

*The Sweetest Strawberries this side of Heaven*

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026

146th year, 28th Issue — \$1

## Addition of Santa Fe nursing program celebrated in Starke

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
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Nursing school is difficult enough, so why not try to limit the hardships outside of the classroom?

A partnership between the Bradford County School District and Santa Fe College will result in North Florida Technical College being utilized

for a Santa Fe Associate in Science in Nursing Bridge program. The program, which will begin this fall semester, will offer convenience for local licensed practical nurses to become registered nurses.

A \$4 million grant offered through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunities is being used to remodel the NFTC health-sciences building.

Bradford County Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley and Santa Fe College Provost and Vice President Academic Affairs Nate Southerland participated in a signing ceremony to formalize the partnership.

Tracy Ison, who's the chair of nursing programs at Santa Fe, spoke at a celebration of the Bradford County School District-Santa Fe partnership

on Jan. 29 at North Florida Technical College. She said nursing school provides enough challenges without Bradford students having to worry about transportation, childcare and time away from a job to attend classes at Santa Fe's Gainesville campus.

See NURSE, page 11

## Killer wanted details of wife's affair

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

According to a document found by investigators at the crime scene, the 50-year-old deputies say murdered his wife before taking his own life was looking for details about the woman's affair.

The Bradford County Sheriff's Office said Loyd Alan Kerr, 50, shot his wife in the neck, resulting in her death, before taking his own life on Thursday, January 29.

Sheriff's Col. Brad Smith said that after receiving a 911 hang-up call, deputies responded to Northeast 6<sup>th</sup> Lane, off State Road 230, just west of the Bradford-Clay County Line. There, near a double-wide deputies found the 50-year-old with a gunshot wound to the head.

A neighbor told deputies that a female lived in the trailer, and officers searched the residence, but found no one.

However, the couple's 11-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son told investigators they saw their mother run toward a pond, south of the home.

They then discovered Kerr's estranged wife, Rachael Renee Kerr, 43, about 50 yards away from the double-wide with a gunshot wound to the neck.

She was pronounced dead by EMS personnel

shortly after they arrived and after deputies and medical personnel had attempted life-saving procedures.

Deputies say the 50-year-old likely entered the home, tied up his wife, then escorted the couple's two children to Rachael's GMC Yukon. He then returned to the home to question his wife.

### 'How long, or when did the affair start?'

During the investigation, deputies discovered a list of questions and a checklist of items the husband brought to his estranged wife's home.

Sheriff Gordon Smith said the document outlined the intruder's plan for the encounter. The single page, double-sided, handwritten list appears to lay out questioning that would extract from Kerr's wife details about her new relationship, passwords, banking and accounting information about her business, and clues to how he intended to end her life.

See SHOOTING, page 7



Rachael and Loyd Kerr, promoting a 2024 Herbalife conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## Union residents wary of Jacksonville wastewater plan

40 million gallons a day of Duval treated and filtered sewer could be discharged

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

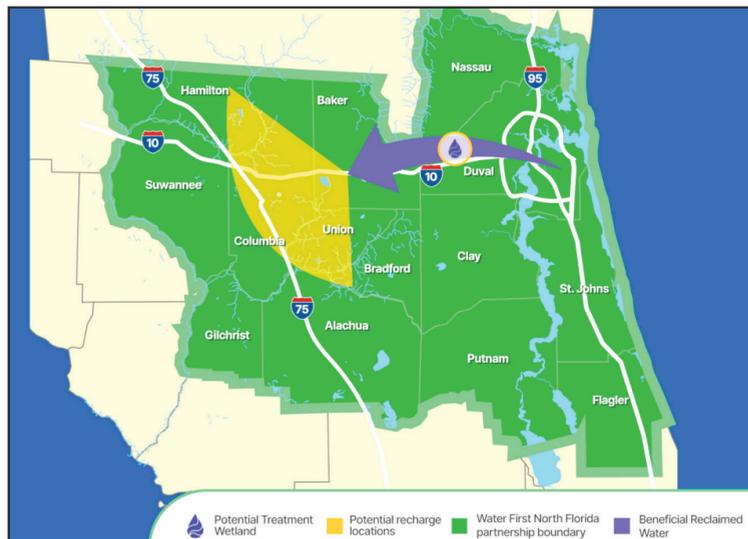
A project that could pump up to 40 million gallons of wastewater a day from Jacksonville to North Central Florida has Union County residents worried that their area could be the destination for Duval County sewage.

Union County Commissioner Donna Jackson told her colleagues during the February 2 county commission meeting that the idea was "blowing up on Facebook."

However, when she asked legislators and county commissioners from a surrounding county about the project, they did not know about it.

During its November 17, 2025, meeting, the JEA (also known as Jacksonville Electric Authority) board tentatively approved funding

See WATER, page 6



A map published by the Water First North Florida website shows over one-half of Union County for potential recharge sites.

## Clay Electric CEO: Data center builders scouting area

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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The CEO of Clay Electric Cooperative said data center builders are scouting potential locations in its coverage area.

Andy Chaff told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that one data center could consume the electricity equivalent of 50,000 to 100,000 homes.

"We don't have that much capacity out there," Chaff said of the potential load of data centers. "That much load puts tremendous strain on the transmission capacity throughout the state of Florida, not just on Clay. We would have to actually purchase power from maybe Florida Power and Light, Duke, or Seminole Electric, from whom we buy all our power. But you would have to do a transmission study for the entire grid to add that



"They're loud," Clay Electric CEO Andy Chaff said of data centers. "Nobody wants to build one really in the middle of town."

much at one time."

The CEO added that the co-op would require a data center developer to make an up-front investment before moving forward, adding that no developer has formally applied for electrical service.

"I don't want our cooperative taking on risk in a high-capital venture like a data center," Chaff said. "In a not-for-profit model, it takes a long time to recoup infrastructure investments. If a developer doesn't stay for the long haul, our members shouldn't be left holding assets we don't need. Any project like this would have to be fully funded by the developer — not our members."

Chaff added that, from a local tax-revenue standpoint, data centers are a bonanza.

"You've got one building with very few people, very little impact to

the county and the resources of the county, and worth somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500 million to \$1 billion of tax base. If I were a county commissioner, I'd want a couple. I understand that."

"They are talking to us, not only in Clay County, but almost every county in our service territory right now," he said of data center developers, explaining that developers are looking for sites near transmission lines in rural areas.

"They're loud," he said of the facilities. "Nobody wants to build one really in the middle of town. All those servers make quite a bit of noise. They try to get somewhere where they can get 300 to 500 acres and build it in the middle, so they don't have to worry about the noise pollution."

See CO-OP, page 7



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## WORTH NOTING

### Food distribution in Hampton

There will be a community food distribution in Hampton this Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon or until supplies run out. This will take place at The Arc of Bradford County, 10501 Hampton Ave., in coordination with Feeding Northeast Florida.

To volunteer in sorting, bagging or loading food into vehicles, please call 904-964-7699.

### Thursday food distributions

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share distribute food on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The next distribution is Feb. 19 from 9-11:30 a.m. at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. This is a drive-thru only giveaway.

### The Duncans in concert

The Duncans will be in concert at Lifeline Ministries in Starke on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 11 a.m. The church is located at 325 N. Christian St. All are welcome.

### Black History Month service

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church of Lawtey will host its annual Black History Month Service on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 3 p.m. The theme for this Service is "A Heritage of Unshakable Faith." The guest speaker for the occasion will be Pastor H. Wayne Colbert of Victorious Faith Impact Ministries COGIC in Palatka, The

Mt. Zion's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline L. Dupree, and the Mt. Zion family invites the public to attend.

### Lawtey Resource Hub open

Bradford Community Partners quarterly Community Health and Wellness Hub in Lawtey will be open at Tatum Bros. Park from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 12. Information about services and resources available to all. No appointments are necessary.



### Assistance for veterans

An American Legion Post 56 Service Officer is available to assist veterans by providing information concerning available benefits and other needs. Walk-

ins are available at the American Legion Hall on Edwards Road in Starke every Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., or call Al Hunter at 407-494-9694 for an appointment. Legion membership is not required for this free service.

### VFW bingo

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

### Foster, adoption classes

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

parents.

### Union food distribution

Food is distributed in Union County at the Hal Y. Maines

Community Center on the third Thursday of each month from 9-10:30 a.m. or while supplies last. The center is located at 155 NW Third St. in Lake Butler. The giveaway is sponsored by Florida Gateway Foodbank and Catholic Charities.



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Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. Prov. 22:6




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# Many speak in opposition to Bradford County's ICE proposal

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Public speakers again protested Bradford County's willingness to host an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility on the outskirts of Starke, with many appealing to commissioners' sense of decency.

If an agreement is reached with the federal government, ICE would take over the Douglas Building and surrounding acreage just south of the city alongside both commercial and residential development. City utilities would be extended to the property and the warehouse renovated to house 1,000 detainees, with 2,000 more housed in outlying buildings added to the site. There would be no direct cost to the county government, which would retain ownership of the property and the improvements.

There were questions about the details and concerns about consequences that may not have been considered. Many were also concerned ICE's actions and the characterization and treatment of immigrants under President Donald Trump's administration did not match community values.

Speaker Carol Mosley said the commission "threw caution to the wind" when it voted (3-2) in January to propose that ICE locate a detention center here, offering very short notice to the public. Mosley told commissioners that overstaying a visa is a civil offence, not



Kate Ellison leaves the podium and members of the audience raise and wave their hands in support and agreement. Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner asked them to refrain from applauding.

criminal. Crossing the border without documentation is a misdemeanor unless the immigrant has been previously deported, she added.

"I don't think many of us realize that many of those being picked up by ICE in this mass deportation effort have no criminal offense charges at all. They are not the worst of the worst. All too often, they are hardworking community members, many with U.S. citizen children or spouses. That is what is upsetting to people," she said.

Mosley predicted chaos if ICE comes, including local agencies

and businesses having to compete with the higher federal salaries offered to employees, the lack of housing for the 1,250 employees needed to run the facility, the demand for water and electricity, the increased sewage, garbage and traffic, and the growing protests threatening to divide the community.

"Exodus 12:49, 'The same law applies to both the native born and to the foreigner residing among you.' Let's take a beat and iron out some of these wrinkles first," she said.

Anya Griffis also questioned opening a detention facility in a few weeks' time without residents being able to properly evaluate the impacts. She requested full public briefings and impact reviews before any further action is taken on the Douglas Building. Paul Still echoed this, asking the board to suspend discussion between the sheriff and county manager and the consultant who helped develop the proposal. He questioned if Sabot Consulting had been properly procured. He carried on a comment from Steve Winekoff, who questioned the legitimacy of the county's acquisition of the Douglas

Building since it would not be used for economic development.

Mark Frazier expressed opposition to the building being used as an ICE detention center. "Our participation in this attack on our immigrants will leave a permanent stain on our community," he said, citing Cato Institute numbers that only 27% of detainees have a criminal record, and most of those are "minor offenses."

"ICE raids violate unreasonable search seizure and due process rights guaranteed to all persons under the Constitution. They result in the separation of parents from children, causing profound emotional and psychological distress," he said. "Reports and allegations surrounding the conduct of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention guards suggest a pattern of serious misconduct, abuse and systemic failures, raising significant questions about their character and professionalism. Detainees, advocacy groups and federal investigations have highlighted instances of physical violence, racist behavior, as well as inadequate or contaminated food and water."

Mark Frazier questioned whether Sheriff Gordon Smith would have any ability to inspect the facility, saying public officials have been turned away at other facilities, some arrested.

"I urge you to vote against any such use of Bradford County facilities. This would be a disaster for our community," he said.

"This issue is not about being for or against immigration. It's about what kind of future we want for this country and this county, how we use our limited resources, and whether this project actually delivers the benefits that supporters promise," Robin Frazier said, questioning claims like job creation. "Most positions require specialized training and are frequently filled by workers brought in from the outside. Local hiring is limited. Wages are modest, and profits are funneled to private contractors, not the community. Meanwhile,

the long-term economic identity of the town becomes tied to incarceration even more than it already is. This discourages the diverse business investment and growth."

Robin Frazier said the cost to the community include pressure on local infrastructure and emergency services, subsidized by local taxpayers. "We also need to consider human dignity and accountability," she said. "ICE detention centers across the country have faced repeated allegations of poor medical care, unsafe conditions and lack of transparency. Whether someone supports strict immigration enforcement or not, most people agree that government facilities should meet basic standards of safety, oversight and fairness. Building a detention center here ties Bradford County to a system that has struggled to uphold those standards nationwide."

Instead of a project that doesn't make communities safer, she said the county should invest in a better future.

"There are better alternatives for Bradford County's future. The community deserves investments that build people up, not lock people away. Job training programs, renewable energy projects, health care facilities, small business developments, youth programs and educational partnerships create sustainable growth without moral or financial tradeoffs. The question before us is simple: Do we want Bradford known as a detention community or as a place that invests in opportunity, dignity and long-term prosperity? We could choose a future that strengthens this community, protects its values and uses public resources wisely. We should not build an ICE detention center."

Kayleigh Harper spoke of biblical teachings about those in need and "the stranger," saying nations would be judged by how they treat them. Millions of immigrants in danger of deportation are also Christians, she said. Millions of U.S. Christians have someone in their household in danger of deportation. Speaking of Jesus' own parents, she asked, "What papers would they have needed to survive and live in this country?" People have come here for hundreds of years, she said, but the goal post keeps getting moved.

Kate Ellison said commissioners were under too much pressure to act at their prior meeting and claims about local control were too easily accepted. "Local control is not what's happening in other detention camps, and we are no different. GardaWorld is the provider designed to make a profit on the detainees, and local management would cut into their bottom line," she said. "But let's say our local sheriff has some control of the facility. What would he do? What could he do if ICE brought him a 5-year-old or a 15-year-old? Keep them in the cages?"

Ellison said the facility and its population of detainees and staff

would be huge compared to the city of Starke's 5,800 residents. Managing it would require a contract too specialized for ICE's consideration.

"For an operation like ICE, required to arrest 3,000 people a day, our facility is but one of hundreds — insignificant and not qualifying for special arrangements. Please stop this ill-conceived plan. You can stop it right now," she said.

Tommy Alexander, a self-professed prophet, said he has been preaching in churches for five years about the coming "concentration camps."

"I'm observing that Starke is a Christian community, but you is on the edge to make a bad decision now," he said. "God took me out from what I had to do today to come to warn you. ... What I see is driving this — and somebody said it — money, the love of money. You better love God. We better put God first, because I'm here to tell you, your soul is at stake."

Diane Williams said that until this year, immigration enforcement was being run "according to the law and Constitution."

"That's not happening today, and so far, it's resulted in a lot of bad stuff and two murders right in front of our eyes," she said. "I grew up in the Jim Crow South. I went through the Civil Rights Era, and we saw some bad stuff then, and this is eclipsing that."

