

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025

146th year, 22nd Issue — \$1

SHOPPING SPREE WITH HOLIDAY HEROES



Lawley Elementary's Lily Prevatt holds onto a Cookie Bobby character from "Gabby's Dollhouse" — just one of the toys she selected while shopping with Reception and Medical Center's Michael Cairel during day one of Holidays with Heroes, which gives Bradford and Union students a shopping spree at Starke's Walmart. See inside for more.

Robby Pruitt returns to lead UCHS program

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

He was part of a glorious past. Now, he's a part of the future.

Robby Pruitt, who coached Union County High School to three consecutive state championships in football in the 1990s has been named the Tigers' new head coach.

Pruitt didn't respond to a voicemail left by a Telegraph-Times-Monitor journalist, but Union Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger, in a press release, said, "Union County is thrilled to welcome Coach Pruitt back home and looks forward to an exciting future for Union County football."

Pruitt, who resigned as Williston's head coach the day before his hiring at UCHS was announced, has a 413-101-1 record over 42 years. During his seven years at Union (1993-99), the Tigers



Robby Pruitt

went 79-10, winning state championships in 1994, 1995 and 1996.

The Tigers, who were undefeated in 1995 and 1996, won a then state record 52 games in a row under Pruitt.

Pruitt won four state championships and was a state runner-up once in nine seasons at Jacksonville's University Christian, where he coached prior to his arrival at UCHS. In Georgia, he led two teams to state runner-up finishes: Fitzgerald and Coffey.

This past season, Pruitt, who's a 2000 Florida High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame inductee, became the first-ever coach in the U.S. to win at least 200 games in two different states.

"Coach Robby Pruitt's career reflects a commitment to hard work, excellence and the development of both players and coaches," Ripplinger said via his press release. "These values have defined his success at every stop along his hall-of-fame career."

During his previous stint at UCHS, Pruitt led the Tigers to the playoffs in all of his seven seasons. In his second year, Union had its best regular-season record since 1977, going 9-1. The Tigers added four more wins in winning their first state title, defeating Chiefland 50-6, Baker 34-33, Jefferson County 43-21 and finally Bishop Verot 21-0.

See LEAD, page 3



WORTH NOTING

Early deadline

Because of the holiday schedule, the deadline for the Jan. 1 edition will be Friday, Dec. 26, at 5 p.m.

Collection site closings

Bradford County's solid waste collection sites will be closed for Christmas Dec. 24-26. They will reopen Saturday, Dec. 27, at 10 a.m. New Year's closings are Dec. Jan. 1 and 2. They will reopen Saturday, Jan. 3, at 10 a.m.

Holiday Invitational at Melrose Gallery

Melrose Bay Art Gallery's 2025 Holiday Invitational runs through Dec. 28 and is a great opportunity to support local artists and purchase a special gift. The gallery is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

The gallery is located at 103 S.R. 26 in Melrose. Visit melrosebayartgallery.com.

Purchase pavers in Rosenberg Garden

The Woman's Club of Starke is honoring longtime member Della Rosenberg and offering personalized brick pavers to be placed in the Rosenberg Garden. These pavers make meaningful gifts for weddings, anniversaries, Christmas and memorials.

For details, please contact Cleo Elder at 904-796-7427 or Charnelle Whittemore at 352-235-1825.

Food distribution at True Vine

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

Inventory is subject to change based on availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Yesterdays Festival at Gold Head

Gold Head Branch State Park Yesterdays Festival will be Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with family fun for everyone. There are hayrides, kids' games, hands-on activities, historic demonstrations, including cross-cut saw, real cannon fire, re-enactors, old tractors and live music. The event is free to the public, with the gate fee of \$5 per vehicle. For more information email Yesterdays@FriendsofGoldHead.org.

Teacher complaints dominate Clay school board public comments

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

More than a dozen speakers, most of them teachers, filled the public comment period at the December 11 Clay County School Board meeting with pleas for better pay and criticism of the board's handling of recent compensation negotiations.

The comments came after an impasse hearing, during which the board voted to offer raises only to teachers with 10 or more years of experience, leaving nearly half of the district's 2,700 teachers without raises.

Crane questions 'cuts' narrative

Liz Crane challenged the narrative that the legislature cut Clay County's funding.

"At the impasse hearing, I kept hearing the word 'cuts,' that the legislature 'cut' your funding. Well, that's not exactly true," Crane said. "When I look at the FEFP for 25 26, it says Clay County received an increase of funding over 2%."

She said K-12 total funds per FTE student increased from \$8,838 to \$9,022.

"I do agree that this funding is abysmal and those in Tallahassee should be ashamed of themselves. However, let's be clear, it's not a cut. That's a

transfer. You had a transfer of funding to the local charter schools," Crane said.

She recounted a conversation with a father at a neighborhood event whose daughter attends a local charter school. The father told her the charter school said public schools wouldn't allow his child to read above grade level.

"I looked at him in disbelief. He was lied to," Crane said. "I explained to him that nothing could be further from the truth by statute. Teachers are not permitted to apply limits on reading choices."

Crane said she heard board members at the impasse hearing calling for unity and more funding from the state.

"The message, however, is not to beg for pennies. The message is to stop funding charter schools in the voucher program," she said. "I would very much like to stand with you on the steps of the Florida Capitol and publicly denounce charter schools and the voucher program."

Forbes: District 'used to be a family'

Michelle Forbes, a 27-year educator and Clay County product, addressed what she called eroding morale and unity.

"Clay County School District used to be a family.

It was a place where people generally cared about each other. Students, teachers, staff, leadership, working together with respect and shared purpose," Forbes said. "That sense of unity has been eroded. What once felt like a supportive community now feels disconnected and morale among educators has suffered as a result."

Forbes said she was deeply disappointed in how the impasse hearing was conducted.

"This board was supposed to be an impartial decision-making body, one that would listen carefully, evaluate fairly and consider the perspectives of the educators who serve our students every day," she said. "Instead, it became clear that responses and decisions had been drafted before the educators' presentation was even heard. That is not impartiality. That is a predetermined outcome."

She took issue with board members accepting raises while teachers work 60-plus hours a week but only get compensated for 37.5 hours.

"Your approval of increases for a part-time elected position sends a message that sacrifices of the educators are not valued. You are now earning nearly as much as a first-year teacher who is trying to survive on a salary that barely meets the cost of living," Forbes said.

See TEACHERS, page 8

Lake Butler officials discuss building project and upcoming property sale

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Lake Butler City Commission heard a presentation on the completed Townsend Green Building roof project and discussed staffing improvements and a property transaction during its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 16.

Doug Sanders of Andy Easton and Associates presented a detailed update on the historic Townsend Green Building roof restoration, which was funded through a state grant. He said the project used modern membrane-sealing technology to preserve the building's roof without requiring a complete replacement.

Sanders reminded commissioners that the building, originally constructed in 1914 by James W. Townsend as a downtown block that included a doctor's office, hotel and restaurant, nearly burned to the ground in 1983. After years as an eyesore, the building was restored and reopened as a museum in the early 2000s following a campaign led by a local advocate who asked Union County residents to donate items for the collection.

The recent roof project addressed decades of water damage caused by a deteriorating asphalt roof. Perry

Roofing of Gainesville completed the work using plans from drone technology. Sanders said the project faced delays because contractors preferred larger, multimillion-dollar hurricane recovery projects.

While the roof is now complete, Sanders noted that windows and flooring still need replacement. He offered to return in January to help the city pursue grant funding to finish those remaining improvements.

"Hopefully, in the year 2040, 2050, this commission will have to worry about it, but we won't have to," Sanders said of the new roof's longevity.

Grant administrator approved

Commissioners approved Fred Fox Enterprises for grant administration services for a Community Development Block Grant project involving wastewater infrastructure improvements. The \$189,000 contract will cover grant administration and reporting for the installation of 10-inch and 12-inch wastewater force mains from the city's new master pump station to the new advanced wastewater treatment facility. Fred

Fox Enterprises submitted the only bid for the work.

Sale of building progressing

City Manager Kim Hayes reported that the city's sale of its old public works building is moving forward, with land use and zoning applications submitted to the North Florida Regional Planning Council for review. Realtors are handling inspections and title work while the buyer works on financing. A special meeting is scheduled for January 6 to discuss the transaction, with final action expected at the regular January 20 meeting.

Security cameras coming to parks

Hayes also announced that security cameras will soon be installed at Fletcher Myers Park and Westside Park after internet infrastructure work is completed. The cameras will be mounted high enough to prevent vandalism, and modem boxes will be secured in locked cages.

Employees added, streets paved

The city manager reported that two new employees have been hired for the public works department, including one HVAC-certified and another skilled in electrical and plumbing work. New Public Works Director Michael Manning has also implemented a tool control and accountability system to prevent equipment loss.

Hayes said Bradford County assisted with paving Southeast Seventh Street and Southwest First Drive last week.

Vandalism suspects identified, parade winners announced

Hayes said the sheriff's office has identified suspects in a recent vandalism case at Fletcher Myers Park, which has been turned over to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Finance Director Dave Mecusker presented the financial report for

See LAKE BUTLER, page 7



merry christmas



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Work begins on Starke charter review

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke's charter review process got underway with an orientation last week, led by City Clerk Chrissy Thompson.

City Manager Drew Mullins joined Thompson along with Commissioner Bob Milner in thanking committee members for their interest in serving and all they will contribute during the process. The result of that process will be proposed revisions for the city commission to consider placing on the ballot next November.

The goal is a very different document. Thompson said the city's attorneys have already been at work cutting much of what is no longer relevant. The final charter will be streamlined from more than 70 pages to around a



dozen. That is how insignificant most of the charter language has become in the nearly 100 years since it was last reviewed.

What is in the remaining pages will be heavily influenced by the 10 charter committee members. They represent a cross section of the community although many also have a lot in common, like Brenda Donaldson and Glenda

Ruise, both of whom are retired after serving more than 30 years in the school system. Courtney Williamson has worked in Bradford schools and is now a stay-at-home mom.

Most committee members have roots in Bradford County, but only one was named for it. Bradford "Brad" Smith is the sheriff's chief deputy, and Jeff Johnson is the city's former police chief, who said the charter review is long overdue. Michael Heeder also works for the sheriff in the emergency management office.

Harry Hatcher III is retired from business but on staff at First Baptist Church, and Samantha Caldarelli is retired from UPS and has spent recent years taking care of her mother. She sees the committee as an interesting opportunity to serve outside her home, while Al Hunter's life of service includes 20 years with the U.S. Air Force and his current support of the local American Legion. And Jennifer Weller has served disabled adults at The Arc of Bradford County.

