce Fuller.

death, then the surviving spouse may be entitled to benefits.

"We've had a big issue with death certificates in Florida," Carey said. "When a veteran passes away, we want that direct-connected item on the death certificate— that it was service-connected or a contributing factor."

Carey gave one example of a veteran who died as a result of a fall. With the surviving spouse and physician present, Carey looked up the veteran's information and saw that he had service-related diabetes and hypertension. Because the physician listed those service-related conditions as contributing factors to the fall, the spouse was awarded \$1,600 a month for the rest of her life, tax-free.

Tracee Holzendorf of Here Tomorrow also addressed the group about her organization's suicide prevention programs.

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\$65 PER PERSON OR \$400 PER TABLE  
TABLE SEATS 8

TICKET INCLUDES  
ENTRANCE, DINNER, & ONE COCKTAIL  
THE BEN CARTER BAND  
EVENT 18 YEARS AND OLDER

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GOVERNOR CHARLIE E. JOHNS CONFERENCE CENTER  
1610 N TEMPLE AVE, STARKE, FL 32091

# Packing party sends gifts overseas

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

On October 27, the children's ministry at Trinity Baptist Church held a packing party to send Christmas gift boxes overseas. The party was part of Operation

Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, which has delivered over 220 million boxes to children in over 170 countries and territories since 1993.

Project Leader Diane Michel said Trinity's children's ministry prepared 200 boxes for shipment:

100 for girls ages five to nine and 10 to 14 and 100 for boys in the same two age groups.

From November 18 through 25, the church will be a drop-off location for other churches and groups that prepared boxes for the effort.



(L-R) Kevin Screen, Ellen Welch, Wendy Mavgerum, and Clara Beth Robinson help children pack girls Christmas boxes.



(L-r) Adults Diane Michel, Judy Stewart, Becky Tisdale, Drew Bell and Lisa Kneedler guide students into the packing line.

# The Matthews Museum (Bradford County Museum) Needs Volunteers!

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To find out more

Contact: Chuck Kramer  
(904) 964-5001 or (904) 364-6977



# 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

Jennifer Atkinson, 46, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 14 for failure to appear.

George Bailey, 48, of Ocala, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 9 for battery.

Jonathan Bass, 42, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 12 for possession of a weapon, aggravated assault, battery, child cruelty, resisting an officer, and a conditional release violation.

Britney Ford, 36, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 9 for DUI.

Telly Forman, 44, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 12 for aggravated battery, a weapons offense, and possession of a weapon.

Gregory Gibson, 34, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 11 for an out-of-county warrant.

Ellie Griffin, 31, of Palatka, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 12 for possession of drugs, trafficking in drugs, and possession of drug equipment.

Joseph Harper, 43, of Florahome, was arrested by

Bradford deputies on November 9 for out-of-county warrants.

Anthony Hendrieth, 30, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 14 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of drug equipment.

Justin Hill, 26, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 13 for possession of a weapon, a weapons offense, disorderly intoxication, resisting an officer, and aggravated assault.

Mary Holton, 42, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 13 for aggravated animal cruelty.

Brett House, 33, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 12 for loitering, resisting an officer, possession of drug equipment, possession of cocaine, and an out-of-county warrant.

William Kahakua, 48, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 12 for withholding support.

Joseph Marone, 46, of Hernando, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 15 for a probation violation.

John Masterson, 28, of Orlando, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 15 for DUI and hit and run.

Charles Penny, 54, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 14 for a probation violation.

Gerard Sauve, 45, of Haines City, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 13 for possession of drugs and smuggling contraband into a prison.

Michelle Sheeler, 33, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 9 for battery.

Freddie Williams, 64, of Lake

Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 11 for aggravated battery, burglary, and robbery.

### Union

Chelsy Croft, 34, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 7 for probation violations.

Jordan Dipaul, 29, of Middleburg, was arrested by Union deputies on November 16 for grand theft auto, possession of drugs, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Matthew Dover, 31, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 5 for a probation violation.

Shawna King, 35, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on November 5 for burglary and larceny.

Richard Mayo, 38, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on November 6 for burglary and larceny.

David McSpadden, 56, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 15 for resisting an officer.

Kyle Oltmer, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 10 for trespassing, possession of drug equipment, and possession of drugs.

Cole Seay, of Bell, was arrested by Union deputies on November 17 for attaching a registration plate not assigned, possession of drug equipment, and possession of drugs.

David Ward, 58, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on November 8 for aggravated battery.

### Clay

Michael James Scott, 59, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 11 for domestic battery.

## Letters

### Helped her nephew

Dear Editor:

On Thursday, Nov. 7, my nephew was riding his street legal scooter to Walmart. Someone driving a "big, black truck," according to my nephew, sideswiped him, sending him into the emergency lane and ditch. The truck driver did not stop.

A minister was in the car behind the truck, however, and did stop, staying with my nephew until rescue and the police got there, offering comfort and assistance. Wherever he was going, he put my nephew's need before his own.

To the person driving the truck, I hope wherever you were going in such a hurry was worth it. When you see the damage you caused to your truck, think about the damage you did to a person.

To the minister, EMTs and police, I offer my thanks and prayers. My nephew was not seriously injured, thank God.

We all have to have our eyes open when we are driving to watch for others on the road. We all have to share.

Jo Young  
Keystone Heights

### Pray for better

Dear Editor:

After all of the infighting over the last 18 months politically, my belief is that we are all glad that it is over. Our citizens have voted, we have a president-elect, and both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump have asked for peace and understanding and said let's start a new chapter of working for our country.

We all remember, in November of 2020, after the election, but before Donald Trump was sworn into office, there were remarks in Congress, "We have to impeach that S.O.B. or he will get reelected!" So, we had four years of fighting. Let's not go through that again.

Someone needs to send that memo to the "Tonight Show" and "The View," because the anger and nastiness is still going on. As a result of that negative broadcasting, there are protests in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Let's all pray for our leaders to do our will, and work toward making the country we love a better place. Where we can work hand in hand to love our neighbor, saying God bless America!

Sincerely,  
Ken and Paulette Krug  
Melrose

### Film documents forest trek

Before the holidays, join an exciting short-film screening of "O2O: Path to Connection," a documentary film following three veterans as they trek the Ocala-to-Osceola forest (O2O) - part of the Florida wildlife corridor. On Monday, Dec. 9, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Bradford County Extension Office, you can watch

their journey, connect with others managing working lands, and learn more about conservation and technical assistance available from Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District, the North Florida Land Trust, and UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension.

The viewing is free and family friendly, with kids' activities and snacks provided. Kindly RSVP by Dec. 1 at <https://tinyurl.com/yntxt3c7>.

The extension office is located at 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

### Collection site closings

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. They will reopen Saturday, Nov. 30, at 10 a.m.

## Bishop leading Starke Rotary

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The new president of the Starke Rotary Club said the civic organization allows him to participate in a wide range of charitable projects, from the global eradication of polio to building pickleball courts at a Starke city park.

In July, Brad Bishop took the club's gavel from outgoing president Matt Dyal.

Bishop recalled that when Sheriff Gordon Smith invited him to join the civic group in 2020, he was already on the Chamber of Commerce board and was looking to expand his contacts in Bradford County.

"The superintendent and assistant superintendent encouraged me to join," Bishop recalled, "and it was just a good way to build those networks to promote career and technical education."

### Sports, banking, education

After graduating from Bradford High School with a Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship in 1996, Bishop played basketball for Santa Fe College before transferring to Columbus State University in Georgia, where he played Division II golf.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business.

While in college, Bishop worked as a bank teller and stayed in banking after graduation, working his way up through several banks to vice president of credit administration.

When the 2008 housing crisis hit, he was working for a real estate investment bank and found himself unemployed when the real estate market crashed.

"I left with a nice severance package, but it didn't last very long," Bishop recalled, "so I was looking for an opportunity to find work, and the niche job that I had in the banking world was just no longer around."

Bishop saw an opening at the technical college, and the hiring officer at that time was Randy Starling, Bishop's accounting teacher in high school.

"He hired me as a career specialist, and then I grew in that role and into a behavioral resource teacher, basically a dean," Bishop said.

He then returned to school to earn his master's degree and was eventually promoted to a coordinator's job.

"And when the director before me—the previous director—left," he added, "I interviewed for the job and was hired on as director."

### Finding teachers is difficult

In his 16th year at the college, Bishop said one challenge he and his colleagues face is the growing mandates from Tallahassee educators must follow.

"There have been more and more rules and regulations added," he said, "but it seems as though nothing is ever replaced. It's just added."



Incoming Starke Rotary Club President Brad Bishop (left) presents outgoing president Matt Dyal with a commemorative gavel thanking him for his service.

Finding instructors who can make more money working in their fields than teaching the field is another constant struggle.

"My current truck driving teachers," he said. "With their experience, if they wanted to go and drive, they could make way more money on the road, then I can pay them to teach. So, you have to find the person at a point in their life where that's what they want to do, whether they have a passion for it or don't want to be over the road."

The director added that his school is not alone in looking for teachers.

"I was at a meeting over the summer where another person in pretty much my position commented in the conference that they had seven programs currently on hold because they simply could not find the instructor with the right credentials to teach," Bishop said. "And when they found that person with the right credentials, they were making or having opportunities to make much more money in the private sector."

### Continuing partnership with city

With the completion of the pickleball courts, Bishop said his club hopes to continue working with the City of Starke.

"They have some plans for some park upgrades," he said. "So, we're trying to maintain that partnership with them, utilizing not only Rotary Foundation and Rotary grant opportunities but also opportunities that the city may seek through Rotary, like Clay Electric's Operation Roundup grants."

The new president added that the club also donates cash to other local causes.

