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**SHOP LOCAL BUSINESS SECTION**  
Pages 10 & 11

**SHOP LOCAL &**

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sections



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# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, November 24, 2022

144th year, 13th Issue — \$1

## Thanks for giving



Starke Elementary School's student council, along with other students, parents and staff, collected enough items to give away 10 Thanksgiving baskets with turkeys. Second-grade students collected the most items. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Koleson Lee, Macie McCoy, Jordan Brown, Drake Culverson, (middle, l-r) Ana Alcalá-Oseguera, Callan Phillips, (back, l-r) Tayten Raymond, Angel Norman, Leah Scott, Khamill James, Dejanae Hill, Virginia Hancock, Raef Cubbedge and teacher Belinda Phillips.

## Starke man claims \$1 million lottery ticket

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

STARKE — The Florida Lottery said a Starke man has won \$880,000 after redeeming a \$1 million ticket from the Billion Dollar Gold Rush Supreme scratch-off game.

Ryan Sodek purchased his winning ticket from Winn-Dixie, located at 470 West Madison Street in Starke. The retailer will receive a \$2,000 bonus commission for selling the winning ticket.

Instead of receiving periodic payments totaling \$1 million, Sodek chose to receive his prize in one lump-sum payment.

The lottery said it launched the Billion Dollar Gold Rush Supreme in February 2021. The game features four top prizes of \$15 million and 24 prizes of \$1 million. The overall odds of winning are 1 in 2.59.

"Scratch-off games are an important part of the Lottery's portfolio of games," the Lottery said in a news release, "comprising approximately 77 percent of ticket sales in the fiscal year 2021-2022.

The Lottery said that since their inception, scratch-off games have generated more than \$17.06 billion for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund.



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**WORTH NOTING**

### Collection site closings

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for Thanksgiving. They will reopen at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26.

### KUMC hosts Thanksgiving

Keystone United Methodist Church plans its 16th annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community on Thursday, Nov. 24. Doors open at 1 p.m. and food service begins at 2 p.m.

This dinner is free and all are welcome to attend. The church is located at 4000 State Road 21.

### Shop Small this Saturday

Take advantage of what local small businesses offer and support them on Shop Small Saturday on Nov. 26.

Downtown Starke merchants are planning another Shop Small Saturday event, welcoming in additional vendors for a sidewalk sale. Come shop, have lunch and win prizes. Find the perfect gift or pick up a gift card for a massage, dinner, entertainment and much more.

### Library closed for training

The Bradford County Public Library will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 23, for staff training.

## Dickinson steps down as KHHS football coach

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Chuck Dickinson announced his resignation as Keystone Heights High School head varsity football coach after 24 seasons.

In a letter he sent to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor, Dickinson wrote that his decision came after much thought and prayer, adding, "It has been my honor to lead this program over the last couple of decades. I want to thank all of my former players and their parents for letting me be a part of your child's life.

"I know the future will be bright for the next head football coach to lead the Indians to new heights."

During a follow-up phone interview, Dickinson said, "I thought about it the last few years. No one specific reason. I just thought it was time."

Dickinson said he actually asked former Head Coach Wesley Dicks following the 2021 season how he'd know when it was time to give it up. Dicks replied, "You'll know."

"He was right," Dickinson said.

Dickinson will remain in his role as athletic director and continue his track and field coaching duties this year. He expects he'll continue to help out here

and there in coaching, especially with boys weightlifting.

He said stepping down as football coach will give him more time to devote to his duties as AD. Dickinson pointed out how the school is in the midst of having a new track installed and will host track and field meets in the future. He also said he'll be able to devote more time to helping the other sports programs — time he may not necessarily have had as head football coach.

"I'll still be busy," Dickinson said.

The 1979 KHHS graduate said he never envisioned being his alma mater's head coach for 24 years after

being hired in 1999.

"I was glad I was able to do it that long," Dickinson said.

Dickinson compiled a 118-122 record, with 10 winning seasons and four .500 seasons. In his sixth season, the Indians posted a 6-3 record for their first winning season in seven years. The following year saw the team win seven games for the first time since 1997, while the 2006 team went 9-2.

From 2004 through 2007, Keystone had a record of 30-11.

See COACH, page 8

## Clay County announces kayak bass fishing tournament

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County tourism officials announced a new kayak bass fishing tournament for 2023, which they said could increase visits to the Lake Region.

County Commissioner and Tourist Development Council Chair Mike Cella made the announcement at Whitey's Fish Camp in Fleming Island on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

County Tourism Director Kimberly Morgan said the tournament is an opportunity for outsiders to get acquainted with the Lake Region.

"If anything," said Morgan, "the southern part of the county has this as an opportunity. Lake Geneva and other thriving lakes will be wonderful new discoveries for the people participating in the kayak bass fishing initiative we are bringing here."

Cella said tourism impacts the

county more than most people realize.

"In 2019, the last pre-pandemic year, visitors spent \$218.7 million here in Clay County," he said. "They paid \$46.8 million in federal, state, and local taxes. They supported nearly 3,500 jobs."

Cella added that if all the 3,500 Clay jobs supported by tourism were within one organization, that business would be one of the top five largest employers in the county.

Cella said that after the county launched its tourism website: ExploreClay.com, officials were surprised that the Number 1 search term inquired on the site was "fishing."

"The good news is that visitors really want to come to Clay County to fish," he said. "The problem is that we've had very little fishing content on the website or even a local destination that featured fishing."

See FISHING, page 8

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# County appoints new chair, vice chair

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

During the Nov. 15 Bradford County Commission meeting, Diane Andrews and Carolyn Spooner were appointed chair and vice chair of the board. This was a first for both women, but possibly for the board and Bradford County as

well. Andrews may be the first woman to hold the leadership position, and Spooner may be the first woman appointed vice chair. Spooner is surely the first African American woman to hold the role.

Both commissioners are among the few women who have served on the board. When



Bradford County Board Chairwoman Diane Andrews and Vice Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner.

former commissioner Lila Sellars was elected in 2008, she was only the third woman on the board — with the earlier women serving decades before that. Each year the board reorganizes and appoints officers

to serve yearlong terms. The chairperson conducts meetings, signs documents and represents the county in an official capacity. The vice chair covers these roles in the absence of the chair.

# Roofing manufacturer files plan for factory north of Lawley

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

STARKE— IKO Industries, which manufactures roof shingles, waterproofing and insulation products, has filed a site plan with the St. Johns River Water Management District for a nearly 700,000-square-foot manufacturing facility four miles north of the Bradford-Clay County line. The two parcels in the site plan, totaling 81.2 acres, are bordered by U.S. 301 and Clay County Road 218.

The Jacksonville Daily Record reports that the site plan includes a 306,476-square-foot insulation board manufacturing facility and office, a 265,381-square-foot shingles manufacturing facility, a 102,805-square-foot ice and water manufacturing facility, and a 21,184-square-foot processing building.

The development, labeled “Project Gator” by Clay County officials, will bring around 100 high-wage jobs to the area.

As of press time, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners was scheduled to discuss economic incentives for the project during its Tuesday, Nov. 22 meeting.

## Bingo at Legion Post 56 home

American Legion Post 56 is hosting bingo games every Monday evening. Early bird games start at 6:30 p.m. and regular games at 7 p.m. Proceeds aid veterans in need.

Post 56 is located at 715 Edwards Road in Starke, across from National Guard Armory.

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Volunteers assisting Southside with its Thanksgiving box donations: Bobby and KD Huff, Josh Reinken, Tiffany Wordon, Monica Kadlec, Jordan Bartleson, Chase Yarbrough and Gill Sheppard.

## Southside donations provide holiday boxes

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Southside Elementary School thanked its students and families for donations to the Thanksgiving food basket drive. The appreciation included First United Methodist Church

of Starke, Madison Street Baptist Church of Starke and Life Spring Church of Starke, all of which provided turkeys for the holiday boxes.

First Baptist Church of Starke, Rex Mitchell, Gayle Nicula, David Nichols, Jaquan Bryant

and Nicole Nichols for all made much appreciated monetary donations.

In all, Southside Elementary School was able to provide Thanksgiving boxes to 19 families.



Volunteers help sort donations and fill boxes.

## Keystone Airport celebrates 80 years

The Keystone Heights Airport is celebrating 80 years on Saturday, Dec. 3. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the public is invited to view a variety of aircraft displays, including Warbird and military vehicles, participate in the Touch a Truck event and visit classic car show.

Take to the sky in helicopter and airplane flights. EAA Chapter 797 will offer free flights to ages 8-17, and there

will be opportunities to fly in a World War I biplane.

Food trucks will sell refreshments, and there will be live music, including the

Keystone Heights Community Band.

See advertisement last page for more details and highlights.

## Penate hired to oversee utilities

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — One of Starke's most critical positions has been filled following a monthslong search.

Julio "Jay" Penate of St. Augustine is Starke's new utilities project director. Penate replaces Scott Anaheim, who left the position earlier this year.

City Manager Drew Mullins agreed it was difficult to find someone who can supervise utilities and special projects. Many municipalities provide some form of utility service like water or sewer. With electricity and gas, Starke has four. Finding someone with that breadth of experience is tough, let alone someone to work in the public rather than private sector.

When applications didn't come rolling in, Mullins said he began calling other cities to where candidates had applied.

Penate is a jack of many trades. Just some of the skills on his resume include handyman, facilities maintenance, welding, automotive repair, construction and construction management, construction estimating, electrical experience, refrigeration, plumbing and more.

Penate comes from New York. He earned his mechanical engineering degree in Brooklyn in 1987. His career has been spent in property management. Out of trade school, he became maintenance supervisor for 300-plus residential and office units. He both hired, trained and supervised the maintenance employees who worked under him.

After five years, he moved on to become a building operations engineer, managing 11 building sites with more than 850 residential and business units in New York City. This included training and supervising the superintendents and handymen in electric, plumbing, HVAC and more. He inspected sites daily to assure all work was performed to standard.

He moved on and up to an engineering position responsible for a 220-unit luxury condominium. Among his accomplishments were modernizing the security system and implementing new security procedures. He maximized services, while making the workforce more efficient — cutting overtime hours and reducing operating expenditures

by 27%.

By 1997, Penate became a director of operations for a management firm, and took over responsibility for six buildings and 80-plus employees. He not only established a preventive maintenance schedule for all facilities' HVAC systems, he oversaw the electrical upgrade of every apartment. He worked along architects, engineers and others to replace all of the roofing. His preventive maintenance plan for all buildings helped save the corporation 20% on service calls.

For the past 20 years, he was property manager for Brown Harris Stevens Residential Management in New York City. There he exercised the same experience gained from his previous positions, directing dozens of employees, inspecting facilities, planning building budgets, engaging in capital improvement projects, and working alongside engineers and consultants as needed.

Penate has been on the job with Starke since Nov. 7. Mullins said they have been working to get him up to speed on the various projects the city is involved with. These include the new wastewater treatment plant and sewer system rehabilitation, utility extensions to the new elementary school that should begin after the first of the year, and the ongoing railroad

overpass construction, which include resurfacing Call Street and other streets downtown.

A snapshot of some of the essential duties and responsibilities includes:

- Supervises employees, including conducting performance evaluations, interviewing prospective employees, and making recommendations to the city manager related to promotions, hiring and discipline.

- Assists in the preparation, review, and administration of yearly and long-range operational budget plans

- Oversees construction of water distribution and wastewater collection and treatment facilities.