While the attorneys can weed out the outdated language about

obsolete roles, what will remain are the committee's ideas about how the city should function. Thompson discussed a short wish list from management that included holding all city election in November of even-numbered years to align with state and federal elections. This should improve voter turnout as well as eliminate the cost of contracting with the county supervisor of elections in odd-numbered years, according to Thompson.

The other request is that the language be plainly understood so it is clear what they are asking voters to approve next year.

Committee members are being provided with materials to study, including charters from other cities and guides on various forms of city government.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 4 p.m. at city hall. The meetings are open to the public, and input is welcome. Thompson will try to live stream the meeting on her Facebook page where you can also watch city commission meetings.



Rural Health Hero

Bradford County Fire Rescue announced online last week that Lt. David Weeks was awarded the 2025 Rural Health Hero Award in the EMS Hero category on behalf of the Florida Rural Health Association.

"David's dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to improving emergency medical services in rural communities have made a profound impact on countless lives. His tireless efforts to ensure quality care in underserved areas truly embody the spirit of rural health excellence," the post read.

LEAD

Continued from page 1

The 1995 team went undefeated in the regular season for the first time since 1974. Union opened the postseason with a 42-12 win over Newberry, followed by a 28-12 win over Jefferson County and a 30-13 win over Baker before defeating LaBelle 28-3 in the championship game.

Union's defense shut out all of playoff opponents before reaching the 1996 state-title game. The Tigers defeated Hamilton County 41-0, Chipley 28-0 and Williston 29-0.

The Tigers then won the state championship by defeating Frostproof 67-30, racking up 564 yards of offense and 33 first downs.

Union went 2-1 in the postseason in 1997 and 1998, with the playoff loss in 1997 ending the 52-game win streak.

Union lost in the first round of the playoffs in Pruitt's final season.

Pruitt left UCHS to take the

head-coaching job at Fitzgerald High School in Georgia. That team was a state runner-up in Pruitt's first season, losing 6-0 in the championship game.

After three seasons at Fitzgerald, Pruitt left to take the job at Georgia's Warner Robins High School, but he spent only one year before returning to Fitzgerald, where he coached for eight seasons. Pruitt's final 10 years in Georgia were spent at Douglas' Coffee High School. He led Coffee to a state-championship game in 2017, where his team lost 28-21 in overtime.

Next for Pruitt was a return to Florida, where he took over a Williston program that went 8-31 in the four seasons prior to his arrival. The Red Devils went undefeated in the regular season in Pruitt's first year and lost in the first round of the playoffs. Pruitt led Williston to the playoffs in all four of his seasons there. The Devils went 38-9 with a postseason record of 4-4 while he was there.

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Community gathers for breakfast with Santa and to support school

BY JENN SAMSEL
jenn@bctelegraph.com

Santa brought joy to hundreds at the Breakfast with Santa event at Starke Elementary, all while raising funds to support school needs in Bradford County.

The event ran from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Dec. 6. Attendees enjoyed photos with Santa, breakfast for both children and adults, and a fun game of bingo with an array of fabulous prizes everyone was eager to win.

Funds raised from bingo and breakfast will be used to purchase items needed by the school, such as a new

laminator, activity supplies and other essential materials.

"It's just a nice community event to celebrate, kick off the Christmas season and allow our parents to join their children in festivities, but also generate funds for our school," said Michelle Davis, Starke Elementary assistant principal.

Mariah Jermaine, who brought her family to the event, said, "I am here to support the school and see Santa and help raise money to help with PTO and stuff."

At this time, it's unknown how much the fundraiser brought in.



Santa hears about Christmas wishes and gets his photo taken with Anastasia Remain, Mikel Temkin, Mackenzie Temkin, Aubree Temkin, Ellirie Manning, Julie Beighley, Mariah Germaine and John Manning.



Visiting with Santa are John Tyson Jr., John Tyson III, Eunece Blye, Eugene Blye IV, Judah Blye, Kendall Blye, Josiah Blye, McKenzi Blye, Dewitt Blye and Darrin Blye.

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Kylee Underhill and Karsyn Underhill are dressed for the season as they visit Santa with their parents Kamryn and Kelly Underhill.



David Carter and Lindzi Allen helped to make the breakfast a success.



Starke Elementary Principal Lauren Morgan and Assistant Principal Michelle Davis make sure Santa knows what they want for Christmas.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas!

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Willie J. Strong

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From:
Rhett Robinson
Ryan Robinson
Vyunda Strong



Lawtey Elementary School shared photos of its Christmas dress-up day online. Here are Zachary Walker, Principal Terri O'Quinn, Gerald Petteway, Prince Williams and Jason Hewitt.



Kenley Young, Devan Gay, Daniel Caraballo, Jaedon Stamper and Madeline Bailey.



Karsyn Kerr, Zion Evans, Catalina McHale and Zoey Fowler.



Preston Shivers, Liam Azoulay, Decker Spriggle, Senecere Nortonm Addilyn Hodges, Amelia Prevatt, Eireann McCarthy and Diana Carlton.



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A sign, a sign He is here,
The angels tell us He is near.
Oh wonderful child — God in flesh,
In Him let us rest.
Oh Savior Lord, you are here,
To save us from eternal fear.
The Christ Child — became a man,
To fulfill His master plan.
To save the world from their sin,
He is the beginning and the end.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
Christmas is all about the Christ Child.
— Henry Hodges, Lawtey, FL

*A Christmas Wish * A Christmas Wish * A Christmas Wish **



Carley Pilcher

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Priscilla Jackson
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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.

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Eric Noegel
Preston Gainey
Lake Butler
Clayton Cason
Jacob Brugh
Ryan Gemelli
Elaine Jackson
Jeff Johnson
Jonathan Mulkey
Mark Reddish

Amy Slayton
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HOLIDAY HOURS

Our Starke and Lake Butler locations will be celebrating Christmas and will be closed on Thursday, December 25th; Friday, December 26th; and Saturday, December 27th. We will reopen on Monday, December 29th at 7:30 a.m.

Jacob Brugh
Ryan Gemelli
Elaine Jackson
Jeff Johnson
Jonathan Mulkey
Mark Reddish



Santa had a "Funtastic" time at Lawtey's annual Christmas parade and even showed off his cowboy hat.



Bradford Democrats provided kids a ride for the parade.



The Kiser family made great elves as they passed out candy during Lawtey's Christmas parade.



The Eves, Anderson, and Mitchell families gather together to watch the Lawtey Christmas Parade on Dec. 20.



Merry Christmas

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SPIRES MARKET
EST. 1999

County corrects record over commissioner pay

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County commissioners took the unusual step last month of having their manager correct the record following public comments that targeted their pay and accused them of lying about taxes and meeting out of the sunshine.

As for how much commissioners cost the county, County Manager Scott Kornegay said commissioner salaries are determined by the state. The formula, which is based in part on population, sets the salary at \$42,183. The county must pay FICA and Medicare taxes, which total \$3,227.70. Contributions to the Florida Retirement System

depend on each commissioner's retirement status. The health care plan is the same provided to full-time staff with the current per person cost of \$14,682.84.

"This is a benefit the county provides," Kornegay said. "The county works each year to negotiate for excellent coverage and rates for this benefit."

That brings the total cost per commissioner between \$78,127 and \$83,126.95, but each commissioner is paid \$42,183.

There was also confusion expressed over the county's property tax rate, which, despite what some said, did not increase when this year's budget was approved. The tax rate remained 10 mills. The rolled-back rate of 9.466 mills was an option advertised, as it is every year. The rolled-back rate, if adopted, provides the same amount of revenue as the prior year.

Readopting the same rate, which is currently the maximum rate of 10 mills, allowed the county to benefit from new revenue resulting from increased property values. Increased property values result from sales, new construction and updated appraisals to recapture market value. Changes in value may also result in higher tax bills, even when the tax rate remains the same. Homestead property value increases, however, are capped at 3%. (Non-homestead properties have a 10% cap.)

More information, including a Homeowner's Guide to millage, is available at floridarevenue.com under the Property Tax tab.

The 10-mill rate is projected to generate an additional \$1.48 million for the county in 2026, for a total of \$15.5 million in property taxes. That is based on a total taxable value of \$1.55

billion, which is an increase of more than \$147 million over 2025.

Commissioners have discussed their goal of lowering the property tax rate by diversifying revenue sources, such as the added fire assessment fee.

Finally, there were complaints about an unadvertised meeting that was found on the county's YouTube page where live meetings are broadcast and archived. This confusion resulting from mislabeling the meeting, which took place as scheduled but was labeled at an earlier date and time.

Increased criticism during public comments has continued since county commissioners approved the fire assessment fee, with some calling on the state to intervene with Department of Government Efficiency auditors to examine and cut spending.

In other business:

—A process for staff to expediate the adjustment of the fire assessment rolls was approved. Staff will continue to present the properties to be removed from the assessment rolls to the board for final review and confirmation. Some of the removals involve hardship waivers, but the majority are buildings and properties that do not qualify for assessment.

Questions about the fire assessment can be directed to 904-966-6228 or fireassessment@bradfordcountyfl.gov.



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CHURCH**

EXPLORING THE GOODNESS OF GOD – PART 3

As we continue exploring the goodness of God, I would like to go to the scriptures to emphasize this wonderful truth. We will begin with Psalm 23:6, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." David had a covenant with God. He knew that God had planned good things for him and the children of Israel. He was so convinced that he said, "I know what God has planned for me, goodness and mercy." He believed it so strongly that he implied he would not have to search it out but God would cause His goodness and mercy to follow him. Someone has said, "Well, that was David." Yes, it was David, even though chosen by God to be King he was an Old Testament saint. He wasn't born again. We have a New Covenant and it is better than the Covenant of King David. In Hebrews 8:6, the Bible says, "But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises." Here we find that Jesus has provided the born-again saints of God with better. What does better mean? Not equal to or just as good as, but better means more excellent or effective type and quality. The reason I bring this up is to point out a great truth. If what we have under the New Covenant is better than what the Old Testament saints had, then should we not expect not only the blessings God gave them but more and better? When listening to some Christians talk it would appear that the devil is doing more in their lives than God is doing. They are talking about how tough it is and what they are going through and God help me hold on to the end. You can tell right away that they have very little revelation of God's goodness towards them. They forget that not only is God for them but He actually lives in them. According to the scriptures God has provided everything we will ever need to put us over in this life. He is a good, good Father and a good Father makes provision for His children.

