

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023

145th year, 23rd Issue — \$1

# Merry Christmas

AND  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Santa's Winter Wonderland Christmas Carnival (hosted by the Bradford County Public Library on Dec. 14) wouldn't be complete without Santa himself. Children, such as Emerson Webb (left) and Ensleigh Webb, were able to meet him and, of course, tell him about the special things they'd like for Christmas. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

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**WORTH NOTING**

## Lake Butler parade rescheduled

The 2023 Lake Butler Christmas Parade, scheduled for Sat. Dec. 17, was postponed due to cold, soggy weather. The parade has been rescheduled for Friday, Dec. 22, at 6 p.m.

Santa has rearranged his schedule and will be on hand, both in the parade and after for his annual appearance.

This year, children can see Santa and get in their last-minute gift requests at the Union Depot building next to Lake Butler City Hall.

Santa will get there as soon as he can after the parade, and yes, there will be candy and gifts. Hopefully, the weather will be better, and everyone can come out and enjoy this annual event.

The Christmas Parade Float Judging Contest will be held this year as usual. This year it is sponsored by Andrews Site Prep.

The top three floats will be selected and awarded \$125 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$75 for third place. Watch the parade and see if you can pick the winners before the judges do.

## Solid waste collection site closings

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will close for Christmas from Sunday to Tuesday, Dec. 24–26, and will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 10 a.m. Sites will be closed for New Year's on Monday, Jan. 1, and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 10 a.m.

## Publication schedule

The Bradford County Telegraph, Union County Times and Lake Region Monitor will be published as usual during the week of Christmas and New Year's. The office will be closed Friday, Dec. 22, and Monday, Dec. 25.

Deadline for the Dec. 28 papers will be Tuesday, Dec. 26 at noon.

## Live nativity in Melrose

Believer's Worship Center Church of God invites you and your family on a journey to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus. The live reenactment of the nativity will take place on three nights, Dec. 21, 22 and 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The church is located at 8736 State Road 21 in Melrose.

## Strategic plan addresses growth, jobs, safety

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Bradford County Commission Chair Carolyn Spooner led a strategic planning workshop last week, presenting a list of goals and encouraging input from commissioners and the public.

Beginning with a review of the county's mission statement, vision statement and values, revisions were suggested by Spooner and the public.

### Mission statement

The mission of the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the residents, communities and environment of Bradford County through responsible governing of the resources entrusted to the board by its citizens.

### Vision statement

The vision of the Board of County

Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, is to be recognized as a safe rural community rich in history, culture and common values, which strives for excellence as a great place to live, work, raise a family and experience planned economic growth and development.

(This may be further modified based on public input that the statement be the vision for Bradford as a whole and not just the county commission.)

### Values statements

**Respect:** Treat everyone with dignity and respect while promoting civic pride and building a workforce that is strong and that values the people we represent.

**Honesty and integrity:** Honor our word and be transparent in all that we do, to ensure that our citizens know that our methods are honest and can be trusted.

**Communication:** Work to communicate and find time for needed meetings, to ensure we are providing the services we were elected to provide and to do so in an open and transparent fashion.

**Innovation/Accountability:** Always strive to find ways to improve our county, and continuously look for ideas or methods that make us one of the most cost-effective counties while providing accountability to those we serve, including making an effort to conserve fiscal resources and seek all appropriate grant opportunities.

**Teamwork:** Make an effort to build on our relationships with community partners in Starke, Lawtey, Hampton and Brooker, as well as constitutional officers, who are all working towards making Bradford County better. Have workshops where everyone could be involved and promote brainstorming — great ideas come out of these type

meetings.

**Political communication:** Invite our representative and senator to meet with us and openly discuss our needs, and seek ideas from their knowledge. Ensure that we are present when discussions are made that concerns decisions for Bradford County. We must be a voice for our county, collectively as well as individually.

Based on the multiple town halls Spooner held, during which common themes and goals emerged, she enumerated several strategic goals. In no particular order as they have not been prioritized, those goals include addressing planned economic growth and development, public health and safety, infrastructure and mobility improvement, workforce improvement, and public transportation.

See PLAN, page 7



(L-r) Union County Board of County Commission members Mac Johns, Donna Jackson, and Willie Croft; County Judge Mitchell Bishop; Sheriff Brad Whitehead; Senator Jennifer Bradley; Rep. Chuck Brannan; Lake Butler City Commission members Melissa Hendrix, Annette Redman, David Stegall and Rondoll L. Huggins. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

## Officials break ground on new public safety facility

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
General manager

LAKE BUTLER — Union County officials held a groundbreaking ceremony for the county's public safety complex, which will house the county's emergency operations center and jail.

Sheriff Brad Whitehead told the crowd of around 50 that the county's current jail, built in 1923, is the oldest continuously operating jail in Florida and possibly in the nation.

He said that Phase I of the project, the emergency operations center will be the lifeline of the county and will house the county's vital

communications infrastructure.

"The building will also serve as our epicenter during hurricanes, tropical storms, and emergency disasters in Union County," he said. "Then, during Phase 2, we will construct the Union County Detention Center."

Whitehead thanked the board of county commissioners and the Lake Butler City Commission for its support. He also thanked County Judge Mitchell D. Bishop and EMS Director Tim Allen for their assistance.

The sheriff added that the project would not be possible without the support of State Rep. Chuck Brannan and State Senator Jennifer Bradley.

"They fought constantly for this

project, making it a top priority in the State of Florida," he said of the two lawmakers. "They have secured close to \$10 million for this project and will continue to work hard to complete this for the citizens that will benefit in Union County."

Whitehead emphasized that the new facility "will not cost the taxpayers of Union County a dime."

Bradley said her and Brannan's efforts to secure funding for the facility were partly due to Bradley chairing the Senate's Civil and Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee and Brannan chairing a similar committee in the House.

"On this site, we'll have the bricks

and mortar and be able to have the facilities that we need," Bradley said, "but more importantly, it's the hearts of the people that are going to fill that space. Our first responders, our law enforcement, our correctional officers. That's the heart and soul of what we're doing here today."

Brannan, who spent a career in law enforcement before his service in Tallahassee, said he continues to think of himself first as a law enforcement officer.

"I'm just a policeman that got elected to the legislature," he said.

See SAFETY, page 5



WE  
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*Merry*  
**Christmas**

From all of us at Bradford County Public Library



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The Bradford County Public Library would like to thank all of the following sponsors for their help in the making the Santa's Winter Wonderland Christmas Carnival:

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Office, Bradford County - County Manager's Office, Bradford County Clerk of Court's Office, Bradford County Sheriff's Office, City of Starke Police Department, City of Starke Fire Department, Bradford High School JROTC, City of Starke.

Because of your generosity and assistance the Christmas Carnival was a huge success with over 750 people in attendance. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Bradford County.

*Merry Christmas to all,  
The Staff of the Bradford County Public Library*

# MERRY Christmas

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** from the **BRADFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



L-R: Kenny Thompson, Carolyn Spooner-Board Chair, Diane Andrews, Chris Dougherty. Not pictured: Danny Riddick-Vice Chair.

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# Lake Region

## Christmassy lot wins December

BY GINNY GEIGER AND BARBARA ANDERSON  
Garden Club of the Lakes

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS** — Several months ago, when we found Dan and Earlene Alvarez's yard to showcase one month during the year, we were so excited. Little did we know when we were riding around trying to find a beautiful yard with nice Christmas decorations that theirs would be for this month's Yard of The Month.

Many people had not yet decorated, so we were afraid they would not have a Christmassy yard to recognize.

Dan and Earlene have been living at 6862 Bedford Lake Road for the 60 years they have been married, and Dan since he was 11. Dan's parents built the house in 1950, which the family enjoyed as a "getaway from the busy Jacksonville life" until they moved in permanently in 2010.

Their one-word description of the original yard was "desolate." They (Earlene) immediately began to develop the property into an immaculately kept, beautiful place. Dan said that the yard is and has always been Earlene's. He laughingly claimed he did nothing in it, but the more we talked, the more it came out that he really did help Earlene with raking, hauling plants around the yard, and other manual labor.

For Earlene, working in the yard is her stress reliever and what she absolutely loves to do, hours on end. That she truly loves everything she does shows brightly by the glow on her face. As far as Dan is concerned, he has the perfect situation because he can sit on one of their lovely porches reading and knowing at any time exactly where he can find his sweetheart.

Most of Earlene's plants were

given to her by her very dear friend Carla. Carla had a way with plants and could propagate just about anything. She wanted to make sure that Earlene had all the plants she had, and she had many. The plants Earlene is especially fond of are her bromeliads.

There are six separate small flower gardens developed all around the yard. One of the larger ones has more types of bromeliads than we ever knew even existed. Other plants that are special to Earlene include a curly leaf cactus (quite unique), a variety of crown of thorns (she even has one without thorns), many different colors of geraniums, and a mini pomegranate.

Then there is the butterfly vine. Few people have this unique plant, but Carla ensured that Earlene had one. This plant produces yellow flowers, which



Dan and Earlene have been living at 6862 Bedford Lake Road for the 60 years they have been married, and Dan since he was 11.



As far as their Christmas decorations, they were as meticulously placed as the many plants. Much of the display made their belief in the reason for the season quite clear.

turn green and take on the shape of a butterfly. When it turns brown, you can see its seeds in the middle of its "wings."

Earlene and Carla were very dear friends. In 2015, Carla died unexpectedly during heart surgery. Because almost everything in her yard reminded Earlene of Carla, she could not go into her yard for three months. The first day she struggled to be in her yard and look around, a yellow butterfly landed on her shoulder. Remember the yellow butterfly vine? Earlene said yellow butterflies don't generally land — especially on someone's shoulder. At that moment, she had such peace and could continue doing what she

loves.

Have you ever heard of the butterbean plant? Probably not, because that is just Earlene's name for it. First, little flowers appear like tiny orchids, then develop into seed pods resembling butterbeans.

Now, remember Dan's being so clear that all of this beauty, design, labor, and love for beauty and plants were only Earlene's. As we were leaving, we turned towards Dan and saw something red in his hands as he walked away. According to Earlene, Dan has a Don Juan rose that he has taken great care of and given love for quite some time. So, Dan, you have a hidden side.

As far as their Christmas

decorations, they were as meticulously placed as the many plants. Much of the display made their belief in the reason for the season quite clear. There are so many details in everything that we could not find any way to tell you about this place. We encourage you to drive by and stay a while to enjoy everything as much as we did. As you are looking, remember that the lady inside the house and does most of the work is 85. We all should hope to be healthy and active.

If you want to learn more about the Garden Club of The Lakes or nominate yourself or anyone in the community for Yard of the Month, please contact Pat Lorenzo at (904)728-9460.

## Couple opening Christian bookstore

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
General manager

Rob and Heather Hamm said they plan to open Crossroads

Christian Bookstore & Café in February, next to Genesis Fitness on South Lawrence Boulevard.

"We are thrilled to open our

doors and provide the Keystone Heights community with a place where they can grow in their faith, discover great books, and connect with one another," the couple said in a social media post. "We have carefully curated our collection to cater to a wide range of interests and ages, and we believe our cafe and community events will foster meaningful connections."

The couple said Crossroads Christian Bookstore & Cafe aims to provide a welcoming space for the community to explore biblically based literature, enjoy delicious treats, and engage in various events and activities.

In addition to a diverse book selection, the business will feature an assortment of Christian gifts, custom Crossroads merchandise, toys for kids, and clothing. The cafe section will offer a range of coffee and soft-serve ice cream..

## KH looking to upgrade 4 roads

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
General manager

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS** — The City of Keystone Heights is seeking bids to upgrade Beam Lane, Beasley Lane, Citrus Avenue, and Naha Street.

Bids on the projects are due on Dec. 20, and the city said contractor selection will not be solely based on the lowest bid.

