

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, March 27, 2025

146th year, 37th Issue — \$1

Bradford County Fire Rescue responds to house fire

Bradford County Fire Rescue said it responded to a structure fire on March 22.

The agency said that firefighters found a building in the area of Southeast 59th Avenue in flames. Although the structure was a total loss, firefighters were able to save nearby residences.

Fire Rescue said no injuries resulted from the incident.



County, fair board agree on ownership, joint management

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County and the Bradford County Fair Association have signed an agreement to turn ownership of the fairgrounds over to the county in exchange for the county paying its construction debt.

The total of the remaining loan and interest is more than \$1.7 million, which will come from the county's reserve funding. The debt was incurred during reconstruction. The fair association was counting on a follow-up appropriation of state funding to repay the debt, which was then acquired by a private investor. When the association failed to meet the payment schedule, the investor began foreclosure proceedings.

According to BFA President Bob Milner, the transfer should take place in April, with the county receiving all keys and inventory no later than May 1.

The county has agreed to lease the property back to the fair association for one year with an option to renew for additional one-year terms. Management

will still be in the hands of the fair association, but its board will be reconstituted to include nine total members.

BCFA will choose four of the nine members. Bradford County commissioners will appoint the other five, one of whom will serve as chairman of the fair association board and only vote to break a tie. The board will meet in the sunshine at publicly noticed meetings and record and maintain public records.

Attorney Rob Bradley referred to the first year as a "trial run."

In addition to preserving the property as a fairground and prevent private ownership and development, the agreement also ensures county continued access to emergency shelter facilities constructed with state funds.

Commission Chairman Danny Riddick approved the structure of the agreement, which allows for fair association members over multiple decades to remain involved and share their accumulated

experience.

"I think it's a reasonable way forward and with an appreciation of the good that's happened in the past and acknowledgement of things that probably need to be repaired that happened in the past," Bradley said. "You're fixing those in the sense that you're removing this debt that is encumbering this, and then you're moving forward, brighter and bigger, but with control, so that if it goes bad, there's accountability — but it's not because you're not going to let it."

BCFA will host and operate events, including those hosted historically as well as others it has committed to or that are in the planning stages. In addition to the Strawberry Festival coming up this weekend, the Easter EGGstravaganza Egg Drop will take place April 19. Other planned events include a Beef Bash, Touch a Truck, a Spring Fair, Sounds on the Grounds concert series, the Starke Splash Bash, the Wannee Railroad Festival, two Six Gun Territory events and three wrestling shows.

DLPbank
Proud to Sponsor
WORTH NOTING



Bradford County Strawberry Festival this weekend

Scheduled to take place March 29 and 30, the Bradford County Strawberry Festival promises a delightful experience for all ages. Saturday hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival will take place at the Bradford County Fairgrounds. There is no fee to enter, and the Sheriff's Explorers will assist with parking for a suggested donation to support their summer training camp.

Organizers are promising 20 acres of family fun, both for local residents and the many visitors the festival welcomes to Bradford County. There will be no shortage of entertainment options to keep the whole family entertained throughout the weekend.

There will be plenty of sweet treats to sample, including freshly picked strawberries (take home a flat or two), strawberry shortcakes and more. There will also be a variety of food vendors to try, so come hungry and ready to eat.

The festival will feature an arts and crafts market showcasing the wares of new and returning vendors. Attendees will have the opportunity to browse a diverse selection of handmade goods, including unique jewelry, artwork, clothing and home décor items, making it the perfect place to find one-of-a-kind treasures to take home.

For more information and updates, follow the festival at www.facebook.com/bradfordcountystrawberryfestival.

First draft of Keystone Heights strategic plan delivered

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A consultant hired by the City of Keystone Heights delivered the first draft of a plan that city leaders said might guide the municipality through the next several years.

The draft results from February workshops city council members and staff held with Jeff Hendry, director of the Florida Institute of Government.

The report identifies several priorities the city intends to focus on over the next several years. Those include

- Improving the safety and accessibility to the

Lake Geneva waterfront areas and recreational facilities,

- Restoring water levels in lakes to support fishing and recreational activities,
- Addressing septic-to-sewer conversion and stormwater and floodwater management,
- Bringing businesses to the city: economic development,
- Managing the capacity of all infrastructure with new development projects, with the possibility of an additional 500 residents,
- Addressing citizens from outside the city limits using city resources and services, putting a strain on

infrastructure needs,

- Keeping people in Clay County informed and advocating for an industry to be located here to provide employment for residents,
- Development of trade school opportunities,
- The need for commercial/industrial properties,
- Insufficient downtown public parking areas,
- A lack of significant retail presence in the downtown strip to give people a reason to linger and
- No clear incentive to offer for annexation — limited to public works and city staff, no other municipal services available.

See PLAN, page 3

Bradford Animal Services awarded grant for new position

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Telegraph

A significant boost has come to Bradford County Animal Services with a grant from the Jacksonville Humane Society and Florida Leaders in Lifesaving. The sheriff's office division is one of six organizations in Florida selected to receive this critical funding, which totals \$45,000. The goal of the grant is to help the agency maintain or exceed a 90% save rate for animals in its care, continuing the county's transformation toward a more humane approach.

New position frees up animal control officers

Lieutenant Amanda Hinds, who oversees the division, expressed her gratitude and optimism about the impact of the grant.

"This grant money is going to provide us an extra position in the office full-time," she said.

The new position, Live Outcome Coordinator, is designed to relieve pressure on Animal Control Officers and improve the division's overall efficiency.

Hinds explained, "This will allow us to have two animal control officers in the field. The third person will be the Live Outcome Coordinator, who will remain in the office to handle incoming calls and animal intakes."



(L-r) Amanda Hinds, Supervisor Bradford County Animal Services, Adam Leath of the Jacksonville Humane Society, Christy Milligan and Melanie Chalker, Animal Control Officers, and David Lynch of the Jacksonville Humane Society.

The grant covers a civilian office position at animal services for one year. This new hire will play a vital role in gathering data to assist in

increasing adoptions, improving community relations, expanding rescue support, and developing volunteer and foster programs. The

ultimate goal is to ensure that the department can sustain its impressive live outcomes, something the shelter has already been excelling at.

Hinds proudly noted the division's current success, saying, "We are already meeting our 90% goal of live outcomes. In our 2024 review, the data showed we have a 94% save rate."

For Animal Services, this grant represents not just a financial lifeline but a validation of their efforts to reform and build on their progress.

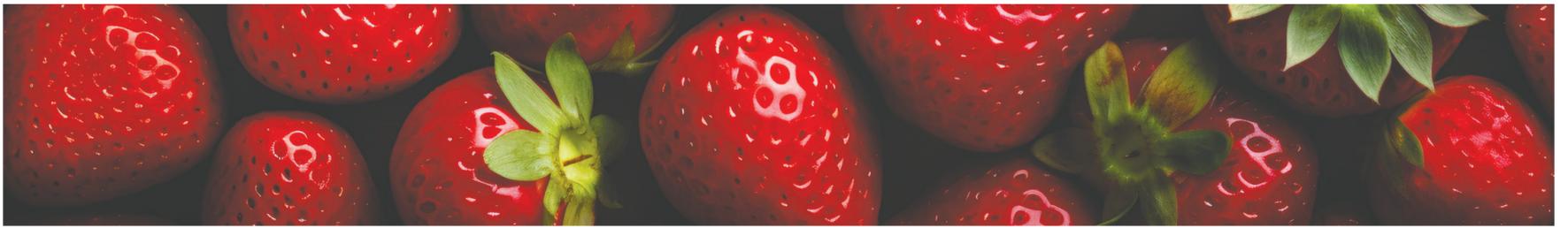
"We have already filled the spot," Hinds shared, underscoring the shelter's readiness to hit the ground running.

Operation Catnip

Alongside the funding for the new position, the Jacksonville Humane Society and Florida Leaders in Lifesaving awarded additional grants to cover two specific initiatives at Bradford Animal Services. The first is allocated to "Operation Catnip," a program aimed at addressing the county's stray and feral cat population through "Return to Field" and "Shelter Neuter Return" programs. These initiatives focus on spaying and neutering stray cats before returning them to their original outdoor locations, reducing overpopulation and improving the lives of community cats.

See GRANT, page 3





Visit Our Showroom!

TEAL TILE

CARPET ONE

Local Flooring Specialists • since 1976

Sales • Service • Installation

Free Estimates

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

THANK YOU

for allowing us the opportunity to serve you for the last 48 years.

Call for DIY specials!

12 months interest free financing on approved credit.

We will beat all competitor pricing!

M-F 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Saturdays by Appointment

• Vinyl • Carpet
• Ceramic Tile

• Hardwood &
• Laminate Floors

131 N. Cherry Street
Starke, FL 32091

DISCOUNT PRICING POWER
OF OVER 1,400 STORES!!

904-964-7423



Calling All Union County Seniors!

Enroll in Farm Share's Senior Food Program through April 15th!



In order to qualify, you must be over 60 years old, be an active resident of Union County, and earn an income below 150% of the poverty line.

Apply at one of these Union County locations:

Lake Butler Church of Christ
475 NW 2nd Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
Mondays, 4-6pm

Sardis Baptist Church
3859 SR -121
Worthington Springs, FL 32054
3rd Thursday of month, 11a-12pm

Santa Fe Baptist Church
7505 NW County Road 236
Alachua FL, 32615
2nd & 4th Saturdays, 9a-12pm

Fellowship Baptist of Raiford
12790 NE 221st Ct
Raiford, FL 32083
2nd Saturday, 9-10am

For more details, you can call Farm Share at 904-328-6158.

- Septic Tank Pump Out
- Liftstation
- Septic System Inspection
- Septic & DF Installation
- Sump Pumps & More

Scan the QR code for our Google Reviews:



PHILLIP McDONALD

PLUMBING AND SEPTIC
904-964-3737



CFC 1428926



(904) 964-3737

- Residential & Commercial
- Service Repairs
- Repipe
- Water Heater
- New Construction & More!

Bradford Strawberry Festival

March 29 & 30

The Fairgrounds in Starke, FL

Sat: 9AM-6PM • Sun: 10AM-5PM

NO Pets • FREE Parking • FREE Admission
ATM Machines

OUR SPONSORS



QUALITY DESIGNWORKS



Palms Medical Group
Your Home for health, wellness, life



#ItsBetterInBradford

www.BradfordCountyStrawberryFestival.com



Amount of fire assessment still in question, one workshop remains

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

While Bradford County commissioners seem resolved to approve a new special assessment for firefighting services this year, the amount of the assessment hasn't been decided.

To fully fund the fire department's budget would have required an assessment of more than \$300 per household, but the discussion has been set to fund 50% of the budget with a \$167 annual fee per dwelling unit, 11 cents per square foot for nonresidential buildings and \$47 for vacant nonagricultural parcels.

Commissioners are under pressure to finalize the fee amount for purposes of their budget, but also so participating municipalities can act to approve collection of the fee within their jurisdictions. Last year, Brooker, Hampton and Lawtley seemed prepared to cooperate, but the county commission held off for another year for further discussion.

The second fire assessment workshop held March 18 rehashed much of the information previously presented about station coverage, response times, fire insurance cost and the methodology behind distribution of the assessment among payers. Fire Chief Ben Carter shared his presentation again, saying any reduction in force or coverage

would hamper response and raise property owners' insurance costs.

For most residents, Carter said, the annual fire assessment could be broken down to the cost of four soft drinks per month in a local restaurant. He played a recent news broadcast about an arsonist whose brushfires threatened homes and the gratitude of a residents whose home was spared.

"I think the conversations of reducing services and cutting services to the public or closing stations, I think those conversations have to be put to bed. And I think that's for the citizens in this in this county, but also for the people that are responding to these calls, the men and women that work for me, that serve incredibly well for this county. And again, I applaud each of you for taking a deep look into our operations, into our budget, into those type things, and you're doing what you are elected to do as a county commissioner and take a deep dive into those things. But I'm confident in our response, I'm confident in our operation, and I'm confident in our budget as well," Carter said.

As proposed, there are exemptions for religious, nonprofit and government-owned properties. Fully disabled veterans would be exempt as well, as would any household whose members who could

show they were living at or below the poverty level. Vacant agricultural land is exempt by statute. Accessory structures such as barns and sheds are also not assessed.

There would be a grievance process for people who felt they were being unfairly assessed. Anyone with questions about their property can contact 904-966-6228 or fireassessment@bradfordcountyfl.gov. Carter assured Commissioner Diane Andrews that they would take the time to answer questions and hear concerns, even visiting properties to help resolve issues.

Commission Chairman Danny Riddick told fellow board members they need to come to a consensus on the amount of the fire assessment, acknowledging representatives from Brooker and saying the municipalities need that information to make some decisions. They need to follow the same schedule to get the assessment on the tax rolls this year.

Andrews recommended 25% budget funding, which would make the residential fee \$84 a year, 6 cents per square foot for nonresidential properties and \$24 for vacant nonagricultural parcels.

"I know that it's not going to cover what we need for the fire and rescue, but I think with us just starting this, that I would recommend the 25% be our

starting point," Andrews said.

Commissioner Carolyn Spooner said she was vacillating between 25% and 50% funding, saying she had heard from residents about approving a lower rate.

"I heard what my chief said about the cost of a burger and coke. Well, some folks, that's still a luxury," she said. Spooner was leaning toward the higher rate, however, because it might allow the board to reduce its property tax rate.

Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden said that is the overall goal, but recommended not lowering property taxes during the first year of the assessment so they know for sure how much more revenue will be collected and can make an educated recommendation for lowering the tax rate.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty said they are pulling from the general fund to pay for firefighting services, and he had thought the consensus of the board was to start at 50% funding so they could begin rolling back the property tax rate sooner than later.

Riddick also agreed with 50% and while another workshop has been set prior to the public hearings, he said they need to inform the municipalities of their intention.

It was suggested the board advertise a higher assessment

rate for the initial resolution. Every property owner would be mailed notice of a public hearing before adoption of the final resolution, and the board would have an opportunity to lower the rate based on the outcome of that hearing.

"One thing to keep in mind, if in future years you wanted to increase the assessment, you would have to notice every property owner again, unless you put some type of maximum rate on that notice that you mail to everyone. The downside of that is that when you send out notices with higher rates than you intend to adopt, it can scare people," said Stantec consultant Jeff Rackley.

Rackley also suggested that the timeline the county has set for final adoption might be too tight given the need to notify all property owners by mail and the statutorily required waiting period between the public notices and public hearing. He said the final adoption hearing could be pushed back. An early vote on the first resolution setting the maximum rate early is a good idea to inform the municipalities.

Riddick confirmed that the consensus of the board was to set fees to cover 50% of the fire department budget, but Brooker Mayor Gene Melvin said he didn't think his board would support more than 25%. He said he's been discussing

the assessment with people, particularly with those on fixed incomes.

"I don't know if the board would agree on \$167. That's my personal opinion. I can't speak for the rest of them, but after going through the county and going through the municipality out there in Brooker, these folks are hurting," Melvin said.

According to the mayor, there are complaints when the town raises water rates by 50 cents or \$1, and it's been years since the town has raised taxes, adopting a rolled-back rate every year out of concern for the residents.

At the same time, Melvin said the people of Brooker are excited about building a fire department.

"They're excited about a fire department there in Brooker and eventually get a rescue out there in Brooker. But as far as the \$167, I don't think right now it would fly out there in Brooker," he said.

Brooker has and continues to pursue full funding from the state to build and equip a fire station since its tax base can't support it. It is Bradford County, however, that will pay the recurring cost of staffing the station, and staffing the stations is the county's primary need for the fire assessment revenue.

The final fire assessment workshop is set for May 6 at 10:30 a.m.

PLAN

Continued from page 1

The report also identified the reasons city leaders think residents move to the city, including,

- Strong generational ties among residents,
- Natural beauty and the scenic lakes,

—Sense of safety and community,

—Bedroom community — a retreat from urban areas,

—Favorable tax structure and a municipal airport.

The vision statement council members and city staff developed during the workshops is "The City of Keystone Heights provides outstanding municipal services, preserves and

champions our lakes, ensures sound financial stewardship, and fosters a thriving community through secure infrastructure, responsible economic growth, and engaging events."

