

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025

146th year, 20th Issue — \$1



Mother of three killed in crash near Hampton

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Florida Highway Patrol said a 25-year-old Starke woman was killed in a traffic crash near Hampton on Dec. 5.

Troopers said the driver hit a pipe on Southeast 109th Street just before midnight. After the collision, the vehicle went airborne and hit a tree and a fence.

The driver was taken to a hospital where she later died.

An online fundraiser identified the driver as Alina Camryn Gonzalez.

“She was only 25 years old and leaves behind three precious children,” wrote organizer Hannah Griffis of Hampton. “We take comfort knowing she is now in the loving arms of Jesus. We are raising funds to help cover the cost of her burial and funeral expenses. This is an incredibly difficult time for her family, and any support, whether through donations, prayers, or sharing this page, means the world to us.”

At press time, the GoFundMe campaign had raised \$13,665 toward a \$15,000 goal.

Courthouse changes improve safety, accessibility

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

A \$500,000 state appropriation is being put to work in the design and engineering of upgrades to the Bradford County Courthouse.

The county requested \$2 million to modernize and better secure the courthouse, particularly the first-level clerk’s office. Legislators allocated \$500,000 to start alongside other awards, including nearly \$1 million for first responder communication upgrades and \$2 million for Starke utility extensions.

Adam Gayle detailed the proposed work for the commission. Gayle is an architect with Superlative Architecture and Development, a company under NV5, which has a continuing engineering services contract with Bradford County. He summarized the project as bringing the courthouse into this century while addressing safety concerns as well as accessibility for all.

The first phase involves the clerk’s front office and vault. The vault space will be renovated with addition of new service desks and safety partitions. The existing front office will be turned into a new lobby, and official records will be located there. Clerk of

the Courts Denny Thompson’s office and conference room will be relocated and space made for the addition of two new ADA compliant restrooms. There may also be funding within the first phase to update flooring in the security office.

A second phase will reconstruct the finance office, addressing functionality and security. The third phase will modernize the existing restrooms and make them ADA compliant. Phase four finally moves upstairs to the courtrooms and jury rooms. Again, security and ADA concerns will be addressed as the finishes are improved. Phase five will update the judges’ chambers and staff offices.

NV5 was told to move forward with design, engineering and consulting services for phase one, with the cost not to exceed \$140,000. This includes money for the additional project reporting required by the state through the Office of State Court Administrators. The total cost of the first phase, including construction, is just over \$1 million, to be paid for by the state appropriation and an additional \$505,556 included in the

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Lake Region woman named Florida’s school superintendent of the year

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Santa Fe Lake resident has been named Florida’s 2026 Superintendent of the Year.

Lake County School District Superintendent Diane Kornegay was selected as Florida’s 2026 Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

Kornegay was formally recognized on Wednesday, December 3, in Tampa during the Florida School Boards Association and superintendents’ association joint conference. She is the 39th superintendent and the 10th woman to receive this honor since the inception of the awards program in 1988.

According to a news release by the superintendent’s association, Kornegay is a seasoned education administrator with more than 35 years of educational experience.

Prior to being appointed Lake County Schools superintendent in December 2016, she served several leadership roles in Clay County Schools, including Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Director of School Improvement and Teacher Training, as well as school principal. Kornegay holds a

Bachelor of Education and a Master of Education from the University of North Florida.

Initiatives included programs to help students with jobs

“Under Kornegay’s leadership, the district has made significant strides in academic performance and program offerings,” the association said. “The district achieved an ‘A’ grade from the Florida Department of Education in 2025, the first since 2008, with notable increases in proficiency, including 15 percentage points in Algebra 1 and 7 percentage points in English Language Arts for grades 9 and 10. When the district noticed declining attendance in their high schools due to the need for students to work part-time or even full-time to support themselves or contribute to their families, the school district developed a high school night school option and a flexible day high school program in partnership with Lake Technical College. This flexible pathway to graduation resulted in an overall graduation rate increase from 88% to 93% in three years, and graduation rates have remained at or above 90% for the past four years.”

According to the superintendent’s association, additional accolades for

Lake County Schools include expanding access to high-demand career and technical education programs across all middle and high schools. All high schools now provide accelerated diploma tracks, including Advanced International Certificates of Education, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate programs. Lake County students passed nearly 5,000 industry certification exams in 2024.



Diane Kornegay

passion and commitment each and every day,” he said. “I have been impressed with Diane since her appointment as Lake County Schools superintendent. Diane is a determined and unwavering advocate for public education and student success. Her sustained tenure speaks to her remarkable ability to bring people together, forge trust, and lead the kind of meaningful change that delivers exceptional outcomes for students.”

Montford added that Kornegay is the state’s longest-serving appointed superintendent.

‘Leads with compassion and conviction’

The superintendents’ association said that in addition to her role as Lake County Schools Superintendent, Kornegay remains deeply engaged in numerous community and state organizations, which have earned her many awards and recognition. In 2021, she was recognized as Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association for Career and Technical Education, an award that honors superintendents for their dedication to advancing CTE and preparing students for the

See KORNEGAY, page 7

Lake Butler Hospital earns 5-star rating

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler Hospital has earned a 5-star quality rating from the National Rural Rating System. The designation is the highest possible score under the performance metric.

The hospital had maintained a four-star rating for about eight months before reaching the top tier, according to Cynthia Coulter, chief clinical services officer.

“It’s our patients, so I would have to say a huge thank you to all of our employees and our providers and the care that they provided to our patients,” Coulter said about the achievement.

The rating is based on Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems scores, which are national, standardized surveys sent to patients after discharge that ask about their hospital experience, including the care they received, food quality, and interactions with providers.

“It’s totally based on the patient’s experience,” Coulter said of the 5-star rating.

She added that the hospital has focused on staff education and training, quality measures, patient safety, pharmacy services, and dietary offerings to improve the patient experience.

Coulter oversees all clinical departments at the hospital, including radiology, laboratory services, rehabilitation, nursing, case management and pharmacy.

An independent healthcare technology firm, Press Ganey,

administers and analyzes patient surveys for the hospital.

“There’s been excitement with our staff because of the recognition,” Coulter said, “and we’ve had a big celebration for our staff to thank them for all that they do.”

The administrator said next up for the facility is a construction project to renovate its building and HVAC system. Some staff will temporarily relocate to a new administrative building during renovations.



The rating is based on Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems scores, which are national, standardized surveys sent to patients after discharge.

Black Creek project now online

2.5 million gallons a day coming from project

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A director for the St. Johns River Water Management District said the district is now pumping water into Alligator Creek from the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project.

Dale Jenkins, the district’s director of infrastructure and land resources, said during the district’s December 9 meeting that rain over the weekend of December 6 and 7 pushed the flow of the creek’s south prong above 25 cubic feet per second, allowing the

See CREEK, page 7



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WORTH NOTING

Keystone Christmas Market, Parade and more

The annual Christmas Market in Keystone Heights returns to the South Lawrence Boulevard Theme Park this Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with artisans, crafters, family friendly activities, live music and food trucks celebrating the season.

The 5K Reindeer Trot takes place earlier that morning at Azalea Park at 8 a.m. Register online at runsignup.com or the day of the race beginning at 7 a.m. Proceeds support high school volleyball scholarships. Awards for overall top finishers as well as the top finisher by age category.

The Christmas cheer continues at the parade, which will light up the town beginning at 6 p.m.

Parade of Trees

Don’t miss the Parade of Trees in the Natural Park across from Keystone Heights City Hall. Local businesses and civic organizations have set up beautifully decorated Christmas Trees. Take a stroll through the walkway now through Jan. 4.

Lawtey’s Joyful Voices to host annual Christmas program Dec. 14

The Joyful Voices of Lawtey will host its annual community Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. at Lawtey’s Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church. The church is located at 2229 Lake St.

Fairgrounds food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

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

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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



Lawtey Christmas Parade

Lawtey’s Christmas Parade will take place Saturday, Dec. 20,

beginning at 10 a.m. Come enjoy the lineup of classic cars, church and community floats, horses, Santa and more. The parade travels from Lawtey Elementary School, east down Lake Street (C.R. 225) and turns around at Walk by Faith Ministries.

Following the parade, there will be a gathering at the home of Ben and Emma Strong with free food and drinks while they last. For more information, contact Ben Strong at 904-782-3130 or Cynthia Ross at 904-782-3107.

Christmas Party Toy Drive

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County is accepting donations of new unwrapped toys for children ages 6 months to 14

years. They will be distributed during the annual Christmas Party at RJE on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dropoff locations include Starke City Hall, Downtown Grill, Nicky’s Beauty Bar, Murray Ford, Starke Church

of God by Faith, New Bethel Baptist and the RJE Complex.

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Two Night, Fall Revival

Fall Revival: You are cordially invited to join us on Thursday, Friday Evening and Saturday morning **December 11-13, 2025**, as we celebrate the Second Coming of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

Location: Starke Sda Church
Time: Thursday & Friday Evening 6:00 p.m
Saturday Morning 11:am

Theme: “Preparation for the Second Coming of the Messiah”
"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." John 14:3 ESV

Jesus Christ was very clear: One day he will return-and none of us knows when. Vocal fanatics claim to know the details of the second coming, causing many Christians to all but ignore the good news that Jesus is coming again. Yet God's own Word commands us to know the signs of the times, to remain watchful, and to be ready-whenver Christ comes.

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Clark Hill to host free New Year's Eve event in Starke

Clark Hill plans to celebrate New Year's Eve in style in his hometown of Starke, and you're invited. The inaugural Clark Hill Hometown Bash, which will begin at 7 p.m., is a free event that is promised to turn



beverages and a fireworks show at midnight.

Starke's Downtown Square into a full-scale concert experience, complete with national-level production, food trucks, a d u l t

"I've played all over the country, but nothing compares to bringing it back home," says Hill, who's known by most people locally as Jimmie Clark. "Starke has always believed in me, and this is my way of saying thank you, with a show that puts our little town on the big stage where it belongs." The show, which will also feature two nationally recognized artists (to be announced later), will be the first event to be held at the city's new

music pavilion — a project that cost approximately \$1 million. "It's going to be the biggest New Year's Eve bash, period," Hill said via a video posted to social media. He added, "We're going to have all kinds of new music and some surprise old music that you guys haven't heard in years." Though the show is free, tickets must be obtained through eventbrite.com. Search for "Clark Hill — Hometown New Years Eve Bash."

A VIP Experience is being offered for \$55.20 (limit of 100), which will include a pre-show dinner with Hill, photo opportunities, autographs and pit access. Gates open one hour prior to the show at 6 p.m. The Clark Hill Hometown Bash is presented by Southern Star Entertainment, the city of Starke, North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Bradford County Tourist Development Council.