- Helps with the negotiations, development and maintaining of agreements with private sector developers to establish criteria and standards for water distribution and wastewater collection and treatment.

- Supports in the development of short and long-range goals, objectives, and strategies to meet future demand of water, sewer, electric, and natural gas systems infrastructure.

- Directs activities of employees, resolving problems and maintaining motivation.

- Establishes and maintains effective and positive relationships with the community.

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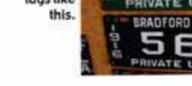
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# Lake Region



## Dogs rescued from burning home

Clay County Fire Rescue said firefighters saved three dogs from a burning mobile home in the McRae area. The blaze occurred on Thursday, Nov. 17, in the 5700 block of Indian Trail, just west of Belmore State Forest. The agency said no injuries occurred at the scene, the Red Cross will assist the family, and the State Fire Marshal has been notified. Photo and reporting: Clay County Fire Rescue.

## Commissioners take bus ride

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County Commissioners, County Manager Howard Wanamaker and Jacksonville Transportation Authority leaders, rode through the county on one of JTA's Clay Community Transportation buses on Monday, Nov. 14.

The county said in a social media post that the event's goal was for commissioners to get a first-hand look at the transportation options in the community and talk about transportation opportunities for Clay residents.

The Jacksonville-based transportation agency took over the operation of Clay's flex routes in 2018 when the Council on Aging, which previously operated the routes, encountered financial difficulty.

Two JTA routes run through the Lake Region. The Magenta Line runs between Keystone Heights and the RTS Station in downtown Gainesville with stops in Lake Geneva and Orange Heights.

The Green Line also originates in Keystone Heights and terminates at the Middleburg VA clinic with stops in Penny Farms, Green Cove Springs, Fleming Island and Doctor's Inlet.

After the tour, Commissioner Mike Cella said JTA officials talked to commissioners about the state of public transportation in Clay County and how the county and JTA could work together in the future.

Cella added that he was impressed with JTA's flex service, which allows riders within three-quarters of a mile of any Clay route to request a pickup at their specific location at the cost of a \$1 deviation fee.

"So, they'll actually pick you up from your home if you call

and make a reservation the day itself into more of a regional before," Cella said. "I was sort agency, extending its reach



Clay County Commissioners Betsy Condon (left) and Kristen Burke ride on a JTA bus as part of the transportation agency's outreach efforts.

of skeptical about that, but they indicated they just did a mailing to all the people that were within three-quarters of a mile, on either side of the routes to determine whether they could spike the usage by telling people that this service is available, and ridership went up 8% the month of October right after they notified all these folks. So far this month, it's up 14%."

Cella added that he supports public transportation as long as the public uses the service.

The commissioner said JTA is exploring additional services for the county, including an Uber-like service for the transportation disadvantaged.

Commissioner Jim Renninger added that JTA is repositioning

beyond Jacksonville. He added that he welcomes the agency's help with Clay's emerging transportation issues.

"I live in Orange Park," Renninger said. "We've developed Highway 17 to its maximum extent, and Clay County's still growing. There will be more and more cars trying to get to Jacksonville unless we do something with public transportation, so that's why we're partnering with JTA and trying to innovate."

Renninger added that he will be meeting with JTA officials soon about creating a transportation hub in the Wells Road area to increase the convenience of public transportation in Orange Park.

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## Rainfall down, Lake Brooklyn up

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The St. Johns River Water Management District said that despite a drop in rainfall throughout the district during October, Lake Brooklyn's water level rose by a half-foot, reaching 105.7 feet above sea level, which is above the lake's long-term average.

The district's bureau chief of water resource information: Christine Mundy, said October rainfall was well below average

for this time of year.

"This was good news for the Orlando-to-Daytona corridor in the middle of the St. Johns River Basin, which experienced the worst flooding from Ian but bad news for the north and west regions of the district," she said.

Alachua County had the least rainfall, with a county-wide total of four-tenths of an inch. Flagler had the most rain but was still well below average, receiving only 2.6 inches. The district-wide total was only about one-third of the average for October. However, the district-wide

12-month total was 55.35 inches which is 4.3 inches greater than the long-term average. The highest 12-month totals were in the Orlando-to-Daytona region. Seminole County had the highest with 71 inches, and Volusia, Orange and Flagler all exceeded 60 inches of rainfall over the last 12 months.

Mundy said Lake Brooklyn reached 105.7 feet in October, its highest over the last 12 months and within 11 feet of its highest recorded level of 116.4 feet. The lake's lowest recorded level is 85 feet.

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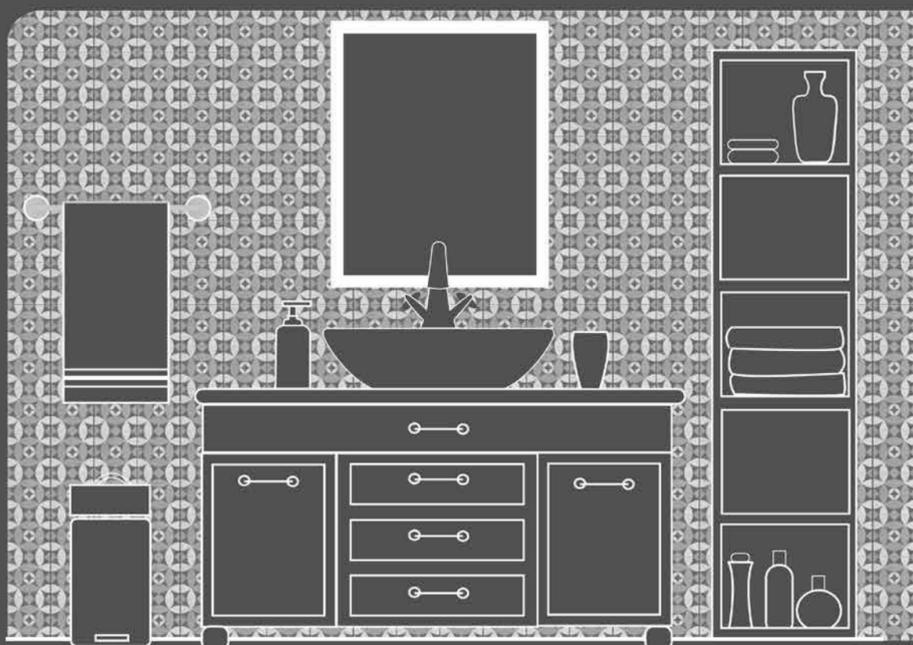
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# UNION COUNTY

## Lake Butler has a new mayor after Schenck resigns

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — The city of Lake Butler has a new mayor after Jack Schenck turned in his resignation Nov. 13.

In a letter to his fellow commissioners and City Manager Dale Walker, Schenck cited “personal and family circumstances” which he feels will prevent him from serving the citizens of his community at a level that he deems appropriate as a commissioner and mayor.

Schenck was elected to Seat Two on the commission in 2016 and was currently serving his third term as mayor of the city. He is retired from the Florida

Department of Corrections and the United States Army. His term on the commission would have ended in 2024.

In his letter, Schenck was very complimentary of the work being done by both Walker and the commissioners towards keeping Lake Butler viable and vital and praises their work on economic development.

Of his time on the commission Schenck stated that “After 53 years of Federal, State and local government employment, I consider my serving as a city commissioner my greatest achievement, but I am most proud of having been elected mayor three times by my peers.”

The position of mayor will go

to District Three Commissioner Annette Redman, who has been serving as vice mayor for some time. Redman was first elected to the Lake Butler City Commission in 2016 and, like Schenck, is retired from the U.S. Army and has also worked as a paraprofessional in Union County Schools for several years.

Schenck’s letter of resignation may be found on the Lake Butler agenda and minutes section of the city’s website, [www.cityoflakebutler.com](http://www.cityoflakebutler.com) as part of the agenda for the Nov. 15, 2022 meeting. As of press time both Schenck and Redman were unavailable for comment.



Travis Rimes with Ciara Johnson and Danny Klein from the Department of Corrections when they came to speak to his classes about opportunities in the field.

## New program at UCHS explores criminal justice careers

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — Last year, Union County High School expanded its Career Tech Education (CTE) options, offering students a chance to experience jobs that they might consider after graduation. These jobs are often those in which a prospect can attend a training or certification course of fairly short duration after graduation, rather than going into a profession that requires four or more years of education/training to enter. Programs of this type offered at UCHS include agriculture, nursing, culinary arts and criminal justice.

In a county with as many prisons and other correctional institutions as Union and given the fact that the Department of Corrections is the largest employer in the county, it makes sense to have a course allowing students to get a taste of what is involved in a career in corrections and/or law enforcement. Such training can not only be of value for students deciding to pursue such occupations, it can also benefit those seeking careers as paramedics, private security, dispatchers, wildlife officers, lawyers and other officers of the court and military careers.

Union County School District Director of Personnel and Secondary Education Chris Mecusker looked at similar programs at other schools, then financed the program with grants to cover instructor’s salary and equipment, including a \$45,000 simulator that allows students to experience real-work situations and interactions that might be encountered in the law enforcement career path. An added benefit is that the Union

County Sheriff’s Office will also be able to use the simulator during non-school times as well. The program has proved to be very popular with students.

Last year, when the program was initiated, 150 students signed up, filling four classes. Interest has increased so that two more classes were added for the current school year, with enough prospects to fill at least two more next year.

The topics are varied and the program features many guest speakers.

Topics include the history of law enforcement and corrections, the judicial system, laws and amendments and court professionals, law enforcement, corrections, first aid and CPR and face-to-face communication skills. Also covered are defensive skills where students learn such skills as how to apply handcuffs and then how it feels to wear them and job interview skills if seeking a job using what they have learned.

Guest speakers and demonstrators are chosen based on their qualifications and on topic requests from students and have included the honorable Judge Mitchell Bishop (talking about court systems and his background), Danny Kline and Riley Rhoden from Game and Fish and the Department of Corrections, UC Asst. Director of Emergency Management Mark Hughes (discussing firefighting and paramedic skills), Michelle Green (a mental health professional), Detective Billy Townsend and Captain Lynn Williams with the Union County Sheriff’s Office, Matthew Elixson (concerning the juvenile justice system) and many others, with more to come.

Travis Rimes serves as the instructor for the classes. Rimes worked for 25 years in corrections, both as a correctional officer and with the inspector general’s office and served for four years with the UCSO as the school resource officer at LBMS. Now he teaches at UCHS and is a reserve deputy with the UCSO. “I never thought I would end up teaching,” Rimes said. “but I really enjoy it. I enjoy making connections with the students and seeking the look on their faces when they finally understand something we are doing.”

Rimes is a Union County native and graduate of UCHS. He has coached softball and baseball at the high school before, so he is no stranger to working with young people. He is married to Stacey Rimes, UC School District Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability.

“This program has a lot to offer and we are not done with it yet,” Rimes said. “We are looking into being able to provide our students with entry-level certifications or qualifications or getting them credit for what they have already done if they go on with their law enforcement educations.”

Rimes spent months getting ready in advance of the first year of classes, converting the old carpentry shop into a training area. He did much of the work himself.

Programs such as this and the other CTE courses provide students with the basis to engage in professional careers even if they are not on a college-path. Many need to, or wish, to join the workforce immediately after graduation and CTE courses help make that possible.

