

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

146th year, 15th Issue — \$1

Sheriff: Deputy stole from ICE detainee

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Bradford County Sheriff's Office correctional deputy was arrested on Oct. 29, after confessing to stealing from an inmate's trust fund bank account, officials said.

According to an arrest report, the inmate, in the Starke lockup on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, deposited \$1,687.40 into an inmate trust account upon arrival and expected to receive a check for the same amount after being transferred to the Alachua County Jail.

However, after being informed that her balance was zero, she complained to ICE officials, who contacted the Bradford Sheriff's Office.

Jail officials immediately issued a check to the inmate for the amount she deposited and investigated the discrepancy.

Detectives confirmed the inmate's \$1,687.40 deposit and noted two subsequent transactions that drained the balance to zero. Both transactions were initiated by Correctional Deputy Francis William Rashad Highland, 37, of Starke.

According to the report, Highland admitted to the theft and then stated that he attempted to

cover up the fraud by transferring the funds back into the inmate's account, but was prevented from doing so because the inmate had already left the jail.

Sheriff Gordon Smith said in a social media post that Highland was fired on the spot, and his corrections certification will be forwarded to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for review and possible revocation.

"To say I am disappointed is an understatement," Smith said. "The Bradford County Sheriff's Office strives to be professional and beyond reproach. This individual has not only violated his oath to God and country, but he has also dishonored himself."



Highland

County approves recreation MOU

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Bradford Sports United won the support of most county commissioners, who voted to enter a memorandum of understanding with the city of Starke, which includes an additional year of financial support from both local governments.

Each board committed \$150,000 to Bradford Sports United in this year's budget, and the memorandum of understanding approved by the county Tuesday morning will provide an additional \$150,000 from each next year. Starke city commissioners were set to vote on the MOU that evening.

The Tourist Development Council, which promotes tourism within the county, also voted to support the new youth sports organization with \$150,000 this year, which will be used on park improvements that will help attract tournaments and additional tourist dollars. That revenue comes from the county's "bed tax" on overnight accommodations and required the county's approval as well.

See REC, page 3

Church honors veterans

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Raiford will honor all veterans on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Veterans appreciation

Church of God by Faith's Gainesville District Women's Ministry will present Community Veterans Appreciation Day on Friday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The theme is Women in National Service. Lunch will be served.

Veterans Day at Camp Blanding

Camp Blanding Museum will host a Veterans Day event Tuesday, Nov. 11, beginning with a ceremony at 11 a.m. There will be displays from the museum; World War II aircraft, vehicle and weaponry exhibits; veteran organization vendors; and lunch served at World War II prices. The event runs through 3 p.m. at the museum, 5629 S.R. 14 #3040, Starke. Call 904-682-3196 for more information.

Veterans Day at UCHS

All veterans and their families are invited to Union County High School's annual Veterans Day Ceremony 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, in the auditorium. The guest speaker will be Angela Johnson, a former petty officer who has been at the high school since 2007 teaching history, economics and personal finance. She has coached varsity volleyball for 19 years and is also the lead sponsor for the sophomore class.

Elderly food assistance

Due to the ongoing government shutdown, SNAP benefits will not be issued starting Nov. 1. Older adults in need of food are encouraged to contact their local senior center or lead agency to learn more about congregate meal schedules or home-delivered meals. For Bradford and Union counties, call Suwannee River Economic Council at 904-964-6696.

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

Waste sites closed

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day. They will reopen Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m.

Black Creek project within weeks of activation

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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A director for the St. Johns River Water Management District told the organization's governing board that the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project could be activated sometime in November.

Dale Jenkins, the director of the district's Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources, told the board during its October meeting that the project's treatment plant within Camp Blanding had reached its 95% completion milestone.

The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project consists of a 17-mile pipeline, pumps, and a treatment facility within the National Guard training facility. It could divert up to 10 million gallons of water a day from Black Creek to Keystone Heights area lakes. It is designed to replenish the Floridan Aquifer and is part of the district's recovery plan for minimum flows and levels of Lake Brooklyn and Lake Geneva.

The Florida Legislature appropriated \$43.4

million for the project, and North Florida utilities kicked in an additional \$19.2 million. The district is paying the balance. The last cost estimate for the project was \$118.7 million.

The treatment facility consists of six cells of media and plants designed to filter tannins and other impurities from the creek's brown water before it is discharged into Alligator Creek, upstream from Lake Brooklyn.

Jenkins stated that over the last 30 days, contractors had installed computer-based monitoring and control systems in Cells 1 through 3, and Cell 4 was filled with filtering media.

"I'm happy to report that preliminary water quality results indicated that the water coming out of Cell 4 met water quality standards," Jenkins told the board. "Piping installation was completed in cells number five and six. We began bringing media into cell five just yesterday, and we should be done placing stone in cell six by the end of this month."

The director stated that the district has added an additional step in the treatment facility construction.



Filtering media in Cell 4.

He said contractors will enhance the outfall area in Alligator Creek by adding erosion control measures.

"So, once we get that all constructed," he said, "probably sometime in the next two to four weeks, then we should be ready, as long as enough water is available in Black Creek to start pumping water."

Not paying their fair share

Union commissioners say camper and shed dwellers are mooching off taxpayers

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Union County Commissioners, meeting with Raiford residents during a county commission meeting, said people living in sheds and campers are freeloading off Union County taxpayers because they don't pay the special assessments that other residents pay.

Now, the special assessment for solid waste disposal is \$70 per year. The county bills an additional \$70 per house for the emergency medical

services assessment

Commissioners informed attendees at a November 3 meeting at the Raiford Community Center that the assessments must increase for the county to remain financially viable.

However, during that discussion, Commissioner Donna Jackson raised the issue of those who don't pay anything.

"Just by a raise of hands in this room," she said, "how many of you know someone that you've seen in your neighborhood or around the county who is living in an RV or camper? I see them on every corner. How many of them do you think are paying a special assessment? Probably none."

Jackson then proposed hiring an employee or contractor to locate

unassessed campers and sheds used as permanent dwellings and charge the parcels the additional assessments.

Commissioner Mac Johns estimated the number of residents living in unassessed campers and RVs in the county at three or four thousand.

Jackson added that, according to Sheriff Brad Whitehead, a significant number of 911 calls are coming from unassessed sheds and campers.

"A lot of the call volume that's generated, that's using your tax



File photo

dollars, is going to these makeshift, thrown-together RV camps," she said. "That's hard to hear."

"Everybody screams they don't want code enforcement," added Board Chair Channing Dobbs. "That's because they ain't got (an RV encampment) next to their house."

Shed fire stopped before spreading to home

BY JENN SAMSEL
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A storage shed caught fire in Bradford County, nearly igniting the home.

According to Bradford County Fire Rescue, the fully engulfed shed posed a threat to the shed owners' home. Firefighters from Bradford and Clay counties quickly extinguished the blaze.

The incident occurred in the 400 block of Southeast 43rd Street, in the area of the former Keystone Golf and Country Club, on Friday, Oct. 31. There were no



According to Bradford County Fire Rescue, the fully engulfed shed posed a threat to the residents' home. Firefighters from Bradford and Clay Counties quickly extinguished the blaze.

injuries to people or pets.

The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

KH Engine 11 knocked out of service

BY JENN SAMSEL
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Clay County Fire Rescue's Station 11 in Keystone Heights is without Engine 11 after a driver lost control and crashed into the vehicle.

According to the driver involved in the accident, he crashed into the apparatus after another driver made a sudden turn, cutting him off. The driver collided with the other vehicle and then careened into the fire engine.

Engine 11 was responding to an emergency call at the time.

The accident occurred at approximately 2:14 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, just as the engine was leaving the station on State Road 21.

Fire rescue officials sent the damaged vehicle to a repair shop, and a spare has been put in service until Engine 11 can be repaired and returned to active duty.



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Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share's upcoming food distributions will take place on Thursday, Nov. 6 and

20 and Dec. 4, from 9 to 11 a.m. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. (Distribution could start early depending on delivery.)

Distributions are typically the first and third Thursday of the month, but there will be a single distribution in December.

RJE food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 8:30 a.m. at the RJE Complex on Pine

Street in Starke.

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

Union County food distribution

Food is distributed in Union County at the Hal Y. Maines Community Center on the third Thursday of each month from

9-10:30 a.m. or while supplies last. The center is located at 155 NW Third St. in Lake Butler. The giveaway is sponsored by Florida Gateway Foodbank and Catholic Charities.



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Express Oil Change opens 377th store in Starke

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Birmingham, Alabama-based Express Oil Change joined the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 15 at the company's 1198 S. Walnut St. location.

Regional Manager Shane Baldwin said the company launched in 1979 as a quick lube service.

"You sit in your car for 10 to 13 minutes," he said. "Convenient service. We have always had mechanical service on the other side (of the building), and probably in the last seven to 10 years, we added tires."

Baldwin said that with the mechanical service and tires, the company has evolved into a convenient one-stop shop.

"We emphasize speed," he said. "A sense of urgency when the customer drives in. We all have jobs, and the last thing I want to do on my day off is to drop my car off for service."

When asked why the company chose Starke as a location, the regional manager explained that the company began expanding into suburbs and smaller towns, where it found success competing against local mom-and-pop operations.

"Actually, we've done really well in some of the smaller towns," he said. "I think the biggest difference is that the sense of urgency we promote is a lot different than the pace of some of the smaller towns. That's led us to be pretty successful."

Regional Director Will Michaux said that he is



Express Oil Change Regional Director Will Michaux, Regional Manager Shane Baldwin and Store Manager Josh Miles.

responsible for 52 stores from North Carolina to Florida. He added that each Express Oil Change has between eight and 12 employees, and that even though each location is part of a large organization, the company strives to maintain a family atmosphere.

"The cool thing is we don't want just to come in and just take over," he said. "We still have a family feel. So, when we come to a town, we want customers to have that family feel, too. We don't want just to put big boxes everywhere. We want to have a family."

Store Manager Josh Miles said he has an uncle who lives in Fleming Island and some cousins who live in the area. He joined Express Oil Change in 2012 in Macon, Georgia, and joined the management team in 2018. Since then, he has been opening stores and developing staff.

When asked what Starke customers are telling him about the new operation, Miles replied, "They like that there's no waiting, no appointments, stuff like that. They're in and they're out. Time is money, so if we can save them time, we'll save them money. They say we are a little bit more expensive than a couple of places

around here, but the convenience factor and everything kind of evens out the cost."

Miles also said that the warranties issued at the Starke store are good at any of the company's other 376 locations.

Assistant Store Manager Judith Salle-Young grew up in Starke and Lake Butler and graduated from Union County High School in 2001. She said she has volunteered for Splash Bash and has gotten involved in other community and political projects.

Michaux echoed Miles's description of Express Oil Change's top-of-market positioning. He described the company as the Chick-fil-A of oil changes.

Express Oil Change operates as a division of Mavis Discount Tire, which is owned by Golden Gate Capital, a San Francisco-based private equity firm. Earlier this year, Mavis acquired the Midas automotive repair chain, bringing its store count to over 3,500 locations.

Michaux said the next nearby location for an Express Oil Change will be in Live Oak. He added that around six more locations are coming online in the Tampa Bay area soon.

Starke establishes sister city partnership with Próspera

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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The Starke City Commission has approved a resolution to establish a sister city relationship with Próspera, a special economic zone (Zede) in Honduras.

This decision was made Oct. 21, following Mayor Andy Redding's recent visit to a country whose citizens are trying to define their future through economic development.

"Some of the things that I learned about in Honduras is the strong desire for the Hondurans. They want to build their own government. They want to see prosperity there," he said. "This relationship, I feel, will make us all stronger. It will make us more well-rounded and more versatile. We can learn from them, and they can learn from us."

A delegation from Próspera, including Mayor Jorge Colindres and attorney Arturo Zacapa, elaborated on the economic potential the Zede offers. Colindres described Próspera as a "public trust" dedicated to the principles of "life, liberty, and property," emphasizing its alignment with the foundational concepts that guide the United States.

Próspera operates under a common law legal system similar to that of the U.S., designed to facilitate American investment in Honduras. Colindres stated, He highlighted that the Zede offers protective measures for foreign investments through its autonomy, making it an attractive

location for U.S. businesses.

The delegation shared impressive statistics, noting that Próspera has already attracted over \$200 million in U.S. investments, which have created around 3,500 jobs across various sectors. Colindres showcased the zone's focus on economic development, citing opportunities in tourism for collaboration with Starke.

In response to inquiries from the commission, Colindres detailed Próspera's operational autonomy from the Honduran national government. He explained that the Honduran Congress amended the constitution to establish Zones

for Employment and Economic Development (Zedes), granting these areas a high degree of independence to encourage economic growth.

Mayor Redding added, "They want their own liberties. They appreciate a lot of the things that we have here in the U.S. and the strengths that we have."

Following the presentation, the commission moved to formalize the sister city relationship through a resolution that outlined a commitment to promote mutual understanding, cultural exchange and cooperative development between Starke and Próspera. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of four to zero.