Communities around the country are pushing back, including in red states, so it's not political, she said. It's about morality. She quoted numbers saying more than 70,000 are currently incarcerated including children and infants, and for longer than 20 days. That, she said, is immorality.

Debbie Burger urged the board to listen to those who had spoken. "The concerns they have should mean something to you. Deep in your heart, you know what's right and wrong," she said, adding that Americans were lied to about the worst of the worst being targeted. "Look at our concentration camp — I'm sorry — Alligator Alcatraz. There are there are people missing. How can we be assured this isn't going to happen here? This is a moral issue. You seem to be all great people, and I hope that you'll do what's right for this community and listen to the people before you."

Ozell Jones asked for unity — for people to come together "to work these things out."

"We can't let money lead us and guide us. Let our hearts lead us and let us examine ourselves and try to do things that's going to help one another, and build one another up, and not tear one another down," he said. "Let the spirit lead us and guide us and let good people come together to be problem solvers. Let's be problem solvers for everybody I ask and pray in Jesus' name."

No action or discussion by the commission on the proposal was scheduled for this meeting. The commission's next meeting is Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

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## HOW HUNGRY ARE YOU? Part 3

I would like to begin this lesson with a scripture I have referred to in past lessons concerning a hunger for more of God. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV), "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he/she who come to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." This scripture has no doubt been referred to in messages and Bible lessons many times. I myself have preached and heard numerous messages highlighting this particular verse of scripture. However, most of the messages I have heard concentrated on the first part of this verse, "without faith it's impossible to please Him." Very few messages or lessons focused on the latter portion of this verse, "and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." I think most Christians believe you seek God until you find Him and then you never have to seek Him again. My thoughts, as I have pondered and meditated this verse is as follows. If I sought God before I was born again, without the Holy Spirit, would it not be a great advantage for me to seek God with my whole heart now that I have the Great Helper living inside of me? Not only am I told in this verse to continue to seek God in faith, but if I seek Him diligently, I will be rewarded. Notice, it does not tell me to name the reward I would prefer or some natural blessing that I may desire. This verse plainly implies that as I seek God, He will reward me. This verse is not suggesting we seek any natural thing at all, but we are to diligently seek Him. If I am diligently seeking Him, then the obvious conclusion would be that I am going to get or receive more of Him. I recall what King David said in Psalm 119:72, "The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold." Referring back to Psalms 42:1-2, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." No doubt, in spite of the imperfections of David, he had a love and a hunger for God that was not easily matched. Are we really seeking after the One that really matters, God Himself. We are told He is a rewarder, not to the one who seeks after him half heartily, but he rewards the one who seeks Him diligently. The definition for diligently signifies earnestness, haste, zeal, eagerly; to make every effort or work with intense, eager exertion. I wonder how many preachers and pastors are really hungry for God. How many deacons and church board members are really hungry for Him? How many Christians do you know that are really hungry for more, more of Jesus? I am not questioning a true Christians love for Jesus, I am talking about spiritual hunger. A hunger to know Him like you have never known Him, to know Him and prefer Him above your spouse, your children, your family. What are we hungering for? Do you have a Divine hunger, something inside that your soul, your heart is longing for? When a man or a woman allows that deep call from within their spirit to reach out to the living God, He will not disappoint. When we as Christians cultivate an intense spiritual longing to know, to love and experience Him before everyone and above all else, the glitter and the hold of this world will fade. We will finally realize that Jesus indeed is more valuable and precious than the temporary things that can never satisfy the hunger of the inner man. To be filled with God's presence is the ultimate and most wonderful thing a person can ever receive in this life. The closer you get to Him, the more you grow, the more you receive, the more you bask in His presence, increases the desire for even more. What are you hungry for? Blessings! -Pastor Rick

22610 HWY 301 N, Lawtey, FL 32058

## Democrats plead with county to 'cancel' ICE 'experiment'

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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The Bradford County Democratic Party issued a press release on a proposed an ICE-run 3,000-bed immigrant detention facility was proposed for Bradford County, in a developed area just outside the city of Starke.

The issue was a topic of discussion during members' most recent meeting. They distilled the discussion into three main points, imploring Bradford County commissioners to "cancel this experiment with human lives." They said it would disrupt the peace, drain essential resources and continue a pattern of mistreatment for the incarcerated.

Last month on a 3-2 vote, the county commission advanced a proposal for ICE to set up in the Douglas Building south of Starke, transforming into an immigrant detention facility. The initial population of 1,000 would triple over a few months as modular buildings were added. The county would resume control

of its property following the close of the facility, benefiting from the utility extensions and other infrastructure left behind.

"The Bradford County Democratic Party stands in opposition to the ICE Detention Camp proposed for our county," they stated in the press release. "At Monday night's meeting, in addition to our regular precinct captains, many local residents filled the room. We heard a presentation of the facts about where the project stands and many people spoke out, including Troy Albers, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, District 3. He visited a similar site on the Baker/Columbia County line, so we heard from him directly what a facility will look like and how the county will experience it. Three main points emerged.

"We believe that the site chosen, the old Douglas building on Hwy 301 across from Walmart, will be detrimental to our peaceful town. We could be overwhelmed by the influx of armed, militarized forces, driving in and out at all hours, not to mention the loud protestors.

"There are hidden costs that the county and city will experience, straining our resources, especially EMS, infrastructure, and law enforcement. At 3,000 beds, this would be one of the largest facilities in the country, the same size as Alligator Alcatraz. It would require almost all the remaining city water and sewer capacity, preventing new homes from being permitted.

"A contractor will be in charge of food service, etc. inside the facility, probably the same one working in Baker County and in the Everglades. Their track record is abysmal, serving rotten food, tainted water, and not providing proper sanitation or medical care.

"Our recommendation is that everyone go visit the Baker County detention facility. We implore our county commissioners to cancel this experiment with human lives and the rural nature of our county."

If the commission's proposal is accepted, an agreement will be negotiated and brought back to commissioners for a final vote.

# Florida Senate passes landmark 'Rural Renaissance' bill

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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The Florida Senate has unanimously passed Senate Bill 250, a comprehensive legislative package dubbed the "Rural Renaissance" bill, aimed at revitalizing rural communities across the state.

This landmark legislation is poised to bring significant opportunities for infrastructure improvements, educational enhancements and economic development to areas such as Bradford and Union counties.

Spearheaded by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee), the bill addresses critical needs in rural Florida, focusing on modernizing commerce, improving housing infrastructure and expanding educational offerings. According to a press release from Senate President Ben Albritton's office, a key component of the bill is the creation of the Office of Rural Prosperity within the Department of Commerce, which will serve as a dedicated resource for local governments, providing technical assistance and facilitating statewide planning.

For counties that have historically faced challenges due to their rural designation, the "Rural Renaissance" bill introduces several provisions. A new grant program will provide \$1 million annually to counties with declining populations, to develop and implement plans aimed at population growth. (The counties currently include Gadsden, Hardee, Hamilton, Taylor, Jackson, Calhoun and Liberty counties.) These funds will be audited to ensure their effective use, with grants continuing until a county achieves three consecutive years of population growth.

The legislation also modernizes definitions for fiscally constrained counties, potentially benefiting smaller

counties by adjusting thresholds for property tax revenue from \$5 million to \$10 million per mill collected. Furthermore, it establishes Renaissance Grants and a competitive application process for organizations seeking to implement innovative, cost-saving technologies in rural public infrastructure.

In terms of economic development, the bill enhances existing initiatives by increasing funding for local and regional economic development partners. It also boosts the Small Business Development Center Circuit Rider program with an additional \$1 million, enabling more support for small businesses in rural areas.

Housing is another significant focus. SB 250 raises the minimum allocation for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program to \$1 million per county, a substantial increase from the previous \$350,000, which will provide much-needed additional funding for rural housing options. The bill also includes measures to preserve existing affordable rental housing in rural communities, a crucial step for maintaining housing stability.

Transportation and broadband infrastructure are also set to receive a significant boost. The Rural Infrastructure Fund, which facilitates planning, preparing and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities, will see its recurring appropriation doubled to \$10 million, with an additional one-time infusion of \$40 million. The bill also aims to improve coordination for federal broadband programs, recognizing the critical role high-speed internet plays in commerce, education and health care.

A historic commitment to farm-to-market roads is established through the creation of the Florida Arterial Road Modernization Program,

dedicating \$50 million annually to arterial roads connecting agricultural areas to distribution centers. The Small County Road Assistance Program will also see its funding doubled, helping small county governments with road resurfacing and reconstruction. Additionally, a new Rural Transit Block Grant Program is created to support transit providers not eligible under existing programs.

Education opportunities are expanded through increased funding for Regional Education Consortia, raising the grant per eligible member from \$50,000 to \$150,000. A new student loan repayment program, the Rural Incentive for Professional Educators, will offer up to \$15,000 in student loan repayment assistance over five years for educators working in fiscally constrained counties.

While a significant portion of health care funding will be managed through a separate federal grant, SB 250 does include provisions to enhance Medicaid payments for rural hospitals and expands the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education program to include doctors board-certified in emergency medicine employed by rural hospitals.

Additional the federal Big Beautiful Bill of 2005 has made more than \$1 billion available over five years via the Florida Rural Health Transformation Program. This includes grant funding for founding primary care practices in rural areas. It also includes funds for advanced training of first responders, deploying mobile health units and reimbursements for pharmacies that provide basic medical care.

Outside of health care, the Rural Renaissance bill provides a total appropriation of \$151.85 million. It passed the Senate unanimously and has been sent to the House.

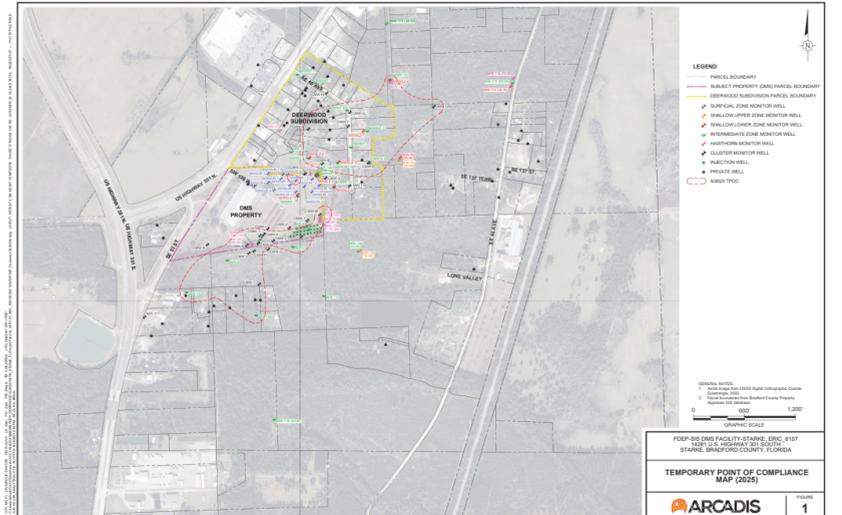


At Rural County Days representing the city of Starke: (l-r) Cathy Bradley, Commissioner Dimple Overstreet, City Clerk Chrissy Thompson, Mayor Andy Redding and Commissioner Bob Milner. Photo: City Clerk Chrissy Thompson Facebook.

## Notice of the Modification of an existing Temporary Point of Compliance (TPOC) and 5-Year Status Update for a contaminated site, the source of which is located at 14281 US Highway 301 South, Starke, Bradford County, Florida

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) approved the establishment of a Temporary Point of Compliance (TPOC) for a contaminated site in 2012, the source of which is located at 14281 US Highway 301 S., Starke, Bradford County, Florida. Previous notice was provided to affected property owners when the FDEP authorized the establishment of a TPOC in 2012 and again during completion of the 5-year Status Update Notification activities in 2017.

The contaminants extend beyond the source property boundary and the TPOC has been modified and includes the properties at the addresses listed below and shown on the map.



- Parcel ID# 04722-0-00000
- Parcel ID# 04710-0-00000
- Parcel ID# 04716-0-00000
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-00600
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-00700
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-01000
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-01100
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-02100
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-02200
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-02300
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-02400
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-02500
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-02600
- Parcel ID# 04703-0-00102
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-02700
- Parcel ID# 04721-0-00100
- Parcel ID# 04721-0-00301
- Parcel ID# 04721-0-00300
- Bradford County Right-of-Way (SE 47th Ave.)
- Bradford County Right-of-Way (SE 48th Ave./SE 138th Way)
- Parcel ID# 04709-0-00200
- Parcel ID# 04709-0-00201
- Parcel ID# 04709-0-00000
- Parcel ID# 04709-0-00100
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-00900
- Parcel ID# 04709-0-00101
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-03200
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-03000
- Parcel ID# 04705-0-00600
- Parcel ID# 04705-0-02200
- Parcel ID# 04703-B-00100
- Parcel ID# 04691-0-00500
- Parcel ID# 04697-0-00100

The Responsible Party for the Site Rehabilitation ("PRSR") is FDEP, whose address is 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400. The entire contaminated area, which may include multiple properties, is called the "Contaminated Site." The FDEP is in the process of reviewing the modification of the existing TPOC extending onto the properties listed above.

Copies of any relevant documents concerning the Contaminated Site and the current remedial strategy, including the modification of the existing TPOC, are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the FDEP's Tallahassee Office located at 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400. Copies of documents are also available through the FDEP's Oculus™ electronic filing system at <https://depdms.dep.state.fl.us/Oculus/servlet/login>. The FDEP Site ID Number for the Contaminated Site is ERIC\_6157.

The FDEP project manager for the site rehabilitation is Jeff Newton who may be contacted at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400. Please direct any written comments regarding this notice, the remedial strategy or requests for copies of the FDEP's actions regarding the Contaminated Site to the FDEP project manager or submit comments via e-mail to [Jeff.Newton@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Jeff.Newton@FloridaDEP.gov). Persons receiving this notice shall have the opportunity to comment on the proposed action within 30 days of the date of the publication of this Notice.

## Lawtey plans special election

BY MELISSA PYLE  
Special to the Telegraph

The city of Lawtey will be holding a special election to fill the seat for City Council, Group 2. Amy Blom held the seat until her resignation, effective Dec. 31, 2025, which she read during the January council meeting. Blom served the city for three years and was set to finish her four-year term in January 2027.

Blom stated in her letter, "The decision did not come easily and comes with a heavy heart. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the council and represent my community for the last three years." Blom went on to thank her constituents for their

support.

In an interview, Blom stated that personal reasons and needing time to focus on her health and family led her to the difficult decision. She said she is proud of some of the things she was able to work on while a council member. Blom oversaw tasks related to the streets and sanitation department in Lawtey. During her tenure she helped get new street signs approved, lawn equipment purchased and she worked on the city's new MOU with the county, helping to secure the fire department in Lawtey.

The vacant seat will need to be filled. Qualifying week for candidates will begin at noon on Feb. 16 and end at noon on Feb.