## Johns newest county commissioner

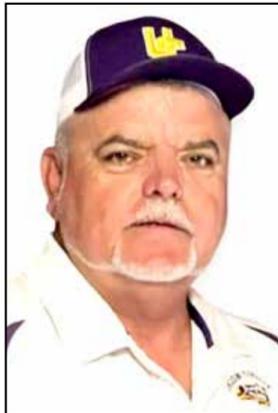
BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — Just about everyone in Union County has heard of, or knows, Mac Johns. Although he is a local business owner, he is perhaps best known for his volunteer work on the Union County Recreation Board to make and keep recreational opportunities for county youth available. Now he will also be known as the newest member of the Union County Board of County Commissioners and he says he is ready to hit the ground running in serving his constituents.

Johns (54) was sworn in as the board’s commissioner for District Four (Providence area) on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022. He defeated incumbent Lacey Cannon in the Universal Primary on Aug. 23, 2022 and then fellow political newcomer Eric Martin in the General Election on Nov. 8, 2022, where he garnered about two-thirds of the ballots cast. He took his seat on the board at that body’s regular November meeting on Nov. 22, 2022.

Johns was born in Savannah, GA, but moved to North Central Florida as an infant. His family moved around at first, living in Orange Heights, East and West Gainesville and other locations. He graduated from Newberry High School, where he played football. He went to work as a correctional officer at the Alachua County Jail straight out of high school, then moved on to serve on the City of Alachua Police Department. After 17 years he moved to Union County (about 25 years ago) and worked for the Union County Sheriff’s Office for seven years as its chief investigator under the leadership of Jerry Whitehead. When he retired from law enforcement in 2011, he started his own business in Worthington Springs, Springtown Automotive.

“I have always worked on vehicles and, in the past, done a



Newly elected County Commissioner for District 4, Mac Johns.

good amount of paint and body work,” Johns said. “It seemed like a good business to start up and it has been a good decision.”

About three years ago, Johns was appointed by the board of commissioners to the county recreation board – a completely volunteer position. Since he loved athletics and had coached young people since he was 18 years old, it was a good fit for Johns, who ended up serving as president for multiple terms. After his appointment he said he began attending commission meetings to look after the business of the rec board and he said he learned a great deal about how local government worked and became interested.

John’s said he decided to run because he was bothered by the emphasis being put on growth in the county. He said he is most concerned with maintaining the current Union County lifestyle, with the benefits of low crime, excellent schools and a generally “great way of life.” He said that he feels that growth should come from within the county, within its own population. “I plan to work hard

representing my constituents,” Johns said. “There are a lot of questions about the fire department supposed to be put in my district, as well as a quite a few road issues. I am going to get in there and get things done as soon as possible. Everything I have ever done in my life I have always tried to do a good job. There is no such thing as slacking in my world.”

Johns also said he would like to help improve the relationship between the county and the City of Lake Butler, keep property taxes low and get more done for recreation for county youth.”

Johns has been married to wife, Vicki, for 17 years and the couple had two children together, but he says that, in total, he is the father of six plus three step-children. In his 25 years as a Union County resident he said he has come to have very high regard for its rural, agricultural setting and community-based way of life.

“This county has a wonderful and unique way of life and I plan to work hard to preserve it,” Johns said.

Johns is a great lover of sports of all kinds. He played football and is proud of two of his sons who are participating in baseball – one at FSCJ and the other at UCHS. He said that recreation can be a positive experience for a young person and that one positive interaction can change a young person’s life and set them on the right path. Johns said he used to be an avid hunter and loves freshwater fishing (for panfish, not bass), but finds himself spending more weekend time watching Gator and Jaguar football and Braves baseball.

“I came into this knowing it was going to take up a lot of my time and I am willing for that to happen,” Johns said. “I want to do my best for the county and plan to stay informed, hold the line on spending and preserving the quality of life for all of the residents.”



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Mark Harrison, UCHS Government teacher, Judge Mitchell Bishop and Travis Rimes, UCHS Criminal Justice teacher.

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**Cheryl Canova, Lawtey Principal Terri O'Quinn and Amanda Seyfang (back, l-r) pose with kindergarten students (l-r) Scarlett Puff, Jaxson Hart, Nevaeh Lynch, Alexander Brantley and Jackson Sapp and some of the books that were purchased with funds from Altrusa.**

## Altrusa of Starke completes Books in the Classroom project ... for now

Members of Altrusa International of Starke are excited to have recently completed one of their literacy projects for the year.

With the help of grants from the Altrusa International Foundation and the Altrusa District Three Foundation — along with the additional donations, support and work of the members of the local club — Bradford County's three public elementary schools were provided with books to help stock every teacher's classroom library for the 2022-23 school year.

Lawtey Elementary finished purchasing its books in October. A special thank you goes to Rebecca Ansley, who took the time to order the 263 new books from Scholastics. Cheryl Canova and Amanda Seyfang visited the school to stamp the books with the Altrusa logo.

The books, which will stay in

the designated classrooms for years to come, regardless of who the teachers are, are a mix of fiction and non-fiction for grades K-5. With the need being greater in K-2 due to the growth in the number of students this year at Lawtey, an emphasis was placed on ordering more books for those grades.

All the books can be read and used for the Accelerated Reading tests for students to earn points. In fact, the school day consists of time for students to have access to reading and AR testing. Without enough books in the classrooms, the students wouldn't have as many opportunities to take these tests.

Students can also check these books out to take home.

After getting a head start with the purchase of 373 books in July, Starke Elementary finished spending its funds in November. Pamela Campbell and Melissa

Hines finished up the project with the final purchases from several sources. They ended up with a total of 1,089 books.

Southside Elementary shopped before school began and used all of the funds in one shopping trip to purchase 1,072 books. By completing the purchases before school started, students have been enjoying more reading opportunities since August.

A total of 2,424 books were purchased with the \$5,500 provided by the Altrusa donations.

Altrusa of Starke members are excited to see the positive effect this program will have on children's reading scores and AR test results and hope they will develop a love of reading. Altrusa also plans to apply for more grant funds in the future to continue its support of the schools' literacy programs.



**Cheryl Canova, Melissa Hines, Dimple Overstreet, Sarah Long and Pamela Campbell (l-r) with the final book purchases for Starke Elementary School.**

## Krawl'n for the Fallen completes 8<sup>th</sup> year at airport

**BY DAN HILDEBRAN**  
Monitor Editor

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS**—The eighth annual Krawl'n for the Fallen Jeep event wrapped up at the Keystone Heights Airport on Sunday, Nov. 13.

The event, which drew thousands of Jeep enthusiasts and supporters of law enforcement, was held at the Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park.

It annually draws around 800 Jeeps and 2,000 attendees.

Event organizer Chrissy Johnson said cool and damp weather may have impacted attendance this year.

Krawl'n for the Fallen is one of the largest off-road events held in Florida. It raises awareness, honors and remembers officers and K-9s who have been lost in the line of duty.

"Krawl'n is an event to remember the fallen, honor those still serving, and show our respect for the families that have made the ultimate sacrifice," Johnson



**Mason Pegel of Ocala won a Jeep at the 2022 edition of Krawl'n for the Fallen at the Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park. Photo: Krawl'n for the Fallen.**

said. "We bring survivors out for a weekend of fun for them to forget about their worries and just enjoy themselves, as well as let our current law enforcement officers be able to take a break and not worry about anything."

This year's honor roll included 644 officers killed in the line of

duty. Johnson said Krawl'n for the Fallen raises \$100,000 for the families of fallen officers. The event also featured several giveaways. Mason Pegel of Ocala won a Jeep and Jonathan Frenchko of Wesley Chapel took home a Tiny Camper.

# Bradford may seek new planning assistance

**BY MARK J. CRAWFORD**  
Telegraph Editor

**STARKE** — Without some course correction, Bradford County may be looking for someone else to handle comprehensive planning and related matters.

On Nov. 15, commissioners postponed renewing an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, alleging the agency's performance has been subpar.

The county pays council staff \$23,500 annually for comprehensive planning services, which includes helping draft, amend and interpret comprehensive plans and land development regulations; preparing concurrency management reports on proposed changes; and assessing and development plans.

Lately, the agency has been nonresponsive, according to Zoning Director Randy Andrews and Commissioner Chris Dougherty.

"I talked to the county manager about this, and I think that maybe we need to explore some other options there," Dougherty said, asking that approval of the agreement be removed from the

agenda.

Dougherty said Bradford has been paying the agency a lot of money, but services are taking "an extremely long time."

"We need to find out what's going on there," he said. "I can tell you I went by there today, and it's like Ghost Town."

Dougherty said a sign on the door states the office is closed due to COVID and will reopen on Dec. 1, but his understanding is the date keeps changing.

Commissioner Kenny Thompson said the county needs to look at other options.

"We ain't getting no bang for the buck," Thompson said.

Commissioner Carolyn Spooner said they should invite Executive Director Scott Koons to address these concerns.

"It's been my experience they're always willing to come and meet and make some resolution," she said.

Commissioner Danny Riddick works with the planning council. He said only recently has the board begun meeting in person after many online sessions during the pandemic. He said there had been a drop in participation because of COVID.

"We do need to meet with Scott Koons, because I think

when they are in full swing, they do us a great service," Riddick said.

Bradford is one of 12 counties in the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council service area. Many of the municipalities in the area also rely on its services, including technical assistance for economic development, tourism promotion, transportation planning, public safety compliance, needs assessment and grant applications.

According to Zoning Director Andrews, the county hasn't had much to ask of the council, but still isn't receiving a great response.

Dougherty suggested County Manager Scott Kornegay look at the projects that have been completed considering what the Bradford has paid the planning council. He said they might find that a consultant could perform the same work at a lower price.

Commission Chair Diane Andrews agreed they have a responsibility to be good stewards of public funds.

A separate agreement with the regional planning council for the monitoring of hazardous waste generators was approved. The fee was \$7,882.

## County replacing attorney, auditor

**BY MARK J. CRAWFORD**  
Telegraph Editor

**STARKE** — County Manager Scott Kornegay has been asked to negotiate a contract for legal services with Bradley, Garrison and Komando.

The law firm includes former Florida Sen. Rob Bradley, Sam Garrison and Rich Komando, all of whom practice municipal law. Garrison and Komando are also criminal defense attorneys.

Kornegay, a former city manager, is also familiar with the firm because it represents Keystone Heights, as well as Orange Park and Baker County, among others. Kornegay said he has been pleased with his working relationship with Komando, who would work directly with Bradford County. Kornegay recommended the board allow him to enter contract negotiations.

To accommodate the law firm's schedule, the county commission will need to move its evening meeting back to the third Thursday night of the month.

Clerk Denny Thompson is negotiating a contract with James Moore & Co. to perform the county's annual financial audits. It was the only company to respond to the county's advertisement.

Both contracts will come to the commission for final approval.

Prior attorney Will Sexton has taken a job elsewhere, while previous auditor Purvis Gray decided against continuing its contract with the county.



### Borrow pit approved north of Lawtey

Bradford County commissioners have approved a new borrow pit north of the city of Lawtey.

According to Zoning Director Randy Andrews, the borrow pit will be 5 to 6 acres in size. The parcel is 326 acres and belongs to Rayonier. It lies west of U.S. 301 and east of Northwest 265th Street. It is around 3 miles north of Lawtey.

The zoning director said the road is uninhabited and the borrow pit is not near the highway.

Rayonier's Brenton French said the clay rich soil found at the site would be excavated and used to cap a landfill. He said it would be a short project.