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Breaking ground at the future Brooker fire station are Bradford Commissioner Diane Andrews, Fire Chief Ben Carter, Florida Fire Marshal's Office Director JoAnne Rice, contractor Mark Williams, Brooker Mayor Gene Melvin, Councilwoman Linda Bennett, Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner, Councilman Joe Tolleson, Rep. Chuck Brannan, and Commissioners Chris Dougherty and Danny Riddick.



At the uncoupling (ribbon cutting) ceremony for the Sampson City station are Commissioner Chris Dougherty, Lauren Tingle from the state fire marshal's office, contractor Mark Williams, Fire Chief Ben Carter, Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner, County Manager Scott Kornegay, Commissioner Dianne Andrews, Rep. Chuck Brannan, Commissioner Danny Riddick and Bradford Fire Marshal Chris Cooksey.

Groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting for new fire stations

BY JENN SAMSEL
jenn@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County Fire Rescue hosted groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies in Brooker and Sampson City Dec. 5.

The Brooker station is meant to improve response times in an underserved portion of the county. The Sampson City project provided much improved living quarters for first responders on shift. Both were funded by state

legislative appropriations.

The groundbreaking ceremony in Brooker marked the beginning of a long-awaited project. The city has needed a fire department for some time to improve response times. Currently, response times in Brooker average 15 minutes, but with the new facility, this will be significantly reduced.

Shortly after the groundbreaking ceremony, the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in Sampson City.

"I want to thank the support of the commission, the state for their allocation of the funding, town of Brooker for their participation and support of the project," said Fire Chief Ben Carter, who also thanked citizens for supporting their mission. "This is a significant moment for Bradford County, as it will help improve response times as the county continues to expand."

Officials from the state, county and city attended the unveiling of

both locations.

The original fire station in Sampson City was a mobile home that eventually became unlivable. As a result, they were able to construct a permanent structure that will serve the community for years to come. This location will accommodate three personnel with fire apparatus and an ambulance, while the Brooker location will house two personnel, fire apparatus and an ambulance.

Sampson now houses the county's newest fire engine, and additional money has been requested for apparatus and truck bays for the Brooker station.

Brooker Mayor Gene Melvin expressed excitement, saying response times will be reduced to a couple of minutes.

"That is a blessing, not only for the town of Brooker but for the whole community in Western Bradford County," he said, thanking Rep. Chuck Brannan and Sen. Jennifer Bradley for standing up for the small but growing community in Bradford County. The also thanked Bradford County commissioners for their support of the fire department and its expansion.

"Again, we appreciate you being here today, and we thank you for celebrating this honor of groundbreaking for the city of Brooker and the Brooker community and western Bradford County."

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Starke Christmas Parade Saturday

A longer Christmas parade in Starke this year will serve as a preview of what is to come. Working with the sheriff's office organizers are now planning to close all four lanes of U.S. 301 from S.R. 100 to S.R. 16.

The parade will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13, lining up on Call Street in front of HCA Florida Starke Emergency. It will proceed west on Call Street to U.S. 301, then turn right and head north to Washington Street, where it will turn left and disband at the school district parking lot across from the football stadium. Traffic will be detoured to Orange and St. Clair Streets.

The new route lengthens the parade and allows the crowd a more immersive view from both sides of the highway. The route will be reversed in future years when there is no construction downtown, with the parade

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EXPLORING THE GOODNESS OF GOD – PART 2

Our golden text from last week is Psalm 107:1, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever". Our focus in this series is the "goodness of God." As stated previously, I think many times our Father God gets a bad rap. People, even Christians, blame God for everything that's taking place in the world. Whether good or bad, the Father God usually gets the credit for it. People love to go to the Old Testament where God pronounced judgment, or had His people carry out judgment. They come away with an unscriptural mindset of God, that He somehow delights in the wicked dying and His people suffering. As stated before, God brings judgment as a last resort. He gives people and nations ample time to repent before He has no alternative but to allow judgment. It was not His best and it was not His perfect plan or His perfect will, but God as a perfect and just God allows judgment. On the other hand, there is a distorted doctrine of grace that is preached and believed. Some say because God is a loving God, He will not allow anyone to go to Hell. That is unscriptural and false doctrine, and if a person dies without being born again, that person will be separated from God and will spend eternity in hell. Not God's best nor His will. He sent Jesus so everyone could avoid that horrible place called hell. When we remove our religious spectacles and really look into God's Word there is one general concept that seems to jump out: God's goodness. His goodness conveys His generosity towards the human race. His goodness is certainly much deeper than just generosity, but the Word shows us that He longs to bring joy and blessing. The Bible presents goodness as a core quality of our Lord and His willingness to share His goodness with His people. Now, let us look at a few more verses concerning the goodness of God. I could continue to comment but we will just go to the Word and see what the Bible teaches.

In Exodus 34:6, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and in truth." 1 Chronicles 16:34 says, "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever." Ezra 3:11, "And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel." Psalm 25:8, "Good and upright is the Lord." Psalm 23:6, "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 145:9, "The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all of His works." Notice that I have pointed out just a handful of verses found in the Old Testament and there are many more in the Old Testament that point to the character and nature of God's goodness.

I would like to refer to another passage of scripture found in Genesis chapter 18. Here we find a people so steeped in wickedness, perverseness and homosexuality that God in His justice had to bring judgment. The thing about this story that really stands out even greater than the destruction is the willingness and longsuffering of God to show mercy. We find Abraham asking God to spare the cities. He begins by asking God if He would spare them if fifty righteous were found. God said yes, I will spare it. He continued to go before God asking for mercy and in his final attempt, Abraham said," Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more, suppose ten righteous should be found there?" And God said, I will not destroy it for the sake of ten." Think about the goodness and mercy of God. I want to point out the Biblical fact that God did want to show mercy, grace and goodness to a wicked people. He did not want to destroy them because that is not the nature of God. He had to pass and allow judgment because His justice demanded it. 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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beginning at the high school and ending at the Downtown Square. Some other Christmas activities have been announced for Dec. 13 including a car show downtown from 2-5 p.m. sponsored by the Arc of Bradford County and a photo opportunity with Santa and Mrs. Claus in front of the chamber from 3-4:30 p.m.

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Honoring 141 years of faith and community

First Presbyterian celebrates legacy of worship, service and faithfulness

BY GINGER SUMNER
First Presbyterian Church

On Dec. 14, First Presbyterian Church of Starke will gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone — 141 years of worship, fellowship and service. More than simply marking the passage of time, the celebration will honor the faithfulness of God and the enduring hope that continues to guide this vibrant congregation.

What began as a small gathering of believers in the late 1800s has grown into a cornerstone of the Starke community. From its earliest days, the church has remained committed to its Presbyterian heritage while embracing the character of the town it serves. It is a story woven from prayer, perseverance, and a deep love for God and neighbor. It is a story that is still unfolding today.

Beginning the journey: The early days (1880s–1900s)

The roots of First Presbyterian Church of Starke reach back to a time when the town itself was still in its infancy. Starke was officially incorporated in 1887, but the seeds of community life were already taking shape in the years prior. Families settling in Bradford County desired not only homes and businesses, but places to worship and anchor their spiritual lives.

In 1883, a small group of Presbyterians began meeting informally, gathering in homes and shared community spaces. By 1884, they formally organized as a congregation, establishing what would become one of the longest-standing churches in the region. Their first sanctuary was built soon after: a modest wooden structure located on Cherry Street, not far from the heart of town. The early congregation was defined by determination and faith. They built their sanctuary by hand, hosted prayer meetings illuminated by kerosene lamps and formed a community bound by shared trust in God’s providence.

These founding families could scarcely have imagined that their simple wooden church would one day become a historic treasure of Starke and their legacy would continue 141 years later.

A bold move: The church relocation from Cherry Street to Call Street

Perhaps one of the most defining and memorable moments in the church’s history came when the congregation made the bold decision to relocate their beloved sanctuary from



First Presybyterian Church of Starke



One among many beautiful stained-glass windows within the church.

Cherry Street to Call Street. As Starke grew and the community expanded, the congregation recognized the need for the church to be more centrally located and better positioned for future ministry.

In a feat of engineering and faith that still amazes longtime members, the entire church building — steeple and all — was lifted, secured and carefully transported down the streets of Starke to its new home on Call Street, where it still stands today.

Residents lined the roads to watch the slow, steady move. It became a community moment;

one talked about with fondness by older generations and preserved in local memory as proof of the church’s importance to the town.

The sanctuary was soon expanded, but its heart — the original structure carried with care across town — remained intact. The move symbolized the congregation’s willingness to follow God’s leading and adapt to meet the needs of the community.

Light through the generations: The stained-glass windows

Step inside the sanctuary today, and one is immediately greeted by the warm glow of stained-glass windows, each one filled with color, symbolism and history. Installed in phases over many decades, these windows have become treasured reminders of the congregation’s story.

Some of the earliest panes were donated in honor of founding families, depicting biblical scenes and symbols central to Presbyterian worship. Others were added in the mid-20th century as memorial gifts, each carrying its own story.

Children have grown up watching sunlight filter through them during Sunday School lessons. Couples have stood before them exchanging vows. Generations have looked upon them during baptisms, funerals and weekly worship — moments of joy, grief, hope and praise.

These windows have quietly witnessed it all, offering beauty and reflection to everyone who enters the sacred space. Today, they remain one of the most beloved features of the church, a vibrant reminder of God’s enduring presence.

Building community: Fellowship, tradition and shared life

Across decades, First Presbyterian Church of Starke has been more than a place of worship; it has been a hub of fellowship and community life. Church picnics under the pine and oak trees. Potluck dinners where every family brought their best dish. Christmas cantatas filling the sanctuary with music. Youth group trips, mission projects, vacation Bible school and more.

The church’s calendar became a reflection of the rhythms of Starke itself — planting seasons, school years, holidays and community events. Through every era, the congregation found ways to gather, connect and share life together.

Serving Starke: Outreach through the years

One of the church’s most defining qualities is its commitment to serving the people of Starke. From its earliest days, outreach has been central to the congregation’s mission and a living expression of Christ’s call to love our neighbors.



First Presbyterian on the move to Call Street location.

Throughout the decades, the church has supported a wide range of ministries rooted in compassion and community care. Longtime involvement with Habitat for Humanity has helped families find safe, stable housing. The church’s involvement with the food bank traces back to the faithful initiative of many of the church’s members whose early work in collecting and distributing groceries and numerous Christmas and Thanksgiving meals laid the foundation for what has become a vital ministry for local families in need. During seasons of hurricanes, fires and community hardship, the church has repeatedly become a center of relief through gathering supplies, offering prayer and opening its doors to anyone seeking support.

These acts of service represent far more than charitable moments. They express the congregation’s desire to embody Christ’s love in tangible ways, building bridges of hope and compassion throughout Starke.