The plan also lays out specific goals for city leaders to achieve, including developing a significant infrastructure plan no later than September 2025, developing a three-year

funding plan by April 2026, hosting a volunteering event, and conducting an after-action review of the city's Chautauqua event.

The draft also dictates that the city's comprehensive plan be completed by March 2026 and that a business plan for a city museum and welcome center be developed.

The document includes an

assessment of Keystone Heights' strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths include the city's lakes, airport, and churches. City leaders emphasized the importance of the Lake Region's supportive business community, strong civic groups, and strong relationships with the county sheriff and tourism department.

Weaknesses include the area's isolation from Clay

County's population centers, a lack of financial resources, a lack of follow-through on previous plans, staff turnover, and frustration with gaining community engagement.

The report also singled out the city's urgent need to clean the trees and undergrowth in Lake Geneva as water levels rise.

GRANT

Continued from page 1

Another component of the grant is an incentive dedicated to the transfer of dogs from animal services to rescue partners. This funding will support the division's efforts to coordinate and facilitate transfers with partner organizations, allowing more dogs to find homes or sanctuaries outside of Bradford County.

"This opportunity has given us more points of reference for other groups to reach out to pull animals from us," Hinds explained, highlighting how this funding will strengthen the division's relationships with rescue groups and further its mission of saving lives.

Community Support Needed

While this grant funding is a tremendous step forward for Animal Services, Lieutenant Hinds emphasized that community involvement is still essential to their success. One area where help is desperately needed is fostering, particularly medical fostering.

"Medical fosters are going to be very important for us," said Hinds. "Anybody who has experience providing medication to animals around the clock would be very helpful."

Volunteers are also critical in helping the division reach its goals. Hinds noted that they are always in need of transport volunteers to assist with moving animals, as well as general foster families. In addition, the shelter relies on donations of supplies to operate smoothly.

"Donating supplies is also very important for us," Hinds added, urging the public to contribute items such as food, litter, kennels, and flea preventatives.

This grant marks the beginning of what Animal Services hopes will be many future funding opportunities.

"This is our first one," Hinds said. "We are hoping in the future

to get more grants."

To that end, the shelter is also seeking volunteer grant writers who can help it secure additional funding.

"We are looking in the future for anybody to volunteer for grant writing," she stated.

A new chapter for Animal Services

The division's recent efforts reflect a broader shift in its mission and reputation. Lieutenant Hinds acknowledged that the shelter had faced criticism in the past for high euthanasia rates, but she emphasized that things have changed.

"I know that Bradford has had a bad reputation in the past for euthanasia. We have new staff and a new chapter of our focus, which is to do all that we can to keep our mission on live outcomes," Hinds said. "We don't want to euthanize animals."

The future looks brighter for Bradford County Animal Services, and this grant from the Jacksonville Humane Society and Florida Leaders in Lifesaving will allow the shelter to continue its lifesaving work while building stronger relationships with the community and rescue partners. With a clear focus on live outcomes and a determination to keep improving, Bradford County Animal Services is well on its way to becoming a model of animal welfare in Florida.

As the division looks toward the future, Hinds remains optimistic and committed to ensuring that every animal in their care has the best chance at finding a loving home.

"Our primary goal is to maintain or increase our 90% live outcomes," she said.

For those interested in volunteering, fostering, or donating supplies, please contact Bradford County Animal

Services directly at 904-964-9200, or visit their website for more information.

Bradford High Class of 1964

Will meet at Cedar River Restaurant (Starke) on Thursday, APR. 10, 2025 at 1 P.M.

All graduates & spouses are invited.

Please let Jerome Kelly 352.538.0741 OR Eugenia Whitehead at 352.745.1828 know if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know how many. **BE THERE!**

10 Things the Devil Hates

1. The old Bloodstained Rugged Cross.
2. A lost sinner coming to Christ.
3. King James version Bibles being handed out world wide.
4. A Christian giving his or her testimony.
5. A studying Christian praying to a hearing Savior.
6. A local church praying for revival.
7. The old traditional gospel songs being sung by a dedicated people.
8. A Christian renewing fellowship with his or her savior.
9. The Devil hates the place he's going to.
10. The Devil hates everything God designed.

—Henry Hodges Lawtley, Fla.

Florida Twin Theatre

904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!

<p>THURSDAY 3/27 NOVOCIANE- 6:30</p> <p>SNOW WHITE- 6:30</p>	<p>FRIDAY 3/28 SNOW WHITE- 7:00</p> <p>THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER- 7:00</p>
<p>SATURDAY 3/29 SNOW WHITE- 4:00 & 7:00</p> <p>THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER- 4:00 & 7:00</p>	<p>SUNDAY 3/30 SNOW WHITE- 4:00 & 6:30</p> <p>THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER- 4:00 & 6:30</p>

Visit us on-line at www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com

Terry McCarthy

Complete TREE SERVICE & STUMP GRINDING

Free Estimates Provided!

We do tree removal, tree trimming, and skid steer mulching. We have a lift for those hard-to-reach heights and places! WE DO IT ALL!

904-364-7065 Fully Insured

THE ORIGINAL BRADFORD • UNION • CLAY COUNTIES

REGIONAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

Supported by Nearby Local Businesses, Services & Merchants who encourage you to

Worship in the house of the Lord... Somewhere this week!

<p>JBS JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY</p> <p>"I am the way, the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father but through me" John 14:6</p> <p>Starke 904-964-6078 Lake Butler 386-496-3079</p>	<p>R ROBERTS INSURANCE</p> <p>EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES</p> <p>Starke Keystone Heights Middleburg Lake Butler 904-964-7826 352-473-7099 904-282-1665 386-496-3411</p> <p>www.georgerobertsins.com</p>	<p>Bryan's ACE Hardware</p> <p>Starke 904-964-4642 Melrose 352-475-2400 Keystone Hts 352-473-4006</p>
<p>Southland Surveying & Mapping, Inc.</p> <p>Professional land surveying and mapping services since 1975</p> <p>www.SouthlandSurvey.com</p> <p>386-496-3107 Licensed AL, FL, GA</p>	<p>A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST</p> <p>V. Todd Ferreira</p> <p>Funeral Services</p> <p>Starke, Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Lake Butler, Chappell, 904-964-5757 Lake Butler, Chappell 386-496-1400</p>	<p>FOUNDATION CHURCH</p> <p>200 N. Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-6864 foundationchurch.cc info@foundationchurch.cc</p>
<p>JONES-GALLAGHER FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>Distinguished Caring Service for Over 50 Years</p> <p>Joe Gallagher - Owner Starke 904-964-6200 Keystone Heights 352-473-3176</p>	<p>DLPbank</p> <p>Starke Lake Butler Interlachen</p>	<p>Rev. Diane M. Wilson Pastor</p> <p>First Presbyterian Church of Starke 921 E. Call Street Starke, FL 32091</p> <p>"With God All Things Are Possible" Matthew 19:26</p> <p>Email: dadydiane@earthlink.net Twitter: @dadydiane Work: (904) 964-7937 Cell: (904) 956-1228</p>
<p>Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.</p> <p>Competitive Rates, non-profit, right here in your community</p> <p>Keystone District Office 352-473-4917 • clayelectric.com</p>	<p>After Church on Sunday's Dairy Freeze</p> <p>Powell's Dairy Freeze</p> <p>"Home of the Foot Long Steak" Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night! US 301 NORTH • STARKE, FL</p>	<p>Come Worship with us</p> <p>STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St • Starke, FL</p>
<p>DOUGLAS BATTERY OF STARKE</p> <p>We rebuild starters, alternators, generators. Auto • Marine • Cycle Batteries 407 N. Temple • 964-7911</p>	<p>THE Pentecostals</p> <p>Come Experience Jesus! Service Times: Thursday 7 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.</p> <p>2324 State Road 16 NE Starke, FL 32091 (904) 452-1202</p>	<p>Morgan Road Baptist Church</p> <p>3784 NW CR 233 Starke</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Evening Worship 6pm 964-4422 Wednesday Evening 7pm</p>

REGIONAL OUTREACH HERE • thousands weekly • 904.964.6305
classads@bctelegraph.com

Church News

Spring Fling for Earth Day

Faith Presbyterian Church's annual Spring Fling will be held Saturday, April 5, at 2738 SE S.R. 21 in Melrose from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is in association with Earth Day. There will be vendors with information about the environment, local businesses, a plant sale and farmers market, a blood mobile, food and more.



in Starke (Reno community). Everyone is invited to join communities come together in prayer. The walk will extend for three miles and will end at noon.

Sunrise service for Easter

Bayless Highway Baptist Church invites you to Easter Sunday service at Water Oak Creek Ranch — 6720 NW 203rd St., Starke. The sunrise service begins at 7 a.m. and will be followed by a pancake breakfast at 8:30. The worship service begins at 10 a.m. Lunch will follow at noon, and there will be an egg hunt at 1 p.m.

be participating in a community-based 3K Prayer Walk to combat crime and drugs, make the community aware of the poor, sick, and homebound, and to protect the children and law enforcement.

Prayer will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, at Greater Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 747 Pine St.

Prayer Walk returns for third year

Pastors, prayer warriors, intercessors, and clergy from the greater Starke Community will

Letters

Thanks for supporting food pantry

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and many volunteers that operate the Bradford Food Pantry, we want to thank you for your generous support in 2024. In 2024, we averaged approximately 100 families receiving food each week, primarily because of the generosity of folks receiving this update. The Bradford Food Pantry has been serving the needy citizens of Bradford County since 1989. Many of the original founders and donors have passed on, but many left legacies of service and were an example to their children who give regularly in honor and memory of their loved one or a close friend. Regardless of how frequent or how much, every donation helps tremendously. Many of the families receiving food include children or veterans, as well as homeless individuals, who count on the Food Pantry for the majority of their meals. Many do not have stoves, refrigerators, etc. so the volunteers at the Pantry customize the box of food we give the homeless to the extent possible. Every week we see individuals coming to receive food on bicycles or grocery carts "borrowed" from a local grocery store.

Many churches within Bradford County and many individuals give regularly, regardless of the amount. However, having moved from the small building on Andrews Street across from Powell's Dairy Freeze to our current operations site on the fairgrounds parking lot (the former Gold Key Farm Supply building), our expenditures for 2024 were over \$15,000 more than our receipts. As we all know, that math cannot work but so long.

Our monthly need for cash, including utilities, insurance, purchase of food, maintenance on coolers and freezers, the generator, the pallet jack, etc., are over \$3,000 per month. Most of our food is donated through the following entities—Winn-Dixie of Starke, Walmart of Starke, Waste Not-Want Not in Orange Park, Feeding Northeast Florida out of

Jacksonville, and folks like you all who bring your BOGOs each month. Also, we have to give a big shoutout to Davis Express trucking company who regularly supplies us with cases of salads and frozen chickens that were excess orders to the grocery stores to whom Davis Express delivers. Again, if we had to purchase all of our food, even at discounted prices, we would have to raise several thousand dollars more each month or cut back seriously on the number of clients we are able to serve.

Last month, we had to replace approximately one-third of our inside store/office floor area, including gutting all the original timbers. Fortunately, Terry Gaines gave us a heavily discounted labor rate for his construction team to rip out all the old floor and tiles and put in new lumber, insulation and moisture barrier since the building is up off the ground. Vicki Teal and Robert Starling at Teal Tile/Carpet One donated all the floor tiles and baseboards necessary to install the new floor and Jackson Building Supply provided lumber and hardware at their cost. Still, the cost of the project was over \$5,000. Clay Electric Foundation previously provided their maximum grant amount of \$20,000 that allowed us to purchase and install a much-needed 12x8 walk-in freezer, which truly has been a godsend. The First Christian Church of Starke, a long-time supporter, provided over \$13,000, which allowed the Pantry to purchase an emergency generator and accompanying L.P. gas tank so that we now have continuous power in the event of loss of electrical power.

Our biggest need at the moment is to replace two older two-door coolers with three-door coolers, as maintenance is getting too costly on the older units. The cost for a new three-door commercial reach-in freezer has nearly doubled since the pandemic to about \$6,000 apiece. We lovingly ask our donors and churches to prayerfully consider whether you could specifically help with this need.

In addition to all the great supporters/donors to whom this update is being supplied, there literally would be no Bradford Food Pantry without the incredible

volunteers who show up faithfully every week regardless of weather conditions. The Bradford Food Pantry has approximately 25 volunteers every Friday as we distribute food from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. with drive-through service; the clients never get out of their vehicle. The volunteers begin arriving around 8 a.m. and do not leave until after all clients have been serviced and food returned to appropriate freezers, storage areas, etc. As of this writing, we served 125 clients on Friday, January 17. The volunteers also work Mondays and Wednesdays receiving, storing and separating food.

So, while our needs are still many, the blessings we observe are even more. I cannot count the number of clients who have tearfully thanked us while saying this food will have to last them for two weeks. It is the generosity of folks reading this letter that makes this all possible.

While most clients do receive some form of government assistance, that does not allow enough money to purchase food for their family for a month, usually not even close. We thank God for each and every one of you reading this bulletin who selflessly give so that underserved/underprivileged men, women, boys and girls can at least go to bed most nights not feeling like they are starving.

We have some big things to work on in 2025 and hope to provide up to date information regarding the Food Pantry activities on a regular basis. If you have any questions about the Food Pantry, please call the main phone number of 904-964-3984 and leave a message. We check the messages every day. Or you can email me at bobmilner53@gmail.com with any requests and I'll get back to you ASAP. The following is a list of the officers for 2025: Bob Milner, president; Allen Crawford, vice president; Wanda Smith, secretary; Carol Milner, Treasurer; board members Linda Markman and Herb Sellers; Transportation Coordinator Marty Best.

Again, we thank all of you for your generosity and pray you will be blessed with good health in 2025.

*With a grateful heart,
Bob Milner,
President*

Stations recalled in smoke scare

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter said his agency responded to an electrical fire at a Lawtey liquor store on Tuesday, March 25. However, the

personnel from two stations were recalled before they reached the scene.

Carter said smoke from a faulty light fixture damaged the interior of the building on Madison Street. Lawtey firefighters responded to the alarm, mitigated the threat,

and ventilated the building.

The chief added that there were no active flames during the incident and that units from Sampson City and Starke were initially paged to respond but were recalled to their stations before arriving in Lawtey.

Union schools take FTE hit

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The finance director for the Union County School District said the state reduced its estimate of what the district will receive in state funding by nearly \$671,000 resulting from the district's third calculation of full-time equivalents compared to the second calculation.

Florida's Department of Education reimburses public school districts based on the number of students each district serves and surveys student populations throughout the year. The first survey was taken in July, the second was in October, the third was in February, and the fourth will be in June.

Finance Director Renee Prevatt told school board members during their March meeting that,

due to the February survey, the state forecasted that the district would receive \$670,887 less in state funding than after the October survey.

At the end of last year, board members approved a package of budget cuts that resulted in \$831,623 of savings. Those cuts included reducing district-paid employee benefits, eliminating a cellphone stipend for some district employees, ending a contract completion supplement for non-instructional workers, and ceasing operations of the district-owned daycare.

Board Member Becky Raulerson told her colleagues that the drop in state funding for public school districts reflects the legislature's strategy to improve school choice for parents and make state funding available to alternatives. She added that larger

school districts have borne the brunt of that strategy up to now, but now Union County schools are facing the new challenge.

"This is why public schools started selling themselves," she said. "We never had to do that. We're the Tigers, right? We're this awesome school district."

The school board member added that, through no fault of the administration, she hears complaints from unhappy teachers that could also dampen enthusiasm and enrollment for the district.

"I go to the gym with unhappy teachers, and they complain about this, and they complain about that," she continued. "Who wants to send their kid to school with a teacher that's unhappy about everything?"



The central rectangle shows where the covered pavilion will be located. The Porta Potty will be relocated.

Starke Rotary building covered pavilion at Santa Fe boat ramp

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The Rotary Club of Starke will provide shelter at Santa Fe Boat Ramp as one of its projects for the coming year.

Starke Rotary President John Williams asked and received the county commission's blessing to move forward.

"It's something that's very needed," Williams said of providing a covered pavilion for the boat ramp located off C.R. 21B.