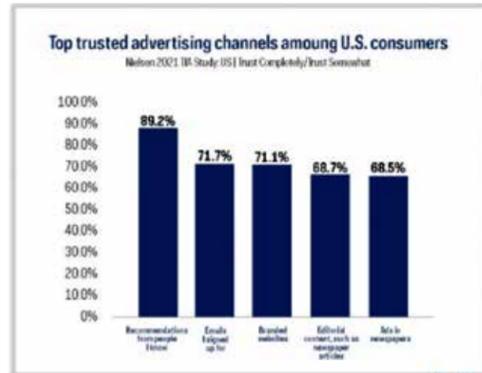
### Tourist, ambulance funds approved

In other business, the commission approved Tourist Development Council funds for:

- Rural County Days registration in Tallahassee (funding with EFI grant): \$750.
- Strawberry shortcake supplies for Rural County Days: \$2,125.
- Christmas on Call Street promotion for Starke Downtown Merchants: \$5,000.
- Keystone Airports 80th Anniversary Celebration promotion: \$6,500.

The commission also approved \$380,000 to remount two ambulances for Bradford County Fire Rescue. The funds will come from the \$500,000 set aside in contingency for the department.

## CONSUMERS TRUST NEWSPAPERS



**Special note:** The Relevance Project thanks The Nielsen Co., a global leader in audience measurement, data, and analytics, for this excerpt from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 23 channels, a term to distinguish where ads show up or are referenced, in the study.

Here's further proof that advertisers and marketers seeking a trusted media should hire newspapers. Newspapers show up as two of the Top 5 "trusted advertising channels" rated by U.S. Consumers in Nielsen's 2021 Trust in Advertising Study. Seven out of 10 consumers said they either trust completely or trust somewhat four of the channels that included newspapers or products they offer advertisers. The top channel applies also to newspapers because their readers are informed consumers.

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# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

### Bradford

Garret Vincent Culverson, 34, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 15 for dealing in stolen property, child neglect and resisting an officer.

Jonathan Evans Jr., 23, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 13 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told police that she woke up at 3 a.m. to discover the defendant holding her phone in her face and accusing her of cheating on him. He then ran out the back door of the home.

“(The victim) stated that she followed Evans to attempt to get her phone back from him,” wrote reporting officer Jarred Altman in an arrest report. “When she attempted to grab the phone from Evans, he struck her in the face with a closed fist and pushed her to the ground where he continued to kick her.”

The defendant then locked the victim out of the residence and broke her phone.

Allegra Cashun George, 47, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 17 for failure to appear and contempt of court.

Travis Michael Hadden, 35, of Jacksonville was arrested on Nov. 17 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Kenneth Levon Hinson, 53, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 15 for a probation violation.

Joshua Seth Hylton, 23, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 14 for burglary and larceny.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies that the defendant jumped inside his truck, grabbed the keys and threw them on the roof of the Morgan Mart convenience store.

Store video confirmed the victim’s story and the defendant admitted to throwing the keys onto the roof because of previous incidents between himself and the victim.

Shaunte Tracy-Shakia Hyman, 34, of Starke was arrested by

Bradford deputies on Nov. 16 for a probation violation.

Valarie Louise Jackson, 34, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 15 for failure to appear.

Ruth Esther Morales, 67, of Tampa was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 13 for DUI.

Kadedra Takamya Rhines, 26, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 12 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim and defendant got into a verbal altercation in which Rhines struck the victim on the left side of her face “for no apparent reason.”

Officers noted a cut and swelling under the victim’s right eye. The victim refused treatment by EMS.

Tamara Lashaun Wright, 31, of Gainesville was arrested on Nov. 13 for out-of-county warrants.

### Union

Tyrone King, 62, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 14 for an out-of-county warrant.

Don Miguel Thomas, 42, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 25 for an out-of-county warrant.

Luke Smith III, 37, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 16 for an out-of-county warrant and resisting an officer.

Lekisha Goolsby Douglas, 44, was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 20 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim came home from a hunting trip and discovered the defendant on the victim’s couch.

The victim’s companion told a deputy that Douglas has been staying with the couple for a few weeks but was instructed not to enter the house while they were away.

Arresting officer Lowell A. Green wrote in the arrest report that according to the victim, Douglas became belligerent during the ensuing conversation and asked: “Where is my hamburger meat?”

The victim said she was holding a bag of the defendant’s belongings when Douglas reached for the bag and swung at the victim, striking her in the face.

The defendant then went to the refrigerator and began throwing items out, she then tore down the Christmas tree that was set up in the living room.

Green wrote that he observed several food items and shelves thrown about in the kitchen as well as the Christmas tree knocked over.

Curtis Lamont Harold, 37, of Lake Butler was arrested by

Union deputies on Nov. 20 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies the defendant broke into her home around 6:15 a.m. and began hitting her in the face while she was still asleep.

“(The victim) stated (she and the defendant) have been having relationship problems since this past Thursday,” wrote arresting officer Shelby Brooke Ellis in an arrest report. “(The victim) stated that she asked (the defendant) to leave Thursday and Curtis took most of his belongings and left but has continued to come back to the residence since then.”

### Clay

Hannah Rose Otterson, 43, of Melrose was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 18 for DUI.

## Charges filed in death of KH man

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—A Green Cove Springs man turned himself into Clay deputies after a judge issued an arrest warrant for him on a charge of vehicular homicide.

Dustin Cartwright Johnson, 23, was charged in the Aug. 16, 2021, death of Keystone Heights resident Robert Dean Brown.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol crash report, Johnson ran a red light at the corner of State Roads 16 and 21 around 7:50 p.m. and t-boned Brown’s GMC Yukon.

Johnson was driving an F-250 and was hauling vehicles on a trailer.

“Witness accounts and dash cam footage confirm that (Johnson) was traveling at a high rate of speed approaching the intersection,” an FHP investigator wrote in a crash report. “Additionally, witnesses and the dash cam footage confirm (Johnson) entered the intersection when the traffic signal for east and westbound State Road 16 were a steady red-light indicator.”

The investigator added that through crush damage estimates, roadway evidence, and crash scene measurements, he determined Johnson was driving a minimum of 71 mph at the time of the collision when the posted speed limit was 45.

Brown, 58, was the only occupant of the GMC and was wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash. Johnson had three passengers in his F-250. The Green Cove Springs man was also cited for failure to wear a seat belt, failure to secure a 17-year-old passenger in a seat belt and failure to stop at a red light resulting in a fatality.

None of the occupants in either vehicle was ejected.

and include a live nativity, choir performance and lighting of the downtown Christmas tree. Activities will continue from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, including the Christmas parade down Call Street at 6 p.m.

## Democrats meet Nov. 28

Bradford County Democrats will hold a special in-person meeting on Monday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. in the community room of Capital City Bank, 350 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. Members will celebrate and appreciate each other at the end of the 2022

election season, with a brief business meeting to follow.

All Democrats are welcome to attend. For further information, please contact bradfordcdecod@gmail.com or 904-526-2257.

## Grandparents Day invitation

Greater Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church is having Grandparents Day on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. and inviting everyone who is or was a church member to attend. Descendants of members are also invited to come show support for the grandparents.

## COACH

Continued from page 1

Dickinson had a 1-7 playoff record, with the Indians winning the program’s first-ever postseason game as part of a 10-2 season in 2021. That season capped a four-year stretch in which Keystone went 28-13.

For him, coaching was about more than wins and losses. Dickinson said football teaches young people life lessons, such as how to bounce back from failure.

The sport also created relationships that Dickinson still enjoys today with former players.

“For me, it’s not so much about the Xs and Os,” Dickinson said. “It’s the other things.”

Dickinson, who played football and baseball as a student-athlete at KHHS and attended Gardner-Webb University on a football scholarship, expressed his gratitude to many as part of his resignation letter. Two of those people were former Principal David Owens, who gave him his first opportunity to teach at KHHS in 1985, and Dicks, who gave him the opportunity to coach football as a junior varsity assistant in 1983.

After two years coaching on JV, Dickinson moved up as a varsity assistant, serving in that role for seven years.

Dickinson said Dicks was a great mentor.

“A very organized man. A very Godly man. He did things right,” Dickinson said. “Those nine years really gave me the knowledge to see how a program was run.”

Dickinson left the school to take a position with Georgia Pacific, where he worked as a human resource manager and shipping superintendent. In a 1999 Telegraph-Times-Monitor interview, Dickinson said he felt the position with Georgia Pacific was one he couldn’t pass up, but added that he looked forward to his return to KHHS and coaching.

“I just missed it,” he said.

Dickinson was one of more than 20 who applied for the head-coaching position when Walt Darty resigned after the 1998 season. He thanked former Principal Keith Harper for giving him the opportunity to be the head coach and expressed his appreciation to all of the principals since then for their unwavering support: Mike Wingate, Susan Sailor, Angela Ward, Aaron McWilliams and current Principal Laurie Burke.

As part of his resignation letter, Dickinson also thanked Jim and Mary Taylor for being instrumental in starting the Quarterback Club and corporate sponsorships as well as the “Super Chiefs” corporate

sponsors: Helen Hersey Realty, Roberts Insurance, Johnny’s BBQ, Trevor Waters Realty, Starling Family Dentistry, Dr. Steve Chapman, Riviere Tire, Keystone Auto Parts (CarQuest) and Taylor, Arrubula, Hardwick, P.A.

“I would also like to thank all of my assistant coaches over the last 24 years,” Dickinson wrote. “To name a few: Wayne Geiger, Wesley Dicks, Bob Wright, Walt Darty, Alan Mattox, Gene Burselson, Stefan Brokas, Robert Mooring, Jimmy Thomas, Mike Hartley, Keith Walker, Lantz Lowery, Matt Dickinson, Andrew Stanley, Isaac Morford, Jack Taylor, Bill Allard, Chris Wester, George Richards, Brian Cox, John Chappell, Chris Roach, Mike Brown, Brad Harvey, Jay Schofield, Andy McDonald, Richard Marshall, Steve Reynolds, Jakob Alvarez, John Mimbs, David Long, Dan Callahan and Kenny Mudge.”

In closing, Dickinson wrote, “Lastly, I want to thank my Lord, Jesus Christ, for giving me the opportunity to lead this program. I want to thank my wife, Lynn, and my four children — Matthew, Mark, Elizabeth and Michael — for the sacrifices they had to make over the last 24 years to let me do something that I loved.”

## FISHING

Continued from page 1

Cella said the kayak bass fishing tournament fills that void, with the added benefit that local anglers may also participate in the event.

### Invented the sport

When introducing tournament organizer, Chad Hoover, Cella said the Navy veteran invented the sport of kayak bass fishing.

“Chad founded Kayak Bass Fishing back in 2009, and since that time, KBF has set the pace for the kayak fishing industry and has brought thousands of anglers into the sport,” Cella said, “hosting competitors from Mexico, Canada, and every place in between, all across every American state.”

He added that Hoover’s organization organized the first-ever kayak bass fishing national championship in Marshall County, Kentucky.

“That was at Kentucky Lake in 2016,” Cella said, “and in 2019 (KBF) co-hosted the first-ever kayak fishing tournament with a national boat series: the KBF-FLW World Cup in Hot Springs, Arkansas.”

### Old Florida

Hoover touted Clay County as the authentic Florida and said some of the popular tourist spots in the state are mirages of what Florida really is.

“This is old Florida,” he said of Clay County, “right on the East coast. It’s the tea-colored water. It’s the Spanish moss hanging from the trees. You can catch a redfish in one cast, bass on another cast, and a crappy on another.”

He added that the northerly flowing St. Johns River turns from brackish to salty around the Buckman Bridge, which is also near the Duval-Clay County line.