Florida Twin Theatre

904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!

THURSDAY 11/6
THE CHRISTMAS RING- 6:30
REGRETTING YOU- 6:30

FRIDAY 11/7
PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 7:00
THE CHRISTMAS RING- 7:00

SATURDAY 11/8
PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 4:00 & 7:00
THE CHRISTMAS RING- 4:00 & 7:00

SUNDAY 11/9
PREDATOR: BADLANDS- 4:00 & 7:00
THE CHRISTMAS RING- 4:00 & 7:00

Wrong Versus Right

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I FOUND MANY THINGS, THE WORLD CAN'T TOUCH
I HAVE THE WHOLE PICTURE NOW THINGS ARE GOOD
I WOULDN'T GO BACK EVEN IF I COULD
IF THE WORLD ONLY KNEW THE THINGS I KNOW
THEY'D STOP RIGHT NOW TO THE ALTER THEY'D GO
SATAN IS STRONG THE FLESH WEAK
SO CHANGE TODAY- THE LORD TO SEEK
OFT TIMES OVER THE HORIZON I LOOK
I KNOW SOME THINGS-I'VE READ THE BOOK

*by Henry Hodges
Lawtey, FL*

REC Continued from page 1

The single vote against the MOU came from Commissioner Chris Dougherty, who wanted any funding for the BSU initiative to come from real budget cuts instead of the county's reserves. That didn't happen in this budget, and he didn't want to commit funding in a future budget until those budget cuts are achieved. If during budget talks for next year they can find \$150,000 in cuts, he would support budgeting that money for the recreation program.

Commissioner Danny Riddick was enthusiastic about how far Bradford Sports United has come in its first few meetings and with the help he has received through the county manager's office and city hall. He said the county and city have never worked better together. A design to remodel the concessions stand at Edwards Road Park is up for a vote at the

next rec board meeting. Work is also being done on the pickle ball court and restrooms.

The goal has always been for BSU to become self-supporting within two years. They are working on becoming a Babe Ruth chartered group. Attorneys are working on drafting BSU's bylaws an incorporating it as a private nonprofit. Doing so

means its board members can work outside of public view despite their use of public funds. The memorandum of understanding, however, does require BSU to present quarterly financial reports to the county and city to account for the use of their donations.

Bradford Sports United is currently advertising for full-

time director to run its programs.

The next BSU meeting is Nov. 12 at 8:30 a.m. at Starke City Hall.

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KNOWING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST – Part 3

Last week we looked at scriptures concerning who we are in Christ Jesus. We found out that God calls us children of God. We also found out that we are children of God, we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Think about that for just a moment. If that is true about all born again Christians, and it is, then why do most Christians live on such a low level? Most Christians live defeated lives. I'm not talking about wicked and sinful lives, but defeated. In other words, we live like and react to things in this world just like lost people. I want us to look at two verses we looked at last week. Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children." How can we imitate God? We can imitate God because we are His children, we have His nature, now that we are born again. Christians should act like God because we are His children. Children who love their parents want to be like them. The parents become the role model for the children. Children who really love their parents long to please them. We as the children of God should seek to please Him. The Living Bible renders this verse as "follow God's example in everything you do just as a much loved child imitates his father." This seems so foreign to most Christians. Most think about their weaknesses and how unworthy they feel. To suggest that we should imitate God is mind boggling to some and seemingly impossible to others. Well, I did not write the Bible but I do believe it. I also know that God would never suggest that we do something that we were incapable of doing. That would be unjust, and God is not unjust. If God tells us in the Word to imitate Him then we need to do it. He will furnish us the grace and power to represent Him well. We as Christians should not be walking around belly aching, complaining and making excuses for why we are not representing the Father and our Lord Jesus before a lost and dying

world. The reason many Christians are not very good at being a Christian is simply because they do not know who they are in Christ. They have no revelation of what God has actually made them in the New Birth and how He has empowered them with the person of the Holy Spirit. If you do not believe what the Bible says about sonship and heirship you will live below the Biblical standard God has set for you according to the Word of God. Another reason people live below and do without their rights and privileges in Christ is because they compare themselves to other people.

The Word of God warns us not to do that. 2 Corinthians 10:18, "For we dare not classify or compare ourselves with those that commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." If you look at other Christians and try and compare yourself with them one of two things will happen. First, you will feel guilty that you are not and cannot measure up to their standard of living. Secondly, you may feel extra good about yourself because it appears that you are doing a much better job of being a Christian. Both of these are wrong and unscriptural. We must go to the Word of God and find out what we are supposed to be doing and how we are supposed to be living. Remember, Jesus Himself is our example and we are to imitate Him. I will leave you with a verse of scripture to pray and meditate on this week. 1 John 2:6, "He who says he abides in Him (Jesus) ought himself also to walk just as He walked." As I said before, I did not write the Bible but I do believe every word. Until next week, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Blessings! -**Pastor Rick**

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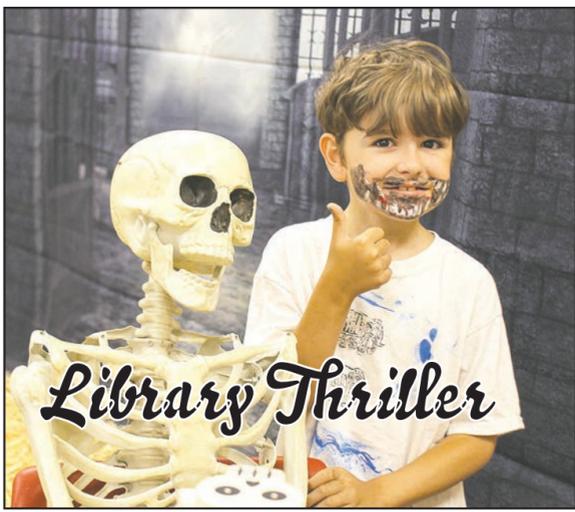
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Library Thriller

Branch O'Dell let program coordinators Kathy Paddock and Amy Turney know that he was enjoying all of the zombie themed activities they set up, as well as the treats that were provided by the Friends of the Bradford County Public Library. (Photos submitted by Kathy Paddock.)



Charles O'Dell joined Icy O'Dell and Amy Luna for a quick photo after games of Zombie-Opoly and Boooo-Opoly.



Under the supervision of Skelly the Skeleton, Jonathan Crump showed his son, Tristan, how to skillfully remove bones from the stack without toppling them over.



Lucille Kruk played the role of a walker perfectly as she posed for a photo with Frederick Kruk and Kaytlin Sader at the BCPL Thriller Event.

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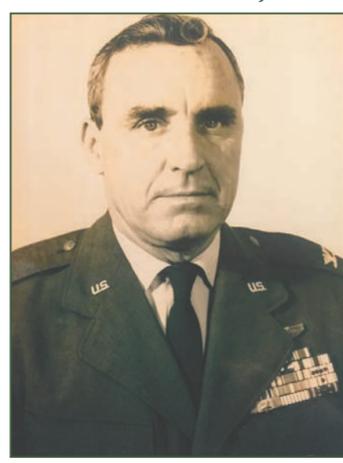
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Bradford County Commissioner District 3
Chris Dougherty ★



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Lake Region

Photos from Keystone Heights's Boo on the Boulevard

Photos by Jenn Samsel, jenn@bctelegraph.com.



Stephanie Olivencia, Ana Strange, Jazlyn Rahl and Brooke Hunter of Camp Montgomery.



Shelby Wheatley, Issac Morford and Carey Morford of Missions of the Dirt Road.



Sharon, Linda and Marie of American Legion Auxiliary.

See BOO, page 7

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UNION COUNTY

Union officials pitch assessments to Raiford crowd

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County commissioners made the first of several road trips around the county on Monday, November 3, to get residents' feedback on proposed increases to special assessments and to communicate the need for the additional revenue.

Garbage assessment not adjusted in 38 years

County Coordinator Jimmy Williams informed the crowd at the Raiford Community Center that the operating budget for the county's solid waste operation is \$1.3 million, and that the current assessment of \$70 per home only covers \$327,000 of the total cost. "So... we're about three and a half times upside down," he said of the county's garbage operation.

Board Chair Channing Dobbs blamed the solid waste deficit on prior commissions, which failed to periodically raise the assessment since it was first enacted in 1987.

"We got way behind," he said. "Yes, sir," agreed Williams. "A dollar in 1987, when this assessment was put in place in Union County...is worth \$2.61 today."

"It was written in the ordinance," Williams added, "it

was supposed to be evaluated annually and so forth, but it wasn't."

Williams also explained that tipping fees charged to the county by the New River Regional Landfill totaled \$272,776. However, that amount is offset by a \$100,000-per-year fee the landfill pays the county for hosting the site and another \$100,000 per year as a dividend the county receives for jointly owning the landfill, along with Bradford and Baker Counties.

One audience member asked why the landfill does not charge more in tipping fees to non-member users of the facility, which would reduce Union County's costs.

Dobbs, who, along with Commissioner Donna Jackson, serves on the landfill's board, agreed.

"We are actually in contract negotiations with Alachua County right now," he said. "That's something I would like to see is for them to pay more so that we can pay less instead of taking from our citizens."

Another audience member, who lives near the landfill, complained about the traffic caused by garbage trucks from Gilchrist, Levy, and Alachua counties. The Raiford-area resident also expressed concern about water contamination in the area near the landfill.

Both Jackson and Dobbs explained that with today's technology and regulation, the



Union County Coordinator Jimmy Williams explains how other Florida counties have enacted a county fuel tax. Also pictured is Commissioner Melissa McNeal.

risk of contamination is low.

"I know for a fact that there are over 80 water monitoring wells out there, all the way around to the front," Dobbs said.

Jackson and Dobbs fielded more questions about the landfill's finances and operations, including inquiries about restricting the landfill to accepting only waste from Bradford Union and Baker, and how Union County could extract more money from the facility, such as increasing the host fee or getting a bigger cut from the methane gas revenue produced by the site.

The two commissioners explained that they are only

two of six votes on the landfill's board, and that the Bradford and Baker board members would likely outvote them if they tried to get a better deal for Union County.

Dobbs added that during one meeting, he proposed increasing the \$100,000-per-year host fee that Union County receives.

"I was looked at as if I had three heads from the other counties," he said.

County officials emphasized that tipping fees were not the issue, but rather the operating costs of transporting trash from the county's collection sites to the landfill.

"If you were to pay zero

tipping fees," Williams explained, "We've still got a \$1.1 million budget to be able to get the garbage to the landfill from your collection site."

The county coordinator added that the county pays \$17 an hour to CDL drivers, which is well below market rates.

Commissioner Mac Johns agreed that Union County's garbage deficit is not anchored in landfill finances or operations. He added that the county cannot continue to transfer hundreds of thousands of dollars a year from its general fund to the solid waste fund.

Dobbs steered the conversation back to the fact that the special assessment had not been increased in 38 years, while the cost of everything else has risen.

"There are two members sitting on your Union County Board of County Commissioners who were not born when the last special assessment increased in 1987," he said.

EMS losing \$500,000 a year

When the discussion turned to the emergency medical services assessment, officials offered a more positive outlook.

Williams stated that despite an increase in call volume, the general fund's contribution to EMS had decreased from over \$800,000 in 2019 to approximately \$500,000 in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Dobbs credited grants that paid for several new ambulances and other state grants that have lessened the burden on the department.

Jackson said the popularity of Lake Butler Hospital's emergency department is also increasing call volume because many times, patients arriving at the Lake Butler ER must be transported to another hospital, and that is done with county ambulances.

Dobbs said one improvement to the department's financial performance is that now, the county charges hospitals for wait times.

"Now, if we're there for 15 minutes, they're paying for that quarter of an hour for our people standing there waiting," Dobbs said. "So, they've gotten a little quicker about finding beds, and when they're not, our guys are on the clock. We get paid by those hospitals."

Gas cheaper in Starke than in Raiford

Commissioners also discussed impact fees and assessing a county gasoline tax.

Dobbs explained that the state allows counties to assess a fuel tax of up to 5 cents a gallon, and Union County has never enacted the tax.

Revenue generated by the tax may only be used for county roads.

"People say, well, it's going to make the price of gas go up," Dobbs said. "I hear that a lot. Well, I'm going to argue that point since I can go to the (Starke State Road) 16 Handy Way and get it 25 cents cheaper than I can in Raiford, and they've got a tax and we don't."

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BOO

Continued from page 5



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Kim Edgy, Karen Nelson and Wyatt Darty of Nutrition Retreat.



Jeremy Pedaline, Thomas Leonard and Heidi Waughon of Lake Area Heating.



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Clay school board member: 'We don't have the money'

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

During their October 28 workshop, Clay County School Board members continued to discuss their budget struggles in light of state cuts to public education and dissatisfaction from the Clay Education Association about the school district's salary offers.

During the October 2 school board meeting, Vicki Kidwell, President of the teachers' union, publicly rejected the district's latest salary proposal, stating that it leaves 45% of educators without raises and offers as little as a 0.82% raise for veterans.