The club will be reaching out to its district foundation as well as the Clay Electric

Foundation. The estimated cost is less than \$25,000, and the goal is to complete project between September 2025 and February 2026.

Williams is also director of The Arc of Bradford County and said the organization would donate two picnic tables for the pavilion.

County Commission Chairman Danny Riddick said the pavilion is something he has been trying to do for years.

"For the fishing tournaments and stuff like that, or people that just come down there to eat lunch or whatever, it will be a nice place to actually look out over the lake," he said. "I just thank you so much. I'm excited about this."

"We're excited about this project," Williams said. "We think it's going to benefit the

county, benefit everyone who utilizes that space out there."

Rotary Club of Starke members are part of an organization that has been serving the community for 88 years.

In other business:

—the commission approved a previously discussed five-year Capital Improvement Plan, after adding \$170,000 to purchase upgraded election tabulation equipment for Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang. Seyfang said she doesn't intend to spend that much and is reducing the number of tabulators to cut recurring costs. Server upgrades are also required. The purchase would be made from her next budget, so approving a higher amount helps ensure there are no surprise budget amendments due to price increases.

It's Tax Time!

• Corporate and Individual
Income Tax Services

• Business Consulting
including Quickbooks
& Accounting.

REDDISH & WHITE

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

134 East Call Street • Starke, FL

(904) 964-7555

A.W.R

MOBILE DETAILING & PRESSURE WASH

Cars • Trucks • RVs • Vans • Semi Trucks
Dump Trucks • Farm Equipment

CALL
386-336-0669

Rural County Days 2025



Photos shared by Bradford County Fire Chief Ben Carter show local leaders in Tallahassee for Rural County Days dishing up strawberry shortcake and reminding state leadership the importance of supporting rural counties. Among the locals shown in the photos are Carter, Bradford County commissioners Chris Dougherty, Carolyn Spooner and Diane Andrews, County Manager Scott Kornegay, Starke commissioners Danny Nugent and Bob Milner, and business leaders Pam Whittle and Chrissy Thompson. In the photo above, rural leaders pose with Rep. Chuck Brannan and Rep. Daniel Perez, Speaker of the House.



Commissioners Carolyn Spooner and Diane Andrews



Chrissy Thompson and Christopher Page



A delicious assembly line.



County Manager Scott Kornegay and Chief Carter

Counties fighting property tax elimination proposal

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Republican legislators are pushing for a dramatic overhaul of the state's tax system by eliminating property taxes altogether, replacing the lost revenue with budget cuts and a higher sales tax.

The proposal, which would make Florida the only state without property taxes, concerns local governments

which rely on the revenue to provide essential services.

Supporters of the plan argue that eliminating property taxes would provide homeowners with much-needed financial relief, particularly as housing costs continue to rise.

To offset the loss of revenue from property taxes — which fund schools, law enforcement and emergency response — the proposal includes a significant increase in the state sales tax, which

currently stands at 6%. While the exact increase has not been finalized, estimates suggest it could rise to 10% or higher.

Critics point out that sales taxes are more regressive than property taxes, disproportionately impacting low- and middle-income households by driving up the cost of everyday goods.

The proposal could leave cities and counties scrambling to recover the lost revenue to pay for police, fire

departments, schools and infrastructure.

Starke Commissioner Bob Milner was one of many local officials in Tallahassee in the past couple of weeks advocating on behalf of residents, local governments and other community agencies.

"As usual, smaller cities and those of us in North Florida are victims of South Florida's growth," he said. "Their insurance rates and

property taxes have gone up substantially since the 2008 debacle."

Except for a couple of growing counties, North Florida hasn't experienced this, Milner said.

"I understand why the folks in South Florida are raising heck, but the 37 counties that are rural or smaller are still struggling just to meet public safety needs since our total ad valorem will not even cover police and fire."

While the proposal has gained traction among conservatives who favor tax reductions and smaller government, it could face an uphill battle in the legislature. Some moderate Republicans have expressed hesitation about the long-term implications, while Democrats have vowed to fight the measure.

Scholarship available for medical studies

The Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship is available for the 2025-26 school year. Students must apply by Friday, May 30, to be considered for this coming fall and spring semesters.

This scholarship is for students going into any field of study related to medicine, e.g. nursing, pharmacy, radiology, or any other health care related fields of study, including medical research, cancer research, or clinical psychology or sociology. The scholarship is provided in memory of the late Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone, a registered nurse who died from breast cancer.

Applications are available at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center in Starke, Bradford High School guidance office, North Florida Technical College, Starke City Hall and CareerSource North Central Florida's Starke

Office.

For further information you may contact Carolyn Brown Spooner at 904-964-5807.

Applications being accepted for Betty Warren Scholarship

Applications are being accepted now for the \$1,500 Betty Warren Memorial Scholarship, which will be presented by the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, at its May 5 meeting in the Keystone Heights City Hall boardroom.

Students may obtain applications at guidance offices at Bradford and Keystone Heights high schools, the Santa Fe College Andrews Center in Starke or the Santa Fe College Watson Center in Keystone.

The deadline for submission is March 31.

BHS Class of 1975 planning reunion

The Bradford County High School Class of 1975 will hold its 50-year reunion on Saturday, June 21, at the Starke Woman's Club. The social will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7.

The next planning meeting will be on Monday, April 14, at Beef O'Brady's in Starke beginning at 11 a.m. If you have not been to a prior meeting, you are encouraged you to attend as plans are finalized. Help with locating classmates is also needed. Please contact Joy Tetstone at 352-745-6672 or Randy Martin at 352-235-6410.

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.

OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
CITY OF LAWTEY, FLORIDA
April 1, 2025

TO VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE THAT IS PRINTED ON THIS BALLOT, FILL IN THE OVAL AT THE LEFT OF THE CANDIDATES' NAME. DO NOT MAKE STRAY MARKS.

Para Votar por un Candidato que este impreso en esta boleta, a la izquierda del nombre del candidato.
No Dejes Una Marca Imprecisa.

CITY COUNCIL – GROUP 3
Vote for ONE/Votar Por UNO

Joshua Bell

Kendra Butler Griffin

END OF BALLOT/Final d la Papeleta

Wawa celebrates Starke grand opening

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Telegraph

The long-awaited arrival of Wawa to Starke was met with great fanfare on March 2, as the Pennsylvania-based convenience store chain celebrated the grand opening of its first location in Bradford County. The event was not just about introducing a new store, but about embracing the values of community engagement and customer service excellence that Wawa has become known for across the nation.

The celebration kicked off with performances by the Bradford High School band and cheerleaders, adding a lively atmosphere to the festivities.

In true community spirit, local first responders, firefighters, and members of the sheriff's office took part in a friendly competition called "Hoagies for Heroes."

The teams battled it out to see who could build the most hoagies in just two minutes, with the winner earning bragging rights, a trophy, and the opportunity to have Wawa donate \$1,000 to the charity of their choice.

City Commissioner Danny Nugent was also present to welcome Wawa to Starke, emphasizing the excitement and support the community has for the new addition. As Wawa General Manager Breanne Quintana explained during the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Wawa is more than just a convenience store—it's a company deeply committed to customer service, family values, and supporting the communities it serves.

Commitment to Excellence

According to Quintana, Wawa's dedication to customer service stems from the six core values that guide every aspect of their business. One of those values, "execution excellence," is particularly focused on maintaining high standards and ensuring that each interaction



Starke City Commissioner Danny Nugent welcomes Wawa to Starke.

with customers is a positive one.

"We have standards that we uphold, and it's my job as a general manager to ensure that everyone is held accountable," said Quintana. She added that this commitment to accountability extends to every aspect of the customer experience, from the moment someone walks into the store to how concerns and complaints are handled.

When asked how WAWA manages customer service concerns, Quintana explained the system in place.

"We have what we call VOTC, or Voice of the Customer," she said. Wawa utilizes QR codes located around the store to invite customers to share their experiences. These messages are reviewed daily by the management team, allowing for quick responses to any issues that arise.

"If that's not good enough for the citizens, then we have a corporate office that we offer a phone number for on the bottom of the receipt," Quintana added.

The GM further explained that complaints or feedback received through the corporate office are addressed promptly, with the area manager and general manager working together to resolve any

issues.

She said the company's proactive approach to customer service ensures that concerns are addressed swiftly, whether through simple coaching for staff or, in more serious cases, escalation to higher management or HR.

"We want to be the best and strive for that every single day," Quintana emphasized, underscoring the importance of maintaining high service standards.

Weddings inside the store

The manager said that one of the unique aspects of Wawa that sets it apart from other convenience store chains is the strong emphasis on creating a family-friendly atmosphere.

For Quintana, Wawa is not just a place to grab a hoagie or coffee—it's a place where relationships are formed and memories are made.

"There's so much we can say that we would love to share with the community," said Quintana. "Family vibes, creating friendships, memories. For instance, I met my husband



Wawa General Manager Breanne Quintana cuts the ribbon during the Starke store's grand opening.



Hoagies for Heroes competition between Bradford Sheriff's Office and the fire department.

at a Wawa. There are a lot of love stories that have been created. We've had weddings inside the store."

This sense of community extends beyond the store walls, as the company makes it a priority to support local events and organizations. Through the Wawa Foundation, the company provides financial and logistical support to community initiatives, such as donating tents, banners, or funds for local festivals and schools. In fact, Wawa has contributed over \$182 million in donations to communities over the years, making them a key player in community support and outreach.

"We have the Wawa Foundation," explained Quintana. "Whenever someone comes up to us and says something like, hey, the Strawberry Festival is coming up, we have them go online and say this is what we would like from you guys, whether that's a tent or a banner or physical support. Sometimes we donate \$500 or \$1,000 for a football banner for the schools."

A Warm Welcome to Starke

Quintana noted during the grand opening, that the welcome from the Bradford County

community has been nothing short of heartwarming.

"This is the fifth or sixth opening I've done in my career, and I can say this is the warmest welcome that we've ever experienced. I really appreciate that the community welcomed us," she said. "Usually we say, 'Welcome to Wawa.' When they were coming in, they were saying, 'Welcome to Starke.' That is one thing I want the community to know is that I really do appreciate the warm welcome."

Age has no limit for a beautiful yard

BY GINNY GEIGER AND
BARBARA ANDERSON
Garden Club of the Lakes

Age has no limit for a beautiful yard. This statement has been proven true by Richard and Virginia Story. By looking at them and seeing their yard, you would have no idea they were both 87 and proud of it. As they rightly should be.

They started their life together after they both lost their spouses, fell in love and got married. What a fun love story they have. After they were married, they lived in Melrose for their first seven years together. Because Richard had worked for years in the meat department of Keystone Heights Hitchcock's, they knew and really loved this area. It just seemed right to move here. So...they left Melrose, bought this home at 4143 Southeast 1st Avenue in Keystone and have lived there for five years.

Understanding they needed to take breaks while working

in their yard, they have a neat little front porch where they enjoy their coffee every morning and take a break from the sun during the rest of the day. Then there is the special swing in the middle of the yard, right beside a large jasmine vine. That is their favorite spot, especially when the jasmine is in bloom. Virginia glowed when she talked about it, not only for the lovely fragrance of the jasmine, but also it was a birthday present from Richard to her for her 84th birthday.

When they first bought their home, the yard was way more "busy" than they wanted. Richard spent a good bit of time digging up many plants, of course keeping the ones they really liked.

When we first drove up to their house, Barbara saw a tree that immediately grabbed her attention. She said it was a Norfolk Pine. Ginny has one which looks nothing like this one, so she questioned the

Stories about it. Sure enough, it is a Norfolk Pine that Richard planted five years ago that got killed back during the serious cold spell we had here and has grown out in a most unusual way.

There were several trees in their yard when they moved in. The most note-worthy ones are the three 80-foot pine trees that were invaded by bugs and had to be taken out. Needless to say, that made the Storys really sad, but there are still a few left that survived.

This yard has some really interesting plants and a most interesting bird camera. We will take them one at a time. The BEST one is their flaming red pentas (did you know that "pentas" is both singular and plural for this plant?) which they bought at the Garden Club of The Lakes plant sale last year. They said it was their best buy. Richard planted other pentas, but "ours" was by far the prettiest. Because they attract butterflies,



Richard and Virginia Story. By looking at them and seeing their yard, you would have no idea they were both 87 and proud of it. As they rightly should be.

Richard and Virginia particularly like them.

Please come to this year's plant sale on April 5th from 9:00 to 1:00 at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2738 SR 21 in Melrose and find some really interesting plants at great prices.

Then there is the fruit tree that was an experiment from a local nursery. They grafted an apple tree and a pear tree and it is blooming. This year will be the test of the flavor. Planted right beside the experimental tree is an orange tree. How fun it is to live far enough south to have your own fruit trees.

Now to the bird camera on one of their bird feeders. It was a gift from Virginia's son Ken who has the technical knowledge to set it up for them. Somehow, when a bird lands on this particular feeder, it activates something that alerts Richard and Virginia, they open the app on their phones and watch the video. That is an explanation of all we were able to understand, and all they understood to explain to us. Technology has long since passed the understanding of us older folks.

Then there is Pepper, their very best friend. About 10 years ago, their pastor found Pepper,



When a bird lands on this particular feeder, it activates something that alerts Richard and Virginia, they open the app on their phones and watch the video.

just a little puppy, running down State Road 100. He gave Pepper to the Storys who have spoiled him ever since. If you ever wonder how much Pepper means to them, wonder no more. By the front door is a big rock inscribed with "Story" and a smaller one with just a "P".

A variety of other plants in this most interesting yard are Gerber daisies, azaleas, 2 roses, a Florist Kalanchoe, gardenias, a sego palm and beautiful blooming red bud trees. Most of these were planted by Richard AND

REMEMBER – he is 87 years old!

The highlight of our visit, after Pepper, was Virginia's playing the piano for us as we were leaving. It was just a little taste of heaven as her nimble fingers ran across the keys like a concert pianist AND REMEMBER – she is 87 years old!

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

JACOB TOMS
SALES ASSOCIATE





WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
BRADFORD COUNTY AND TORNADO
COUNTRY FOR TEACHING US THE
VALUES OF HARD WORK, HONESTY,
INTEGRITY, AND HOW TO TREAT
PEOPLE RIGHT. WE TAKE PRIDE IN
HELPING OUR CLIENTS FIND THE
PERFECT VEHICLE TO FIT THEIR
NEEDS. WE HAVE NEW AND USED
FULL SIZE TRUCKS, SUV'S, AND CARS.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING
US THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EARN YOUR BUSINESS.



Your Dealer For Life!
904-364-7954
checkbeckford.com

PJ KNIPP
SALES MANAGER



Lake Butler Elementary sparks inspiration with career day

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Times

On March 14, Lake Butler Elementary School opened its doors to a wealth of career opportunities during its annual Career Day event.

Coordinated by longtime guidance counselor Maria Kish, who has been organizing the event for 30 years, Career Day provides students with hands-on exposure to a variety of professions.

The goal is to get students thinking about their futures by introducing them to career options they may never have considered before.

The event was held throughout the school's campus, with career stations set up both outside and in classrooms. These stations represented a broad range of professions, from law enforcement and medical services to wildlife management and mental health counseling. The event was structured to ensure that students were fully engaged, with 20-minute rotations allowing them to spend focused time at each station, accompanied by their teachers.

Career Day stations were strategically assigned by grade level, so that younger students were introduced to basic career concepts, while older students were able to explore more complex and in-depth professions. The idea, according to Kish, was to create an experience that would be both engaging and educational for each age group.

"I try to focus with Pre-K all the way up to 4th grade," she explained, "so we get a little bit more of the in-depth occupations at the fourth-grade level. These students are going to be able to sit down, and they're going to listen to our judge, or they're going to listen to a mental health professional about their job."

Hands-on experience

One of the highlights of



Trooper Brett Pittman demonstrates how an expandable baton works.

Career Day was the variety of hands-on exhibits that students could explore. Outside, police cars, a fire truck, and even a medical helicopter were available for students to inspect up close. The K-9 dogs and their handlers were also on hand to demonstrate how the dogs assist in law enforcement. Wildlife rangers were present to discuss conservation efforts, providing a glimpse into the world of environmental protection.

Kish emphasized that this hands-on aspect of Career Day is what really captivates the students and helps make the event a memorable learning experience.