20. Candidates must submit a fee of \$108.96 and have lived within Lawtey's city limits for at least six months.

Voting for the seat will be April 7 at Lawtey City Hall from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. The winner of the seat will only serve the remainder of the current term, which ends January 2027. The winning candidate will be sworn in this May. Voters may vote by mail in this special election, but there will be no early voting. Voter registration ends March 9.

For further information, contact Lawtey City Hall at 904-782-3454 or email [cityoflawtey@embarqmail.com](mailto:cityoflawtey@embarqmail.com).



Brooker Community School students celebrated Literacy Week and having completed 100 days in the school year. Some aged up for the occasion, including Jaxson Hansen and Lylah Criswell, pictured above. Photos: BCS Facebook.



Skylar Sapp counts 100 days with fruity cereal.



Kristopher Shumpert and Leilah Shumpert



Johanna Mcree and Ariya Jones

# Yesterday's Festival celebrates 19th year, attracting over 900 folks

BY JENN SAMSEL  
jenn@bctelegraph.com

Despite the cold weather, windy conditions, and beautiful sunshine, people flocked from all over to relive history.

Celebrating its 19th year, the Yesterday's Festival at the Mike

Roess Gold Head Branch State Park attracted over 900 attendees. Families had the opportunity to see cannons and muskets, meet Civil War reenactors, and learn about the history of the Confederacy.

The event took place on Saturday, January 31.

It began with a performance by the Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School J.R.O.T.C., followed by a demonstration of the cannon firing. The band performance from KHHS, tram tours, a silent auction, and a display of historic weapons followed this. The winners of

the silent auction were also announced at the end of the event.

There were many activities, including wood sawing and cutting, demonstrations of old equipment such as tractors, well machines, and milk machines; Civil War reenactments; wood

toys; cooking over an open fire; various food vendors; and tram rides.

"I was pleasantly surprised that so many people came out to learn about Florida's pioneer history. Everyone really seemed to enjoy the various displays, and I saw a lot of interaction between

the vendors and patrons," said Bree McGhee, Corresponding Secretary / Social Media Manager, Clay County Historical Society's Board of Directors.

The Third Florida Company CSA delivered a remarkable performance reenacting the Civil War and discussed its history.



Lori Jean Rodgers, Chris Nixon, Joe Drost, Patrick Cody, Kidson Wendy, Dennis Short



Kelsee, Kaitlyn, Raylan, Jennifer, Daniell



Graham and Colleen Leatherbury, Joey Baldree



Elizabeth Austin, Olivia Hale, Reagan Sames



Katie King, Hanna King, Tripp Shemer



Chris Bunton, Rick Roberts, James Ezell



Rowan Skaggs



Ryan Worthington



Paul, Everett, Kate, Debbie



## Light Christian Academy Union Campus

*Ye are the light of the world*

"Ye are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good words, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." -Matthew 5:14-16



Cherith Bass,  
Vice Principal

"I am Cherith Bass, and I have been working in Christian Education for 8 years. I have always enjoyed the classroom setting and helping students excel in their education. I began my journey in Christian education while living in Ocoee, Florida. While teaching at a private, Christian school in Ocoee, I pursued my bachelor's degree from Lee University. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in Christian education while also working towards my personal goals. In 2023, I relocated to the Starke area, and I began working as the Campus Director at Light Christian Academy - Union Campus. This school year, I have served as the Vice Principal, and I have enjoyed serving the families of the Lake Butler and surrounding communities. I believe great things are to come for Light Christian Academy, and I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for current and future students!"

### *In harmony with parents*

Light Christian Academy believes that the purpose of Christian education is to assist parents as they fulfill their Biblical calling to diligently teach God's commandments to their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). The ultimate responsibility for Christian education belongs to the parents, but Christian educators work in harmony with the home and the church to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6). To that end, Light Christian Academy strives to provide a nurturing, educational environment that is Christ-centered.

### *Christ-centered*

First, the school is to be spiritually Christ-centered. Our mission is to help each child cultivate a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. We hold the Bible to be God's Word and believe that the Scriptures provide guidance and instruction in righteousness (Psalm 119:9). Daily Bible instruction and regular Scripture memorization are integral parts of the student's spiritual development. Second, the school is to be intellectually Christ-centered. Light Christian Academy recognizes that each student is unique, created by God with specific talents and gifts—the school endeavors to provide a strong foundation of knowledge that will prepare students for the future. Students are trained to think and express themselves carefully and critically so that they may "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 1:3). Third, the school is to be socially Christ-centered. We seek to instruct children in godly and moral conduct to help them become wise and mature adults. This instruction is accomplished through an attitude that all things are to be done to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). The Christian school setting provides opportunities for students to grow socially and physically through educational trips, community projects, activities, and physical fitness programs.

Light Christian Academy Union Campus  
475 SW 3rd Street - Lake Butler, FL 32054

386-291-3100 • [www.mylcac.com](http://www.mylcac.com)

Find us on Facebook - @mylcac.unioncampus

## WATER

Continued from page 1

40% of the \$1 billion Water First North Florida project.

During that meeting, Rob Zammataro, JEA's Chief Water Systems Officer, told board members that the project will draw treated wastewater from JEA's Buckman and Southwest water reclamation facilities, route it through a network of newly constructed wetlands, and send it west to recharge sites where geology naturally allows groundwater infiltration.

He added that the project is a direct response to pending state regulations under Senate Bill 64 and new minimum flow and levels standards being set for the Ichetucknee and lower Santa Fe rivers by the Suwannee River Water Management District. Those standards, which will go before the Florida legislature in the 2026 session, are expected to restrict how much groundwater utilities in the Jacksonville area can withdraw.

Senate Bill 64, passed and signed by the governor in 2021, requires water utilities to minimize their surface discharges of wastewater and to develop alternatives, like converting wastewater into potable water, also known as toilet-to-tap.

Zammataro told JEA board members that under the plan, highly treated reclaimed water from JEA's facilities will first pass through 1,500 to 2,000 acres of constructed wetlands. One candidate site for the wetlands is the Peterson Tract near Cecil Field in Jacksonville, which Zammataro noted would also create a local environmental asset.

After natural filtration, the water would be transported further west to recharge sites in the Suwannee River Water Management District, where an unconfined aquifer allows direct infiltration into the ground. The chief water systems officer noted that Jacksonville, by contrast, sits atop a thick clay layer that protects its aquifer but prevents local recharge — making the cross-district partnership

essential.

Jackson told the audience at a county commission meeting in Providence that Union County only has one such recharge site, and that she has been told a more likely destination for the treated wastewater would be Baker County.

However, a map published by the Water First North Florida website shows over one-half of Union County for a potential recharge site.

Zammataro told the JEA board that a recharge site would be determined in a future feasibility study.

He added that the success of Gainesville's Sweetwater Wetlands Park and the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project near Keystone Heights has proven the viability of recharging aquifers with treated water.

Jackson said a representative from the Suwannee River Water Management District would explain the project to commissioners during their February 17 meeting.

# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

The following individuals were recently arrested 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

Peyton Harley Box, 25, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 25 for battery.

Ryson Tyhee Colclough, 42, of St Petersburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 28 for a probation violation.

David Lee Denmark, 27, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 30 for DUI.

Philip Blake Dennison, 44, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 28 for burglary.

Tyler Blaine Dyal, 33, of Hilliard, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 30 for a probation violation.

Joshua Manuel Escobar, 27, of Tampa, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 29 for failure to appear and for being an out-of-state fugitive.

Jenny Kay Hernandez, 35, homeless, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 30 for an out-of-county warrant.

Mohammad Kazemi, 39, of Lecanto, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 27 for a moving traffic violation.

David Glenn Manucy, 44, of Glen St. Mary, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 28 for a moving traffic violation and a nonmoving traffic violation.

### Stole cell phone from McDonald's, ran over man's legs

Jeremy Thomas Morabito, 53, of Waldo, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 29 for larceny and aggravated battery.

According to an April 11, 2025, complaint, deputies were dispatched to the McDonald's located at 802 South Walnut Street.

According to Deputy Paul King's report, the victim placed an order at the front counter around 2:20 p.m. and accidentally left his Samsung Galaxy S8 phone, valued at \$500, on the counter while waiting for his food.

Surveillance video reviewed by investigators showed a white male in his late 40s or early 50s, wearing a blue beanie, gray tank top and blue pants, approach the counter to place an order. While waiting for his food, the man walked back to the counter and took the victim's phone before leaving the restaurant with his own order.

A McDonald's employee recorded the surveillance footage on her cell phone and provided it to investigators. A witness said he could positively identify the suspect.

The case broke when someone posted the surveillance footage to the Bradford Word of Mouth Facebook page, and a community member identified the suspect as Morabito. Investigators confirmed the identification through Facebook photographs showing Morabito matched the suspect's description, including a large tattoo on his left forearm visible in both the surveillance video and social media photos.

On April 22, the witness was presented with a six-photo lineup and positively identified Morabito as the person who stole the phone.

According to a separate arrest warrant affidavit, deputies responded on April 12, 2025, around 9 p.m. after being flagged

down by a man near Southern Villas Apartments, who reported that a victim had been run over by a vehicle and needed medical attention. The victim was found conscious but in pain, lying on the ground with injuries to his legs.

According to the affidavit, a witness told deputies he had hired Morabito to work on his 2004 brown Toyota Camry. Morabito had taken the vehicle from the residence approximately two days earlier and returned with it on the night of the incident.

When the victim asked Morabito for the car keys, the suspect "became irate and began to yell," according to witness statements in the affidavit. The victim then opened the passenger door and told Morabito to exit the vehicle.

Deputy Benjamin Norsworthy wrote in the affidavit that Morabito put the car in reverse and backed up, causing the open door to knock the victim to the ground. Morabito then continued reversing and ran over the victim's legs before fleeing the scene in an unknown direction, witnesses told investigators.

The victim told deputies that Morabito had initially given him a set of keys but refused to exit the vehicle, claiming ownership due to money he had invested in repairs.

Two witnesses provided similar accounts of the incident to investigators.

The victim was transported to HCA Starke Emergency Room for treatment of his leg injuries.

### Surveillance cameras capture stalking

Donald Brett Newman, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 30 for aggravated stalking.

According to a January 30 warrant affidavit filed by Bradford Sheriff Corporal James D. Hall II, the victim reported that Newman arrived at her residence in the early morning hours in a white Dodge Durango, exited the vehicle, and began banging on the exterior wall of her home before fleeing the scene. The incident was captured on the victim's surveillance cameras.

The victim told deputies that Newman's behavior had escalated over the previous week. On Friday, January 23, she reported that Newman followed her after spotting her crossing railroad tracks on Lawtey's Lake Street, performed a U-turn, and entered her vehicle uninvited, refusing to leave for approximately 10 minutes while insisting she speak with him.

Early on the morning of January 28, the victim checked her security cameras at approximately 5:00 a.m. and discovered Newman sitting outside her home. Following that incident, she went to the courthouse to file for an injunction against him.

The victim also reported receiving numerous phone calls from private numbers throughout the week, which she believes were from Newman.

In the affidavit, Corporal Hall stated that the victim told deputies the ongoing harassment has caused her "substantial emotional distress" and that she now feels compelled to check her security cameras before leaving her home. She expressed fear that Newman's continued behavior could escalate to physical harm.

Ashley Elizabeth Williams, 40, of Graham, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 24 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jahmee Charmon Williams, 34, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 26 for possession of drug equipment and possession of marijuana.

### Union

Kent Douglas Cooper, 64, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 29 for resisting an officer without violence.

Linda Joyce Gaskins, 72, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 27 for an out-of-county warrant.

Christopher John Kalogiros, 41, of Melrose, was arrested by Union deputies on January 28 for burglary of an unoccupied conveyance, petit theft, and a conditional release violation.

William Aaron Heaton III, 30, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on January 29 for violation of an injunction for protection in a domestic violence case, resisting an officer without violence, and battery.

Brittany Nichole Huggins, 31, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 30 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Gabriell Wynn Parrish, 25, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Union deputies on January 29 for a probation violation.

Harold Anthony Richburg, 54, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on February 1 for an out-of-county warrant, possession of cocaine, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Brittain Isaiah Ryan, 29, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on January 29 for resisting an officer without violence.

### Clay

Christopher Richard Ballou, 40, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 29 for possession of methamphetamine, possession of buprenorphine, and possession and/or use of drug equipment.

### Brandished machete at church and community center

Billie Jo Damon, 53, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 29 for brawling/fighting to corrupt public morals and decency.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, on December 6, 2025, deputies were initially called to the Mission of the Dirt Road after Damon reported she had been battered by another individual. However, surveillance footage from the facility told a different story, according to the affidavit.

Video evidence shows Damon engaged in a heated verbal argument with a man. During the dispute, Damon walked approximately five feet away to retrieve a machete from her belongings, then brandished the weapon "in what would be interpreted as a threatening manner by any reasonable observer," the deputy wrote in the affidavit.

In a subsequent interview with investigators, Damon admitted to waving and pointing the machete at both the man she argued with and the woman she accused of battery. Only after Damon put the weapon away did the woman approach and push her twice, according to the report.

Throughout the confrontation, Damon allegedly made escalating threats, including statements captured on video: "Bitch let me tell you something. I swear to God, I will go to jail," and "Hey (name withheld), ain't no one worried about you or scared of your ass either."

Two witnesses told investigators they found the incident disturbing, particularly because it occurred at the Mission of the Dirt Road, described as a church, community center and meeting place for people in need of services.

Athena Font, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 30 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession and/or use of drug equipment, and DUI.

### Caught with gun, drugs

Victoria Lynn Jones, 34, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 29 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription while armed and use/display of a firearm during a felony.

According to an arrest report, the incident occurred around

## SHOOTING

Continued from page 1

"I'm not here to hurt you. I just need answers for closure."

Before getting into the questions, the first statement in the document appears to attempt to ease Rachael Kerr's mind about Loyd's intent. The husband then launches into a series of questions and accusations about their marriage and her subsequent relationship.

"Why do you hate me to do something like this to me?"

What did I do to you that was so bad that I deserve this?

How long, or when, did the affair start?

Did y'all do something when we were at the Mayo Camp?

Did he help you move out of the house on Richard Lee?"

(Likely a reference to Richard Lee Street in Orange Park, not far from Rachael Kerr's Herbalife Loaded T Nutrition of OP)

"Why do you want to keep the kids from me?"

Why all the lies on the injunction petition?

Why did you think it was OK to play family with the first guy you were with? Yes, I know it was just a rebound!

Why did you let Cameron near the kids?

What bad things have you told people about me at church, your family and friends, and at Loaded T?

Why did you take him to an event with Herbalife, knowing that we started this together?"

Kerr then went into a series

of questions, indicating he could have intended to take over the Herbalife beverage business on Orange Park's College Drive.

What is the PW (password) for Loaded T wifi?

What is the PW for phone?

What is the PW for My Herbalife, and all related to Herbalife?

What is the PW for QuickBooks?