2 Peter 1:2-4, "Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us to glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Talk about the goodness and love of God! First, He not only provided us with His grace and peace but we find here that it can be multiplied. How can it be multiplied? "through the knowledge of Him".

Where do we receive this knowledge? Through knowing "these exceedingly great and precious promises" which we find in God's Word. Christians struggle in life because they do not understand the nature of God, the love of God and His goodness that He has made available in Christ. Christian, the child of God should be confident in God's love and goodness toward them. The reason so many Christians struggle in life is because they have a knowledge problem. They cannot discern between what the devil is doing and what God is doing. They have a knowledge problem because they have never removed their religious spectacles and searched out the scriptures for themselves to see what God has provided for them in Christ. Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." If you want to find out what God is really like then you will need to search the scriptures. There is an old saying, "What you don't know won't hurt you." That is a lie. What you do not know is robbing you, it will keep you sick, it will destroy your life. Study the scriptures, for in them you will find the love and goodness of our great God. Until next week, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Blessings! -Pastor Rick

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Union commissioners approve \$500 Christmas bonuses

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County commissioners unanimously approved \$500 Christmas bonuses for all 59 full-time county employees during their December 15 meeting, with Commissioner Mac Johns making an impassioned plea for the gesture.

"It's that time of year, morale is not at its highest, but yet these guys are still out there working," Johns told his colleagues.

The District 4 commissioner, who represents western Union County south of Swift Creek, said he realized the plight of many county employees while attending Christmas toy giveaways.

"I've seen a few of our employees standing in line to get toys for their children," he said, "and for the last two years, we've been trying to get them some more money."

The commissioner said every family experiences financial struggles at times and that it is important that the county takes care of its employees.

"I think each and every one of us has been there at times. I think we're all a little fortunate right now. I know I am, thank God," he said.

Johns added that whenever he has called county departments about a problem, he has received a quick response.

"I'll be the first one to make a phone call and ask to do this, do that, and these guys, they never let me down," he said, "the work they do at the parks, all of them, the work they do in our districts, the trashes, the mowing, picking up ditch."

County Coordinator Jimmy Williams told commissioners he worked with all department heads to ensure money for the bonuses was available within already-approved budgets, largely from positions that have remained unfilled.

"The money is in each budget. It's already approved by the board. There are some positions that have not been filled for

some time. The money's there," Williams said.

Constitutional officers encouraged to follow suit

Clerk Kellie Hendricks Rhoades asked Johns whether the employees of constitutional officers would be included.

"This is for (board of) county (commissioners) employees," Johns responded. "Constitutional officers have a responsibility to look after their own employees. If you have money in your budget, I suggest you do the same."

Commissioner Donna Jackson said she hopes the clerk, sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, and supervisor of elections will follow suit.

"I think that the tax collector possibly had some funds that we didn't take out of her budget that maybe she could move around, and maybe you can do the same. I would hope so," Jackson told Rhoades.

Jackson also said she regrets not being able to do more for county workers.

"I struggle with wanting our employees to know how very much we appreciate them," she said. "And I jokingly, as I was driving to work this morning, was thinking to myself that most employees are probably like me, that they think to themselves, 'If you want to show me how much you appreciate me, show me the money, because that's what I really need.'"

She said that while small gifts are nice, cash helps people buy for their children, pay bills, or put food on the table.

Several department heads who attended the meeting, including Solid Waste Director Lamar Griffis, Library Director Priti McNutt, EMS Director Brent Allen, and Extension Director Jim DeValerio, thanked commissioners for the gesture.

EMS receives \$500,000 in opioid recovery funding

In other business, commissioners approved a budget amendment to accommodate \$500,000 in state opioid recovery funding for county emergency medical services. The half-million-dollar grant will support a new community paramedicine program and a vehicle.

EMS Director Brent Allen said the county will receive about \$55,000 per month through June.

"We're going to be adding a community paramedicine program to the county. This is pretty much funding that," Allen said. "It's not just community paramedicine; that vehicle is fully stocked for (advanced life support) capabilities. The only thing it can't do that the ambulances can do is transport a patient."

The funding also covers training for the position and the public, as well as automated external defibrillators.

Allen also updated commissioners on state matters affecting rural EMS, including rural health transformation funding from Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration that doesn't adequately include EMS input.

As part of the Federal Government's July 4, 2025, One Big Beautiful Bill ACT, states can apply for grants to improve healthcare outcomes in rural communities.

In Florida, eligible counties include most in the panhandle between Okaloosa and Clay, as well as four counties in the Lake Okeechobee area.

Allen told commissioners that the state's application to obtain part of the \$50 billion does not include money to improve emergency medical services.

"Me and Chief Carter from

Bradford County really have reached out to a lot of other rural county chiefs and gotten together on this," Allen said.

He added that the rural EMS directors have held several town halls on the topic and hope to increase awareness about the omission in the application.

Allen also warned about House Bill 693, which would put Florida into an EMS compact, allowing paramedics licensed in other states to work in Florida without meeting the Sunshine State's higher standards.

"Florida has the highest EMS standards in the country, and not everybody follows suit," he said. "So, it's kind of trying to nationalize EMS, and it's really going to cause service to fall off."

MLK Day meeting to go forward

Commissioners agreed to keep the January 19 board meeting on Martin Luther King Jr. Day after Pastor Patrick Maxwell asked to give a presentation to the board.

"He would like to come that Monday night, do the opening prayer and give a little history and speech on Martin Luther King Day and everything from the community," Williams said.

County offices will be closed for the holiday, but the board meeting will proceed at 6 p.m. as scheduled.

Other business

Commissioners also:
- Approved a proclamation for National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week, January 18-24.

- Approved hiring Kimley-Horn to assist with design work for the Palestine Lake boat ramp FEMA project.

- Received updates on the Providence fire station construction, which should start framing within two weeks.

- Heard Solid Waste Director

Griffis, who is also the Mayor of Raiford, commend firefighters for their quick response to a November fire in Raiford that could have destroyed seven houses.

Dobbs thanked Lamar and Benita Griffis for the Breakfast with Santa event, which served about 175 people over two hours in Raiford.

LAKE BUTLER Continued from page 1

October and November, noting the city is in good financial shape.

Hayes announced that Lake Butler Hospital won first place in the annual Christmas parade for its float that mimicked downtown landmarks like the Townsend Green Building and a historic barbershop. Lake Butler Soccer Club placed second, and the Boy Scouts took third.

Mayor Melissa Hendrix announced that the annual toy giveaway distributed toys to more than 300 children following the parade. Andrews Site Prep donated \$8,000 to purchase the toys.

Town hall announcement

Commissioner Melissa McNeal announced her District 3 town hall will be held January 5 at 6 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Union County Extension and Education Center, not the Worthington Springs Community Center as originally planned.

Christmas events

Johns reported that about 250 children attended the December 6 Christmas in the Park event in Providence, receiving free toys worth \$3,000 to \$4,000 despite rain cutting the event short. He praised organizer Kristi Morton for leading the effort.



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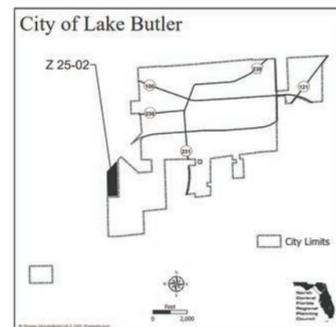
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NOTICE OF ZONING CHANGE

The City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida proposes to regulate the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Lake Butler Land Development Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, as follows:

Z 25-02, an application by SC Services, Inc., as agent for the City Commission, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district on certain lands from COMMERCIAL GENERAL (CG) to INDUSTRIAL (I) for the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at Southeast corner of said Section 36; thence North 01°24'13" West 984.65 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning; thence South 88°45'17" West 666.69 feet; thence North 01°24'49" West 1,458.59 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 121; thence North 42°46'14" East 957.10 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121 to the East line of Section 36; thence South 01°24'13" East 2,146.89 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning. Containing 27.60 acres, more or less.



The first of two public hearings will be conducted by the City Commission to consider the amendment and conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the amendment. The public hearing will be held on January 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, RELATING TO THE REZONING OF TEN OR MORE CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 24-02, BY SC SERVICES, AS AGENT FOR THE CITY COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM COMMERCIAL, GENERAL (CG) TO INDUSTRIAL (I) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the City Manager, City Hall located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the Office of the City Manager at 386.496.3401 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).



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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

Dvraj Singh Chance, 31, of Pembroke Pines, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 17 for a probation violation.

Larry Lee Garrow, 64, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 17 for fraud.

James Michael Harper, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 13 for battery and kidnapping-false imprisonment.

Lynda Susan Kurpis, 42, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Anthony Lee, 40, of Starke, was arrested by

Bradford deputies on December 14 for DUI.

Joshua Bruce Norris, 36, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for a probation violation.

Laquesha Nicole Sermons, 40, of Alachua, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 15 for a probation violation.

Union

None reported due to early deadline.

Clay

Willie Akilshaker Ford, 47, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on December 15 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Quinton Maudlin Foster, 31, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on December 15 for burglary and possession of methamphetamine.

Sean Michael Haddix, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on December 13 for two counts of battery on specified personnel and burglary.

Angela Dawn Roberson, 49, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on December 17 for failure to appear.

TEACHERS

Continued from page 1

She challenged the board's comparison to the business world, where some years don't have raises.

"Going along with that train of thought, I would like you to tell me of one successful company in the world where someone with 27 years of experience makes about \$5,000 more than someone with no experience," she said. "I'll wait."

Hube urges board presence in classrooms

Shannon Hube, a teacher and parent, asked board members to spend real time in classrooms.

"Be present, really present, not a quick walkthrough, not a photo op. Spend real time in these classrooms, general education, ESE, middle school, cafeteria duty, dismissal," Hube said. "Honestly, sub for a day, take the keys, the roster, feel the weight of the work."

She acknowledged that one board member, Robert Alvero, donated his entire raise to create a scholarship for Clay County students.

"That is meaningful, and I respect it," she said.

Hube also questioned spending patterns in the district.

"We have seen curriculum purchase districtwide that teachers didn't want and didn't ask for, and in many cases begged not to receive, only for those materials to sit unused before being replaced again," she said. "I myself have shelves of textbooks that my boys bring home at the end of the year that have barely been touched."

She said inconsistent investments, particularly in safety systems, show the need for better planning.