"Other factors determining the final selection will be based on previous work history with the City of Keystone and performance of said work history," the city said.

The roadwork consists of replacing asphalt on all four roads. The work on Beasley Lane also includes constructing a new roadside swale and valley gutter along a portion of the lane.

## Foster, adoption classes

Looking to make a difference in the community? Call Partnership for Strong Families today at 352-213-7219 to enroll in a foster and adoption class for parents.

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Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

from  
**Jackson Building Supply**

At this time of year our attention is focused on Christmas. On behalf of the stockholders, officers, directors and employees of Jackson Building Supply, I would like to thank you all for your support. We realize that without you and more importantly, without the Grace and Mercy of Almighty God, we could not exist as a business or even as individuals. Because you have been so good to us and likewise God has been, we feel that we need to share with you what we believe Christmas is all about.

Christmas is surely a time of giving, as is evidenced by the giving or exchanging of many gifts. When we think about Christmas giving we need to remember, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," (John 3:16). God gave that we might believe on His Son and have a place in Heaven. Jesus paid our sin debt and rose again to show that His payment was enough. However, if we reject what He gave, we have a place in Hell.

Christmas needs to be a time for receiving, for no one can give a gift unless it is received. The Bible says that the Gift of God, His Son, Jesus, "came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God. Even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:11-13) Christmas is a time of happiness, as evidenced on the face of many. Happiness depends on happenings and can be short lived — to gain real Joy and Peace this Christmas, why not right now receive the greatest gift ever given, The Lord Jesus Christ? Jesus loves us and invites us to believe in Him. If you have not made this commitment, you should right now receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. If you have just now received Him...you can know the real Joy of Christmas for the first time. For those of us who already know Him — may we be drawn to a closer walk this Christmas.

We thank God for the opportunity He has given us to serve your building supply and hardware needs — we also thank Him for allowing us to share Jesus Christ with you. After all, **without Christ there would be no Christmas.**

The Starke and Lake Butler offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Sat. Dec. 23, Sun. Dec. 24, and Mon. Dec. 25.  
We will re-open Tues. Dec. 26 at 7:30 a.m.

Merry Christmas  
from  
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# Former guard leader joins KH Rotary

**BY DAN HILDEBRAN**  
*General manager*

The retired adjutant general of the Florida National Guard is the newest Keystone Heights Rotary Club member.

Maj. Gen. James O. Eifert relinquished command of the 12,000-member force in April

as he retired following over four decades of military service and four years as the state's highest-ranking military official.

During Eifert's tenure, the Florida National Guard was activated 18 times, marking its highest operational tempo since World War II.

Eifert is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate and Harvard Kennedy School graduate.

Scott Kornegay, Rotary District 6970's area governor for Area 9, inducted the new member into the club during the civic group's December 6 meeting.



Scott Kornegay (left), Rotary District 6970's area governor for Area 9, and Keystone Heights Rotary Club President Heather Davis welcome Maj. Gen. James O. Eifert to the club. Photo: Dan Hildebran.



Sheriff Brad Whitehead said that Phase 1 of the project, the emergency operations center will be the lifeline of the county and will house the county's vital communications infrastructure. Photo: Dan Hildebran.



Sen. Jennifer Bradley



Rep. Chuck Brannan

## SAFETY

Continued from page 1

Brannan recalled working for the U.S. Marshall's Service in 1986 and exchanging prisoners with deputies at the Lake Butler lockup.

"You needed a new jail back then," he said, "and that was 37 years ago."

Brannan said he and Bradley have secured nearly \$10 million for the facility and will look for more during the upcoming legislative session.

"It's a hard fight," he said. It's not easy dollars to come by, but we realize the need, and it's important."



Applicant John Pellerito told the five-member panel that he plans no exterior changes to 101 Commercial Drive, across Commercial Drive from Aza Health, and the former site of Futch's Power Depot and Crystal Kubota. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

# Zoning approves mini-warehouses

**BY DAN HILDEBRAN**  
*General manager*

The Keystone Heights Planning and Zoning Board approved a use-by-exception for a mini-warehouse on the site of a former lawn mower and tractor retailer.

Applicant John Pellerito told the five-member panel that he plans no exterior changes to 101 Commercial Drive, across

Commercial Drive from Aza Health, and the former site of Futch's Power Depot and Crystal Kubota.

Pellerito added that he and Melissa Pellerito own another mini-storage business on State Road 21 north of the city and expect to open the new business at Commercial Drive and State Road 100 next year.

The proposed use will have 43 individual climate-controlled

storage units inside the 5,000-square-foot building.

The property is zoned general commercial with permitted uses of retail outlets and service establishments like barber shops, restaurants, and pest control companies. Uses by exception include childcare centers, motels, churches, hospitals, and limited warehousing, including mini-warehouses.

## Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Dec. 26, 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 availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Food distribution in Starke

A communitywide food

distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 9 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

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.



## North Florida Fitness Celebrates Their Grand Opening!

Starke, FL — Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2023

From left to right: Jon Norman, Courtney Norman, Matt Story, Tabitha Story, Brian Blake, Nikki Blake, Will Hobbs, Brittany Hobbs, Carrie Canatsey and Scott Canatsey.

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The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number NAVCA210430-03-00 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.

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# UNION COUNTY

## District recognizes business partners



At the December School Board Meeting the school district was honored to recognize The Roberts Companies for their longtime and continued support for the students of Union County. Avery Roberts, his wife Twyla Roberts, and son Austin Roberts were present to accept a plaque of recognition and the gratitude of the district from Superintendent Mike Ripplinger. Avery Roberts has been a supporter of the Union County School District for decades and has provided support for many athletic teams, the FFA, students showing and selling their market animals at the Union County Livestock Association Fair, and was an instrumental partner in the purchase of the Jumbotron at Marvin H. Pritchett Field. He is also a strong advocate for the district in Tallahassee, working tirelessly to encourage officials in state government to consider the needs of Union County. Roberts and his family are deeply committed to the Union County School District and the students it serves. The district is grateful for the many years of his family's support and for the opportunities he has provided to students through his generosity.



At the December school board meeting, the Union County School District was honored to recognize Bart Andrews and Andrews Site Prep for their continued support for the students of Union County. In addition to being a sponsor of multiple athletic teams, Andrews Site Prep generously supported the athletic programs of Union County High School and Lake Butler Middle School by donating score-boards for the UCHS baseball field and gym, as well as O.J. Phillips Complex where LBMS baseball and softball games are played. Andrews Site Prep has also supported students at the Union County Livestock Association Fair as they show and sell their market animals. The school district is greatly appreciative of the support Bart Andrews and Andrews Site Prep continually provides. His generosity has provided many additional benefits students have been able to enjoy. Andrews is pictured with Superintendent Mike Ripplinger.



At the December school board meeting, the Union County School District was honored to recognize the West Fraser Company. Carley Loznicka from West Fraser was present to accept a plaque of appreciation from Superintendent Mike Ripplinger (pictured above). West Fraser has been a strong supporter of the school district by providing donations to the Union County Education Foundation to support local families, providing support and assistance to the faculty and staff, and supporting students as they show and sell their market animals at the Union County Livestock Association Fair. In addition, West Fraser has also donated MacBooks and backpacks to the top 10 graduates for the classes of 2022 and 2023. West Fraser is a valued business partner dedicated to the betterment of the students and staff of the Union County School District. The school district is thankful for West Fraser and Carley Loznicka their support and grateful for all they do for the students and staff of Union County.

## Jackson appointed to commission *Union commission reorganizes*

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
General manager

LAKE BUTLER — On Friday, Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Donna Jackson to the Union County Board of County Commissioners.

The governor's office said that Jackson, of Lake Butler, is the office manager for New River Developers.

"She serves her community on the Union County Housing Authority and previously served as the finance director for New River Public Library Cooperative," the office said.

Jackson earned her associate degree from Santa Fe College and her bachelor's degree in business administration from



Newly appointed Union County Commissioner Donna Jackson. Photo: Dan Hildebran

Saint Leo University.

Jackson will serve out the remaining term of board member Ryan Perez, who resigned last month.

### UCHS Class of '74 reunion

Union County's Class of 1974 will celebrate 50 years on Saturday, June 22, 2024. Save the date. The reunion will take place at 3 p.m. at Lake Butler Community Center. Additional details are forthcoming.

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Before the public comments at the start of the meeting, the Union County Board of County Commissioners had to take care of some organizational business — primarily selecting a new chairman for the board to replace Ryan Perez, who resigned last month.

Florida law states that an elected position from which an individual has resigned may remain open for no more than 23 months. Otherwise, a special election would have to be held to fill it. Since it is only about 12 months until Perez's seat is up for election, the decision is left up to the governor to leave

it vacant or to appoint someone to fill it until the next election. As yet, there has been no word concerning the matter, but a board needs a chairperson to conduct the meetings, and Union commissioners have always selected among themselves someone to run the meetings.

County Attorney Russ Wade handled the nominations and selection process "as the county has no rule for this situation," he said. Commissioner Jimmy Tallman nominated Commissioner Channing Dobbs for the center seat, and the vote was unanimous, 4-0. Dobbs then nominated Commissioner Mack Johns for the vice-chair position, and that motion also passed 4-0.

After selecting its leadership, the board turned its attention to the committee assignments — commissioners and staff who participate in meetings with other governmental entities on behalf of the county. Perez had been assigned several of these, and his place had to be filled. The assignments are reviewed yearly anyway, so it was time for the reorganization.

Citizens need to know which commissioner represents the county in what capacity so they will know who to call if they have a problem with one of these agencies. Sometimes, a district

See Board, 7A

We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas

Spires IGA

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Tayden and Skyla Hallam will be happy with whatever Santa brings.



Emerson Ogden gets a gift from first grade teacher Karrie Kulbacki.

## Brooker Community School Hosts Breakfast with Santa

BY CAROL MOSLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The dining hall was decked with boughs of holly and Christmas decorations for the Brooker Community School's breakfast with Santa. Students donned red and green outfits while teachers and volunteers dressed as elves to assist with logistics and serve food. Santa sat on the stage in a green velvet chair, among the Christmas trees and candy canes, ready to take requests for presents from good girls and boys.

Parents and children went through the line for a breakfast consisting of pancakes with warm syrup, sausage and grits. The pancakes were hot off the griddle of frequent volunteer, Eddie Barnes, father of third

grade teacher, Stephanie Nash. The breakfast was a fundraiser for the school at \$5 per plate. So was the raffle for games and toys, such as a train set and two bicycles, that were donated by local businesses.

There were Letters to Santa for the kids to color saying, "Dear Santa, I have been very good this year. I hope you bring me \_\_\_\_\_." The letter then promises to set out cookies. Once signed, letters were either handed directly to Santa or placed in the mailbox to be sent to the North Pole.

Santa is a regular visitor, brought to our region by Lonnie Norman, who hosts an annual Christmas Bash on the first Saturday of each December. The Norman home in Lake Butler is

turned into a winter wonderland to thrill the public. This year's celebration was attended by about 150 visitors.

Mrs. Claus was not available to join Santa at the school this time, but the Normans arrange for Mr. and Mrs. Claus to visit groups such as schools and nursing homes. When asked what prompts Mr. Norman to spend so much time and energy on spreading Christmas joy, he responded, "I do it all in memory my father. I'm carrying on his tradition."

Everyone agreed that sharing this breakfast with Santa set the stage for abundant holiday cheer ahead and a very merry Christmas for all.

## Calling all Brooker alumni

Brooker Elementary and Junior High School alumni, staff and families from 1942 through 2021 are invited to a reunion that will take place Feb. 16, 2024, at Belle Oaks Barn in Brooker.

Join the "Brooker Elementary (& Junior High) Alumni" page on Facebook for more information, or contact Sondra Bothwell (Green) at bsegarrett@aol.com, Suzanne McRee (Dyal) at mcreesd@gmail.com or Patsy Pullen at easyace7@yahoo.com.