"We make a lot of \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500 donations to local charities," he said. "Shop With a Cop, ACORN Clinic, Boy Scouts, lots of different groups."

## Bolla departs Clay school board

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Mary Bolla said goodbye to the Clay County School Board during the panel's November 7 meeting in Fleming Island.

Bolla, a teacher at Argyle Elementary in 2016, recalled that she ran for the school board when Clay County had dropped to the 19<sup>th</sup>-ranked public school system in the state.

"As a teacher," she said, "I'll be honest, I was angry. I was coming home and talking to (husband Wayne Bolla) about everything that I didn't like about the administration..."

Wayne had been a school board member and, in 2016, sat on the Clay County Board of County Commissioners.

"He coerced me into running for school board, and although I didn't see myself as a politician, I entered the race," she continued.

The teacher-turned-school-board member described the transition as going from serving 25 students to serving 35,000.

Bolla said that while she was on the board, art and music were restored to every elementary



Outgoing school board member Mary Bolla

school, the district's fund balance rose to five percent of revenues, and the district successfully navigated challenges and difficulties from Tallahassee lawmakers.

The outgoing school board member said she plans to spend her retirement with Wayne in their Wisconsin cabin and on their boat, The Queen Irene.

"To all of you who are truly

### Diverse membership

Bishop said his primary goals are to grow the club's membership and find and fund local community needs.

"We've just recently inducted three new members," he said, "but we also want to look at the opportunity to increase a more diverse membership. When you look at the age range of our group, and you look at the different demographics of our group, I'm looking to expand our membership into more subcultures."

Besides Rotary and the chamber, Bishop also represents the college at other community meetings like Kiwanis and Altrusa. He also serves on advisory committees with the Florida Department of Education and other groups, mainly focusing on workforce development funding.

Bishop said community groups like his should always seize opportunities to change and adapt to the community's needs, even reinventing themselves if that is what's needed.

He also said he would like more cooperation between the area's nonprofits to increase their impact in the county.

He added that the Lake Butler Rotary Club has a successful project that honors veterans with crosses and flags along State Road 121. His club wanted to bring the idea to Starke and, while looking into the possibility, discovered that other Bradford County groups had the same idea.

"I brought up the flag idea at a different group's meeting," Bishop remembered, "and they're like: 'Oh yeah, we're looking into that too.' I was like, 'Okay, well, let's take the research that we've done, and the research that you've done, and see how we might be able to partner in this together so that it's not a competitive thing. It could be for the good of the entire community.'"

passionate about our children and their futures," she said before adjourning the meeting, "thank you. I appreciate you all."

### Christmas Gala with music and more

Join Faith Presbyterian for the 9th annual Christmas Gala on Sunday, Dec. 8. Listen to the sounds of Christmas with the Quintessential Sax from Keystone Heights starting at 2 p.m. The cantata "Appalachian Winter" by Joseph M. Martin will begin at 3 p.m. with the combined choirs from Faith Presbyterian and First Presbyterian of Starke.

There will be a beautiful display of nativities from around the world. A reception will follow. The church is located at 2738 S.R. 21 in Melrose (Midway).



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# Tornadoes defeat Buffalo 35-0 in playoffs' 1st round

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's offense got touchdowns from four different players, while Marlin Haywood added another on defense as the Tornadoes opened the postseason with a 35-0 win over The Villages in a Region 2-2A quarterfinal football game on Nov. 15 in Starke.

It was the third straight year the Tornadoes (9-1) have shut out their first-round opponent.

Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers, who's in his third season, has seen his team record a total of 19 shutouts in 39 games.

"That's pretty cool. I like shutouts," he said. "I didn't really think about them a whole lot until the last couple of years."

Of course, the goal now is simply to advance, no matter what the score is, and the Tornadoes, who are the second seed in Region 2, have done that, setting up a rematch with a Newberry team that defeated Bradford 21-7 in the regular season. The teams will play Friday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in Starke.

The third seed Panthers (9-2) advanced by defeating sixth seed



Brandon Williams (right) sprints his way to a 41-yard touchdown.

Palatka 24-7.

"When the brackets first came out, that's what our kids were talking about," Rodgers said. "We'll find out. You know what I mean? You find out on the field. That's the great thing about football. We'll find out if we're the men that they are."

"I'm just glad that we've got another opportunity (in the playoffs). That's all."

It took a while for Bradford to get going against The Villages, which was the region's seventh seed. The Tornadoes last played on Oct. 25.

The Villages (5-5) received the

opening kickoff and put together a drive that consumed more than seven minutes. Quarterback Patrick Harding hooked up twice with Jon-Jon Harding for first downs early in the drive, while running back Maleek Williams also picked up two first downs — one of which was a 4-yard run on fourth-and-1 at the Bradford 33-yard line.

The Buffalo came close to scoring, but Brandon Williams broke up a pass that would've gone for a touchdown. The Bradford defense was able to keep The Villages from picking up a first down, forcing the Buffalo to attempt a 41-yard field goal that was no good.

Bradford's offense had a quick three-and-out series, punting the ball back to the Buffalo, who chewed up more than three minutes on another drive past midfield. A 5-yard run by Williams set up a third-and-2 play at the Bradford 36. A direct snap to Jon-Jon Harding resulted in a gain of only a yard. The Villages left the offense on the field on fourth-and-1. Harding again took the snap, but he was stood up by the defense before fumbling the ball away.



Marlin Haywood (right) comes down with his second interception of the game. His first was a 65-plus-yard pick-6.

The second quarter was already underway with Bradford's offense taking the field for just the second time. The legs of

See BHS, page 12

# Region semifinal presents Bradford-Newberry rematch

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's football team looks to avenge its only loss this year when it hosts Newberry on Friday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. for the right to advance to the Region 2-2A championship game.

The second seed Tornadoes (9-1) had no trouble in their quarterfinal matchup against The Villages (see related story), but now face third seed Newberry, which defeated Bradford 21-7 in the regular season to win the District 5 championship.

Newberry (9-2) opened the playoffs with a 24-7 win over sixth seed Palatka. The Panthers are on an eight-game win streak in which they've outscored

opponents 283-52.

"If it's not a packed house (at David Hulse Stadium), there's something wrong," Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said.

The Panthers are in the postseason for the sixth straight year and have qualified for the playoffs a total of 26 years. Their postseason record is 22-25, with state runner-up finishes in 1992 (Class 2A) and 2007 (Class 2B).

Newberry hasn't won at least two playoff games in a season since 2012, when it went 2-1, losing 36-35 in overtime to Trenton in the Class 1A state semifinals.

The Panthers played six teams that finished the 2024 regular season with a winning record and eight teams that qualified for the playoffs. Their two losses

were against playoff qualifiers Hawthorne (Rural Class) by an overtime score of 28-27 and Vanguard (Class 4A) by a score of 23-0.

Hawthorne and Vanguard improved to 9-1 and 10-1, respectively, with first-round playoff wins on Nov. 15.

Including their playoff win over Palatka, the Panthers are scoring an average of 32 points per game.

Based on its 10 regular-season games, Newberry averaged 206 rushing yards per game. The ground attack is led by junior Kaleb Woods, who has rushed for 1,083 yards and 10 touchdowns on 117 carries.

The Panthers averaged 206 passing yards per game in the regular season. Senior

quarterback Collin Dunmore completed 70 of 120 passes for 1,092 yards and 15 touchdowns, with just one interception. His favorite receiver was junior Hayden Moore, who caught 39 passes for 714 yards and nine touchdowns.

Other receiving stats include senior Logan McCloud with 17 catches for 156 yards and three touchdowns, freshman Javeon Long with six catches for 133 yards and three touchdowns, Woods with nine catches for 116 yards and two touchdowns and senior Trenton Campbell with five catches for 96 yards and two touchdowns.

Opponents are averaging only 11 points per game against the Panthers. Newberry has allowed 10 points or less in six games,

with three of those games being shutout wins.

Based on stats from nine of the Panthers' 10 regular-season games (Santa Fe's stats in Newberry's 49-0 win weren't entered on MaxPreps), opponents averaged 96 rushing yards per game and 122 passing yards per game.

McCloud, a linebacker, led the team in tackles in the regular season with 84, while senior lineman Jarquez Carter (an Ohio State commit) had 61 (39 for loss).

Five other players had more than 40 tackles each: senior lineman Mykah Newton (Miami commit) 49, senior defensive back Jakarus Randolph 44, junior linebacker Davon Rim 44, sophomore linebacker Aidan

Michaux 43 and sophomore lineman Amaris Bryant 42.

Carter leads the team in sacks with 15, while Newton has nine.

The Panthers had 12 interceptions in the regular season, with junior defensive back La'harry Debose making five.

Newberry had three fumble recoveries during the regular season.

In the Oct. 11 matchup between Newberry and Bradford, the Tornadoes averaged 2 yards per rush attempt and finished with less than 50 yards on the ground. They've rushed for more than 190 yards in every other game.

Bradford quarterback Zack Paulk did throw for 205 yards

See REMATCH, page 12

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# Tigers win 42-20, will host Pahokee in 2nd round game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School got three touchdowns from running back Drew Simmons and two touchdown passes from Trenton Klein in defeating visiting Holmes County 42-20 in a Rural Class region-semifinal game on Nov. 15.

The third seed Tigers (9-1) led 20-0 at halftime and built a 36-6 lead going into the fourth quarter.

It was the fifth time Union has scored more than 40 points this season.

Simmons finished a big night with 125 yards on 14 carries,

while Klein added 84 yards on eight carries.

Klein completed 8 of 17 passes for 248 yards.

Gavin Jenkins caught two passes for 101 yards and a touchdown, while Alec McClellon also had a touchdown catch, finishing with two receptions for 46 yards.