"Budgets are about priorities," she said. "We ask you to prioritize salaries in your budget instead of offering teachers a bucket of leftovers."

During the October 28 workshop, board member Michele Hanson complained to her colleagues about misinformation spreading about the budget and salary negotiations, recounting a recent conversation she had.

"I said to someone the other day," Hanson said, "who was very angry with us, 'Has it dawned on you that we're telling the truth? We don't have the money.'"

"And I feel like that's super basic, right?" Hanson continued. "We really don't have the money."

Superintendent David Broskie said he has always prioritized

employee salaries when crafting district budgets, and agreed, "our employees deserve more than they are currently getting."

"The challenge this year that's different," he continued, "is the availability of funds."

Broskie reviewed the district's recent budget struggles. He reminded board members that the state withheld its final \$47 million payment to districts in the summer of 2025, that education vouchers for private and home schooling have diverted nearly \$30 million from the Clay district's budget, and that inflation has increased district costs by around \$14 million.

He added that in response to those challenges, the Clay district cut its 2025-2026 spending plan by 20% and eliminated 240 jobs.

"The majority of the money comes from the state," he said of district revenues, "not from local taxpayers to support education in Clay County."

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see what's happening," he said of the \$4 billion of statewide taxpayer money going to private schools and parents of home-schooled students. "If you're wondering why we're talking about the budget, wonder no more."

Broskie said that when the state removed the income cap for private school scholarships, the number of school vouchers proliferated.

"You could be a millionaire in

the State of Florida and receive a voucher for your child to attend a private school," he told board members. "This is taking money from public education. I don't know how to say it diplomatically. That's what's happening."

Broskie said that, in addition to state cuts, the federal government has also reduced funding allocated to local school districts.

He reminded board members of previous budget increases to teacher salaries, stating that in the fiscal year of 2019-2020, the district added a \$6.3 million recurring increase. This was followed by recurring increases of \$1.8 million in 2020-2021, \$3.6 million in 2021-2022, \$5.1 million in 2022-2023, \$5 million in 2023-2024, and \$5.3 million in 2024-2025.

"Salary is a recurring cost," he said. "Once you pay that cost for one year, it compounds onto the next year and the next year and the next year. It never goes away."

School board Chair Erin Skipper said she had a message for teachers who are struggling financially.

"We hear you, and we're not ignoring you," she said. "We're not saying that we don't want to help you. What we're saying is this is what we've done. We want to continue to do this. This is where we are, and we are trying to find solutions to get back to this point so that we can continue to do the things we're doing... We're trying to find solutions."

Mining has been an economic boost for 70 years

Celebrating 100 years of Keystone Heights history

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Beginning in the 1920s, residents and visitors to Kingsley Lake noticed that among the course white sand along the lake's beaches, thin streaks of a black, silky substance could also be seen lying through the sand.

The black substance was ilmenite.

After processing, ilmenite becomes titanium dioxide, a pigment used to whiten products from toothpaste to paint.

Prior to World War II, E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company imported all of its ilmenite ore from southwest India. However, political unrest there prompted the company and the U.S. Bureau of Mines to search for a domestic source, and that search led the organizations to the shores of Kingsley Lake.

In 1946, the bureau found a low-grade ilmenite deposit from 3,000 to 8,000 feet wide, 35 to 60 feet deep, and 19 miles long, stretching northwest from the Keystone Heights-area lakes to Baker County.

The area followed the Trail Ridge, part of a series of ridges reaching up to 250 feet above sea level from the west side of the Okefenokee Swamp to Lake Okeechobee, said to be used by Native Americans traveling up and down Florida's peninsula.

Panning for gold leads to breakthrough

There was one problem, however. The sand under Trail Ridge contained only four percent ore, compared to the 75 percent concentration in India. That low grade made mining of the Florida mineral economically unfeasible.

But DuPont overcame that limitation by utilizing technology developed by Ida Boyd Humphreys in a Denver, Colorado garage.

During 1941, beginning with used tires and then fashioning sheet metal, Humphreys developed a process he thought would improve the efficiency of extracting gold from the sediment in the streams west of Denver.

For 83 years, prospectors had been panning the streams leading down from the Rockies. In gold panning, a prospector would scoop

up sediment and water into a pan, then separate the sand from any ore in the sample by swirling the sediment around in the water. Humphreys' idea was to scale the panning process, funneling the water-sediment mixture into a series of circular pathways. This created the same effect as a centrifuge, separating the lighter sand from any heavier metals in the sample.

The result of Humphreys' work was the spiral concentrator. Even though the innovation was never widely used in gold mining, the process allowed DuPont to turn the worthless four-percent Trail Ridge sand into a money-making enterprise.

In 1947, DuPont leased 4,000 acres within Camp Blanding from the Florida Armory Board, contracted with Humphreys' Gold Corporation to build and run spiral concentrators assembled in a wet mill, and began operations the following year.

Over the past 70 years, workers ranging from 200 to over 300 have operated a dredge and wet mill from Camp Blanding toward Macclennay. Now, the dredge is based in Baker County, along County Road 228, approaching Interstate 10.

Other minerals mined from Trail Ridge include zircon, which is used in the sand foundry industry; zirconium, which is used to coat the inside of nuclear reactors, jet engines, and space vehicles because of its heat resistance; and staurolite, which is used in the making of concrete.

In 2015, DuPont spun off its performance chemicals division, which included its Florida mines, into a new publicly traded company: Chemours.

Today, Chemours operations in northeast Florida generate \$50 million a year in economic impact and provide over 225 jobs.

Mobile mining units expand reach

In 2022, Chemours held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new \$93 million Trail Ridge plant, which harnessed new technology and allowed the company to mine previously unreachable deposits.

During the ceremony, Chemours Environmental Manager Connie Henderson explained that previously, miners used a dredge to mine sand and minerals. The dredge required a 12 to 15-acre pond to operate.

Now, Chemours is using two mobile mining units instead of the dredge.

About the size of four to six dump trucks, the mobile mining units can access areas previously missed by

dredge mining.

After the mobile mining units extract the ore from the land, the unprocessed sand is sent to a wet mill using the same technology Humphreys developed in Colorado.

Henderson said that after separating sand from minerals at Trail Ridge, the tailings are returned to the mining site for reclamation. The minerals are taken to the company's Lawtey plant for further processing.

At Lawtey, a dry mill operation uses magnets to separate the ilmenite, staurolite, and zirconium.

The three minerals are then sent to different plants for further processing.

Everything we touch

During the ceremony, Jody Science, a Chemours minerals operations co-director, said titanium and zirconium are essential to U.S. national security and economic prosperity.

"These critical minerals are produced in limited quantities," she said, "but Clay and Bradford and the surrounding region is a critical domestic source of these minerals."

Science added that Americans consume around six pounds of titanium dioxide a year.

"So, it goes into just about everything we touch," she said.

Science said that 97% of the material the company mines is returned to the ground.

"The topsoil is replaced," she said. "We put in erosion control measures, recreate wetlands, and then plant natural grasses and seedlings back to how it was before we mined."

She also said that 98% of the water used in the mining process is recycled.

"This shows that we can provide sustainable solutions while meeting our commitment to process these minerals," she said.

Another 100 years

Mark Smith, the company's vice president of global operations, said the \$93 million plant was five years in the making.

He also said the new plant has hired third-generation mining employees, reflecting Chemours' 70-year mining heritage at Trail Ridge.

"I have a personal goal that we're going to be doing this for at least another one hundred years," he said. "We can do it, and we can do it the right way."

Vital to national security

Congresswoman Kat Cammack congratulated the company on its new operation during the ribbon

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

Bobbie Anderson Beck, 45, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 28 for failure to appear.

Gerald Jermaine Brabham, 53, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 28 for hit and run, public order crimes, selling cocaine, possession of cocaine, and possession of drugs.

Justin Wayne Bryant, 42, of Green Cove Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 31 for a probation violation.

Sharon Fussell Carter, 61, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 28 for a probation violation.

Walter Shane Davis, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 27 for failure to appear.

Shywon Drekeell Hawkins, 27, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 27 for failure to appear.

Francis William-Rashad Highland, 37, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 29 for larceny and fraud-swindle.

Lanorris Bernard Jackson, 51, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 28 for a probation violation.

Randy Allen Jackson, 42, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 31 for drug possession, drug equipment possession, and a probation violation.

Kamari Kyree James Johnson, 22, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 28 for disorderly intoxication and resisting an officer.

Heriberto Nevarez, 23, of Elgin, Illinois, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 31 for failure to appear.

Armando Perez, 38, was arrested by FHP troopers on October 28 for a moving traffic violation, and nonmoving traffic violations.

Leigh Phillip Pinckney, 31, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 27 for a conditional release violation.

Fanny Jonaisy Richard Solomon, 26, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 31 for failure to appear.

Tiffany Lauren Wall-Kehrt, 42, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 28 for battery.

Latasha Sherese Wilson, 36, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on October 25 for a probation violation and drug equipment possession.

Union

Reckless biker tased after fleeing and hiding

Jeffery Carl Goodman, 37, of Starke, was arrested by Union Deputies on October 28 for an out-of-county warrant, resisting an officer, and fleeing and eluding.

According to an arrest report, the incident began around 10:17 p.m. when Deputy S. Word responded to complaints of a yellow Suzuki dirt bike being ridden recklessly along

in Clay Hill and Keystone Heights Elementary for STEM projects right here in our district to help educate our kids that are the children of employees who work here," she said.

Condon said Chemours employees have volunteered at Keystone Beach cleanup events, and the company funded a swimming platform at the beach.

Science wrapped up the ribbon-cutting ceremony by adding to Condon's talk about educating the next generation of scientists.

"One of my favorite stories is that recently, at one of the local schools, a young man proclaimed at the end of our talk: 'I was gonna be a football player, but now I'm gonna be a geologist.'"

Payroll of \$20 million supports 231 families

During a 2024 Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation and Northeast Florida Chamber of Commerce presentation, Chemours' Florida Operations Leader, Jason Geiger, said the company's \$20 million annual payroll supports 231 employees, of which 124 live in Bradford County.

He added that Chemours operates three business segments. Its advanced performance materials unit markets resins, the nonstick coating Teflon, lubricants, and fluoros: materials that can withstand heat.

The company's thermal business unit manufactures refrigerants like freon and fire suppressants.

Its titanium technologies business mines, manufactures, and sells titanium dioxide, which is used as a whitening agent in many products.

Not only for paint

He added that the Trail Ridge operation mines the raw materials for titanium dioxide.

"It's not only (for) paint," he said, "but it goes into plastics and laminate paper, all kinds of other things. Lots of things that it makes white."

He added that the chemical is used extensively in food packaging to prevent ultraviolet rays from reaching products from milk to potato chips.

He said the company now operates two mines in Baker County near Maxville, a mineral separation plant north of Lawtey, a mineral separation plant at Trail Ridge within Camp Blanding, and a new mine started in 2022 called Trail Ridge South.

Geiger said the Trail Ridge plant, within Camp Blanding, is the longest-running zircon plant in the world.

"They started building it in 1948, and it's been running since 1949," he said. "We still have original equipment from 1949 running in that

Southwest 44th Trail, in Worthington Springs's Palm RV Park.

The complainant told dispatch the rider had been speeding up and down the road for hours, using only a flashlight as a headlight.

Upon arrival, Deputy Word spotted the matching bike and activated his emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop. Instead of complying, the rider, later identified as the defendant, accelerated, nearly striking the complainant on Southwest 45th Terrace. Goodman then fled for about three-tenths of a mile before wrecking the unregistered bike and bolting on foot into nearby woods.

Union Sheriff's Corporal Clyde Berringer wrote in the arrest report that Department of Corrections tracking dogs located the defendant about 100 yards into the woods, hiding under brush.

"Lawful orders were given to Jeffery to show his hands and to come out," wrote the corporal. "Jeffery continued to lay on the ground. I ordered Jeffery several times to follow orders, he refused."

Berringer wrote that after warning the 37-year-old that he would use his taser if the defendant did not come out, "he continued to refuse all lawful orders."

"I deployed my agency-issued X-26 Taser with both probes, striking Jeffery in the upper torso area," reported Berringer. "This had the desired effect to gain compliance from Jeffery."

Clay

Andrew Donovan Barr, 22, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on October 31 for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sean Michael Haddix, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on October 26 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Heather Rae Kyzer, 29, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on October 31 for domestic battery.

plant."

The manager said that since the manufacturer of some of the equipment within the plant went out of business years ago, Chemours has to fabricate its own replacement parts.

From toilet seats to dinner plates

Geiger said the Northeast Florida plants produce around 10% of the company's raw materials used in its TiO2 products. Chemours buys the other 90% from Africa, Australia, and the Ukraine.

He added, however, that the best quality heavy minerals originate locally.

Geiger said some titanium is milled into a fine flower-like substance called opacifier.

"And then that goes into the glazes that make your toilets white, your sinks white, even dinner plates and coffee mugs," he explained. The manager added that the Florida and Georgia zircon opacifier gives off a slight blue hue. In contrast, the opacifier made from zircon in the rest of the world emits a yellow tint.