Moments that shaped the journey

Throughout its 141-year history, First Presbyterian Church of Starke has experienced numerous milestones that continue to influence its mission today. Among them include the expansion of the sanctuary to accommodate a growing congregation, formation of women’s Bible studies that enhanced fellowship and study, growth of youth ministries to strengthen faith in the next generation, renovations and restorations to preserve the historic beauty of the building, and community partnerships, extending the church’s presence beyond Sunday mornings.

Every milestone reflects not only what the church built or achieved, but the people who poured their hearts into

sustaining the ministry: pastors, elders, volunteers, choir members, cooks, teachers and countless faithful servants.

Looking back and moving forward: A celebration of gratitude to God and community

As First Presbyterian Church of Starke celebrates its 141st year, one theme resounds above all: gratitude. Gratitude for the people who came before. Gratitude for the community that surrounds and supports the church. Gratitude for the opportunities to serve. But most of all, gratitude to God for His unwavering faithfulness, His providence and His glory revealed in every chapter of the church’s story.

Preserving a legacy: Sowing seeds for the future

If the past 141 years have taught the congregation anything, it is that God’s providence is steady, and His grace is abundant. The future of First Presbyterian Church of Starke is built upon that truth and the loving efforts of those who continue to worship, serve and give faithfully. Today, the church remains committed to serving the community of Starke with compassion and Christ-centered hope through spiritual growth, community outreach, supporting families, children and youth, preserving the historic sanctuary, and fostering fellowship and belonging. The congregation embraces its history not as an anchor, but as a foundation — a launching point for new generations to discover faith, community and purpose.

CHANGE

Continued from page 1

county’s capital improvement plan. Any unused funds will be rolled over into the future phases. The current project total for all five phases is estimated at \$2,161,750.

The design phase should require 10 weeks. Permitting and bidding will require another 10 to 12 weeks. Once the contract is awarded and construction begins, renovation work may be restricted to evening hours. Relocating staff and serving the public during construction is expected to present challenges. The duration of construction is yet to be determined.

And around back

Sheriff Gordon Smith said construction at the sallyport at the rear of the courthouse will improve security for judges and high-risk transports. It is paid for by funding for the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Tickets available for Christmas Homes Tour

This year marks Melrose’s 11th Triennial Christmas Home Tour, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14. The tour promises a unique experience, featuring both beloved homes from previous tours and several homes that have never participated.

In the spirit of celebration, the event will include live entertainment throughout the afternoon. Visitors can also enjoy refreshments at the Homemakers Club, where a stunning display of model wooden boats by artisan Donald Love will be featured.

Presale tickets are now available. Tickets can be purchased online until Dec. 10 at historicmelroseinc.org. They will also be available in person during the Merry Melrose Parade at the Daurer History Center on Dec. 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. On the day of the tour, tickets can be acquired at the Baldwin Store beginning at 12:30 p.m.

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Thomas Lyle Archer, 39, of Green Cove Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 5 for DUI, refusal to submit to a DUI test, resisting an officer without violence, a moving traffic violation, and child neglect.

Alyssa Ashlynn Barr, 25, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 4 for probation violations.

Glen Dewayne Burch, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for possession of cocaine and sale of cocaine.

Phillip Scott Burlew, 43, of Deville, Louisiana, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 1 for an out-of-county warrant.

Lawrence Leon Cleesen, 30, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug equipment, and tampering with evidence.

Leonardo Veto Dicandio, 39, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell

and possession of a controlled substance.

Ryan Ashley Gaskins, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 30 for failure to appear.

Jeffrey Carl Goodman, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 3 for failure to appear.

Karla Keisha Harper, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for public order crimes, sale of a controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance.

Steve Merwyn Hobson, 47, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 5 for possession of a controlled substance and an out-of-county warrant.

Mary Katherine Horsely, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for sale of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Syvella Dameatria Jackson, 52, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 3 for public order crimes, sale of opium or a derivative, and possession of opium or a derivative.

Devontay James Jefferson, 33, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Lawtey police on November 30 for a moving traffic violation.

Raymond Wayne Masey, 64, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 30 for failure to appear.

Jamie Diane McClellan, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for possession of cocaine, public order crimes, and selling cocaine.

Tammy Lynn Murrell, 58, of Waldo, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for selling cocaine and possession of a controlled substance.

Anastasia Nicole Nolan, 30, of Middleburg, was arrested by FHP troopers on November 29 for DUI, refusal to submit to a DUI test, and a moving traffic violation.

Barbara Jane Obrien, 57, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for an out-of-county warrant.

Melissa Dawn Pusateri, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 3 for possession of a controlled substance.

Charles Lee Rafuse, 41, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 5 for an out-of-county warrant.

Bradley Scott Rhoades, 36, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for multiple counts of possession and sale of controlled substances and public order crimes.

Elizabeth Faye Lenore Rivera, 29, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for public order crimes, delivery of a controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance.

Jeff Ruise, 61, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for possession of cocaine and selling cocaine.

Dustin Kane Seale, 47, of Bronson, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 4 for withholding support.

Victoria Marie Shores, 24, of Perry, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for fraud and dealing in stolen property.

Robert Lee Smith, 48, of

Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 1 for withholding support.

Anthony Wayne Terry, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for a probation violation.

Corey Sylvester Thomas, 47, of Melrose, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for withholding support.

John Kenneth Turknnett, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 4 for trafficking in controlled substances, possession of drug equipment, and withholding support.

Miranda Jean Varnum, 47, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for possession of a controlled substance, a moving traffic violation, and possession of drug equipment.

James Gordon Walker, 50, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 5 for a probation violation.

Charlotte Gay Wetherington, 56, of Waldo, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 1 for dealing in stolen property.

Union

Jessica Lauren Casciani, 36, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Union deputies on December 3 for failure to appear.

Jacob Riley Miller, 37, of Gainesville, was arrested by Union deputies on December 3 for an out-of-county warrant.

Dylan Bryce Shuler, 24, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on December 5 for a probation violation.

Lamont Rashad White, 35, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on December 1 for driving with a suspended or revoked license - habitual offender.

Clay

Tried to evade trespass warning

Lindsey Scott Frisk, 41, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on December 1 for trespassing in an occupied structure or conveyance.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, Frisk was issued a trespass warning from the BP at 6262 County Road 214 on February 8, 2025, after he harassed customers and threatened an employee.

On the night of April 2, 2025, a clerk recognized the defendant outside the store, even though he was wearing a black mask, because of prior encounters. Surveillance video and witness statements show Frisk loitering outside the store around 11:15 p.m.

Instead of entering himself, the defendant handed his debit card to two customers and asked them to buy items for him, telling them he was not allowed inside because he had been trespassing.

One customer, after being warned by the clerk that Frisk was banned, told the cashier he had recognized him. Frisk reportedly acknowledged the trespass warning, then began telling the customer that he was “the next messiah” before leaving on an orange electric scooter.

The clerk and both customers later positively identified Frisk in separate photo lineups.

Deputies located Frisk on December 1 and took him into custody without incident.

Roger Lee Hartley, 60, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 29 for a writ of attachment.

Patrick Earl Herring, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on November 29 for DUI.

Bradford students earn digital certifications

Abbigale Sellars	Abigail Bryzinski	Abigail Weck	Ace Crucillo	Achilles Crucillo	Allie Gunter
Allyson McCoy	Anthony Jones-Hampton	Brian Rodrigues-Montoya	Bryson Hill	Caitlan Billings	Caybel Goddard
Chason Van Allen	Christopher Andrews	Dilan Perez Clarkson	Elaina Smith	Elax Woods	Eli Weck
Elizabeth Wagner	Emerald Powell	Evan Franks	Grant Lawson	Grant Norman	Iyen Addison
Jaden Hendrieth	Jaelin Baker	Jaslene Coley	Jaydin Williams	Jaylin Weathers	Joleen Pressley
Jordin Arnold	Joseph Baker	Josey Hager	Ka'darius Holley	Kaden Ehlert	Kaedan Parks
Kahmyra Hankerson	Kailyn Incillo	Kassi Cannady	Kiersten Grace	Kiley Boulris	London Lawrence
Lydia Bland	Mackenna Davis	Makayla Pernel	Marissa Justice	Mary Scheppler	Maverick Carver

Nearly 70 Bradford High School students earned certifications in two technology areas this fall: computer device configuration and management, and visual design using Adobe Photoshop.

The school, in a news release, said these classes, part of Bradford High's career and technical education programs, have enabled students to earn highly recognized industry certifications that showcase both technical expertise

and real-world readiness.

“Device Configuration and Management certification, in particular, is a highly recognized industry certification that requires students to demonstrate mastery in configuring, securing, and maintaining devices, troubleshooting technical problems, and following professional IT workflows,” the school said. “Similarly, the Visual Design Using Adobe Photoshop

certification showcases students' creativity, design expertise, and ability to produce professional-quality digital graphics.

“These certifications aren't just pieces of paper,” said Steven Djavaheri, Digital Design and Digital Information Technology teacher. “They're proof that our students understand real-world technology, can manage devices

See BHS, page 7

Shining Stars of the Week!

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

Wren Whitlock
2nd Grade
Bradford Elementary
She comes to class ready to learn. She is determined, smart, kind and an all around great student!

Gannon Godwin
4th Grade
Lawtey Elementary
Gannon shines in our classroom every single day. He walks in with a positive attitude and gets straight to work, showing a level of responsibility and focus that truly stands out. Gannon is respectful toward his classmates and teachers, and he consistently makes choices that help our classroom run smoothly. We are so lucky to have you, Gannon. Thank you for being a leader and a wonderful example for others!

Christopher Underhill
2nd Grade
Starke Elementary
Christopher does a great job as a Safety Patrol and keeps all the students safe.

Braylon Bryant
3rd Grade
Light House Christian
"This is Braylon's second year at Light Christian Academy. He is a diligent student, and he is kind to those around him. He continues to grow in all areas, and we are happy that he attends L.C.A. He really is a shining star, and we expect that he will continue to shine all school year long."

Jennifer Valdez
K5
Hope Christian Academy
Jennifer is an amazing student. She works super hard and is a loving and caring friend.

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Clay school board begins work on code of conduct

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Clay County School Board will tackle a comprehensive review of its student code of conduct starting in February, beginning with bullying policies, officials said during a recent workshop.

Board member Michele Hanson proposed dividing the district's lengthy student handbook into separate elementary and secondary versions, similar to what other Florida districts have done.

"It's really long and no parents I know are ever reading it," Hanson said. "I feel it needs to be divided into two sections, where we have an elementary student code of conduct separate from a secondary student code of conduct."

The board member, who represents Keystone Heights and Middleburg, suggested creating one-page summaries with key information for parents to acknowledge electronically when they register their children at the start of each school year, similar to what Duval County

does.

"Communication is key for organizations to get better and smarter at what we do," she said.

The board agreed to begin with bullying policies in February, followed by homework and grading policies. Hanson said she wants universal procedures for bullying across all schools, noting the approach worked well with the district's cell phone policy.