“So, it’s that perfect sweet spot to do a little bit of fresh, a little bit of salt or as we call fresh water: sweetwater. So, it’s a little bit salty, it’s a little bit sweet.”

Hoover said the county offers conveniences other areas of the state cannot. “You’re not sitting in an hour-and-a-half of traffic to get to the fishing spot,” he said. “You’re not fighting with 500 people at the boat ramp.”

County officials have said in the past that they were attracted to kayak bass fishing because the vessels do not require a boat ramp to launch, and the county is short on boat ramps.

Hoover said his sport benefited from the COVID-19 pandemic as people searched for outdoor activities in which they could distance themselves.

“Fishermen are the original social distancers, he said. “If you watch a fisherman when they go fishing, they do everything they can to get as far away from everybody else as they can.”



County Commissioner Mike Cella (left) looks on as Kayak Bass Fishing Founder Chad Hoover discusses his plans to bring a tournament to Clay County in 2023.

### Catch, photo, release

Hoover said he is bringing his Trail Series, Challenge Series and Pro Series Championships to the county in October of 2023.

He added that in January 2023, his organization will host a virtual tournament that pays incremental prizes throughout the year.

“And we’re gonna use that to continuously evolve how we promote Clay County, Florida, and to put it on the fishing map,” he said. “We’re not trying to do this as a flash in the pan, or one day, or one week or one month type thing. This is a long-term partnership where we can really show people that when you’re coming down the interstate, headed to some of the more well-known southern destinations in Florida, you’re passing a gem that you should stop at.”

Hoover did not go into the details of the year-long virtual tournament, but county officials have described it as a stay-here-catch-here promotion where anglers qualify for the October event by catching a fish in Clay County and staying overnight.

He said the casual setup of the virtual tournament will appeal to a wide variety of sportsmen.

“Whether you like to fish for a specific species or whether you like to be uber-competitive,” he said, “I think we’ve put together a really cool program to allow you to come here...enjoy the fishing experience, not have this pressure of an event over your head, but while you’re doing that, snap a photo of that fish and upload it to our tournament management system, which is going to allow you a chance to win prizes.”

Hoover added that unlike other fishing tournaments, kayak bass fishing measures catches by length, not weight. That allows anglers to avoid boating to a central location to weigh each day’s catch. Instead, fishermen photograph their catches using their phones, upload the pictures to Hoover’s organization, then release the fish.

“The reason we do catch-photo-release is that one: we don’t have live wells on our kayaks, two: it’s better for the fish and the fishery itself, and three: it’s just a better way to

gather data,” he said.

Hoover said his organization has developed protocols to detect cheating. One is that each angler is given a unique token at the start of the tournament, and the token must be in any photos uploaded. This prevents competitors from uploading pictures taken before the tournament.

“They lay (the fish) on a standardized measuring board, and they have a lot of parameters in our rules that they have to comply with,” Hoover added. “And then we have a cadre of judges behind the scenes that judge the fish and scrutinize the photos. We have a lot of things we tell the anglers that we’re checking, and then we have some things that we don’t tell the anglers that we’re checking so that way, we can make sure that it’s valid.”

Hoover said his organization has established a solid track record of catching cheaters.

“We’ve caught them,” he said, “we’ve kind of nailed them to the wall, and that’s served as a little bit of a scarecrow to prevent people from doing that in the future.”

Hoover said he had not determined the locations for the tournament awards ceremonies and will make that decision while consulting with local officials.

### Fishing destination

Hoover said the county can compete as a fishing destination, but it will take work.

“The one thing you’re up against in the State of Florida trying to stand out as a bass fishery is that there’s a lot of great bass fishing in the state, and Clay County is on the way to most of it,” he told county leaders.

Hoover said he hopes to change public awareness of Clay County from being a place on the way to other bass fishing spots to a fishing destination in its own right.

“You should stop here, even if you’re going somewhere else,” he said. “Stop in on the way, stop in on the way back out or just make this your destination because not only do you have a chance to catch great fish and a lot of fish, but you have a chance of catching that fish of a lifetime.”

## Participate in the Starke Christmas Parade

North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce has applications for the Starke Christmas Parade on Dec. 10 as well as vendor applications for the two-day Christmas on Call Street event, Dec. 9 and 10.

For applications, contact 904-964-5278 or email pam@northfloridachamber.com.

Christmas on Call Street will run from 5–9 p.m. on Friday



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# Bradford has impressive showing at tournament



The Reapers (Rookie Division), seeded fourth, went 1-1 on Saturday, Nov. 12. On Sunday, Nov. 13, they beat the Wrigley Marlins 3-2 to move on to play number-one seed Lake City PML Healthcare, a team they meet often. The Reapers won 4-2 to move on to the championship game to take on the Carrigan Bats. In a long, hard battle, the Reapers came from behind to win 8-5, taking home the Reapers' first championship as a Rookie team and the third championship for Bradford. "I couldn't be more proud of my Reapers and my friends and coaches who helped me bring this team together," Coach Thomas Strickland said. "I love this game and these boys, and it's been incredible to watch them learn and dominate this season. After the adversity we faced in pool play and coming into championship day middle of the road, I couldn't be happier with the fight my team had in them to beat two of the best teams in the region and take home the championship. Pictured are: (front, l-r): Reid Wilson, Trenton Wise, Wynniin Lansford, Rylan Noegel, Jaxson Strickland, (middle, l-r) Michael Hanson, Hayden Padelford, Easton Wiseman, Porter Hutchins, Chance Reed, Cruz Eaves, Adam Hall, Ashton Brown and (back, l-r) coaches Anthony Lansford, Braxton Britt, Strickland and Cletis Brown.

The Raptors (T-ball) played in their first tournament together, seeded number one. They beat both Wrigley teams 21-8 and 21-0 on Saturday, Nov. 12, to advance to the championship game. The Raptors faced the Wrigley Red Sox, winning 17-5 to earn the second championship of the weekend for Bradford. "All the kids were at different levels when it came to experience," Coach Brad Poole said. "I leaned on my returning players to be leaders and set examples for my first-year players. Over the season, you began to see those first-year players start doing things they saw the older kids do. This gave us a very well-rounded team, which is how we came out of this championship with a win." Pictured are: (front, l-r) Ethan Jerrels, Kingston Strickland, Kensley Griffis, Brantlee Hinds, (middle, l-r) Elijah Aldridge, Bentley Brunch, Benton Weeks, Mason Poole, Audrey Blankenship and (back, l-r) coaches Ashley Poole, Brad Poole and John Griffis. Not pictured: Bryson McCollum and Jordan Scott.



The Dirt Devils (Minor) went 2-0 in seeding, coming in at number one and beating the Wrigley Cardinals and the Gainesville Braves. On Sunday, Nov. 13, the Dirt Devils had to play the Wrigley Cardinals once more, beating them 8-7 to secure their spot in the championship. They then took on the Williston Orioles in a hard fight, beating them 3-2 and taking home the fourth championship for Bradford. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Cody Cowart, Tyler Jackson, Koledon LeMire, Anderson Griffis, (middle, l-r) Stephen Reyes, Jensen Shuford, Blaine Smyth, Prestin McIntosh, Avery DeKorver, Gage Fischer and (back, l-r) coaches Brad Reyes, David Shuford, Jason Smyth and Randall Griffis.



## BHS girls too much for UCHS as Tornados improve to 2-0

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

After opening the regular season with an eight-point win over Class 6A Ocala Forest, the 3A Bradford High School girls basketball team overwhelmed Class 1A Union County, defeating the Tigers 57-1 on Nov. 17 in Starke.

The Tornados began the season with a 47-41 win over visiting Forest on Nov. 15, getting 17 points from Nichelle Brown and 12 points from Ar'Nayshia Griffin.

Brown scored six points in the second quarter to help Bradford take a 23-18 halftime lead. She and Griffin each scored nine

points in the second half. Jada Hankerson and Destiny Crum added seven and five points, respectively, while Ajiyah Jackson, Bernaria Nichols, Ayanna Pringle and Kimber Woods each chipped in two points.

On Nov. 17, the Tornados forced Union into turning the ball over 20-plus times in the first half. Nichols scored off a Griffin steal to open the game, while Brown scored off three turnovers to help Bradford go up 11-0.

Brown and Griffin, who scored off two offensive rebounds, had 10 and six points, respectively, in the first quarter.

Sky McMillian came off the bench and had two steals in

the latter stages of the opening quarter, which ended with her making a three-pointer to put Bradford ahead 29-0.

The second quarter featured another two steals by McMillian, while Griffin poured in 10 points as the Tornados went into halftime leading 47-1.

Heaven Scott scored the Tigers' lone point with a free throw at the 2:33 mark of the second quarter.

Crum made two three-pointers in the third quarter as Bradford added another 10 points to complete the scoring.

Griffin finished with 18 points, while Brown had 11. Nichols

See HOOPS, page 11



Seven Bradford County youth teams participated in the Veterans Stars and Strikes Fall Finale on Nov. 12-13, with four teams winning championships and one finishing as runner-up. The 6U Diamond Divas (softball) went in on Saturday, Nov. 12, and took it all in one day. They beat the Wrigley Red Firecrackers 10-6 and 17-7 and then played them a third time to win the first championship of the weekend for Bradford. Coach Rebecca Hancock expresses the following to her team: "Congratulations to the 6U Diamond Divas. This journey with you ladies has been incredible, and I could not be more proud of how each of you have grown this season in becoming leaders and working together. You all have helped me grow into a better coach. I can't wait to see what the future holds for each of you. Always remember going forward that talent is nothing without dedication." Pictured are: (front, l-r) Jenevieve Crawford, Olivia Hancock, (middle, l-r) Tayleigh Brooks, Makylee Gilliam, Rayleigh Alexander, Olivia Anderson, Chaselynn Crawford, Lily Prevatt, Ryleigh McCarthy, Apryl Tompkins, (back, l-r) Scarlett Hancock and coaches Hancock and Lacey Brown.



The 14U Red Hots (softball), as the number-two seed, went 2-0 in beating Keystone 7-2 and Dixie 6-0 on Saturday, Nov. 12. On Sunday, Nov. 13, the Red Hots took on Keystone again, beating them 10-4 to go to the championship, where they took on the Wrigley Blue Chargers. After a long, hard battle, they came up short to finish as runners-up. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Jayla Lane, Peyton Miller, Mya Lavane, (second row, l-r) Brylee Gibson, Kianna Conant, (third row, l-r) Maddie McCullough, Aley Crocker, Regan Adams, Aimee Haast, Shelby Cloutier, Brooklyn Underwood and (back, l-r) coaches Chris Olive, Krislyn (last name not provided) and Rob (last name not provided).