"So, the most interesting thing about this fact is all of us men in the room, we can't tell the difference," he said. "We can't see it, but you ladies have more rod cells or cone cells. I can never remember which, but you have more rods or cones in your eyes, and you can actually tell the difference. If I showed you a white tile that was made with Australian zircon and one that was made with ours, you would know that this one was the one from the U.S. because it's got a slight blue tint."

New technology allows more mining

Senior Geologist Kristen Woods added that the Trail Ridge runs from Starke to Jesup, Georgia, and that the company mines heavy minerals from the former sand dunes, including zircon, ilmenite, and rutile.

"It's about one to two kilometers, east-west, 160 north-south," she said.

Woods added that for 70 years, miners have extracted heavy minerals from the area using a dredge operating along the top of the ridge.

She explained that the company's new mobile mining technology allows Chemours to mine on the slopes of the ridge, around and between wetlands, and in other areas inaccessible by the dredge.

"It's not quite as economical," she said of the 4x-dump-truck-sized units compared to the dredge, "but it's better in the fact that we can avoid wetlands, and we can get into little, tiny pockets that we couldn't dream of getting with a dredge. So, it's got good and bad points."



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Union County's Eva Whitehead won the 200-yard individual medley at the Oct. 28 Region 1-1A swim finals. She will now attempt to win her second straight state title in the event.

Whitehead is regional champ again in 200 IM

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County's Eva Whitehead won the 200-yard individual medley at the Oct. 28 Region 1-1A swim finals.

It was her second year in a row winning the title. She will now attempt to win her second straight state championship in the event when she competes at the Saturday, Nov. 8, Class 1A swim finals, which will take place at 5:30 p.m. at Ocala's Florida Aquatics Swimming and Training venue, located at 4635 S.W. 67th Ave.

Whitehead, who was one of only two public-school swimmers in the event, finished with a time of 2:02.53, which put her ahead of Bolles' Ella Gotham, who had a time of 2:03.43.

It was the same result at last year's meet, with Whitehead placing ahead of fellow senior Gotham. The two swimmers would go on to place first and second at the 2024 state meet.

Whitehead qualified for this year's state finals in the 100-yard breaststroke as well. She placed third at the Region 1 meet with a time of 1:04.58, which left her trailing Bolles' Victoria Edgar, who won with a time of 1:03.06, and Bolles' Grace Higdon, who had a time of 1:04.12. Bolles' Ana LaRosa placed fourth with a time of 1:05.01.

As was the case with the 200 IM, Whitehead was one of only two public-school swimmers in the event.

Whitehead enters the state finals as the number-one seed in the 200 IM, which will consist of only one other public-school swimmer.

In the 100 breaststroke, Whitehead is the sixth seed behind Edgar, Windermere Prep's Addison Bitel, NSU University School's Naiyla Di Sarno, Kings Academy's Tessa Broedell and Higdon.

The event will include two other public-school swimmers besides Whitehead.

KHHS cross-country teams are moving on

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Both of Keystone Heights High School's cross-country teams are advancing to region-level competition after earning top eight finishes at the District 2-2A meet, which was held Nov. 3 at Jacksonville's Bishop Kenny High School.

The boys team placed seventh out of 18 teams, finishing behind Bolles, Bishop Kenny, Eastside, Episcopal, Wolfson and Suwannee. Fernandina Beach earned the last regional-qualifying spot with an eighth-place finish.

Noah Yara led the Keystone boys with a time of 17:43, which placed him 26th out of 163. Teammate Ryder Thomas wasn't far behind with a 29th-place time of 17:47.

Hunter Sheppard and Hunter Gray placed 36th and 43rd, respectively, with times of 17:57 and 18:16, while Ryeland Wahl was 77th with a time of 19:36.

Also running for Keystone were Jason Parales, who had a time of 20:21, Gavin Morford, who had a time of 20:53, Mason Gray, who had a time of 21:31, Oliver Miller, who had a time of 21:41, and Alex Mahaffey, who had a time of 22:02.

Keystone earned the last qualifying spot on the girls, placing eighth ahead of Eastside. Bishop Kenny was first, followed by Episcopal, Bolles, Fernandina Beach, Wolfson, Stanton and Suwannee.

The Indians were led by Ryleigh Thomas, who placed 30th out of 131 with a time of 20:24. Teammate Melody Tyre finished with a 45th-place time of 21:29.

Tessa Gray and Olivia Griffin were 69th and 79th, respectively, with times of 23:37 and 24:40, while Keystone also had the following results: Kirsten Lavin 26:01, Bailee Morris 26:01, Clara Beth Robinson 28:36, Schiley Starling 30:27 and Raina Daniel 32:20.



Noah Yara led the Keystone boys team, placing 26th out of 163.



Ryleigh Thomas led the Keystone girls team, placing 30th out of 131.

The Region 1 meet will be held Friday, Nov. 14, at Jacksonville's Cecil Field Golf Course. The girls race will start at 7:30 a.m., followed by the boys race at 8 a.m.

UC volleyball season ends with 3-1 loss in region final

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's volleyball team had its season put to an end by Branford in the Region 3-Rural championship match for the third straight year, with the top seed Buccaneers defeating the third seed Tigers 3-1 (24-26, 25-21, 25-14, 25-14) on Oct. 28 in Branford.

The Tigers (21-9) took an 11-3 lead in the first set after a 9-0 run, but Branford (22-4) strung together nine points of its own to go up on top.

Union trailed 23-16 before scoring seven straight points. A Jaily Simmons kill made the score 23-21, while a Morgan Smith kill tied it up at 23-23.

Branford would force side-out, but was unable to score another point. Smith had a kill to give the serve back to the Tigers. They ended the set with two straight kills from Mallory Waugh and Smith.

The second set would be another close contest. It was tied at 19-19 before the Bucs scored four straight points in what would be a four-point Branford win.

Union kept it close early in the third and fourth sets before the Bucs gradually pulled away in each.

Branford defeated Williston this past Tuesday to reach the state-championship match. The Bucs played Chipley (24-6) on



Abby Williams was one of five seniors on this year's team.

Wednesday, Nov. 5.

Branford was last season's state runner-up.

This was the fifth time in six years Union has advanced to at least the regional finals and the 10th time in the last 11 seasons the Tigers have qualified for the postseason.

The Tigers will say goodbye to five seniors: Simmons, Bella Johns, Indi Knox, Shaley Maloney and Abby Williams. Simmons finished in the top 10 in kills and blocks in all of the Rural Class, while Johns and Williams had top-10 marks in digs and assists, respectively.

Bradford runners end their season at District 2-2A meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's Anna Adkins was approximately one minute away from qualifying for regionals with her performance at the District 2-2A cross-country meet, which was held Nov. 3 at Jacksonville's Bishop Kenny

High School.

The top four individuals who weren't members of the top eight regional qualifying teams earned the right to advance. P.K. Yonge's Leanne Dietrich was the last individual qualifier with a

See BHS, page 11

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12 Mentoring is in 10th year of impacting 4th-8th graders

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Think of children's lives as jigsaw puzzles. If pieces are missing, the picture is incomplete.

Edrick Hamilton has been attempting to supply the missing pieces to young lives as part of his 12G Mentoring program, which is celebrating its 10th year of existence.

Hamilton hadn't planned on creating a mentoring program, but it was something he believed he had to do when he looked around at his community. Children, whether they were raised two parents, single parents, grandparents, foster parents or older children, needed more guidance and support.

"Those kids had areas to grow in and lessons to learn," Hamilton said. "Those kids all had pieces missing to their puzzle of life. I wanted to be a role model in their village, to help children find the missing puzzle piece of life."

That led to the creation of the 12 Guys in Bowties and 12 Girls

in Pearls mentoring program at Southside Elementary School, where Hamilton worked. The program (also known as 12G Mentoring), which is for fourth-eighth graders, is open to public-school students in Bradford and surrounding counties, private-school students and home-school students.

Hamilton said 12G Mentoring is designed to build confidence and character in its members.

"The goal of this program is to help the mentees develop cognitive skills in order to strengthen the mental process of making the right decisions, analyzing and solving problems to overcome obstacles," Hamilton said. "To help the mentee learn specific skill sets in order to develop him or herself, add value to their community and progress on his or her path of becoming a respectful and responsible adult. To help the mentee develop networking skills to be able to work more effectively in groups. To help the mentee build character through practice of good morals and ethics."

Students in the program meet weekly during the school year, discussing such topics as self-respect and awareness, responsibility, nonviolent defense of ourselves and others, caring for ourselves and others, and community awareness.

"Our students must dress up

and wear their bowties and pearls during our weekly meetings," Hamilton said.

Meetings are 2:30-6 p.m. on Wednesdays, including time for homework, reading and social-emotional learning.

Those in the program have their school attendance, behavior and grades tracked, with the goal being that they improve in all three areas.

"If our members are carrying themselves correctly each and every day, setting good examples and being the role models that we are teaching them to be, maybe the remainder of our student body will try to match them or mirror their actions," Hamilton said.

The program also gives children the chance to participate in at least 10 community service projects each year.

Road to mentorship

Hamilton said he enjoyed playing teacher when he was a child, with his family members being his students.

"Over time, I eventually moved up to playing the principal and enjoyed delegating," Hamilton said.

Hamilton has a heart for both children and animals. He attended Santa Fe College with the goal of earning an AA degree in veterinary medicine and worked at Starke's Town and Country Vet Clinic. He also worked at an after-school program called Prime Time that was held at a church in Gainesville.

"The after-school program was free of charge for the kids," Hamilton said. "Kids were handpicked by their lack of resources, behavior, grades, family dynamic and environment and if they were fostered."

Hamilton's involvement with youth also included working at summer camps and for YMCA programs.



12G Mentoring: (front, l-r) Zion Tyson, Caden Eison, Jayden Hernandez, Sterlin Alexander, Lilly Woodrum, Shayla Hardee, Avery Wulff-Vanderpuije, (back, l-r) Jaden Hendrieth, Club Leader Edrick Hamilton, Hunter Brekke, Ryder Detweiler and Club Co-Leader Shneec Bullard.



ABOVE LEFT: Caden Eison serves the mentoring group as treasurer. LEFT: Avery Wulff-Vanderpuije conducts a meeting as the 12G Mentoring president.



Working at a community event are (l-r) Avery Wulff-Vanderpuije, A'miriyah Glover, Jayden Hernandez, Hunter Brekke, Zion Tyson, Shayla Hardee and Jaden Hendrieth.

A woman who volunteered with the Prime Time program watched how Hamilton interacted with children and kept telling him he needed to go to school to become a teacher.

"Each time, I said, 'No.' I thought I was content with just working at after-school programs and summer camps," Hamilton said.

Yet as time went by, the woman's words to Hamilton changed the course of his life.

"I would think about how I always liked to play teacher growing up and about all of the jobs that I had working with

children," he said. "I ended up attending Jacksonville University and changed my study to Elementary Education."

During his studies, Hamilton began substitute teaching at Southside Elementary School, which eventually led to him being offered a full-time job there.

"By this time, I came to the conclusion that I enjoyed the mentoring of life skills and building healthy, positive relationships with the students more than the classroom-educational part," Hamilton said.

He told the Southside principal

that one of his stipulations for accepting the full-time position was that he'd be allowed to start a mentoring program.

Thus, 12G Mentoring was born, starting in Hamilton's second year of full-time teaching.

Tomorrow's leaders

Hamilton will tell you that 12G Mentoring doesn't consist of children. Rather, it consists of the leaders of tomorrow. That's why the program is all about helping today's children reach

See MENTOR, page 14

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Phone# _____

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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

Cheering on the Scarlet and Gray



Varsity cheerleaders (l-r) Chloe Hales, Raelynn Moore and Myia Sanchez.

The Bradford High School football team had a bye last week and is off again this week, so to help remind you of what Friday nights are like at David Hurse Stadium, we present a few photos of the ones who help the crowd cheer on the Tornadoes. Go Big Red!



Varsity cheerleaders Lily Mercer (foreground) and Kylee Kerr.



Junior varsity cheerleaders Amarie Jenkins, Dezahlyn Brazell and Trinity Brown.



Varsity cheerleaders Raelynn Moore (left) and Jordin Arnold.



Varsity cheerleaders Cadance Rowan (left) and Amy Prescott.



Junior varsity cheerleaders (l-r) Jelecia Johnson, Dakota Thornton and Brynlee Sanford.



Varsity cheerleaders Hayden Goodwin (left) and Madalyn Ames.

BHS Continued from page 9

61st-place time of 22:39. Adkins placed 66th in the

131-runner field with a time of 23:35.

Bradford's Mia Olesen also ran in the girls race, finishing with a time of 26:17.

Steven Carter was the

Tornadoes' highest finisher in the boys race, placing 81st out of 163 with a time of 19:50.

Also running in the boys race were Kayden Lee, who had a time of 23:28, Liam Reeves,

who had a time of 23:36, Kolson Lee, who had a time of 24:06 and Caden Eison, who had a time of 28:47.