## LB VFW hosts bingo

Lake Butler VFW Post 10082 has bingo on Thursdays at 7 p.m. The VFW is located off C.R. 231 just outside of Lake Butler. Look for the sign on the left (coming from town).



Lucy Nash, daughter of third grade teacher Stephanie Nash, is hoping for clothes for herself and nice gifts for her two siblings.

## PLAN

Continued from page 1

Objectives were presented for each strategic goal as well as proposed timelines. Under planned economic growth and development for example, by the end of 2024 the county should:

- work with the chamber of commerce, agencies for tourism and economic development and UF/IFAS to pursue opportunities for new business growth.

- apply for additional state and federal funding through the county's community development office to fund affordable housing.

- partner with the county extension office to plant a first community garden.

- partner with local 4-H and FFA clubs to encourage future agricultural pursuits in Bradford County.

Long-term goals include:

- joining with neighboring counties to request state and federal funds to support regional growth.

- making use of existing vacant structures as warehouse properties for new businesses. (One project for MHD Rockland is already underway.)

- identifying investors to develop businesses around the bypass interchanges.

Target date for the long-term goals is the end of 2028.

Strategic goals for public health and safety include:

- expanding the reach of emergency management and fire rescue services for adequate coverage in all areas of the county. Spooner called for plans to cover Hampton and Brooker, with new fire stations added by the end of 2028.

- improve law enforcement coverage for Hampton and

Brooker as well by the end of 2024.

- assist with the establishment of additional Bradford County Community Partnership Health and Wellness Hubs.

- complete amendments to the comprehensive plan and land development regulations in the next six months.

- work with agencies including the Suwannee River Water Management District on protecting water as a natural resource.

Objectives to improve infrastructure and mobility include:

- working with local partners for resources to provide broadband internet service throughout Bradford County.

- using state grants and local gas tax revenue for more road maintenance and paving of unsurfaced roads.

- continuing work with the

city of Starke to extend water and sewer lines to the bypass interchanges and elsewhere.

The focus for the objective addressing Bradford County's economy and workforce is to work with CareerSource and local colleges to improve employment opportunities. Spooner would like to see those opportunities increase by 10% by the end of 2024.

As for public transportation, the objective is to work with the regional planning council and Suwannee River Economic Council for additional funding to provide services to the transportation disadvantaged.

Spooner will work with county staff to compile feedback from the workshop with these goals and present a final product to the full commission for approval.



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## BOARD

Continued from page 6

commissioner will not be the one to contact for these special concerns. The breakdown of assignments is as follows:

- Florida Crown – Mack Johns,
- Transportation Disadvantaged – Johns,
- North Florida Regional Planning Council – Jimmy Tallman,
- New River Solid Waste – Tallman and Channing Dobbs,
- New River Public Library Cooperative – Tallman and Dobbs,
- Union County Public Library – Willie Croft and Johns as the alternate,
- Suwannee River Economic Council – Croft and Johns as an alternate,
- SHIP – Croft and Johns as an alternate,
- North Florida Economic Development Partnership – Dobbs replacing Perez, Tallman, and Williams,
- Small County Coalition – Tallman replacing Perez,
- Broadband Initiative – Tallman replacing Perez and Johns.

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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

Cameron Christopher Bacchus, 39, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 11 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and DUI.

Marie Evette Black, 42, of Lake City was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for failure to appear.

Phil Joseph Blaine, 57, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for an out-of-county warrant.

Richard Wayne Carney, 49, of Green Cove Springs was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 13 for burglary, possession of burglary tools, criminal mischief with property damage, and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

Terrell Eugene Gilmore, 41, of Gainesville was arrested by Starke Police on December 14 for battery and resisting an officer.

Karianne Michelle Gosche, 40, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 14 for a probation violation.

Jonthay Patricia Gray, 23, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 12 for a conditional release violation.

Jon Michael Johnson, 22, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 14 for a probation violation.

Aundrea Kay Mallard, 35, of Lake City was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 10 for DUI.

Mendy Lee Mefford, 23, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 12 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Dyllan Brad Page, 20, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for possession of drugs.

William Alexander Peterson, 54, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for withholding support.

Eric Ivan Roldan, 43, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 12 for smuggling contraband into a prison and possession of drugs.

Jason Dwayne Thompson, 44, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 12 for trespassing and disorderly intoxication.

James Calvin Todd, 30, of Lake Butler was arrested by Starke Police on December 11 for an out-of-county warrant.

Dickie Lynn Tribble, 48,

of Inverness was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 11 for a probation violation.

Jamea Alise Tyson, 25, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for assault and aggravated battery.

Coy Andrew Walker, 23, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 14 for failure to appear.

Lester Wannis Walker, 49, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 9 for withholding support.

Beau Jeffrey Whidden, 41, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 12 for a conditional release violation and failure to appear.

William Lee Woods, 38, of Hampton was arrested by Starke Police on December 13 for a probation violation.

### Union

Joiada Hershell Jenkins, 24, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on December 12 for possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, battery, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and possession of drug equipment.

Christopher Mark Nicklas, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on December 14 for an out-of-county warrant.

Tevin Rashaad Williams, 29, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on December 13 for a probation violation.

Katherine Marie Wyatt, 40, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on December 17 for failure to appear.

William Keith Young, 40, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on December 14 for failure to appear.

### Clay

Scott Edward Bowen, 56, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on December 9 for petit theft.



Marks

## Facing sexual assault trial, man pleads to witness tampering

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
General manager

A 41-year-old Starke man on the verge of standing trial for sexual assault, aggravated battery, and felony battery pleaded to witness tampering and was sentenced to three years in prison.

In 2021, a companion of

Lavern Leonard Marks accused the then-39-year-old of punching her in the mouth, kicking her in the back, and sexually assaulting her twice.

At the time of the 2021 incident, the defendant was on probation for domestic battery and had two prior convictions for battery.

Starke Police Detective Kimberly Mosley wrote in a warrant affidavit that she saw bruising on both sides of the victim's face, inner lip, both sides of the victim's body, and a loop mark on the right side of her hip.

"(The victim) stated the loop mark was from a previous assault where Marks hit her with a belt," Mosley wrote. "She also disclosed Marks threatened to stab her with a fork he was holding in his hand as well."

## Bond revoked for Lawtey road rage defendant

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
General manager

A judge revoked the bond of a Lake City man who was accused in July of shooting at a driver north of Lawtey.

On July 17, Christopher Mark Nicklas, 33, was arrested for improperly exhibiting a firearm, discharging a firearm from a vehicle, aggravated assault, DUI, and refusal to submit to a DUI test after a license suspension.

The victim told a Bradford deputy, "Nicklas started to drive aggressively by cutting in front of him, trying to turn into him, and changing his speed from fast to slow," the deputy wrote in an arrest report. "(The victim) admitted he was driving fast to try to get away from Nicklas due to his aggressive driving but not before Nicklas pulled out a black in color handgun and pointed at him."

The victim added that while viewing Nicklas in his rear-view mirror, he saw the weapon pointed in his direction and heard gunshots.

A judge released Nicklas on a \$57,000 bond; however, on November 24, Union deputies arrested him at the Lake Butler McDonald's for disorderly intoxication.

According to an arrest report, the defendant was the boyfriend of one of the eatery's employees, and the pair had a verbal altercation at the restaurant.

Deputy Staci L. Stock reported that she could smell alcohol on the breath of Nicklas and told him to leave the premises. After he walked away and Stock left the scene, she was called back to McDonald's five minutes later.

There, she found Nicklas underneath the Dodge Ram jointly owned by him and his girlfriend. Dispatch told the deputy Nicklas was trying to dismantle the gears under the vehicle. Stock wrote that she arrested the man "due to him being intoxicated, causing a scene and disrupting (the) business, due (to) customers calling in on him acting out in the parking lot."

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# Advancement for employees and public health at BCFR

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Chief Ben Carter recently congratulated Lt. Kevin Mobley on his promotion to operations captain for Bradford County Fire Rescue.

An employee of the agency for three years, Carter told county commissioners that Mobley had more than 30 years of experience in fire services. He is now overseeing day-to-day operations for the department.

"Since (Mobley's) been employed here, he's proven himself to be an asset, but especially since being promoted into the executive leadership team," Carter said. "I just want to say thank you to him and also congratulate him publicly in front of you all for this accomplishment."

Among other exciting news, Carter said, was the use of Florida workforce training grants to place automated CPR devices on all the county's fire rescue equipment, including fire engines, ambulances and supervisory vehicles. The grants are a part of a statewide initiative to equip first responders with this technology.

"That is something that we have not had in Bradford County, and it's something that is quite expensive. They're about \$29,000 apiece," he said.

The department was able to purchase 10 with the grant funding, which required no matching funds from the county.

The backpack-sized devices unfold, Carter said, and perform CPR chest compressions while paramedics are moving and transporting patients.

"It's probably one of the biggest improvements that we've seen as far as expansion of our services in quite some time," he said.

Working in conjunction with the chest compressions is a device that slowly sits the patient



Kevin Mobley was promoted from lieutenant to operations captain.

up during CPR, taking pressure off the brain and preventing a stroke while responders work to get the heart pumping again.

Carter announced that after two years of working with the state, money the sheriff had obtained for improvements at the Heilbronn Springs station have now been approved for use at Theresa and Sampson City.

He said they are waiting for completed designs for the living quarters at the Speedville station, which is being funded by a private donor. Those blueprints will be used for future Bradford's fire rescue stations.

The Speedville project should break ground in February.

Carter also reported that advanced lifesaving services have been expanded to the engine serving the southeastern area of the county. This is the same level of care provided by an ambulance except for the ability to transport a patient. The engine is always staffed with at least one

paramedic firefighter.

Speaking of dual certified fire rescue employees, Carter announced that four employees have recently graduated from the firefighter minimum standards course at Florida Gateway College — Chief Dylan Rodgers, Colin Traylor, Dakota Drummond and Samantha McKerrell. Employees Abhi Bastiany and David Jackson have graduated from Santa Fe College's paramedic program.

Carter said he would be traveling to Baltimore to conduct another cadaver lab program. Hundreds of providers have been trained through this program since 2013. The grant-funded program takes place four times a year, and Carter said they have been asked to showcase it during Florida Fire Services Day during the upcoming legislative session.

They are carrying on the program founded and sustained by Dr. Peter Gianas by former Chief Allen Parrish.



Capt. Kevin Mobley (left) and Chief Ben Carter (right) with fire graduates Chief Dylan Rodgers, Colin Traylor, Dakota Drummond and Samantha McKerrell.

# Lawtey hoping for sidewalks near school with county's help

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Bradford County is assisting Lawtey with a grant-funded sidewalk project.

The project is design-only at this point, but citizens could eventually see construction of sidewalks on Park and Adams streets.

Adams lies north of Lawtey Elementary School, and Park is the street behind the school.

The city of Lawtey is not LAP certified, so the county will take on that role for Lawtey. Local Agency Program, or LAP, certification means that a local government is sufficiently qualified to undertake and complete work funded by federal dollars, complying with all federal requirements.

Commissioners approved interlocal agreements with Lawtey and an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation.

## Update on recent projects

Public Works Director Jason Dodds said construction on Southeast 49th Avenue has wrapped up with the recent completion of the punch list items for that project.

Bids have been received for the resurfacing of Northwest C.R. 225 from U.S. 301 to S.R. 16.

Engineering plans are being completed for Southwest C.R. 235 from S.R. 100 to C.R. 231.

Four of the six roads on the county's gas tax project list have been completed by the county's crew, and additional roads have been added. Paving is on hold for the moment as the county waits on its asphalt supplier for a compatible asphalt mix. Dodds predicted they will be back to work on those projects in January, including Northwest 38th Avenue and Northwest 219th Street.

The road department was praised for its work not only for producing attractive roads but for improving traffic safety as well, particularly adding shoulders to narrow roads.