Bryan Tyson caught three passes for 62 yards, with Simmons also gaining 39 yards on one reception.

The Tigers finished with 522 total yards, while 14th seed Holmes County (6-5) had 187.

Union created three turnovers,

with Jesse Chaikin and Ashton Newsom each recovering a fumble and Jenkins making an interception.

Klein recorded a team-high nine tackles. Newsom and Tyson had seven and five, respectively.

The Tigers now draw an opponent that has experienced tremendous postseason success when they host the sixth seed Pahokee Blue Devils in a region final on Friday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Pahokee (7-3) is in the playoffs for the 35th year. The Devils have a postseason record of 61-26, not counting their 2016 season

in which they won the Class 1A state championship. That championship and postseason wins were vacated due to use of an ineligible player.

Still, Pahokee is one of 16 schools to have won at least six state championships. The Blue Devils won the Class 2A title in 1989 and were the Class 2B champs in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008. In the 2003 championship game, they defeated Union 21-6 — the last time the two teams played each other in the postseason.

Pahokee has also been the state runner-up in 1976 (2A),

1998 (3A) and 2005 (2B).

During the 2024 regular season, the Devils played only three teams that had winning records, losing to all three (21-14 to 7A Palm Beach Central, 43-8 to 1A Cardinal Newman and 23-16 to 2A Glades Central). Those three teams had a combined record of 25-3 and all qualified for the playoffs.

However, Pahokee had no trouble in its region semifinal matchup against 11th seed Chipley, which entered the game 7-2. The Devils won 42-0.

It was the first game Pahokee had played against a fellow Rural

Class team.

The Devils are scoring an average of 23 points per game. They've scored at least four touchdowns in six games.

Pahokee is averaging 257 rushing yards per game, led by senior Rashon Brown Jr., who has 1,177 yards and four touchdowns on 128 carries. Samuel Arnold, a junior, has 566 yards and two touchdowns on 67 carries.

The Devils are averaging 140 passing yards per game, with junior quarterback Zay Mitchell completing 97 of 153

See PAHOKEE, page 12

## Prep Zone all-star volleyball event to include KHHS, UCHS players

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights and Union County high schools will each have two senior volleyball players compete in The Prep Zone All-Star Showcase, presented by 399Sports on Thursday, Nov. 21, at Legacy Park Multipurpose

Center in Alachua.

Four teams will play two semifinal games at 6 p.m., with consolation and championship games to be played 30 minutes after the semifinal games have ended.

Union Head Coach Tifani Knox will be one of the event's coaches. She and Columbia Head

Coach Trudy Andrews, a former UCHS head coach, will take the reins of the North All-Star team, which will include Union players Layla Barber (outside hitter) and Kamryn Southerland (setter).

The North team will also consist of Branford's Addison Folsom and Andi Sabourin, Columbia's Kayla Goodloe and

Avery Sandlin, First Christian's Dilyn Koon, Fort White's Cassidy Nesselt and Lafayette's Libby Beach and Rylee Skillman.

Keystone's Mya Jennings (opposite/outside hitter/defensive specialist) and Emma Stanley (middle blocker/middle hitter) will be part of the East

team.

The East team, coached by Oak Hall's Perry McDonald and Eastside's Rachel Williams, will also consist of Eastside's Samiyah Daniels, Kieara Hall and Janna Williams, Interlachen's Brianna Webber, Oak Hall's Sara Duggan, Cassidy McDonald and

Sophie Thompson, Palatka's Mackenzie Thomas and Kenadie Wilkinson and P.K. Yonge's Trinity Jacobs.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Children under 5 will be admitted free.

Cash and credit cards will be accepted.

# Highly Rated Local Businesses!

**Craig Falstreux Heating & Air, Inc**  
228 S Walnut St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(352) 792-4426



**"Our AC quit blowing last night and Danny came out first thing today and had the issue found and fixed within an hour! Fair price and extremely nice! Could not recommend them more! Thanks so much!"**

**The Chiropractic & Injury Clinic of Starke**  
601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-8018



**"Amazing experience, everyone is so nice, patient, and kind. I love going here and will definitely be back. If I could rate them 10 stars I absolutely would!"**

**JBS Jackson Building Supply**  
"Serving Our Community For Over 60 Years"

- LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS
- PAINT, LADDERS & SUPPLIES
- ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES
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STARKE US-301S 964-6078  
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*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

**Hearing Aids Today**  
450 S Lawrence Blvd,  
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(352) 877-4471



**"This is the place to come to! I went many years between hearing exams. Very professional and compassionate in taking care of their customers. They are family owned and operated!"**

**Bradford County Sheriffs Office**  
945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 966-6161



**"I need to take a minute to recognize my jail command team, the people I'm surrounded by. Each unique and strong in their own areas. There is nothing anyone asks of them they don't do and almost always with a smile. They take care of business and take care of people at the same time."**

**T.E.S. Rentals**  
2000 N Temple Ave,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 452-0888



**"Very professional. I rented the KTR mini skid and it performed perfectly for the what I was needing done. Highly recommend!"**

**Robert's Insurance**  
986 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 452-7784



**"The insurance agency helps keep the insurance prices down." "Always a great place to visit and get help!"**

**Durrance Pump**  
864 N Temple Ave STE C,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-7061



**"Some good guys right here! Same day service on a power issue on pump. They went over options and let me choose which route - went with the option that I would not have even thought about. 10/10 would recommend!"**

**Turners Automotive & Transmission**  
135 Commercial Cir, Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
(352) 473-3404



**"Fast turnaround time and fair prices. The technicians kept us well informed of the progress and called with any additional issues. First time customers and we will return. Awesome job! Will recommend 10/10!"**

**Bradford County Eye Center**  
292 Lafayette St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-8076



**"Thank you to Dr Schlofman and his staff for taking care of my daughter! They were able to get us in same day for a work-in and put my daughter at ease! I'm so appreciative!"**

**C & S Site Prep**  
22787 NW 34th Ave,  
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**Andrews Site Prep**  
(386) 867-0572  
Services 20 different counties!



**"A wonderful company! They get the job done right and they get the job done fast. Thank you Andrews Site Prep for always being somebody that we can count on!"**

**Teal Tile Carpet One**  
131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-7423



**"Teal Tile did a great job installing my LVP in my new home. Valerie and Mary are awesome at working with you to make your dream home flooring ideas come to life!"**

**Phillip McDonald Plumbing**  
740 S Orange St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-3737



**"Our church had some serious issues with our plumbing system. These folks worked with us to bring a suitable solution as quick as possible. They were super friendly and professional. We are grateful for their hard work and kindness. We highly recommend them!"**

**The Struggle Bus Mobile I.V.**  
strugglebusventures.com



**"I have been feeling so run down lately so I had the immunity blend and it has really helped me! Feeling great overall and especially felt my energy levels increase after my IV. The staff were knowledgeable and so friendly!"** **Definitely recommend!**

**DLP Bank**  
811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-7830



**"Very welcoming bank. They learn and know you by name and will not stop until they have helped with whatever your needs may be. I love this bank."**

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3760 State Rd 21,  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
(352) 875-6079

**10:00 AM - Adult Bible Class**  
**11:00 AM - Worship Service**

**Miller HVAC Services, Inc.**  
(904) 626-0963  
Serving Northeast FL



**"You can't go wrong with Miller HVAC, they have a dedicated team in providing excellent service, excellent customer skills, service with a smile and at a great price!! They care about your needs! Customer service goes a long way, I will always use Miller HVAC and you should too!!! They are there when you need them!!!"**

**Hometown Health & Wellness**  
110 Nightingale St,  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
(352) 664-7702



**"Our family loves Hometown Health and Wellness. Bryan Kirkland is professional and helpful for so many health needs. Highly recommend!"**

**Stor-Mor of Starke**  
12046 US-301,  
Hampton, FL 32044  
(386) 339-7543



**"Great customer service! The owner is very confident in Stor-Mor sheds and is well knowledgeable about all the different kinds that they sell!"**

# Obituaries

## Ernest Beverly Jr.

Ernest M. Beverly Jr., 86, of Florahome died Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, in Palatka. In addition to his parents; he was preceded in death by his sister, Ernestine Beverly; and his brother, Barney Beverly.

Survivors are his wife, Abbie Sue Beverly; daughter, Pamala Sue Clifton; son, Ernest Steven Beverly; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation and funeral services were held at Keystone Heights Cemetery on Saturday, Nov. 16. Interment followed at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care of Jones Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights, Florida 352-473-3176 [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com)

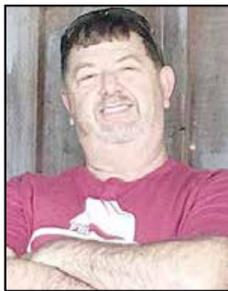
## Jeffrey Gowens

Jeffrey "Jeff" Wayne Gowens of Starke passed away surrounded by family at Medical University of South Carolina Hospital on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024. He was born March 18, 1963, in Sanford to the late Elbert and Gwendolyn Gowens. Jeff grew up in Lawtey with siblings playing baseball, participating in the Bradford High School band, and graduating in 1981. He went on to marry Claire Johnson Gowens in January of 1988, later having one daughter, Erica Stalnaker. He was a beloved member of many churches, serving the youth at Pine Level Baptist in Starke and Grace Vidalia in Vidalia, Georgia, among others. He impacted numerous kids' lives coaching little league teams from 2012-2020 and became known and loved as "Coach Jeff." He married Deborah Johns Gowens in November 2014, and they enjoyed traveling together with their two mini dachshunds, Roxi and Darci, and lived life to the fullest. He was known for being a kid at heart, a listening ear, a godly man, and the best "Papa" to his grandsons, Bradley Ray and Tucker Wayne. He will always be remembered for all the good he brought to everyone's life. He was preceded in death by his father, Elbert Gowens; mother, Gwendolyn Gowens; and his first wife, Claire Gowens.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah Johns Gowens; daughter, Erica (Matthew) Stalnaker; grandsons, Bradley and Tucker Stalnaker; stepchildren, Chase and Joellee Moody; stepmother, Linda Gowens; siblings, Gene (Lori) Gowens, Keith (Anne) Gowens, Mike (Sheri) Gowens, Kim (Chuck) Hollis, Tim (Monica) Gowens, Chris (Natasha) Gowens, and Jennifer (Matt) Williams.