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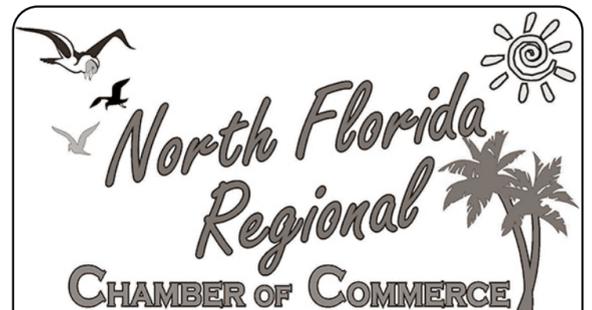
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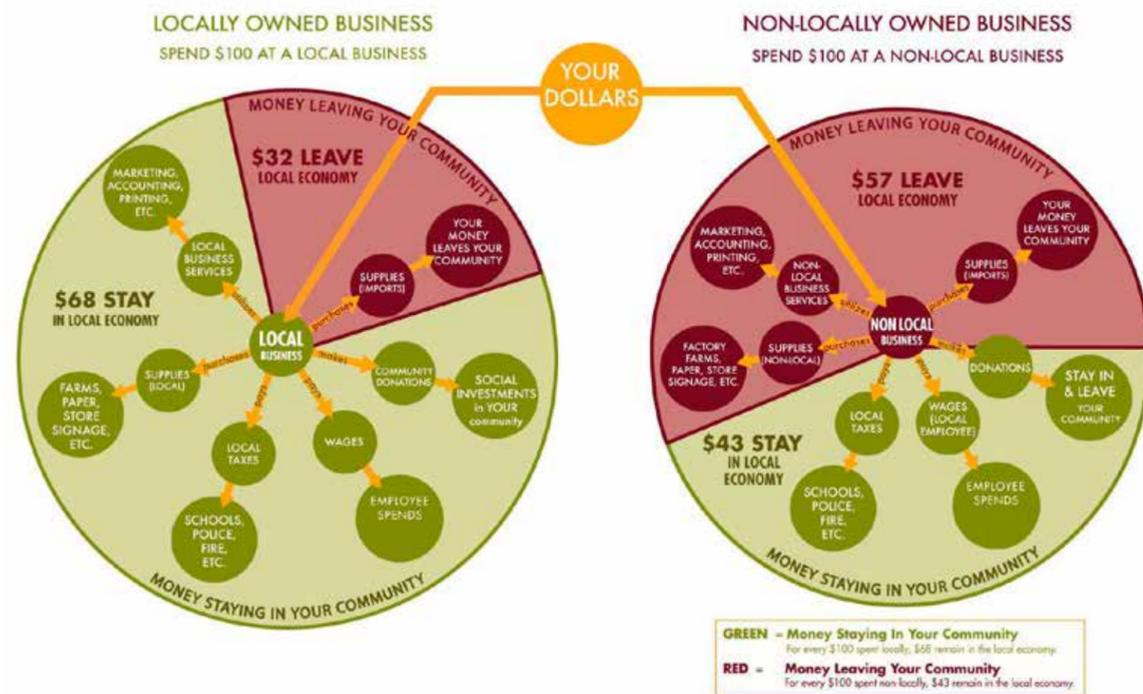
**2. Non Profits Receive Greater Support.** Local business owners donate more to local charities than non-local owners.

**3. Unique Businesses Create Character & Prosperity.** The unique character of your local community is defined in large part by the business that reside there, and that plays a big factor in your overall satisfaction with where you live and the value of you home and property.

**4. Environmental Impact Is Reduced.** Small local business usually set up shop in the town/village center, providing a centralized variety that is much friendlier to a community's walk score than out of town shopping malls. This generally means contributing less to sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

**5. Most New Jobs Are Provided By Local Businesses.** Small local businesses are the largest employers nationally. Plus the more jobs you have in your local community the less people are going to have to commute which means more time and less traffic and pollution.

**6. Customer Service Is Better.** Local businesses often



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hire people with more specific product expertise for better customer service. You are also going to see these people around town and they are less likely to blow you off or be rude because they have to face you day after day.

**7. Local Business Owners Invest In Community.** Local businesses are owned by people who live in this community, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community's welfare and future.

**8. Public Benefits Far Outweigh Public Costs.** Local businesses require comparatively little infrastructure and more efficiently utilize public services relative to chain stores.

**9. Competition And Diversity Leads To More Consumer Choices.** A marketplace of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term.

**10. You Matter More.** We talk a lot about exerting influence with your purchasing choices, or "voting with your wallet." It's a fact that businesses respond to their customers but your values and desires are much more influential to your local community business than the big box stores and websites. To read more about shopping local, sustainable communities and more check out sites that provide news, ideas and inspiration to "Think globally, act locally."

## HOOPS

Continued from page 9

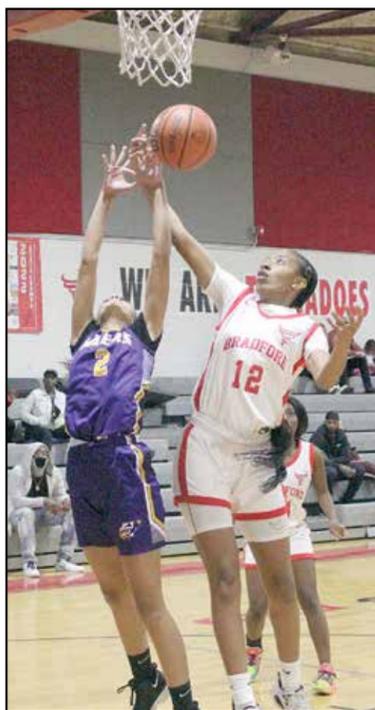
added seven points, while Crum and McMillian each had six.

The Tornadoes also got four points from Hankerson, three points from Jackson and two points from Pringle.

Bradford played 5A Middleburg this past Monday (Nov. 21) and will travel to Jacksonville to play 5A Ed White on Monday, Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m. The Tornadoes play home games against District 2 opponent P.K. Yonge on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and 4A Dunnellon on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m.

The Tigers (0-1) travel to play Lafayette on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Union returns home to play District 6 opponent Newberry on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. and 4A Keystone Heights on Monday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. The Tigers then travel to Gainesville to play 2A Saint Francis on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m.

**RIGHT: Union County's Jaiilyn Simmons (left) and Bradford's Ar'Nayshia Griffin battle underneath the basket in the Tornadoes' 57-1 win. BELOW: Bradford's Nichelle Brown (far right) handles the ball on the perimeter against Union's Jordan Hendricks (center) and Tamia Young. Photos by Cliff Smelley.**



## BHS fans encouraged to buy football tickets as soon as possible

Bradford High School football fans are encouraged to buy tickets to the Region 2-2S championship game against Baker County (Friday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m.) as soon as possible through gofan.co.

With the Wildcats coming to town, school administrators are expecting a sell-out. If you show up at the stadium hoping to buy a ticket, there may be none available.

A standing-room crowd is also expected, so if you do purchase a ticket and want to occupy a seat, you are encouraged to show up early.

Visit gofan.co and enter "Bradford High School" in the search bar.

## Help support SPD's Shop With a Cop

Starke Police Department's Shop With a Cop returns for its 18th year, with children from all the county's public elementary schools getting the chance to shop at Starke's Walmart on Dec. 12-13 with escorts from various law-enforcement agencies as well as the Florida Department of Corrections.

Starke Police Maj. Barry Warren asks that businesses or individuals look deep into their hearts and deeper into their pockets to help put smiles on children's faces. The success of the event depends on the generous donations of others.

If you'd like to make a donation, you can do so by

mailing a check made out to "Starke Police Department — Department to the attention of Maj. Barry Warren, 830 Edwards Road, Starke, FL 32091.

Warren is also available to pick up donations. You may call him at 352-494-3326 (cell) or 904-368-1384 (office), or by calling the Starke Police Department's main number at 904-964-5400.

The deadline for donations is

Dec. 4.

Children who participate in Shop With a Cop are selected by teachers and guidance counselors, who identify students as having needs (financial, emotional or psychological), but who are still striving to do their best in the classroom and to be outstanding citizens.

Last year's event consisted of 340 students.

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Medical experts agree that the three most important steps you can take to reduce your risk from influenza are:

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Getting in touch with your medical provider right away is especially important because COVID-19 and the flu share many of the same symptoms, so your doctor may want to test you to see which illness you have.

**The good news:** Both diseases can be treated with antiviral medications that can keep your symptoms from progressing to a more severe state. However, these drugs are most effective if they are taken shortly after symptom onset. (source: AARP)

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# Obituaries

## Betty Edwards

Beloved wife, mother, granny, sister, and friend. Betty Long Edwards passed away Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022, at her home with her family by her side after an extended illness. She was born Jan. 12, 1933, and was raised, married, and settled in Bradford County. To those who knew her as "Momma," "Granny," or "Ms. Betty," you also knew that her door was always open, and that she would set an extra place at her table for you to share a meal. She had several careers throughout her lifetime, but her true passion was the Brahman cattle industry. She and her husband, J. M., spent decades breeding, raising, and showing award-winning Brahman cattle. In 2017, the Florida State Fair Brahman Show was dedicated to her lifelong legacy of American Brahman. She found joy in working in her garden, crocheting, cooking, and spending time with her family and friends. She will be forever missed by those who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, J. M. Edwards; her parents, Eugene and Lois Long; her brothers, Robert and Eugene Long; and her cherished grandson, Justin Edwards.



She is survived by her children, Tom Edwards, Patricia Wainwright (Tom Smith), Sue (Howe) Moredock, Zack Edwards, and Debbie (Tom) Kavanaugh; her grandchildren, Shannon (Clay) Whitaker, Drew (Kara) Wainwright, Denyse Edwards, Lindsey (Jimmy) Williams, Matthew Hull, Adam (Laura) Wainwright, Allison (Tatum) Davis, Zachary Hull, and Taylor Hull; 17 great-grandchildren (plus one more on the way); one great-great-grandchild; her sister, Martha Epps (Shawna and Shae); and lifetime friend, Helen Crosby.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at Prevatt Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

## James Piper

James "Jim" Edward Piper, 95, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022. He was a longtime resident of Keystone Heights. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to the late Carl and Adeline (Fox) Piper.

No services are scheduled at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656. 352-473-3176 www.jonesgallagherfh.com

## Myra Roberts

Myra Lynn Roberts, 52, of Brooker died at her home on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. She was preceded in death by her mother, Wanda Hodge.



She is survived by her father, Irving Hodge of Brooker; sisters, Rhonda (Gary) Wolf of Interlachen, and Karen (Charles) Williams of Starke; and her brother, Billy Hodge of Brooker.

A celebration of life will be set at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

## Helen Stewart

Helen Ruth Moody Wright Wells Stewart, 94, of Lake City and formerly a longtime resident of Starke, passed away Monday, Nov. 14, 2022, at Suwannee Valley Hospice in Lake City. She was born Aug. 14, 1928, in Bradford County to John Charles and Allie (Griffis) Moody. Prior to retiring, she was employed for 33 years as a seamstress for Starke Uniform Company. She was a longtime member of the Starke Church of God before moving her membership to Evangel Church of God in Lake City 11 years ago. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, quilting, and gardening. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, "J. B." Wright, Bill Wells, and Johnnie Stewart; brothers, Leonard Moody, Jesse Moody, Raymond Moody, Charles Moody, and Fred Wimpy; and sisters, Ann Goodge, Clara Leroy, Ira Cowart, and Allie Mae McKinney; along with stepchildren, Benny Wells, Victor Wells, and Betty David.



She is survived by four daughters, Ruth (Joey) Johnson of Lake City, Linda (Bert) Williams of Brooker, Donna Rowell of Worthington Springs, and Dianne (Stan) Miller of Starke. She was lovingly called "Granny" by six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 21, with Pastor Jeff Moody officiating. Interment followed at Kingsley Lake Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

# Tucker named to softball hall of fame

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Vince Tucker of Lawtey was inducted into Florida First Coach Softball's Hall of Fame in recognition of his effort in helping to create opportunities for local players.

"I never ever expected anything like that," Tucker said. "That was a huge surprise and a huge honor."