## More time for other projects

The board also approved an amendment with the Florida Department of Transportation to extend the deadline for several grant-funded road projects by one year.

The projects include resurfacing Northwest 53rd Avenue, Northwest 219th Street and Northwest 41st Avenue from County Road 225 to Northwest County Road 225.

The design, engineering, construction and inspection was originally supposed to be completed by the end of this year. According to supporting

See HELP, page 9



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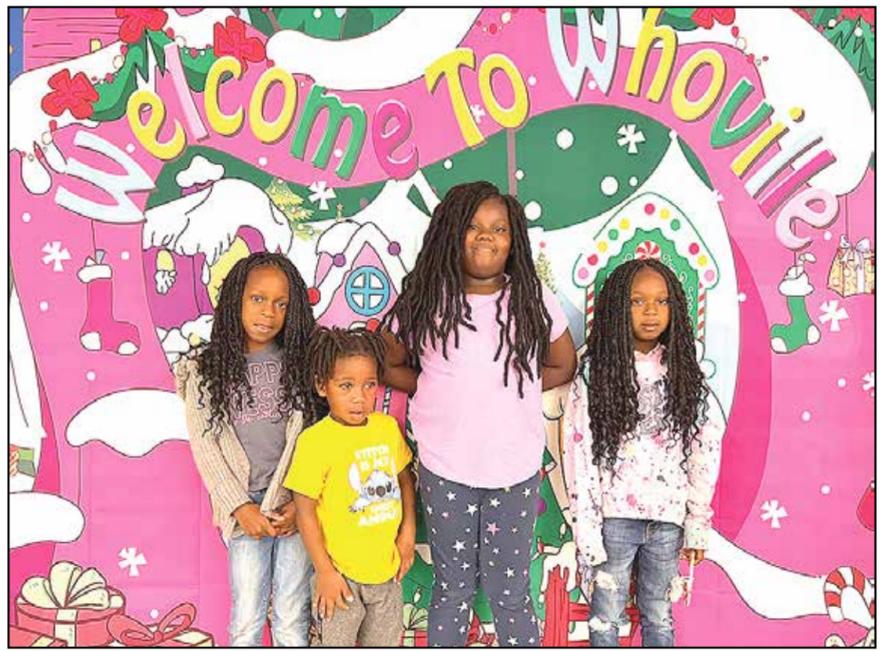
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# LAWTEY WELCOMES GRINCH TO BREAKFAST



The Grinch willing posed with smiling friends and family! Pictured are (l-r) Raymond Masey, Cason Harley, Trip Masey and Lyndsey Baker.



Siblings and cousins pose for a picture in front of the Whoville sign. Pictured are (l-r) Adrianna, Taurus, Alydia and Abrialle.



Breakfast with the Grinch was enjoyed by three generations, Granddaughter, Kallie Morgan, with Grandmother Danielle Phillips, and mom Maegan Morgan.



Alexis Boniface gave her biggest smile for the Grinch!



Close friends are so fun to party with, especially in Whoville! Camille Simmons and Amelia Story had a wonderful time together.



David and William Devore are having some Saturday morning father-son time in Whoville.



## HELP Continued from page 8

documents, the permitting process was delayed due to staffing changes and discussions about mitigating impacts.

The initial permit applications were submitted July 16, 2021. Permits from Suwannee River Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection were issued in June and September of this year.

The new construction deadline will be Dec. 31, 2024, with a contract expiration date of June 30, 2025. According to Dodds, the projects have been advertised for bid.

## More roads for 5-year plan

The commission also approved applications to the Florida Department of Transportation to fund three road projects in Fiscal Year 2028: Southeast C.R. 21B from Southeast Eighth Avenue to Southeast 30th Avenue;

Southwest C.R. 18 from Brooker to Southwest C.R. 227; and Northeast C.R. 125 from U.S. 301 to the end.

In other business, the commission:

—approved a letter of support for the town of Brooker, which is requesting legislative funds for a new fire station, engine, tanker and rescue unit.

—approved a special use permit for a 300-foot telecommunications tower for Edward Saxon and Coral Towers LLC. The tower will go up on property Saxon owns at 25134 U.S. 301 North, which is north of Lawtey.

—approved the library spending nearly \$26,600 for new computers and software. The previous computers were using

an operating system from 2013, causing compatibility issues for users.

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# Starke couple celebrates joy of fostering children

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Adam and Crystal Crawford of Starke would do anything for their children. The fact that their children aren't their biological children doesn't change that fact.

The Crawfords are foster parents, but they view themselves simply as parents. Whatever children they've had in their home, they've loved as if they were their own biological children.

"It's a joy. It makes me stop and realize how truly blessed we are," Crystal said.

She and Adam currently have a set of twins in their home: Addison and Andrew, who joined their family last year at the age of 5 days.

The foster journey began with a set of twin boys they kept for approximately 8.5 months. They then kept a set of siblings for a weekend before welcoming a 9-month-old girl, who stayed with them for almost a year.

The love and commitment they've shown as foster parents led to them being the first recipients of a new award established at Lawtey Correctional Institution, where Adam works. "Beyond the Badge," which was created when

Barry Reddish was the warden, recognizes those LCI employees who give back to their community.

"I was really honored," Adam said. "You don't get a lot of recognition working at a prison."

Fostering children has had its ups and downs, but Adam and Crystal said through it all, God has been with them.

"A lot of people will say, 'I don't know how you foster because I would get attached (to the children).' Well, it's not that we don't get attached and don't love these kids as if they're our own," Crystal said. "God gives us the strength to be able to do it."

"A lot of people tell us we're special, and we don't feel special. God gave us the strength, I think, to be able to endure it."

## Becoming foster parents a surprise

Adam and Crystal wanted to have their own biological children, but it wasn't happening, which led to infertility treatments.

Describing himself as hard-headed, Adam said his thinking was, "We're just going to keep trying. If God wants us to have them, we will. If He doesn't, we

won't."

Crystal, on the other hand, approached Adam one day about the possibility of becoming foster parents. Adam didn't like the idea of "taking care of somebody else's young'uns," but Crystal convinced him to attend an informational event in Lake Butler one night about fostering and adoption. Adam said he agreed to go, thinking if he was going to go for anything, it would be the idea of adoption.

At the end of that meeting, though, when Crystal asked Adam what he thought, he replied that to his surprise, he was leaning toward fostering. Crystal said she was, too.

"We took that as a sign from God that we needed to start fostering," Adam said.

It didn't take long after the Crawfords went through PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) training and got licensed as foster parents that they received a call about placement.

"It was within a week of us getting officially licensed," Crystal said.

Adam was at work when Crystal called him to tell him that they had a chance to open their home to 5-week-old twin boys.

"Tears started running out of my eyes," Adam said. "My buddy who I work with was like, 'Man, are you all right?' I just waved him off because I'm big, bad, rough and tough. 'You don't want to see this right now.'"

If that phone call was emotional for Adam, you can imagine what it was like when the twins arrived at his home. He couldn't wait to see them.

"I went straight to the car and looked into the window and saw these two precious, little babies in the car seats, both of them asleep," Adam said.

## From twins to twins

The goal is to reunite foster children with their birth parents or to place them with a biological family member. Thus, being foster



Crystal and Adam Crawford are pictured receiving the Beyond the Badge award from Barry Reddish, who was the warden at Lawtey Correctional Institution at that time. The Crawfords were honored for being foster parents. They are currently fostering twins Addison and Andrew.

parents can be tough at times.

"You have to have the mindset of knowing that's what fostering is," Crystal said. "It's temporary. You're just the middleman and woman who's going to take care of these kids and hope that the parents or family member can get their act together to get the kids back."

Still, Crystal said it was "one of the hardest days" when twin brothers Aiden and Zaiden left her home. She and Adam kept them from Nov. 5, 2019, until July 17, 2020.

"It's an emotional roller coaster," Crystal said.

After Aiden and Zaiden left, the couple kept another sibling group (a brother and a sister) for a weekend before the children went to another family that eventually adopted them.

Adam said he and Crystal agreed too soon to bring more children into their home, but it all worked out for the good.

"That was just another way of God strengthening us and benefitting the children," he said. "We were there for their initial placement. Then, they moved on to a family who loved and cared for them from that point on."

They were ready to become parents later that same year, welcoming 9-month-old Brittney into their home on Nov. 17, 2020. Brittney remained with them until Sept. 17, 2021.

"I thought we were done," Adam said. "I couldn't do the heartbreak anymore. It was just too hard."

Adam and Crystal received calls about child placements, but they kept saying no until they were asked about taking custody of Addison and Andrew. They were the first ones to be contacted about the children, even though they had said no multiple times to other possible placements.

"They knew we had experience with twins," Adam said. "They knew that we had been struggling (after losing Brittney) and that, hopefully, this would get us back in (to fostering)."

Addison and Andrew have been with Adam and Crystal since May 11, 2022.

## God turns tribulation into something good

When they still had Brittney, Crystal felt sick shortly after she and Adam had both gotten over covid. She drove herself to the hospital, where she received



Crystal and Adam Crawford pictured with the first children they fostered: twins Aiden and Zaiden, who stayed with them from Nov. 5, 2019, until July 17, 2020. They still talk to them every day and the children visit them every Christmas from their home in Tennessee.

surprising news. She was pregnant.

Adam said after praising God, he and Crystal turned their thoughts to finding a new home. They needed a bigger house if they were going to have a child of their own as well as continuing to foster.

They sold their home quickly (with the help of local Realtor Carrie Crews) and found a new house.

The pieces were falling into place, but then the couple received some bad news during Crystal's first OB-GYN appointment. The fetus hadn't developed inside of the embryo sac.

"We ended up not having the baby because of that," Adam said.

Adam admitted he was struggling with his faith in the aftermath. Why did God allow them to buy a bigger house that it now looked like they no longer needed? Why did God allow Crystal to become pregnant, only to not actually have the child?

"For the first time in my life, I questioned God," Adam said.

It was difficult for Crystal to watch, especially with the emotions she was experiencing, but God was there with her.

"After all the years we've been together, I've never seen his faith shaken," Crystal said. "I've always been the one who's had to turn to him, and he'd give me the encouraging words from God."

"For once, God, without a doubt, gave me the strength and the words to be able to be the strong one during one of the hardest moments I had experienced. He gave me the strength to be there for Adam and

help him get through the process."

The Crawfords attend LifeSpring Church. Crystal encouraged Adam to call Pastor Ken Weaver about what he was dealing with.

"Of course, he had words of wisdom for me," Adam said.

Weaver mentioned Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

The mistake people make, Weaver told Adam, is that they interpret that to mean all things are good all the time. People go through tough times, but good will eventually come, Weaver said.

"It eased my mind when he brought those words to me," Adam said.

Adam said neither he nor Crystal knew what the good was going to be at that time. Now, they can sit in their home and see the good in front of them — twins Addison and Andrew in a house that's large enough for the current family. Plus, Adam went from working a job he didn't like at Florida State Prison to one he now enjoys at Lawtey Correctional.

More good could be on the way. Adam and Crystal could get the chance to adopt Addison and Andrew.

"I pray that we do (get that chance)," Adam said. "If it's presented to us to adopt them, without a shadow of a doubt we'll adopt them."

## Lasting relationships

Adam and Crystal have received a blessing that isn't typical of foster parents in that they've been able to maintain contact with the children who were once in their home.

Custody of the first set of twins was eventually awarded to their biological grandmother, who lives in Tennessee. The grandmother said she couldn't not let Adam and Crystal continue to be a part of the children's lives. In fact, Aiden and Zaiden visit the Crawfords every year for Christmas.

"We're still Mama and Daddy to them," Adam said. "We talk to them just about every day."

During the process of the grandmother adopting the boys, she had Aiden's middle name changed to the middle name of Crystal's father and Zaiden's middle name changed to Adam's middle name.