A memorial service to honor his life will be held Thursday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. at Bayless Highway Baptist Church.

Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200 [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).



PAID OBITUARY

## Debra Griffis

Mrs. Debra Ann Cromer Griffis, 71, of Starke died Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, at Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville.

Survivors are her husband of 53 years, David "D.Z." Griffis; children, Michael (Kathryn) Griffis and Dena (Kyle) Boyette, sister, Pam Cromer; and extended family members.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Hope Baptist Church. A visitation will precede the service beginning at 10 a.m.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200 [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).

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

## PAHOKEE

Continued from page 11

passes for 1,397 yards and nine touchdowns. He's thrown only one interception.

Pahokee's top two receivers are senior Herbert Crawford and junior Kamari Foreman. Crawford has 33 catches for 503 yards and five touchdowns. Foreman has 34 catches for 487 yards and three touchdowns.

Leading rusher Brown has 19 receptions for 387 yards and a touchdown.

Opponents are scoring an average of nine points per game. In the Devils' eight wins, they've allowed a total of 16 points.

Senior linebacker Daylon Dean leads Pahokee in tackles with 74, while senior linebacker/end Kani Smith has 64. Junior defensive back Ricky Gary Jr. and junior lineman Antonio Simpson have 59 and 57, respectively, while junior lineman Cormarion Embry has 52.

The Devils have also gotten

46 tackles from junior lineman Tristian Gooden.

Simpson leads the team in tackles for loss with 16, including 8.5 sacks. Embry, Gooden and Smith each have double-digit tackles for loss, with Gooden and Smith each having recorded eight sacks.

Pahokee's defense hasn't created many turnovers this year with just two fumble recoveries and five interceptions.

If Union defeats the Blue Devils, it will advance to the Nov. 29 state semifinals. The Tigers would either travel to play second seed Madison County (7-3) or host 10th seed Blountstown (8-3).

Union is attempting to advance to the state semifinals for the second time in three years. The Tigers last did so in 2022, losing 21-11 to eventual state runner-up Northview.

Prior to 2022, the Tigers' last trip to the state semifinals was in 2011, when they lost to eventual state champ Jefferson County 27-6.

## Marilyn Hall

Marilyn Sue Hall of Brighton, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, at the age of 74, surrounded by her husband, children and grandchildren. On March 7, 1970, she married the love of her life, Wayne Hall, and went on to have three children, Steve, Kenny, and Robin. She was a veteran of the United States Navy, and upon her honorable discharge in 1970, she devoted her time to her family. She had a great love for cooking, gardening, crafting, sewing, and spending time with family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vanar and Mary Vance.

She is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Wayne; her children, Steve (Jennifer) Hall, Kenny (Katie) Hall, and Robin (Ricky) Russell; 11 grandchildren, Trey, Tyler, Tristan, Raven, Beau, Reece, Merick (Lauren), Ayden, Charlie, Forest, and Bethamy; and five great-grandchildren, Sawyer, Adalyn, Raelah, Sadie and Arthur.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Starke, with interment to follow at Hope Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200 [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).



PAID OBITUARY

## Marcel Henderson

Marcel VaShawn Henderson, 51, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, in Lawtey. Born on Aug. 31, 1973, Marcel graduated from Bradford High School and was known throughout his life for his kind and compassionate nature. Marcel cherished his hobbies, which included reading, traveling, and spending quality time with close family and friends. These activities reflected his warm, engaging personality and his ability to connect with others deeply. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Flag Lee; grandmother, Arie Lee; and father, William Henderson.

Marcel is survived by a loving family including his mother, Clara Evon Lee; his father who raised him, Willie Smith; brothers, Manzy Smith and nieces, Kaiden and Manzariyah Love and Maurice (Erica) Smith and nieces, Reign and Rhea; daughters, Bridget Radford, La'Kia Radford, and Marnaysia Henderson; son, Marcel Henderson Jr.; grandchildren, Kaison Pierce and Nyla Joiner; special cousins, Carmen Barber-Jamison and O'Keima Lee-Terrell; and a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A graveside memorial service will be held at Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 3 p.m. A repast will follow at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, Lawtey.

PAID OBITUARY

## Roy Morgan

Roy Daniel Morgan, 70, of Hampton, died Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024.

Survivors are his children, Roy David Morgan, James Michael (Hannah) Morgan, Desiree Welsh, Caitlain Rory Morgan, and Charles Daniel Morgan; brother, John (Tina) Morgan; sister, Peggy (Steve) Griffis; and extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held Monday, Nov. 18, at Northside Baptist Church. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

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



## Nancy Suddeth

Nancy Carter Suddeth, 67, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, after a year-long battle with cancer. She was born Feb. 12, 1957, the eighth of nine children, to the late John R. Carter and Julia Virginia Revels. She worked as a custodian in the Clay County School System until her retirement, at which time she and Billy moved to Lake Lochloosa. She loved fishing, having fish fries, and spending time with her family and friends, and those she loved. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Joan, Jean, Elizabeth, and Julia; brother, John Jr.; as well as three nephews.

She is survived by her husband of 18 years, Billy Suddeth; daughter, Angela (Rob) Murray; stepdaughter, Trish (Cruz) Bartolon; three granddaughters; five step-grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; her brother, Rudy Carter of Sparta, Georgia; two sisters, Lorraine Messer of Middleburg and Glenda (Ray) Terrell of Glen St. Mary; her two beloved dogs, Daisygirl and Charlie; along with a host of nieces and nephews.

A service to honor her life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. The family will receive friends for a visitation one hour prior to the service. She will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Swift Creek Cemetery. Pastor Randall A. Griffis Sr. to officiate. Pallbearers will be Ray Terrell, Roger Carter, Jimmy Hance, Rob Murray, Travis Justice, James Hance, Sr., Mike Huber, and Cruz Bartolon.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve Nancy's family during this time. 386-496-2008 [www.archerfuneralhome.com](http://www.archerfuneralhome.com)



PAID OBITUARY

## Bart Tanner

Bart Oliver Tanner, 87, was born on Jan. 17, 1937, in Maxville. He departed this life on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, at Magnolia Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Gainesville, leaving behind a legacy of service and compassion. With an illustrious career spanning 35 years, he served as a correctional officer with the Department of Corrections. His commitment to justice and his role in maintaining safety within the community earned him the admiration of many. Additionally, he devoted almost 40 years of service to the United States Army, where he exemplified dedication and loyalty, characteristics that resonated deeply throughout his life. He was known as a "people person," always taking the time to connect with those around him. His warm spirit and engaging personality left an indelible mark not only on his family but also on friends and colleagues throughout his life.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Constance "Connie" Tanner. He cherished his sons, Christopher (Donna) Tanner and Randy Tanner, and delighted in the presence of his grandchildren, Christopher Jr., Lesley, Seth, Austin, and Ashley. Bart's legacy continues to thrive through the love and memories shared with his sisters, Nancy (Bobby) Stalnaker, Marie Shaw, and Sara Pearl Edwards; as well as his sister-in-law, Beverly (Tommy) Greenwood.

A visitation was held in his honor on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler. Following the visitation, a graveside service took place at Philippi Baptist Church Cemetery in Lake City attended by family and friends who wished to pay their respects.

He will be remembered not only for his impressive career and military service, but also for the love and warmth he shared with those fortunate enough to know him. His spirit will continue to inspire, and his memory will live on in the hearts of his loved ones.

PAID OBITUARY



## PAHOKEE

Continued from page 11

touchdowns. He's thrown only one interception.

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## REMATCH

Continued from page 9

against Newberry, but he had two first-half interceptions, one of which was returned for a

## BHS

Continued from page 9

of offside penalties on The Villages, saw the Tornados drive from their own 35 to the Buffalo 14-yard line. A 3-yard run by Jeremiah McKenzie set up second-and-7 from the 11. Jy'Quez Cason scored on a run from there at the 6:58 mark of the second quarter. Cy Cubbedge kicked the extra point to make the score 7-0.

"You've got to knock some rust off," Rodgers said. (The Villages has) not missed a week. They've played the last five weeks in a row. You could tell they were sharp. You could tell we were not sharp early on. We weren't clicking like we normally do, but it got going in the second quarter."

Bradford's defense stepped up and forced The Villages to go three-and-out instead putting together another time-consuming drive. Tyler Berry was in on a tackle that resulted in a 2-yard loss on a run play before Trente Jenkins recorded a sack for a 1-yard loss. A holding penalty on the Tornados set the Buffalo up for a third-and-3 play, but Brian

touchdowns.

The Tornados trailed 21-0 before scoring in the fourth quarter.

Bradford and Newberry met each other in the 2021 Class 1A playoffs, with the Tornados winning that game 51-13.

Cliffin sacked Patrick Harding for a 5-yard loss. A dead-ball personal-foul penalty backed the Buffalo up another 15 yards before their punt, which had the Bradford offense starting a drive at the 50.