Tucker's involvement with the sport began when his oldest daughter, Haylee Tucker, began playing in the spring of 2001. Tucker's involvement was a lot more than simply being a supportive parent. Over the course of 20 years, he helped direct more than 600 tournaments and college showcases. In teaming up with Florida First Coast Softball, he helped Jacksonville host more than 100 such events.

"It was quite a journey," Tucker said.

Tucker, who's also the father of Bradford High School Head Softball Coach Kaylan Taylor, recalled how he would help coach his daughters' teams, which included basketball and volleyball as well as softball.

"I think I was actually head coaching four teams at one time," he said.

That sounds like a major time commitment, but it was worth it. "I loved to coach," Tucker said. "That made it a lot of fun."

When it came to the sport of softball, the Tucker family and families of other area girls who played found themselves having to travel to play in competitive tournaments. Tucker said they'd travel to Orlando or even make trips out of state to Georgia and South Carolina.

"We'd go to Orlando and see five, six, eight teams from our



Vince Tucker

area and wind up playing three or four of them," Tucker said.

Eventually, the question was asked: "Why can't we do that here?"

As Tucker put it, "It just kind of grew from there."

A lot of the work in putting

on a tournament or a college showcase takes place in the week leading up to the event, Tucker said, though the day of the event can be hectic, depending on the weather.

"When you get to Saturday, you can almost put it in cruise control," Tucker said. He paused for a few seconds before adding, "Until the rain hits. That's when everything goes haywire. That's when all of a sudden you start going in about 46 different directions."

"That's always the toughest part — dealing with weather."

In organizing softball events, Tucker said he worked alongside a lot of great people, including his own family, which made it easier for him.

"I had so much support," Tucker said. "I didn't feel like I was spending so much time away

See TUCKER, page 13

## Card of Thanks

Thank you!

The family of the late Mr. Willie James Randolph Sr. would like to thank everyone for the many acts of love and kindness during our time of loss. Truly our burden was lifted because of the love and care shown to us. May God richly bless each of you.  
Rev. DeWayne McBride Sr. and family

## In Memory

In Loving Memory of My Husband

Nov. 29, 2021

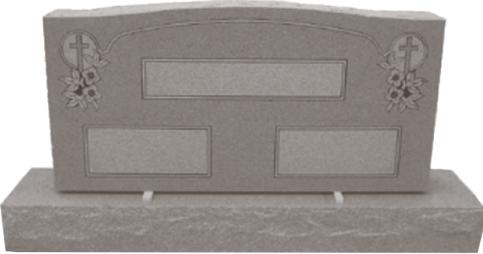
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## Local DAR chapter meets on Dec. 5

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will meet on Monday, Dec. 5, at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Keystone United Methodist Church (4004 S.R. 21).

A covered-dish luncheon will be served. Meat will be provided, while sides and desserts will be brought by members who signed up to do so.

Do you have a Revolutionary War-era patriot in your family tree? If you would like to find out, DAR can help with its genealogical resources. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership. Please contact Registrar Jane Argo Romeo at 352-478-3544 for more information.

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Pictured are Donna Duty and Francena Donnatella Rose, VeRonica's aunt and daughter. We are ever grateful for God's goodness to Donna, a breast cancer survivor.

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There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save.  
— James 4:12



Challil Cummings (far right) heads upfield after intercepting a pass in the Tornadoes' 37-0 win. Jametrius Pringle (center) is also pictured. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

## Tornadoes shut out Rams again in Region 2-2S semis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Visiting Eastside gained 49 yards on its opening drive, but managed 5 the rest of the game as the Bradford High School football team turned in another stellar defensively in defeating the Rams 37-0 in a Region 2-2S semifinal game on Nov. 18.

The Tornadoes, who are the number-one seed in Region 2 and the second-ranked team in all of

Class 2S, have now won two playoff games by a combined score of 85-0 and defeated Eastside twice this season by a combined score of 65-0.

"It was a really good performance overall," Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said. "It's always good to win 37-0."

The Tornadoes (11-1) led 14-0 at halftime, but came out on their first drive of the second half and scored a touchdown. The

defense then came away with interceptions on two straight Eastside possessions.

"You come out and get a score, and it's 21-0," Rodgers said. "You give us a 21-0 lead, we're going to be pretty good against anybody probably. It was good to get that. Then, you start compounding things with the turnovers on top of that. It kind

See BHS, page 15

## Tigers take down Cowboys 27-16 in Region 3-1R semis

BY JADEE O'STEEN  
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Quarterback A.J. Cortese threw a touchdown pass and rushed for two scores as the Union County High School football team outscored defending state champion Madison County 20-6 in the second half to win 27-16 in a Region 3-1R semifinal game on Nov. 18 in Lake Butler.

It was the first time in school history the Tigers (7-2) have beaten Madison. Union now hosts Lafayette (10-2) on Friday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. for the Region 3 championship.

This was one of the best defensive performances the Tigers have had all season. They had a total of 48 tackles, including 12 behind the line of scrimmage. Junior linebacker Thomas Williams made seven (five solo) of those tackles in leading the team.

"This was one of our best games on defense," said Williams, who had a sack, caused a fumble and blocked a punt. "We just wanted more and played hard."

The Tigers remained aggressive on defense for the duration of the game. Daylyn Diston and Gavin Jenkins each had an interception, while Dayvontae Thompson and Dalton Lane had six and five tackles, respectively.



Mikah Wilson (foreground, right) brings down a Madison County player in the Tigers' 27-16 win. Thomas Williams (left) is also pictured. Photo by Jadee O'Steen.

Highly talked-about defensive lineman Markus Strong joined Diston and Hance Jones in recording four tackles each. Strong now has 42 on the season, which puts him third on the team behind Thompson (47) and Lane (44).

"Everyone counted us out against Madison, but we came out on top," Strong said, adding that the team prepared more mentally for this matchup and that the main objective was to

See UCHS, page 15

## Corrections for CIS golf tourney photos



The information for the second- and third-place teams at the CIS of Bradford Fore Kids golf tournament was incorrect due to a journalist's error. ABOVE: Placing second was the Downtown Grill team. Pictured (l-r) are Jacob Hart, Justin Hart, Andy Coston and Trey Wickline.



The Roberts Insurance team placed third. Pictured (l-r) are Shane Jennings, Brett Anderson, Dustin Packham and Lee Lambert.

## TUCKER

Continued from page 12

from the family. We were all out there together. I think my wife (Michelle) and I were out there for every anniversary."

Tucker said his wife was always there to help out wherever needed. He's received support from both of his daughters over the years as well as son-in-law Joey Taylor.

"Poor fellow," Tucker said of Taylor, adding, "I was about to kill him, I think. He'd work all week, and then I'd beat him up on the weekends."

Softball has grown in popularity since Tucker and others worked to put on local events. That's been fun to watch, obviously, for someone who's the father of two daughters who played. Tucker said it's amazing to see how many people now follow the sport.

Regarding tournaments, Tucker said it's not unusual to see two or three taking place at the same time at the same place.

"It's really grown over the last 15, 20 years from kind of something that was, 'Let's keep the kids occupied,' to now being kind of a big deal," Tucker said.

Tucker said he's enjoyed witnessing the kind of passion softball players have. He said even if a game is in a rain delay, players are in the dugout cheering and having fun.

"The atmosphere is just really good out there," he said.

He had the opportunity to witness quite an atmosphere when the Union County High School softball team reached the state tournament in 2016. Tucker's daughter Kaylan was a pitcher on that team. Tucker said Union had crowds of people 6-8 deep throughout the playoffs.

"To me, that's probably the best sporting experience I've been a part of," he said, adding, "Everybody in the community was there."

Now, Tucker hopes he gets the chance to witness his daughter Kaylan take Bradford High School to the state tournament. If it happens, he expects the same kind of support his daughter's UCHS team received.

"We've got a lot of support with the community and everybody getting behind the team," Tucker said. Tucker helps his daughter with the BHS team (as does Kaylan's husband, Joey), but he admitted she's got quite the handle

on things, including all the administrative-type duties that have nothing to do with actually coaching.

"She does amazingly well," Tucker said. "I thought I was going to have to tote a big part of that load, but she does incredibly well with making sure everything is put together."

It looks as if Tucker will always be coaching something. He has three grandchildren — all boys, which gives him a different kind of experience after raising two daughters. He's helping coach soccer, which two of his grandsons play. The other grandson is "raring to start playing something" when he gets old enough.

As he looks back on his involvement in helping create softball events for youth in this area, Tucker said he saw his efforts and the efforts of others as certainly being worthwhile.

"Giving the kids something to do is always a good thing, especially in those teenage years," he said. "Kids just need something organized to do."

Tucker is a believer that such opportunities transcend the world of sports.

"Team sports really teach you a lot about life," he said.

## Whitehead competes at 1A swim finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Freshman Eva Whitehead became the first-ever Union County High School athlete to compete in the swimming state finals, placing 20th and 23rd in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard individual medley, respectively, at the Class 1A championships on Nov. 18 in Stuart.

This was the first UCHS has participated in swimming. The Tigers had two compete in Whitehead and junior Abby Gainey, with Whitehead able to advance beyond the district and region levels.

In the 100 backstroke, Whitehead swam 59.35 in the preliminaries, while in the 200 IM preliminaries, she swam 2:13.

Each of Whitehead's events included a reigning state champion. Erika Pelaez, a homeschooled student who competes for South Florida HEAT (Home Educated Athletic Teams), won the 100 backstroke in 2021 and took the title again with a state-record time of 51.78.

Pine Crest's Julia Podkosiely repeated as 200 IM champ with a time of 1:58.

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# KHHS' Kiley Channell to play softball for Florida Atlantic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School senior Kiley Channell has been making her mark on the school's varsity softball team since she was an eighth-grader. When she graduates, she'll attempt to make her mark at Florida Atlantic University.

Channell, a middle infielder, signed a letter of intent to play for the Division-I Owls during a Nov. 15 signing ceremony in the KHHS media center.

"I feel great," she said. "It's an amazing opportunity. It's been my dream since I was younger."

Though she had been excelling at KHHS and with her travel team, Channell said it wasn't until Sept. 1 of her junior year when she started realizing she could get the opportunity to play big-time college ball. That was when she began being contacted by D-I schools.

Channell said she received four to five offers from D-I schools. She chose FAU because

of its coaching staff and for what the school offers academically.

"I met the coaches. They're just amazing," Channell said. "They just match my energy. They're just like me — an older version of me. I just love it."

"They have a really good business program there. That's what I want to go into."

The FAU athletics department gives a shoutout to its signed student-athletes on social media with the "Welcome to Paradise" slogan. The school has six campuses that span 110 miles of the southeastern coast.

It is indeed paradise, Channell said, adding, "There are iguanas everywhere. It is so cool. The beach is really pretty there."

Before she gets to paradise, she has to play her fifth year on the KHHS varsity team. As an eighth-grader, Channell played in 26 games. She led the team in RBI with 25 and was third in batting average at .388.

"She struck out only three times in 91 at-bats," KHHS Head

Coach Jessica Maquart said. "That, to me, is just amazing. I knew right then, 'This girl is special.' She's going to go somewhere."

She didn't excel just offensively as an eighth-grader. She finished that season with only one error in the field.

"Her range is just crazy, and her hands are really good," Maquart said.

Channell, who also played on the varsity basketball team as an eighth-grader, said she wasn't intimidated by playing with and against older players.

"I played travel ball with older people, so I was used to playing with older people," she said.

In her freshman season, which was shortened because of COVID, Channell batted .345 and committed just one error in nine games.