"With the district budget exceeding \$650 million, employees and taxpayers deserve confidence that spending decisions are intentional and efficient. Efficiency builds trust and trust is what's missing right now," Hube said.

Clay schools chief addresses co-location costs, vouchers, mental health initiatives

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Clay County Schools Superintendent David Broskie used his remarks during a December 11 school board meeting to clarify misconceptions about charter school co-location and voice concerns about the growing cost of school vouchers to the district.

Broskie said he wanted to address comments made during the meeting, particularly regarding co-location—when a charter school takes over available space within an existing school building.

State law allows charter schools of hope to co-locate at any public school with available space.

"The problem with co-location, the way the law is currently written, is that it could be part of a school, partial school, but the cost to run the school is incumbent upon the school district if that were to happen," Broskie said.

He painted a stark picture of what that means financially.

"Imagine a School of Hope taking over half a school, and we would have to pay for the custodians on the other half of the school, for the electricity on the other half, the cafeteria for those students, like the whole thing," the superintendent said. "So, the issue really that's not being told to the public is simply that co-location, the cost of co-location goes onto the school district, not onto the school of hope."

Broskie said Clay County's utilization rate is very high—over 85 percent in all schools—which doesn't make the district a target like 26 other districts across the state. He said approximately 650 letters went out statewide,

representing schools of hope attempting to take over 650 different schools.

Vouchers costing district \$30 million

On the topic of school vouchers, Broskie said the issue isn't about school choice but about public funding going to private schools.

"I say proudly that I went to Catholic school through eighth grade and then went to public high school. There are 10 in my family. All 10 of us went to the same Catholic school," Broskie said. "The issue is not the ability to have choice. The issue really is to use public funds in order to pay for private schools."

In Clay County, that amount is just shy of \$30 million and growing.

"So that's really a big issue," the superintendent said.

Mental health focus, family engagement

Moving to district achievements, Broskie recognized Bannerman Learning Center and Lake Asbury Junior High as schools of the month.

"Bannerman Learning Center does an amazing job under very difficult circumstances, and so does Lake Asbury Junior," he said.

The superintendent highlighted work by the student advisory council, which has about 45 students from all secondary schools. Their focus this year is mental health.

"Mental health for young people is a real thing," Broskie said. "For those of you that don't realize that it is the increase

of social media and the need, I thought a student was going to bug out when I said to her, I said, why do you care what other people think about you online?"

He said for adults it's easy to shrug off what others think, but for young people it's much harder.

"It's a big issue," he said.

Broskie also emphasized the importance of family engagement, noting that parents have their students 86 percent of the time while schools only have them 14 percent of the time.

"We've got to engage parents. Parents need to do their part. Yes, there are parents' rights, but there are also parents' responsibilities," the superintendent said.

Community partnerships, student achievements

Broskie announced a \$30,000 STEAM grant to Lake Asbury Junior High from National Gypsum through the Clay Education Foundation.

"We also need the business partners to rise up," he said.

He also celebrated Clay County students dominating a Boys and Girls Club competition with 22 teams from different districts. Three out of four winners were from Clay County: Orange Park Junior High, Keystone Heights Elementary, and Wilkinson Junior High.

"Anytime we can beat others, I'm happy," Broskie said with a laugh. "I hate to say that I didn't mean it that way, but you guys in a competitive way for students of course."

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Sophia Smith is a joy of light with her cheerful attitude and her contagious smile. She maintains a positive outlook at school and helps other students in need.

Kaleena Spratlin
5th Grade
Light House Christian
This is Kaleena's third year at Light Christian Academy. She is able to complete her schoolwork accurately, and she shows great potential for success in the future. She is continuing to grow academically, and we are excited to see where she ends up in the future. We know that she will continue to shine bright at LCA.

Adalynn Rhoden
K5
Hope Christian Academy
Adalynn takes pride in her schoolwork and shows excellent academic growth. She is a superstar learner! I really enjoy having Adalynn in my class.

Bailin
Bradford Elementary
Bailin is a wonderful student and an even better kid—kind, hardworking, and always willing to help others.

Mrs. Kirkland's Class
1st Grade
Rainbow Learning Academy
Paeghten, Conway, Claire, Shep, Sawyer, Jewel, Maverick, Bailey, Chanci, Blake, Teagan, & Maddie

Merry Melrose Parade celebrates 36th year

BY JENN SAMSEL
jenn@bctelegraph.com

The streets of Melrose along State Road 26 came alive as crowds gathered for the highly anticipated 36th-year Merry Melrose Parade and Santa Claus.

The parade occurred on Saturday, December 13.

There were dancers, decorated floats, musical artists, and marching bands, all celebrating the holiday season, ending with an appearance by Santa Claus.



Becky, Roy, Tina, Santa and Fred from Lake Region Kiwanis.



Melrose Bobbing Ladies Ukulele Band



Christel, Joey, Ize



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BHS girls avenge earlier loss to Ft. White, win 33-28

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Visiting Fort White tied it up at 28-28 in the fourth quarter, but the Bradford High School girls basketball team then got five points and two steals from Cayson Hampton to defeat the Indians 33-28.

It was the fourth straight win for the Tornadoes, who improved their record to 6-3 in handing Fort White its first loss.

Bradford trailed 14-8 entering the second quarter, but pulled to within two points on a rebound putback by Ar'Nayshia Griffin and a steal and score by Riley Shuford.

Wynter Barrington scored off a Kah'myra Hankerson assist to leave the Tornadoes trailing 15-14. After Fort White's Ya'Zuri Hollie knocked down a jumper, Shuford sank a three-point shot to even the score at 17-17.

Nyasia Lopey scored off an offensive rebound to send



Riley Shuford goes up for a basket after a steal in the second quarter



Cayson Hampton drives to the basket in the fourth quarter.

Bradford into the half leading 19-17.

A Hampton three-pointer and a rebound putback by Griffin helped the Tornadoes go into the fourth quarter leading 25-20.

The final quarter began with a Hankerson three-pointer, giving Bradford an eight-point lead.

Fort White scored eight consecutive points, including two baskets off turnovers. The Indians tied the score at 28-28 when Tanesha Sloan made a foul-line jumper.

Hampton put the Tornadoes back on top when she grabbed a defensive rebound and dribbled the length of the court for a basket. Hankerson pulled down a defensive rebound and then recorded an assist on a Hampton basket to make it 32-28.

Hampton scored the game's final point off a free throw with 25 seconds remaining.

See BHS, page 10



RIGHT: Nyasia Lopey (left) handles the ball while being guarded by Fort White's Jahlaya Wilson. BELOW: Ar'Nayshia Griffin (right) attempts to back her way into the lane against Fort White.

KHHS girls now 5-2 after 44-22 loss to Blue Devils

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Visiting Clay defeated the Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team 44-22 on Dec. 15, handing the Indians their second straight loss after a 5-0 start.

Keystone got seven points from Alexandra Papaioannou and six points each from Raven Bastin and Daisy Hubbard. Rigby Morford added three points.

Morford grabbed a team-high nine rebounds. Hubbard and Bastin had eight and seven rebounds, respectively, while Papaioannou had five.

Bastin had six of her team's 10 steals.

In earlier action, the Indians earned their fifth straight win by defeating visiting West Nassau 40-31 on Dec. 11.

Hubbard led Keystone with 13 points, while Morford and Papaioannou each had eight. The Indians also got five points from Bastin, four points from Grace Keaton and two points from Melissa Williams.

Rebounding leaders were Morford with 12 and Hubbard and Kadence Massey with six each. Keaton added five rebounds.

Massey and Papaioannou each had five steals, with Massey also recording nine assists.

The Indians dropped their first game of the season when they lost 49-38 to host Palatka on Dec. 12.

Hubbard and Bastin scored 17 and 14 points, respectively. Massey had three points, while Keaton and Maria Papaioannou each had two.

Massey recorded eight assists and had three steals, while Morford led the team in rebounds with 13.

Keaton grabbed five rebounds.

KHHS boys soccer team finishes in 3-3 tie with Broncos

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights couldn't make it three wins in a row in boys soccer, but the Indians didn't lose, instead tying visiting

Middleburg 3-3 on Dec. 18.

Luke Buchanan scored two goals for the Indians, while A.J. Nilsen had one.

The Indians (7-7-2) entered the match off an 8-1 win over visiting Interlachen on Dec. 17. Trenton Noble scored two goals, while Keystone got one goal each from Buchanan, Nathan Benson, Hunter McIntosh, Jackson Spence, Kipton Spence and Ryder Thomas.

Thomas and Buchanan had three and two assists, respectively. Brayden Bell, Kipton Spence and Sammy Wacha each recorded one assist.

Keystone will return to action in 2026 with a road match against Newberry on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. The Indians will host Santa Fe on Thursday, Jan. 8, at 7:20 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 5:30 p.m.

The Indians then travel to play Palatka on Friday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 12, Keystone travels to play Interlachen, with

the JV playing at 5 p.m. and the varsity playing at 7 p.m.

Keystone's varsity team travels to play Williston on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.

KHHS girls fall to Blue Wave

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School got 20 saves from goalie Xana Briley, but couldn't connect on any shots in a 5-0 loss to P.K. Yonge in a girls soccer match on Dec. 18 in Gainesville.

The Indians (5-6-3) entered the match off a 1-1 tie against visiting Interlachen on Dec. 17. Kaylee Park scored the lone goal, while Briley made 10 saves.

Keystone, which played West Nassau on Dec. 19, returns to action on Tuesday, Jan. 6, when it travels to play Newberry at 5 p.m.

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Amanda Seyfang

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BHS boys open home slate with 69-40 win over Ft. White

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Kemontae Nixon had a huge fourth quarter as the Bradford High School boys basketball team turned a 12-point lead into a 69-40 win over visiting Fort White on Dec. 18.

This newly created basketball cheer squad and the presence of the band made for quite the atmosphere in the Tornadoes' first home game, which was part of a slate of three games in which the junior varsity boys and varsity girls teams also earned wins over Fort White.

If you can count his play on the court, Nixon was just as loud as the band and cheerleaders, scoring 10 fourth-quarter points and finishing with a game-high

21. The game went back and forth through most of the first quarter until Bradford scored six straight points. Nixon scored off an offensive rebound, followed by Steven Carter knocking down a three-point shot. Carter was fouled on the play and made the awarded free throw as the Tornadoes took a 15-9 lead into the second quarter.

Jy'Quez Cason scored three consecutive baskets as Bradford built a 24-11 lead.