"There's a bit of a fight in us to do the right thing for our students, but when we held them to a very high expectation, what happened? They rose," she said.

The board also plans to address truancy, discipline and classroom disruption policies, which Hanson said would have the biggest impact for teachers.

Hanson also suggested scheduling separate workshops dedicated to the student code of conduct rather than trying to cover everything during regular agenda review meetings, since the board must approve the updated code by April or May.

The discussion came during the board's December 1 workshop, where Superintendent David Broskie previewed a relatively light agenda for the upcoming December meeting — traditionally one of the shortest of the year.

In other business, the board discussed ways to improve communication with parents and the community. Hanson

suggested adding a "myth versus fact" section to the district's quarterly newsletter to address misconceptions about charter schools, school board roles, and other topics.

"There is a ton of misconception about what a school board does versus a superintendent," she said. "It helps people understand. You can imagine what conversation is like if people have no background knowledge."

The newsletter reaches thousands of readers; the last edition was opened more than 41,000 times, officials said.

Hanson also requested more differentiated professional development opportunities for veteran teachers on the district's semi-annual in-service days, suggesting master teachers could benefit from advanced workshops tailored to their experience level.

District officials said they already offer teacher choice sessions and incorporate teacher leaders into collaborative planning but welcomed suggestions for improvement.

The December board meeting will include recognitions for state swimming champions, the assistant principal of the year, and teacher and employee of the year semifinalists. Middleburg Elementary will be recognized as an exceeding expectations school.

KHHS career fair helps teens network toward their futures

BY JENN SAMSEL
jenn@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School hosted its 7th Annual Career and College Fair, helping students prepare for college and pursue careers after graduation.

This year's event, occurring on Wednesday, December 3, featured approximately 40 different businesses, colleges, and military branches.

Students in grades 9 through 12 had the opportunity to speak with representatives and learn about post-secondary opportunities.

"For the students, they have an idea of what they want to go into, and then they can go ahead and start networking and maybe build some connections with different employers, colleges, or military branches that they want to go into after they graduate," said Carley Feagle, College and Career Coach, Keystone Heights High School.

Kaylyn Chapman, a junior at KHHS, attended the career fair. Her goal is to become a special education teacher and attend the University of North Florida.

"I went over to the UNF table and talked to them, and they gave me a lot of papers, so I could talk to them about going through the whole process," she said.

Madallynn Glinski, following her classmate, is also looking at colleges that align with her career as a cardiac stenographer, helping people with cardiac and cardiovascular problems. She is considering attending Santa Fe Community College.

"Keystone Heights Junior Senior High put this on today so we could learn more about college and careers and what we want to do in our next step," she said.

Mindie Roberts, Human Resources Consultant, Capital City Bank, said her company has made direct hires from the fair in the past.

"I will tell you that in the last five years that I've been working with Ginger Lee, Capital City Bank, Client Experience Manager, she has recruited two students, one right out of high school. She stayed with us for about a year, grew her career, and then moved on to another career, and then another one. She is still working with us and growing her career that came right out of high school," said Roberts.

Alongside the career fair, many students will have the opportunity to learn how to

write resumes and cover letters, as well as participate in real-life mock interviews with actual businesses. This experience will help them gain insights into the real world after graduating from high school.

Capital City Bank is one of the employers participating in next year's mock interview process organized by the Student Advisory Council. This initiative helps students with interviewing techniques, resume building, and dressing for success in the real world.

"We teach and help them to build resumes. What they do in high school, the grades they get, the committees they're on, the clubs they join, being the captain of their softball team are career choices that they can put on their resume for college and for the workforce afterwards," said Roberts.

The community advocate and event planner for the Keystone Heights RV Resort said she was helping students learn about trade schools and offered them part-time jobs during the summer.

"Trying to get them to try pretty much everything with jobs and everything they want," said Helen Lavarway.

"They could be electricians, maintenance, mechanics, anything that's affordable for them, because college is expensive these days. I love helping the students."

Recognizing the demand for careers in fire, EMT, and law enforcement, Santa Fe College representatives encouraged students to become licensed in those fields.

"I've been with the college for 30 years, and we help navigate the process of the application. We train first responders, so students who want to go into a life of service, a good choice, and to serve the community," said Tom Mason, Advisor for



Helen Lavarway (right) and Lenore Nepveu of the Keystone Heights RV Resort.



Mindie Roberts (right) and Ginger Lee of Capital City Bank.



Tom Mason, Sayuri Anderson, and Jenny Wideman of Santa Fe College.

Keystone lands \$60K grant for comp. plan

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Planning and Zoning Board adjusted its comprehensive plan update timeline after learning it had received a \$60,000 planning grant from Florida Commerce, officials said during their November 24 meeting.

The grant will offset city staff costs for the comprehensive plan revision, required by state statute every seven years.

City Planner Janice Fleet said that of the 415 Florida municipalities, only 20 received the award.

"They were looking for ones that are rural," she said. "We have been lucky enough to be designated as rural in an urban county. Nobody else in Clay County could have applied for it."

The grant comes with specific deliverables and deadlines, requiring the board to step back slightly from its original timeline.

The city must complete the comprehensive plan update by June 30, the end of the state's fiscal year.

However, recent state legislation has complicated the process. Senate Bill 180, passed

last year under the stated purpose of hurricane preparedness, prohibits municipalities from making comprehensive plans more restrictive than previous versions. Several Florida communities have had their updated plans rejected for minor changes the state deemed too restrictive.

"We're hearing horror stories from planners throughout the state," Fleet said. "Any change is being considered more restrictive."

Fleet added that what was described as minor changes to Orange Park's comp. plan was rejected because of SB 180.

The legislation has forced planning staffs across the state to carefully review all proposed changes to their land use plans.

Fleet said she is also reviewing Keystone's proposed changes.

"We're going through them very judiciously to make sure how they're going to be affected by Senate Bill 180," Fleet said. "Your work has not been in vain, but it might take a while before you see the results."

Board members expressed frustration with the constraints.

"Over my dead body," will the board simply rubber-stamp the previous plan, Chair John Zieser

said, though he acknowledged the need to defer to staff expertise on navigating the new restrictions.

The board's immediate assignment is to review the city's future land-use map and consider whether the current land-use categories make sense.

Fleet specifically asked members to examine the mixed-use designation in the downtown area, which currently requires a 50-50 split between residential and commercial development.

"That requirement is hurting development, not promoting development," Fleet said.

She suggested creating a "commercial downtown" category that would allow residential but not mandate it, similar to what neighboring Green Cove Springs has implemented.

The grant also requires the city to develop a public engagement plan. Board members suggested reaching out to churches, civic organizations like Kiwanis and Rotary, the Lake Region Prosperity Partners, schools, and parent-teacher associations.

"We need to think about how to engage those who don't normally engage," board member Dr. Geraldine Robbins said.

KORNEGAY Continued from page 1

workforce. She was awarded the Community Service Award from the Lake County Chamber Alliance of Education, the Star Superintendent Award from the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, and the Leesburg Chamber of Commerce Education Award, among others. Kornegay has served on the board of directors of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents since 2019 and currently serves as vice president.

Superintendents Association President and Miami-Dade County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jose Dotres said Kornegay is a true servant-leader committed to educational excellence.

"Superintendent Kornegay leads with compassion and conviction, driven by a work ethic grounded in servant leadership and a commitment to educational excellence," Dotres said. "Her philosophy that the work of a superintendent and public educators 'has to be done as if there is no tomorrow because we only get one chance with these kids', clearly exemplifies her dedication to public education."

Kornegay said she is humbled by the honor.

"It is a privilege to be chosen among a class of outstanding and dedicated superintendents



(L-R) Florida Association of District School Superintendents President and Miami-Dade County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jose Dotres, the 2026 Superintendent of the Year, Lake County Public Schools Superintendent Diane Kornegay, and Florida Association of District School Superintendents CEO Senator Bill Montford.

in this state, who are fiercely committed to ensuring academic excellence and opportunities for all students," she said. "This recognition is truly an honor personally, but more so, it reflects the outstanding achievements and tireless work of everyone who makes up Lake County Public Schools."

Lake County lies north and west of the Orlando metropolitan

area and has a population of nearly 400,000. Principal communities include The Villages, Eustis, Mt. Dora, Leesburg, Tavares, and Clermont.

Kornegay is a Bradford County resident and is married to Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay.

on the treatment facility at Camp Blanding. He said that with four out of six cells complete, Cell 6 is 30% complete, and Cell 5 is not far behind.

The director added that workers recently made improvements to the outflow structure leading into Alligator Creek to reduce erosion.

CREEK Continued from page 1

district to make withdrawals from the stream.

"I'm happy to report that right now, we're pumping at about two and a half million gallons per day, and it's going

out through the outfall into Alligator Creek," he said. "We have surface water monitoring downstream at our first compliance point, and so far, that looks good. We'll continue to pump water, treat it, and put it into Alligator Creek as long as we are above the 25 cubic feet per second threshold."

Jenkins also reported progress

BHS Continued from page 6

and systems like professionals, and have the confidence to succeed in any tech-focused environment. Our students have shown dedication, persistence, and creativity in every step of the process."

The school said that for many students, earning these certifications was more than a personal goal; it was a

demonstration of Bradford High's commitment to fostering a supportive environment where ambition is nurtured, and success is expected.

"Being able to earn my certification while still in high school feels incredible," said Jaelin Baker, who earned her Adobe Photoshop certification in Visual Design. "It shows that all the practicing, all the projects, and troubleshooting really paid off. I feel ready to take on college and follow my dream of pursuing a career in fashion design."

The school's career and technical education offerings also include criminal justice, welding, and nursing.

"Bradford High is proud of every student who challenged themselves this year," said Principal Chris Coffey. "Our CTE programs give students a competitive edge, not just in the classroom, but in life. These certifications are proof of the hard work, talent, and resilience of our students and staff."





Russ WADE

Attorney at Law

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

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BHS recognizes 4 AICE grads and other program participants

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Laila Hill, Kayla Mueller, Alixyah Nicolas and Ryland Rike were recognized as Bradford High School's first-ever Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education Program graduates

during a Nov. 18 ceremony in the school's auditorium.

The four students, who passed seven AICE exams, are eligible for Bright Futures Florida Academic scholarships, which pay for 100 percent of tuition.

Bradford has another 15 students who are program

completers — students who've passed some exams, but not the seven required to be program graduates. Those students are Wyatt Acevedo, Isabella Brennen, Daelyn Cornwall, Mailia Deese, Evan Franks, Rachel Hager, Koy Hartley, Camron Newman, Diego Ochoa, James Powell, Amy Prescott, Summer Martin, Kailyn Teal, Addison Thornton and Charlie Zink. Principal Chris Coffey said 13 of those students are on track to join Hill, Mueller, Nicolas and Rike as program graduates by the end of this school year.