She was second on the team in RBI with 21 during her junior season. She batted .346 and committed five errors.

Last season, she led the team



Kiley Channell, pictured between parents Viola and Jason, signs her letter of intent to play softball at FAU. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

with 29 RBI, while her batting average of .404 was second-best. She committed one error.

"She's worked at it," Maquart said of Channell's success.

"She worked really hard to get to where she is. She does have natural ability, but she's put in the time."

When it comes to batting,

Channell said she steps to the plate with the mindset that she's the person to get the job done,

See FAU, page 15

## Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Nov. 24, 2022

### BRADFORD

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on December 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M 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. Vin# 5NPDH4AE1DH402842 2013 Hyundai Vin # 1HGCS12339A018330 2009 Honda 11/17 2tchg 11/24-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**  
Notice is hereby given that LEWIS CHAFF the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 852 Year of Issuance: 2020 Parcel Number: 03761-0-00101 Case Number: 04-2022-TD-0019 11/17 4tchg 12/8-BCT

Description of Property: 03761-0-00101 Lots 1 and 2 of Block 47 of "JOHNS ADDITION", a subdivision as recorded in Deed Book "L" page 629 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida Name in Which Assessed: LK WHITEHEAD & MAY BELLE WHITEHEAD Name on last tax roll, if different: MAY BELLE WHITEHEAD (DEC) All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 02/15/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida LISA BRANNON, Deputy Clerk DATED: November 8, 2022 11/17 4tchg 12/8-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No: 04-2022-DR-439 DEXTER M. CARLTON Petitioner and MARIA E. CARLTON Respondent, NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT) TO: MARIA E. CARLTON 242 BUCK RUN WAY ST. AUGUSTINE, FL (last known address) YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on DEXTER M. CARLTON whose address is 2180 SE 144<sup>th</sup> St., Starke, FL 32091 on or before December 29, 2022 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 945 N. TEMPLE AVENUE, P. O. DRAWER B, STARKE, FL 32091 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. 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. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office. WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings. Dated: November 18, 2022 DENNY THOMPSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: K. JENKINS DEPUTY CLERK 11/24 4tchg 12/15-BCT

County Telegraph Amanda Seyfang Bradford County Supervisor of Elections P. O. Box 58 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C Starke, FL 32091 Date: November 21, 2022 11/24 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given: Robert J. McDowall Last known address of: 19375 NW 135th Pl Lake Butler FL 32054 You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph Amanda Seyfang Bradford County Supervisor of Elections P. O. Box 58 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C Starke, FL 32091 Date: November 21, 2022 11/24 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: DAVID BINCZAK, 850 S. PARKER ST., STARKE, FL 32091 sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: WEIGHT'S ON WHEELS, 850 S. PARKER ST., STARKE, FL 32091, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 18th day of November A.D., 2022, in Bradford County, Union County and Clay County. 11/24 1tchg-BCT UCT LRM

Notice is hereby given: Roosevelt Covington Last known address of: 6912 NW County Road 229 Starke FL 32091 You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph Amanda Seyfang Bradford County Supervisor of Elections P. O. Box 58 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C Starke, FL 32091 Date: November 21, 2022 11/24 1tchg-BCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING NOTICE THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will hold a meeting on December 6, at 9:30 a.m. at the Bradford County Courthouse, inside the County Commission Chambers, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL. The public is encouraged to visit [www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings](http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings) or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting. 11/24 1tchg-BCT

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## FAU

Continued from page 14

especially when the team has runners in scoring position.

"That is what I thrive on," said Channell, who's struck out only 18 times in 287 varsity at-bats.

As for her defense, Channell gave credit to her father, Jason, who's also her travel-ball coach.

"I'm always working with my dad," she said. "We just work on fundamentals and breaking down mechanics and stuff like that, so that when the game comes, I'm just going through the motions."

Channell enjoys the fact her

father is a coach, saying, "It's been great. I can go to the field anytime I want — anytime he's home. He's always been there. He always wants the best for me."

It would appear FAU is getting a great player with a strong work ethic, but judging by comments made by Channell's high school coaches, the Owls are also getting a player who's committed to supporting her team. Marquart said it doesn't matter if Channell is struggling herself, her attitude is always positive.

"She always cheers her teammates on," Marquart said.

Jessica Carter, who is the

head coach for the KHHS girls basketball team, said she's had players suffer injuries who chose to stay away from the team until they were ready to play again. That wasn't the case with Channell, who missed approximately half a season with a broken ankle. Carter said Channell showed up at practices to encourage and help the players who had to fill her position.

"She's always about the team," Carter said. "She's never about herself."

It's that desire to help her team that'll have her feeling anxious when she shows up at FAU.

"I feel like making my coaches

proud is what I'm really nervous about," Channell said. "When I step out on the field, it's going to be like, 'Well, I've got to be perfect.'"

Channell admitted that she understands no one is perfect. However, FAU is still going to get a player who stives for perfection — on and off the field. "FAU is getting a fantastic softball player, but they're also getting a good student, too," Marquart said. "She excels in the classroom. She wants to do good in her life and be successful."

"They're just getting an all-around great athlete and great person."

## UCHS

Continued from page 13

"just have fun."

And as he put it, "Defeating Madison County is fun."

The Tiger offense, which amassed 299 yards, started off a bit slow, but started to gain momentum as the game progressed. Running back Rayvon Durant, performed as usual, with 24 carries for 150 yards and a touchdown. Cortese had 40 yards and two touchdowns on five carries, while also completing 8 of 14 passes for 94 yards and a touchdown.

Madison (4-7) scored first with a field goal in the first quarter, but the Tigers answered with Cortese's 26-yard touchdown pass to Jenkins. Jonathan Edwards added the PAT to put Union ahead 7-3.

Jenkins finished with three receptions for 42 yards.

The Cowboys had the only score of the second quarter, which allowed them to go into

halftime leading 10-7.

Cortese rushed for a 34-yard touchdown in the third quarter to put Union ahead for good. The Tigers got another score in the quarter, set up by Jenkins' 30-yard interception return to the Madison 17. Durant would eventually score on a 1-yard run.

Edwards kicked the extra point after both third-quarter touchdowns, putting the Tigers ahead 21-10.

Madison would pull to within five points before Cortese added his second touchdown on the ground — a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

As the Tigers go into this week, which consists of no school due to Thanksgiving, they plan on having the same mindset against Lafayette that they had going into last week's matchup against Madison. Jenkins and Strong said they believe that if they possess that same determination, they will come out on top.

"Someone has to go home, and it won't be Union County," Strong said.

## BHS

Continued from page 13

of got away from (Eastside) a little bit.

"That's what's supposed to happen when you're at home. You have the homefield advantage, and those things kind of start snowballing. That's what it's supposed to look like."

Bradford gets homefield advantage again on Friday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. when it hosts Baker County (9-3) for the Region 2-2S championship.

The Tornadoes' defense has been dominant this year, but the offense has done its part as well, averaging 28 points per game. Willie Pollard rushed for two touchdowns against Eastside, while Dae'Jon Shanks rushed for one score and caught one of two touchdown passes thrown by Jeremiah McKenzie.

Eastside (8-3) moved from its 33-yard line to inside Bradford's 15 on the first drive of the game, with quarterback Holden Johnson completing 5 of 8 passes for 44 yards. His 11-yard pass to Jemall Dix gave the Rams a first down at the Tornadoes' 14-yard line. After a 2-yard run by Micah Hudson, Bradford's Chason Clark sacked Johnson for a 1-yard loss. Johnson's third-down pass was incomplete, forcing the Rams to try for a 30-yard field goal, which was no good at the 6:17 mark of the opening quarter.

Rodgers said Eastside's offensive success to start the game wasn't surprising. He said in watching video from the Sept. 16 regular-season game between the two teams, Bradford was playing off of the Rams' slot receivers "who can really run."

"They didn't exploit it last time, but I knew coming into this, they would try to exploit that," Rodgers said. "They did. They got the ball out quick."

Bradford certainly made the adjustments it needed to. Johnson completed 7 of 14 passes for just 30 yards the rest of the way. He was sacked four

times and intercepted three times after Eastside's first possession.

Like Eastside, Bradford's offense put together a lengthy drive on its first possession. Most of the yards the Tornadoes gained came on runs by Pollard and Shanks. Pollard had seven carries for more than 30 yards, with his seventh attempt setting up first-and-goal. Shanks, who gained approximately 20 yards on three carries, capped the 80-yard drive with a 5-yard touchdown run approximately two minutes into the second quarter. Hayden Hughes kicked the extra point to make the score 7-0.

The Rams did cross midfield on their second drive, with Daijon Johnson's 9-yard reception giving them a first down at the Bradford 38. Devon McBride then sacked Holden Johnson for an 8-yard loss. After Jarrin Alexander broke up a pass, the Bradford defense tackled Joshua Benjamin for a 2-yard loss on third down. Dejon McBride then blocked the Rams' punt, giving the Tornadoes the ball at the Eastside 44.

Two plays later, Bradford increased its lead, with Pollard getting out ahead of the defense for a 41-yard touchdown run with 5:38 to play in the first half. Hughes added the PAT for a 14-0 lead.

C.J. Carn came up with the first of four turnovers Bradford's defense created on the night when he intercepted Johnson on the Rams' third series. The Tornadoes' offense, however, were unable to capitalize.

The second half began with an electrifying play as Bradford's Jametrius "Jip" Pringle returned the kickoff approximately 40 yards, which had the offense starting at its own 45. One play was all Bradford needed, with Pollard getting loose for a 60-yard touchdown run. After Hughes' PAT, the Tornadoes led 21-0 just 20 seconds into the second half.

Pollard finished with more than 140 yards on 17 carries.

On Eastside's second offensive play of the half,

Pringle intercepted a pass tipped by teammate Chalil Cummings, returning the ball more than 30 yards to the Eastside 23. Bradford's offense lost 5 yards on three plays, which resulted in Hughes attempting a 45-yard field goal. The kick was just inches short, hitting the crossbar with 10:05 to play in the third quarter.

Three plays later, the Bradford defense was at it again. Cummings intercepted a pass and took it back for a touchdown, but the score was nullified by a blindside block.

Eastside was able to prevent Bradford from turning the turnover in points, but its offense still struggled against the Tornadoes' defense. Dejon McBride recorded a sack for an 11-yard loss on the Rams' third series of the half, which also featured Bryson Bowen batting a pass down at the line of scrimmage and Devon McBride making a tackle on a pass play for a 2-yard gain on third-and-21.

The Tornadoes' final offensive series of the third quarter began with two consecutive runs by McKenzie for a total gain of 23 yards. Shanks then had a carry for 21 yards to give Bradford a first down at the Eastside 27. McKenzie, who rushed for 52 yards on 13 carries, picked up an additional 18 yards on runs to help put the Tornadoes in scoring position. Hughes kicked a 26-yard field goal with 2:05 left in the third quarter to put Bradford ahead 24-0.

Eastside attempted a fake punt on its next possession, but the pass attempt was incomplete, thanks to a vicious hit by Carn. Two plays later, Pringle caught a pass from McKenzie and made some nifty moves in avoiding a couple of defensive players as he made his way downfield for a 53-yard touchdown to put the Tornadoes up 30-0 at the 9:23 mark of the fourth quarter. A bad snap resulted in a failed conversion attempt.

The Rams tried a trick play on their first offense play following the ensuing kickoff. Antonio Hubbert took a handoff on a

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