"Getting students hands-on experience is the key to keeping their interest," Kish explained. "The communication with the teachers then gets them the opportunity to ask questions, what expectations do you have? What are grades? Why do they matter? Do you have to have a college degree to get this job?"

Lake Butler Elementary School serves nearly a thousand students, and organizing an event

of this magnitude requires the support of not only teachers but also the broader community. Kish spoke highly of the collaboration involved in pulling off the event each year.

"It is a lot of hands-on deck, and a lot of people help work it out," she said. "The teachers are great. We rotate, and it's a great opportunity to allow the youth to know what is in your community."

Community involvement has always been a cornerstone of Career Day at Lake Butler Elementary. Many parents volunteer their time, sharing their career experiences and demonstrating various aspects of their jobs.

"We have parents that are willing to volunteer, and through them, we get to know different careers," Kish said.

Connects the classroom to the real world

This year, Union County Judge Mitchell Bishop made an

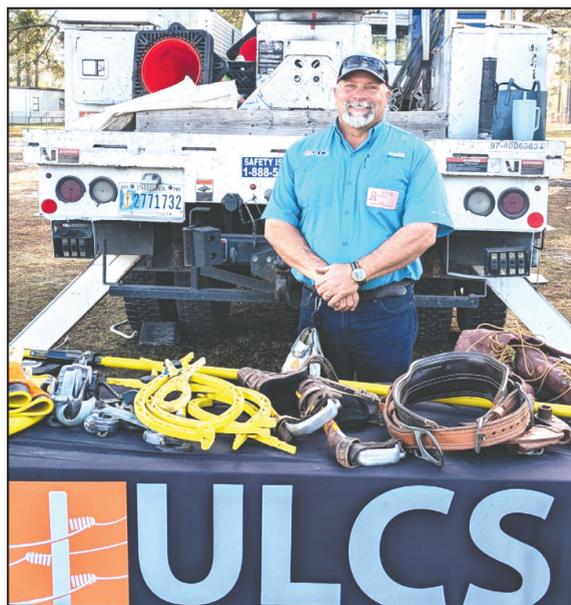
appearance, providing students with an opportunity to learn about the justice system. Additionally, mental health professionals, prison staff, and various public service workers were on hand to share their experiences with students.

"The prisons provide quite a few different occupations. We partner with RMC and UCI. They've always provided us with support," said Kish, noting that careers in corrections and rehabilitation offer diverse opportunities that students may not otherwise be exposed to.

One of the key benefits of Career Day is the connection it fosters between classroom learning and real-world application. By giving students a chance to explore different careers, the event helps them see the value of their education in a tangible way.

"Career day generates a conversation in the classroom between teachers and students," Kish noted.

Students begin to ask questions about how what they're learning now relates to their future.



Lineman Jeff Gainey of Utility Lines Construction Services poses in front of his truck.

This natural curiosity allows teachers to discuss topics like the importance of good grades, the value of higher education, and the wide range of career paths available.

For example, older students may realize that becoming a judge or a mental health counselor requires many years of study and dedication. Younger students, on the other hand, may be inspired by careers they hadn't considered before, like becoming a firefighter, police officer, or wildlife ranger. Kish explained how these conversations often help students better understand the purpose behind their education. "The communication with the teachers then gets them the opportunity to ask questions, what expectations do you have? What are grades? Why do they matter?" Kish said. "Do you have to have a college degree to get this job?"

Despite the challenges of organizing such a large event, Career Day at LBES is a highly anticipated tradition that has proven its worth year after year.

"We're a student population of almost a thousand kids," Kish said. "Our resource officer coordinates for me the outside stations—the fire truck, the ambulance; we have the K-9, we have the wildlife rangers."

Kish also noted that many of the school's own staff members, including mental health counselors, are actively involved in the event, helping students make meaningful connections with the adults in their community.

As Career Day came to a close, the students of Lake Butler Elementary School left with more than just a fun experience. They walked away with a greater sense of the opportunities that lie ahead and a clearer understanding of how the lessons they are learning in school can help them achieve their future goals. Career Day not only opens students' eyes to potential careers but also inspires them to start thinking about their futures early, laying the groundwork for lifelong learning and success.



Union County Sheriff's Office Captain Lyn Williams (left), Deputy Robert Fipps and Administrative Assistant Ginger Thompson demonstrate police equipment.



RN & Paramedic Jesse Hebert shows students where to put their fee to exit the helicopter.



Officer Cheyenne Westrich with the Florida Department of Corrections explains the smell power of their K-9 dogs.



Rangers J. Hedman and C. Wall demonstrate how to put out a fire.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Miranda Barnett, 26, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 15 for DUI.

Accused of forcing sex at knife point

David Brown, 30, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 19 for battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, kidnapping-false imprisonment, and obstructing justice.

According to an arrest report, on February 22, the 21-year-old victim told deputies she and the defendant, her live-in boyfriend, were in Duval County when the couple argued in the car, and she became fearful for her life.

The woman told deputies that Brown drove to a wooded area off County Road 225 between Lawtey and Kingsley Lake and forced her to climb over a fence, walk through the woods, and undress.

He then forced her to have sex at knife point. After the couple returned to the vehicle, the victim said Brown became angry after looking through her phone. The two struggled over the device, and the victim called 911. The defendant then fled the scene.

A FLOCK camera spotted the defendant's vehicle north of Lawtey. However, deputies were unable to locate him.

The victim denied consent to a rape test kit but provided deputies with a written statement.

Accusations of cheating, struggle over phone

Ralph Byrd, 50, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 16 for battery and resisting an officer.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim argued over the defendant allegedly cheating on the victim.

The argument progressed to a struggle over a phone, with both parties falling to the ground and the defendant allegedly choking the woman. Byrd claimed the phone the woman was holding was his. However, a deputy later found Byrd's phone on the ground in front of his camper.

Byrd blamed the incident on the victim, adding that she had been previously Baker Acted and was "acting out."

William Carter, 34, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 19 for probation violations.

Stephen Crews, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 18 for battery and selling, manufacturing, or delivering a controlled substance.

Travis DeSue, 35, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 20 for an out-of-county warrant.



Brown

Report: woman got power of attorney, stopped caring for couple

Sarah Early, 46, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 31 for abuse of an elderly or disabled adult.

According to an arrest report, after two elderly adults granted Early power of attorney, she abandoned her responsibilities of being their primary caretaker.

One male victim was confined to a wheelchair following a stroke, and had limited use of the left side of his body. He said he had not had a bath in two weeks and had been wearing a soiled adult diaper for a week and a half.

"(The victim) also stated that he was insulin-dependent, and Sarah had not been downstairs in at least two days to provide any prescribed medicine," wrote deputy Michael Gillick in an arrest report. "(The victim) was utilizing empty plastic bottles to urinate to prevent urinating on himself."

Another female victim reported that Early intentionally left downstairs windows open overnight when the temperature dropped to 40 degrees. The victim added that the controls for the heater were upstairs and that, being confined to a bed and wheelchair, she had no way to reach the controls. She also said she was dependent on several prescription medications and was unable to take them due to the defendant's lack of care.

Gillick confirmed that the downstairs windows were open and that upon his arrival, the temperature was 60 degrees. He added that the male victim's bed, wheelchair, and person were covered in fecal matter.

According to Gillick, Early told him that she had been the couple's sole caregiver, and they required care 24-7.

"Sarah stated that she stopped providing care for (the couple) about three days ago when paramedics told her that she wasn't responsible for them," wrote Gillick. "Since that time, she had provided no medical or hygiene care for either party."

Cracked windshield, suspended license, spat on deputy

Nyviera Green, 34, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 20 for resisting an officer, battery, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

According to an arrest report, a deputy pulled over the defendant because of a cracked windshield and discovered that the driver had a suspended license. After receiving a notice to appear for the misdemeanor, the defendant attempted to drive away after the deputy told her she could not continue to drive with a suspended license. According to the officer, Green refused



Byrd

commands to exit the vehicle and resisted the officer's attempts to extract her. After two bystanders helped the deputy restrain Green, she kicked the patrol car's divider and door and attempted to open the rear door. She also spat on the deputy's arm and leg.

Arrested after visit to Bass Pro Shop

Adam Henslee, 40, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 17 for battery. According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim got into an argument while returning from Gainesville's Bass Pro Shop over the defendant playing music loudly in the vehicle. The victim said Henslee was intoxicated and head-butted him during the argument at home. The two continued fighting in the backyard, with Henslee throwing the victim on the ground and the victim punching Henslee twice to get him off. A female witness to the melee said she retreated to a bathroom while experiencing a panic attack, adding that she saw Henslee consume a Crown Royal after arriving at home and saw the defendant head-butt the victim and push him to the ground while holding onto his shirt.

Jamie McClellan, 40, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 19 for withholding support.

Kimberly Padgett, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 16 for trespassing. A patron of the Budget Inn Motel called deputies after the defendant caused a disturbance outside the patron's room, according to an arrest report. A manager at the motel informed the responding officer that Padgett had been trespassed from the property, and the deputy confirmed the defendant had earlier received a trespass warning.

Kelli Perry, 43, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on March 19 for trespassing. Deputy K. Mazingo wrote in an arrest report that after a family member in Hampton reported that the defendant was on her property after receiving a trespass warning, the officer confirmed that the warning was in effect until January 1, 2026. Perry was on the victim's property when the deputy arrived.

Union

Cornelius Curtis, 45, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 19 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jordan DiPaul, 29, of Middleburg, was arrested by Union deputies on March 22 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

According to an arrest report,



Early

a deputy conducted a traffic stop on DiPaul because his vehicle tag lights did not eliminate the tag for a minimum of 50 feet. Dispatch confirmed that the defendant's license had been suspended, and the officer discovered a white circular container under the driver's seat, which tested positive for methamphetamine.

Brandon Dixon, 32, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 18 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Eric Hanson, 43, of Howell, Michigan, was arrested by Union deputies on March 22 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to an arrest report, a deputy stopped a vehicle in which the defendant was a passenger for failure to come to a complete stop at a stop sign.

During the stop, a deputy asked Hanson if he had any weapons or illegal substances in the vehicle, to which the defendant replied, yes, illegal narcotics. The officer later found methamphetamine and a glass pipe in the defendant's pockets.

Erika Horton, 34, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 22 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, an out-of-county warrant, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to an arrest report, a deputy conducted a traffic stop in which the defendant was a passenger due to an expired tag.

The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended or revoked license, and dispatch confirmed that Horton had an outstanding arrest warrant in Alachua County.

After both defendants were placed in the back of patrol cars, deputies searched their vehicle and located a small purple purse between the center console and the passenger seat. The handbag contained a glass pipe with residue which tested positive for methamphetamine.

Johnny Kimball, 48, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Sergio Lluveras, 38, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Union deputies on March 18 for a probation violation.

Shannon Miley, 38, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on March 19 for a probation violation.

Rachel Rosier, 29, of Lawtey, was arrested by Union deputies on March 20 for a probation violation.

Cole Seay, 26, of Bell, was arrested by Union deputies on March 18 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and a probation violation.

According to an arrest report, during a traffic stop in which the defendant was a passenger, deputies asked Seay to exit the vehicle and saw him drop a small plastic bag by the rear driver-side tire.

The substance inside the bag tested positive for methamphetamine.

Jacob Williams, 22, of MacLenny, was arrested by Union deputies on March 21 for a probation violation.



Green

Clay

Ciro Ruiz, 38, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on March 18 for operating a motor vehicle without a valid license.

Barking dog leads to accused car burglar

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Bradford County Sheriff's Office said it arrested a man in connection with a series of car burglaries throughout the City of Starke after tracking him to a North Temple Avenue motel and executing a search warrant of his room.

Deputies arrested Renard Hudson, 49, of Starke, on March 20 for seven burglaries and thefts between February 19 and March 16.

According to court papers, one break in the case appeared to occur after a March 15 Glendale Street burglary, in which the victim told deputies he heard a dog barking between midnight and 1 a.m.

The victim told deputies he did not investigate the disturbance, but later that morning, he discovered that his car had been burglarized. A phone mount, a charging cable, his vehicle registration, and an FM transmitter were missing.

Couldn't remember all the vehicles he broke into

Detective Logan Hough wrote in an arrest report that he obtained video surveillance from the Bradford County Courthouse complex, one block from the victim's residence. Around the time the victim recalled hearing the barking dog, Hough discovered video of a black male wearing a red t-shirt and pants walking from America's Best Value Inn between the courthouse and the courthouse annex.

"At 11:35 p.m.," wrote Hough, "the subject can be seen walking to the parking lot just west of G's BBQ. The subject walks around the vehicles there and attempts to open doors." Hough added that the subject was recorded walking toward Glendale Street at 11:37 p.m. and back toward the motel at 12:32 a.m.

The detective reported that when he questioned Hudson about the Glendale Street break-in, "he stated he couldn't remember all the vehicles he broke into."

The sheriff's office also accused the 49-year-old of six other car burglaries.

St. Clair Street

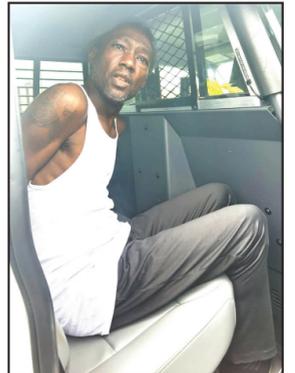
On February 19, a St. Clair Street resident discovered a black male inside his car with the door shut. The victim told deputies that the intruder told him he didn't steal anything and added that he was running from the police. After the defendant left the property, walking westbound, the victim's wife said her wallet was missing from the center console of her car. Deputies canvassed the area but could not locate the defendant.

Andrews Street

On February 24, an employee of a transportation service reported that one of the organization's two buses parked



Henslee



According to a Bradford sheriff's detective, Renard Hudson, "stated he couldn't remember all the vehicles he broke into."

on Andrews Street had been burglarized.

Hough wrote in an arrest report that the bus's back door appeared to have been pried open and that one of the organization's tablets was missing. During a search of the defendant's motel room, a prescription drug bottle belonging to the employee was found in the room.

Pratt Street

On March 12, a Pratt Street woman told deputies she checked her bank account before purchasing iced coffee and noticed two unauthorized transactions at a Starke Circle K that had occurred that morning. She then checked her vehicle and discovered that her purse had been stolen. Deputies later recovered video from the store at Brownlee Street (State Road 16) and North Temple Avenue (U.S. 301) and later identified the defendant as the man using the victim's bank card.

Church Street

On March 13, a South Church Street resident told deputies that a battery pack used to start her car was missing from the back seat. According to an arrest report, the defendant admitted to breaking into the car and stealing the battery pack, as well as loose change.

Walnut Street

On March 16, a woman reported that while she was cleaning a Walnut Street church, her purse had been stolen from the passenger floorboard of her SUV. She added that cash, prescription drugs, and bank and credit cards were in the handbag. Hough wrote in an arrest report that during questioning, Hudson recalled the break-in at the church.

North Temple Avenue

On March 16, a truck owner reported that his vehicle, parked at a North Temple Avenue auto repair shop, had been burglarized and that bank cards and his Apple watch were missing. He also noted that his bank card had several unauthorized purchases from Circle K at Brownlee Street and North Temple Avenue. Hough and another investigator wrote in an arrest report that video from the auto repair shop, convenience store, and an oil change business on North Temple Avenue appeared to show the same person in the vicinity of the burglary, making purchases using the victim's bank card. Hough reported that Hudson admitted to the break-in.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

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

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate

Tigers win Football Weightlifting Conference trophy

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School had four individuals place first and three place second in winning the team championship at the Football Weightlifting Conference meet on March 14 at UCHS.

The Tigers, with 54 points, topped three schools. Bradford was second with 42 points, followed by Bell with 36 points and Chieffland with 28 points.

Natwon Richardson won the 119-pound class with a 260-pound total (130 bench press, 130 power clean), while Drew Simmons took first in the 139 class with a 400 total (200, 200).

Wyatt Elixson and C.J. Ivey won the 169 and 199 classes, respectively. Elixson had a 465 total (255, 210), while Ivey had a 565 total (300, 265).