The Tornadoes, who got eight first-half points from Cason and seven from Nixon, took a 26-16 lead into halftime.

Bradford scored 10 of the first 12 points of the third quarter, including three consecutive

baskets by Cason, Maliki Cobarris and Nixon. After a Carter basket, Nixon scored off a K.J. Taylor assist to put the Tornadoes ahead 36-18.

Carter had a three-pointer and recorded assists on consecutive

baskets by Breion Johnson as Bradford went into the fourth quarter leading 43-31.

Bradford's lead grew, thanks to Nixon, who scored six of the Tornadoes' first eight points in the fourth quarter. Cobarris and



Steven Carter (left) prepares to dribble into the lane.



LEFT: Jy'Quez Cason gets a fast-break basket. BELOW: Kemontae Nixon (left) takes it strong to the rim in the win over Fort White.



Maliki Cobarris (right) gets airborne for a shot attempt in the second half against Fort White.

Taylor had assists on two of his baskets, while the third was a rebound putback that made the score 51-35.

29 points. Carter finished with 14 points overall, while Cobarris had 11.

Carter and Cobarris each scored five points in the fourth quarter to help Bradford win by

Cason added 12 points, while Taylor and Johnson had seven and four, respectively.

BHS Continued from page 9

Griffin led the Tornadoes with nine points, while Hampton and Shuford each had eight. Bradford also got three points each from Hankerson and Lopey and two points from Barrington.

each added four points, while Bradford also got two points each from Johnylah Hankerson and Kailyn Teal.

Barrington and Griffin grabbed 12 and 11 rebounds, respectively, while Griffin and Shuford each had three assists.

The top rebounders were Lopey with seven and Griffin with six. Hampton and Hankerson each had five rebounds.

Hampton, Lopey and Shuford each had two steals.

Griffin had four steals, while Shuford had three steals and three assists.

The Tornadoes entered the game off a 45-31 win over visiting P.K. Yonge on Dec. 16, getting 17 points from Griffin.

Bradford, which played Bishop Snyder on Dec. 20, and played two games in a tournament at Orange Park High School on Dec. 22-23, will take part in a tournament at Eagle's View Academy in Jacksonville, playing San Jose Prep on Monday, Dec. 29, at 3 p.m. and Baker County on Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 1:30 p.m.

Lopey finished with nine points, while Shuford had six. Hampton and Hankerson

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Tornadoes improve to 3-1 with 67-56 win over Tigers

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School got a huge first-half performance from Maliki Cobarris and put together a 17-2 run in the second half in defeating visiting Union County 67-56 in a boys basketball game on Dec. 19.

Cobarris scored 23 of his game-high 31 points in the first half as the Tornadoes handed the Tigers their first loss.

Union (5-1) led several times in the first quarter. Adrian Manns had consecutive baskets, scoring off a Jaylen Pierre assist and rebound putback to put the Tigers ahead 9-7. Manns added a free throw to give Union a three-point lead.

The Tornadoes (3-1) got a steal from Jy'Quez Cason that led to a Cobarris three-pointer, putting



Bradford's Breion Johnson grabs a defensive rebound as teammate Kemontae Nixon looks on.

Bradford up 14-12. Bradford maintained its lead the rest of the way.

A three-pointer by R.J. Odom Jr. left the Tigers trailing by only one, but the Tornadoes scored the first eight points of the second quarter. Cobarris scored off a steal, made two free throws and then added two consecutive baskets, making the score 24-15.

Union later made it a four-point game, getting one free throw from Garrison Smith and two free throws each from Pierre and Montrell Woods.

Bradford closed out the half by scoring six straight points. After two Cobarris free throws, Kemontae Nixon scored off an offensive rebound. Nixon then grabbed a rebound on the defensive end and fired a pass downcourt to Cobarris, who scored to give the Tornadoes a 34-24 lead.

The Tornadoes went ahead by 11 points several times early in the third quarter, but the Tigers made it a seven-point game, with Tyrese Chandler knocking down a jump shot and Odom scoring two straight baskets.

A Steven Carter three-pointer helped put Bradford back up by double digits. The Tornadoes then began their 17-2 run, which began late in the third quarter. Cobarris sank two free throws, while Nixon drained a three-point shot. Bradford's Breion Johnson and Union's Pierre each had a basket to make it a 50-35 game going into the fourth.

The final quarter's first points came off a Cobarris three-pointer. After Pierre made a free throw for the Tigers, K.J. Taylor made a three-point shot for the Tornadoes. Taylor added a two-point basket after a free throw by teammate Dylan Ruise to put Bradford ahead 59-36.

Woods scored seven points late in the game to help Union whittle the final margin to 11.

Nixon joined Cobarris in double figures with 13 points, while the Tornadoes also got eight from Johnson, seven each from Carter and Taylor and one from Ruise.

Johnson and Nixon each grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Tigers got 12 points from Odom and 11 each from Manns and Woods. Pierre added nine points, while Union also got six from Chandler, four from Jackson Andersen-Davis and three from Smith.

Manns led the Tigers in rebounds with nine.

Bradford will play in The True Force Shootout, hosted by Santa Fe High School at Alachua's Legacy Park Multipurpose Center. The Tornadoes' first game in the three-day event will be against Taylor County on Saturday, Dec. 27, at 2:15 p.m.

Union, which played Lafayette on Dec. 22, will return to action with a road game against Clay on Monday, Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m. The Tigers then host Suwannee on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m.



Bradford's K.J. Taylor soars to the basket in the second half.



Union's Jaylen Pierre (right) drives to the basket, with Bradford's Dylan Ruise and Breion Johnson (background) challenging his shot.



Bradford's Maliki Cobarris (second from left) pulls up in the lane to put a shot up over Union's Adrian Manns (far right).



Union's Adrian Manns (far right) wins the battle for a rebound against Bradford's Jy'Quez Cason (far left).

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'Heroes' make holidays happy for kids

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Santa gets milk and cookies, but perhaps he should share with a lot of generous people and businesses in Bradford and

Union counties.

Approximately 290 students from Brooker Community School and Bradford, Lake Butler, Lawtey and Starke elementary schools enjoyed a

shopping spree at the Starke Walmart as part of the Bradford Sheriff Charitable Foundation's Holidays with Heroes event, which took place Dec. 16 and Dec. 18. Each child was allowed to select items totaling \$150, thanks to the giving hearts in the community.

"I think the coolest part for me is just seeing how our community comes together," said Bradford Emergency Management Director, who coordinates the event. "I mean, it's everybody. If it wasn't for that, this wouldn't happen."

Witt said what's impressive is that the people and businesses who give toward the event are also lending monetary support to so many other things throughout

the year.

"We're a small community. There are a lot of people who give to a lot every year, but they show up for this without fail," Witt said, adding, "It's an amazing reminder how generous our community is when those checks start rolling in and people start coming by to drop stuff off. It's just amazing to see how giving Bradford and Union counties are to make this thing happen."

The support of Holidays with Heroes doesn't end with those who donate money. It comes from multiple agencies who provide the personnel to serve as children's escorts. That's why the event's name was changed

See HEROES, page 13



Lake Butler Elementary's Dallas Stoddard works on filling up his shopping cart with Bradford County Chief Deputy Brad Smith.



Starke Elementary's Bianca Rodgers (left) and Katina Kelly, who referred to themselves as "RMC's finest."



Starke Elementary's Ta'Mir Goodman has a big smile on his face while picking out toys with Baker Re-Entry Center's Timothy Cabrera.

Obituaries

Amy J. Davis

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our dear Amy J. Davis, who left this world at home, encircled by the love of her family, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at the age of 65. Born Oct. 8, 1960, in Jacksonville and a faithful member of Beacon of Hope Church in Hampton, Amy will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew her for her genuine warmth, the kindness she extended to everyone she met, her joyful jokes and songs, and her amazing way of remembering all the special things about the people she loved. As the former Managing Director of ACORN Clinic in Brooker, she took immense pride in her involvement with the "Sole Sisters" fundraiser, a cause that was so close to her heart, raising funds to provide mammograms for uninsured patients. Her service to the City of Hampton as both City Clerk and City Councilwoman reflected her commitment to public good and her desire to make a lasting, positive difference in the lives around her. She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Betty Jo (Crawford) Davis of Hampton; and her brothers, Carl (Kay) Davis of Fleming Island and Georgie Davis of Hampton.

Her love lives on through her cherished family, her daughter, Kari (Matt) Reynolds of Palatka; her grandchildren, Reagan and Dalton Reynolds; her siblings, Carol Erby of Starke, Virginia "Ginny" (Mike) Qualls of Starke, Scotty (Melissa) Davis of Hampton; her sister-in-law, Kay Davis; and her nieces and nephews, Chris (Shelly) Erby, Nikki Erby, Robert (Andrea) Davis, Daniel (Hope) Davis, Kristin (Brad) Muse, Preston Hawkins, Alicia (Steven) Davis, Kaitlin Davis, Kyle (Ashley) Davis, Cody (Ashley) Qualls and Gina Davis; as well as many beloved grandnieces and grandnephews. Amy held close her partner in life, Timmy Newman; and her extended family in Lawtey and Alabama.

To celebrate Amy's beautiful life and the impact she had on so many, funeral services will be held at Jones Gallagher Funeral Home on Monday, Dec. 22, beginning at 1 p.m. A graveside service will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery in Hampton. The family welcomes friends and loved ones for a public visitation on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Charles Henderson Sr.

Charles Henderson Sr., 67, of Lawtey passed away Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. Born March 8, 1958, in Lawtey, he was the beloved son of Walter Henderson Sr. and Estella Henderson. He was a man known for his kindness, strength, humor, and unwavering devotion to his family, faith, and work. He had a natural ability to bring laughter into everyday moments and a steady presence that made others feel at ease. He believed deeply in working hard, loving fully, and taking pride in everything, he did. For 30 years, he dedicated himself to his work at Tatum Saw Mill, where he was respected for his strong work ethic and reliability. A proud graduate of Bradford High School in Starke, he carried those values throughout his life. Charles found his greatest joy spending time with his wife and children, working together, sharing laughs, and simply being present. He also took pride in his community and found peace in caring for his yard, a task he approached with the same dedication he gave to all aspects of his life. He shared a loving life with his wife, Tereatha Henderson, with whom he spent 32 wonderful years together and 28 years of marriage, a relationship built on devotion, partnership, and plenty of shared laughter. Charles passed away as the result of an unexpected accident while doing what he knew best, working hard and caring for the world around him. Though his passing was sudden, the life he lived was full, meaningful, and rich in love. Charles was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Walter and Estella Henderson; his younger sister, Penny Henderson Whitley; sister-in-law, Sharon Bright; and brother-in-law, Herbert Bright.