"She said we were the two biggest influences in their lives when they needed us the most," Adam said, adding, "We are now permanently a part of their names. I thought that was pretty special. I might've shed a tear or two."

Brittney was reunited with her

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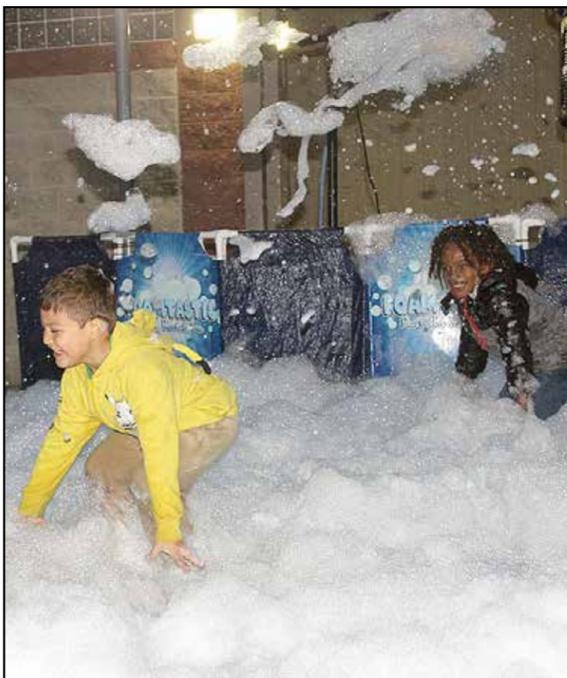
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# BC Library turns Starke into winter wonderland



Skyla Hallam (left) and Tayden Hallam, with assistance from Cindy Griffis, write letters to Santa at the Dec. 14 Santa's Winter Wonderland Christmas Carnival, hosted by the Bradford County Public Library. Mailboxes were available to drop the letters in, ensuring that they'll find their way to the North Pole. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



What's a winter wonderland without snow? Thanks to Foamtastic, children such as Connor Blandford (left) and Jessiah Hyman got to play in snow-like conditions in Florida.



Tayden Hallam puts his letter to Santa in the North Pole Express mailbox.

RIGHT: Ensignh Webb lets Santa know what she'd like for Christmas.  
BELOW: Lillian Levine, accompanied by Adam Levine, enjoys taking part in the cookie and candy walk.



LEFT: Kaise Lemire scoops up Christmas bows at one of the games available for children to play.  
BELOW: Jeremiah Crews (left) participates in one of the inside games, which was staffed by Kenny Quinn.



Heath Blandford and Jessiah Hyman (background) enjoy "snow" on what turned out to be a chilly, Florida day.



ABOVE: Jessiah Hyman scoops up a handful of foam.

LEFT: Dallas Lee tries his luck at throwing a ball into a bucket.



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RIGHT: Heaven-Leigh Lamb watches Draco Mitchell make a move as they play a game against each other.



BELOW: Members of the Kiwanis Club of Starke, including Nelson Green, Dale Woodruff, Cheryl Canova, Bear Bryan, Pat Mundorff and Richard Cason, served up free hot dogs.



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# Obituaries

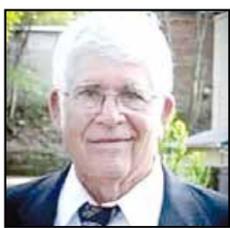
## William Carter

William Thomas Carter, 82, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, in Hartwell, Georgia. Known to his family and friends as "Bill," he was born in Lawley on Oct. 28, 1941, to Carl "Bub" and Mildred Carter and was raised off Carter Road, where he was more commonly known by his childhood nickname, "Tommy." Throughout his full and blessed life, he will be remembered by even more names. He grew up being "brother" to Margret Arwood (deceased), Linda Sweat (deceased), Ann Macy, and Donald Carter. After graduating from Bradford County High School, he joined the Army and was stationed in Germany. Upon returning stateside, he married his high school sweetheart, Joy Ann Starling Carter, and became her devoted "husband" until her death in August 2020. He was "father" to Michelle Farmer and Brenda Smith; father-in-law to Scottie and Geoff. Known as "Pops" to his grandchildren, Kailyn MacLaurin, Samuel Smith, and Charlie Smith, and to his great-granddaughter, Adayln MacLaurin; and "Pops-in-law" to Michael. He was "Uncle" and "Cousin" to many more. He worked professionally as a computer programmer. His first position was on Saint Simons Island, working for The Sea Pack Corporation. In 1980, his job took him to Atlanta, where he worked for the remainder of his career for Beech Aircrafts. Upon retirement, he and Joy left city life and moved to a quiet cove on Lake Hartwell. There he was known as an avid gardener who took pride in growing many different types of crops that he loved to share with his family and friends. He also loved nothing more than being the captain of his ship, always ready to take anyone willing on a peaceful cruise or a wild tube ride. He was an adventurer. This started in his youth with many legendary tent camping trips with all the extended family and later moved to travels in the pop-up-camper with his daughters. In retirement, he took his adventures to the next level with memorable trips to Alaska, New England, the Caribbean, and Europe. No trip was complete without talking his friends and family into joining him. The role that most defined his life was that of "caregiver." Once a need was discovered, he would go out of his way, sometimes by many, many miles, to offer his services. He was known to work tirelessly to repair homes, docks, cars, and equipment. He was quick to provide his own freshly picked vegetables, the best pecans, and the largest shrimp available if he thought it would brighten up someone's day. He got to know all those he came into contact with and quickly became a friend. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of life was held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Starke. A graveside service followed at Lawley Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to your local food bank in his name.

Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY



## Vera Chapman

Vera Joyce Clyatt Chapman of La Crosse passed away on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023. She was 90. Anyone who knew her well knew they had a friend for life. Her cheerful demeanor was a reflection of her love and devotion to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and she was quick to welcome friends and strangers alike, making everyone she met feel right at home. She grew up on a farm in Union County, and she was no stranger to hard work. She'd often entertain her children and grandchildren with tales of working in the tobacco fields, evening peanut boils, and the bygone days of life without indoor plumbing. She spent her adult life in La Crosse alongside her husband, Johnny. Their love story spanned more than 68 years, and she now rejoins him in heaven. She was the first woman to serve on the La Crosse city council and was one of the first two women to serve as a volunteer firefighter. Both Joyce and Johnny made an indelible impact on the La Crosse community. It wasn't unusual to find her passing the time by playing the piano or sewing quilts, clothes, or any number of other items for family and friends. She loved to stay busy! Whether selling Avon, driving a school bus, serving on the hospitality committee at Antioch Baptist Church, volunteering at Gainesville Ministries—or any number of other countless activities—she made a difference that will be felt for generations. She was preceded in death by her husband, Johnny; her daughter, Diane; her parents, Robert and Vera Clyatt; and her grandson, Michael.

She is survived by her children, Annette (Jim) of Lake Butler; John (Pam) of Gainesville; and James (Belinda) of La Crosse; six granddaughters; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Though gone from this world, her joyous spirit will always be remembered, cherished and shared in the lives of everyone she touched.

A service to honor her will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21, at Antioch Baptist Church. A visitation will begin at 10 a.m. followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. She will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery. Services will be officiated by Pastor Dan Kendall.

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

PAID OBITUARY



## Jeffrey Thornton

Jeffrey Allen Thornton, 41, of Lake Butler passed away on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023. Born on March 6, 1982, in Gainesville, he was a loving husband, son, father, and friend who will be deeply missed by all those whose lives he touched. Known for his warm and inviting personality, he never met a stranger. His kindheartedness and genuine nature made him beloved by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. He had a variety of hobbies and interests that brought him joy. He had a love for cooking and eating delicious meals, which he happily shared with loved ones. Fishing was another source of happiness for him; he found solace in casting his line and spending time in the quiet of a lake or riverbank. Above all else, he cherished moments spent with his boys, Tanner Allen Thornton (16), Tyler Lane Thornton (13), John Luke Thornton (10), and Jesseman Bailey Thornton (6). These precious moments formed lifelong memories that will forever hold a special place in their hearts. An avid Florida Gator fan, his enthusiasm for his favorite college team knew no bounds. He cheered them on with unwavering support and celebrated their victories as if they were his own. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Shelton and Ina Claire Arnold; paternal grandfather, Elzie Thornton; stepgrandfather, Harold Kelly; and cousin, Adam Sanderson.

Along with his sons, he leaves behind his wife, Alicia Danielle Thornton of Lake Butler; his loving mother and stepfather, Donna and Randy Salle; father and stepmother, Shelton "Huey" and Pauline "Ma" Thornton; stepsons, Blake Mathew Futch and Blane Daniel Futch; sister, Kelly Ann Thornton; stepsiblings, Randy Salle Jr., Sarah Salle, Adam Williams, Leamon Sharpe, and Johnathan Russell; and a host of extended family and friends.

Services to honor and celebrate his life will take place at the Archer-Milton Funeral Home. A visitation will occur on Thursday, Dec. 21, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. The funeral service will be held on Friday, Dec. 22, starting at 11 a.m. Brother Preston Gainey will officiate.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

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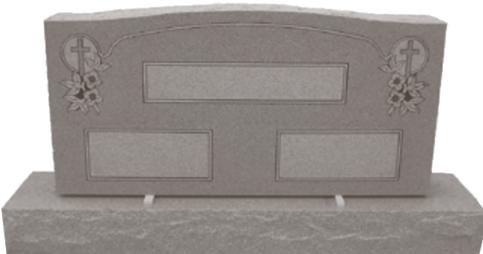
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## Wilbur Groves

Wilbur James Groves, 85, of Keystone Heights passed away Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, at 7 p.m. He was born on March 24, 1938, in Baker County to the late John Theron and Myrtle (Starling) Groves. He was a graduate of Baker County High School Class of 1956 and was a high school football standout who was well known to his opponents. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church, where he volunteered many hours. He retired from the United States Air Force and later retired from the State of Florida Department of Corrections. He and Shirley enjoyed traveling in their motor home. He was an avid Gator fan and was active in the Melrose Masonic Lodge #89. His love of football gave him the strength to become a referee for little league and high school football games, something he truly enjoyed. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 30 years, Shirley (Norman) Groves; daughter, Sandra Glenn; and sister, Dorothy Faye Groves.

Survivors are his children, Linda (Michael) Crosby of Colorado and Marie Moore of Oregon; stepdaughters, Sherry (Dennis) Stallings of North Carolina and Darlene Wise of Keystone Heights; brothers, Edward Wayne Groves of Lakeland, and Johnnie Theron (Patsy) Groves of Sanderson. Also left are grandchildren, James Robinson of Florida, John (Autumn) Robinson of Colorado, Danielle (Ryan) Bonish of Texas, David Glenn of Connecticut, Berkeley Moore of Oregon, London (Leslie) Crosby of Colorado, Haylie Crosby of Colorado; stepgrandchildren, Grace Stallings, Kelsey Gentry, and Dilan Wise; along with several great-grandchildren.

The family received friends at Blackburn-Curry Funeral Home, 380 N. Lowder St., Macclenny, 32063 on Tuesday, Dec. 19. Funeral services followed with Pastor James Peoples officiating. Interment was at South Prong Cemetery in Sanderson.

Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights 32656. 352-471-3176 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY



## Peggy Long

Peggy Elizabeth Long passed away Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, after an extended illness. Born in Tampa on June 22, 1953, she lived most of her life in Union & Baker counties. She lived a simple life, dedicated to working hard to raise her four children. Her passion for animals, especially cats, led her to stop traffic to rescue and save as many strays as she could. She was known to many in the community as a sweet lady with a loving heart. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Lori Nicole Anderson; husband, Wendell Long; brother, Robert Barker; and her mother Mary Barker.