Placing second were Jason Buie with a 265 total (105, 160) in the 129 class, Canaan Harris with a 345 total (165, 180) in the 139 class and Phoenix Bryant with a 515 total (245, 270) in the 238 class.

Alec McClellon and Rhett Prevatt placed third and fourth, respectively, in the 154 class. McClellon had a 500 total (175, 225), while Prevatt had a 395 total (185, 210).

Three lifters besides McClellon earned third-place finishes: Jesse Chaikin with a 465 total (230, 235) in the 183 class, A.J. Rivera with a 450 total (225, 225) in the 219 class and Edward Durant with a 460 total (245, 215) in the 238 class.

Union had four place fifth:



Wyatt Elixson, shown competing in the power clean, won the 169-pound class.



C.J. Ivey lifts his way to the 199-pound class championship.

Wyatt Bradley with a 375 total (185, 190) in the 169 class, Matthew Rogers with a 470 total (235, 235) in the 199 class, Ramsey Schenck with a 405 total (195, 210) in the heavyweight class, Ayden Adkins with a 365 total (200, 165) in the 219 class and class.

Tornadoes finish in 2nd place

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Daniel Banda, Brian Cliffin and Bryce Daniels won their weight classes and helped Bradford High School finish second as a team at the Football Weightlifting Conference meet at Union County High School on March 14.

The Tornadoes had 42 points, which left them trailing only Union, which had 54 points. Bell and Chieffland had 36 and 28 points, respectively.

Banda took first in the 154-pound class with a 440-pound total (265 bench press, 175 power clean), while Brian Cliffin won the 219 class with a 545 total (290, 255). Daniels had a 620 total (365, 255) to place first in the heavyweight class.

Jy'Quez Cason was runner-up to his teammate Cliffin in the 219 class, finishing with a 480 total (275, 205).

Two other Bradford lifters placed second: Jackson Parmeter with a 440 total (215, 225) in the 169 class and Cayden Carter with a 545 total (295, 25) in the 199 class.

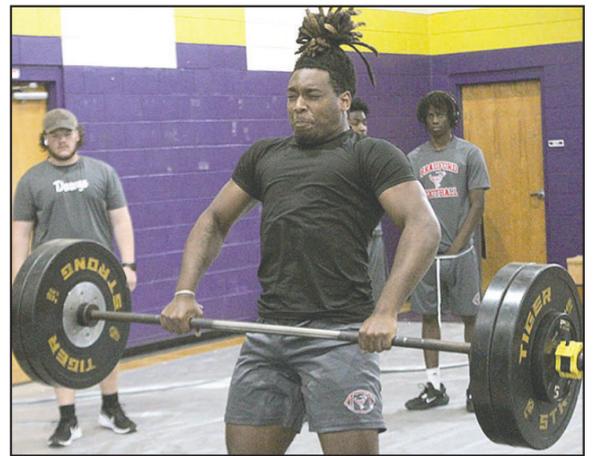
Jeremiah McKenzie was third in the 199 class with a 505 total (260, 245), while Jacob Ferguson was third in the heavyweight class with a 530 total (285, 245).

Maliki Cobarris and Jordan Cason earned fourth-place finishes. Cobarris had a 230 total (135, 95) in the 129 class, while Cason had a 385 total (205, 180) in the 169 class.

Earning fifth-place finishes were Brayden Smyth with a 390 total (215, 175) in the 154 class and Tyler Schaeffer with a 435 total (255, 180) in the 183 class.



Bryce Daniels bench presses 365 pounds as part of his overall win in the heavyweight class.



Brian Cliffin competes in the power clean. He was the overall winner in the 219-pound class.

KHHS wins both team titles at Clay County Championships

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School won the team championships in both Olympic and traditional at the Clay County Boys Weightlifting Championships, which were hosted by KHHS on March 14.

The Indians had seven individuals place first or second, earning 41 of the team's Olympic score of 59. That put Keystone 17 points ahead of Oakleaf. Fleming Island was third with 40 points, followed by Middleburg (39), Clay (24) and Ridgeview (15).

Winning their weight classes for Keystone were Colton Hollingsworth, with a 350 total (145 snatch, 205 clean and jerk) in the 129 class, Layton Wright, with a 420 total (175, 245) in the 169 class, and Jackson Herman, with a 540 total (235, 305) in the unlimited class.

The Indians had four class runners-up in Elijah Mize, who had a 310 total (135, 175) in the 119 class, Kyle Perkins, who had a 485 total (200, 285) in the 199 class, Trase Wooden, who had a 480 total (200, 280) in the 219 class, and Brayden Wester, who had a 440 total (170, 270) in the 238 class.

Dylan Currington and Pete Bostic earned third-place finishes: Currington with a 290 total (115, 175) in the 119 class, and Bostic with a 410 total (185, 225) in the 238 class.

Clark Byrnes and Damien Dunlap were fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 154 class. Byrnes had a 395 total (175, 220), while Dunlap had a 390 total (150, 240).

Zane Leger had a fourth-place total of 465 (195, 270) in the 199 class.

Keystone had two add to the team score with sixth-place finishes: Aiden Nobles, with a 295 total (125, 170) in the 129 class, and Brodyn Adams, with a 340 total (145, 195) in the 169 class.

Not earning points, but placing in the top 10, were: Connor Mooneyham, with a seventh-place total of 255 (110, 145) in the 139 class, Caleb Alvers, with an eighth-place total of 250 (95, 155) in the 139 class, Talon Lybarger, with an eighth-place total of 365 (155, 210) in the 183 class, Hunter Crumpton, with a 10th-place total of 305 (130, 175) in the 183 class, Luke Bacorn, with a seventh-place total of 395 (165, 230) in the 219



Jackson Herman won the unlimited class in the Olympic event at the Clay County Championships. He was one of three Olympic champions for Keystone, which also had four traditional champions.

class, and Andrew Snider, with a 10th-place total of 350 (135, 215) in the unlimited class.

Traditional results

Seven placed first or second to help the Indians compile 62 points in the traditional event, putting Keystone 11 points ahead of Oakleaf. Middleburg was third with 40 points, followed by Clay (34), Fleming Island (17), Ridgeview (8) and Orange Park (8).

Four individuals won their classes: Mize, with a 410 total (175 clean and jerk, 235 bench press), Hollingsworth, with a 430 total (205, 225), Perkins, with a 585 total (285, 300), and Wooden, with a 540 total (280, 260).

Placing second were Dunlap, with a 465 total (240, 225), Leger, with a 560 total (270, 290), and Wester, with a 555 total

(270, 285).

Four finished third in their classes: Currington, with a 345 total (175, 170), Wright, with a 480 total (245, 235), Bostic, with a 500 total (225, 275), and Herman, with a 600 total (305, 295).

Jagger Lancaster also added to the team score with a fourth-place total of 455 (200, 255) in the 154 class.

Not scoring points, but placing in the top 10, were: Nobles, with a seventh-place total of 335 (170, 165), Alvers, with a seventh-place total of 300 (155, 145), Mooneyham, with an eighth-place total of 290 (145, 145), Adams, with a ninth-place total of 400 (195, 205), Lybarger, with an eighth-place total of 445 (210, 235), Bacorn, with a seventh-place total of 455 (230, 225), and Snider, with a ninth-place total of 430 (215, 215).



Count on us for your family's care.

UF HEALTH FAMILY MEDICAL GROUP – STARKE

UF Health Family Medical Group welcomes you to visit our team of board-certified family medicine and pediatric providers. We deliver compassionate, quality care to adults and children, from infancy through adolescence. From checkups to comprehensive care, we're here for you and your family.

UFHealth
FAMILY MEDICAL GROUP – STARKE

1550 S. Water St.

To schedule an appointment:
Call 904.452.2312, or visit
UFHealth.org/starke

The Genuine. The Original.



Overhead Door Company of Gainesville
• Garage Doors & Openers • Springs, Cables & Sections Replaced
• Residential & Commercial • Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured
Sales - Installation - Service

352-468-2733 www.OverheadDoor.com

3 Bradford players sign to play college football

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Three Bradford High School seniors signed letters of intent to play football at Division III colleges during a March 7 signing ceremony in the school's auditorium.

"I'm ready to embrace all the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead," said Barron Walden, who'll be going to Cincinnati's Mount St. Joseph University.

Travis Johnson and Michael Oliver both signed with the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio.

"It feels good going to the

same college as a high-school teammate," Johnson said.

Oliver said he and his teammates put in a lot of effort to put themselves in position to play at the next level.

"We've been rocking together hard," Oliver said. "It just feels good. It's all paying off — all the practice and all the hard work."

Bradford now has had a total of nine seniors participate in three separate signing ceremonies this school year. Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said that speaks to just how good the football program has been, though he added it's not because of him.

"It's a blessing for us. Everybody wants to give me the credit when we win, and I'm the dumb one when we lose," Rodgers said, "but the bottom line is this: We win football games because we've got talented players, and we've got really good assistant coaches."

Still teammates, but now Purple Raiders

Johnson and Oliver will continue to suit up together, going from a strong high-school

program to a strong NCAA Division III program. Mount Union was the national runner-up last season. The Purple Raiders have played for the national championship 15 out of the last 19 years and have won 13 titles.

"I just want to be a part of a good program that wins a lot," Oliver said.

Oliver, who'll be going to Mount Union as a receiver, said he was considering Valdosta State and Webber International, too.

"I just feel like (Mount Union is) where I belong," he said.

Rodgers said Oliver's size

and strength will give him an advantage over a lot of defensive backs he'll face.

"He should be able to block DBs really easily, and he'll be able to go up and catch the one-on-one balls," Rodgers said of the 6-0, 180-pound receiver.

Oliver caught 13 passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns for the Tornados in 2024. He'll get more opportunities to catch balls at Mount Union.

"With our offense, his touches in the pass game were limited," Rodgers said. "A lot of times, it was the slot receivers getting most of the work, and most of the

time we were able to run the ball efficiently and kill the clock and win football games.

"He'll get a lot more touches at the next level. Those places are going to throw the ball more than we did. You'll see him make a lot more plays, I think."

In 2024, seven receivers caught passes for Mount Union, which attempted 387 passes. Four receivers caught 40 passes or more.

"They definitely spread the ball around a lot," Oliver said.

Oliver said he needs to

See COLLEGE, page 12

Highly Rated Local Businesses!

Phillip McDonald Plumbing
740 S Orange St,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-3737



"STOP looking for a plumber -- you found the best one right here!!!! I wish there was some way to convey how great I think McDonald Plumbing is, how much I trust them and what outstanding work standards, morals and ethics this company holds itself to. It's difficult to find a company you can trust, but McDonald Plumbing is that company for me."

Teal Tile Carpet One
131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-7423



"Teal Tile was great helping us replace the tile in our master bedroom. Sierra was particularly helpful with the selection and ordering of tile and scheduling the installation of the tile."

Bradford County Eye Center
292 Lafayette St,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-8076



"I had a great experience here. This was my first time and they were patient and very informative. Thanks!!"

DLP Bank
811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-7830



"Regina is a valuable asset to your organization! She's so professional, helpful, kind, knowlegable, she helped me above and beyond! She's GOLDEN!"

North Florida Technical College
609 North Orange Street
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 966-6764



"This school is one of the top institutions for LPN training in North Florida. Mrs. McCord and Mrs. Dickinson are outstanding additions to the nursing program, and I am deeply appreciative of their guidance and support."

Starke Golf & Country Club
15501 NE 14th Ave, Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-5441



"Course has come a very long way! Thomas and his crew have put in a tremendous amount of work and it show! I was skeptical as to how well it would be given the short turn around time Thomas has been managing. But the course is very playable! And you can't beat the value! Hope to see it only progress more!"

Stor-Mor of Starke
12046 US-301,
Hampton, FL 32044
(386) 339-7543



"Very easy and pleasant to work with. Excited to see the finished product."

Hometown Health & Wellness
260 S Lawrence Blvd, Suite 101
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(352) 664-7702



"Bryan is always helpful and kind. The staff always answers any questions that I have very timely."

The Chiropractic & Injury Clinic of Starke
601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-8018



"This office is fantastic. Karen was great help and got me in on the same day. Dr. Lowry was very personable and outstanding doctor. A must stop."

Robert's Insurance
986 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091
(904) 452-7784



**"The insurance agency helps keep the insurance prices down."
"Always a great place to visit and get help!"**

JBS Jackson Building Supply
"Serving Our Community For Over 60 Years"

- LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS
- PAINT, LADDERS & SUPPLIES
- ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES
- METAL ROOFING & SHINGLES
- DOORS & WINDOWS
- HAND & POWER TOOLS
- HOME & FARM HARDWARE
- BATHROOM VANITIES
- HOT WATER HEATERS
- LAWN & GARDEN

STARKE US-301S 964-6078
LAKE BUTLER 145 SW 6th Ave. 496-3079

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Andrews Site Prep
(386) 867-0572
Services 20 different counties!



"I would like to Thank Shawn & Dusty for coming here and fixing my Well issues. They worked very hard and they were very respectful and knowledgeable. And I would definitely recommend them. Again, Thank you so very much."

Block FL
22530 Park St,
Lawtey, FL 32058



BLOCKFL Tax Prep Made Simple!
(904) 470-0850

Mernie's Counseling Virtual Office
(718) 404-3770



"Myrna has a God-given gift and the experience and training to help people out of their past traumas and mental limitations. She is an intuitive genius. EMDR has been life-altering for me! I never knew such freedom existed. Thankful to God for putting Myrna in my path."

Paragon Protection & Investigations
750 W Madison St,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 817-3110



"Excellent investigation, I contacted them and they found the information that I needed quickly. They were very professional, kind and understanding. Thank you"

Craig Falstreux Heating & Air, Inc
228 S Walnut St,
Starke, FL 32091
(352) 792-4426



"Of course our A/C would go out on a hot, holiday weekend! We weren't sure which company to call, but out of the four that we left voicemails, Falstreux was the only one that responded. Our house was 90° and thankfully he said he'd be there in 30 minutes. And he was! He has our unit fixed within the next 30 minutes. We are truly thankful and won't use anyone else now."

Hope Christian Academy
3900 State Rte 100
Starke, FL 32091
(352) 473-4040



"My oldest kid has been at HCA since kindergarten and he's in 4th grade now and my youngest have been there since k2 and she's in k4 now, we absolutely love the school, teachers and administrators."

Lake Area Heating and Air
7415 State Rd 21,
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(352) 473-9595



Formerly Mike Bertie Heating and Air, Serving Keystone Heights and surrounding areas since 2008.

Clifford Z. Johnson Jr. Inc
(863) 812-8198
20 years of experience!
Screen Rooms, Patio Covers, Leak Repairs, Home Repairs

T.E.S. Rentals
2000 N Temple Ave,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 452-0888



"Very easy to work with. They went above and beyond. I would not hesitate to rent equipment from them again."

Miller HVAC Services, Inc.
(904) 626-0963
Serving Northeast FL



"Quick response, trustworthy, & overall amazing customer service. Wouldn't want anybody else to touch our AC!"

Bradford County Sheriffs Office
945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091
(904) 966-6161



"I need to take a minute to recognize my jail command team, the people I'm surrounded by. Each unique and strong in their own areas. There is nothing anyone asks of them they don't do and almost always with a smile. They take care of business and take care of people at the same time."

Town & Country Vet Clinic
1051 S Water St,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-6411



"I really appreciate the care they give to my Skippy, Muffin and my Oscar! They always have time to talk to me about my concerns even when they are busy!"

SHOP LOCAL ALL 2025



BHS remains undefeated in flag football

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School, which is currently sixth in the Florida High School Athletic Association/MaxPreps Class 1A power rankings, is still undefeated in flag football after wins over Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and Eagle's View Academy.

The Tornadoes (6-0) traveled to play Florida Deaf and Blind on March 5, winning 22-7. Ar'Nayshia Griffin completed 13 of 29 passes for 185 yards and two touchdowns.

Nichelle Brown caught both scoring passes and finished with nine receptions for 140 yards.

Kaylee Devore caught two passes for 30 yards.

The defense got one interception each from Brown, Izariya Desue and Alysia Rentz.

On March 11, Bradford defeated visiting Eagle's View 26-0 — the Tornadoes' third shutout.

Brown caught 11 passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns, rushed for 60 yards and a touchdown on four carries and returned a punt 55 yards for a score.