Gino Addison, who led all rushers with 83 yards on seven carries, broke free for a 43-yard gain to the 7-yard line. He received a second straight handoff and ran into the end zone from there. The Tornados, with Cubbedge's PAT, led 14-0 with 4:48 remaining until halftime.

The Tornados' defense forced another three-and-out series, but then gave the ball right back to the Buffalo when quarterback Zack Paulk was intercepted by Bradee Powell.

A holding penalty backed The Villages offense up to its own 17, but the Tornados were flagged for pass interference and then unsportsmanlike conduct, advancing the ball to just shy of midfield. Patrick Harding then overthrew his intended receiver, with Bradford's Hayward intercepting the ball at about his own 33-yard line and taking it back the distance for a pick-6 and a 20-0 Tornados lead with 2:24 left in the half. The PAT was

no good. "Defensive and special-teams touchdowns change games," Rodgers said. "That game was still two possessions — 14-0. He picks it and houses it. He's a difference maker. He's a great football player."

"He gave us the spark that we needed to go ahead and take care of business."

A Bradford penalty and a 12-yard pass completion had The Villages on the move on the next series as the Buffalo were at the 45-yard line of the Tornados. An 18-yard run by Powell resulted in a first down at the 27. The Tornados' Duke Lewis then sacked quarterback Jadence Kennedy for a 12-yard loss. Kennedy threw incompletions on second and third downs before Hayward intercepted another pass with 36 seconds remaining until halftime.

The Villages attempted an onside kick to start the second half, with Bradford recovering at its own 46. An offside penalty then moved the Tornados to the opponent's 49-yard line. Paulk completed a 19-yard pass to Cason for a first down at the 30. Iyen Addison, who finished with 38 yards on five carries, had a 12-yard run two plays later for a first down at the 13. After a 1-yard run by Williams, McKenzie had a 10-yard carry to the 2. McKenzie scored on a run from there at the 10:04 mark of the third quarter. Cubbedge added the PAT for a

Prep (6-4).

Bradford is attempting to advance to the region-championship round for the third straight year.

Newberry last played for a region championship in 2012.

27-0 lead.

Bradford's defense, like its offense, got off to a good start in the half as well. Kingston Booker made a tackle for a 2-yard loss before Cliffin made a one-handed interception, setting the Tornados' offense up at their opponent's 41-yard line.

Williams lined up to take the snap, faked a handoff to Gino Addison, and went up the middle as if he was shot out of a cannon. In mere seconds, he was out ahead of everyone on a touchdown run with 9:02 remaining in the third quarter. Bradford's successful two-point conversion on a McKenzie run made it 35-0 and enforced a running clock.

Bradford now has six wins this season in which each touchdown was scored by a different player. The Tornados' offense scored at least three touchdowns in four of those games.

"We like to spread it around. We like to get a lot of people involved," Rodgers said. "It's tough (for opponents) to get ready for."

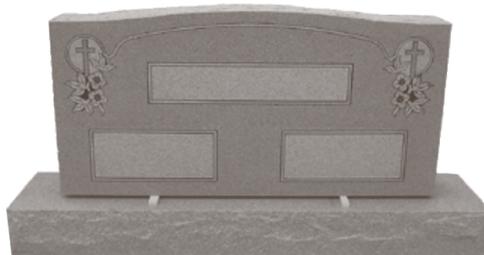
The Tornados had 277 yards of offense, with 228 yards coming on the ground. They averaged 10 yards per carry.

Bradford shut down The Villages' run game, which amassed 29 yards.

Buffalo quarterbacks Harding and Kennedy combined to go 16 of 27 for 125 yards.

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- Wills, Trusts, Probate
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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.

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# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Nov. 21, 2024

## BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO: 2024-CA-000273  
DIV:

CGM LAND INC,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
SAMPSON LAKE PROPERTIES, Inc.  
Defendant

NOTICE OF ACTION  
TO: SAMPSON LAKE PROPERTIES, Inc.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to QUIET TITLE to the following property in Bradford County, Florida: A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING ERRONEOUSLY DESCRIBED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1960 PAGE 342, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. SAID PARCEL BEING PORTIONS OF THE PLAT OF SAMPSON CITY, HAVING BEEN RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 1, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF SR 225 AND THE CENTERLINE OF SEABOARD COAST LINE RAILROAD AND RUN NORTH 46 DEG. 31 MIN. 44 SEC

WEST, A DISTANCE OF 1418.47 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 34 DEG. 50 MIN. 33 SEC. EAST, A DISTANCE OF 50.56 FEET, TO THE NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 225, TO A 1/2-INCH CAPPED IRON ROD (PLS 5098), FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN NORTH 34 DEG. 50 MIN. 33 SEC. EAST, ALONG THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF ORB 2056 PG 458, A DISTANCE OF 155.20 FEET TO A 1/2-INCH CAPPED IRON ROD (PSM 5500); THENCE RUN NORTH 35 DEG. 05 MIN. 01 SEC. EAST, ALONG THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF ORB 1960 PG 342, A DISTANCE OF 119.63 FEET TO A 1/2-INCH CAPPED IRON ROD (PSM 5098), BEING THE WESTERN MOST CORNER OF THAT PARCEL, A CEMETERY, EXCEPTED PER ORB 1415 PG 252; THENCE RUN SOUTH 54 DEG. 55 MIN. 57 SEC. EAST, ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF THAT PARCEL EXCEPTED PER ORB 1415 PG 252, A DISTANCE OF 234.68 FEET TO A 5/8-INCH IRON ROD WITH NO IDENTIFICATION; THENCE RUN NORTH 53 DEG. 01 MIN. 26 SEC. EAST, A DISTANCE OF 806.38 FEET TO A 2-INCH PIPE WITH NO IDENTIFICATION; THENCE RUN SOUTH 38 DEG. 59 MIN. 18 SEC. EAST, ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF LOTS 15-LV AND 16-LV OF AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION SURVEYED BY JOSEPH G. KNAPP "BREAMWOOD POINT LAKE LAKEVIEW AND BREAKWOOD LAKEVIEW" AS FILED WITH BRADFORD COUNTY OFFICIAL RECORDS AS MISC. MAP BOOK 1 PAGE 43, BOTH LOTS ALSO BEING DESCRIBED IN ORB 1470 PG 0265, A DISTANCE OF 256.93 FEET TO A 1-INCH IRON PIPE, BEING THE

SOUTHERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 15-LV; THENCE RUN SOUTH 58 DEG. 16 MIN. 54 SEC. WEST, ALONG THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF LOT 14-LV PER SAID BREAMWOOD POINT LAKE, A DISTANCE OF 50.26 FEET TO A 1-INCH IRON PIPE (NO ID), ALSO BEING THE WESTERN MOST CORNER OF SAID LOT 14-LV; THENCE RUN SOUTH 39 DEG. 00 MIN. 58 SEC. EAST, ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE AND THE SOUTHEASTERLY PROJECTION OF SAID LOT 14-LV, A DISTANCE OF 146.65 FEET TO A 1/2-INCH ILLEGIBLE CAPPED IRON ROD; THENCE RUN SOUTH 43 DEG. 16 MIN. 47 SEC. WEST, ALONG THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF ORB 1861 PG 216 PARCEL 5, A DISTANCE OF 110.28 FEET TO A 1/2-INCH CAPPED IRON ROD (LS 6209), SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE PRESUMED INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF SECOND STREET AND ISABELLE STREET OF SAMPSON CITY, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 PAGE 1 IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY; THENCE RUN SOUTH 46 DEG. 40 MIN. 52 SEC. EAST, ALONG THE PRESUMED CENTERLINE OF SAID SECOND STREET AND THE SOUTHWESTERLY LINE OF ORB 1861 PG 216 PARCEL 5, A DISTANCE OF 254.13 FEET TO A 5/8-INCH IRON ROD, SAID POINT BEING THE PRESUMED INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF SECOND STREET AND THE ALLEY OF BLOCK 10 LOCATED BETWEEN LOTS 1 AND 2, PER SAID SAMPSON CITY PLAT; THENCE RUN SOUTH 43 DEG. 30 MIN. 27 SEC. WEST, ALONG THE PRESUMED CENTERLINE OF SAID ALLEY BETWEEN SAID

LOTS 1 AND 2, A DISTANCE OF 250.50 FEET TO A 5/8" IRON ROD (NO I.D.) ALSO BEING THE PRESUMED INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF THE ALLEYS LOCATED BETWEEN LOTS 1 AND 2 OF BLOCK 10, AND THE PRESUMED CENTERLINE OF THE ALLEY LOCATED BETWEEN LOTS 2 AND 3 OF BLOCK 10 OF SAID PLAT OF SAMPSON CITY; THENCE RUN NORTH 46 DEG. 30 MIN. 07 SEC. WEST, ALONG THE PRESUMED CENTERLINE OF THE ALLEY BETWEEN SAID LOTS 2 AND 3, A DISTANCE OF 249.92 FEET TO A 5/8" IRON ROD (NO I.D.), BEING THE PRESUMED INTERSECTION OF SAID ALLEY AND THE CENTERLINE OF ISABELLE STREET PER SAID PLAT OF SAMPSON CITY; THENCE RUN SOUTH 43 DEG. 31 MIN. 04 SEC. WEST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE OF ISABELLE STREET, A DISTANCE OF 639.82 FEET TO A 5/8" IRON ROD AND THE INTERSECTION OF SAID CENTERLINE OF ISABELLE STREET AND THE NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SW COUNTY ROAD 225; THENCE RUN NORTH 46 DEG. 31 MIN. 44 SEC. WEST, ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 716.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Parcel ID Number: 00838-0-00000 (3440) Property Address: SW CR 225, Starke, Florida 32091 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on the Hildebrandt Law Firm, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 10300 49th Street North, Suite #207, Clearwater, FL 33762, on or before \_\_\_\_\_ or 30 days after the 1st publication, and file the

original with the Clerk of this Court at its physical address or in person at 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091 or P.O. Drawer B. Starke, FL 32091 either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on 18th day of October 2024. DENNY THOMPSON As Clerk of the Circuit Court By: K. SMITH As Deputy Clerk (904) 966-6280 Hildebrandt Law Firm, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 10300 49th Street North, Suite #207 Clearwater, FL 33762 To be Published in: Bradford County Telegraph 10/31 4tchg 11/21-BCT

tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on December 10, 2024 and end at 10AM on December 17, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837 Time: 10:00AM CST A54, Sharp, Khampae, B06, Morgan, Tina, B13, Sofield, Ashley, B16, Morgan, Tina, B20, Faulkner, Jessica, B74, Jackson, Theresa Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837. 11/21 2tchg 11/28-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on Dec. 6th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. 2013 FORD Vin# 1FTEX1CM9DFD94039 11/14 2tchg 11/21-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on December 17, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, 11/21 1tchg-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on December 3, 2024, at 9:30 AM, inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured - no firearms or weapons are permitted. 11/21 1tchg-BCT