She is survived by her children Dana (Mark) Pelletier of North Carolina, Joshua (Lisa) Long of Live Oak, Stephanie (Brad) Crawford of Glen St. Mary, and Gina (Peter) Stefani of Cedar Key; her grandchildren: Jackie, Letha, Selene, Alan, Nicholas, Luke, Gunnar, Amelia, Ty, Leah, Pete, and Jaelyn; nine great-grandchildren; her sisters, Linda O'Steen of Lake City and Betty (Dean) Elixson of Worthington Springs; and a host of extended family.

A graveside service was held to honor her life on Monday, Dec. 18, at Elzey Chapel Cemetery in Lake Butler. Pastor Michael Ramondetta officiated. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to your local animal shelter.

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

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## Jeffrey Wade

Jeffrey Roberts Wade passed away suddenly in his sleep on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, while resting between work shifts as a conductor for Amtrak. He was born Dec. 21, 1977, the son of Russell Alexander Wade Jr. and Sandra Roberts Wade. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Lake Butler Ward. He grew up in Lake Butler and attended Union County High School, graduating in 1996. After graduating high school, he worked in the car stereo business in Lake City while earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from Saint Leo's University. He then worked as a pharmaceutical representative for Novartis Pharmaceutical. In 2008, he went to work for Amtrak as an assistant conductor and eventually became full conductor. He enjoyed all kinds of music, hunting, target shooting and the outdoors. He had a special way with small children and animals. He never met a kitchen gadget, tool, flashlight, or pocketknife that he didn't want to buy. He was a fan of the Florida Gators and supporter of underdogs in general. He was fiercely loyal, not only to his family but to his many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Russell Alexander Wade Jr.

He is survived and loved by his mother, Sandra Roberts Wade; brothers, Russell Alexander (Tammy) Wade III and Jordan Kimball (Kiley) Wade; and nieces and nephews, Katie, Maggie, Alex, Molly, Sadie, and Kimball. A service to honor his life was held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Lake Butler. A visitation preceded the service. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Oak Grove Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



## JOY

Continued from page 10

biological mother, but Adam and Crystal still continue to see her at times. They told Brittney's mother that if she needs anything or any help with Brittney to let them know.

She has. For example, Brittney's mother asked Adam and Crystal if they could keep Brittney for a couple of days so she could deal with the impact of a recent hurricane.

"She doesn't have family here," Crystal said. "She's not from here. She doesn't have that family support at all."

## Support from family, friends, God

It takes a village. Crystal referenced that common phrase, saying that she and Adam have gotten plenty of support through their foster-parent journey.

"It's not just me and Adam," she said. "It's our moms, my dad, friends and church family. It's people around us cheering us on."

Adam said, "We've had to rely on our parents more often than we probably should have. We couldn't do this without them. We couldn't do any of this without our parents."

They also admit they couldn't do any of it without God. Their faith has strengthened as a result.

"There's not a day that goes by that you can't just say it's of God — the way it's worked out from the beginning," Adam said. "From



Adam and Crystal are pictured with Brittney, who they fostered from Nov. 17, 2020, until Sept. 17, 2021.

Him changing our hearts from the very beginning at that information night to right now, where it looks like we might get to adopt (Addison and Andrew). Every step of the way, it's been God. None of it has been Adam and Crystal."

Crystal said, "God put us on this journey. I wouldn't change one minute of it."

She and Adam are experiencing the joy of parenthood. Crystal believes she's a better person that the joy has come through fostering.

"We get to experience what I've always dreamed of," Crystal said. "I feel like maybe if I would've had my own child, maybe I would've taken for granted what I don't take for granted now. I just realize how precious it is and just how blessed we are that we get to take care of these kids."

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A.J. Nilsen (left) scored the Indians lone goal in a 1-1 tie with Middleburg. Sammy Wacha (also pictured) was credited with the assist on the score. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

### KHHS girls soccer team falls to district foe P.K. Yonge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School was shut out 8-0 by District 4-3A opponent P.K. Yonge in a Dec. 15 girls soccer match in Keystone.

The Indians (6-3-1, 2-1) got 18 saves from goalie Aspen Krohn.

Leading up to the match, Keystone had wins over Suwannee and district opponent Newberry.

Kiersten Shaw scored two goals and had an assist in a 6-0 win over visiting Suwannee on Dec. 12. Ella Hutchins scored two goals as well, while Parker Collins and Alyssa Townsend each had one.

Townsend and Halea Lam each had one assist, while Krohn made six saves.

On Dec. 14, Hutchins and Shaw each scored three goals in a 7-1 win at Newberry.

Lam and Shaw recorded three and two assists, respectively. Kayle Buchanan had one assist.

The Indians played Gainesville this past Tuesday and will return to action on Thursday, Jan. 4, with a 5 p.m. road match against Trenton.

### Keystone and Middleburg settle for tie in boys soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

A goal for each team in the second half provided all of the scoring as the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team



LEFT: Dallas DeCrosta (far right) pushes the ball ahead of two opponents in an earlier match this season.

BELOW: Alyssa Sanford dribbles the ball toward the opponent's goal. File photos by Cliff Smelley.

led host Middleburg 1-1 in a Dec. 18 boys soccer match.

A.J. Nilsen scored the Indians' goal off a Sammy Wacha assist.

Keystone (8-1-1) went 1-1 in its previous two matches, suffering its first loss in a 5-3 match against District 4-3A opponent P.K. Yonge on Dec. 13 in Gainesville.

Nilsen, Wacha and Luke Brunt each scored a goal, with Wacha and Aaron Wiley each recording an assist.

The Indians bounced back with a 10-2 win at Newberry on Dec. 14, improving their district record to 5-1.

Bryce Huntley and Wiley scored four and three goals, respectively, while Wacha had two. Noah Jaramillo added one goal.

Brunt led the team in assists with three, while Wiley had two. Nilson and Logan Spence each had one assist.

Keystone played Fernandina Beach this past Tuesday and won't be back in action until Thursday, Jan. 4, in a road match against Trenton at 7 p.m.



Bryce Huntley scored four goals in a 10-2 district win over Newberry on Dec. 14. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

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# BHS to host varsity, JV boys and girls hoops tournaments

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School will host Christmas basketball tournaments for varsity and junior varsity boys and girls teams beginning with a JV tournament, which is Friday, Dec. 22, through Saturday, Dec. 23.

The varsity tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec.

27, through Friday, Dec. 29. Day one of the JV tournament tips off at 2 p.m. on Dec. 22 with a girls game between Bishop Kenny and Westport. The Keystone Heights boys team will play KIPP at 3:30 p.m., followed by a 5 p.m. game between the J.W. Mitchell and KIPP girls teams.

The first day concludes with the Bradford boys team taking on Interlachen at 6:30 p.m.

Tip-off times for day two of the tournament are the same as for day one. The first game is between the J.W. Mitchell and Westport girls teams, followed by a boys game between Interlachen and KIPP. The Bishop Kenny and KIPP girls teams play the third game, followed by a boys game between Bradford and Keystone.

The varsity tournament consists of five games each day,

with tip-off times of 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Day one on Dec. 27 begins with a girls game between Keystone and Toco Creek, followed by a boys game between Keystone and Tavares. The Bradford girls team plays Crossroads Academy in the third game, while the fourth game pits the Ridgeview and Miami Beach

boys teams against each other. Action concludes with a boys game between Bradford and Englewood.

The Keystone and Crossroads girls teams get the action started on day two, followed by games against the Ridgeview and Tavares boys teams, the Bradford and Toco Creek girls teams, the Keystone and Englewood boys teams and the Bradford and

Miami Beach boys teams.

Day three begins with the Crossroads and Toco Creek girls teams, followed by the Keystone boys taking on Miami Beach. The Bradford and Keystone girls play each other in the third game, followed by a game between the Englewood and Tavares boys teams. The tournament then concludes with the Bradford boys team playing Ridgeview.

## Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Dec. 21, 2023

### BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: 04-23-CP-000118 IN re: THE ESTATE OF JOE C. HARMON, also known as JOE CURTIS HARMON, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Joe C. Harmon, also known as Joe Curtis Harmon, deceased, whose date of death was March 7, 2023, and whose Social Security Number is \*\*\*-\*\*-6584, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE 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 SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 14, 2023. Personal Representative: Myrtice L. Jenkins 18035 NW 62nd Avenue Starke, Florida 32091 Attorneys for Personal Representative: TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P. A. By /s/Jennifer T. Arrubla James J. Taylor, Jr. Florida Bar No. 334057 Jennifer T. Arrubla Florida Bar No. 98804 420 S. Lawrence Blvd. Keystone Heights, Florida 32656 Primary Email: Jennifer@tah-law.com Secondary Email: Jim@tah-law.com Kim@tah-law.com 352-473-8088 (telephone) 352-473-8161 (facsimile) 12/14 2tchg 12/21-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION Case #: 2018-CA-000553 Wells Fargo Bank, NA Plaintiff, -VS- Tabitha Nicole Terry a/k/a Tabitha Nicole Moore a/k/a Tabitha N. Terry a/k/a Tabitha N. Moore a/k/a Tabitha Terry a/k/a Tabitha Harvey; Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Creditors, Lienors, and Trustees of Ricky Allen Terry a/k/a Rick Allen Terry a/k/a Ricky A. Terry a/k/a Rick A. Terry a/k/a Ricky Terry, Deceased, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant (s); Florida Credit Union; Bradford Land & Cattle Company, Inc, a dissolved Florida Corporation; Kathy J. Terry a/k/a Kathy Geiger a/k/a Kathy Eaton Defendant(s). NOTICE OF SALE I HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 2018-CA-000553 of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein Wells Fargo Bank, NA, Plaintiff and Tabitha Nicole Terry a/k/a Tabitha Nicole Moore a/k/a Tabitha N. Terry a/k/a Tabitha N. Moore a/k/a Tabitha Terry a/k/a Tabitha Harvey are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Denny Thompson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN THE LOBBY AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE,

LOCATED AT 945 NORTH TEMPLE AVENUE, STARKE, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA AT 11:00 A.M. on January 18, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: LOT 12 RIVER BEND ESTATES (AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION) LYING IN THE EAST 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID LOT BEING CONVEYED WITH A RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER EASEMENTS AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT, ALSO BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS TO CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT; SUBJECT TO COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS, DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1984, RECORDED NOVEMBER 1, 1984, IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 239, PAGE 460, ET. SEQ., PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID RIVER BEND ESTATES; THENCE S 00°18'49" W ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID PLAT FOR A DISTANCE OF 1688.74 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE S 00°18'49" W ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.02 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE N 89°22'03" E ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 640.80 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE N 00°55'12" W ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.00 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE S 89°22'03" W ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 637.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN MANUFACTURED HOME, YEAR: 2005, MAKE: FLEETWOOD, VIN#: GAFL435A89637EX21 AND VIN#: GAFL435B89637EX21.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. 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 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, Florida 32601 (352) 491-4490 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Submitted By: ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP 750 Park of Commerce Blvd., Suite 130 Boca Raton, Florida 33487 (561) 998-6700 (561) 998-6707 12/14 2tchg 12/21-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 04-2023-CA-338 CAPITAL CITY BANK, Plaintiff, v. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR DEVISEES OF DENNIS C. RHODEN, Deceased; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR DEVISEES OF WAYNETTE S. RHODEN, Deceased; DENNIS C. RHODEN, JR. and LORI DENNETTE RHODEN, as surviving heirs of Dennis C. Rhoden, Deceased and Waynette S. Rhoden, Deceased; and JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE (Unknown Tenants/Occupants), Defendants. AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION TO: The Unknown Heirs And/Or Devisees who claim by, through, under or against Dennis C. Rhoden, deceased The Unknown Heirs And/Or Devisees who claim by, through, under or against Waynette S. Rhoden, deceased LORI DENNETTE RHODEN 23451 NW 32nd Place