What bank accounts do you have? All passwords and logins? Who is beneficiary?

Only after obtaining the passwords and information on the bank accounts and the business's accounting software, did Loyd Kerr reveal his true intent.

"Do you want to leave the kids a suicide note?"

Now you have two choices. Get back together or the other choice."

### Do you want to go to heaven with Dad?

It is unclear how far down Loyd Kerr got through his list of questions before a neighbor interrupted his plan.

Sheriff Gordon Smith said that when Rachael Kerr first heard someone in her home, she called the neighbor and then her boyfriend before calling 911, which resulted in a hangup.

When the neighbor entered the home, Kerr reacted to the interruption by chasing the woman away with a gun, which allowed Rachael to run out of the doublewide and toward the pond. The husband caught her about

50 yards away from the home, near an auto transport trailer. There, he shot her in the neck at close range, and then returned to her GMC Yukon, where he had placed the children.

According to Sheriff Smith, when their father returned to the GMC he took the kids to the back of the vehicle.

"He brings them out and says something to them, I don't know the exact words, but it was something similar to basically, 'Do you want to go to heaven with Dad?'" the sheriff said, adding that while asking the question, Kerr pointed his weapon at one of the children. "And the first child says no, then he points the gun at the other one and asks, 'Do you want to go to heaven with Dad?' and the second child says no, and then he takes his own life right there in front of the children."

### Accused of putting trackers on wife's GMC

The shooter was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 20 for putting tracking devices on Rachael Kerr's GMC Yukon in October 2025.

When deputies contacted Loyd Kerr about the tracking devices, he was incarcerated in the Clay County Jail for violation of an injunction for protection against domestic violence, a probation violation, and resisting an officer without violence.

The 50-year-old was released on a \$200,000 bond the day following his arrest by a Levy County judge, who presided over Bradford County first appearance hearings on January 21.

extensive rural territory.

### Workforce strategy

Clay Electric currently employs 485 people, fewer than in previous decades, thanks to efficiency improvements and increased use of contractors. However, Chaff is reconsidering this balance as contractor costs have risen to 90% to 95% of what internal crews would cost, compared to 60% in earlier years.

"If I could do away with a few contracts and save several million dollars, if I can put on one crew and still save money, I don't see us going through a big downturn in work anytime soon," Chaff said, noting particularly strong growth in eastern Clay County that could keep crews busy for the next decade.

### Broadband decision

Chaff also addressed why Clay Electric opted not to enter the broadband internet business, despite government grants that encouraged many rural cooperatives to do so. The \$500 million investment required, combined with increased competition from providers using federal grants to expand into rural areas, made the business case uncertain.

"I'm kind of happy we didn't get into it," Chaff said, noting that some cooperatives that invested in fiber networks faced massive repair costs after hurricanes damaged both power and internet infrastructure.

## CO-OP

Continued from page 1

Data centers have generated controversy in areas where they have been built. The key infrastructure of the emerging artificial intelligence technology, the facilities have been blamed for rising energy costs, grid congestion and noise pollution. Several analysts credited democratic wins earlier this year in Virginia and New Jersey for rising power costs and other issues associated with data centers.

### Rising through the ranks

In his presentation to the Rotarians, Chaff also addressed other issues.

Starting as an engineer in Orange Park, Chaff spent 12 years learning the intricacies of power distribution in one of the region's fastest-growing areas. He later served 15 years as district manager, overseeing Orange Park's transformation from 40,000 to over 90,000 members.

"You learn so much in Orange Park, you're up there in the middle of the mix," he said. "You're building infrastructure to power hospitals and major communities."

### Competing on an uneven playing field

9:03 p.m. on Purdue Street when deputies pulled over a gold Dodge Durango for a seatbelt violation. Jones was a passenger in the vehicle, which was driven by a male.

According to the report, when Deputy Kaila Hall asked Jones to exit the vehicle, a handgun fell from between the seat and the door onto the ground. Jones was immediately detained.

A K-9 unit led by Deputy L.

Chaff outlined the unique challenges facing Clay Electric compared to other power providers. While investor-owned utilities like Florida Power & Light serve 60 customers per mile of line, and municipal utilities like Gainesville Regional Utilities serve 70 customers per mile, Clay Electric averages just 13 customers per mile.

"You think about us competing at the same rate structure, trying to be competitive with people that have 70 people basically contributing per mile of line as opposed to 13," Chaff explained. "That's our biggest challenge—to keep our rates low and competitive."

Despite this disadvantage, Clay Electric maintains competitive rates, aiming to stay within 5% of other providers in Northeast Florida. The cooperative operates as a nonprofit, running on a razor-thin budget with 1% to 2% margins, which are returned to members through capital credits. This year, Chaff anticipates returning \$10 million \$12 million to members.

### Vast service territory

Clay Electric's service area spans 15 counties across North Central Florida, maintaining 14,000 miles of overhead and underground lines serving nearly 199,000 customers. The cooperative manages 240,000 poles and spends \$14 million to \$15 million annually on vegetation management, a necessary expense given the

Howell conducted an exterior sniff of the vehicle, and the dog alerted to the presence of narcotics. Though a subsequent search of the vehicle yielded no contraband, deputies said they made a discovery during a pat-down search of Jones.

They reported observing a bulge in Jones' front right pants pocket. When asked about it, Jones gave permission for it to be removed. Authorities said

they found a dollar bill rolled in a manner commonly used to conceal controlled substances.

Inside the bill, deputies found a white powdery substance that field-tested positive for fentanyl and weighed approximately 3 grams, according to the report.

The driver was released with a verbal warning for the seatbelt violation.



# Russ WADE

## Attorney at Law

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# Clay County strategic plan updated

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Clay County commissioners unanimously approved an updated strategic plan on Tuesday, January 27, incorporating changes that expand health and safety goals while improving transparency in government operations.

The plan, presented by Assistant County Manager Troy Nagle introduces several new performance indicators designed to measure county services more effectively over the next five years.

## Key changes to strategic plan

The updated plan includes a new tracking metric for total inpatients served in county-owned facilities, a measure requested by Commissioner Alexandra Compere. The addition addresses concerns about measuring the county's direct impact on healthcare services.

In the area of community health and safety, commissioners approved a goal to reduce premature deaths in the county by 5 percent. While acknowledging the county cannot directly control mortality rates, officials pointed to opioid prevention services and other health initiatives as contributing factors.

"While that's not something the county can directly control," Nagle told commissioners, "the services we're trying to [provide] with opioids and things is to reduce those premature deaths."

## Waste management metrics refined

The board addressed persistent questions about garbage collection by shifting from percentage-based reporting to raw numbers. The new key performance indicators will report monthly totals of missed pickups rather than relying solely on percentage rates that consistently hover around 99 percent.

Additional waste management metrics now include the number of bulk pickups and average time to complete bulk pickups, both measures that commissioners emphasized as priorities for accountability.

## Employee retention focus

In governance improvements, the plan establishes a goal to maintain a 90 percent employment retention rate during employees' first year. Rather than tracking overall retention rates, the new approach focuses specifically on first-year retention with detailed breakdowns at six months, one year, and five years.

Commissioners decided against including department-by-department data in the published plan to avoid excessive length, though officials confirmed that information remains available upon request.

## Infrastructure and recreation goals raised

Several goals were increased after the county approached or exceeded original targets. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority now aims to increase Clay County ridership by 50 percent over five years.

County-hosted recreation programs will target a 30 percent increase over five years, up from the original 20 percent goal.

New metrics for parks and recreation include tracking the number of park leases and association participants.

## Financial accountability measures

The updated plan adds tracking for dollars brought in through partnerships and sponsorships, along with the number of grants awarded to the county.

Rather than reprinting the strategic plan, the county will update its website using a dynamic platform already licensed by the government. QR code stickers will be placed on existing printed copies directing readers to the updated online version.

Officials said the platform will provide near real-time data visibility, allowing residents to view monthly performance updates similar to those on other county websites.

The board will receive quarterly updates on the progress of the strategic plan going forward.

# Clay school district grapples with budget crisis, enrollment decline

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Clay County School District officials outlined the scope of a severe budget crisis during a lengthy workshop on January 27, revealing that the district is navigating financial challenges unlike any in its history.

Superintendent David Broskie presented what he called a "financial renaissance" to the school board, detailing how multiple converging factors have created a perfect storm for the district's finances.

"I think many of you know that I was a classroom teacher for 10 years and taught history," he said, "and so...the word renaissance itself, the word renaissance, a rebirth in history, but this is a re-look, a re-examination and a rebirth of finances because you know that many things had to change at the end of last school year heading to now."

## Historic state funding failures

Broskie said the district's troubles began last spring when the State of Florida failed to make a final quarterly payment to the district. When district officials asked why, Broskie said the state's answer was simple: "We don't have any more money. We're out of money."

## Women's Softball Traveling Legacy 14U team gears up for world series

BY JENN SAMSEL  
jenn@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Legacy 14U Fastpitch traveling team recently took to the streets of Keystone Heights to raise funds for this year's softball World Series.

The traveling team, composed mainly of Keystone Heights residents and players from Williston and Gainesville, is

"Never in the history of the state of Florida has there not been a fourth calculation," Broskie told board members. "I'm trying to provide for you the context of why this year is different. It's never happened before."

## Multiple financial pressures

The superintendent said the funding crisis was compounded by several simultaneous setbacks:

—The federal government withheld Title I, II, III, and IV funds,

—Florida Retirement System contributions increased by \$76 million and continue to rise,

—Family empowerment vouchers drained approximately \$30 million from district coffers

—Adjusted state funding for Florida public school students decreased by roughly \$400 million from the previous year,

—The state legislature went into overtime negotiations, with the House, Senate, and Governor unable to agree on a budget.

"I've been in more budget meetings since this all happened than my other 36 years combined," Broskie said, noting that the district now holds approximately four two-hour budget meetings per week.

## Communications and marketing push

In response to enrollment challenges, the district is ramping up its communications efforts. Director Sabrina Thomas presented plans to strengthen the district's social media presence and internal communications, though the effort is hampered by limited staffing.

The communications team, which consists of just four people managing outreach for 36,000 students, has launched weekly updates to school-level communications teams and is focusing on what officials called "owned media" platforms like social media and the district website.

Board members expressed interest in more robust marketing efforts to attract students who have left for other options, though budget constraints make hiring dedicated marketing personnel challenging.

"If you can get 400 students back, Mr. Superintendent, you know exactly how much money that is," board member Michele Hanson said, advocating for continued investment in outreach despite the budget crunch.

preparing for the World Series in July.

The team consists of 11 girls aged 12 to 15 who have successfully outperformed many competitors here in Florida and are eager to return to the World Series.

Head Coach Aaron Miller, who leads the 14U Legacy Travel Ball team this year, said, "This is their second year competing; last year, they finished second

in the state and participated in various competitions throughout Florida."

"Come out and have a good time and support the girls, whether it's this team or your local team," he said.

They conduct open tryouts once a year, and everyone is welcome. They typically accept 13 to 14 girls to complete the roster.

# Highly Rated Local Businesses!

 <p><b>The Bradford County Fair</b> Returns Feb 26-March 8!</p>	 <p><b>PHILLIP McDONALD</b> 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><b>Benn Built Machine Shop</b> All Manual Shop</p> <p><b>Starke Florida</b> Veteran Owned</p> <p><b>Wes Bennett</b> (904)-452-9838 wesbenn10@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>DLPbank</b> Dream. Live. Prosper.</p> <p><b>STARKE</b> 131 N Cherry St (904) 964-7423</p> <p><b>LAKE BUTLER</b> 255 SE 6th St (386) 496-3333</p>	<p><b>HUNTLEYS</b> DIESEL PERFORMANCE</p> <p>104 W Brownlee St • Starke, FL 904-704-6307</p> <p><b>NOW OPEN IN STARKE, FL!</b></p> <p><b>HOURS:</b> Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM</p>	<p><b>CF FALSTREUX</b> HEATING &amp; AIR, INC.</p> <p>Craig Falstreux Heating &amp; Air, Inc 228 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-2241</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>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>
<p><b>BRADFORD EYE CENTER</b></p> <p>292 Lafayette St Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8076</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><b>ANDREWS SITE PREP</b></p> <p>386-867-0572</p> <p>SERVICES 20 DIFFERENT COUNTIES!</p> <p>"I highly recommend them for installation and repair."</p>	<p><b>R ROBERTS</b> INSURANCE</p> <p>EXPERIENCE, SERVICE &amp; GREAT RATES</p> <p>Starke Keystone Heights Middleburg 904.964.7826 352.473.7209 904.282.7665</p> <p>We Are Your Local Healthcare Enrollment Center</p> <p>AUTO • HOME • MOTORCYCLE • BUSINESS ATV • BOATS • RV • LIFE • HEALTH</p> <p>www.georgerobertsins.com</p> <p>Scott Roberts Agent/Owner Lori Thompson Agent</p>
<p><b>THE CHIROPRACTIC &amp; INJURY CLINIC</b></p> <p>601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8018</p> <p>"Amazing staff &amp; doctor! Very satisfied."</p>	<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</p> <p>Serving Lawtey &amp; surrounding areas</p> <p><b>RCP</b> ROD CRAWFORD PLUMBING &amp; SEPTIC</p> <p>★★★★★ 5-STAR RATED!</p>	<p><b>NORTH FLORIDA TECHNICAL COLLEGE</b></p> <p>609 North Orange Street • Starke FL 904-966-6764</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><b>RIVERS FLOWING CHURCH</b></p> <p>SUN: 10AM   WED: 7PM</p>	<p><b>TOWN &amp; COUNTRY VETERINARY CLINIC</b></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><b>WORLEY CONSTRUCTION &amp; ASSOCIATES, INC.</b></p> <p>GENERAL &amp; MARINE CONTRACTING STATE LICENSED GENERAL CONTRACTOR</p> <p><b>352-481-2255</b> CGC 060228</p> <p>www.worleyconstruction.net</p>
<p><b>HOMETOWN Health &amp; Wellness</b></p> <p>260 S Lawrence Blvd, Suite 101 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 352-664-7702</p> <p>"Very knowledgeable and caring staff!"</p>	<p><b>Lake Area HEATING &amp; AIR</b></p> <p>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><b>TEAL TILE CARPET ONE FLOOR &amp; HOME</b></p> <p>131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7423</p> <p>"Installers were great, prompt, &amp; their work was excellent."</p>
<p><b>AUNTIE LIL'S CHILD CARE CENTER</b></p> <p>904-303-1014 407 W. Washington St. Starke</p>	<p><b>Bradford County SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b></p> <p>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><b>SPORTING CHANCE</b></p> <p>218 Temple Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7434</p> <p>"Fast, friendly service! Kudos to Sporting Chance!"</p>
 <p><b>STARKE GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</b></p> <p>15501 NE 14TH Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-5441</p> <p>OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK GREENS FEE: \$10 CART RENTAL: \$20</p>		



# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Feb. 5, 2026

## BRADFORD

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

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on February 19th, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Z 25-06, an application by Mimosa Tree Investments, LLC, applicant and property owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas Series of the Land Development Regulations by amending the Official Zoning Atlas classification from AGRICULTURE - 2 (A-2) to INDUSTRIAL (I) for the property described, as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 8 OF TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, AND IN DAVIS BROTHERS AND TRUBY'S SUBDIVISION AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN DEED BOOK E, PAGE 680 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 8, LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTH 1/2 AND RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 36.62 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID WESTERLY BOUNDARY, 475.36 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 47 SECONDS EAST, 19.91 FEET; THENCE NORTH 64 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST, 342.36 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 14 SECONDS WEST, 320.39 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST, 330.22 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINING 16.94 ACRES, MORE OR LESS  
TAX PARCEL NUMBERS 04776-0-00000

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

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

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

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

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public

hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Z25 06 Hearing 2/5 1tchg-BCT

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

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on February 19th, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, North Wing of the County Courthouse, located at 954 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Z 25-05, an application by Mimosa Tree Investments, LLC, applicant and property owner, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas Series of the Land Development Regulations by amending the Official Zoning Atlas classification from AGRICULTURE - 2 (A-2) to INDUSTRIAL (I) for the property described, as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 6 & 7 OF TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, AND IN LOTS 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 OF DAVIS BROTHERS AND TRUBY'S SUBDIVISION AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN DEED BOOK E, PAGE 680 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT (3'X3' NO ID) FOUND AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID SECTION 6 (NE CORNER OF SEC. 7) A DISTANCE OF 830.18 FEET TO SET h" IRON ROD (LB 4012); THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST, 523.00 FEET TO A SET W' IRON ROD (LB 4017); THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 21 SECONDS EAST, 70.00 FEET TO A FOUND CONCRETE MONUMENT (LB 4012); THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 39 SECONDS WEST, 822.62 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (LB 4012) FOUND AT THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD 200 (U.S. 301 THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY 926.83 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT (NO ID); THENCE NORTH 85 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST, 1192.81 FEET TO A FOUND CONCRETE MONUMENT (NO ID) ON THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 39 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID BOUNDARY 141.71 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND ALSO,  
A STRIP OF LAND 30.0 FEET IN WIDTH LYING BETWEEN LOTS 3, 4, 5, AND 6 IN DAVIS BROTHERS, TRUBY'S

SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK E, PAGE 680 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. SAID STRIP EXTENDING EAST FROM THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD 200, U.S. 301 TO THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST.

CONTAINING 21.15 ACRES, MORE OR LESS  
TAX PARCEL NUMBERS 04734-0-00200 AND 04739-0-00000

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the

public hearing and that no future notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection by request to the Bradford County Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

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

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Z25 05 zoning mtg 2/5 1tchg-BCT

### LEGAL NOTICE:

The Bradford County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Planning Committee/Workgroup will meet Thursday, February 19th, 2026 at 3:00 PM in the Bradford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Bradford County Sheriff's Office at 945B North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. Bradford County Emergency Management encourages any interested citizens and business owners to attend and provide input. The Committee guides the preparation and contents of the Bradford County Local Mitigation Strategy which serves as the plan submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management to reduce the community's long-term risk for protecting people and property from the effects of natural disasters and to build a safer and stronger community. This public meeting is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person wanting to attend the meeting and requires assistance with accessibility and/or interpretation should contact the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division at (904) 966-6336 at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting date. Any person wishing to provide comments who cannot attend the meeting may do so by submitting written comments via email to [bcem@bradfordsheriff.org](mailto:bcem@bradfordsheriff.org) at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting date. The meeting agenda may be obtained within 5 days of the meeting date via email request as well, or by visiting [www.bradfordsheriff.org/emergencymanagement/lms/](http://www.bradfordsheriff.org/emergencymanagement/lms/). Please contact the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division at (904) 966-6336 for more information.

A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE JURISDICTION  
2/5 2tchg 2/12-BCT

### Fictitious Name Notice

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute" as defined in Section 865.09 Florida Statutes, intends to register with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida, Division of Corporations, the fictitious name to wit:

Fictitious Name: Lawtey Church of God  
Business Mailing Address: 22296 US Highway 301, Lawtey, FL 32058  
Owner/Owners: Lawtey Church of God - Kenneth Mark Smith as Trustee for the Local Board of Trustee at Lawtey, Florida, a Florida unincorporated church (Section 692.101 of the Florida Statutes) Address of Each Owner/Owners: Kenneth Mark Smith, 22296 US Highway 301, Lawtey, FL 32058  
2/5 1tchg-BCT

### Fictitious Name Notice

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned pursuant to the "Fictitious Name Statute" as defined in Section 865.09 Florida Statutes, intends to register with the Secretary of State of the State of Florida, Division of Corporations, the fictitious name to wit:

Fictitious Name: Rags to Riches Thrift Store Business Mailing Address: 22296 US Highway 301 Lawtey, FL 32058. Owner/Owners: Lawtey Church of God as Trustee for the Local Board of Trustee at Lawtey, Florida, a Florida unincorporated church (Section 692.101 of the Florida Statutes) Address of Each Owner/Owners: Lawtey Church of God, 22296 US Highway 301 Lawtey, FL 32058.  
2/5 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 25000439CAAXMX  
PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
JONATTAN H. BARRANCO PINTO,  
et. al.

Defendant(s).  
NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE

TO: JONATTAN H. BARRANCO PINTO, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JONATTAN H. BARRANCO PINTO, whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:

LOT 6, A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT AN IRON PIPE LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 AND RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 19 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 690.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST, 192.00 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE NORTH 88 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST, 132.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 19 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH SAID WESTERLY BOUNDARY 330.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 41 SECONDS WEST, 132.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH SAID WESTERLY BOUNDARY, 330.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. RESERVING THEREFROM AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE NORTHERLY 30.00 FEET THEREOF.

ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL BEING CONVEYED WITH AN EASEMENT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS LYING 30.00 FEET ON EACH SIDE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED CENTERLINE: COMMENCE AT AN IRON PIPE LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 AND RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 19 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 1300.25 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 225; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 11 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY, 30.035 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF A 60.00 FOOT ROAD FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE AND PARALLEL WITH SAID WESTERLY BOUNDARY, 611.40 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, 558.00 FEET TO THE END OF SAID CENTERLINE. TOGETHER WITH - 56 X 30 2024 MOBILE HOME; VIN #S FL261-000-H-A105729A/B.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 or on before /30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Bradford County, Florida, this 26 day of January, 2026.

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
PRIMARY EMAIL: [fmilal@raslg.com](mailto:fmilal@raslg.com)  
THIS NOTICE SHALL BE PUBLISHED ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.  
PUBLISH IN: BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH  
DENNY THOMPSON  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
BY: KANETRA JENKINS  
DEPUTY CLERK  
25-339947 2/5 2tchg 2/12-BCT

## UNION

### NOTICE OF ACTION

Union County  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING IN RE: The license to practice Licensed Practical Nursing Idoan ID. Adoola, L.P.N.  
39 Young Avenue, Floor 2  
Hillside, NJ 07205-1021  
CASE NO.: 2024-11755  
LICENSE NO.: PN5256451

The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Caitlin Harden, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 558-9870. If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by March 12, 2026, the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Board of Nursing in an informal proceeding. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding

at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4640, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.  
1/29 4tchg 2/19-UCT

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on February 27, 2026 at 12:01 pm on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Unit #	Name	Amount
14	Brian Cummings	\$392.20
62	Mavis Mobley	\$612.76

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details.  
2/5 2tchg 2/12-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GENERAL JURISDICTION  
DIVISION

CASE NO. 25000014CAAXMX  
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TRUSTEE FOR RCAF,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
KENDEL SEAY AND KRISTIN LYN SEAY, et al.  
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 28, 2025, and entered in 25000014CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST is the Plaintiff and KENDEL SEAY; KRISTIN LYN SEAY; UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA are the Defendant(s).

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Lobby, Union County Courthouse 55 W. Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, at 11:00 AM, on February 26, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 17, SAID POINT BEING IN THE CENTERLINE OF SAPP ROAD, THENCE RUN EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 17, SAID DISTANCE OF 380 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 116 FEET; THENCE RUN WEST A DISTANCE OF 380 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH A DISTANCE OF 116 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAVING AND EXCEPTING THE RIGHT OF WAY OF SAPP ROAD AND PART THERETOFORE OWNED BY THE GRANTEEES. ALL OF THE ABOVE PARCEL IS IN SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS AND EXCEPT THE EAST 188' OF THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION

Property Address: 12820 NE 233RD LN, RAIFORD, FL 32083  
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031. Dated this 30TH day of January, 2026.

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades  
As Clerk of the Court  
By: C. Hollingsworth  
As Deputy Clerk  
IMPORTANT  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. Publish In: THE UNION COUNTY TIMES

Submitted by: Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100,  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
Telephone: 561-241-6901  
Fax: 561-997-6909  
24-224704 2/5 2tchg 2/12-UCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE UNION COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, that, pursuant to the Union County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, serving as the Board of Adjustment of Union County, Florida, on February 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, County Courthouse, located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida.  
SE 26-01 a petition by Mark Shelton, AICP, of Kimley-Horn & Associates, as agent for Florida Power & Light Company, to request a special exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.16.5 of the Land Development Regulations, to permit a solar farm within an INDUSTRIAL (I) zoning district, in accordance with a petition dated November 11, 2025 and a site plan dated November 2025, and revised on January 26, 2026 to

be located on property described, as follows:

A portion of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 20 East, and a portion of Section 4, Township 6 South, Range 20 East, being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of Section 4, Township 6 South, Range 20 East; thence run North 85°50'45" East, along the North line of said Section 4, 170.98 feet to a point on the Easterly line of the lands described in Official Records Book 79, Page 371 and the Point of Beginning; thence run, along said Easterly line, the following five (5) courses and distances: North 14°26'59" West, 436.20 feet to the point of curvature of a curve concave Easterly having a radius of 681.20 feet, a central angle of 36°44'28", a chord bearing of North 03°55'14" West, and a chord distance of 429.38 feet; thence Northerly, along said curve, an arc distance of 436.82 feet to a point of tangency; thence North 22°17'28" East 1,904.30 feet to a point of curvature of a curve concave southeasterly having a radius of 1,874.86, a central angle of 08°54'40", a chord bearing of North 26°44'48" East, and a chord distance of 291.30 feet; thence Northeasterly, along the arc of said curve, an arc distance of 291.59 feet to a point of tangency; thence North 31°12'08" East, 362.27 feet to a point on the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 100 (a 120.00 foot wide public right-of-way per Florida Department of Transportation right-of-way map, Section 39010-2501); thence, along said Southerly right-of-way line, South 59°35'27" East, 2,686.91 feet to the most Northerly line of the lands described in Official Records Book 40, Page 673 Part "B", thence run, along the Westerly line of said lands South 02°44'12" East, 27.34 feet to a point on the Westerly line of the lands described in Official Records Book 40, Page 673 Part "A" (also known as sawmill road); thence run, along said Westerly line the following three (3) courses and distances: South 54°07'04" West 2,051.46 feet to a point of curvature of a curve concave Southeasterly having a radius of 1,195.92 feet, a central angle of 33°39'20", a chord bearing of S37°17'24"W, and a chord distance of 692.43 feet; thence, along the arc of said curve, 702.48 feet to a point of tangency; thence South 20°27'44" West, 965.64 feet to a point on the Northerly line of the lands described in Official Records Book 79, Page 371; thence, along said Northerly line the following five (5) courses and distances: North 70°30'24" West, 112.30 feet; North 19°44'50" East, 76.77 feet; North 72°36'57" West, 125.15 feet; South 32°28'00" West, 73.43 feet; North 70°26'05" West, 492.86 feet to a point on the aforementioned East line of the lands described in Official Records Book 79, Page 371; thence, along said Easterly line, run North 14°26'59" West, 632.37 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said lands containing 150.16 acres, more or less.  
At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may be heard with respect to the special exception. Copies of the special exception are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast 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 proceeding 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 the proceedings should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 or via email: at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771.  
2/5 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given, that J.R. DAVIS, TRUSTEE OF THE J. R. DAVIS TRUST, the holder(s) of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate #: 223  
Year of Issuance: 2018  
Description of Property: 32-05-20-22-018-0022-0  
Legal Description:  
SW 1/4 of Lot 2, Block 18, J.W. Townsend's addition, according to plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 8, Public Records of Union County, Florida.  
Name in which assessed: PORSHA T. RIDGEWAY AND HARMON RIDGEWAY, III.  
Said property being in the County of Union, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026. Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2026.  
LESLIE C. SNYDER  
For Kellie Hendricks Rhoades  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Union County, Florida  
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.  
2/5 4tchg 2/26-UCT

CITY OF LAKE BUTLER LOT FOR SALE (SEALED BID PROCESS)  
The City of Lake Butler are accepting SEALED BIDS for the sale of a 0.114 acre parcel, Parcel #30-05-20-11-031-0080-0, with a MINIMUM BID of \$2,500.00 USD. The City will be accepting SEALED BIDS until Monday, March 2, 2026 at 3:00PM, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. For more information, please visit [www.cityoflakebutler.com](http://www.cityoflakebutler.com) or by calling 386-496-3401 EX. 4.  
2/5 1tchg-UCT

## A Place of Grace INC.

and the churches of Bradford County volunteers provide a free hot meal to those in need within our community.

225 Andrews Street Starke, FL  
(behind Powells)



We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who give their time and care to serve others. Their compassion ensures that our neighbors facing food insecurity are not forgotten.

Together, we serve. Together, we care.

# NURSE

Continued from page 1

"This is the answer to that," Ison said. "Keeping the school here in your community is solving those extra challenges."

Hartley shared an exchange he had with a Bradford High School valedictorian who's wanting to become a registered nurse. He said her face displayed "a huge smile" when he told her of the Santa Fe program that would be available in

"That is exactly what this project is about," Hartley said. "It's about furthering the opportunities for the people here in Bradford County and our community and surrounding areas."

Ison said offering such a program in Starke and at North Florida Technical College "makes sense" because of NFTC's existing practical-nursing program, which she described as "excellent."

Lisa Prevatt, a former administrator in the Bradford County School District and a Santa Fe College trustee emeritus, said, "We already have an amazing nursing program here at North Florida Technical College, but to be able to expand it and just offer more for our students and our community is so wonderful."

Hartley said the nursing program is part of "very exciting times" for Bradford County, adding that since he became superintendent six years ago, he's met several times with Southerland and Santa Fe President Paul Broadie "about deepening the collaboration between Bradford County School District and Santa Fe for projects like this."