**MeLissa Pellerito**  
REALTOR®

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



**Florida Homes Realty & Mortgage**

"Absolutely amazing to work with MeLissa. Her professionalism, market knowledge, prompt attention to all matters makes her a true professional who cares about the service she provides. Thanks MeLissa!"



**For Sale!**  
MLS #2056086



**601 W Weldon Street, Starke FL 32091**



**Ron Blake**  
352-235-1644  
2518 State Rd 21,  
Melrose, FL 32666

"Their knowledgeable and professional attitude is a winning combination."



**MLS #2054870**

**32404 Fern Parke Way, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034**



**For Sale!**



**COLDWELL BANKER SMITH & SMITH REALTY**

**Marty & Lisa Shaw**  
904-964-9222  
415 E Call St,  
Starke, FL 32091

"I have worked with Marty, Lisa and Austin in a professional capacity numerous times and have never had an issue with any of them. I highly recommend them and Smith and Smith Realty if you are looking to buy or sell in Bradford or the surrounding counties."



**For Sale!**

**MLS #2017292**



**Garrett Bishop**  
904-509-8892

**200 Coral Farms Rd Florahome, FL 32140**

"Justis is the best! She will guide you every way possible. She's flexible, reliable and dependable!! Highly recommend in Clay County. Very honest and informative. She will help find you the best property possible! She deserves a raise! 5 stars and if I could, I would give her 10 stars!"



**SouthLand REALTY & MANAGEMENT CO**

**Justis Smith**  
352-258-4619  
100 E Nightingale St.  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

justis@southland-realty.com



**For Sale!**

**6283 Vanderbilt Dr, Keystone Heights, FL 32656**

Beautiful cleared lot of 1.084 acres, has been prep and is ready for you and your imagination to run wild! Located only .2 miles from CR 214 and .1 miles from hard road. Conveniently located minutes from town, the Lake Geneva boat ramp, and only 40 minutes from downtown Gainesville. Zoned for A Rated Schools in Clay County; Keystone Heights Elementary and Keystone High School. Here is your chance to own in desirable Keystone Heights! SELLER OFFERING 5% BUYERS AGENT COMMISSION

**MLS #11329558**

## Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



**Class Ads**  
11/21/24

**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 discrimina-

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

**47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)**

TURN KEY BEAUTY SALON. Located at 144 W. Call Street, next to

Walgreens. \$700/mo. 1st, last & security. Call 904-964-6305.

OFFICE FOR RENT. Located next to post office. Turn key for commercial space or specialized space. \$800/mo., first, last & deposit. Call 904-964-6305 for info.

**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

UPCOMING Lakefront located in Keystone. 2BR/1BA \$1400/mo., 3BR/1BA \$1500/mo. No pets, lawncare included. 904-613-5715

3BR/2BA SWMH. Large shaded lot in Lawtew. No pets. Mowing included. \$1100/mo., first, last & security. Call

904-263-3377, if no answer send text.

FOR RENT in Starke on Sampson Lake. 3BR/1.5BA \$1200/mo. 1BR/1BA \$950/mo. 904-263-9645.

**53 A**

YARD SALE; Fri. & Sat. 9am-3pm. Lots of stuff. 20932 NE 20th Lane, Lawtew. Cancel if rain.

YARD SALE; 10650 NW CR 225. Fri. & Sat. 8am-5pm.

YARD SALE; Fri. & Sat. 403 E Market Rd. Tupperware, furniture, home interior pictures, household items, Christmas decorations and lots, lots more.

**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"

**WELL DRILLING**  
QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964  
**24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE**  
**964-7061**  
STATE LICENSE #1305  
**DURRANCE PUMP**

**HERITAGE VILLAS**  
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts  
607 Bradford Court  
Starke, FL 32091  
904-964-6216  
TDD 771  
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

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

**Lake Butler Apartments 1, 2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**  
HC & Non-HC accessible. 1005 SW 6th St. Lake Butler, FL  
**386-496-3141**  
TDD/TTY 711.  
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!  
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."  
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

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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

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Nov. 21, 2024

## BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO.: 24000016CAAXMX  
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION  
PLAINTIFF,  
VS.  
KAREN ANN WALDRON A/K/A KAREN WALDRON, HARRIET WALDRON, MAR-ION WALDRON ET AL.,  
DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE (Please publish in Bradford Telegraph)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 28th day of October, 2024, and entered in Case No. 24000016CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARION WALDRON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF KAREN ANN WALDRON; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY N/K/A JIMMY LEWIS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF HARRIET WALDRON; MARION WALDRON; HARRIET WALDRON and KAREN ANN WALDRON A/K/A KAREN WALDRON; are Defendants. Denny Thompson as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 at 11:00 A.M. EST on the 27th day of February, 2025, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

ALL that certain land situate in Bradford County, Florida, viz:

A part of section 27, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at the northeast corner of southeast 1/4, of the northwest 1/4 of said section 27; THENCE South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 647.81 feet to the South Right of way line of the northwest 219th Street; THENCE continue South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 256.25 feet; THENCE South 89 degrees 10 minutes 36 seconds West, 246.89 feet to the point of BEGINNING; THENCE South 00 degrees 47 minutes 34 seconds East, 208.72 feet; THENCE South 89 degrees 12 minutes 23 seconds West, 208.72 feet;

THENCE North 00 degrees 47 minutes 34 seconds West, 208.72 feet; THENCE North 89 degrees 12 minutes 23 seconds East, 208.72 feet to the point of BEGINNING.

Together with a 30 feet ingress, egress and utility easement being more particularly described as follows:

Part of section 27, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at the northeast corner of the southeast 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of said section 27; THENCE South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 647.81 feet to the South right of way line of northwest 219th Street; THENCE continue South 00 degrees 49 minutes 24 seconds East, 256.25 feet; THENCE South 89 degrees 10 minutes 36 seconds West, 246.89 feet to the point of BEGINNING;

THENCE South 89 degrees 12 minutes 23 seconds West, 30.21 feet; THENCE North 05 degrees 58 minutes 25 seconds East, 107.81 feet; THENCE North 33 degrees 19 minutes 41 seconds East, 210.55 feet to an intersection with the South right of way line of northwest 219th Street; THENCE South 81 degrees 10 minutes 56 seconds East, along said right of way line, 32.97 feet; THENCE South 33 degrees 19 minutes 41 seconds West, departing said right of way line, 216.93 feet; THENCE South 05 degrees 58 minutes 25 seconds West, 96.95 feet to the point of BEGINNING.

And  
A parcel of land containing 20.00 acres and lying partly in the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 and partly in the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Northeast corner of said SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 and run South 00 degrees, 49 minutes and 24 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 647.81 feet to a concrete monument found on the Southerly boundary of the right of way of NW 65th Avenue (a County graded road also known as Buck Lake Road) for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 00 degrees, 49 minutes and 24 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary 687.45 feet to an iron pipe found at the Northeast corner of said NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 thence South 00 degrees, 46 minutes and 17 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 932.02 feet to a set concrete monument; thence continue South 00 degrees, 46 minutes and 17 seconds East, along last said Easterly boundary, 77.04 feet to an intersection with the present centerline of Water Oak Creek; thence run along said centerline the following courses: North 67 degrees, 37 minutes, and 15 seconds West, 50.52 feet; North 09 degrees, 36 minutes and 43 seconds West, 26.57 feet; North 45 degrees, 40 minutes and 36 seconds

West, 42.24 feet; North 76 degrees, 09 minutes and 40 seconds West, 23.02 feet; South 86 degrees, 34 minutes and 45 seconds West, 50.69 feet; North 40 degrees, 40 minutes and 34 seconds West, 45.74 feet; North 75 degrees, 23 minutes and 39 seconds West, 91.62 feet; North 86 degrees, 17 minutes and 37 seconds West, 123.80 feet; South 60 degrees, 51 minutes and 17 seconds West, 24.51 feet; North 76 degrees, 35 minutes and 07 seconds West, 77.47 feet; North 87 degrees, 45 minutes and 01 seconds West, 74.52 feet to an intersection with a line having a bearing of South 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 37 seconds East (said line being the Westerly boundary of the herein described parcel); thence North 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 37 seconds West, along said line and along said Westerly boundary, 32.87 feet to a set concrete monument; thence continue North 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 37 seconds West, along said line and along said Westerly boundary, 1136.61 feet to an iron rod set in the centerline of a drainage ditch; thence North 25 degrees, 15 minutes and 49 seconds East, along last said centerline, 106.89 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 31 degrees, 22 minutes and 23 seconds East, along last said centerline, 159.53 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 15 degrees, 26 minutes and 57 seconds East, along last said centerline, 207.80 feet to an iron rod set on said Southerly boundary of NW 65th Avenue; thence South 81 degrees, 10 minutes and 56 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary, 380.77 feet to the Point of Beginning. Subject to existing easements for power lines or drainage.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

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. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

Dated this 8th day of November, 2024.