The Tornadoes were 17th out of 18 in the boys team standings.

GAME ON 2025 8 FOOTBALL CONTEST

YOU COULD WIN \$50 CASH

IN THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR

FOOTBALL CONTEST

PAGE 2



SEE ENTRY FORM ON PREVIOUS PAGE

9 NAVY MIDSHIPMEN VS. NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH
DURRANCE PUMP
 864 N Temple Ave. • Starke
 (904) 964-7061

10 INDIANA HOOSIERS VS. PENN ST. NITTANY LIONS
PIPELINE CONSTRUCTORS INC.
 Site & Utility Contractor
 Ron Denmark
 President
 2117 N Temple Ave
 Starke, FL 32091
 (904) 964-2019

11 IOWA ST. CYCLONES VS. TCU HORNED FROGS
BHS TORNADO OF THE WEEK

 JACSON PARMETER won the BHS Homecoming drawing for \$100, and decided to donate it back to Bill Goode!
 titanchevy.com
 (904) 964-3200

12 TULANE GREEN WAVE VS. MEMPHIS TIGERS
TEAL TILE
 131 N. Cherry St.
 Starke, FL
 904-964-7423

13 NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS VS. UCLA BRUINS

HANDI HOUSE OF STARKE
 (904) 964-3330
 1670 S Walnut St • Starke, FL

14 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS VS. HOUSTON TEXANS

JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY
 Starke Lake Butler
 904-964-6078 386-496-3079

15 BUFFALO BILLS VS. MIAMI DOLPHINS
NORTH FLORIDA PHARMACY

 405 S. Lawrence Blvd
 Keystone Heights, FL 32656
 352-478-2057

16 N.Y. GIANTS VS. CHICAGO BEARS
DLP BANK
 STARKE, FL • (904) 964-7830
 LAKE BUTLER, FL • (386) 496-3333

 DURABLE AND TOUGH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

17 ATLANTA FALCONS VS. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
LAKE AREA TITLE

 Keystone Hts Location
 7404 State Road 21
 Keystone Heights, FL 32656
 (352) 473-9009
 Lake Butler Location
 25 East Main Street
 Lake Butler, FL 32054
 (386) 496-8238

18 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
 A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST
 V. Todd

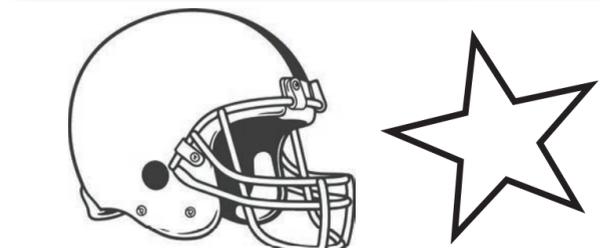
Ferreira
 Funeral Services
 V. TODD FERREIRA
 WE'RE HERE FOR YOU
 www.ferreirafuneralservices.com

19 BALTIMORE RAVENS VS. MINNESOTA VIKINGS
THORNTON & CO REALTY

 50 West Main Street
 Lake Butler, FL
 904-364-6890

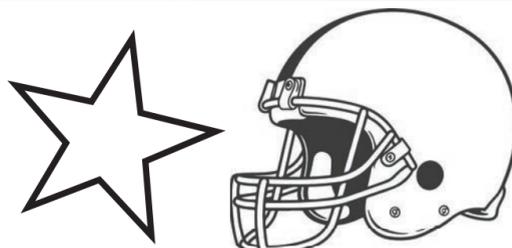
20 DETROIT LIONS VS. WASHINGTON COMMANDERS
QUALITY PLUMBING

 (352) 377-1009
 Quality-Plumbing.com



21 L.A. RAMS VS. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
HOMETOWN INSURANCE

 904-964-3375
 hometowninsurancefl.com



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Indians end season 0-10 after loss to Crescent City

BY MELANIE CRABTREE
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

The Keystone Heights Indians got handed their final loss of the season by the Crescent City Raiders, leaving the Indians with a season record of 0-10.

The final score of the game was 36-9.

The Indians scored first with quarterback Hunter Crumpton

running in for a touchdown. However, the Raiders deflected Ryder Thomas's extra-point attempt, giving the home-standing Indians a 6-0 lead.

Preston Sanders then put Crescent City on the board with a 59-yard touchdown run, and kicker Giancarlo Baylon was true on the extra point, giving the visitors a one-point lead.

However, Keystone came right back with a field goal, taking a 9-7 advantage.

Crescent City then overtook the Indians and pulled away with another long run (50 yards) by Sanders and a pick-six by Rontrell Thomas. The Raiders also scored on a fake kick, resulting in a 22-9 halftime lead

and a 36-9 final score.

Keystone Heights Coach Steve Reynolds said that even though the scoreboard did not reflect a win, his team continued to earn "small victories."

"Victories are not always determined by the numbers on the scoreboard but by the accomplishments of the team, such as completing passes and making tackles," he said.

One advantage Keystone will carry into the offseason is youth. The squad is composed mainly of freshmen and sophomores.

Crumpton led the offense with 215 rushing yards on 26 carries. He ends the year with

See KHHS, page 14

Tigers shut out again, lose 42-0 to Chiefland

BY LISA HOLTZENDORF
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Union County High School's football team was shut out for the second straight week, closing out the regular season with a 42-0 loss to visiting Chiefland on Oct. 31.

It was the fourth straight loss for the Tigers (2-7), who'll play at least one more game as

part of the Rural Class' Florida Invitational Tournament. Matchups and brackets will be announced by the FHSAA on Thursday, Nov. 6.

The football, cheer and band seniors were celebrated prior to kickoff. In a show of appreciation, the football coaching staff named all 15 seniors as captains — a fitting tribute to the leadership and dedication the players have shown through adversity this season. Many were first-year players who showed grit and determination through every game.

Despite the Tigers having homefield advantage, the Indians (9-1) wasted no time setting the tone. On their first play from

scrimmage, Matt Goodale broke free for a 58-yard touchdown run. Luis Galicia added the extra point to give Chiefland an early 7-0 lead.

Union's offense struggled to find rhythm against an aggressive, tough defense. The Tigers managed just five first downs and 56 total yards for the night.

The Indians struck again midway through the first quarter when Goodale threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Jonathan Adams. Chiefland, after Galicia's PAT, led 14-0.

Chiefland, which built a 21-0 lead by halftime, continued to roll in the second half.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Nov. 6, 2025

BRADFORD

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

PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 25000104CPAXMX
IN RE: ESTATE OF JERRY LEE LEWIS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of JERRY LEE LEWIS, Deceased, whose date of death was July 23, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for BRADFORD County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

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

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

A personal representative or curator has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in sections 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is October 30, 2025. Attorney for Personal Representative: Scott R. Bugay, Esquire Florida Bar No. 5207 2501 Hollywood Blvd, Suite 206 Hollywood, FL 33020 Telephone: (305) 956-9040 or (954)-767-3399 Fax: (305) 945-2905 Primary Email: Scott@srblawyers.com

Secondary Email: Jennifer@srblawyers.com SUMMER SHIPP, Personal Representative 10/30 2tchg 11/6-BCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
NOTICE OF MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Suwannee River Water Management District will meet on the following dates and times beginning January 2026 through December 2026. Board meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. at District Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. Committee Meetings, Public Hearings, and Workshops, when scheduled, will follow the Governing Board Meetings unless otherwise announced. All dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please view our website at mysuwanneeriver.com for the most current information. Meetings are open to the public. Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board Meeting Dates January 2026 - December 2026

1/13/2026
2/10/2026
3/10/2026
4/14/2026
5/12/2026
6/9/2026
7/14/2026
8/11/2026
9/8/2026 - 3:00 p.m. - Board Meeting
9/8/2026 - 5:05 p.m. - First Public Hearing on FY26/27 Tentative Millage

and Budget 9/21/2026 - (Monday) 3:00 p.m. - Workshops, &/or Committee Meetings

9/21/2026 - (Monday) 5:05 p.m. - Final Public Hearing on FY26/27 Millage and Budget 10/13/2026 11/10/2026 12/8/2026

11/6 1tchg-BCT & UCT

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

PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 25000111CPAXMX
IN RE: ESTATE OF JOYE PENCE BOONE, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JOYE PENCE BOONE, Deceased, whose date of death was April 23, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for BRADFORD County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave. P.O. Drawer B, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE.

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

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

A personal representative or curator has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in sections 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is October 30, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Scott R. Bugay, Esquire Florida Bar No. 5207 2501 Hollywood Blvd, Suite 206 Hollywood, FL 33020 Telephone: (305) 956-9040 Fax: (305) 945-2905 Primary Email: Scott@srblawyers.com

Secondary Email: Jennifer@srblawyers.com PENNY ARNAU, Personal Representative 10/30 2tchg-11/06-BCT

PUBLIC AUCTION

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County

Land Development Regulations, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on November 18th, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Z25-10, an application by Brightburn Properties, Inc., property owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas Series of the Land Development Regulations by amending the Official Zoning Atlas classification from RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE-FAMILY - 1 (RSF-1) to RURAL RESIDENTIAL (RR) for the property described, as follows:

THAT PORTION OF NE ¼ OF SW ¼ WHICH LIES NORTH AND EAST OF HIGHWAY S-100-A AND THAT PORTION OF NW ¼ OF SE ¼ WEST OF HIGHWAY S-100-A, SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

LESS AND EXCEPT THAT PORTION IN WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 157, PAGE 577, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

LESS AND EXCEPT THAT PORTION IN WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 148, PAGE 442, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

LESS AND EXCEPT THAT PORTION IN GENERAL WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1268, PAGE 273, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Containing 11.91 Acres, more or less TAX PARCEL NUMBER 04216-0-00100

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

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

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact (352)498-1206 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service (800)955-8771.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. 11/6 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at public hearing on November 18th, 2025 at 6:30 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. XXXX-XX AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 96-07, BRADFORD

COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO APPLICATION BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM RESIDENTIAL, SINGLE FAMILY - 1 (RSF-1) TO RURAL RESIDENTIAL (RR) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED LIMITS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in the proceeding should contact (352)498-1206 (Voice & TDD) or via Florida Relay Service (800)955-8771.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. 11/6 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of City of Starke, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on November 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

S250903A, an application by Joshua Levin, as agent for Hercules LLC, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use classification from COMMERCIAL and LOW DENSITY, RESIDENTIAL (less than or equal to 2 units per acre) to INDUSTRIAL on property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 29, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 29; thence South 87.5° West 563.00 feet, along the South line of said Section 29, to the intersection of the Westerly right-of-way line of South Alton Road and the Northerly right-of-way line of West Edwards Road for the Point of Beginning; thence continue South 87.5° West 891.00 feet, along the South line of said Section 29 to the Southwest corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 29; thence North 01.5° West 651.00 feet, along the West line of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 29, to the Southerly right-of-way-line of Seaboard Air Line Railroad; thence Easterly 893.50 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way-line of said Seaboard Air Line Railroad, to the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road; thence South 01.5° East 660.00 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road, to the Point of Beginning. Containing 12.19 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they

Railroad; thence Easterly 893.50 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way-line of said Seaboard Air Line Railroad, to the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road; thence South 01.5° East 660.00 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road, to the Point of Beginning. Containing 12.19 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing. 11/6 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of City of Starke, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on November 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

Z 25-03, an application by Joshua Levin, as agent for Hercules LLC, to amend the Zoning Map of the Land Development Code by changing the zoning district from SINGLE FAMILY, VERY LOW DENSITY (R1-A) and COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (B-2) to GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (I-2) on the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 29, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 29; thence South 87.5° West 563.00 feet, along the South line of said Section 29, to the intersection of the Westerly right-of-way line of South Alton Road and the Northerly right-of-way line of West Edwards Road for the Point of Beginning; thence continue South 87.5° West 891.00 feet, along the South line of said Section 29 to the Southwest corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 29; thence North 01.5° West 651.00 feet, along the West line of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 29, to the Southerly right-of-way-line of Seaboard Air Line Railroad; thence Easterly 893.50 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way-line of said Seaboard Air Line Railroad, to the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road; thence South 01.5° East 660.00 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road, to the Point of Beginning. Containing 12.19 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they

decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing. 11/6 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of City of Starke, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on November 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

Z 25-03, an application by Joshua Levin, as agent for Hercules LLC, to amend the Zoning Map of the Land Development Code by changing the zoning district from SINGLE FAMILY, VERY LOW DENSITY (R1-A) and COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (B-2) to GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (I-2) on the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 29, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 29; thence South 87.5° West 563.00 feet, along the South line of said Section 29, to the intersection of the Westerly right-of-way line of South Alton Road and the Northerly right-of-way line of West Edwards Road for the Point of Beginning; thence continue South 87.5° West 891.00 feet, along the South line of said Section 29 to the Southwest corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 29; thence North 01.5° West 651.00 feet, along the West line of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 29, to the Southerly right-of-way-line of Seaboard Air Line Railroad; thence Easterly 893.50 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way-line of said Seaboard Air Line Railroad, to the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road; thence South 01.5° East 660.00 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said South Alton Road, to the Point of Beginning. Containing 12.19 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they

decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing. 11/6 1tchg-BCT

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

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

All other creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

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

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

The date of first publication of this NOTICE TO CREDITORS is Nov. 6, 2025. JONATHAN P. HARVEY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE 7617 Jesse Trail Oklahoma, OK 73150 Owens Penrod, P.A. By: /s/ VeRonica R. Owens, Esq. Fla. Bar No.: 73568 VeRonica R. Owens, Esq. 189 South Lawrence Boulevard Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Telephone: (352) 473-5000 Pleadings@OwensPenrod.com VeRonica@OwensPenrod.com Attorneys for Petitioner Offices: Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Tallahassee 11/6 2tchg 11/13-BCT

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on 11/28/25 at 12:01pm on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Unit Number(s) NAME #46 Shirley \$327.04 #17 Leonard Johnson \$235.20 #76 Yolanda Webb \$147.38

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

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NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3

BHS will make 11th straight postseason appearance

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

When the Bradford High School football team next plays on Friday, Nov. 14, it will mark the start of the Tornadoes' 11th

straight year in the playoffs, which is the longest streak in program history.