Griffin completed 14 of 23 passes for 190 yards and two touchdowns.

The Tornadoes were scheduled to play at Baker County on Wednesday, March 26, at 6 p.m. Bradford hosts Keystone Heights on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. before traveling to play Buchholz on Tuesday, April 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Wossilek hits home run for KHHS in 10-0 baseball win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Aiden Wossilek homered and drove in three runs in the Keystone Heights High School baseball team's 10-0, five-inning win over host Orange Park on March 14.

Tyler Brinson and Aiden Screen both pitched in the shutout, with Brinson give up one hit in three innings and Screen allowing none in the final two innings. Screen struck out five batters, while Brinson struck out two.

The Indians (11-4) loaded the bases with no outs in the top of the first, with Destin Harnage walking, Andrew Wilson hitting a single and Screen getting hit by a pitch. Austin Smith walked to force a run in, while Guage Barry drove in another run on a ground out. Brinson pushed the third run across on a sacrifice fly.

Keystone went up 7-0 with a four-run second. Ethan Franklin singled, followed by Wossilek drawing a walk. Harnage drove in a run on a single before Screen was hit by a pitch to load the bases. After Smith ground into a fielder's choice, which resulted in Wossilek being put out at home, Barry hit an RBI single. Brinson and Tallon Campbell were then both hit by pitches with the bases loaded.

Wossilek, who went 2 for 2, hit a home run to lead off the third. He later hit a two-run single in the fourth.

Barry and Brinson each had two RBI, with Barry batting 2 for 4.

Campbell, Harnage and Smith each finished with one RBI.

The Indians went 1-1 in their previous two games, beginning with a 6-2 win at Oakleaf on March 10 in which Franklin pitched a complete game, giving up one earned run and two hits, while striking out eight.

Smith, who went 3 for 4 with a double and two RBI, hit a two-run single in the third that put Keystone up 2-1.

It was tied at 2-2 before the Indians scored a run in the sixth. Wilson, who went 2 for 4 with an RBI, hit a single that scored courtesy runner Ryder Trull. Trull was running for Campbell, who walked.

Franklin and Wossilek each hit an RBI single as part of a three-run seventh. Franklin and Wossilek each finished 2 for 4 with one RBI.

On March 12, Keystone got a home run from Screen to tie the score early, but the Indians eventually lost 9-7 to the visiting Santa Fe Raiders.

Keystone trailed 3-1 entering the bottom of the third. Harnage singled before Screen drove the first pitch he saw over the field in

left to make it a 3-3 game.

The Raiders answered with three runs in the top of the fourth, taking advantage of three singles, a double and two walks, with one walk occurring with the bases loaded.

Santa Fe later added another run to lead 7-3 before the Indians scored two in the sixth. Barry singled, while Brinson reached on an error. Campbell walked to load the bases before Wossilek hit a two-run single with one out. A strikeout and a fly out ended the inning.

The Raiders loaded the bases in the top of the seventh on an error, a walk and a single. A bases-loaded walk resulted in one run, while another was scored on a sacrifice fly.

Keystone scored two runs of its own in the bottom of the seventh. Screen walked and scored on a Smith double. Barry reached on an error, which allowed Smith to advance to third. After a strikeout for the first out, Barry was caught stealing. Campbell drew a walk before Smith scored on a passed ball. A strikeout ended the game.

Screen and Wossilek finished with two RBI each, while Smith and Ethan Franklin each had one.

Barry and Harnage both went 2 for 4, while Campbell and Smith each hit a double.

The Indians played Paxon this past Tuesday and will host Middleburg on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. Keystone travels to play Palatka on Friday, March 28, at 7 p.m. and then travels to play Fernandina Beach on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

Tigers get wins from Bethea, boys 4x100 at Villages meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School won three events, with two coming from Amia Bethea on the girls side at a March 20 track and field meet hosted by The Villages.

Betha won the 100m with a time of 12.53 and the 200m with a time of 25.60.

The girls team also got points from Holly Halfacre and Melinda Mabrey. Halfacre took third in the triple jump with a distance of 31-5.75, while Mabrey was fourth in the shot put with a distance of 26-1.75.

In the boys events, Union's Jesse Chakin, Gavin Jenkins, Drew Simmons and Jabari Young teamed up to run a winning time of 44.56 in the 4x100m relay.

Union also got points from Jenkins, who had a fifth-place time of 11.62 in the 100m, and Edward Durant, who had an eighth-place distance of 109-3 in the discus.

Prior to the meet at The Villages, the Tigers competed in a mini meet hosted by Suwanee, with Bethea breaking her own school record in the 100m with a first-place time of 12.11.

Betha also ran the 400m for the first time in a high-school meet, placing third with a time of 1:05.

Halfacre placed fourth in the long jump with a distance of 14-0.25, while Mabrey was sixth in the shot put with a distance of 26-9.

The boys team got points from Chakin and CJ. Ivey. Chakin was fourth in the long jump with a distance of 18-2.25, while Ivey was fourth in the shot put with a distance of 37-8.

Tigers beat Tornadoes 22-16 in softball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Host Bradford High School hit four home runs, but the Union County softball team scored six runs in the top of the seventh that proved to be the difference in the Tigers' 22-16 win on March 14.

Emma Handley hit a two-run single as part of the Tigers' big final inning and finished 5 for 6 with four RBI.

Every batter but one in Union's lineup drove in at least two runs.

Despite the loss, it was a big night for Bradford's Addyson Hinds and Kallie Yowell, with each hitting two home runs. Hinds, who went 2 for 5, drove in a total of six runs, with one of her homers being a grand slam.

Yowell went 3 for 4 with four RBI.

The Tigers' Mia Kent hit a two-run double as part of a five-run first inning for Union, but the Tornadoes cut their deficit to three in the bottom of the inning.

Keegan Yowell was hit by a pitch and moved to second on Amber Wynn's sacrifice bunt before Kallie Yowell drove a pitch over the fence in right.

Bradford took a 9-5 lead with a seven-run second. Summer Sutton hit a leadoff single, followed by walks to Regan Adams and Kolee Lemire to load the bases. Kingslee Phillips and Wynn each hit an RBI single, while Keegan Yowell was hit by a pitch to force a run in. Hinds then hit her grand slam, driving the first pitch she saw over the fence in left.

Union answered with its own big inning, scoring eight in the top of the third. The Tigers loaded the bases, with Campbell Webb and Brooke Hunt each hitting a single and Leanne Dicks walking. Jaydin Alvarez hit into a fielder's choice, driving in one run. Kent hit a single before Jailyn Simmons drew a bases-loaded walk. Handley and Mackenzie Orton then hit back-to-back two-run singles.

The final two runs of the inning came on a Hunt sacrifice fly and a Dicks single, putting the Tigers up 13-9.

It was 14-10 before the Tornadoes got back-to-back solo home runs from Yowell and Hinds in the fifth, cutting Union's lead to two.

Shyla Crowe hit a two-run single in the top of the sixth to put the Tigers ahead 16-12, but Bradford answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning. A Phillips single and walks drawn by Wynn and Keegan Yowell loaded the bases. Hinds drove in a run on a sacrifice fly, while Tayrn Flowers followed with a two-run double, making it a 16-15 game.

Alvarez and Kent both walked to lead off the Tigers' half of the seventh. A Simmons single loaded the bases before Handley hit a two-run single. Crowe walked to load the bases. Webb and Hunt both walked as well to force in two runs. Dicks hit an RBI single, while Alvarez brought home Union's final run on a sacrifice fly.

The Tornadoes had two on with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. After a Wynn single scored a run, Keegan Yowell kept the inning going with another single.

Union ended the game when shortstop Orton fielded a ground ball and threw to third baseman Crowe for the final out.

Alvarez, Dicks and Hunt each finished with three RBI. Dicks and Hunt had multiple hits, with Dicks batting 4 for 5 and Hunt going 2 for 4.

Webb went 2 for 3 with two RBI, while Crowe, while Kent was 2 for 4 with two RBI.

Orton had two RBI. Bradford's Flowers, Phillips, Wynn each had two RBI, with Phillips and Wynn each batting 3 for 4. Flowers went 2 for 3.

Sutton finished 3 for 5.

The Tornadoes (4-5) travel to play Hawthorne on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. Bradford then hosts Buchholz on Monday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. before traveling to play Bishop Snyder on Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m.

See related story for more Union results and the Tigers' upcoming schedule.

UCHS softball team defeats Dixie Co. 18-7

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's softball team fell behind 7-1, but came back and earned a six-inning, 18-7, run-rule victory over visiting Dixie County on March 18.

Shyla Crowe, Leanne Dicks and Mia Kent each drove in a run as part of a three-run third that left the Tigers trailing 7-6.

Union (10-5) took the lead with a six-run fourth, getting a two-run single from Kent and RBI singles from Dicks, Jaydin Alvarez and Mackenzie Orton. Crowe also drew a bases-loaded walk.

The Tigers began the fifth with back-to-back doubles from Orton and Courtney Manning, with Orton scoring on Manning's hit. Manning eventually scored on a wild pitch before Dicks hit a two-run single, putting Union ahead 16-7.

Alvarez and Emma Handley both walked to lead off the bottom of the sixth. Orton brought both runners home on a walk-off double to end the game.

Dicks went 3 for 4 with four RBI, while Orton was 3 for 5 with three RBI.

Kent, who went 2 for 4, also had three RBI.

Alvarez finished 2 for 4 with two RBI, while Manning went 2 for 3 with an RBI.

Handley and Brooke Hunt went 2 for 3 and 2 for 2, respectively.

Crowe pitched a complete game, giving up four earned runs and six hits, while striking out four.

The Tigers entered the game off a 13-3 loss to visiting Branford on March 17.

Handley and Manning went 4 for 4 and 2 for 3, respectively, but the rest of the team went a combined 2 for 20 against the third-ranked team in Class 1A.

Union trailed 10-0 before Manning hit a solo homer in the fourth.

Manning and Crowe each finished with one RBI.

The Tigers return to action on Tuesday, April 1, when the travel to play P.K. Yonge at 7 p.m.

BHS baseball team falls 8-2 to Baker Co.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's baseball team dropped its third straight game, losing 8-2 to host Baker County on March 24.

Baker had all of its runs on the board before the Tornadoes (8-9) scored their first, which occurred on a Kaedan Parks single in the top of the sixth.

Ryland Rike batted 3 for 4 with a double, while Breion Johnson and Cannon Sapp each went 2 for 4. Johnson had one RBI, while one of Sapp's hits was a double.

The Tornadoes played Hamilton County this past Tuesday and will host St. John Lutheran on Thursday, March 27, at 6 p.m. Bradford hosts Middleburg on Monday, March 31, at 7 p.m. before traveling to play Williston on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

Earlier results:
— March 11, 9-3 loss to Baker County.

The Wildcats scored seven of the game's first eight runs.

Rike and Johnson went 3 for 4 and 2 for 3, respectively.

Avery Burgin had two RBI, while Ryder Thompson had one.

Thompson pitched the final three innings, giving up two runs (one earned).

— March 13, 13-3 loss to Williston.

The Tornadoes got a two-run home run from Patrick Pendarvis in the bottom of the first, which left Bradford trailing 3-2. Bradford then tied the score in second when Taylor Bice, who walked, scored on Rike's two-out double.

Williston scored 10 runs over the next three innings to take a 13-3 lead.

Johnson and Pendarvis each batted 2 for 3, with Pendarvis driving in three runs and Johnson driving in two.

Rike and Thompson each went 2 for 4, with Rike driving in one run.

Stafford finished with two RBI.

— March 14, 6-4 win at Interlachen.

Bradford scored three runs (including two with two outs) in the top of the seventh. Pendarvis singled, while Parks was hit by a pitch. Burgin and Nehemiah Flowers each hit an RBI single, with Burgin later scoring on a steal of home.

Burgin, who hit a two-run double in the fifth, finished 2 for 4 with three RBI.

Flowers batted 2 for 3 with two RBI.

Burgin, who entered to pitch with one out in the sixth, earned

the win, giving up no runs and one hit.

— March 17, 6-1 win over Gainesville.

Starting pitcher Stafford gave up an unearned run and six hits, while striking out eight through 6.1 innings.

Sapp faced the final two batters, striking one of them out.

Burgin and Johnson each drove in a run as part of a three-run third.

Rike and Pendarvis hit an RBI single and an RBI triple, respectively, as part of a two-run sixth.

Pendarvis finished with three RBI, batting 3 for 3.

Burgin, Johnson and Rike each had one RBI, with Rike batting 2 for 3.

— March 18, 7-4 loss at Wolfson.

The Tornadoes attempted to rally in the seventh. Trailing 7-2, Thompson and Flowers reached on a single and a walk, respectively. After two straight strikeouts, Pendarvis hit an RBI double. Johnson walked to load the bases before Flowers scored on a steal of home. A strikeout then ended the game.

Pendarvis and Thompson each had one RBI, with Thompson batting 2 for 3.

— March 20, 11-1 loss at Hilliard.

Sapp hit an RBI single in the first to score Pendarvis, who walked, but that was one of only two hits the Tornadoes had.

BHS competes at Suwannee track meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School got points from boys team member Elijah Lawrence and girls team members Takayla Barnes and Kaliyah James at a March 18 mini track-and-field meet at Suwannee High School.

Lawrence placed fifth in the 200m with a time of 23.19 and was seventh in the 100m with a time of 11.46.

Branden Williams also ran in the boys 100m, finishing with a time of 11.69.

James earned a sixth-place finish for the girls team with a time of 13.44 in the 100m.

Barnes, who had a time of 14.30 in the 100m, finished eighth in the long jump with a distance of 13-1.25.

James and Barnes also ran times of 28.88 and 29.96, respectively, in the 200m, while Kwasa Holland had a distance of 13-10.5 in the shot put.

KHHS softball team falls to No. 1 Broncos

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's softball team dropped a pair of games to Class 5A schools, including a 7-1 loss to top-ranked Middleburg on March 11 in Keystone.

The Class 3A Indians trailed only 2-0 before scoring their lone run in the fourth. Amber Wagner singled, advanced on an Audry Cisco bunt and scored when the Broncos committed an error on a fly ball hit by Kaleigh Marquart.

Kadence Massey pitched a complete game for Keystone, striking out six.

On March 14, the Indians hosted Ponte Vedra, losing 9-0.

Maddi Glineski went 2 for 3, but the rest of the team was a combined 4 for 24.

Keystone (4-5) played Fort White (the third-ranked team in Class 1A) this past Tuesday and will travel to play Class 5A Columbia on Friday, March 28, at 7 p.m.

UCHS baseball team loses to 3rd-ranked 1A St. Joseph

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Visiting St. Joseph Academy (first in the Florida High School Athletic Association/MaxPreps Class 1A power rankings) scored all of its runs in the first two innings in handing the Union County High School baseball team a 6-3 loss on March 21.

It was the sixth loss in eight games for the Tigers.

Union (9-7) scored its first runs in the third. Devin Diggs, Jake Walker and Erick Lasseter all walked with two outs before Trenton Klein hit a two-run single.

Klein finished 2 for 4, while Diggs went 2 for 3.

Relief pitchers Bo Wilson and Kendall Cater gave up no runs, with Wilson allowing one hit in 2.2 innings and Cater allowing two in three innings. Each had two strikeouts.

The Tigers played in Prospect Select's High School Classic, a three-day tournament (March 24-26) in Viera, and will travel to play Baker County on Tuesday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Earlier results:
— March 10, 8-3 win at Class 6A Forest.

Klein hit two-run singles in a three-run first inning and a four-run seventh inning, finishing 2 for 3 with four RBI.

Walker and Jeffrey Brugh each batted 2 for 4, with Walker driving in a run.

Lasseter had an RBI as well.

Starting pitcher Kacen Thomassen gave up two runs (one earned) and seven hits through four innings.

Foster Smith threw the final three innings, allowing an unearned run and one hit, while striking out six.

— March 13, 11-7 loss at Lafayette.

The Tigers scored the game's first six runs and led 7-2 before Lafayette scored nine runs in the bottom of the seventh, which included Brayden Richardson's walk-off grand slam.

Carter and Smith each batted 2 for 3 with a solo home run. Lasseter went 3 for 4, while Walker was 2 for 4.