Students participating in the Cambridge AICE Program earn college credits as well as high school credits by passing exams. With 136 students passing 136 AICE exams in the 2024-25 school year, it is estimated they saved approximately \$90,000 in college tuition. All of Bradford's full-time AICE Program students



Ryland Rike, Kayla Mueller, Laila Hill, Alixyah Nicolas (l-r) are Bradford High School's first-ever AICE diploma recipients.

See AICE, page 11



Passing the AICE Global Perspectives exam were (front, l-r) Landon King, Laila Hill, Kayla Mueller, Ryland Rike, Emmalee Yates, Amy Prescott, (back, l-r) Evan Franks, Jamiee Lin, Daelyn Cornwall, Camron Newman, Alixyah Nicolas and Diego Ochoa. Not pictured: Summer Martin and Kelsey Reddish.



Passing the AICE English Language exam were (front, l-r) Amy Prescott, Kayla Mueller, Emmalee Yates, (back, l-r) Ryland Rike, Daelyn Cornwall, Evan Franks, Laila Hill, Camron Newman and Alixyah Nicolas. Not pictured: Isabella Brennan.



Passing the AICE English General Paper exam were (front l-r) Bryston Williams, Donald Painter, Remington Redding, (middle, l-r) Kadynce Brown, Brylee Gibson, William Warren and Sevon Smart, (back, l-r) Rowan Butler, Trevor Clements, Mackenna Davis, Hayden Goodwin, Victoria Hudgens, Brooke Rodriguez and Samuel Stephens. Not pictured: Drake Benejam, Amber Boenert, Jo'vanni Borelli-Simms, Skylia Buonacore, Delana Callan, Dillan Perez Clarkson, Emalyn Crawford, Kaydence Crawford, Harley Grantz, Tucker Griffis, Brandy Hall, Jashiyah Hendrieth, Ella Hense, Ariana Lee, Leskai Padilla, Hayden Paris, Patrick Pendarvis, Sarah Rantz, Hailey Redding, Reece Scoggins, Bailey Smith, Zachary Wells and Julia Zurfluh.



Passing the AICE Thinking Skills exam were (front, l-r) Rowan Butler, Donald Painter, Bryston Williams, (back, l-r) Brylee Gibson, Hayden Goodwin, Trevor Clements, Victoria Hudgens, Brooke Rodriguez and Samuel Stephens. Not pictured: Steven Carter, Emalyn Crawford, Kaydence Crawford, Harley Grantz, Tucker Griffis, Brandy Hall, Ariana Lee, Hayden Paris, Henry Prescott, Hailey Redding, Koen Reddish, Zachary Wells and Julia Zurfluh.

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Obituaries

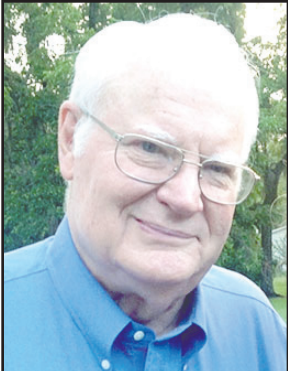
Robert H. Bell

Robert Hovey Bell, 90, of Melrose died Monday, Nov. 24, 2025. He served in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard and was a minister for over 40 years at Keystone Heights Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his son, James Robert Bell; and wife, Patsy Carolyn Carlton Bell.

Survivors are his wife, Rebecca J. (Newman) Bell; daughter, Joy Carol Bell (Martin) Hurewitz; and extended family.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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



Alina Gonzalez

Alina Camryn Gonzalez, 25, of Starke passed away Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, at UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville. She was born on April 22, 2000, in Gainesville to her loving parents, Jose Juan Gonzalez and Yvonne Bias Gonzalez. Alina was a lifelong resident of Bradford County and graduated from Bradford High School in 2018. Following school, she pursued a career centered on serving and helping others, something that came naturally to her kind and generous spirit. She was currently serving at Keystone Camp and Conference Center, a division of the Salvation Army, where she served in many capacities, including housekeeping, food preparation, and assisting with day-to-day operations. No matter what the task, she approached her work with diligence, dedication, and a heart for service. She was known for her critical thinking, as she was easily able to solve situations and problems. She had a beautiful soul and always put others’ needs before her own. She was someone people found easy to confide in, never judgmental, always understanding, and she brought humor to her conversations. Her warm presence could light up every room. She loved attending Cross Church, where she recently accepted Christ into her heart and was preparing to be baptized on Sunday. Her life was centered around her Lord and Savior, and she used every opportunity to share the good news of salvation. More than anything, she cherished being a mother and loved spending time with her children, all her family, and her friends. Alina was deeply loved and will be forever missed. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Thelma Younger and Leo Roy Bias; and paternal grandparents, Piadad Gutierrez Gonzalez and Sotero Gonzalez.

She is survived by her parents, Jose Juan (Noemi) Gonzalez of Hampton and Yvonne Gonzalez of Starke; children, Adene Gonzalez, Alvin Banks James IV, and Melea Lee all of Starke; brothers, Jeremy (Jacie) Bias of Middleburg, Julian Martinez of Green Cove Springs, and Sotero Gonzalez of Starke; nieces, Effie Bias, Mila Thelma Jane Martinez, and Roena May Martinez; nephews, Osee Bias and Shaw Bias; along with many extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Alina’s Life will be held Thursday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, with Pastor Justin Durrance officiating. Interment will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday an hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

Glen Preuhs

Glen Preuhs, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully surrounded by family. He lived a full and active life, marked by love, laughter, and service to others. He was born and raised in Le Sueur, Minnesota, where he attended a country school for grade school and later graduated from Le Sueur Public School. He enjoyed roller skating and even competed at the national level in Washington, D.C. Glen met the love of his life, Dessa, at a bowling alley in Madelia, Minnesota. He often said that when he saw her, he knew immediately he was going to marry her. They wed on July 3, 1963, at the Presbyterian church in Madelia. After their marriage, he and Dessa moved to Red Wing, Minnesota, where they raised their two daughters and later welcomed their son. They eventually settled in Frontenac, Minnesota, building their first home, the iconic A-frame, where they became active members of the local church. Glen sang in the church choir, played on the church softball league, and cherished his mornings at the Whistle Stop Café with “The Frontenac Boys.” Later, Glen and Dessa built a second home near the Villa Maria, where Glen generously helped the sisters with maintenance and repairs. In 1995, after Dessa’s retirement, they moved to Starke, where Glen quickly became part of the community, finding a favorite coffee shop and making lifelong friends. In 2003, they built their third home in Keystone Heights, surrounded by friends who became family. Glen loved camping and made annual summer trips to Minnesota to visit loved ones and enjoy the outdoors, a tradition that began with the first camper he bought the year he married Dessa. Glen was preceded in death by his children, Susan Marie Blomstrom, Nancy Ann Hale and Tony Glen Preuhs; and his great-grandson, Devlyn Glen Voss.

He is survived by his granddaughters, Tracy (David) van Eijl of Rochester, Minnesota, and Jessi Voss of St. Paul, Minnesota; great-grandchildren, Graham Gillmore of Long Beach, California, Vivian (Sam) Tillinghast of Plainview, Minnesota, and Francesca and Escher van Eijl; his sisters, Shari “Jeannie” (Ed) Nytes of New Prague, Minnesota and Roxanne (Gordon) Schultz of Mankato, Minnesota; as well as three nieces, Jenna, Robin, and Rhoda; and one nephew, Shannon.

Glen’s life was filled with hobbies and passions: hunting, boating, fishing, snowmobiling, motorcycling, bowling, golfing, and woodworking. He built three homes and maintained an impressive woodworking shop. Known for his kind nature, Glen was always ready to lend a helping hand, solve problems, and offer thoughtful advice without judgment. He loved the outdoors, cherished family traditions, and created countless memories, like the whipped-cream fight with his sisters at Thanksgiving and helping with the fall harvest every year. Glen will be remembered for his generosity, humor, and unwavering love for family and friends. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the homes he built.

The family will have a time of fellowship with coffee and light refreshments on Saturday, Dec. 13, beginning at 10 a.m., with a memorial service following at 11 a.m. at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke, 620 Nona St., Starke, 32656. 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Cathy Ruth Sistrunk

Mrs. Cathy Ruth Sistrunk, 78 of Keystone Heights passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, following an extended illness. She was born Feb. 4, 1947, in Jacksonville, to the late Edgar and Annabelle (Hale) Rawls and spent her life bringing joy and knowledge to those around her. She was a proud, longtime resident of Keystone Heights, where she made countless memories and connections. As a dedicated speech language pathologist, Cathy found her calling working with elementary school students, crafting special language programs that uplifted and empowered children with disabilities. Her career as her pinnacle was developing language with pre-school handicapped children. Her passion for teaching extended beyond her career. For 10 years, she led a women’s Bible study at Keystone Heights Methodist Church, where her warmth and wisdom touched many lives. She was also an avid reader and a vibrant member of the local book club and birthday club.

She is survived by her loving husband of 57 wonderful and loving years, Albert Sistrunk of Keystone Heights; and their children, Rob (Catrina) Sistrunk of Williston, Betsy (Joe) Condon of Keystone Heights, and Andy (Elise Paulson) Sistrunk of DeLand; and her brother, Edgar (Kathy) Rawls of St. Petersburg. Also left behind is her nephew, Edgar “Tra” (Marion) Rawls III; and niece, Kemper (James) Seay. As “Nana” to her “Darling Boys,” Robbie (Emily) Sistrunk, Brad Perkins, Joseph Sistrunk, Davey Sistrunk, Adam Sistrunk, Aidan Perkins, T.J. Sistrunk, and D.J. (Hada) Condon, she cherished every moment spent with them, sharing laughter and love that will forever echo in their hearts.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at Keystone Heights Methodist Church, with Pastor James Taylor officiating. A small reception will follow the service in the family life center. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to Lake Area Ministries, P.O. Box 1385, Keystone Heights, 32656.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Ursula Vuckovic

Celebrating a Life Rooted in Faith and Love. In Loving Memory of Ursula Ingeburg Pahn Vuckovic, lovingly known as Omi, was born March 10, 1942, and was called home to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025. Her life was a testament to the power of faith, the strength of love, and the beauty of a soul devoted to Jesus Christ. A Life Full of Joy and Prayer radiated warmth, kindness, and a joy that lifted the spirits of everyone around her. Her greatest treasures were her children, whom she cherished with all her heart, and her husband, Karlo - her rock, always by her side. Every moment spent with us was precious, and she made sure her love was felt deeply and consistently. Her faith in Jesus was the cornerstone of her life. She found profound peace and purpose in her relationship with Jesus, and she joyfully dedicated herself to prayer, making it her mission to lift her children before the Lord each and every day. Her prayers were woven into the fabric of her family’s life, a spiritual legacy that endures beyond her years on earth. A Gospel-Centered Legacy -Ursula’s life was marked by a steadfast belief in the gospel, the good news that Jesus Christ loves, redeems, and saves. She modeled this truth in the way she lived, always seeking to reflect Christ’s love and compassion to those around her. Through trials and triumphs, her trust in God never wavered, and her faith encouraged others to pursue a deeper relationship with Him. Her unwavering commitment to prayer and her devotion to her family were grounded in her understanding of God’s grace. Omi’s legacy is one of faithfulness, hope, and unconditional love, a legacy that invites all who knew her to embrace the promises of the gospel and find comfort in God’s eternal care. Remembering Omi -Ursula will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who were blessed by her presence. Though we mourn her passing, we rejoice in the assurance that she is now at peace, embraced by the love of her Savior. Her prayers, her laughter, and her unwavering faith will remain with us, guiding and uplifting us as we walk our own journeys of faith. As we honor mom’s life, we celebrate not only the remarkable woman she was, but also the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ-the foundation on which she built her life and the joy she now knows in His presence. Until we see you again, Mom, we thank God for the gift of your love and the example of your faith. In a minute.