By: /s/ Liana R. Hall  
Liana R. Hall  
Bar No. 73813

Submitted by:  
Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC  
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

210 N. University Drive, Suite 900  
Coral Springs, FL 33071

DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE

PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516

ESERVICE@MGS-LEGAL.COM

11/14 2tchg 11/21-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Bradford County, Florida (the "County") hereby provides notice, pursuant to Section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for more than one year to fund annual costs incurred by the County in providing fire protection and emergency medical services. The uniform method allows for the collection of non-ad valorem assessments, sometimes referred to as special assessments, on the annual property tax bill mailed each November by the county tax collector. The Board will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform collection method, commencing in November 2025, at a public hearing to be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 19, 2024, at the County Commission Chambers located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091.

Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. The non-ad valorem assessments may be levied within the entire County; provided, however, that the imposition and collection of non-ad valorem assessments from any incorporated area of the County shall be subject to the consent by ordinance of the governing body of the affected municipality as required by section 125.01(1)(q), Florida Statutes. The resolution does not impose any assessments, it only preserves the County's ability to collect assessments on the annual property tax bill beginning in November 2025, if the Board takes additional steps before then to impose fire protection assessments. Such additional steps include public hearing and mailed notice at least twenty (20) days before the public hearing to all owners of real property subject to the assessments. Copies of the proposed form of resolution are on file at the office of the County Manager, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing. In the event any person decides to

appeal any decision by the Board with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation of an interpreter to participate in these proceedings should contact the County Manager at (904) 966-6327, at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida  
Publish on the following dates:  
November 21, 2024, November 28, 2024, December 5, 2024, December 12, 2024

11/21 4tchg 12/12-BCT

CORRECTION -REQUEST FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bradford County S.H.I.P. Program will receive sealed bids until 2:30 p.m. December 2, 2024 at the Bradford County Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 for the following:

Renovation of residence located at: 101 S. Myrtle Street, Starke, FL 17843 NW 48th Avenue, Starke, FL

A mandatory walk through is a prerequisite to a valid bid. All interested bidders will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024, at the Community Development Office located at 925-E North Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida. If you plan to submit a bid, a representative of your firm must attend the "walk through" of the unit to become familiar with the property and the scope of work to be completed.

No contractors shall visit the subject property for any reason without first making arrangements with the County and owner.

All contractors must have proof of Residential or General Contractor's License, proof of Liability Insurance, proof of Workers' Compensation Insurance (or Exemption Card), a statement of non-discrimination, and at least two references from previously completed jobs.

Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024 or as soon thereafter as possible in the presence of the Clerk or his designee, Community Development staff, and all interested persons in the Bradford County Board of County Commission Meeting Room.

The opened bids will be read into public record and preserved in the custody of the Community Development Department.

Bids will not be valid unless received by the bid deadline and in a sealed envelope marked, "Sealed Bid, S.H.I.P." and received by 2:30 p.m., December 2, 2024.

Questions to be submitted in writing to the Community Development office at kelly.canady@bradfordcountyfl.gov or Fax (904) 966-6384 no later than 3:00 p.m. Friday, November 29, 2024.

The County reserves the right to reject all bids when in its best judgment they are too high or when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County that the bids be re-advertised.

Pursuant to Section 255.0991, Florida Statutes, Bradford County WILL NOT offer a local preference for this project.

It is the policy of the County to promote equal opportunity to obtain adequate housing by all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap, or national origin.

11/21 1tchg-BCT

CALL FOR BID

The Town of Brooker needs some fence work done on property located at 17375 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, FL. We need 6' commercial grade fencing. Please contact Charlene Thomas, 352-485-1022, to see location of where fence goes.

11/21 1tchg-BCT

reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.

10/31 4tchg 11/21-UCT

Notice of Application for Tax Deed NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that OLUSTEE CREEK, LLC, the holder(s) of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE #: 61  
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2017  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 13-06-18-53-000-0370-0  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:  
LOT 37, SADDLE-BROOK ESTATES, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 32-33, PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ESTATE OF LESLIE L BUBLITZ AND THE ESTATE OF SUSAN C BUBLITZ Said property being in the County of Union, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 12th day of DECEMBER, 2024. Dated this 22ND day of OCTOBER, 2024.

Leslie C. Snyder  
For Kellie Hendricks Rhoades  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Union County, Florida

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.

10/31 4tchg 11/21-UCT

Notice of Application for Tax Deed NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that LOLA LACY, the holder(s) of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE #: 217  
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2019  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 32-05-20-22-014-0020-0  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:  
Lot 2, Block 14, J. W. Townsend's Addition to the City of Lake Butler, according to plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 1, page 8, public records of Union County, Florida.

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: Carlene Lee Graham  
Said property being in the County of Union, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 12th day of December, 2024. Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

Leslie C. Snyder  
For Kellie Hendricks Rhoades  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Union County, Florida

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.

10/31 4tchg 11/21-UCT

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS LP WTP GST REPLACEMENT DEP CONTRACT NO. LPA0314 CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

Sealed Bids for the construction of the LP WTP GST Replacement project will be received by the City of Lake Butler, Florida at the office of the City Clerk, 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, until December 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm local time. At that time, the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project includes the following Work: Construction of a new 200,000-gallon Ground Storage Tank (GST) at the City's Water Treatment Plant (WTP), along with incidental site work, piping, and minor electrical work.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: LP WTP GST Replacement, DEP Agreement No. LPA0314.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Mittauer & Associates, Inc., 580-1 Wells Road, Orange Park, Florida 32073, (904) 278-0030. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office, Monday through Friday, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents will be provided electronically as portable document format (PDF) files and as printed Bidding Documents, both for a non-refundable charge of \$100 per set payable to "Mittauer & Associates, Inc." Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, the digital files will be emailed, and the printed Bidding Documents will be sent via UPS Ground. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at the City Hall, 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, (386) 496-3401, Monday through Friday.

Bid security must be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The City of Lake Butler, Florida is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Instructions to Bidders.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

11/21 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 24000086CAAXMX

MIDFIRST BANK

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL A FEE, ET AL.

Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: MICHAEL A FEE, Current residence unknown, but whose last known address was: 8191 SW 128TH LN, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Union County, Florida, to-wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN SECTION 4 TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 4, A DISTANCE OF 1297.48 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD # S-796; THENCE RUN NORTH 87 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 842.77 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, THENCE RUN EASTERLY CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE NORTHERLY AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 1472.40 FEET, A CHORD BEARING OF NORTH 80 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 07 SECONDS EAST, AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 402.38 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE RUN NORTH 72 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 54 SECONDS EAST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY, A DISTANCE OF 1919.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT THENCE RUN EASTERLY CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE SOUTHERLY AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 1869.86 FEET, A CHORD BEARING OF NORTH 80 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 34 SECONDS EAST AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 533.04 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 1299.92 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING NORTH 88 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD # S-796, A DISTANCE OF 346.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF CURVATURE OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT; THENCE RUN SOUTHEASTERLY, CONTINUING ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE AND ALONG THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID COUNTY ROAD #S-796, ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE SOUTHWESTERLY AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 50.00 FEET, A CHORD BEARING OF SOUTH 47 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST AND A CHORD DISTANCE OF 69.56 FEET TO THE POINT OF TANGENCY; THENCE RUN SOUTH 03 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 25 SECONDS EAST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD # S-796, A DISTANCE OF 176.39 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 51 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 387.55 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 05 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 225.90 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on eXL Legal, PLLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 12425 28th Street North, Suite 200, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, on or before December 19, 2024 or within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 55 West Main Street, Union County Courthouse, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint petition.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court on this 18th day of November, 2024.

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, CPA  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: Crystal Hollingsworth  
Deputy Clerk  
Publish in: Union County Times  
53873 072821

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337-6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than

7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org.

11/21 2tchg 11/28-UCT

CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE 2024-609 BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1st, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30th, 2025 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida, has prepared a budget estimate of the expenditures and revenues of all City Departments, divisions and offices of said City for the Fiscal year beginning October 1st, 2024, and ending September 30th, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida, will finalize the tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025 on September 16, 2024, NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida in regular session assembled, that:

Section One: The budget, a copy of which is attached hereto, be and the same is hereby ratified, confirmed and adopted for the budget of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida for the fiscal year beginning October 1st, 2024, and ending September 30th, 2025.

Section Two: This Ordinance shall not become effective until after its final reading, passage and adoption by the City Council at its meeting November 25th, 2024.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION: This Ordinance will be adopted pursuant to the authority conferred by Chapter 200, Florida Statutes. Public hearing after notice of the tax rate held on November 25th, 2024, after 6:00P.M. at City Hall in Keystone Heights, Florida.

ENACTED, PASSED AND ADOPTED after final reading by the City Council of Keystone Heights, Florida on the 25th day of November 2024.