"I really, truly do believe this is going to be the first of many (projects)," Hartley said. "A lot of you know we have a new school coming, hopefully in the next three to four years. Along with that project, I hope it just deepens some of the opportunities with us



**Nate Southerland (left), Santa Fe College provost and vice president academic affairs, and Will Hartley, Bradford County superintendent of schools, sign documents cementing the partnership that will lead to a nursing bridge program (LPN to RN) in Starke at North Florida Technical College.**

and Santa Fe to move forward and collaborate and really expand the opportunities, not just for our students, but for our community as a whole."

Southerland echoed Hartley's sentiment.

"We really look forward to not just this, but other collaborations between the school district, North Florida Technical College and Santa Fe College," Southerland said. "We're obviously here to stay. We love being in Bradford County. We love being Starke and the surrounding areas."

"We really want to do what we can to complement what the school district and the tech college are doing to provide opportunities for students in this area."

Prevatt gave kudos to those from the Bradford School District and Santa Fe for their efforts in writing the proposal that led to the \$4 million grant, which was awarded through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunities. She also recognized John Miller — owner/publisher of the Bradford County Telegraph, Union County Times and Lake Region Monitor — for pushing to have a Santa Fe nursing program in Bradford County.

"Mr. Miller was one of those who inspired us to do that," Prevatt said. "He's seen the needs in the medical field and in our community, so I'm thankful to him, too, because he kind of got that in my heart originally."

Southerland took the time to talk about Miller as well, saying, "He has been a huge supporter of Santa Fe College and has donated a tremendous amount of time and resources and facilities for us to do our work here. We're

tremendously grateful. We couldn't do what we do without him."

The ASN Bridge Program is 14 months, providing education in classroom, laboratory and clinical settings and preparing students to be employed in a high-demand field. According to

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median pay for registered nurses in 2024 was \$93,600 per year (\$45 per hour). The number of RN jobs in 2024 was 3,391,000, with an anticipated 5-percent increase in jobs over a 10-year span.

"Quality education equals

quality careers," Prevatt said. "Here we are to launch more bright futures for our students."

To learn more about the ASN Bridge Program, visit [www.sfcollege.edu/academics/](http://www.sfcollege.edu/academics/) programs and click on the appropriate link.

## Bastin has big 4th quarter for KHHS girls in district quarterfinal victory

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Raven Bastin hit the go-ahead three-pointer and scored nine points in the fourth quarter to help the Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team rally for a 33-31 win over visiting Baldwin in a Feb. 2 District 3-3A tournament quarterfinal game.

The fourth seed Indians (12-11) were scheduled to play a semifinal game on Wednesday, Feb. 4, against top seed Newberry (18-3) in Newberry. If Keystone won, it would travel to play either second seed Bradford (13-9) or third seed Palatka (10-10) for the championship on Friday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.

Keystone suffered through a bad third quarter against fifth

seed Baldwin (4-19) in which they went 0 of 13 from the field and committed 13 turnovers.

Bastin broke the field-goal drought with a basket 19 seconds into the fourth quarter.

Bastin finally gave the Indians a second-half field goal when she scored a basket 19 seconds into the final quarter.

Baldwin held a six-point lead when Keystone went on a 9-0 run. Kadence Massey scored off an offensive rebound with 1:20 remaining and later recorded the assist on an Alex Papaianou jumper that made it a 29-27 game with 43 seconds left. Bastin came up with a steal and was fouled with 23 seconds on the clock. She made both free throws to tie the score.

A turnover led to a Bastin three-point attempt, which she banked in to give the Indians a 32-39 lead with 16 seconds remaining.

Baldwin's Danasia Johnson was fouled on a drive to the basket with seven seconds on the clock. She made both free throws to pull Baldwin to within 32-31.

Papaianou was fouled two seconds later. She made 1 of 2 free throws to make the score 33-31.

Baldwin didn't get a chance to tie it up or take the lead as a Massey steal preserved the victory for Keystone.

Papaianou finished with eight points, while Massey had four. Daisy Hubbard and Rigby Morford each added four points.

**Marty & Lisa Shaw**  
904-964-9222  
415 E Call St,  
Starke, FL 32091

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
**SMITH & SMITH REALTY**

**For Sale!**

**4.5 ACRES LOT!**

**MLS #2083205**  
**2856 NE 187th Street**  
Starke, FL 32091

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

**For Sale!**

**3 BED / 1 BATH**

**2 CAR GARPORT - GARAGE**

**OAK BOARD FLOORS**

**UPDATED KITCHEN - BATH**

**DETACHED METAL GARAGE**

**MLS #2083206**  
**14468 SE County Rd 100A**  
Starke, FL 32091

### Featured Listings From Your Local Realtors!

**FIND YOUR DREAM HOME TODAY!**

**The Right Team**  
904-624-0112  
2518 State Rd 21,  
Melrose, FL 32666

**For Sale!**

**4BED/3BATH**

**5955 SE County Road 21B**  
Melrose, FL 32666

**FOR SALE**

## Baked-goods auction to benefit Miss Bradford Fest Pageant

The call is going out to bakers and candy makers to donate items for a Miss Bradford Fest Scholarship Pageant/Kerr's Auction Service of Lawtey auction, the date of which has yet to be announced.

Decorated cakes are encouraged, but cakes of any size and flavor will be accepted, along with any homemade or

bakery made goodies.

Proceeds will benefit the Miss Bradford Fest Scholarship Pageant, which is scheduled for April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Bradford High School auditorium.

For donations or more information, please call Ciera LeMire at 904-769-3027, Kevin Kerr at 904-263-2447 or Stephanie Kerr at 352-275-1302.

# Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads for week February 5, 2026

40 Notices

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.** All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are

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

47 Commercial Rental Property

OFFICE SPACE, 4 rooms and reception area. Downtown location. \$950/ mo. 1st & last. 904-964-6305.

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 904-966-1887.

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

DOWNTOWN 1BR upstairs

apartment. \$950/mo. 1st & last. Call 904-964-6305.

SEVERAL RENTALS available. 1, 2, & 3 bedroom. Located in Starke/Bradford (City & County) Please call 904-613-5715 for info.

ROOM AVAILABLE in Lake Butler. Looking for a mature, non-smoker, non-drinker. Must be clean, no pets, fully furnished. \$550/ mo. Call 904-966-1896 after 3pm. ROOM AVAILABLE in Lake Butler. Looking for a mature, non-smoker, non-drinker. Must be clean, no pets, fully furnished. \$550/ mo. Call 904-966-1896 after 3pm.

4BR/4BA 2-story located in Lawtey. 2 car garage, fireplace, fenced yard w/ balcony. HUD ok. \$1450/ mo. 813-369-4454.

MOBILE HOME for rent. 904-796-0818.

53 A Yard Sales GARAGE SALE; Friday & Saturday. 516 Edwards Rd. Tools, golf carts, clothes, etc. Starts @ 8:30am.

YARD SALE; 1371 Blanding Street. Friday & Saturday. 8am-1pm both days.

65 Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Starke is seeking a full-time Utilities/ Operations Assistant. This position offers excellent benefits including medical insurance, PTO and retirement. Salary is dependent on

experience. The Utilities/ Operations Assistant provides administrative and operational support, assisting with purchasing, inventory, payroll support, work orders, and customer service inquiries. This position supports daily operations and works closely with supervisors, Purchasing, and the Assistant City Manager — Utilities to ensure efficient service delivery. Employment applications

may be picked up at City Hall, located at 209 N. Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091, or downloaded from the City of Starke website at [www.cityofstarke.org](http://www.cityofstarke.org). Completed applications may be returned in person, by mail to the address above, attention Stephanie Mann, or emailed to [smann@cityofstarke.org](mailto:smann@cityofstarke.org). The City of Starke is an EOE/Drug Free Workplace.

**Orangewood Apartments**  
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Starke, FL 32091  
904-964-4214  
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Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL  
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TDD/TTY 711  
\*Equal Housing Opportunity\*

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

**Southern Villas of Starke**

Ask about our 182 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/ Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.

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

**SPACE FOR LEASE**

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

Call **(904)964-7404**

**Tri-County Classifieds**

Bradford County Telegraph Lake Region Monitor UNION COUNTY TIMES

**INDEX**

40 Notice	57 For Sale
41 Vehicles Accessories	58 Building Materials
42 Motor Vehicles	59 Personal Services
43 Rv's & Campers	60 Secretarial Services
44 Boats	61 Scripts
45 Land for Sale	62 Vacation/ Travel
46 Real Estate Out of Area	63 Love Lines
47 Commercial Property Rent, Lease, Sell	64 Business Opportunity
48 Homes for Sale	65 Help Wanted
49 Mobile Homes for Sale	66 Investment Opportunity
50 For Rent	67 Hunting Land for Rent
51 Lost/Found	68 Rent to Own
52 Animals & Pets	69 Food Supplements
53 Yard Sales	70 Money to Lend
54 Keystone Yard Sales	72 Sporting Goods
55 Wanted	74 Computers & Computer Accessories
56 Trade or Swap	

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# Obituaries

## Kolden Jenkins

We gather today with heavy hearts to remember and celebrate the remarkable life of Kolden Blake Jenkins, a vivacious young boy who brought joy to everyone around him. Born Nov. 7, 2010, in Gainesville, Kolden, whose time with us was far too short, passed away at his home in Starke on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026. He was known for his kind and helpful spirit. Whether he was riding his bike, enjoying moments of adventure while fishing, or lifting weights while jamming out to his music, he approached life with a delightful enthusiasm. His quirky humor made every gathering feel special; he had a way of making people giggle just by being himself. Family was incredibly important to Kolden. He cherished his dad, Michael "Bull," and they were best friends, sharing many wonderful experiences together. He was also a loving brother to Kylee, Kaleb, Kinlyn, and Kaiden. He adored playing with his nieces and nephews, Molly, Mason, Henry, and Kentli, creating countless memories filled with laughter and fun that will always be remembered by all.

Kolden is lovingly survived by his mother, Stephanie Clemons; and his father and stepmother, Michael "Bull" (Rhonda) Jenkins and a tight-knit family who will hold his memory dear. He leaves behind grandparents, Jane Clemons, Mike Jenkins, and John and Linda Woods, who showered him with endless love and wisdom. He will also be deeply missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Kolden was preceded in death by his grandfather, Lamar Clemons; and grandmother, Mary Jewell.

In honor of Kolden's life there was a visitation on Tuesday, Feb. 3, followed by a Celebration of Life, both held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. Family and friends were invited to come together to share stories, laughs, and tears in remembrance of Kolden Blake Jenkins. Although his time with us was all too brief, the impact he made and the love he shared will forever resonate in our hearts.



PAID OBITUARY

## Shirley Pruitt

Shirley J. (Kelly) Pruitt, 88, was called home by her Savior, on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, at UF Health Shands in Gainesville following a sudden illness. She was born Dec. 11, 1937, in Starke to Warren and Regina (Pearce) Kelly. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Billy Gene Pruitt; and siblings, Vencil Futch (Benton), E. Carolyn Mann and J.B. Kelly (Golda Mae).

Left behind to cherish their "Best Mom Ever" are her children, Stephanie Pruitt (James Hamby), Buddy Pruitt, and Tracy Pruitt. She also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, and additional family members that will miss her dearly.

Her visitation will be held Thursday, Feb. 12, beginning at 10 a.m. at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home. Private interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests memorial donations be made to the Madison Street Baptist Church, 900 W. Madison St., Starke, 32091 or Madisonstreet.org.

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

PAID OBITUARY



## Dennis Richardson

Dennis Leon Richardson, born Oct. 6, 1961, in Starke, was a devoted father, loving family man, and a friend to everyone he met. He worked as a truck driver and business entrepreneur, taking pride in his independence and strong work ethic. He believed in hard work and responsibility, values he carried throughout his life. He was a fun-loving person who made friends wherever he went. He especially cherished time spent with his family on the Suwannee River, where some of his happiest moments were made. Those days on the river, filled with laughter, relaxation, and togetherness, meant everything to him and will be remembered always. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Tammy Richardson, who passed away in 2014. He was the son of Pansy Taylor (Crosby). He was a proud and loving father to his three children, Scott Richardson, Kevin Richardson, and Tamber (Murphy) Williams, who were the center of his world. He also got great pleasure in spending time with his grandchildren, Rowan, Daniel, Matthew, Emma, Austin, Dallas, Savannah, Treven, Braxton, Cheyenne, Nova, and Brayden. He is also survived by his devoted sister, Denise (Wayne) Haight.

A service to honor his life will be held Friday, Feb. 6, at Bayless Highway Baptist Church at 1 p.m. A visitation time will begin one hour prior at 12 p.m. He will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Pastor Mike Conner to officiate. Dennis will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His memory will live on through shared stories, familiar laughter, and the love he gave so freely.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the Richardson family during their time of loss. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



## Barbara Northam

Mrs. Barbara E. Northam, 84, of Keystone Heights passed away Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at Haven Hospice in Palatka. She was born on Aug. 1, 1941, in New Castle, Indiana to James W. and Decil (Spencer) Cotton. Her childhood was spent in Taylorsville, Kentucky. She moved to Florida in her teen years where she met the love of her life, Delmer Northam. He was a born-again Christian, and his testimony led her to accept the Lord as her personal savior. They were married in 1958 and moved to Gainesville for work and to begin their family life together. One of their loves was Child Evangelism Fellowship, where they served on the board. They were instrumental in the establishment of Camp Good News, where many children heard the gospel. After Delmer's retirement, they traveled for many years and settled in Keystone Heights. She enjoyed traveling, playing Scrabble, reading, and volunteering at Lake Area Ministries. She was a longtime and active member of Trinity Baptist Church, where she served in the nursery, the kitchen and in Vacation Bible School. Her most cherished times were being with her family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Delmer Northam.

Left behind are her daughters, Rebecca Williams (Mike) of Keystone Heights, and Deborah Greene (George) of Brunswick, Ohio; along with her brother-in-law, Elmer Northam. She was lovingly called "Granny" by seven grandchildren and "GiGi" by 12 great-grandchildren. Although she did not have any siblings, there were many friends she called sister.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, with Pastor Scott Stanland, officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 10 a.m. Graveside services will follow at 2 p.m. at Forest Meadows Cemetery East in Gainesville. In lieu of flowers, monetary gifts can be given to Camp Good News, 120 Twin Lakes Road, Hawthorne, 32640 or Lake Area Ministries, P.O. Box 1385, Keystone Heights, 32656.

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

PAID OBITUARY



If you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks you'd like to publish, please email to [socials@bctelegraph.com](mailto:socials@bctelegraph.com) or call 904-964-6305.

## Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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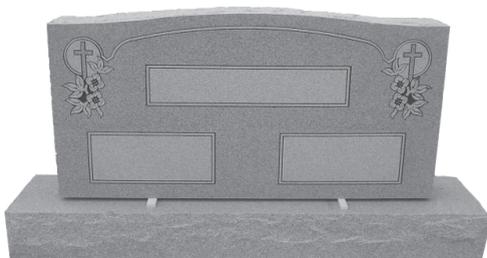
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## Wilbur Rogers

Wilbur Willie Rogers, 76, formerly of Raiford and Lake Butler, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, while undergoing physical rehabilitation at Clearsky Rehabilitation Hospital in Lake City. He had been in and out of the hospital since May 30, 2025, for chronic heart failure, having emergency stints, followed by pneumonia and other health concerns. These illnesses had left him weak, and he voluntarily went to the hospital to get stronger in order to be able to plant his garden in the spring. Wilbur was born in Jacksonville to the late Willie Rogers (Father), and Cora Rogers (Mother), who lives in Raiford. Wilbur retired with 20 years of service from the Department of Corrections, working at seven different institutions during his tenure

FSP, UCI, RMC,

APCI, River Junction, New River, and Baker CI. After leaving corrections, he owned and operated his own construction company and showed and championed American Staffordshire Terriers in his spare time. He enjoyed gardening, his dogs, and playing Bingo. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

He was preceded in death by his youngest son, Travis L. Rogers Sr., his brother, David Rogers; and David's wife, Debbie Rogers.

Survivors are his wife of 55 years, Rita Eileen Ellington Rogers; son, Wilbur (BB) Willie Rogers II, and BB's wife, Rita L. Rogers (who was like a daughter to him), of Lake Butler; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brothers, Earl Rogers and Dennis Rogers; and sister, Gail Underwood of Branson, Missouri. He left many nieces and nephews on both sides of the family.

At Wilbur's request, there was no funeral service and he was cremated. A Celebration of Life will be held at a time and place to be determined later. Rita wishes to express her deepest thanks to all of the condolences sent to the family on Wilbur's behalf. You do not know how much your thoughts and prayers have meant to her at this time.

PAID OBITUARY



## Raymond Starling

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of Raymond Hoyt Starling, a hardworking man who knew the value of sweat and toil. Born Jan. 1, 1935, and, after 91 full years, he left us peacefully at his home in Lawtey on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026. Hoyt had a long and proud career as a heavy equipment operator with Container Corporation for over half a century, but anyone who knew him would tell you he was a farmer at heart. His hands were meant for planting, and he spent his whole life tending to anything that could grow.

When he wasn't behind the wheel of some hefty machinery or working the land, you could find him out in the wild, finding peace in hunting and fishing. He was a devoted family man, having shared 55 wonderful years with his beloved wife, Evelyn Starling, who has joined him in rest. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lois Starling Tanner; and his siblings, Adel Starling, June Edwards, and Randolph Box.

Hoyt leaves behind a loving family that will carry on his legacy. His daughters, Donna Bentley and Sheila Starling, hold dear the memories of a father who instilled hard work and love into their lives. His grandchildren, Raymond Starling (Danielle Walker) and Stacie Bentley, remember him as a guiding light, while his great-grandchildren, Victoria Padgett, Lloyd Padgett, Ashley Starling, Ryan Starling, Justin Starling, Katelynn Starling, and Remington Starling, are better for the time they spent with their grandpa. Adding to the mix are stepgreat-grandchildren, Michael and Wyatt; and great-great-grandchildren, Oaklynn Ray and Waylon Padgett, who he also loved dearly.

As we come together to celebrate Hoyt's life and bid him farewell, we invite you to pay your respects at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler, Florida. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 9, followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. He will be laid to rest immediately following with service at Long Branch Cemetery.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the Starling family during this difficult time. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



## Wayne Thigpen

Wayne Darrell Thigpen, 74, of Starke passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was born in Gainesville on May 13, 1951, to the late Wallace L. Thigpen Jr. and Mildred Frith Thigpen. He was raised in Starke and Live Oak and graduated from Suwannee High School in 1971. He went on to have a long and successful career with the Florida Department of Transportation.

After 31 years of dedicated service, he retired in 2008. A few years prior to his retirement, he relocated to Bradford County, where he made Starke his forever home. When not working, he enjoyed the peacefulness of the outdoors and loved fishing alongside his brother, David. He held a deep and special love for his family and friends and truly cherished the time spent with them. He was also a devoted fan of Gator football and loved gathering with family and friends to watch football games. He was truly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joseph Thigpen; and sister, June Braham.

Wayne is survived by his loving brother, David (Debbie) Thigpen Sr. of Starke; along with several nieces, nephews, and friends whom he cherished.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the near future, and he will be laid to rest with his family at Santa Fe Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit [www.ferreirafuneralservices.com](http://www.ferreirafuneralservices.com) to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



## Audrey Thornton

Audrey Mae Cooper Thornton, a cherished mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at the ET York Care Center in Gainesville. Born on Dec. 6, 1951, in Starke, Audrey lived a life filled with love, devotion, and an unwavering commitment to her family. For many years, she touched the lives of those around her through her work as a cashier at Roy's Meat Market, where her warm smile and genuine kindness endeared her to countless customers. Later, she dedicated her time as a bus-aid for the Bradford County Schools, lovingly ensuring the safety and comfort of children during their daily commutes. She was a passionate cook, known for her great southern food that brought family and friends together around the table. It was through these meals that she shared not just sustenance but also her love and warmth, creating memories that will forever be cherished. Her proudest accomplishments were her beloved family, who she loved dearly and held the utmost pride for. She was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 54 years, Robert Thornton; her parents, Robert Cooper and Martha Cooper Nettles, siblings, Leon Cooper, Katie Harden, Thelma Cooper, Iola Cooper, Robert Cooper, Hubert Cooper, George Cooper, Harvey Cooper, and Joan Cooper; and great-grandchildren, Easton Thornton and Riley Rivera.

She is survived by her children, Sylvia (Rodney) Cayton, Glen (Dawnnya) Thornton, and Lisa Thornton; 10 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind her siblings, Bea Strickland, Betty Knight, William Cooper, and Henry Cooper; along with a host of nieces and nephews who will deeply miss her presence in their lives.

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, family and friends were invited to gather for a visitation at Fellowship Baptist Church in Raiford, followed by a funeral service. She was laid to rest beside her husband at Dyal Cemetery immediately following the service.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home was honored once again to serve the Thornton family. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



## Stacie Thornton

Stacie Colleen Thornton died Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, after a courageous battle with acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Survivors are her father and stepmother, Willard (Susan) Thornton; children, Clayton Thornton, Sheila Wimbley, Jenna Salcedo, and Lacey Wesley; seven grandchildren; her longtime partner and best friend, Shawn Cassell; and extended family.

The family is humbly seeking support to lay her to rest. Any donation, share, or prayer is truly appreciated during this difficult time. <https://gofund.me/aacdb5b19>

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**CITY SEAT 4 VACANCY**

**CLAY COUNTY SEAT VACANCY**

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- Clay County Seat applicants must reside in Clay County.

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# Indians win 1st-ever regional title

6 lifters will compete in traditional event at state, while 2 will compete in Olympic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Five placed first or second in helping the Keystone Heights High School girls weightlifting team win the Region 3-1A traditional championship on Jan. 31 at West Nassau High School.

Keystone had 49 points in winning the program's first regional title. The Indians finished 20 points ahead of runner-up West Nassau.

Kyle Scott and Chloe Still won their weight classes to automatically qualify for the Friday, Feb. 13 state finals. Scott had a 185-pound total (80-pound clean and jerk, 105-pound bench press) to take first in the 101-pound class, while Still topped the 139 class with a 310 total (155, 155).

Scott had the best bench press in her class by 10 pounds and finished tied in overall total with Jackson's Danielle Hagans. Scott was awarded the championship due to the fact she weighed in at 1 pound less than Hagans.

Still, who finished 30 pounds ahead of Alexia Cyr of Union County, had the best bench press in her class by 40 pounds.

The state meet will be held



Kylie Scott was the regional champ in the 101 class in the traditional event.

at the R.J. Funding Center in Lakeland, with competition beginning at 10 a.m.

Keystone will have four additional lifters compete at state in the traditional event as at-large qualifiers, including three who were runners-up in their classes: Kaylee Park, Ashlyn Brown and Ava Herman. Park had a 280 total (150, 130) in the 129 class, Brown a 285 total (145, 140) in the 169 class and Herman a 320 total (155, 165) in the unlimited class.

Tatum Hall also lifted her way to state with a third-place total of 265 (135, 130) in the 154 class.

Alyssa Sanford was a third-place finisher at the Region 3 meet as well with a 220 total (120, 100) in the 119 class, while four lifters earned fourth-place

finishes: London Williams with a 170 total (85, 85) in the 101 class, Natalie Layfield with a 230 total (125, 105) in the 129 class, Makenzi Brinson with a 260 total (125, 135) in the 154 class and Morgan Wilson with a 255 total (130, 125) in the 169 class.

Virginia Baxter had a seventh-place total of 145 (70, 75) in the 110 class, while Xana Briley and Bella Woods had ninth- and 10th-place finishes, respectively. Briley had a 200 total (95, 105) in the 183 class, while Woods had a 205 total (100, 105) in the 199 class.

## Park, Still qualify for state in Olympic

Keystone was the runner-up

in the Olympic event with a score of 30. That left the Indians trailing champion University Christian by seven points.

Park and Still earned at-large bids to state. Park had a second-place total of 255 (105 snatch, 155 clean and jerk), while Still had a fourth-place total of 240 (85, 155).

Layfield's fourth-place total of 225 (100, 125) left her 5 pounds shy of qualifying for state, while Herman was 10 pounds from advancing with a fifth-place total of 255 (100, 155).

Sanford was also 10 pounds shy of qualifying for state with a third-place total of 215 (95, 120).

Williams was runner-up in her class with a 155 total (70, 85), while Scott was two spots behind her with a fourth-place total of 135 (55, 80).

Hall placed fourth as well with a 235 total (100, 135).

Two lifters placed sixth: Brinson with a 220 total (95, 125) and Wilson with a 225 total (95, 130).

Taylor Buchanan was eighth in the 119 class with a 180 total (75, 105), while two earned ninth-place finishes: Briley with a 165 total (70, 95) and Woods with a 165 total (65, 100).

Keira Miller finished with an 11th-place total of 160 (60, 100) in the 139 class.



Riley Gibson won the Region 3-1A championship in the 119-pound class to automatically qualify for state.

# Gibson wins title, 1 of 3 Tigers to qualify for state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's Riley Gibson won her weight class at the Jan. 31 Region 3-1A girls weightlifting meet and will be one of three Tigers who'll compete at state.

Gibson had a first-place total of 245 pounds (115-pound clean and jerk, 130-pound bench press) in the 119-pound class, which tied her with West Nassau's Peyton Lynch. Gibson was awarded the championship due to the weigh-in tiebreaker.

After the clean-and-jerk session, Gibson was in sixth place after having unsuccessful lifts on her second and third attempts, but her best bench-press total was the best in her class by 10 pounds. Lynch was

unsuccessful on her third attempt of 125, which would've given her the championship.

By winning her class, Gibson automatically qualified for the state meet, which will be held Friday, Feb. 13, at the R.P. Funding Center in Lakeland at 10 a.m.

At-large qualifiers were determined by comparing region-level totals, with the result being that Union will have two additional state participants in Alexia Cyr and Briana Haight. Both were second-place finishers, with Cyr finishing with a 280 total (140, 140) in the 139 class and Haight finishing with a 370 total (170, 200) in the 199 class.

See UCHS, page 14

# BHS boys get go into district tourney off win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Maliki Cobarris poured in 25 points for the Bradford High School boys basketball team in a 49-46 win over host Crescent City on Jan. 30.

Nixon finished with eight points and had a team-high nine rebounds, while the Tornadoes also got six points from Breion Johnson and five points each from Steven Carter and Jy'Quez Cason.

Carter and Cobarris led the team in assists with four each, while Nixon had a team-high three steals.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak. Bradford (16-4) lost 55-36 loss on Jan. 27 to host Buchholz, which is 11th in the Florida High School Athletic Association/MaxPreps Class 6A power rankings, and then lost 53-44 on Jan. 29 to visiting Trenton, which is ranked fifth in the Rural Class power rankings.

The Tornadoes next play in the District 3-3A tournament. As the second seed, they have a first-round bye and will host either third seed Baldwin or sixth seed Keystone Heights in a semifinal game on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. If Bradford wins, it'll either travel to play top seed Newberry or host fourth seed Palatka or fifth seed Interlachen for the championship. That game will be played Saturday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.

# BHS girls win last regular-season game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ar'Nayshia Griffin made five three-pointers and finished with 25 points to lead the Bradford High School girls basketball team to a 43-24 win over visiting Trenton on Jan. 29.

It was the regular-season finale for the Tornadoes (14-9), who were scheduled to host a District 3-3A tournament semifinal game against Palatka on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. Bradford and Palatka are the second and third seeds, respectively.

A win in the semifinal game would put Bradford in the tournament championship game, which will be played Friday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. Bradford would travel to play top seed Newberry or host fourth seed Keystone or fifth seed Baldwin.

Against Trenton, Nyasia Lopey had eight points, while the Tornadoes also got three points each from Kah'myra Hankerson

and Riley Shuford and two points each from Wynter Barrington and Cayson Hampton.

Lopey led the team in rebounds with six, while Griffin had a team-high four steals.

Bradford also got three assists from Shuford and two blocked shots from Barrington.

The Tornadoes had three wins in their previous five games, beginning with a 33-31 victory at Eastside on Jan. 20. Bradford held a 31-22 lead entering the fourth quarter, but failed to score any points until Lopey made two free throws with five seconds remaining to give the Tornadoes the win.

Bradford got 19 points from Griffin, six points from Lopey, two points each from Hampton and Ky'lee Johnson and one point from Barrington and Jayda Sambolah.

Griffin and Barrington had 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively, while Johnson had seven. Barrington also blocked four shots.

After a 60-20 to visiting Newberry on Jan. 22, the Tornadoes lost 47-42 in overtime to visiting Oakleaf on Jan. 24. Griffin led the team in scoring against Oakleaf with 22 points. Bradford also got four points

from Johnson, three each from Barrington, Hankerson, Sambolah and Shuford, two from Hampton and one from Lopey.

Lopey grabbed a team-high seven rebounds, while Griffin had six. Griffin also added five steals and four assists.

Hankerson had four steals.

Bradford had no trouble host Suwannee on Jan. 27, winning 55-9. Hampton scored 14 points, while Griffin and Lopey each had nine. The Tornadoes also got six points each from Shuford and Kailyn Teal, four from Hankerson, three each from Jaleigha Bolden and Kamari Haygood and one from Mia Olesen.

Shuford and Lopey grabbed eight and seven rebounds, respectively, while Teal had six.

Griffin led the team in steals with six, while Shuford dished out a team-high five assists.

The Tornadoes played at Santa Fe on Jan. 28, getting 19 points, 10 rebounds and three assists from Griffin in a 50-37 win.

Shuford had 11 points, while Hankerson and Barrington had seven and five, respectively. Hampton, Haygood, Lopey and Teal each added two points.

Barrington and Hankerson grabbed nine and seven rebounds,

respectively, while Hampton had four steals.