Bradford qualified for the postseason two straight years on four occasions — the state-championship years of 1965-66, 1984-85, 2000-01 and 2003-04 — while going for three straight years from 1974 through 1976.

The current streak began in 2015 under Head Coach Corey Green. He was also the coach when Bradford qualified for the

playoffs in 2016. The Tornadoes lost in the first round each year.

Brian Tomlinson coached the team from 2017 through 2021, with the Tornadoes going 6-5 in the postseason. Bradford won at least one playoff game every year but one under Tomlinson and went 2-1 in 2017 and 2019.

The streak is still going under current Head Coach Jamie Rodgers, who guided the team to an 8-3 postseason record his first three seasons. Bradford went 3-1

in Rodgers' first year (2022), advancing to the state semifinals, and then 4-1 his second season in finishing as the 2023 Class 2S state runner-up.

Rodgers is one win shy of tying David Hurse for most playoff wins at BHS. Hurse went 9-6.

Besides Hurse, Rodgers and Tomlinson, the only BHS coaches with playoff wins were Rowland Cummings, who went 4-3, and Chad Bankston, who

went 2-1.

Postseason results

1965 (Class A): 14-7 win over Auburndale in state semifinals; 39-0 win over Hardee in state championship.

1966 (Class A): 24-7 win over Auburndale in state semifinals; 20-6 win over Plantation in state championship.

1974 (Class 3A): 35-14 win over Milton in district round; 6-0 loss to Forest in state semifinals.

1975 (Class 3A): 6-0 loss to Tarpon Springs in district round.

1976 (Class 3A): 22-19 win over Tarpon Springs in district round; 23-14 loss to Forest in regional round.

1984 (Class 2A): 14-7 loss to Santa Fe in district round.

1985 (Class 3A): 14-7 win over Citrus in district round; 16-6 win over Godby in regional round; 28-20 loss to Bartow in state championship.

1990 (Class 3A): 38-14 win over Tampa Catholic in district round; 38-0 loss to Suwannee in regional round.

1993 (Class 3A): 16-12 loss to South Sumter in semi-state first round.

2000 (Class 2A): 39-15 loss to Marianna in regional quarterfinals.

2001 (Class 3A): 45-22 win over Astronaut in regional quarterfinals; 30-14 win over Baker County in regional semifinals; 31-7 loss to St. Augustine in regional finals.

2003 (Class 2A): 41-0 win over

Eustis in regional semifinals; 9-6 win over Umatilla in regional finals; 43-11 loss to Madison County in state semifinals.

2004 (Class 2A): 54-12 win over Bishop Moore in regional semifinals; 42-12 win over Tavares in regional finals; 21-0 loss to Madison County in state semifinals.

2011 (Class 4A): 12-7 loss to Raines in regional semifinals.

2013 (Class 4A): 58-6 loss to Raines in regional semifinals.

2015 (Class 4A): 35-6 loss to South Sumter in regional semifinals.

2016 (Class 4A): 48-21 loss to Dunnellon in regional semifinals.

2017 (Class 4A): 27-7 win over Keystone Heights in regional semifinals; 24-14 win over Dunnellon in regional finals; 53-13 loss to Raines in state semifinals.

2018 (Class 4A): 36-22 loss to P.K. Yonge in regional quarterfinals.

2019 (Class 4A): 21-0 win over Gadsden County in regional quarterfinals; 45-13 win over West Nassau in regional semifinals; 16-6 loss to Bolles in regional finals.

2020 (Class 4A): 40-14 win over Keystone Heights in regional quarterfinals; 9-6 loss to South Sumter in regional semifinals.

2021 (Class 1A): 51-13 win over Newberry in regional quarterfinals; 38-20 loss to Pahokee in regional semifinals.

2022 (Class 2S): 48-0 win over Crescent City in regional quarterfinals; 37-0 win over Eastside in regional semifinals; 28-17 win over Baker County in regional finals; 31-21 loss to Cocoa in state semifinals.

2023 (Class 2S): 42-0 win over Atlantic in regional quarterfinals; 28-7 win over Eastside in regional semifinals; 43-0 win over Baker County in regional finals; 22-21 win over Pensacola Catholic in state semifinals; 20-6 loss to Cocoa in state championship.

2024 (Class 2A): 35-0 win over The Villages in regional quarterfinals; 39-14 loss to Newberry in regional semifinals.

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

MLS #11582212
6924 NW CR-225
Starke, FL 32091

For Sale!

- 4BED/2BATH
- 2.75 ACRES LOT
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SPACIOUS - BEAUTIFUL INTERIOR!

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

Florida Homes Realty & Mortgage

"McLissa is awesome to work with! She goes above and beyond for her clients. Highly recommend!"

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- SPACIOUS GARAGE
- FIREPLACE
- VARIOUS HOME UPDATES
- BRAND NEW 2025 ROOF!

MLS #2107786
7557 Alameda Way
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

SCREEN ENCLOSED POOL
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RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS
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4011 NW 43rd St,
Gainesville, FL 32606

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2ND HOME - 2BED/1.5BATH
18.7 ACRE ESTATE
2300 sq ft barn workshop - main cave

MLS #129015
23719 NW 142nd Avenue
High Springs, FL 32643

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BEAUTIFUL POOL AND PORCH

Tom Germano
904-382-3890
2518 State Rd 21,
Melrose, FL 32666

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3442 Red Oak Circle E
Orange Park, FL 32073

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Garrett Bishop
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DISCOVER THIS STUNNING 3-BEDROOM, 2-BATH SEMI-CUSTOM HOME PERFECTLY SITUATED ON A .34-ACRE HOMESITE SHADED BY BEAUTIFUL LIVE OAK TREES.

MLS #2094170
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Florahome, FL 32140

SPACE FOR LEASE

– Starke, Close to downtown 1800+ sq.ft. Professional, general office, insurance, realtor, attorney, etc. Two restrooms, space flexible for small business. Rent \$1500/mth, utilities not included.

Call
(904)964-7404

Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads for week Nov 6 2025

LAKE GENEVA WATERFRONT 1BED/1BATH HOUSE
Living room w/ balcony storage, kitchen w/ pass thru snack bar, walk-in closet, fenced-in yard with beautiful Lake Geneva views
Includes full lawn care & water
\$900.00/month + deposit

2BED/1.5BATH HOUSE
Kitchen, living room w/ snack bar, large brick fireplace to celebrate the holidays, fenced-in yard
Includes full lawn care & water
Beautiful park areas, .5 mile nature trail around property for walking/biking/golf carts
\$1,200.00/month + deposit

Bill Wilson
352-278-4578

NOTICES

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or

discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and

people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal

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

1BR/1BA. Clean, nice safe area. \$950/mo. Lawn care included. Low utilities with FPL. Call 904-613-5715.

MOBILE HOME for rent. 904-796-0818.

51 Lost/Found

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

53 A Yard Sales

HUGE COMMUNITY/FAMILY Yard Sale; Fri. & Sat. 230 @ hospital, turn left by Presbyterian Church, go one mile, turn left on 21st Ave and follow signs.

HUGE YARD SALE; Little bit of everything. Fri. & Sat. 9am-3pm. 20932 NE 20th Lane, Lawley. Follow signs off of 301 in Strawberry Acres.

YARD SALE; 308 S Thompson Street. Furnishings, clothing, commercial office. Fri. & Sat. 8am-5pm.

57 For Sale

2012 pontoon boat. Reduced from \$15k to \$13k. May be viewed on Facebook marketplace. Call John 904-436-3124.

PAC-MAN, multiple games. 904-964-2219.

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

WELL DRILLING
QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964

24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE

964-7061

STATE LICENSE #1305

DURRANCE PUMP

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

50 For Rent

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

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

STARKE HERITAGE VILLAS
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts

607 Bradford Court
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-6216
TDD 771

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Southern Villas of Starke

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

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

Tri-County Classifieds
Bradford County
Lake Region
UNION COUNTY
Telegraph
Monitor
TIMES

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

904-964-6305
classes@bctelegraph.com

WE ACCEPT
VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Parrish McCall Constructors, Inc., the construction manager, is soliciting competitive bids and pre-qualification for the following project: **Bradford County School District - North Florida Technical College Nursing/Building 12 Renovation**

Anticipated bid packages include the following: **Concrete, Ornamental Metals, Casework, Doors/Frames/Hardware, Storefront, Gypsum Assemblies, Painting, Flooring/Tile, Acoustical Systems, Signage, General Trades, Mechanical (HVAC), Electrical, Plumbing, Access Controls, Security, Low Voltage (Communications), Medical Devices/Equipment, and Construction Cleaning**

Bid documents are anticipated to be issued October 17th, 2025 and will be found on the project page on BuildingConnected under 'Files'. Link is included below. All bids in excess of \$35,000 should be submitted to the Parrish McCall main office in sealed envelopes. All other bids should be submitted via BuildingConnected. Please ensure all bids are submitted on Parrish McCall bid form. Public bid opening is anticipated to be held on November 18th, 2025. The time and a virtual meeting link to the bid opening will be provided on the BuildingConnected project page.

<https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/5b1eafc8a11cdd0010a863a7>

All subcontractors under consideration for a package in excess of \$100,000 will be required to complete the SCORE system qualification process prior to being considered for subcontract award. Please visit the following link to enroll in the SCORE system.

<https://parrish-mccall.com/subcontractors/>

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number CPFFN0205 awarded to the State of Florida by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Obituaries

David Canova

David E. Canova, 85 of Starke and Kingsley Lake died at HCA Hospital in Gainesville, Monday, Nov. 3, 2025. He was a U.S. Army veteran and member of Kingsley Lake Baptist Church.

Survivors are his wife of 57 years, Dee (Walters) Canova; sons, Brian (Erica Pfenniger) and Jason (Peijie) Canova; five grandchildren; and furbies, Benjii and Anndee.

The family will have a private graveside service at Crosby Lake Cemetery with Rev. Jonathan Rodriguez officiating. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

Rodney Hansen

Mr. Rodney Douglas Hansen, a beloved husband, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully on his 81st birthday in Ocala. He was born Oct. 21, 1944, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to the late Morris and Phyllis (Sandell) Hansen. He was known for his warmth, sense of humor, and passion for life. Prior to retiring, he was employed with Florida State Prison as a classification officer. He spent 58 wonderful years with his devoted wife, Judy (Ellington) Hansen. Together, they created a beautiful life full of cherished memories with family and friends. He was a proud veteran of the Navy and member of American Legion Post in Starke, where he felt a strong sense of camaraderie. He was a member of Foundation Church of Starke and an avid Florida Gators football fan, and nothing brought him more joy than sharing cookouts and fishing trips with friends and family.

He is survived by his loving spouse, Judy Hansen; sister, Marlys Hansen; and many cherished nieces and nephews, including Burke (Tammy) Kirkland, Tammy Hansen, Lisa Williams, Donnie Hansen, and Justin Hansen; in addition to great-nieces and nephews. His kind spirit and generous heart will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service was held in his honor Friday, Oct. 24, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel, with a visitation prior to the service. Interment will be at a later date at Jacksonville National Cemetery with military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Starke American Legion Post 715 Edwards Road, Starke, 32091, a place close to Rodney's heart.

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



PAID OBITUARY

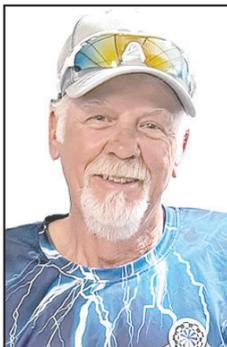
James Henson

Mr. James Glenn Henson, 61, of Keystone Heights passed away at his home, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, after a brief illness. He was born March 1, 1964, in Todd County, Kentucky, to William and Linda Henson. He spent his later years in Keystone Heights, where he made a home filled with laughter and love. He was a dedicated superintendent in the construction industry, proudly working for Phillips. He was a jack-of-all-trades and loved rolling up his sleeves and getting things done. Whether he was barbecuing in the backyard, casting a line on fishing trips, or riding his motorcycle down winding roads, he embraced every moment life had to offer. He cherished playing darts with friends and shared countless good times with his fur babies, Brownie and Bella. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Richard Henson. He was a devoted family man, married for 11.5 years to his loving wife, Stephanie (LaFave) Henson. Together, they built a life filled with joy and adventure.