Ursula is survived by her husband, Karlo Vuckovic; her daughter, Christine Meadows; her daughter, Heidi McGee, her son Ivan Vuckovic; her son, Mark Vuckovic; and her 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mrs. Vuckovic will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Lake Area Bible Church, with her son, Mark Vuckovic, officiating. Interment will be private at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

If you would like to donate to the care of her husband, Karlo Vuckovic, please send a cash gift in lieu of flowers. Venmo @Mark-Vuckovic, Zelle: 407-592-9826, Cash App: \$MarkVuckovic

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

PAID OBITUARY

Billie Elaine Yon

Mrs. Billie Elaine Yon, 79, of Starke passed away Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, at Haven Hospice Custead Care Center in Orange Park. She was born Aug. 10, 1946, in Memphis, Tennessee, to the late Finas Mary (Hudspeth) Shoemaker. Billie lived a vibrant life and spent many years in Starke, where she created countless cherished memories with her family and friends. She dedicated her career to the banking industry as a money manager at TD Bank. Those who knew her will remember her as a caring and devoted “Nana” to her beloved grandchildren, Cody, John, Bryan, and Jacob. She also had a special place in her heart for her late grandson, Josh, who brought her much joy during his life. A lifelong Southern Baptist, she was baptized at Madison Street Baptist Church, where her faith guided her through both good times and challenging moments. She had a zest for life, whether she was curled up with a good book, enjoying her favorite snacks of popcorn and chocolate, or sipping on a Dr. Pepper while binging on Netflix, she always found joy in the little things.

She is survived by her loving daughters, Tammy (John) Crawford and Lisa (Timothy) Nugent; and sisters, Mildred “Betty” Grace, Linda Corey, and Barbara Petty. Together, they will carry on her legacy of love and laughter.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, details of which will be shared with family and friends.

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

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Curtis A. “Lex” Sanders Attorney at Law



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KHHS girls still undefeated after 43-34 win over Baldwin

BY CLIFF SMELLEY

cliff@bctelegraph.com

Daisy Hubbard and Rigby Morford came close to posting double-doubles for the Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team, which defeated host Baldwin for a 43-34 District 3-3A win on Dec. 5.

The Indians (4-0) got consecutive three-pointers from Hubbard to take an 14-2 lead in the first half.

Baldwin (1-5) would then outscore Keystone 14-5 as the Indians took just a three-point lead into halftime.

Raven Bastin knocked down a trey to break a 21-21 tie in the third quarter and later made another shot from beyond the arc to give Keystone a 38-30 lead in the fourth.

Bastin and Hubbard each finished with two three-pointers.

Hubbard led the Indians with nine points, while also grabbing a team-high 13 rebounds.

Bastin and Morford each had eight points, with Morford adding eight rebounds and two blocked shots.

Grace Keaton and Alexandra Papaioannou each finished with four points, while the following had two each: Kadence Massey, Maria Papaioannou and Melissa Williams.

Massey also grabbed eight rebounds and led the team in assists with eight. She and Bastin each had a team-high two steals.

Keystone entered the game off a 44-12 win over visiting Duval Charter on Dec. 2. Hubbard led the team with 11 points, while the Indians also got eight from Alexandra Papaioannou, six from Maria Papaioannou, five from Massey, four from Arianna Denmark, three from Bastin, two each from Keaton, Morford and Kirsten Lavin and one from Williams.

Maria Papaioannou led the Indians in rebounds with eight, while Alexandra Papaioannou led the team in steals with six.

Massey and Bastin had four and three steals, respectively, while Keystone also got two blocked shots each from Massey and Maria Papaioannou.

The Indians host West Nassau on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. and will travel to play district opponent Palatka on Friday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 15, Keystone hosts Clay at 7 p.m.

5 score in double figures for UCHS boys in 71-62 win over Hamilton

BY CLIFF SMELLEY

cliff@bctelegraph.com

Tyrese Chandler led five players with double-digit points as the Union County High School boys basketball team improved to 2-0 with a 71-62 win at Hamilton County on Dec. 5.

The Tigers trailed by six at halftime, but outscored Hamilton 20-12 in the third quarter to go up 50-48. Union then outscored

the Trojans 21-14 in the final quarter.

Chandler scored 19 points, while R.J. Odom and Garrison Smith each had 12 points. Adrian Manns and Montrell Woods had 11 and 10 points, respectively, while Jackson Andersen-Davis added six points.

It was a double-double for Woods, who grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds. Manns and Chandler finished with nine and seven rebounds, respectively.

Odom and Smith led the Tigers in assists with seven each, with Smith also coming away with a team-high five steals.

Woods and Odom had four and three steals, respectively.

Union will host Fort White on Friday, Dec. 12, and Branford on Saturday, Dec. 13. Both games will tip off at 7:30 p.m. following junior varsity games at 6 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 15, the Tigers host Dixie County in a triple header, with the JV boys playing at 4:30 p.m., the varsity girls playing at 6 p.m. and the varsity boys playing at 7:30 p.m.

BHS can’t keep up with Hilliard in girls hoops

BY CLIFF SMELLEY

cliff@bctelegraph.com

It was a rough night for the Bradford High School girls basketball team, which fell 66-30 to visiting Hilliard on Dec. 4.

Hilliard (5-2), a Rural Class team that made it to the state semifinals last season, built a nine-point lead in the first quarter and pushed the margin to double digits in the second.

The Tornadoes (2-2) were plagued by turnovers (29) and got almost their entire offense from one player — Ar’Nayshia Griffin, who finished with 20 points.

Bradford got off to a good start, with Griffin scoring off an offensive rebound and then driving to the basket for another two points. A free throw by Griffin later put the Tornadoes ahead 5-1.

The Red Flashes got their first basket from Charlee Matos, which was followed by Reah Saunders scoring off a steal, tying it up at 5-5.

Consecutive turnovers by Bradford led to Matos scoring off an offensive rebound and Saunders scoring on a layup, putting the Flashes up 9-3.

Hilliard had one offensive possession on which it grabbed four offensive rebounds, with the fourth by Kailyn Balance resulting in a basket and an 11-5 lead.

The Tornadoes’ Ky’lee Johnson had a layup off a Griffin assist to make it a four-point game, but Hilliard scored seven of the next nine points to take an 18-9 lead into the second quarter.

Matos scored two consecutive baskets off turnovers to give Hilliard a 24-12 lead. The Flashes would go into the half up 26-15.

Hilliard made two three-pointers following turnovers to start the second half and outscored the Tornadoes 17-7 to take a 43-22 lead into the final quarter.

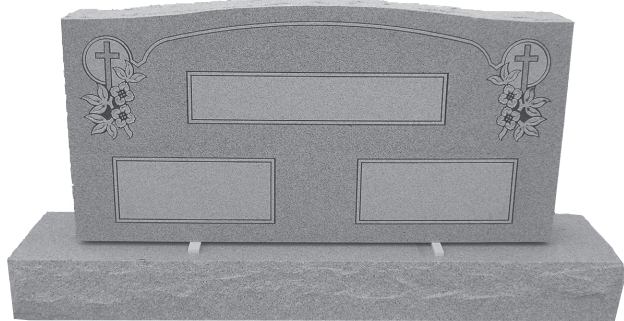
The Flashes finished with 36 points off turnovers.

Griffin, who scored nine of

See BHS, page 10

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Lam’s 3 goals help KHHS end 2-match skid in girls soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Halea Lam scored three goals as the Keystone Heights High School girls soccer team snapped a two-match losing streak with an 8-0 win over visiting Palatka on Dec. 8.

The Indians (4-5-2) got one goal each from Parker Collins, Evie Hallberg, Kayden Huntley, Kaylee Park and Lilly Waters.

Huntley led the team in assists with three, while Kayle Buchanan had two. Waters and Sarah Izaguirre each had one assist.

Xana Briley made three saves

in goal, while Kylie Norman made one.

The Keystone junior varsity team also took an 8-0 win over Palatka. Callie Yerkes had two goals, while Jalynn Kurtzo, Juliette Marini, Abbygelle McGee, Adalyn Phillips, Cecilia Taylor and Akyria Wilson each had one.

On Dec. 2, the Indians traveled to play Ridgeview, with the varsity team losing 3-2 and the JV team winning 7-0.

Park scored both goals for the varsity team, which also got 25 saves from Briley.

Kurtzo led the JV team with two goals, while Marini, McGee, Wilson, Serenity Collins and Aleah Hallberg each had one.

The JV and varsity teams will play home matches against Interlachen on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Indians drop 2nd straight in boys soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School was held to one goal for the second straight matching in a 4-1 loss at P.K. Yonge on Dec. 5.

Sammy Wach a had the lone score off a Ryder Thomas assist.

Keystone (4-6-1) entered the match off a 6-1 loss to visiting Nease on Dec. 3, with the one goal coming from Kipton Spence.

The junior varsity team lost 8-0 to both Nease and P.K. Yonge.

Keystone’s varsity team played Trenton this past Tuesday and Fernandina Beach this past Wednesday. The Indians will play at Bell on Friday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. following a junior

high match at 5:30 p.m.

The varsity Indians will host Interlachen on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

KHHS’ Contes places 2nd at tournament

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School wrestlers participated in the Dec. 5-6 Arlington Optimist Invitational in Jacksonville, with Atreyu Contes earning a second-place finish.

Contes, who wrestled in the 126-pound class, pinned Noah Lee of St. Augustine in 3:54 after a first-round bye. He then pinned Trae Ison of First Coast of in 3:26. That put Contes in the championship match, where

he lost to Leonardo Torres of Stanton Prep by a 22-6 technical fall.

Mikey McCall went 2-2 in the 138 class. After an opening-round loss, he won two straight, pinning Juan Venancio of Atlantic Coast in 1:26 and pinning Keir Mangram of Ed White in 49 seconds. McCall then lost 5-0 to Mason Kaye of Atlantic Coast.