Lafayette is currently ranked second in the Rural Class, while Union is seventh.

— March 14, 15-7 loss to Baldwin.

The Class 3A Indians scored nine runs in the second inning and led 10-1 before Union's Evan Roberts hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the fourth.

Roberts finished with the three RBI, while Smith and Walker each had one RBI.

Brugh batted 3 for 4. He and Walker each hit a double.

— March 18, 11-1 loss to Dunnellon.

Diggs hit a solo home run, but that was just one of three hits the Tigers had against the Class 4A opponent.

— March 20, 6-2 win over Trenton.

Carter drove in two runs with a third-inning double, while Walker drove in two with a fourth-inning single.

Klein and Lasseter each had one RBI.

Starting pitcher Lasseter gave up two runs and five hits, while striking out five in 6.2 innings.

Free Trading Post

FOR SALE BY OWNER

FREE ADS ★★★★★★

The Telegraph / Times / Monitor REGIONAL CLASSIFIED ADS will run your for sale by owner ad for free.

ACT NOW! If interested, email up to 20 words to classads@bctelegraph.com by 12PM every Monday.

★ use SUBJECT LINE: TRADING POST fsbo

Your ad will run for 2 weeks only.

AVAILABLE TO REGIONAL RESIDENTS ONLY
you must include your contact info, name, phone, location.

To re-run your ad, you must email again.



A service of the Telegraph, Times and Monitor.






Get rid of unwanted:

- CARS
- TRUCKS
- TRACTORS
- MOWERS
- BOATS
- ENGINES
- DISHES
- FURNITURE
- APPLIANCES
- RVS
- LAND
- HOMES

For more information, contact us at (904)-964-6305.

Users/responders release liability toward this paper, publisher, its agents or representatives who are not liable for any mistakes, errors, misrepresentations.

Obituaries

Amber Cook

Amber Ann Cook, 75, of Keystone Heights died Sunday, March 16, 2025, at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Middleburg following an extended illness. Survivors are her daughters, Kerry Cook (Jim Bertotto) and Kelly Cook (Michael Brown); three grandchildren; and her best friend, Sue Zajda. Per her wishes, there will be no formal services. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights 32656. 352-473-3176.

Winifred Drury

Mrs. Winifred "Winnie" C. Drury, 91, of Starke passed away Sunday, March 23, 2025, at Shands Hospital in Gainesville following a brief illness. She was born Dec. 27, 1933, in Woodbine, Georgia to David F. and Ella Mae (Miller) Cottle. She was employed with the Camden County Health Department for 38 years before retiring. After moving to Starke, she joined First Baptist Church, where she was an active member, being a dedicated prayer warrior and member of JoAnn Hatcher's Sunday school class. She liked hummingbirds and traveling to the mountains, and she had a sweet tooth for her chocolate, but, most of all, she loved her friends and family and never met a stranger. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Edgar Cottle, twin brother, Wilton "Buddy" Cottle and Marion Cottle; and sister, Shirley Moore. She leaves behind nieces, nephews, and a host of great and great-great nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 27, at First Baptist Church, with Pastor Harry Hatcher officiating. A private interment will be at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Anthony 'Andy' Shepherd

Anthony "Andy" Lee Shepherd, 65, of Melrose, passed away Thursday, March 20, 2025. Andy was born in Gainesville on June 25, 1959. He graduated from Hawthorne High School in 1977 before going to work for Alltel/Windstream, serving the Melrose and surrounding areas for 38 years as the local "phone man" before retiring in 2015. He was preceded in death by his father, Bob Shepherd.

Survivors are his mother, Joanne Shepherd; wife, Faye Shepherd; brother, Steve Shepherd; son, Daniel Shepherd; grandchildren, Cady Williams and Kenley Shepherd; and many other close family and friends.

His wishes were to be cremated. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

He will be missed and always loved.

PAID OBITUARY



In Memory

In loving memory of

Al Coston Jr.

Aug. 10, 1946 - March 29, 2016

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every
day....
Unseen, unheard, but always
near,
Still loved, still missed and
very dear.



Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



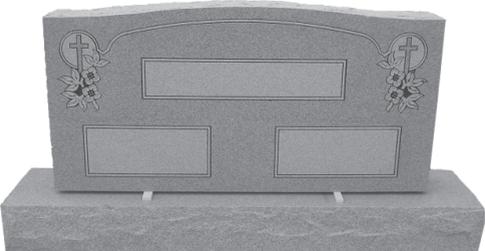
- Personal Injury
- Divorce and Family
- Bankruptcy
- Criminal Law
- Auto Accidents
- Real Estate
- Traffic/DUI
- Wills, Trusts, Probate
- Estate Planning

(904) 964-4111

407 W. Georgia St. • Starke

Charles Custom Memorials

Serving Families in North Florida since 1973



The area's largest supplier of Colored Granite
When Quality Counts, You Can Count On Us

STARKE OFFICE OPEN 8:30 to 5:00 MON-FRI
Hwy 301 North, Starke • 904-964-2010
(Next to Best Western)

Primary Location in Lake City at 561 NW Hilton Ave.

CharlesMonuments.com

Member of Better Business Bureau
Monument Builders of North America
Florida Monument Builders

FL Lic. # F037700

'Blueprint' for overcoming heartbreak

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Heartbreak that derives from a failed relationship can make you sick and bring about a variety of emotions, but it doesn't have to define who you are as a person. You can rise above it, grow from it and leave it in the past.

That's the advice Nicole Slocum has for women in her eBook "Rise and Reclaim: Healing after Heartbreak."

"It's a blueprint for transformation," Slocum said. "In there is a guide. It's going to teach you how to feel (heartbreak) and how to go through it and get through it. You're going to feel it, you're going to acknowledge it, and you're going to move forward."

The book is available at Amazon's Kindle Store as well as at slocumshine.gumroad.com.

Slocum, a 2012 Bradford High School graduate, said the writing "flowed" from her — so much so that she completed it in two days. It consists of seven chapters.

Though she felt she had more to write, Slocum said God told her, "This is all you need to say right now."

She relied upon God to help her in her writing and encourages her readers to rely upon God to help them with their heartbreak. As part of her book, she wrote that God "didn't let that heartbreak happen to destroy you — it happened to grow you, to strengthen you, to align you with the life you're meant to live."

An inspiration for the book came from Slocum's own life and how she felt she had no one to turn to when she experienced heartbreak.

"I'm stepping into shoes that I wish somebody had filled for me," Slocum said.

Think of her book as a conversation between her and the reader. Slocum has attempted to create as much of a personal relationship as possible through the written word, often starting sentences in her book with "Sis." That's how she wants readers to think of her — as a sister or just someone they'd be comfortable with confiding in.

"We can share this journey together because I've been

through it," Slocum said. "Let's talk about it."

She also uses the term "Queen" as a way of empowering her readers and letting them know that heartbreak won't prevent them from becoming the best person they can be. Slocum encourages readers to "stop letting life happen to you and start making it happen for you." As she wrote in her book, "You define you," not anything in your past.

Slocum takes her readers through seven chapters, with the first revealing that it's OK to feel bad in the aftermath of a breakup. She writes that the brain interprets the breakup as pain — the same as any pain that results from a physical action. Gone are the hormones and neural transmitters, such as dopamine, that were released by your brain when you were experiencing pleasure from being with a person you loved.

"Your brain is crying out for their return," Slocum wrote, adding that the silver lining that a broken heart can also mend itself.

"The journey to healing begins with you," she writes.

In the midst of heartbreak, it's easy to look at yourself as a victim only, but did you actually play a part in the breakup? Slocum encourages her readers to evaluate their actions in the relationship — "not to take on blame, but to bring clarity to the situation." Identifying mistakes you made is an opportunity for you to grow as a person.

That growth can help you in the next relationship when it comes to triggers — those things that remind you of your previous relationship.

As is the case throughout her book, Slocum shares moments from her own life.

"There was one time I caught myself pushing someone away because I was so afraid they'd hurt me like someone else did," she writes. "It wasn't fair to them, and it wasn't fair to me, either. When I finally apologized and owned up to my behavior, it was like a weight lifted off my chest. I knew it wasn't me; it was my triggers."

COLLEGE

Continued from page 10

improve in catching the ball and running routes. He said once he does, "it's over."

"I'm going to turn it up a notch (at Mount Union)," he said.

Rodgers said Mount Union is getting the total package at receiver, referring to Oliver's play when he wasn't being targeted in the pass game.

"He blocked like crazy when we were in the run game," Rodgers said.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Tornados had a versatile player in Johnson.

"He started off at safety in the spring," Rodgers said. "Then, all of a sudden, he was out there at outside linebacker. Then, all of a sudden, he was a defensive end and everything in between."

Johnson, who recorded 38 tackles and six sacks, caused two fumbles and recovered one fumble, thought his playing days were over with when Bradford's season ended. However, he was contacted by Mount Union Linebackers Coach Dan Allen, who told Johnson he liked what he saw of him on video and wanted him to become a part of his program.

"It's a dream come true," Johnson said. "I've always wanted to do this ever since I was a little kid. I wanted to do it for my family — my uncles and my father. All of them had the chance, but unfortunately, they couldn't do it."

"It's a big achievement (for me)."

Johnson said he'll probably play as a defensive back or at outside linebacker at Mount Union, but added that he's willing to step in wherever the team needs him.

Rodgers said Johnson's athleticism and 6-2 frame make him suited to what colleges are looking for in outside

linebackers.

"Colleges are now asking outside linebackers to cover in the flats more than ever and even to turn and run verticals until a safety can get over there," Rodgers said. "He can do all those things."

Johnson believes he can get better in a lot of areas, saying, "There's always an opportunity for improvement." Rodgers said the key thing for Johnson in his mind is to add to his physical frame.

"It's about weight gain," Rodgers said. "His speed's always going to be there. That's God-given. Even at 10, 15, 20 pounds heavier, he's still going to have that speed, and he's a powerful kid already. He just needs to gain some weight, eat as much as he can and build a ton of muscle mass."

When he thinks of what it's going to feel like the first time he steps onto the field as a college player, Johnson said, "I would say I'll be nervous, but I'm a dawg, and dawgs don't get nervous."

Nervous or not, the opportunity is what he and Oliver have hoped for.

"It's going to feel good," Oliver said. "It's what I've been trying to get to since I first walked into high school."

Walden is eager to join Lions program

Walden is still a BHS student, but he's looking ahead to becoming a student-athlete at Mount St. Joseph and contributing to a Lions team that is coming off its third straight Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championship and third straight trip to the NCAA postseason.

"I'm starting to live out my dreams," Walden said, adding, "I'm ready to go there and start playing as a freshman."



Nicole Slocum writes about putting heartbreak behind you and becoming an empowered, better version of you in her eBook "Rise and Reclaim: Healing after Heartbreak."

Slocum, in an effort to convince readers that they can put heartbreak behind them, shares something about her life that goes far beyond a breakup. She was the victim of rape twice. She remembers how she felt alone, especially after the first incident when she, as a child, was harassed by adults. Slocum asked herself, "What did I do wrong to get all this hate?"

"I know what it's like to feel abandoned, like the world has turned its back on you," Slocum writes, adding, "I know the shame, the guilt, the questions that follow you like shadows: 'Why did this happen to me? Will I ever feel whole again?' Sis, I want you to know something: You are not forgotten. God has never left you, even in your darkest moments."

"That pain you carry is not your identity — it's a wound that can heal with time, faith and love."

Slocum's book is written for all women, but she said she feels it will be especially helpful for Black women like herself. As an example, she writes in her book that Black women are expected to be strong and to carry others' burdens while pretending that they're fine.

"In our culture, we're told to just keep moving forward no matter what," Slocum said. "We don't go through therapy. We don't go through counseling. We are our own counselor."

If Black women are taking care of others, who's taking care of them? Slocum hopes her book



Nicole Slocum, a 2012 Bradford High School graduate, wrote her eBook in just two days, saying "it all just flowed" with God's help.

can play a role in providing that care.

In fact, Slocum finds herself transitioning from the role of author to the role of the reader when she feels she needs a little help.

"I go back and read it myself," she said, adding, "I really need to listen to my own advice."

What has proven interesting since her book was published is that it's not just reaching women.

"I've actually had more men read my book than women so far," Slocum said. "It's crazy."

Of course, as soon as she said that, she realized it's not so crazy after all.

"Heartbreak is universal," she said.



Barron Walden, Michael Oliver and Trevis Johnson (l-r) signed letters of intent to play football at the next level. Walden will be going to Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, while Oliver and Johnson will both be going to the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio.

Walden said choosing to go to Mount St. Joseph wasn't a hard decision, based on his interactions with Defensive Line Coach Justin Taylor and what Mount St. Joseph has to offer as a football program and as a school.

"They're going to develop you as a player, and they want to develop you as a person," Walden said. "I just feel like it's a great fit for me."

The 6-0, 255-pound nose guard/tackle was third in tackles for BHS last season with 52. Rodgers said Walden was "a key point of what we do inside," adding that Walden played pretty much every down in the interior of the line since Rodgers' arrival in 2022.

Rodgers said what made Walden so successful was his lateral speed. Now, Walden will have to work on getting even stronger because of his height.

"He's already low to the ground, so being low is not a problem," Rodgers said. "Now, it's about strength. He's got to be stronger than everybody he's going against because they're

going to be longer probably."

Rodgers said it's a chance that doesn't come around often for interior linemen who are Walden's height.

"A lot of them don't get an opportunity like this, so I want him to make the most of it and understand how important it is," Rodgers said. "Most guys with his height don't get the chance these days. That's just the way it is. It's been like that for the last 25 years, and it's going to be that way for the next 25."

"He's got the opportunity to change that and go on and do some things now. I'm super excited."

Walden appears as if he's ready to make the most of that opportunity, admitting that he needs to get bigger, stronger and faster and spend more time in the weight room.

In other words, he's willing to do whatever is necessary to put him in the best position to get onto the field for the Lions.

"I feel like it's going to be different," Walden said, "but I'm ready. I'm ready to get there."

American Heritage Girls welcomes new members

My name is Abigail Cook, a high-school level American Heritage Girl, and I have enjoyed

participating in AHG for several years. AHG has given me the opportunity to experience rock climbing, canoeing and camping, volunteer locally, practice leadership skills and, most importantly, develop my spiritual relationship with Christ Jesus. Please consider exploring this opportunity here in our lake region.

What is American Heritage Girls?

Founded in 1995, parents wanted American Heritage Girls to be a faith-based, scout-type of program for their daughters to participate in. This program is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity

through service to God, family, community and country.

Why should I join?

American Heritage girls is a fun place for all girls to experience belonging, learn skills about God, build lasting friendships and learn important life skills.

How do I contact AHG locally?

—Troop FL3130 in south Keystone Heights at Friendship Bible Church: 352-473-2713, americanheritagegirlsfl3130@gmail.com
—Troop FL7884 in north Keystone Heights at Gadara

Baptist Church: 352-473-3615, gadarabaptist6779@gmail.com.

The program

AHG offers a program designed specifically to the developmental stages of girls aged 5 to 18, with the ages divided into 5 levels:

See AHG, page 16



COLDWELL BANKER
SMITH & SMITH REALTY

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



6360 Adams Road
Macclenny, FL 32063



For Sale! MLS #2069735

Featured Listings From Your Local Realtors!



RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS

Drageset Team
352-339-3649
4011 NW 43rd St,
Gainesville, FL 32606

For Sale!



MLS #GC526344

3 bedroom/2 bathroom mobile home on 1.5 acres with a large storage/workshop in Lake Butler-Bradford County!



19414 NW 135th Lane
Lake Butler, FL 32054



MeLissa Pellerito
REALTOR®

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



Florida Homes Realty & Mortgage

"Absolutely amazing to work with MeLissa. Her professionalism, market knowledge, prompt attention to all matters makes her a true professional who cares about the service she provides. Thanks MeLissa!"



20 SE Nelsons Point
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

For Sale! MLS #2076835



Ron Blake
352-235-1644
2518 State Rd 21,
Melrose, FL 32666

"Their knowledgeable and professional attitude is a winning combination."

For Sale!



MLS #2076361



4565 SE 3rd Place
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

FIND YOUR DREAM HOME TODAY!