He will be lovingly remembered by his daughters; Pamela (Scott) Deemer and Melissa (Daniel) Carter; along with his stepchildren, Jessica (Emmett) Karmozyn and Alex LaFave; and siblings, Eddie (Tabitha) Henson and Wanda (Dave) Wallace. He was lovingly called "Papa J" by grandchildren, Emily (Pablo) Borda, Nathan Deemer, Lila Deemer, Clara Carter, John Carter, and Rosalie Karmozyn. He was also a proud great-grandfather to Orion Borda. Also left behind is his special friend of 35 years, Curt Bender and a host of extended family members and friends who will miss him dearly.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate his life at a memorial service on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 12 p.m. at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with Mr. Terry Lyons officiating.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Veazie Jones

Mrs. Veazie Emily Jones, 83, of Starke passed away Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at Haven Hospice in Gainesville, following an extended illness. She was born Nov. 19, 1941, in Washington, DC, to the late Charles and Vera (Frakes) Parks. Her journey led her to Starke, where she became a beloved member of her community. She dedicated many years of her life to serving others as a Family Advocacy Representative, having retired from the Naval Hospital in Orlando. She brought warmth and compassion into every role she took on, always advocating for those in need. Married for 40 wonderful years to her loving husband, Thomas "Tom" Jones, she was the cherished mother of Kevin Skinner, Lisa (Bill) Macmillan, John Skinner, and Dana Skinner; stepmother to Thomas Jones, and a loving sister to Louise Shub. She was a proud "Grandma" and "Meemaw" to her five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, who will fondly remember her kindness and spirited personality. She was a devoted member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and was actively involved in the Daughter's of the King and found joy in gardening, cultivating not just plants, but also relationships rooted in love and community.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date, where friends and family will come together to share stories, laughter, and love in remembrance of a remarkable woman who touched so many lives. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church Legacy in her honor.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Leon Odom III

Leon Thomas Odom III, 71, of Starke passed away Monday, Oct. 27, 2025, at his home in Starke. Leon was born Sept. 7, 1954, in South Carolina to Rev. Leon, Jr. and Louise Odom. He was a 1974 graduate of Bradford High School and lived his entire adult life in Bradford County. He was a welder by trade. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister and brother-in-law: Cynthia (Cindy) and Pete Barnum.

He is survived by his children, Thomas (Wendy) Odom of Lake Butler, Travis (Danette) Odom of Starke, Tiffany (Michael) Baxter of Starke, and Terrell (Brandie) Odom of Starke; grandchildren, Cherith (Colten) Bass, Titus (Michaelyn) Odom, Meariah Odom, Jerry Michael Baxter, Breanna Odom, Kylie Odom, and Josiah Baxter; great-grandchildren, Trace Odom, Clara Odom, and Caleb Bass (arriving soon); and brothers, Michael (Julie) Odom and Bobby (Terri) Odom.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Nov. 7, beginning at 3 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel. The family will receive friends beginning at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow the service at Santa Fe Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family guest book.



PAID OBITUARY

Ronald Waites

Mr. Ronald "Ron" Bowen Waites, 85, of Keystone Heights passed away Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, at Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka following an extended illness. He was born July 30, 1940, in Jacksonville to the late William and Agnes (Padgett) Waites. He lived a life full of love, laughter, and adventure, making his way to Keystone Heights, where he called home. Prior to retiring, he was employed with Ryder Trucking company as an office clerk, where he spent many fruitful years contributing his talents and hard work. But above all his accomplishments, he cherished his family. A lover of the outdoors, he enjoyed days on the lake, whether it was water-skiing, fishing, or golfing. He had a knack for telling jokes that could light up any room and was known for his vibrant spirit on the dance floor. He even had a brief moment of fame when he was offered a job at Cypress Gardens and won several fishing tournaments, showcasing his competitive yet fun-loving nature. He was also deeply committed to his community, actively engaging with the youth at Community Church of Keystone Heights.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Louise (Torbett) Waites and his children, Rhonda Waites, Lisa (Jimmy) Umstatt, Bo (Ann) Waites, Debbie Hall, Cindy Ridaught, and Carol Still; along with stepsons, Richard Woodard and Robert Woodard. He was lovingly called "Big Daddy" or "Papa" by 16 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren, all of whom adored him.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate his life at a celebration of life Saturday, Nov. 8, at 11 a.m. at Community Church of Keystone Height, 345 SE Palmetto Ave., Keystone Heights, 32656. Following the celebration of life there will be a lunch at the church for family and friends.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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KHHS

Continued from page 12

926 yards on 158 carries. Cole Crabtree finished his injury-shortened, seven-game season with 217 rushing yards on 37 carries. Michael Gambel finished the Crescent City game with 92

rushing yards on 10 carries.

Luke Bacorn led the defense with five solo tackles, one of which was a sack. Bacorn ended the season with 18 tackles. Pete Bostic notched four solo tackles in the game and finished the season with 22. Tallon Lybarger had one stop in the final game and had nine for the 2025 campaign.

MENTOR

Continued from page 10

their future potential.

He believes 12G Mentoring differs from other mentoring groups because of the various concepts that children are exposed to, such as growth mindset, attire, professionalism, positive grades, positive attitude, positive behavior, networking, grief, building on struggles and weaknesses, building positive characteristics, correcting misbehavior, life skills, solving life problems, fixing real-world situations, self-confidence, social/emotional learning, future finances, taking advantage of opportunities and setting goals.

In other words, the focus is on the whole child.

Does 12G Mentoring make an impact? Hamilton will tell you it does because he gets to witness it firsthand.

"What I am most proud of when it comes to 12G Mentoring is witnessing the growth of each and every one of the mentees at the end of the year," Hamilton said. "The mentees come in with one mindset and leave with assets that they will have access to for the rest of their lives."

Hamilton shared a letter he received from a parent of twin boys who were part of the mentoring program. The parent wrote that one son learned maturity, respect of others and self-respect, while the other son, who was quiet and reserved, flourished in many ways and was recognized for his hard work and kindness.

"The positive-behavior reinforcement is something we need more of in all communities," the parent wrote, adding that her sons "had opportunities to volunteer and help others and learn to work as a team."

As a result, the parent said her sons became "stronger, young men."

"Being a working, single mother of four boys — all very close in age — we are not always able to participate in volunteer and community service," the parent wrote. "Through your program, they were able to spend more time helping others and our community and learning positive life skills. They learned the values and lessons that I want them to have in life and will benefit them in the future."

"This program has been a blessing."

Reaching just 1 child equates to success

Hamilton said when he was in graduate school, he learned that the goal of education is to teach and reach every student, regardless of abilities or disabilities. Therefore, his goal with 12G Mentoring was to affect positive change in every member.

When the program first started, Hamilton selected students who were the worst-behaved among their peers, those he described as "followers," who were easily persuaded by their peers and those who were model students that any teacher would want in their classroom.

Hamilton came to learn that the goal of positively impacting every student in 12G Mentoring was unattainable.

"The first two years I struggled



Avery Wulff-Vanderpuije starts a lawnmower as she does a bit of community service.



Jayden Hernandez (left) gets assistance on tying his tie from Caden Eison.

with knowing that I did not change every student and mold them into community minded leaders," he said.

Adding end-of-year surveys and program exit interviews made Hamilton aware that even though 12G Mentoring wasn't changing every member, it was changing some.

"Listening to the testimonies of some parents explaining the growth and the change of mindset of their child opened my eyes and brought peace to my heart," Hamilton said. "Listening to some of the students tell me how the program has changed their lives for the better meant the world to me. It was the motivational drive I needed to continue to put in the unwavering time and effort to keep the program going year to year with continuous improvements."

"I was satisfied with just knowing that the program I created made a positive difference in at least one child each year."

Hamilton said that change of mindset led to the program growing and excelling in its mission. One area of growth is the program now partnering with Bradford County 4-H, which provides children with more opportunities for leadership and personal development.

"The 4-H club model provides an excellent forum for our student to experience, practice and effectively use life skills that will allow them to be successful in living productive lives," Hamilton said. "Leading or participating in club business meetings gives our students opportunities to plan, evaluate, discuss ideas and set goals. The basic parliamentary procedure for our 4-H club business meetings adheres strictly to Robert's Rules of Order."

Going into education and creating a mentor program may not have been part of Hamilton's plan at first, but now he's all in, willing to do his part to help young people.

"Our youth are our future," Hamilton said. "I will sacrifice my lifetime to ensure that they are given the best mentorship possible to succeed."

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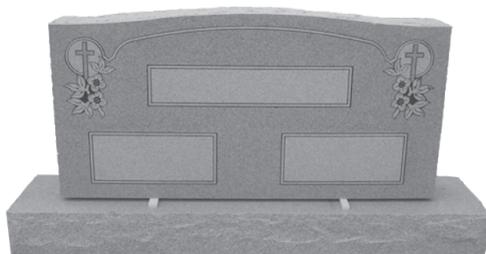


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Starke Kiwanis Club installs officers, presents top award to Walkup

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Kiwanis Club of Starke held its installation banquet on Sept. 30, with Ed Rensberger becoming the new president and Virginia Walkup being announced as the Kiwanian of the 2024-25 year.

Walkup was unable to attend the banquet, so George Konkel, the outgoing president, presented it to her at the club's Oct. 14 meeting. He told Walkup she was receiving the honor "because of all the work that you put into the Terrific Kids program."

"This is a real honor," Walkup said, adding that she's received great support from so many members in helping Terrific Kids be a success.

"I appreciate everything that everyone does for this program," Walkup said. "I'm looking around — I think I've gotten help from every single person here."

Prior to the installation of officers at the Sept. 30 banquet, members with perfect attendance were recognized: Konkel (one year), Michael Heeder (one year), Bear Bryan (20 years), Rensberger (29 years) and Steve Futch (46 years).

Rensberger will be serving as club president for the second time. He previously filled the role in the 2001-02 year.

Lt. Gov. Nelson Green, who's a member of the Starke club, performed the installation of officers. He remembered how he took over as president after Rensberger's first term.

"You looked a lot younger then," Green said.

In all seriousness, Green said, "You have been elected to the highest office the club can bestow on anyone. It is an office of great honor, and it is. Kiwanis

has a good reputation in Starke.

"You will become the base of the Kiwanis Club of Starke. The direction of the club this year will depend on your leadership at the club and the board meetings."

Green said as president, Rensberger won't be doing all the work but will instead rely upon committees he establishes and serve as a guiding force for the club's vision as he and the board of directors set goals for the upcoming year.

"Thank you for dedicating yourself to this leadership position," Green said.

Rensberger said, "I'm looking forward to a great year. The times we're living in how have been changing in the way we do things. I think we need to adapt somewhat and still keep making a difference in our community."

One thing Rensberger said he wanted the club to focus on was trying to bring in new members. He said he remembered when the club had approximately 40 members, but now the number has been hovering between 20 and 30.

"I'd like to see us increase — at least get up to maybe 35 or 36," Rensberger said. "What I'm asking members to do is just ask your friends or acquaintances to come to lunch and come to a meeting. Let Kiwanis sell itself."

Rensberger said he hoped the club would be able to sell food at the Bradford Agricultural Fair and host its golf tournament — two things it was unable to do in 2024-25 due to changes in the format of the fair and the fact that the Starke Golf and Country Club underwent renovations and improvements.

"Hopefully, our fundraisers, such as the fair and the golf tournament, will return," Rensberger said. "If not, we may

have to think outside of the box for different fundraising events. If we don't raise money, we can't give."

Rensberger said he welcomed ideas from any club member.

"I encourage all members to contact me for any reason to discuss anything they think will help our club," he said.

Green first installed three incoming board members: Michael Heeder, Cliff Smelley and Dale Woodruff.

"The board of directors handles most of the business of the club — an important responsibility," Green said, adding, "There's a lot of business that must take place. You set strategic directions, approve the club budget, support committee activities and oversee the administrative tasks of the club."

"I know you will accept these responsibilities with a desire to see the club has its best year ever."

Green also recognized returning board members Steve Futch, Tanya Ramirez and Mike Ruzkowski as well as those who are coming off the board: Bear Bryan, Richard Cason and Patricia Evans.

Shane Parmenter was installed as treasurer.

"Shane, as treasurer, you have been elected to an office that demands absolute integrity and financial and accounting skills," Green said. "It is your role to deposit and disburse funds of the club upon the direction of the board of directors. You'll also report on the club's finances at each board meeting."

Lisa Heeder will continue to fill the role of secretary.

"In Kiwanis, the club secretary is the master of details," Green said, noting that Heeder will record the details of club and

board meetings, make reports available prior to meetings and keep club records up to date with Kiwanis International.