He is survived by his loving wife, Tereatha Henderson; children, Charles Henderson Jr. of Starke, Charles Henderson III of MacClenny, Christopher Henderson of Lawtey, Cedrick (Devon) Henderson of Lake City and Jasmine Henderson of Lake City; and stepchildren, Jenetta Albertie of MacClenny, Jennifer Albertie of Callahan, Angie Hill of Starke, Tywonn Mills of Tampa and Mikel Bright of Lawtey. He also leaves behind his abundant grandchildren and great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him immense pride and joy. He is also survived by his siblings, Jacqueline Scott of Decatur, Georgia, Geraldine Ford of Starke, Brenda Henderson of Lawtey, Walter (Sharon) Henderson Jr. of Lawtey and Tony Henderson Sr. of Gainesville; and his in-laws, Leon (Tammy) Bright of Deland, Charles Footman and Tony Bright, both of Cocoa, Mark Bright of Daytona and Tanya (Carlos) Johnson of Lake City. He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends who will forever hold him in their hearts. Charles Henderson Sr. will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and often smiled about by all who were blessed to know him. His legacy lives on in the strength of his family, the laughter he inspired, and the many lives he touched.

Visitation was held Friday, Dec. 19. Funeral services took place Saturday, Dec. 20 at Mt. Zion AME Church, 2229 Lake St., Lawtey. Cremation followed the service. Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke. 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.



PAID OBITUARY

Nancy McMichael

Nancy Joyce (Garst) McMichael, 88, passed away peacefully at home in the presence of her family on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025. Nancy was born May 18, 1937, in Evergreen Park, Illinois. She was the oldest of seven children. She was raised in a small town outside of La Grange, Illinois and had the honor of contributing to a book about her hometown. She loved numbers and worked as a bookkeeper for over 50 years, continuing part-time until a few weeks prior to her passing. Her life was defined by grace, strength, and unconditional love. At home, she was the devoted matriarch of her family, the one who remembered every birthday and anniversary and always made time to listen. She enjoyed playing cards and dominoes with her friends and sewing doll clothes for her grand and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Opal Garst; sister, Marilyn Uptain; and two sons, James and Daniel Jens.

She is survived by her remaining children, Cynthia Kuhnert, Cheryl Horn, Del (Carol) Ekenbarger, Cherise (Chris) Wise, Juanita (James) Beall; and 17 grandchildren and great-grandchildren who lovingly called her Grandma and GranGran. She also leaves behind brothers, John Garst, Glenn Garst and Richard Garst; sisters Judy Margherone and Karen Ander; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private family gathering will take place later per Nancy's wishes. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to Community Hospice of Palatka. Her family was her greatest joy, and her legacy will live on in the hearts of all that knew and loved her.

PAID OBITUARY

Gary S. Spencer

Gary M Spencer, 71, passed away in Starke on Friday, Sept. 26, 2025. He is survived by his son, Bill (Catherine) Spencer; and daughter, Tania (Tony) Courchaine. His body was donated to Science Care.



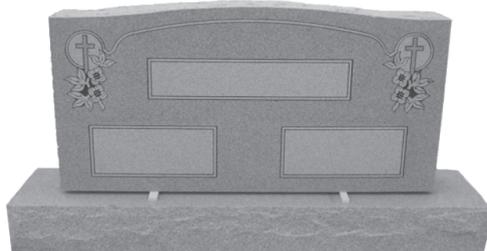
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Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you information about our qualifications and experience.

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- Divorce and Family
- Bankruptcy
- Criminal Law
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The Bradford County Telegraph encourages you to:



Dine. Shop. Buy. LOCALLY

Benefit Local Civic & Community Groups

Our community merchants support local Civic, Educational, Student and School Activities including:

- Band
- Football • Pop Warner
- Baseball • Softball
- Tennis • Golf
- Student Clubs • FFA • KRA • 4-H
- Scouting Groups & Explorers
- Churches, Church Groups & Events
- Senior Citizens Organizations
- Food Banks • Health & Wellness Programs
- Veterans Groups, Organizations & Events

When local businesses do well, so do students and local organizations which help build and strengthen the fabric of our community.

Your local merchant wants to help support these community groups and activities, but they need your support in order to continue.

Fulfill your family's wants and needs by buying locally! Invest in your own community by supporting local businesses.



Build Communities' Economic Foundations

Supporting local small businesses including restaurants, goods and services means investing in our present and our future:

- **Keep money in the neighborhood.** Locally owned businesses recirculate 70% more money back into their own local community than big box chain stores and restaurants.
- **Embrace what makes us unique.** Where we shop, eat, work, play and hang out makes our communities home. If we wanted to live someplace that was like everywhere else, we wouldn't be living in this region of Florida.
- **Get better service.** In a local business you know the person behind the counter and they know you. They have a deeper understanding of the products and services they are selling and they take the time to serve their customers.
- **Create & keep good jobs.** Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally and account for the vast majority of job growth. Growing local businesses mean more jobs for residents and more taxes to invest in our own communities, churches, schools and groups.

SUPPORT • STRENGTHEN • BUILD OUR COMMUNITY

HEROES

Continued from page 12

from Shop with a Cop. It's not just "cops" who are shopping with children. You have people representing emergency medical services, fire and rescue, the Florida Forest Service, the Florida National Guard and the Florida Department of Corrections, which provides most of the escorts year after year.

This year, you also could've seen participants such as Starke Mayor Andy Redding and Starke

City Clerk Chrissy Thompson. Talk to anybody who participated this year or in years past, and you'll hear about how heartwarming the experience is. Many, like Union Correctional Institution's Terrijean Hodges, take part once and become hooked.

"I love doing it every year," said Hodges, who was in her third year of participating. "It's just an honor."

Holidays with Heroes is the perfect event for someone like Hodges, who describes herself as "a giver."

"It just warms my heart to see the children and how they light

up and to see the smiles and to be able to give them something that they might not have," Hodges said.

As generous as the community is in providing funds and the escorts for the children, the kids sometimes prove they're just as generous. Some escorts have children who want to select items for their siblings, parents, grandparents and even pets before they pick out something for themselves.

That was the kind of child Hodges was paired up with on day two of the event this year. Hodges said Bradford Elementary student Skye Jonas

thought of her siblings and was very thoughtful. In fact, Jonas even tried to buy Hodges a cookie when she was done shopping.

"She was really sweet and kind," Hodges said.

Holidays with Heroes traces its origins to 2005, when it got its start by the Starke Police Department as Shop with a Cop. The Starke Police Department coordinated the event every year through 2023. The department was disbanded in 2024, which led to the Bradford County Sheriff's Office taking over the event.

Witt has expressed his gratitude to the Starke Police Department in the past, saying,

"They laid the groundwork."

Children are chosen to participate by school personnel. Holidays with Heroes is meant as a reward to students who are doing the right things in school.

Thanks to donors, the amount of money children can spend has increased each year.

"It was \$100 for a long time," Witt said. "One of our goals was to start bumping that up because, you know, \$100 just doesn't go as far as it used to. We did \$125 last year. We did \$150 this year."

"As long as the community keeps doing what they do, we're going to keep looking at being

able to do more for the kids in the future."

Sure, Santa earns all the milk and cookies he can consume for what he does every year, but this community is proving that it deserves some treats, too. In essence, Bradford and Union counties have a lot of Santas, who all play a part in giving a lot of children a merry Christmas.

See more photos on page 15



Phillip Sellers of the Union County Sheriff's Office takes a quick break from shopping for a photo with Brooker Community School's Levi Harvey.



Starke Elementary's Scarlett Puff shows off a Squishmallow she picked out while shopping with Sheila Cummings of the Bradford County School Board.



Bradford Elementary's Xzavier Brim gives a thumbs-up to his shopping experience with David Bukowski of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.



Lawtey Correctional's Dena Templeton bends down to Hayslee Griffin's level as she helps the Lawtey Elementary student find the toy she wants.



Jordan Sylvester of Bradford Elementary has his cart full after shopping with Austin Thomas of the Florida Forest Service.



Lake Butler Elementary's Gabriel Stitt (left) and Aedan Bivins show off some of the items they've selected while shopping with Starke Mayor Andy Redding.

Highly Rated Local Businesses!