Shuford added three steals.

# UCHS boys lose 55-52 in last game of regular season

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Garrison Smith gave the Union County High School boys basketball team a chance to tie the game after making two technical free throws, but the Tigers missed a three-point shot in the final seconds of a 55-52 loss to host Branford on Jan. 31.

Adian Manns and R.J. Odom finished with 16 and 13 points, respectively, for the Tigers (13-7), while Jackson Andersen-Davis and Jaylen Pierre each added eight. Union also got six points from Smith and one point from Montrell Woods.

The loss snapped a three-game win streak that began with a 70-47 win over host Dixie County on Jan. 26. Odom and Woods

See HOOPS, page 14

Bradford High School's Destiny Randolph followed her District 6-1A championship with a Region 3 championship. She topped the 183-pound class with an overall total of 275 pounds



# Bradford's Randolph makes state as a Region 3-1A champ

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

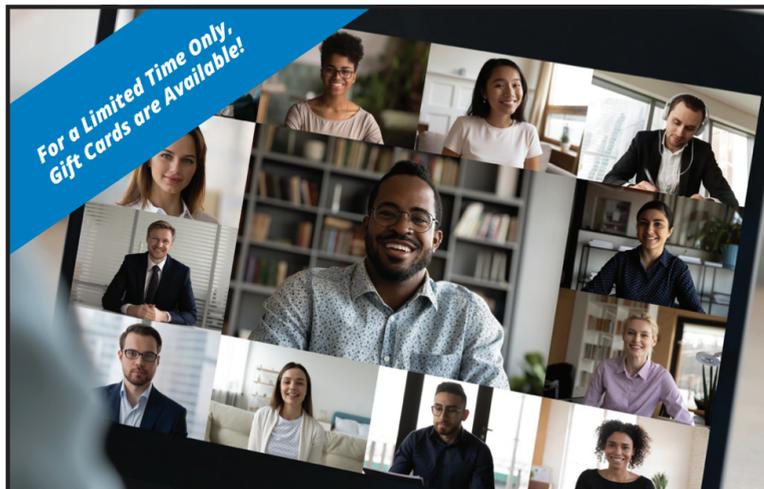
Bradford High School's Destiny Randolph punched her ticket to state by winning her weight class at the Jan. 31 Region 3-1A girls weightlifting meet at West Nassau High School.

Randolph, who won a District 6 title the previous week, had a 275-pound total (140-pound clean and jerk, 135-pound bench press) to win the 183-pound

class in the traditional event. She finished 5 pounds ahead of runner-up Riley Valent of Episcopal.

Valent held a 10-pound lead over Randolph after the clean-and-jerk session, but her opening attempt in the bench press was 90 compared to Randolph's 125. Randolph was successful on all three of her bench attempts,

See BHS, page 14



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### KHHS girls soccer team loses district match

Kylie Norman (left) and South Walton's A.K. Wickman are pictured in Keystone's 5-0 loss to the visiting Seahawks in the Feb. 2 Region 1-3A girls soccer quarterfinals. The Indians, who were the region's eighth seed, ended their season one week after winning the District 4 championship and finished with an 8-12-3 record. Photo by Amber V. Foley/APEX Photography.

### BHS, KHHS, UCHS baseball regular seasons start Feb. 10

The regular season for high school baseball begins next week, with Bradford, Keystone Heights and Union County high schools all playing their first games on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Bradford will host Hilliard at 6:30 p.m., while Union will also play a home game, which will be against Baker County at 7 p.m. Keystone will travel to Green

Cove Springs to play Clay at 7 p.m.

### KHHS boys win their 3rd straight game in basketball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School ended the regular season with a 51-40 win over host Bell on Jan. 30 to enter the District 3-3A tournament on a three-game win streak.

The sixth seed Indians (7-14) played third seed Baldwin (10-11) in the quarterfinals of the district tournament this past Tuesday. If they won, the Indians will travel to play second seed Bradford (16-4) in a semifinal game on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. The winner of that game will play top seed Newberry (17-3), fourth seed Palatka (10-15) or fifth seed Interlachen (5-19) for the championship on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. The highest seed will host.

Keystone's win streak began with a 57-40 victory at Stanton Prep on Jan. 27. Dereon Tocherman scored 15 points, while Will Begue and Zane Leger each had eight points. The Indians also got seven points each from Luke Bacorn and Destin Harnage, six from Cooper Barry, three from Parker Pescara and two from Baylor Ford.

Barry added nine rebounds, three blocked shots and three steals, while Bacorn and Leger each had six rebounds. Leger also dished out three assists, while Tocherman had three steals.

On Jan. 29, Keystone 32 points, nine rebounds and five steals from Tocherman in a 91-61 win over visiting Hope Christian.

Ford had 21 points, while the Indians also got 10 from Leger, nine from Rylan Bell, five each from Barry and Begue, four from Bacorn, three from Donald Hill and two from Harnage.

Bacorn and Leger grabbed eight and six rebounds,

respectively, while Harnage led the team in assists with seven. Leger and Ford had five and four assists, respectively.

Keystone also got four steals from Bacorn and three steals from Ford.

The Telegraph-Times-Monitor didn't have stats from the Indians' Jan. 30 win over Bell.

### HOOPS

Continued from page 13

each scored 14 points, while Smith and Manns had 13 and 10, respectively. Andersen-Davis and Tyrese Chandler had eight and seven points, respectively, with Pierre adding four points.

Odom and Darell Merriex each had five assists, while Woods led the team in steals with four.

Manns grabbed a team-high seven rebounds.

On Jan. 27, the Tigers got 22 points from Pierre and 21 points from Smith in a 56-48 win over host Suwannee. Union also got six points from Andersen-Davis, four from Manns and three from Woods.

Andersen-Davis pulled down 15 rebounds, while Pierre led the team in assists and steals with four each.

Odom also had four steals. Union hosted Bell on Jan. 29, getting 16 points from Smith in a 60-49 win.

Pierre and Woods each scored 10 points, while the Tigers also got eight from Manns, five each from Andersen-Davis and Odom, four from Erick Lasseter and two from Cadenz Merriex.

The Tigers will next play in the District 6-Rural tournament. As the number-two seed, they have a first-round bye and will host third seed Fort White or sixth seed Bell in a semifinal game on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. If Union wins, it'll play for the championship on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. against either top seed Trenton, fourth seed Taylor County or fifth seed Dixie County. The Tigers would travel to play Trenton, but host either of the other two teams.



Bradford's competitive cheer team earned a sixth-place finish at state. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Madison Sapp, Tenly Hardee, Amarie Jenkins, Cadance Rowan, Raelynn Moore, Lily Mercer, (back, l-r) Hayden Goodwin, Myia Sanchez, Jaimee Lin, Chloe Hales, Dezahlyn Brazell, Amy Prescott, Madalyn Ames, Kylee Kerr and Henry Prescott. Not pictured: Jelecia Johnson.

### BHS places 6th at state cheer meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's competitive cheer team placed sixth in Medium Non-Tumbling at the Jan. 23 Class 1A Florida High School Athletic Association Championships.

The Tornadoes, who completed their fourth year in competitive cheer, have qualified

for state every year. They earned a third-place finish at the 2025 state finals.

At this year's event, Bradford had scores of 28.9 in building, 27.9 in cheer and 18.3 in overall, resulting in a raw score of 75.10. The Tornadoes' final score, after the deduction of penalty points, was 72.60.

West Nassau won the state

championship with a score of 87.10.

Bradford earned its way to state with a third-place finish at the Region 1 meet. The Tornadoes, who finished behind champion Baldwin and runner-up Flagler Palm Coast, had a raw score of 79.10 (31 building, 30.6 cheer, 17.5 overall) and a final score of 77.10.

### BHS

Continued from page 13

getting 130 on her second attempt before lifting 135 on her final attempt.

Even if Randolph hadn't been

successful at 135, she would've won her class due to the weigh-in tiebreaker.

The state meet will be held at the R.J. Funding Center in Lakeland on Friday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m.

Bradford had two other lifters

compete at the Region 3 meet. Kolee LeMire had a seventh-place total of 210 (105, 105) in the 129 class, while Addison Thornton had a seventh-place total of 290 (140, 150) in the unlimited class.

### UCHS

Continued from page 13

Two Union lifters earned fifth-place finishes: Emma Handley with a 230 total (115, 115) in

the 129 class and Allaya Blocker with a 300 total (145, 155) in the unlimited class.

Courtney Manning had a ninth-place total of 200 (105, 95) in the 154 class, while Brooke

Hunt was ninth in the 199 class with a 215 total (110, 105).

Kieren Seay had a 12th-place total of 155 (80, 75) in the 183 class.

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1. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 01/07/2026. Limited time offer subject to change at any time without notice. See share certificate agreement for current rates, terms and requirements. Minimum balance to open share certificate varies per certificate with a maximum of \$5,000,000. After maturity, if you choose to roll over your CD, you will earn dividends according to the CD agreement or at the then current APY as stated on flcu.org at that time. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawals which may reduce earnings. Fees may reduce earnings. 2. Offer can be canceled at any time. Free membership is open to anyone within Florida Credit Union's 48 county field of membership. Anyone who has held a checking account with FCU in the past 24 months will not qualify for the incentive. Must be 18 years old or older to qualify. One per household. Credit approval and initial \$5 open deposit required. \$500 cumulative direct deposit amount must be made to this account within the first 60 days of account opening. Your direct deposit needs to be an electronic deposit of your paycheck, pension, or government benefit (such as SSD) from your employer or the government. Person-to-person payments (such as Cash App, Venmo, or PayPal) are not considered a direct deposit. If the requirements are met and the account remains open and in good standing for 90 days, the \$300 will be credited to the account. \$300 is considered interest and will be reported on IRS Form 1099-INT. Insured by NCUA. FCUMKINP0586-0126

Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.

## Shining Stars of the Week!

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

 <p><b>Waylon Loper</b> 1st Grade Hope Christian Academy <i>Waylon is always kind and helpful to his peers as well as his teacher!</i></p>	 <p><b>Brantley Atteberry</b> 2nd Grade Starke Elementary <i>Brantley has shown improvement in his behavior and continues to work hard and do his best.</i></p>
 <p><b>Brooklyn Hights</b> 5th Grade Bradford Elementary <i>Brooklyn is a shining star because she treats classmates and adults with kindness and respect. She also shows empathy and understanding towards her peers and is a complete joy to be around!</i></p>	 <p><b>Trace Hales</b> 2nd Grade Lawtey Elementary <i>Trace continues to grow and improve each day through his hard work and determination. He is always willing to learn, gives his best effort, and shows a positive attitude in everything he does. We absolutely love having him as part of our class community!</i></p>
 <p><b>Library Trip</b> 3rd-4th Grades Rainbow Learning Academy</p>	

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**Kindergarten Perfect Attendance**  
1st Quarter: Magnolia Duggan, Preslee Elixson, Holdyn Dukes, Elizabeth Settles, Milo Reid, Audrie Ranard, Hudson Padgett  
2nd Quarter: Brett Arnold-Muniz & Stewart Rogers



**Kindergarten A Honor Roll All Semester**  
Holdyn Dukes, Emersyn Lee, Hudson Padgett, Piper Waters, Milo Reid, Audrey Clyatt, Nash Cheevers, Georgia Caines, Hadley Bennett, Emory Bailey, Malia Short, Elizabeth Settles, Amelia O'Steen, Jessa Ford, Stella Jackson, Magnolia Duggan



**Kindergarten A Honor Roll 1st & 2nd Quarter**  
Presley Elixson, Aubrie Ranard, Cason Croft, Caleb Stewart, Julianna Bias, Irelynd Archer



**Kindergarten Citizenship Award**  
Malia Short, Jessa Ford, Angelica Pitts, Audrey Clyatt, Georgia Caines, Julianna Bias



**Kindergarten A/B Honor Roll**  
1st Quarter: Irelynd Archer, Stewart Rogers  
2nd Quarter: Preslee Elixson, Audrie Ranard, Cason Croft  
All Semester: Jase Brown



**Kindergarten Spanish 1st Place Family Tree:**  
Brett Arnold-Muniz  
Excellence in Pronunciation: Elizabeth Settles, Jessa Ford, Malia Short, Stella Jackson



**Kindergarten Spanish 1st Place Family Tree:**  
Hudson Padgett  
Excellence in Pronunciation: Holdyn Dukes, Emory Bailey, Emersyn Lee, Milo Reid



**1st Grade Spanish 1st place Family Tree:**  
Maverick Hendricks  
Excellence in pronunciation: Shep Dukes, Claire Dukes, Blake Muse



**2nd Grade Spanish Excellence in Pronunciation:**  
Perry Norman, Riley Griffis, Zoey Johns



**3rd and 4th Grade Spanish 1st Family Tree:** Ella Douglas  
Excellence in Spanish Spelling: Ashton Harvey  
Excellence in Pronunciation: Boone Dukes, Levi O'Steen, Ashton Harvey, Knox Barnett



**1st Grade A Honor Roll for the 1st Semester**  
Blake Muse, Chanci Miller, Matthew Shepherd Dukes, Claire Dukes, Conway Clemons



**2nd Grade A Honor Roll for the 1st Quarter**  
Zoey Johns, Riley Griffis, Chasity Miller, Waylon Seay



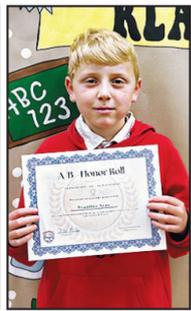
**1st Grade A/B Honor Roll 1st Semester**  
Maverick Hendricks, Bailey Holderfield, Teagan Parnell, Maddie Woods



**2nd Grade A/B Honor Roll 2nd Quarter:** Zach Tompkins, Zoey Johns, Chasity Miller, Waylon Seay, Riley Griffis



**3rd Grade A/B Honor Roll 1st Semester**  
Ella Douglas, Smith "Gunner" King, Peyton Williams



**3rd Grade A/B Honor Roll 2nd Quarter**  
Brantley Seay



**3rd Grade A Honor Roll 1st Semester**  
Walker Duggan, Aria Jackson, James Dukes, Levi O'Steen



**3rd Grade A/B Honor Roll 1st Quarter**  
Knox Barnett



**4th Grade A/B Honor Roll 2nd Quarter**  
Sadie Croft



**1st-4th Grade Citizenship Award**  
Sawyer Griffis, Maddie Woods, Blake Muse, Everly Wimpey, Riley Griffis, Ella Douglas, Levi O'Steen, Brantley Seay (Not Pictured)



**1st-4th Grade 1st Quarter Perfect Attendance**  
Ashton Harvey, Walker Duggan, Boone Dukes, Claire Dukes



**1st-4th Grade 2nd Quarter Perfect Attendance**  
Knylee Cochran, Perry Normal



**1st-4th Grade Perfect Attendance 1st Semester**  
Peyton Williams, Zoey Johns, Zack Tompkins (Not pictured)