Arthur Durning, wrestling

in the 144 class, also went 2-2. He began with a pin over Max Santiago of Cornerstone in 1:42. After he was pinned in 2:57 by Josecarlos Martinez of Stanton Prep, Durning bounced back by pinning Ayden Prehaska of Baker County in 26 seconds. Durning was then pinned in 1:28 by Trokhym Tkakchenko of Beachside.

BHS Continued from page 9

the Tornadoes’ 15 second-half points, led the team in rebounds with 11. She also had a team-high three steals.

Kha’myra Hankerson had three points for Bradford, while Johnson and Nyasia Lopey each had two. A’Drionna Hankerson

added one point. Hilliard’s Matos led all scorers with 24 points.

Bradford, which was scheduled to play at Newberry on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m., will travel to play Baker County on Friday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. The Tornadoes then return home for 7 p.m. games against Palatka on Monday, Dec. 15, and P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Dec. 11, 2025

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 25000366CAAXMX
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC,
Plaintiff,

vs. JOHN ROSS DELOTELLE A/K/A JOHN R. DELOTELLE, et. al.,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO: JOHN ROSS DELOTELLE A/K/A JOHN R. DELOTELLE, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN ROSS DELOTELLE A/K/A JOHN R. DELOTELLE, whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property: LOTS 1, 2, 15 AND 16 OF BLOCK 5 OF HAMPTON, FLORIDA, A SUBDIVISION RECORDED IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Bradford County, Florida, this 21 day of November, 2025.
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100
Boca Raton, FL 33487
PRIMARY EMAIL: fmail@raslg.com
THIS NOTICE SHALL BE PUBLISHED ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.
PUBLISH IN: BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH
DENNY THOMPSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
DEPUTY CLERK

12/4 2tchg-12/11-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 2024000431CAAXMX
PROVIDENT FUNDING ASSOCIATES, L.P.
Plaintiff,

vs. PAUL MCDAVID AKA PAUL G. MCDAVID AKA PAUL GLEN MCDAVID, et. al.,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in Case No. 2024000431CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein, PROVIDENT FUNDING ASSOCIATES, L.P., Plaintiff, and PAUL MCDAVID AKA PAUL G. MCDAVID AKA PAUL GLEN MCDAVID, et. al., are Defendants, Clerk of Circuit Court, Denny Thompson, will sell to the highest bidder for cash at the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, on **January 9, 2026** at 11:00 AM, the following described property: A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST

CORNER OF SAID SECTION 25 FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE; THENCE RUN SOUTHERLY ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 25 FOR A DISTANCE OF 3.24 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE CENTERLINE OF STATE ROAD NO. S-231, SAID POINT OF INTERSECTION BEING IN A CURVE HAVING A DELTA OF 1 DEGREE 56 MINUTES 40 SECONDS, A RADIUS OF 22918.31 FEET AND A TANGENT OF 390.04 FEET; THENCE RUN EASTERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE AN ARC DISTANCE OF 390.00 FEET TO THE P.T. OF SAID CURVE; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 1680.90 FEET TO THE P.C. OF A CURVE; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST, 400.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 8 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 28 SECONDS EAST, 12.30 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID POINT LYING 40.09 FEET RADIALLY SOUTH OF THE CENTERLINE OF SAID STATE ROAD NO. S-231; THENCE RUN SOUTH 8 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 28 SECONDS EAST, 548.66 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 87 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 25 SECONDS EAST 398.49 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 8 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST 548.66 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 87 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST, 398.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, must file a claim per the requirements set forth in FL Stat. 45.302.
DATED this 20th day of November, 2025.
GREENSPOON MARDER, LLP
100 W. Cypress Creek Road, Suite 700
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Telephone: (954) 491-1120
Hearing Line: (888) 491-1120
Facsimile: (954) 343-6982
Email: gmforeclosure@gmlaw.com
Email: Michele.Clancy@gmlaw.com
By: */s/ Michele R. Clancy*
Michele R. Clancy, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 498661
24-002694-01 / 41176.0188 / Jean Schwartz

IMPORTANT
Publish in: Bradford County Telegraph
Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337-6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

12/4 2tchg 12/11-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on December 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM, inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.

12/11 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 04-2025-DP-000006
IN THE INTEREST OF:
A.L.B. DOB: 4/8/2017,
B.B. DOB: 3/8/2020,

MINOR CHILDREN
NOTICE OF ACTION
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

TO: Alyssa Barr, address unknown
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights and permanently commit the following children for adoption: **A.L.B. born on 4/8/2017 and B.B. born on 3/8/2020.** You are hereby **commanded** to appear on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 1:30 PM** before the General Magistrate Bridget Baker at the Bradford Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, for an **ADVISORY HEARING**. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THESE CHILDREN. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILDREN NAMED IN THIS NOTICE.

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

WITNESS, my hand as Clerk of said Court and the Seal thereof, this 1st day of December, 2025.
Denny Thompson, Clerk of Court
By: Ramona Jefferson
As Deputy Clerk

12/11 4tchg 01/01/26- BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 04-2025-CA-326
JOHN M. MILLER as TRUSTEE of the REVOCABLE TRUST OF JOHN M. MILLER, U/A/D 7/16/1980, Plaintiff,

vs. CONSTANCE HURSTON & CYNTHIA S. BROWN, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
(Publish in Bradford County Telegraph)

TO: Constance Hurston
Last Known Residence: 409 Lakeshore Drive, Starke, Florida 32091

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in BRADFORD County, Florida: Bradford County Parcel ID Number: 00804-0-03600
Lot 36 of LAKEWOOD UNIT NO. 1 according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 58 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida. Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Charles Daniel Sikes, P.A., Plaintiff's Attorney, at 817 MacMahon Street, Starke, Florida 32091, within (30) days of the first date of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED December 9, 2025
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
Deputy Clerk

12/11 4tchg 1/1/26-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 04-2025-CA-435
THE BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH, INC., Plaintiff,

vs. [Name Redacted]

GGG INNOVATIVE SERVICES, LLC Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION
(Publish in Bradford County Telegraph)

TO: SMD BILLING MANAGEMENT, LLC., as registered agent for GGG INNOVATIVE SERVICE, LLC. Last Known Residence: 320-A South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in BRADFORD County, Florida: Bradford County Parcel ID Number: 03142-0-00000

A Parcel of land and lying partly in Block 30 of the Original Town of Starke as per Plat recorded in Deed Book N, Page 759 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida and partly in the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East of said County, said Parcel bring more particularly described as follows:

Commence at an iron pipe located at the Northeast corner of said Block 30 and run South 17 degrees 20 minutes and 18 seconds West, along the Easterly boundary thereof and the Westerly boundary of the Right-of-Way of Thompson Street, 124.22 feet to a set 1/2 inch Iron Rod (LB4012) for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described continue South 17 degrees 20 minutes and 18 seconds West, along said Westerly boundary 154.85 feet to a found 1/2 inch Rebar (Welch & Assoc.); thence North 71 degrees 56 minutes 19 seconds West, 104.51 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Rod (Welch & Assoc.); thence North 72 degrees 24 minutes 34 seconds West, 31.63 feet to a found 1 inch Iron Pipe (NO ID); thence North 70 degrees 25 minutes and 24 seconds West, 72.56 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Pipe (NO ID) located on the Easterly boundary of the Right-of-Way of Walnut Street (60foot R/W); thence North 16 degrees 36 minutes and 18 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary 271.21 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Rod (NO ID) located at an intersection with the Southerly boundary of the Right-of-Way of South Street (60 foot R/W) and the Northerly boundary of said Block 30; thence South 73 degrees 37 minutes and 52 seconds East, along said Northerly & Southerly boundaries 76.17 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Rod (#5098); thence South 16 degrees 44 minutes and 25 seconds West, 124.09 feet to a set 1/2 Iron Rod (LB4012); thence South 73 degrees 34 minutes and 50 seconds East, 134.67 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Charles Daniel Sikes, P.A., Plaintiff's Attorney, at 817 MacMahon Street, Starke, Florida 32091, within (30) days of the first date of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

DATED: December 9, 2025
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
DEPUTY CLERK

12/11 4tchg 1/1/26-BCT

UNION

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO. 2025-CP-24
DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF SEAN MICHAEL VEST
D e c e a s e d

The administration of the estate of Sean Michael Vest, deceased, whose date of death was November 29, 1989, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054. 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 ON OR BEFORE 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 THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. The personal representative 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 ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 is: December 4, 2025.
Personal Representative: Josh Hagan
5246 Chatham Ave
Pensacola, FL 32507
Attorney for Personal Representative: Andrew J. Oram, Esq.
E-mail Addresses: andrew@oram. law, office@oram.law
Florida Bar No. 1015374
Oram Law, PLLC
308 Ave G SW Suite 209
Winter Haven, Florida 33880
Telephone: (863) 259-4743
12/4 2tchg 12/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 63-2025-CP-21
Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN C. HOWARD Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of John C. Howard, deceased, whose date of death was August 22, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main St, Lake Butler, FL 32054. 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 the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE 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 THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative 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 ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUES SECTION 733.702 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 is December 11, 2025.

Melanie Howard, Personal Representative, 10453 Southwest 67 Un, Lake Butler, FL 32054
/s/Nathan Hall
J.M. Williams Attorneys & Counselors at Law
Attorney for Personal Representative
Email Addresses: Mail@Williamspa. org

Florida Bar No. 93757
141 North 5th Street
Maccleddy, FL 32063
Telephone: (904) 259-3005
12/11 2tchg 12/18-UCT

COMMISSION MEETING
The Union County Board of County Commissioners will meet as the Planning & Zoning Board on December 15, 2025 at 5:45 PM, followed by the Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM in the Board Meeting Room of the Union County Courthouse.
12/11 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 632025CP000037CPAXMX

IN RE: ESTATE OF MICHAEL ABEL BOLAND Deceased.