Lawtey, Florida 32058 (Last Known Address) CHRISTOPHER SCOTT RHODEN 1610 West Madison Street, F3 Starke, Florida 32091 (Last Known Address) CORBETT BRANDON RHODEN 1610 West Madison Street, F3 Starke, Florida 32091 (Last Known Address) YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage securing a debt on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: A parcel of land lying in Lots 55, 56, 57 and 58 of Woodlawn in Section 15, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 17 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being shown as Parcel 27 on a map prepared by Patrick B. Welch & Associates, Inc. and recorded in Misc. Map Book 1, Page 1 of the public records of said County, also being described as follows: Commence at an iron rod set at an intersection of the Southerly boundary of said Section 15 with the Southerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 125 (formerly State Road 125) and run North 89 degrees, 27 minutes and 23 seconds West, along the Southerly boundary of said Section 15, a distance of 458.01 feet to a set concrete monument; thence South 0 degrees, 32 minutes and 37 seconds West, 15.00 feet; thence North 86 degrees, 21 minutes and 33 seconds West, 492.32 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 89 degrees, 33 minutes and 20 seconds West, 803.02 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 00 degrees, 32 minutes and 37 seconds East, 341.58 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described run North 89 degrees, 27 minutes and 23 seconds West, parallel with last said Southerly boundary, 690.33 feet to the Westerly boundary of said Section 15 (also being the Easterly boundary of a parcel of land described in Deed Book 82, Page 119 of said public records); thence North 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 56 seconds East, along said Westerly boundary and along said Easterly boundary, 315.83 feet; thence South 89 degrees, 27 minutes and 23 seconds East, parallel with last said Southerly boundary, 688.92 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 00 degrees, 32 minutes and 37 seconds West, 315.82 feet to the Point of Beginning. Together With that certain Mobile Home situated thereon. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff's attorney, J. Marshall Conrad, whose address is Ausley & McMullen, Post Office Box 391, Tallahassee, Florida 32302, on or before January 22, 2024, 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 on December 11, 2023. DENNY THOMPSON, Clerk of Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida By: /s/ K. Jenkins Deputy Clerk 945 N. Temple Avenue Starke, Florida 32091 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 Clerk's Office (904) 966-6280 within seven (7) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. 12/14 2tchg 12/21-BCT

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2023 CA 176 FLORIDA CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, Vs. UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OF ANTHONY J. NEW, DECEASED, PATTY NEW, CHRISTINA NEW AND GLENN NEW, Defendant(s). NOTICE OF ACTION ITO: Unknown Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees of Anthony J. New, Deceased 8385 NW CR 229 Starke, FL 32091 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following

real property in Bradford County, Florida: PARCEL NO. 8 OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NW CORNER OF THE TRACT AT A CONCRETE MARKER ALONG CR-229, PARCEL 8 BEGINS 641.67 FEET S 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 EAST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE N 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 EAST FOR 355.11 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD, THENCE S 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 EAST FOR 184 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE S 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 WEST FOR 355.11 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD ON THE BOUNDARY OF CR-229; THENCE N 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 WEST FOR 184 FEET ALONG BOUNDARY OF CR-229 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. 013'0101 PARCEL NO. 8A OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NORTH AND EAST OF COUNTY ROAD 229 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT IN THE NE CORNER OF SAID TRACT RUNNING 837.41 FEET, S 89 DEGREES 45' 24'034 WEST TO SET IRON ROD AS POINT OF BEGINNING FOR PARCEL 8A; THENCE 184 FEET S 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 EAST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 236.22 FEET S 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 WEST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 184 FEET N 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 WEST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 236.22 FEET, N 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 EAST TO A SET IRON ROD AT POINT OF BEGINNING OF PARCEL 8A. 013'0101 PARCEL NO. 8B OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NE CORNER OF SAID NW 1/4 AND RUN S 89 DEGREES 45' 24'034 WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 587.19 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED RUN S 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 WEST 169.56 FEET; THENCE N 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 229 (FORMERLY STATE ROAD S-229), A DISTANCE OF 184.00 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID NW 1/4; THENCE N 89 DEGREES 45' 24'034 EAST, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY, 250.22 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. 013'0101 TOGETHE WITH A 2000 DOUBLEWIDE ID # GAFLX34A72909SH21 AND ID # GAFLX34B72909SH21 WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO THE LANDS ABOVE DESCRIBED AND AS SUCH IS DEEMED TO BE A FIXTURE AND A PART OF THE REAL ESTATE. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Stephen Orsillo, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 3637, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-3637, within 30 days after the first publication date and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition. Dated this 15th day of December, 2023. Denny Thompson, Clerk As Clerk of the Court By: Tasher Allen AS Deputy Clerk 12/21 2tchg 12/28- BCT

real property in Bradford County, Florida: PARCEL NO. 8 OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NW CORNER OF THE TRACT AT A CONCRETE MARKER ALONG CR-229, PARCEL 8 BEGINS 641.67 FEET S 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 EAST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE N 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 EAST FOR 355.11 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD, THENCE S 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 EAST FOR 184 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE S 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 WEST FOR 355.11 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD ON THE BOUNDARY OF CR-229; THENCE N 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 WEST FOR 184 FEET ALONG BOUNDARY OF CR-229 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. 013'0101 PARCEL NO. 8A OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NORTH AND EAST OF COUNTY ROAD 229 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT IN THE NE CORNER OF SAID TRACT RUNNING 837.41 FEET, S 89 DEGREES 45' 24'034 WEST TO SET IRON ROD AS POINT OF BEGINNING FOR PARCEL 8A; THENCE 184 FEET S 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 EAST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 236.22 FEET S 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 WEST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 184 FEET N 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 WEST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 236.22 FEET, N 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 EAST TO A SET IRON ROD AT POINT OF BEGINNING OF PARCEL 8A. 013'0101 PARCEL NO. 8B OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NE CORNER OF SAID NW 1/4 AND RUN S 89 DEGREES 45' 24'034 WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 587.19 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED RUN S 42 DEGREES 25' 07'034 WEST 169.56 FEET; THENCE N 47 DEGREES 34' 53'034 WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 229 (FORMERLY STATE ROAD S-229), A DISTANCE OF 184.00 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID NW 1/4; THENCE N 89 DEGREES 45' 24'034 EAST, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY, 250.22 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. 013'0101 TOGETHE WITH A 2000 DOUBLEWIDE ID # GAFLX34A72909SH21 AND ID # GAFLX34B72909SH21 WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO THE LANDS ABOVE DESCRIBED AND AS SUCH IS DEEMED TO BE A FIXTURE AND A PART OF THE REAL ESTATE. has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Stephen Orsillo, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 3637, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-3637, within 30 days after the first publication date and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition. Dated this 15th day of December, 2023. Denny Thompson, Clerk As Clerk of the Court By: Tasher Allen AS Deputy Clerk 12/21 2tchg 12/28- BCT

32091, (952) 314-7121 Time: 10:00AM CST A19, Crapp, Shaunte, A23, Crapp, Shaunte, A49, Starling, Lynn, B49, Coe, Kayla, B52, Barton, Susan, B56, Bowen, Dustin, C03, Berry, Terrence Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storagetreasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121. 12/21 2tchg 12/28-BCT

BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD BUSINESS MEETING The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited. DATE AND TIME: January 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. PLACE: Bradford County Emergency Operations Center Board Room located at 945 N Temple Ave # B, Starke, Florida DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008 CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272 GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200. Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the business meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice). If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued. 12/21 1tchg-BCT

UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD BUSINESS MEETING The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited. DATE AND TIME: January 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. PLACE: Union County Transportation Facility located at 255 SW 9th Avenue, Lake Butler, Florida DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008 CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272 GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200. Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice). If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued. 12/21 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: PHILLIP MCDONALD (PRESIDENT) & JANIS MCDONALD (VICE-PRESIDENT), 15895 SW 161st St., Brookier, FL 32622 joint owners, doing business under the firm name of: RIVER BRANCH FARM, INC., 14476 SW CR 100, Lake Butler, FL 32054, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 12th day of December A.D., 2023, in Bradford/Union County. 12/21 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC SALE Notice is hereby given that on dates below these vehicles will be sold at public sale on the date listed below at 10AM for monies owed on vehicle repair and storage cost pursuant to Florida Statutes 713.585 or Florida Statutes 713.78. Please note, parties claiming interest have right to a hearing prior to the date of sale with the Clerk of Courts as reflected in the notice. The owner has the right to recover possession of the vehicle without judicial proceedings as pursuant to Florida Statute 559.917. Any proceeds recovered from the sale of the vehicle over the amount of the lien will be deposited with the clerk of the court for disposition upon court order. "No Title Guaranteed, A Buyer Fee May Apply" at February 12, 2024 Allen's All Around Auto Repair, Inc. 2163 Temple Ave., Starke, FL 2014 CHEV KL8CD6S90EC573740

PUBLIC NOTICE RULE NAME: Policy #3.14+ Suicide Prevention Policy #3.25+ Background Screening for Contractors Policy #5.03+ Student Assignment Policy #5.031+ Student out of Zone Transfers/Choice Policy #5.033+ Controlled Open Enrollment Policy #5.24+ Parental Access to Information Policy #5.28+ School Health Services Policy #6.39+ Report of Misconduct Policy #6.42 Records and Reports PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To update Board Policies SUMMARY: To update Board Policies AUTHORITY: Florida Statutes LAW IMPLEMENTED: ECONOMIC IMPACT: None Policies can be viewed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 55 SW Sixth Street, Lake Butler, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. IF A HEARING IS REQUESTED WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THE POLICY POSTING LOCATED AT UNION. K12.FL.US THIS PUBLICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 120.54 FLORIDA STATUTES, IT WILL BE HELD ON January 16, 2024 IN THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ROOM. A COMPLETE TEXT OF THIS PROPOSED RULE MAY BE VIEWED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, 55 S.W. 6th STREET, LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA. 12/21 1tchg-BCT

**Bradford County Telegraph**  
USPS 062-700  
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
**Bradford County Telegraph**  
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091  
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091  
**John Miller, Publisher**  
Editor: Mark J. Crawford  
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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
**Lake Region Monitor**  
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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  
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628  
**John Miller, Publisher**  
Editor: Mark J. Crawford  
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# BHS girls lose 2 straight after win over P.K. Yonge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Bradford High School girls basketball team avenged a preseason loss to P.K. Yonge, but the Tornadoes have since lost two in a row, with the latest loss coming to visiting Ed White by a score of 51-33 on Dec. 18.

The Tornadoes (4-4) didn't get on the board against the Class 5A Commanders (3-7) until Ar'Nayshia Griffin made two free throws at the 4:07 mark of the first quarter. It wasn't until 1:46 remained in the quarter that Bradford made its

first field goal, but that basket — a fastbreak layup by Jada Hankerson — sparked a 7-0 run that sent the Tornadoes into the second quarter trailing 13-9.

Just like in the first, it took Bradford approximately half of the second quarter before putting points on the board. Those came off a three-pointer by Khamyra Hankerson at the 4:18 mark.

Two three-pointers by White's Alaysha Williams gave the Commanders a 25-13 lead.

Griffin scored the final four points of the half. She collected

two points off an offensive rebound and was able to beat the clock on a driving layup to make it a 25-17 game.

The Tornadoes got off to a quick start in the second half, with Khamyra Hankerson making a three-pointer and Jada Hankerson getting fouled on a drive following her own steal. She made 1 of 2 free throws to leave Bradford trailing 25-21.

White outscored the Tornadoes 14-4 the rest of the quarter to take a 39-25 lead into the fourth. Bradford was never able to cut its deficit to single digits.

Griffin led the team with 17 points, while Jada Hankerson and Khamyra Hankerson scored nine and six, respectively. Destiny Crum added one point.

Bradford entered the game off a 63-41 road loss to District 2-3A opponent Trinity Catholic on Dec. 15. Jada Hankerson poured in 23 points to lead the team, while Griffin and Kailyn Teal added eight and six points, respectively. Crum and Alysia Rentz each had two points.