<p>"Rod was a pleasure to work with! He nailed it! Thank you Rod! I'll be calling on you again for sure!"</p> <p>(904) 769-9779 Serving Lawtey & surrounding areas</p> <p>RCP ROD CRAWFORD PLUMBING</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>	<p>THE CHIROPRACTIC & INJURY CLINIC</p> <p>601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8018</p> <p>"Amazing staff & doctor! Very satisfied."</p>	<p>Lake Area HEATING & AIR Formerly Mike Bertie Heating and Air, Serving Keystone Heights and surrounding areas since 2008.</p> <p>7415 State Rd 21 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-9595</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>
<p>SPORTING CHANCE</p> <p>218 Temple Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7434</p> <p>"Fast, friendly service! Kudos to Sporting Chance!"</p>	<p>R ROBERTS INSURANCE EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES</p> <p>Starke 904.964.7826 Keystone Heights 352.473.7209 Middleburg 904.282.7665</p> <p>We Are Your Local Healthcare Enrollment Center AUTO • HOME • MOTORCYCLE • BUSINESS ATV • BOATS • RV • LIFE • HEALTH www.george.roberts.ins.com</p> <p>Scott Roberts Agent/Owner Lori Thompson Agent</p>	<p>"Great set of guys that came. Found my issue. Quick work."</p> <p>Durance PUMP</p> <p>904-964-7061 864 N Temple Ave STE C Starke, FL 32091</p>
<p>WORLEY CONSTRUCTION & ASSOCIATES, INC. GENERAL & MARINE CONTRACTOR STATE LICENSED GENERAL CONTRACTOR</p> <p>352-481-2255 CGC 060228 www.worleyconstruction.net</p>	<p>PHILLIP McDONALD PLUMBING AND SEPTIC 904-964-3737</p> <p>904-964-3737 740 S Orange St Starke, FL 32091</p> <p>"I absolutely recommend Phillip McDonald Plumbing and Septic!"</p>	<p>Welcome to Rivers Flowing Church- where the river of God never runs dry!</p> <p>904-964-7061 22610 HWY 301 N Lawtey, FL 32054</p> <p>RIVERS FLOWING CHURCH</p> <p>SUN: 10AM WED: 7PM</p>
<p>STARKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 15501 NE 14TH Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-5441</p> <p>OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK GREENS FEE: \$10 CART RENTAL: \$20</p>	<p>BRADFORD COUNTY EYE CENTER</p> <p>"Everyone was great. They went above and beyond. Very happy with the way I was treated. Looking forward to my next visit."</p> <p>292 Lafayette St Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8076</p>	<p>"Very knowledgeable and caring staff!"</p> <p>HOMETOWN Health & Wellness</p> <p>260 S Lawrence Blvd, Suite 101 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 352-664-7702</p>
<p>AUNTIE LILI'S CHILD CARE CENTER</p> <p>904-303-1014 407 W. Washington St. Starke</p>	<p>TOWN & COUNTRY VETERINARY CLINIC</p> <p>The staff showed they really cared about my boy... Went above and beyond!</p> <p>1051 S Water St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-6411</p>	<p>"Love Craig and his team. They are honest and always go above and beyond to take care of the issues we have."</p> <p>CF AC FALSTREAU HEATING & AIR, INC.</p> <p>Craig Falstreau Heating & Air, Inc 228 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-2241</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>
<p>ANDREWS SITE PREP</p> <p>386-867-0572 SERVICES 20 DIFFERENT COUNTIES!</p> <p>"I highly recommend them for installation and repair."</p>	<p>DLPbank Dream. Live. Prosper.</p> <p>STARKE 131 N Cherry St (904) 964-7423</p> <p>LAKE BUTLER 255 SE 6th St (386) 496-3333</p>	<p>Bradford County SHERIFF'S OFFICE Sheriff, Gordon Smith "We Care"</p> <p>945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 966-6161</p> <p>"They take care of business And take care of people at the same time."</p>
<p>Gainesville and surrounding areas!</p> <p>Atlantic Roofing & Exteriors, LLC (352) 327-7663 4739 NW 53rd Ave STE A, Gainesville, FL 32653</p> <p>"The folks at Atlantic Roofing are top-notch"</p>	<p>TEAL TILE CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME</p> <p>131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7423</p> <p>"Installers were great, prompt, & their work was excellent."</p>	<p>PRITCHETT TRUCKING, INC</p> <p>(386) 496-2630 1050 SE 6th Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054</p> <p>"EXCELLENT SERVICE!"</p>



Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Dec. 25, 2025

BRADFORD

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

(Publish in Bradford County Telegraph)
TO: Constance Hurston
Last Known Residence: 409 Lakeshore Drive, Starke, Florida 32091

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in BRADFORD County, Florida:
Bradford County Parcel ID Number: 00804-0-03600
Lot 36 of LAKEWOOD UNIT NO. 1 according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 58 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida. Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Charles Daniel Sikes, P.A., Plaintiff's Attorney, at 817 MacMahon Street, Starke, Florida 32091, within (30) days of the first date of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
DATED December 9, 2025
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
Deputy Clerk

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

(Publish in Bradford County Telegraph)
TO: SMD BILLING MANAGEMENT, LLC., as registered agent for GGG INNOVATIVE SERVICE, LLC. Last Known Residence: 320-A South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in BRADFORD County, Florida:
Bradford County Parcel ID Number: 03142-0-00000
A Parcel of land and lying partly in Block 30 of the Original Town of Starke as per Plat recorded in Deed Book N, Page 759 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida and partly in the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28,

Township 6 South, Range 22 East of said County, said Parcel bring more particularly described as follows:
Commence at an iron pipe located at the Northeast corner of said Block 30 and run South 17 degrees 20 minutes and 18 seconds West, along the Easterly boundary thereof and the Westerly boundary of the Right-of-Way of Thompson Street, 124.22 feet to a set 1/2 inch Iron Rod (LB4012) for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described continue South 17 degrees 20 minutes and 18 seconds West, along said Westerly boundary 154.85 feet to a found 1/2 inch Rebar (Welch & Assoc.); thence North 71 degrees 56 minutes 19 seconds West, 104.51 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Rod (Welch & Assoc.); thence North 72 degrees 24 minutes 34 seconds West, 31.63 feet to a found 1 inch Iron Pipe (NO ID); thence North 70 degrees 25 minutes and 24 seconds West, 72.56 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Pipe (NO ID) located on the Easterly boundary of the Right-of-Way of Walnut Street (60foot R/W); thence North 16 degrees 36 minutes and 18 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary 271.21 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Rod (NO ID) located at an intersection with the Southerly boundary of the Right-of-Way of South Street (60 foot R/W) and the Northerly boundary of said Block 30; thence South 73 degrees 37 minutes and 52 seconds East, along said Northerly & Southerly boundaries 76.17 feet to a found 1/2 inch Iron Rod (#5098); thence South 16 degrees 44 minutes and 25 seconds West, 124.09 feet to a set 1/2 Iron Rod (LB4012); thence South 73 degrees 34 minutes and 50 seconds East, 134.67 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Charles Daniel Sikes, P.A., Plaintiff's Attorney, at 817 MacMahon Street, Starke, Florida 32091, within (30) days of the first date of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
DATED: December 9, 2025
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
DEPUTY CLERK

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO: 2019-DR-631
Division:

BRANDON LEE,
Petitioner
and ASHLYN WALL
Respondent.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR MODIFICATION OF PARENTING PLAN

TO: ASHLYN WALL, 1854 SR 230 EAST, STARKE, FL 32091
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for MODIFICATION OF PARENTING PLAN has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on BRANDON LEE, whose address is 5494 HAMPTON VILLAS DRIVE, HAMPTON, FL 32044 on or before January 8th, 2026 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.** Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
DATED: December 15, 2025
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: KANETRA JENKINS
Deputy Clerk

12/18 4tchg 1/8/26-BCT

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

(Publish in Bradford County Telegraph)
TO: SMD BILLING MANAGEMENT, LLC., as registered agent for GGG INNOVATIVE SERVICE, LLC. Last Known Residence: 320-A South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in BRADFORD County, Florida:
Bradford County Parcel ID Number: 03142-0-00000
A Parcel of land and lying partly in Block 30 of the Original Town of Starke as per Plat recorded in Deed Book N, Page 759 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida and partly in the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 28,

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on January 19, 2026. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on January 12, 2026 and end at 12PM on January 19, 2026. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837 Time: 12:00PM CST
A41, James, Jeanette, A49, Sellers, Brittany, B04, Atkinson, Jeffery, B30, Stack, Jack, B72, Sanders, Gerard
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available

on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837.

12/18 2tchg 12/25-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: ROCHELLE D. WILLIAMS, 21659 NE 10th Pl., Lawtey, FL 32058, SOLE owner, doing business under the firm name of: PHOTOS BY ROCHELL, 21659 NE 10th Pl., Lawtey, FL 32058 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 19 day of DECEMBER 12, A.D., 2025, in BRADFORD County.

12/12 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at a public hearing on January 6, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, 1S250903A, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM COMMERCIAL AND LOW DENSITY, RESIDENTIAL (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 2 UNITS PER ACRE) TO INDUSTRIAL ON CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.
12/25 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at a public hearing on January 6, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF TEN OR MORE CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 25-03, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM SINGLE FAMILY, VERY LOW DENSITY (R1-A) AND COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (B-2) TO GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (I-2) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE

CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.
12/25 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2025CA000399

MIDFIRST BANK,
Plaintiff,
VS.
MARGARET M. SILCOX; JASON L. SILCOX; et al.,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

(Publish in Bradford County Telegraph)
TO: Tri-Star Lending Group
Last Known Residence: 1500 Lee Rd Orlando, FL 32810

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF BRADFORD, STATE OF FLORIDA, TO-WIT: THE EAST ONE-HALF OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND: COMMENCE 200 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST 1/2 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF NORTHWEST 1/4 AND RUN SOUTH 517.4 FEET FOR POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 170 FEET WEST, 419 FEET TO EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD 200; THENCE NORTH ALONG ROAD 170 FEET, EAST 406.75 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, LYING AND BEING SITUATED IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22, TOGETHER WITH A 2003 MOBILE HOME WITH VIN #S FLHML2F157826979A & FLHML2F157826979B, AND TITLE #S 88078260 & 88078319.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiff's attorney, at 401 W. Linton Blvd. Suite 202-B Delray Beach, FL 33444, on or before _____, 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 16, 2025.

As Clerk of the Court
By: KANETRA JENKINS
As Deputy Clerk

12/25 2tchg 1/1/26-BCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE
Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will hold a REGULAR MEETING on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 4:30pm at UF/IFAS Extension located at 2266 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091

12/25 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY
Case No. 63-2024-CA-000098
CIVIL DIVISION

CARDINAL FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
Plaintiff,
vs.
PATSY JO ADDISON BROOKER / A/K/A
PATSY ADDISON BROOKER A/K/A
PATSY ADDISONBROOKER A/K/A
PATSY A. BROOKER A/K/A PATSY BROOKER A/K/A PATSY ADDISON, DONALD K. BROOKER, SR. A/K/A DONALD BROOKER, CURTIS LEROY.

ADDITION AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on April 28, 2025, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Florida, Regina H. Parrish, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell the property situated in Union County, Florida described as:
THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF FLORIDA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING A TOTAL AREA OF 2.0 ACRES MORE OR LESS BEING SITUATED IN SECTION 17 TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH RANGE 20 EAST UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4

OF SAID SECTION 17 AND RUN SOUTH 85 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 2219.01 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 732.01 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN NORTH 78 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 135.46 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 167.68 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 29 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 37 SECONDS EAST A OF DISTANCE OF 108.38 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 36.65 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 30 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 125.87 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 59 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 163.88 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 86 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 89.36 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 11 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 308.08 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH A 20 FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS AND UTILITIES BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 17 AND RUN SOUTH 85 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 2219.01 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 732.01 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 78 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 41.26 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED 20 FOOT EASEMENT; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING NORTH 78 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 32.83 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 64 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 67.69 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 157.20 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 80 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 73.43 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 76 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 02 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 302.94 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WIT WITH THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NUMBER S-238 (80 FEET RIGHT OF WAY); THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 39 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 20.63 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 76 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 301.90 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 80 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 78.92 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 72 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 41 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 160.10 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 64 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 94.84 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING. I and commonly known as: 17886 NE 124TH PL., LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, in the front lobby of the courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, on JANUARY 22, 2026 at 11:00 A.M..