"Your job is essential for the club to run smoothly," Green said.

Pat Mundorff, who was unable to attend the installation, will be the new vice president. The office of president-elect has not been filled.

Green, in recognizing Konkel as immediate past president, said, "This club benefits from the immediate past president continuing for one more year on the board of directors. Your experience is invaluable to this club."

Konkel said unlike some past presidents, he planned to be a part of the club in the future.

"I definitely want to be here to help out in any way that I can," Konkel said.

As part of his final remarks as president, Konkel decided it'd be fitting to provide a brief history of Kiwanis.

"I know a lot of you guys have been here for quite some time, but some of us are a little bit newer than others," Konkel said. "You guys probably had some of the same questions that I did, such as, 'What is Kiwanis?' I know somebody asked me that question not too long ago. So, I figured this would be a good opportunity to re-address where Kiwanis actually started."

Konkel said Kiwanis was founded in Detroit in 1915 under the name of the Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers.

"Obviously, somebody said, 'We need to change that name,'" Konkel said.

A year after its founding, the organization became known as Kiwanis — a name chosen by founders, based on their understanding that it translated from the Algonquian Native American language family as "we build."

"Initially, the focus was business networking like Rotary," Konkel said, "but the organization changed its focus to service in 1919 — specifically service to children."



George Konkel (left) presents the 2024-25 Kiwanian of the Year award to Virginia Walkup.

Kiwanis became an international organization with the founding of a club in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Konkel said, noting that Kiwanis is now a presence in approximately 80 nations.

Konkel then reflected on his time as president, saying, "It's hard to believe a full year has passed since I had the privilege of standing before you as your incoming president."

"Of course, no president can serve alone," Konkel said. "To our officers and board members, thank you for your guidance and your patience. To our longtime members, (thank you for) your wisdom."

Then, with an eye toward the future, Konkel said he looked forward to new members becoming involved and sharing new ideas. He also expressed his optimism about the upcoming year, while stressing that the club needs to continue moving forward.

"Your next president, Ed, inherits a club that is still strong and ready for the future, but our work is far from done," Konkel said. "There are still children who need mentors, there are still families who could use a helping hand and there are still opportunities to grow."

Konkel closed his remarks by

expressing gratitude for being allowed to serve as president and saying he looked forward to continuing to contribute to the club.

"I want to say thank you for trusting me in this role," Konkel said. "It's been a great honor to lead the club for the past year. I step aside today, not as someone leaving, but as a fellow Kiwanian ready to serve in new ways. Let's keep changing lives — one project, one child and one act of kindness at a time."

Starke Kiwanis' Steve Denmark Memorial Rib Sale is Nov. 15

The Kiwanis Club of Starke's Steve Denmark Memorial Rib Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15, with a new pickup location: the Edwards Road Sports Complex in Starke.

Smoked slabs of ribs cost \$25 each and will be available for pickup from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

You may purchase slabs from any member of the club prior to the sale. You can also send a message to the Kiwanis Club of Starke Facebook page.



The Kiwanis Club of Starke's 2025-26 officers and board members (l-r): Dale Woodruff (board member), Lisa Heeder (secretary), Michael Heeder (board member), George Konkel (past president), Ed Rensberger (president), Shane Parmenter (treasurer), Cliff Smelley (board member) and Steve Futch (board member). Not pictured: Vice President Pat Mundorff and board members Tanya Ramirez and Mike Ruzkowski.

Luke's Right Path Ranch offers occupational therapy for children

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Shelley Luke took "a leap of faith," leaving behind a job she enjoyed to fill a need closer to home.

Luke, a 2004 Bradford High School graduate, spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Starke at its Oct. 28 meeting about the creation of Right Path Ranch, which allows her to provide pediatric occupational therapy to Bradford and Union counties.

"Last January, I kind of felt the calling that I needed to do something different," Luke said.

So she left her job with the Clay County School District to create her own business, helping families who used to have to travel to Gainesville or Jacksonville for occupational therapy.

Luke said she found that not only did families have to travel out of the area, but their children were also put on a waiting list and unable to receive therapy for up to a year or even 18 months.

"When we're talking about kids with developmental delays, you can't wait 18 months to get services," Luke said. "You're missing this growth opportunity."

Luke said the primary goal of occupational therapy is "is to help individuals achieve independence, satisfaction and participation in their daily routines when facing physical, cognitive, sensory, mental-health or social challenges."

Adults usually receive occupational therapy after traumatic events, strokes, brain injuries or hand surgeries, Luke



Shelley Luke gives a presentation of Right Path Ranch at the Oct. 28 Kiwanis Club of Starke meeting.

said, adding, "With kiddos, it's usually kids with developmental delays, sensory processing disorders and early learning difficulties. We work a lot with children with cerebral palsy, autism and Down syndrome. Most of my case load right now is children with autism, so we do a lot of sensory processing, helping them be able to manage the world in a more regulated way."

Luke currently offers in-home therapy, but her plan is to eventually buy land, build a ranch and have children come to her for therapy.

"The goal of Right Path Ranch is to integrate animals and farm life to help these kids meet their goals," Luke said.

When a Kiwanis Club member asked her if parents would drop their children off at the ranch once it was built, Luke said she would rather the parents stay and be involved with their children's therapy.

"What I've found, from the stories I've heard, is that kiddos, when they go to Gainesville, and they go to an outpatient clinic, the parent usually does drop them off, and they're not invited back into the therapy session."

"I want to change that model because I've found more progress and more benefit if the parent is there. Now, when I'm working with kids, I invite the parent in. 'Please, come be a part of this.

See LUKE, page 16

Shining Stars of the Week!

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 Bryson Badour 3rd grade LightHouse Christian <i>Bryson is an A Honor Roll student. He is able to accomplish his work quickly and accurately. He shines bright when he is singing with his friends in chapel, and when he is doing writing assignments in English Language Arts.</i>	 Joey Williams 6th grade Bradford Elementary <i>Joey is a kind and caring young man. He always takes the time to give extra help to a classmate who has special needs. Joey always makes time to play with his classmate so he can feel included. Joey is also an amazing student. He is fabulous in math and always gives 100% in everything he does. Joey is a true shining star in our classroom!</i>
 Jayden Elliott 5th grade Hope Christian Academy <i>Jayden is a very thoughtful and caring student who is always willing to help.</i>	 Crixus Jordan 2nd grade Lawtey Elementary <i>Crixus is always eager to learn new things and actively participate in class. He is loving, caring, funny, and kind. Every day, we see him striving to be a good friend, classmate, and student. We truly love having Crixus in our class!</i>
 Ryleigh Elasic 3rd grade Starke Elementary <i>Ryleigh is always being respectful and kind in class.</i>	 Maverick Hendricks 1st grade Rainbow Learning Academy <i>Maverick won first place for our Spanish Family Tree project!</i>
 Beau Beauregard 1st grade Providence Christian Academy <i>Beau was previously homeschooled and is adjusting very well to the schedule and structure of his classroom. He has made friends and is a great helper in his class.</i>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">Thank you... to our sponsors!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;">    </div>

BC Take Stock in Children earns Luminary Award

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A source of light. For Bradford County students every year, that's exactly what Bradford Community for Schools' Take Stock in Children is: a source of light.

That light was especially bright in the 2024-25 school year as the Bradford program received Take Stock in Children's Luminary Award.

It was the Bradford program's first-ever time receiving the award.

"This is a big deal," Bradford Community for Schools Executive Director Cindy DeValerio told local Take Stock in Children staff on Oct. 27. She added, "This is their highest award that you can receive."

Take Stock in Children affiliates are evaluated every year on pillars of student success, which considers such criteria as mentoring, college readiness, compliance and data, and Take Stock in Children standards.

A Luminary Award means an affiliate not only achieved an A rating, but that it also received perfect scores on pillars of student success.

DeValerio said it was quite an accomplishment to receive a Luminary Award after a "challenging year" due to

staff changes. She noted that the success of Take Stock in Children is a team effort, but she thanked College Success Coach Candace Osteen in particular for her efforts. In presenting the award to Osteen, DeValerio said, "Candace, you have shone so brightly through all of the challenges."

Then, to the rest of the Take Stock in Children team, DeValerio said, "Let's keep doing what we're doing."

The Luminary Award was one of two awards the Bradford program received. It also earned a Gold-Level Award, which it has received multiple times in the past.

Take Stock in Children pairs students with adult mentors, with that mentor relationship idealistically lasting from sixth grade through graduation. Students who successfully go through the program, maintaining a specified minimum grade-point average, avoiding major disciplinary issues and keeping absences to a minimum, receive two-year college scholarships.

As part of a July 31, 2025, Telegraph-Times-Monitor story, DeValerio and Osteen shared their thoughts on the Take Stock in Children program through a statement they jointly composed: "Take Stock in Children scholarships open doors for



Cindy DeValerio (far left), the executive director of Bradford Community for Schools, presented Gold-Level and Excellence awards to the organization's Take Stock in Children team (l-r) Linda Bennett (mentor coordinator), Kris Dunfee (financial officer), Candace Osteen (college-readiness coach), Torrie Clark (student-support specialist) and Ken Weaver (student-support specialist).

students in rural communities by removing financial and social barriers that often limit their access to higher education. These scholarships provide more than just college tuition, and they come with mentorship, academic support and a clear pathway to success.

"For students in rural areas, where resources can be limited, and college may seem out of reach, Take Stock offers hope, guidance and the tangible means to pursue a college degree. This

not only increases their chances of achieving well-paying careers, but also empowers them to break generational barriers, become leaders in their communities and inspire others to aim higher."

Take Stock in Children is always in need of mentors. If you're interested, please email DeValerio at cdevalerio@bradfordcommunityforschools.com or Linda Bennett at lbennett@bradfordcommunityforschools.com.

LUKE

Continued from page 15

It's great that it works for me for 30 minutes, but to make your life better, to make your child's life better, you need to continue these techniques throughout the week."

Luke, who is the daughter of Carl and Christie Torode, said she enjoys being around children and helping them. She recalled how she began babysitting when she was probably 12.

"My mom was a high-school teacher," Luke said. "She told me not to be a teacher. She said, 'Go find something else where you can help kids.'"

A tour of UF Health Shands Hospital when she was in high school put her on the career path toward becoming an occupational therapist.

"I saw this room where there were a bunch of adults hanging out with kids and playing," Luke said. "I was like, 'What are they doing? I want to do that.'"

"It was their therapy room. The were bouncing on balls and working on all those skills that they need."

Luke, who went to the University of Florida, began her career at Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital in Jacksonville 15 years ago. She also worked at Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville before taking the

job with the Clay County School District.

When people would tell her she needed to bring her therapy services to her home community, Luke was resistant at first. Her thought was, "I don't want to run a business. That's a lot of work."

Learning of the great need that children in Bradford and Union counties had, though, changed her mind. Luke said she felt as if it was a "calling." She said with the full support of her husband, Josh, she "took the plunge."

Luke credits the idea of a ranch with animals as part of therapy services to her daughter, Reagan, who's "into horses."

"She's the one who kind of started this farm passion for us," Luke said.

Besides talking about her business, Luke shared the news that the 2026 Bradford Agricultural Fair would include "The Unstoppable Goat Show," which would allow children with disabilities to exhibit goats. Each exhibitor will be paired with a "buddy," who'll help when needed.

"I met with the fair board, the 4-H office — all are on board with this," Luke said. "They're really getting behind it."

If you'd like to find out more about Right Path Ranch, please visit www.rightpathranch.com. You can also visit Right Path Ranch on Facebook and Instagram.

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Afganistan War

Bryan D. Burky
Major Alan E. Roger



Clay County

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Douglas A. Lentz
Otis Parker
Arthur J. Ross, Jr.
Don R. Scott
Quincy H. Truett
David B. Tucker
Ray F. Williams
Claude D. Wilson, Jr.

Civil War

John W. Clark
Claiborn Gnann
Elisha W. Carter
Braxton Bennett
Abram D. Roberts
Elias R. Bennett
James A. Thomas
Henry Knowles
Joseph Long
Henry E. Dickerson
Charles S. Fleming
John Peacock
Samuel Green
William Thomas, Jr.

Korea

Joseph T. Rowan
Doyle B. Wall

Union County

World War I

Neal Langford

World War II

James C. Addison
John M. Denison
Jessie Dicks
Jack T. Dyer
Sam Gallicchio
Zachariah W. McCall
Earl Rhoden
Ernest E. Roberts

Korea

John W. Carter
James E. Lunsford

We are proud to honor all of our veterans. We especially remember the heroes who died serving — including Veterans of Operation Desert Storm, Desert Shield and the Bosnian Conflict. We are also honoring those who have and are currently serving at home and abroad.

Bradford County Telegraph
Lake Region Monitor
UNION COUNTY TIMES

We apologize if we did not receive or include all names of veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the information above as our sources were limited and may not have been 100% accurate. If you want to forward a correction or veteran who was not included for future recognition, please send the details to johnryan@bctelegraph.com. Please include all relevant information about the veteran and your contact information as well.

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