Trinity improved to 6-1.

## BHS rallies in 2nd half to defeat P.K.

Jada Hankerson scored 11 of her team's 16 third-quarter points, helping the Tornadoes defeat visiting District 2 opponent P.K. Yonge 55-49 on Dec. 13.

Bradford, which lost to P.K. Yonge in the preseason, got off to a slow start, not getting its first field goal until Ajiyah Jackson made a wide-open layup off a Khamyra Hankerson assist with 3:27 remaining in the first quarter. That basket, though, started an 8-3 run to close out the quarter, with Bradford trailing 11-8. Jada Hankerson hit a pull-up three-pointer, followed by Jackson once again scoring down low, this time off a Griffin pass.

P.K. Yonge (5-4), a regional finalist from last season, increased its lead to 15-8 in the second quarter, but Bradford then got back-to-back baskets from Khamyra Hankerson (off a three-pointer) and Griffin (after a Crum offensive rebound).

Crum later sank a shot from beyond the arc to make it 17-16,



Jada Hankerson (right) gets fouled on a shot in the loss to Ed White.



Destiny Crum (left) puts up a three-point shot over the outstretched arm of P.K. Yonge's Ashlyn Young.

RIGHT: Ar'Nayshia Griffin (left) drives to the basket against Ed White.

BELOW: Ajiyah Jackson (far right) draws contact against P.K. Yonge's Reniyah Clark underneath the basket. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Destiny Crum (left) puts up a three-point shot over the outstretched arm of P.K. Yonge's Ashlyn Young.

with the Blue Wave still clinging to a lead. A free throw by Khamyra Hankerson would even the score.

Reniyah Clark came up big for the Blue Wave late in the quarter. She had a basket off her own steal to break the 17-17 tie. She then rebounded missed shots by Bradford on its next two offensive possessions before recording an assist on a three-pointer by Alyssa Williams that put P.K. Yonge up 22-17.

Jackson scored off a rebound putback to make it a three-point game. After a Blue Wave turnover, Jackson grabbed another offensive rebound and was fouled on her ensuing shot attempt. She made one of her two free-throw attempts to send the Tornadoes into halftime trailing 22-20.

Jada Hankerson, who was the game's leading scorer with 16 points, had the first basket of the third quarter. The Blue Wave's Clark answered with a score of her own before Bradford went on a 14-1 run. After a Jada Hankerson free throw, Griffin forced a turnover, which led to Jada Hankerson being fouled on a drive to the basket. She made both free throws at the 7:11 mark of the quarter to give the Tornadoes their first lead of the game at 25-24.

Griffin forced another turnover, but P.K. Yonge got the ball right back on a steal by Ashlyn Young. The Blue Wave couldn't turn it

See BHS, page 17

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# Keystone boys basketball team falls to Hornets

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

After winning two in a row, the Keystone Heights High School boys basketball team has gone 1-4, with the latest result being a 68-47 loss at Hawthorne on Dec. 15.

Greg Pelham and Darrion Grady scored 11 and 10 points, respectively, in the loss to the Hornets, who advanced to the Class 1A Final Four last year. The Indians also got seven points from Connor Guy, six from Michael Petty, five from Zane Leger, four from Garrison Teague and two each from Michael Bruzzese and Cartez Daniels.

Keystone (3-6) opened the season with two straight losses.

In an 82-30 road loss to the reigning Class 1A state champion Williston Red Devils on Nov. 27, the Class 4A Indians got six points each from Leger and Teague. Guy and Daniels added five and four, respectively, while Grady and Petty each had two. Pelham had one point.

Andru Siemer led the team with 14 points in a 69-32 loss to visiting Fort White on Nov. 29. Pelham and Bryce Hollingsworth scored eight and seven points, respectively, while Bruzzese, Daniels and Petty each added one.

The Indians played their third straight 1A team, defeating visiting Union County 66-54 on Dec. 1. Keystone outscored the Tigers 24-11 in the fourth quarter.

Pelham poured in 19 points, while Hollingsworth and Teague had 12 and 10 points, respectively. Keystone also got seven points from Petty, five from Siemer, four from Guy and two each from Grady and Bryant Kubisak.

The Indians won their second straight game, defeating South Eastern Christian Conference school Old Plank 77-40 on Dec. 4 in Jacksonville. Seimer and Teague led the team with 12 and 11 points, respectively, while Leger had nine points. Keystone also got eight points from Guy, seven from Daniels, six each from Bruzzese and Petty, five from Hollingsworth, four from Grady and two each from Kubisak and Pelham.

Keystone traveled to Fort White on Dec. 5, losing 74-54. Siemer and Bruzzese scored 15 and 13 points, respectively, while Leger added nine. Pelham had eight points, with Teague and Hollingsworth chipping in four and three, respectively. Daniels added two points.

Grady led the team with 13 points in a 68-47 District 5 loss to visiting Palatka on Dec. 8. Bruzzese and Siemer scored eight and seven points, respectively, while Leger and Petty each had six. The Indians

also got four points from Teague and three from Kubisak.

On Dec. 12, the Indians trailed visiting Clay by just four points at halftime before being outscored 25-11 in the third quarter of what proved to be a 75-60 loss to the Class 5A Blue Devils.

Teague and Petty had 13 and 12 points, respectively. Guy scored seven points, followed by Bruzzese, Grady and Leger with six each and Kubisak and Pelham with five each.

Keystone got 16 points each from Grady and Leger in a 75-64 win over visiting Interlachen on Dec. 14 to break the three-game losing streak.

Pelham scored 15 points in the win over the Class 3A Rams, while Teague had 10 points. The Indians also got seven points from Bruzzese, four from Kubisak, two each from Daniels, Guy and Dan Natirboff and one from Daniel Lozano.

The Indians travel to play Union County on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Keystone then plays in a Dec. 27-29 tournament at Bradford High School (see related story on page 14).

# UCHS boys lose 51-49 to Class 3A Interlachen

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

After a two-game winning streak, the Union County High School boys basketball team has now lost two in a row, with the most recent loss coming by a score of 51-49 to Interlachen on Dec. 18 in Interlachen.

Gavin Jenkins was the Tigers' leading scorer with 18 points. Johnnie Nichols also reached double figures with 15 points.

Cam Paytee had a team-high six rebounds.

The Tigers (3-4) opened the season with a 66-54 loss at Class 4A Keystone Heights on Dec. 1. They held a one-point lead before being outscored 24-11 in the fourth quarter.

Jenkins and Paytee scored

20 and 16 points, respectively. Union also got eight points from Brien Griffin, seven from Jayden Jenkins and three from Thomas Williams.

Union traveled to Baldwin on Dec. 5, defeating the Class 3A Indians 67-34. Gavin Jenkins had 15 points and five steals, while Williams had 12 points, five rebounds and five steals.

Griffin and Paytee scored eight and seven points, respectively, while three players had five points: Deonte Jones, Eric Lasseter and Jeppson Dang.

Jayden Jenkins added four points, while Isaiah Folaji and R.J. Odom scored two each.

Griffin led the team in rebounds with six, while also coming up with three steals.

Paytee had five steals, while Jones and Odom each had three.

The Tigers lost 53-31 at Class 1A Chiefland on Dec. 7. Gavin Jenkins and Dang led the Tigers with 12 and nine points, respectively. Dang also had a team-high five steals, while Jayden Jenkins led the team in rebounds with six.

Gavin Jenkins had a double-double as the Tigers bounced back with a 68-58 win at Class 1A Branford on Dec. 12.

Jenkins had 16 points and 10 rebounds, while also coming up with three steals.

Williams led the team in scoring with 21 points, while also adding four steals and three assists.

Nichols, who had seven assists, just missed double figures in scoring with nine points.

Jones grabbed six rebounds. The Tigers got 21 points each from Williams and Gavin Jenkins in a 58-55 win over Class 5A Baker County on Dec. 15 in Glen St. Mary.

Jenkins also had six rebounds, five steals and four blocks, while Williams had five assists and five steals.

Jones and Paytee scored five points each. Jones also had four blocks, while Paytee added seven rebounds, five assists and three steals.

Nichols scored four points, while Jayden Jenkins added two.

On Dec. 16, Union played its first game against a District 6-1A opponent, losing to host Fort White 63-33.

Gavin Jenkins scored nine points and had six rebounds, while Williams had seven points and eight rebounds. Nichols and Jones scored six and five points, respectively, with Jayden Jenkins Lasseter and Paytee each adding two points.

Jayden Jenkins led the team in rebounds with nine.

The Tigers played Dixie County this past Tuesday and will host Keystone on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

# Tigers drop home match to Baker County

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School's wrestling team hosted Baker County on Dec. 11, losing 57-19.

The Tigers, who forfeited five weight classes, had four individual wins, with two coming by pins: Alex Cortese over Tommy Rollins in the 175-pound class and Maddox Wheeler over Hank Stronko in the 215 class.

Drew Simmons won the 144 class with a 15-5 major decision over Jonathon Walker, while Dyland Lane defeated Jordan Allaart to win the 285 class.

Evan Roberts lost a close 8-6 match against Baker's Evan Irish in the 150 class.

Union's Brian Sparkman, Gavin Sparkman, Carsen Thomas and Tucker Williams also wrestled, losing by pins.

The Tigers traveled to Middleburg on Dec. 15, dropping a 72-12 match to the Broncos. Union forfeited six classes.

Wyatt Elixson earned one of two wins for Union, pinning Rafael Hernandez in 28 seconds to take the 147 class.

Cortese had the other win, pinning Seth Straub in 1:20.

Lane, Roberts, Hunter Cruz, Edward Durant, Clifton Ivey and Jameson Lang also wrestled for the Tigers.

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**BHS**  
Continued from page 15

into points, with Griffin blocking a shot.

A free throw by Griffin after she was fouled on a rebound-putback attempt gave Bradford a two-point lead. A Griffin steal then led to Jada Hankerson driving right down the middle of the lane for a layup. Hankerson would do it again after Jackson got a blocked shot on the defensive end, scoring another two points to put the Tornadoes ahead 30-24.

After P.K. Yonge got a free throw from Da'mar Wims, Jada Hankerson scored on another drive to the basket. Jada Hankerson then had assists on baskets by Griffin and Jackson as Bradford went up 36-25.

The Blue Wave scored the final five points of the third quarter and the first two of the fourth quarter, with Clark's steal and subsequent basket cutting Bradford's lead to six. The Tornadoes didn't put points on the board in the fourth quarter until two and a half



Ar'Nayshia Griffin (right) and P.K. Yonge's Ashlyn Young battle for a rebound.

minutes had elapsed, with Griffin making two free throws.

P.K. Yonge's Taylor Powers scored off a turnover to make the score 38-34. Jada Hankerson added a free throw for the Tornadoes, but a 2-for-2 trip to the foul line by Young pulled the Blue Wave within three points.

Young later tied the score at 41-41 when she made a three-point with 3:15 to play. Bradford got consecutive baskets from

Khamyra Hankerson and Jackson in taking a four-point lead. Clark went to the foul line with 1:48 remaining. She made her first attempt, while her missed second attempt was rebounded by Young, who put it back for two points, which left P.K. Yonge trailing 45-44.

The Tornadoes scored the next eight points. Crum made a three-pointer and then rebounded

a missed shot by P.K. Yonge. Khamyra Hankerson scored on a drive to the basket. After a Blue Wave turnover, Khamyra Hankerson scored off an offensive rebound. Jackson added a free throw for a 53-44 lead with 31.5 seconds left.

Jackson finished with 12 points, while Griffin and Khamyra Hankerson had 11 and 10, respectively. Crum added six

points. Bradford played Class 1A Fort White this past Tuesday and will host reigning Class 1A state-champion Hawthorne on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m.

The Tornadoes then take part in a Dec. 27-29 girls and boys tournament at BHS (see related story on page 14).

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