Any persons 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 before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. Dated this 9th day of December, 2025.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Kellie Hendricks Rhoades
By: K.Riggs
Deputy Clerk

12/25 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning the amendment, as described below, will be heard by the City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Lake Butler, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on January 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida.

Z25-02, an application by SC Services, Inc., as agent for the City Commission, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district on certain lands from COMMERCIAL, GENERAL (CG) to INDUSTRIAL (I) for the property described, as follows: A parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at Southeast corner of said Section 36; thence North 01°24'13" West 984.65 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning; thence South 88°45'17" West 666.69 feet; thence North 01°24'49" West 1,458.59 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 121; thence North 42°46'14" East 957.10 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121 to the East line of Section 36; thence South 01°24'13" East 2,146.89 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning. Containing 27.60 acre, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the City Manager, City Hall located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the Office of the City Manager at 386.496.3401 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).

12/25 1tchg-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Bradford County Telegraph
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod.: Macie Hamilton
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
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Subscription Rate in Trade Area
Area \$52.00 per year:
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year:
\$26.00 six months

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Lake Region Monitor
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628

John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Dan Hildebrand
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Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod.: Macie Hamilton
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:



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

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
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod.: Macie Hamilton
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
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Shopping scenes from Holidays with Heroes



Garrett Hersey of the Florida Forest Service ties to keep up with Bradford Elementary's John Danella.



Bradford Elementary's Skye Jonas, who is escorted by Union Correctional's Terrijean Hodges, finds the perfect bike.



Starke Elementary's Khyren Tyson enjoys his Christmas shopping spree — or make that Grinchmas shopping spree — with Angela Warren of Reception and Medical Center.



Aubrey Simmons of Lake Butler Elementary holds a big plush dog she picked out while shopping with Starke City Clerk Chrissy Thompson.



Lawtey Elementary's Gauge Davis shows off the Spidey toy he picked out while shopping with Lawtey Correctional's Vicky Eaton.



Shaun Burgin of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office shopped with two students — Lawtey Elementary's Rylee McCarthy (left) and Eireann McCarthy.



Bradford Elementary's Kieth Roberts shops with Quineisha Johnson of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.



Bradford Elementary's Trenton Starling shops with Lawtey Correctional's Sabrina Cox.



Starke Elementary's Anastacia Carroll works on filling up her basket with help from Emilio Perez of Lawtey Correctional.



Lake Butler Elementary's Cameron Coleman chats with Union Correctional's Victoria Flemens as they go shopping for toys and other items.



Brooker Community School student Emma Hernandez scans the toy shelves while accompanied by her escort, Katlyne Davis of Florida State Prison.



Starke Elementary's Bayleigh Arthur rides a bike and points out a helmet to go with it to Baker Coorectional's Lateria Holland.



Mindy Bennett of the Union County Sheriff's Office selects toys pointed out to her by Starke Elementary's Colton Nobles (left) and Xavier Collard.



Bradford Elementary student Michael Seaton, who is accompanied by Bradford County Schools' Stephanie Gainey and the Florida Forest Service's Chris Butler, holds one of the toys he selected.

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Hill bringing major concert experience to Starke Dec. 31

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A concert at a big-city venue might be an exciting way to celebrate New Year's Eve, but what if you could have that same experience in Starke?

Musician Clark Hill said that's just what he's bringing as part of a show that will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m. at the new stage at Starke's Downtown Square.

The four-hour Clark Hill Hometown Bash will also include musicians Stephen Barker Liles and Porter Martin and conclude with fireworks.

Admission is free, though tickets are required, which can be obtained through eventbrite.com. Search for "Clark Hill - Hometown New Years Eve Bash."

A VIP Experience is being offered for \$55.20 (limit of

100), which will include a pre-show dinner with Hill, photo opportunities, autographs and pit access. Purchase can be made via eventbrite.com.

Food and drinks (including adult beverages) will be available for purchase.

Gates open one hour prior to the show at 6 p.m.

Hill, a Starke native who every local knows as Jimmie Clark, is no stranger to performing in his hometown, but those previous shows were small affairs — shows that couldn't accommodate the equipment and personnel that Hill has been using in performing throughout the country.

"This isn't just me coming to perform," Hill said. "It's also bringing in all these outside resources into the community and trying to give a great, great show."

The show promises to be unlike any show performed in Starke before. Hill said that'll be evident even before the show starts, when people see the number of speakers set up at the square. Those speakers will provide high-quality audio, which will be complemented by two LED video walls, so concert goers can always see what's happening on stage, and approximately 100 moving stage lights.

"It will be more like what you would see when you go to a true national concert," Hill said. "It will not be on the same exact physical level, obviously, but it'll be similar to a stadium environment."

Hill said he'll be performing a 24-song set, 60-65 percent of which will consist of music he's never performed live.

Before Hill takes the stage,



Clark Hill is ready to give his hometown a "great, great, great" show at Starke's Downtown Square on New Year's Eve. The show is free, though tickets must be obtained through eventbrite.com.

the crowd will be entertained by Liles and Martin.

Liles is a member of the Love and Theft duo with Eric Gunderson. Love and Theft is known for its number-one hit "Angel Eyes" as well as "Dancing in Circles," "If You Ever Get Lonely," "Night That You'll Never Forget," "Runaway," "Runnin' Out of Air" and "Whiskey on My Breath."

Hill, who met Gunderson and Liles at the first Country Cruising event he was a part of, said his original plan was to have Love and Theft perform at the Starke show, but Gunderson wished to spend more time with his family in the aftermath of his sister's recent death. Liles, though, said he would come and perform.

"Stephen's working on a solo career on the side in gospel music," Hill said. "Stephen and I

write together a lot now."

Hill said of the 10 songs he plans to release in 2026, four will have been co-written with Liles, who also co-wrote the Martina McBride song "Wrong Baby Wrong."

"He wants to write on all my projects, which is fun because now I have an established, well-known, well-liked, really good guy who knows what he's doing," Hill said. "He knows how to write music the right way."

Martin is a singer-songwriter who's performed more than 3,000 shows across the country. He recently celebrated his first number-one single in "Hell That I Call Home" and has co-written songs with Jordan Davis and Lainey Wilson. Martin co-wrote Hill's song "One Beer" with

See HILL, page 17

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HILL

Continued from page 16

Hill and Liles. Hill said two of the songs he's releasing in 2026 were co-written with Martin.

Hill said the crowd will enjoy quite a show before he even takes to the stage.

"I'm the headliner, but really, they're both a lot more accomplished than I am," Hill said of Liles and Martin.



Porter Martin

stage, which Hill said he gave some thought to. However, he was hesitant. Not because of logistics and production value, but because he was nervous.

"If we go into The Downtown Grill, and we sell it out, then it feels good because it's packed. I get to say I sold it out," Hill said. "When you jump into an outdoor venue that you can fit a lot of people into, you're really scared that people aren't going to come, and you're scared that it's going to be empty."

"A lot of my hesitation was, that's a really big jump to go out there and try to do 1,000 or 2,000 people and give them a great show."

Hill got a confidence boost from this year's Country Cruising that he was a part of. Logistical issues prevented him from performing on the cruise, but the event organizers still wanted him to be part of it, so arrangements were made for Hill to perform at a venue in Key West. People attending the cruise were invited

to attend Hill's show, but he was nervous if those people would actually show up just to see him.

They did. Hill said the venue was filled beyond capacity.

After that show, which was held in late October, Hill's manager said he needed to do the New Year's Eve show in Starke. Hill said she told him, "You need to stop making excuses. You always talk about loving your hometown. Just do it."

Hill's response? "Well, OK. I guess we're going to do it."

Hill said he would've liked to have had a whole year to plan the event, but said his team has stepped up big time to make sure it happens.

"They've all answered the call," Hill said.

The response has been tremendous. Hill said he set what he thought were unrealistic goals of 1,000 general-admission tickets claimed and 100 VIP tickets sold. He believes now both goals will be reached.



Stephen Barker Liles

"That's been very humbling for me," Hill said.

The success of this event could lead to annual New Year's Eve shows.

"I'm going to decide on this probably in January, but if it goes well, and people are really happy with it, then it may be something I do every year, even if I'm not the one who performs," Hill said. "I'll just bring the experience

that I have and the people and the networks that we've built and bring them in and try to give this town something that it can look forward to every year."

Perhaps it could become an event that people outside of this area look forward to.

"You never know," Hill said. "Maybe it'll be something nationally where people say, 'I'm going to Starke, Florida, for New Year's because Clark is bringing a bunch of his friends in country music.'"

It's an exciting thought — giving his hometown something special.

"I just think that Starke deserves it," Hill said.

The Clark Hill Hometown Bash is presented by Southern Star Entertainment, the city of Starke, North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Bradford County Tourist Development Council.

Playing at home

Despite multiple requests to play a show in Starke again, Hill didn't think he would because of a couple of reasons.

One, Hill didn't think the type of concert experience that has become the norm for him would work in Starke due to logistics involving personnel and equipment.

"The thing was, we couldn't give people a quality show in a small environment," Hill said.

He did look into putting on a show this past summer at the fairgrounds, but things just didn't work out.

After that, performing at home became an afterthought due to his hectic schedule.

"At that point, I kind of put it off," Hill said. "I'm doing this every week. This is what I do all the time, so I couldn't hyper-focus."

Someone asked him about doing a New Year's Eve show at Starke's new Downtown Square

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L-R: Front row: Andrea Wasson, Harry Gunsallus, Carolyn Reddish
2nd row: Dae Hutchinson, Sherrie Norman, Kim Howard, Joey Kennedy, Regina Gillyard, Susan Nicklas, Monica Doxey, Harley Jordan 3rd row: Abigail Berboso, Chris Page, Jessica Brown, Casey Jackson, AJ Brown, Taylor Johnson, Kenedy Elder, Peggy Kilpatrick



LAKE BUTLER STAFF

L-R: Charlotte Gambel, Melissa Williams, Cassandra Bennett, Theresa Davidson
NOT PICTURED: Cheryl Combee, Vicki Wilson



INTERLACHEN STAFF

L-R: Angel Davis, Rachel Arthur, Tammie Woodard, Meaghan Howard

visit us online at
dlp.bank

Starke Office
811 South Walnut Street
Starke, FL 32091

Lake Butler Office
255 South East 6th Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Interlachen Office
1120 State Road 20
Interlachen, FL 32148



904.964.7830 | info@dlp.bank