The administration of the estate of MICHAEL ABEL BOLAND, deceased, whose date of death was May 23, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W Main St #1654, Lake Butler, FL 32054. 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 ON OR BEFORE 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 THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 is December 11, 2025.
Personal Representative
Alexandria Elizabeth Crawford-Boland
38 Laurel Ridge Break
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Attorney for Personal Representative
David M. Deutsch, Esq.
Florida Bar Number: 1000339
THE DEUTSCH LAW FIRM PLLC
433 Plaza Real, Suite 275
Boca Raton, FL 33432
Telephone: (561) 200-6554
Fax: (561) 200-6554
E-Mail: david@deutschchpc.com
Secondary E-Mail: service@deutschchpc.com
12/11 2tchg 12/18-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.
12/11 1tchg-UCT

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

Subscription Rate in Trade
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USPS 114-170
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage
Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Lake Region Monitor
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091
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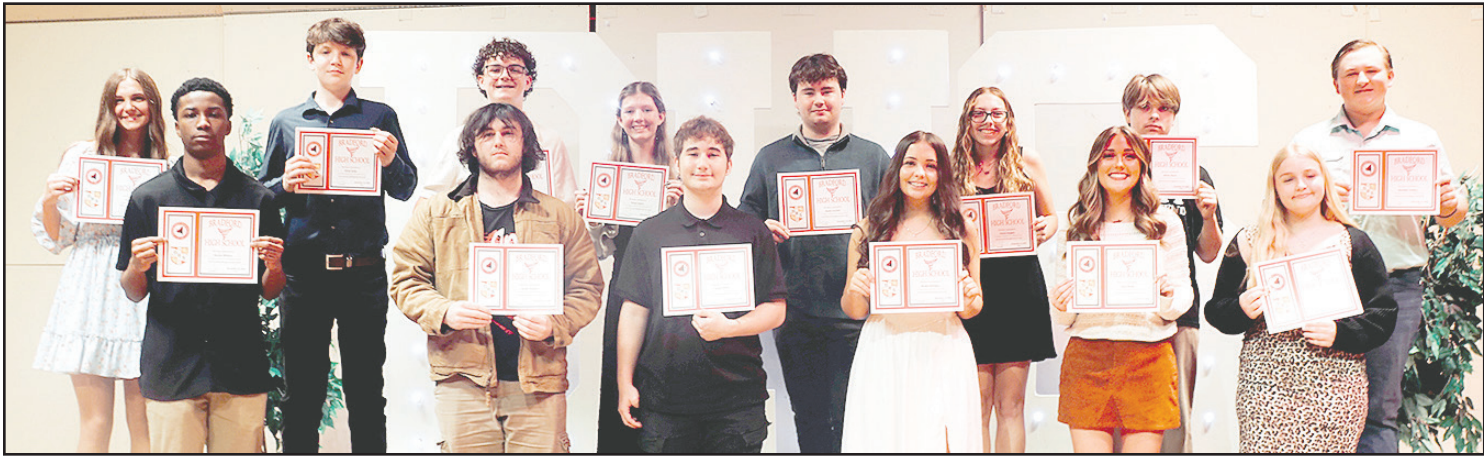
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Union County Times
USPS 648-200
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage
Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
UNION COUNTY TIMES
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
uctimeseditor@gmail.com
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Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:



Passing the AICE Environmental Management exam were (front, l-r) Bryston Williams, Samuel Stephens, Donald Painter, Brooke Rodriguez, Kayla Mueller, Isabella Pritchett, (back, l-r) Kadynce Brown, Rowan Butler, Trevor Clements, Brylee Gibson, Hayden Goodwin, Victoria Hudgens, William Warren and Remington Redding. Not pictured: Kaydence Crawford, Tucker Griffiths, Brandy Hall, Hayden Paris, Hailey Redding, Koen Reddish, Jackson Snyder and Julia Zurfluh.



Passing the AICE Marine Science exam were (front, l-r) Wyatt Acevedo, Kayla Mueller, Ryland Rike, Charlie Zink, Emmalee Yates, (back, l-r) Evan Franks, Rachel Hager, Laila Hill, Landon King, Jamiee Lin, Camron Newman and Alixiyah Nicolas. Not pictured: Isabella Brennan, Deese Malia, James Powell, Kelsey Reddish, Emma Weimern and Daniece Westberry.



The following are AICE program completers: (front, l-r) Wyatt Acevedo, Kayla Mueller, Amy Prescott, Summer Martin, Charlie Zink, (back, l-r) Daelyn Cornwall, Evan Franks, Rachel Hager, Laila Hill, Ryland Rike, Camron Newman, Alixiyah Nicolas and Diego Ochoa. Not pictured: Isabella Brennen, Malia Deese, Koy Hartley, James Powell, Kailyn Teal and Addison Thornton.



Passing the AICE U.S. History exam were (l-r) Noah Stoehr, Ryland Rike, Daelyn Cornwall, Kayla Mueller, Laila Hill, Camron Newman and Alixiyah Nicolas.

AICE

Continued from page 8

passed at least one exam last school year, which was the second year BHS offered the program.

Coffey has been quoted in the past as saying that the AICE Program complements the school's mission, which is "to provide our students with an environment that challenges all students academically, to empower them to become lifelong learners in a very diverse, global community. That part right there is one of the biggest reasons why we wanted to bring the AICE Program here — to bring a very rigorous program here that was going to prepare our students to be successful."

The Nov. 18 ceremony recognized students who passed the following exams the past school year: English General Paper, English Language, Environmental Management, European History, Global Perspectives, Marine Science, Thinking Skills and U.S. History.

Besides the AICE Program graduates and completers, the following students passed at least one AICE exam: Destiny Alexander, Drake Benjem,

Amber Boenert, Jo'vanni Borelli-Simms, Kadynce Brown, Skyla Buonacore, Rowan Butler, Delana Callan, Wyatt Canipe, Steven Carter, Dillan Perez Clarkson, Trevor Clements, Emalyn Crawford, Kaydence Crawford, Mackenna Davis, Victoria Hudgens, Brylee Gibson, Hayden Goodwin, Harley Grantz, Tucker Griffiths, Brandy Hall, Jashiyah Hendrieth, Ella Hense, Victoria Hudgens, Landon King, Ariana Lee, Jamiee Lin, Keskai Padilla, Donald Painter, Hayden Paris, Patrick Pendarvis, Henry Prescott, Isabella Pritchett, Sarah Rantz, Hailey Redding, Remington Redding, Kelsey Reddish, Koen Reddish, Brooke Rodriguez, Reece Scoggins, Sevon Smart, Bailey Smith, Jackson Snyder, Samuel Stephens, Noah Stoehr, William Warren, Emma Weimern, Zachary Wells, Daniece Westberry, Bryston Williams, Emmalee Yates and Julia Zurfluh.

Samantha Appling, Trindonn Burgin, Isabel Pritchett and Easton Rike were recognized as passing pre-AICE courses, which don't have year-end exams or result in college credits, but prepare students for regular AICE courses.



Passing pre-AICE courses were (l-r) Samantha Appling, Isabel Pritchett, Trindonn Burgin and Easton Rike.

Free Trading Post

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use SUBJECT LINE: TRADING POST lsb

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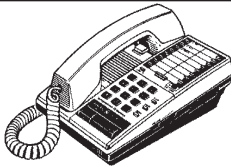
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Class Ads for week
Dec 11 2025

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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

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Commercial Rental Property

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BHS' Griffin to play D-I hoops at Coastal Carolina

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ar'Nayshia Griffin celebrated a highlight moment during her junior year in 2024-25 as she eclipsed 1,000 career points, but the Bradford High School senior was part of an even bigger moment this school year, signing a letter of intent to play basketball at Coastal Carolina University during a Dec. 8 ceremony in the BHS auditorium.

"I'm feeling great," Griffin said. "I'm extremely blessed. I don't take this for granted."

It was the culmination of years of hard work the 6-0 forward has put in, improving her game and making her an attractive college prospect. Bradford Head Coach Sampson Jackson played a video during the signing ceremony that highlighted the one-on-one workout sessions he and Griffin have been participating in.



Ar'Nayshia Griffin will go from Bradford High School's scarlet-and-gray colors to Coastal Carolina's teal and bronze.

"Countless, countless hours," Jackson said. "I couldn't even put a number on it if I had to. She shows up, and she works. She's going to be really good at Coastal."

Griffin, while not taking the opportunity to play in college for granted, was confident that she'd get that chance. She believes anyone, regardless of where they live, can make any dream come true through effort.

"I want everybody to see that if you put in the work, this is what you can get, no matter what anybody says," Griffin said.

Though playing college ball was the goal, Griffin said it was her experience playing AAU ball that confirmed in her mind that she could indeed get an opportunity at the next level. Coach after coach told her she was good, so she said she began thinking, "I may actually do

something with this."

Some other schools Griffin was considering included Daytona State College, but once Coastal Carolina began showing interest, and she learned more about the college, she knew where she wanted to go.

"I liked their consistency," Griffin said. "One coach came to see me. Then, another one. Then, another one and another one. Everyone was just dedicated to me. They really had faith in me. They were interested in my talent and the work that I put in."

A visit to the Conway, South Carolina, campus did nothing to change her mind. She felt like she had found a second home — a home that's approximately 400 miles from her current home.

"When I touched campus, I liked the environment. I liked the team," Griffin said. "They welcomed me with love."

She's set to join a Chanticleers team than went 23-9 last season, reaching the Sun Belt Conference Tournament semifinals for the first-time ever as well as earning the program's first WNIT bid.

The Chanticleers, who are currently 5-5 this season, are coached by Kevin Pederson, who's in his fourth season at the school. On the Coastal Carolina women's basketball website, Pederson was quoted as saying, "We're excited to welcome Ar'Nayshia and her family to our Coastal Women's basketball family. Ar'Nayshia gives us a very skilled offensive player who can play the power-forward and center positions for us. We love her ability to score the basketball and create mismatches with her versatility, and we believe that is going to play very well in our system."

Jackson said Griffin's aggressive rebounding alone will keep her on the court at Coastal Carolina, but he knows Griffin has so much more to offer for the Chanticleers.

"Her size is there. The skill set is there. It's just surrounding her with players," Jackson said.



Ar'Nayshia Griffin (right) signs her letter of intent to play basketball at Coastal Carolina University as her mother, Reevea Rogers, looks on.

Griffin, who has 1,161 career points and 610 career rebounds at BHS (prior to Dec. 10), said she has developed her game so that opponents never know what they're going to get from here at any point in a game. She said she needs to continue to work on her mid-range shooting when she gets to college.

"I know I can attack the basket, I know I can shoot the three," Griffin said, "but I just want to be able to one dribble and pull up whenever I want to, so you'll never know what I've got."

Jackson believes that the main adjustment for Griffin is what every student-athlete faces going from high school to college, finding they have long, full days.

"Right now, she has a lot of free time in the front end of the day and in the back end of the day," Jackson said. "Right now, it's not a heavy demand to do anything, but at the next level, there is, from workouts to class

and study hall.

"That'll probably be one of the biggest things, I'd say — just getting acclimated to the schedule of Division-I basketball, which is, 'This is your life now.' It's not an I-don't-want-to-do-it-today thing. You don't have a choice."

"I think she'll be fine with that."

Jackson said Griffin may have struggles, especially early. She may tell herself, "I can't do this," or ask herself, "Do I belong here?" Yet the BHS coach isn't worried about Griffin being able to move past those struggles and doubts as she gets used to being away from home and being a college student-athlete.

"It's those times when I think she's going to fall on what she knows — her faith and her family and that kind of stuff," Jackson said. "Every kid goes through that. Once she gets through

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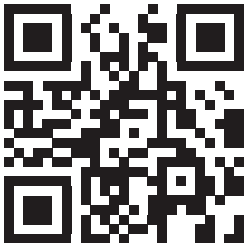
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