CITY COUNCIL OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA  
By: Nina Rodenroth, Mayor  
ATTEST: Charlie Van Zant, City Manager

11/21 1tchg LRM

CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE 2024-610 BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS LEVYING THE AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; STATING THE PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE MILLAGE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLLED-BACK RATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida law requires the City Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida to pass an ordinance or resolution levying the millage rate for ad valorem property taxes for municipal purposes on all taxable property within the City Limits of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Florida law requires said ordinance or resolution to state the millage rate to be levied, and also, to state the percentage by which the millage rate to be levied exceeds the rolled-back rate as computed pursuant to Florida law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida has duly considered the budgetary requirements of the City; has adopted a tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, based on a millage rate of 3.8847 mills on the taxable property within the City; and has acted in accordance with the terms, provisions, and procedures contained on Section 200.065, Florida Statutes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida in regular session assembled, that:

1. The ad valorem property tax millage rate for municipal purposes to be levied on the taxable property within the City Limits of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida, during the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, is hereby set at the rate of 3.8847 mills.

2. The percentage by which this millage rate is to be levied is an increase of the rolled-back rate of 3.1216 mills (computed pursuant to Florida law) by 24.45%.

3. This ordinance shall take effect October 1st, 2024, upon its passage and adoption by the City Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida.

DULY APPROVED AND ADOPTED on the 25th day of November 2024, by the City Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida.

Nina Rodenroth, Mayor  
ATTEST: Charlie Van Zant, City Manager

11/21 1tchg LRM

**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

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

Editor: Mark J. Crawford  
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# Starke Kiwanis installs officers, names its Kiwanian of the Year



Ed Rensberger (right) is presented with the Kiwanian of the Year award by outgoing president Nelson Green at the Kiwanis Club of Starke's 2024-25 installation banquet, which took place Sept. 24 at Starke's The Downtown Grill.

George Konkel is the Kiwanis Club of Starke president for 2024-25. He addresses club members at the installation banquet.



Nelson Green (far left), the club's past president and current lieutenant governor for the district, is pictured with the 2024-25 Starke Kiwanis board members (l-r): Patricia Evans, Bear Bryan, David Kniseley, Steve Futch and Mike Ruszkowski. Not pictured are Richard Cason and Tanya Ramirez.

## Starke Shop with a Cop donations to be collected by sheriff's office

A previous press release that was published in the Nov. 7 issue of the Telegraph-Times-Monitor stated that the newly created nonprofit organization, The Warren Project Corp, would be coordinating and collecting

donations for Starke's annual Shop with a Cop event. However, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will now be the sole coordinator, so donations should go to that office.

Any monies that have already

been sent to The Warren Project Corp will be transferred to the appropriate account at the sheriff's office.

Please call the Bradford County Sheriff's Office at 904-966-2276 for more information.



## Something to cheer about!

Bradford Cowboys Athletic cheerleaders won the 14U-L1 Small championship at the Nov. 16 Southeast Regional event in Augustus, Georgia. The cheerleaders will compete for the national championship on Thursday, Dec. 5, in Kissimmee. Team members are Jahziya Hactchiinson, Lyndon Harris, Samaria Desue, Jayla Lewis, Malaiah Dood and Jalaiah Carter. They are joined by Coach Bella, Coach Olivia and Coach Shantae.

## Tax-Aide recruiting local volunteers to assist taxpayers

If you have a love for helping people and can spare (as of now) at least four hours one day a week during tax season, the AARP Foundation has volunteer opportunities through its Tax-Aide program in Bradford County.

Tax-Aide and its volunteer counselors provide free tax preparation and filing for low- to moderate-income elderly.

Training, which is free of charge, takes place this month and in early December, with volunteers becoming certified by the IRS.

"We want people to be certified by early January," volunteer

Arvid Nelson said.

Those interested should visit [aarp.org/aarp-foundation/get-involved/tax-aide](http://aarp.org/aarp-foundation/get-involved/tax-aide) or call Nelson at 904-385-8216.

As of now, tax help would be provided one day a week in Starke at the Bradford County Public Library.

Volunteer counselors don't need to have prior tax-preparation knowledge.

People wanting to volunteer can participate in one of three types of training: self-study (with a book provided to them), in-person or virtual.

Nelson stressed that counselors don't have to memorize anything. They have resources via a laptop computer at their disposal that they refer to during training and while offering tax help to others.

Counselors in Bradford County would be committing to working four hours one day a week, though Nelson said they should plan for up to an additional two

hours that would include setting up and breaking down before and after appointments.

Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free tax-assistance service. It assisted 1.7 million taxpayers last year.

## Satisfy sweet tooth, support education in Bradford Co.

The Bradford County Education Foundation is set to host its annual Thanksgiving cake auction, which will take place on Brenda Thornton's Facebook page, beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22.

Bidding, which will end on Monday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m., is done by commenting underneath the individual cake's photo.

Cakes will be picked up at Starke's The Downtown Grill.

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**11/28-29**  
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## Wiley scores 5 goals in 2 wins for KHHS boys soccer team

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Aaron Wiley scored two goals for the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team, which defeated visiting Newberry 4-2 on Nov. 18 for its second straight win.

Luke Brunt and Noah Jaramillo each had one goal and one assist for the Indians (3-1-1). Elijah Ortiz had one assist.

Keystone entered the match off a 4-2 District 4-3A win over visiting Palatka on Nov. 15. Wiley had three goals and one assist.

The Indians also got a goal each from Brunt and Sammy Wacha as well as one assist each from Brunt, Jaramillo and Ryder Thomas.

Keystone played Fort White

this past Tuesday and will host Trenton on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m.

## KHHS girls soccer team finishes in tie with Newberry

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Kayden Huntley and Halea Lam each scored a goal as the Keystone Heights High School girls soccer team finished in a 2-2 tie against visiting Newberry on Nov. 18.

Goalie Aspen Krohn made five saves.

The Indians (3-2-1) went 1-1 in their previous two matches, beginning with a 6-1 District 4-3A win at Eastside on Nov. 12.

Huntley scored four goals on five shot attempts in the win. It was her second straight match with four goals.

Lam and Tayler Buchanan each had one goal and two



Kayden Huntley (left) scored 4 goals for the second straight match in Keystone's 6-1 win over Eastside.

assists, with Kayle Buchanan adding one assist.

Keystone traveled to play P.K. Yonge on Nov. 15, losing 8-0.

The Indians played Fort White this past Tuesday and will host Trenton on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 5 p.m.

The girls team travels to Gainesville to play Eastside on Monday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Bradford will play its first boys game on Tuesday, Nov. 26, when the Tornadoes host Clay at 7:30 p.m.

a 46-37 win over visiting Cedar Key on Nov. 18.

Heaven Scott and Gabrielle Moore scored 12 and 10 points, respectively. The Tigers also got six points from Faith Sirmones, five points each from Brooke Hunt and Iamorieah Williams, four points from Brianna Taylor and two points each from Tessa Warren and Ivy Wilson.

Wilson and Moore led the team in rebounds with six and five, respectively, while Scott and Hunt had six and five steals, respectively.

The Tigers played St. Francis this past Tuesday and will host Oak Hall on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 5 p.m.

On Friday, Nov. 22, Union travels to High Springs to play First Christian Academy at 6 p.m.



Walker Munroe and the Hope Christian Lions will host Open Bible Christian on Nov. 22. Photo by Chris Amis.

## KHHS hoops teams back in action Nov. 21 and Nov. 22

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's boys and girls basketball teams opened the regular season with wins and will each play one more game before the Thanksgiving break.

The boys team, which defeated host Hope Christian 69-55 on Nov. 18, will travel to Gainesville to play Oak Hall on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m.

Keystone began the girls season with a 46-22 win at Hope Christian on Nov. 18. The Indians will host Maclay on Friday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m.

games of the season, but will attempt to come out on the winning side when they host Open Bible Christian on Friday, Nov. 22.

The girls teams will play at 6 p.m., followed by the boys game at 7 p.m.

Hope hosted Keystone Heights on Nov. 18, with the girls team losing 46-22 and the boys losing 69-55.

The boys team trailed Keystone by only two points after the first quarter, but a big second quarter saw the Indians outscore the Lions 21-10.

Aiden Wilson and Gunner Loften led the Lions with 17 and 12 points, respectively. Hope also got nine points from Zenik Patrick, eight points from Walker Munroe, four points each from Brice Flint and Mason Masciocchi and one point from Joele Smith.

In the girls game, the Lions got 15 points from Addyson Wilson. Autumn Hunt had three points, while Ashlyn Crews and Alyssa Hunt each had two.

Both teams played at First Christian this past Tuesday.

## HCA boys, girls teams to host Open Bible Nov. 22

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Hope Christian Academy's boys and girls varsity basketball teams dropped their first home

## BHS teams ready to start hoops play

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School will get the regular season started in basketball when the girls team hosts Fort White on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

## UCHS girls defeat Cedar Key 46-37 in basketball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

After a winless season in 2023-24, the Union County High School girls basketball team opened this year's season with

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<p>SATURDAY 11/23</p> <p>WICKED- 4:00 &amp; 7:30 (Downstairs)</p> <p>RED ONE- 4:15 &amp; 7:00 (Upstairs)</p>	<p>SUNDAY 11/24</p> <p>WICKED- 4:00 &amp; 7:30 (Downstairs)</p> <p>RED ONE- 4:15 &amp; 7:00 (Upstairs)</p>

# northside

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904-964-7124

## Feeding BRADFORD

Free Thanksgiving meals to help feed Families!

November 23

Northside Baptist Church is going to provide 200 Thanksgiving meals to help feed families across Bradford County. Meals are completely free and will be distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last. Distribution kicks off at 10 am in our parking lot (7415 NW County Rd 225, Starke, FL 32091), with the car line opening at 8 am.

# Thanksgiving Dinner

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See Deli Clerk for order form.

LAST DAY TO ORDER: Sun., Nov. 24.

Orders MUST be picked up by noon Weds., Nov. 27. While supplies last.