Justis Smith
352-258-4619
100 E Nightingale St.
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

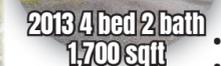
justis@southland-realty.com

9330 SE County Road 325,
Hampton, FL 32044

For Sale!



4 bed 2 bath
3,187 sqft



2013 4 bed 2 bath
1,700 sqft

MLS #11447543

- 34 acre farm!**
- 2 large homes
 - Detached garage/shop
 - Multiple small barns
 - 2 beautiful ponds
 - 4 separate entrances



Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads 3/27/25

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 Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

48 Homes for Sale

FOR SALE by Owner
New construction single family home, 3 bed 2 bath house 1,460sqft sitting on a 1.1 acre lot. Right across from a school. Address is 3545 S.E. 144 street Starke. Asking Price is 325,000. Call Leon at 786-260-5286 or Carla at 305-613-518.

50 For Rent

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

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

2BR APARTMENT. Downtown by railroad. \$750/mo. First, last & dep. References. 904-364-9022.

53 A Yard Sales

Community Yard Sale Crystal Lake Homesites. March 29th 7:30-

1pm Multiple houses will be participating. 7074 SE 2nd Place Starke. Follow the Signs

53 C

FURNITURE/GARAGE SALE; Fri & Sat. 9am-4pm. 1015 SW 1st Rd., Lake Butler. 678-438-6828

57 For Sale

ONAN GENERATOR 3500 KW powered by 350 Chevy trailer mounted. Can send pics. \$3000. 352-514-9775

59 Personal Services

MAID TO ORDER cleaning services. Specializing in house cleaning, organizing, pet sitting, flower help, elder care and more. Free estimates. 904-769-1513

65 Help Wanted

THE BRADFORD County opening

for school coverage. This individual would cover special achievements, awards or recognitions of students in Bradford, Union and Keystone Heights. Info would be approved by school, parents, etc. Paid by submissions. Interested parties apply to Mark Crawford, editor@bctelegraph.com

WRITER POSITION available for local news & social functions. To include clubs, churches, meetings, etc. Work schedule and salary negotiable. Send resume to editor@bctelegraph.com

Legal Focus Group are

needed in the Bradford County area. We are seeking participants as mock jurors in a paid legal focus group on Thursday, April 17, 2025 for three hours. Participants will listen and provide their opinions

HERITAGE VILLAS
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts

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

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Lake Butler Apartments 1, 2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

HC & Non-HC accessible. 1005 SW 6th St. Lake Butler, FL **386-496-3141** TDD/TTY 711.

Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance! "This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer." "Equal Housing Opportunity"

Orangewood Apartments

801 South Water Street Starke, FL 32091 904-964-4214 TDD/TTY 711

Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance! 1, 2, & 3 bedroom HC & Non-HC accessible apartments. "This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer." "Equal Housing Opportunity"

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 Scriptures |
| 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 | |

Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay

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

904-964-6305
classads@bctelegraph.com



WELL DRILLING
QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964
24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE
964-7061
STATE LICENSE #1305
DURRANCE PUMP

Piano Lessons with **LAURA SAFTNER**
call or text (386) 336-5899
laurasaftner@gmail.com

FOR SALE
3046 SE 134TH ST
3 BED 1 BATH
includes adjoining apartment with 1 bedroom 1 bath.
This property is completely remodeled located on sizable lot between 100 & Forsyth Road. Approximately 2 miles from Elementary school.
\$299,000
call John
904-964-6305

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Southern Villas of Starke
Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.
Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL
Call 904-964-7295
TDD/TTY 711
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of March 27, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF ACTION
Bradford County
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN RE: The license to practice Licensed Practical Nursing Mary Ann Salvatore, L.P.N. 12700 SW 84th Ave. Starke, FL 32091
CASE NO.: 2023-28698
LICENSE NO.: PN5216050
The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Nicole DiBartolomeo, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 558-9845. If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by April 17, 2025, 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.
3/6 4tchg 3/27-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA,
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 042024CA000203CAAXMX
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE FOR TRUMAN 2016 SC6 TITLE TRUST,
Plaintiff,

vs. TAMMY T. DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY T. DAVIS SANDERS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY T. DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY T. DAVIS SANDERS; EDITH THOMAS; KENDRA YVETTE THOMAS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF KENDRA YVETTE THOMAS; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF EDITH THOMAS; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated February 24, 2025, and entered in Case No. 042024CA000203CAAXMX of the Circuit Court in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE FOR TRUMAN 2016 SC6 TITLE TRUST is Plaintiff and TAMMY T. DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY T. DAVIS SANDERS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY T. DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY DAVIS A/K/A TAMMY T. DAVIS SANDERS; EDITH THOMAS; KENDRA YVETTE THOMAS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF KENDRA YVETTE THOMAS; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF EDITH THOMAS; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants, RAY NORMAN, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, 11:00 a.m., on April 17, 2025, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to-wit:
COMMENCE AT THE SW CORNER OF W 1/2 OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, RUN EAST 39.45 FEET TO EAST LINE OF OLD LAWTEY ROAD, THENCE RUN NORTH ALONG EAST LINE OF SAID ROAD 212.5 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST AND PARALLEL TO THE S'LY BOUNDARY OF SAID SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 A DISTANCE OF 170.55 FEET TO THE POB. FROM POB THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE EAST 75 FEET THENCE RUN SOUTH 93.75 FEET; THENCE RUN WEST 75 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 93.75 FEET TO THE POB. TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 1977 PEACHTREE MOTOR HOME, VIN #S: 9554A AND 9554B; TITLE #S: 14720349 AND 14720350. 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 BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. THE COURT, IN

ITS DISCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE. NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Court not later than five business days prior to the proceeding at the Bradford County Courthouse. Telephone 904-964-6280 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.
DATED March 10, 2025.
By: */s/ Ian Dolan*
Ian C. Dolan
Florida Bar No.: 757071
Roy Diaz, Attorney of Record
Florida Bar No. 767700
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
499 NW 70th Ave., Suite 309
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33317
Telephone: (954) 564-0071
Facsimile: (954) 564-9252
Service E-mail: answers@dallegal.com
Publish in: Bradford County Telegraph
3/20 2tchg 3/27-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on April 15, 2025. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on April 08, 2025 and end at 10AM on April 15, 2025. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com.
KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837
Time: 10:00AM CST
A31, Mathews, Trey, B47, Schell, Debra, C09, Munnerlyn, Francesca
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837.
3/20 2tchg 3/27-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 04-2025-CP-0023
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOSEPH WESLEY KELLEY JR.,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of **JOSEPH WESLEY KELLEY JR.**, deceased, is pending in the Circuit Court for the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave; Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is March 20, 2025.
ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
Russell A. Wade III
Florida Bar No. 251460
wadelaw@gmail.com
P.O. Box 172
Lake Butler, FL 32054
Telephone: 386.496.9656
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
WILLARD KELLEY
219 SE Fontana Glen
Lake City, FL 32025
3/20 2tchg 3/27-BCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on April 1, 2025, at 9:30 AM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County

website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov.
Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

BUDGET WORKSHOP
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will hold a workshop to discuss the 25-26 Fiscal Year budget on April 1, 2025, at 10:30 AM, or immediately following the regular BOCC meeting, inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

LEGAL NOTICE
BRADFORD COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD

BUSINESS MEETING
The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited.
DATE AND TIME: April 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter the public workshop
PLACE: Bradford County Emergency Operations Center Board Room located at 945 N Temple Ave # B, Starke, Florida
DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008
CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.
For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200.

Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the business meeting to Lynn Franson, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

BRADFORD COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a public workshop to which all persons are invited.
DATE AND TIME: April 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Bradford County Emergency Operations Center Board Room located at 945 N Temple Ave # B, Starke, Florida
DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008
CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct a public workshop for the purpose of receiving public comment relating to the local transportation services provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Bradford County.

For additional information or to obtain a copy of the public workshop agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200.
Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the public workshop to Lynn Franson, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this public workshop is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the public workshop by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the public workshop, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

from which the appeal is to be issued.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Bids will be received by the City of Starke, Purchasing Department, 209 N. Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091, until **12:00 pm, Thursday, April 3, 2025**, at which time and place all bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Commission Board Room for furnishing all labor and materials for the construction of:
CITY OF STARKE DOWNTOWN MUSIC PAVILION ENHANCEMENT
STARKE, FLORIDA
All work shall be done according to the plans and specifications prepared by Architect:
Paul Stresing Associates, Inc.
14617 Main Street
Alachua, Florida 32615
Telephone (386) 462-6407

Plans are on file and open to inspection on the City of Starke website and at the office of the Architect (address shown above). Documents are also on file at the office of Stephanie Mann, Director of Administrative Operations, City of Starke, Office: 904-977-9155. General Contractors may obtain Drawings and Specifications from the City of Starke website.
Any/all questions are to be submitted in writing to Paul Stresing Associates, Inc., Attention Paul Stresing at E-mail address: PSA@PaulStresingAssociates.com
General Contractors who choose to submit a bona fide bid acknowledge that they have provided a complete scope of work submission and that they have vetted all subcontractors under their scope of work.
The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities and minor technicalities or to reject any/all bids. Each bidder must deposit, with his bid, a Bid Bond or Cashier's Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Base Bid price, payable to the Owner. No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: **FREDERICK J. FLAHERTY, 1102 E. Call St., Starke, FL 32091, SOLE owner,** doing business under the firm name of: **SUNCAT LAWN CARE, 1102 E. Call St., Starke, FL 32091,** intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 21 day of MARCH A.D., 2025, in BRADFORD County.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: **FREDERICK J. FLAHERTY, 1102 E. Call St., Starke, FL 32091, SOLE owner,** doing business under the firm name of: **SUNCAT LAWN CARE, 1102 E. Call St., Starke, FL 32091,** intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 21 day of MARCH A.D., 2025, in BRADFORD County.
3/27 1tchg-BCT

IN THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA,
DIVISION: PROBATE DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2025-CP-000030
IN RE: The Estate of **BEVERLY CREIGHTON,**
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(Formal Administration)
TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:
The administration of the Estate of **BEVERLY CREIGHTON,** deceased, whose date of death was November 14, 2023, and whose social security number is ***-**-3153, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITH THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
A Personal Representative or curator has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211.
The date of first publication of this Notice is March 27, 2025.
Attorney and Personal Representative Giving Notice:
/s/ Steven E. Gurian
STEVEN E. GURIAN, ESQ.,
Attorney for Personal Representative

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Family Law Division
Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
IN RE: THE MATTER OF: THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR BRAXTON WESLEY DAVIS

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION
TO: BRIAN WESLEY DAVIS
12436 Southwest 79th Avenue
Starke, Florida 32901
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Termination of Parental Rights has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on I Brian M. Monk, Esq., of Monk Law Group, PLLC, Petitioner/Mother's attorney, whose address is 800 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33801, not later than April 11, 2025, which date shall be not less than twenty-eight (28) nor more than sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street Room 103, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, either before service on Petitioner/Mother's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a

EASY ESTATE PROBATE, PLLC
2601 South Bayshore Drive, 18th Floor
Coconut Grove, Florida 33133
Tel: 1-833-973-3279
Fax: 1-833-927-3279
E-mail: SG@EasyEstateProbate.com
Florida Bar No. 101511
/s/ Christine Taylor
CHRISTINE TAYLOR, As Personal Representative
3/27 2tchg 4/3-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2024 CA 000274
PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
RACHEL PARSONS; et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
(Publish in **Bradford County Telegraph**)
TO: Unknown Spouse of Rachel Parsons
Last Known Residence: 615 North Church Street Starke, FL 32091
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in BRADFORD County, Florida:
LOTS 12, 13, AND 14, BLOCK 11, LIVINGSTON, TRUBY AND COMPANY'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF STARKE, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiff's attorney, at 5300 West Atlantic Avenue Suite 303 Delray Beach, FL 33484, on or before _____ and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
Dated on March 14, 2025.
As Clerk of the Court
By: KANETRA JENKINS
As Deputy Clerk
3/27 2tchg 4/3-BCT

LEGAL NOTICE
UNION COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
BUSINESS MEETING
The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited.
DATE AND TIME: April 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter the public workshop
PLACE: Union County Transportation Facility located at 255 SW 9th Avenue, Lake Butler, Florida
DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008
CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.
For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200.
Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the meeting to Lynn Franson, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
3/27 1tchg-UCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 63-2022-CP-043
In re: THE ESTATE OF CLYDE RONALD SHORT,
also known as CLYDE SHORT
Deceased.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: RONALD WRIGHT, IF ALIVE, AND IF DEAD, HIS UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ADMINISTRATORS, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS; AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST RONALD WRIGHT OR ANY OF THE FOREGOING UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PARTIES:
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a notice of final accounting and petition for discharge, final accounting and petition for discharge have been filed in the above-referenced case style and caption, and you are required to serve any objections on Jennifer T. Arrubla, the personal representative's attorney, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, within 30 days of the first publication of this notice of action, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the personal representative's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise the Court in this action will consider and may grant the relief requested in the above-identified final accounting and petition for discharge.
Dated on February 26, 2025.
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
Clerk of the Court
By: C. Hollingsworth
As Deputy Clerk
3/6 4tchg 3/27 UCT

LEGAL NOTICE
UNION COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a public workshop to which all persons are invited.
DATE AND TIME: April 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: Union County Transportation Facility located at 255 SW 9th Avenue, Lake Butler, Florida
DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008
CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct a public workshop for the purpose of receiving public comment relating to the local transportation services provided under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program in Union County.
For additional information or to obtain a copy of the public workshop agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200.
Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the public workshop to Lynn Franson, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this public workshop is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the public workshop by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the public workshop, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
3/27 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Family Law Division
Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
IN RE: THE MATTER OF: THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR BRAXTON WESLEY DAVIS

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION
TO: BRIAN WESLEY DAVIS
12436 Southwest 79th Avenue
Starke, Florida 32901
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Termination of Parental Rights has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on I Brian M. Monk, Esq., of Monk Law Group, PLLC, Petitioner/Mother's attorney, whose address is 800 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33801, not later than April 11, 2025, which date shall be not less than twenty-eight (28) nor more than sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street Room 103, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, either before service on Petitioner/Mother's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Bradford County Telegraph

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

John Miller, Publisher



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

Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Lake Region Monitor

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

John Miller, Publisher



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

Editor: Dan Hildebrand
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
UNION COUNTY TIMES

131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
uctimeseditor@gmail.com
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628

John Miller, Publisher



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

Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:

Moving into a travel trailer a 'simpler way of life'

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Trailers and motorhomes are people's homes on the road, but some retirees are choosing to make them their permanent homes.

Tina Bullock sold her Keystone Heights home and is now living in a travel trailer at the Keystone Heights RV Resort. Her neighbors to one side of her — Ron and Liz Nyland — sold their home in Jacksonville and now make a fifth wheel their home.

Bullock and the Nylands chose to do so for the same reason — to downsize and enjoy their elder years without having to worry about the upkeep that comes with houses that are too large for one or two people.

"It's a simpler way of life," Ron Nyland said.

Bullock said, "Not having all that responsibility — that's the thing."

Bullock, whose husband, Chuck, passed away 10 years ago, was living alone in a 2,000 square-foot house she and her husband had built on 5 acres 45 years ago.

"There were repairs and upgrades I needed to do," Bullock said. "At 75, I just wasn't willing to do all of that."

Bullock also looked at a house that had accumulated a lot of items over many years, saying to herself, "I just can't leave (my son) to take care of all of this if something happens to me."

As for living in a travel trailer, it gives her all the space she needs.

"In my house, I was living in just two or three rooms — the bathroom, the bedroom and the little den," Bullock said. "I thought, 'I don't need much more than that.'"

Ron and Liz could relate. "We had a 2,600 square-foot house and four bedrooms," Liz said. "We didn't need that. It was just the two of us."

However, the idea of living in a trailer almost came out of the blue, sparked at first by making

improvements to their house.

"We didn't have any idea we were going to do what we did. I did a lot of work around the house," Ron said, adding, "I told Liz, 'This place looks pretty good. Maybe we ought to see if we can sell it.' I went on Zillow. I said, 'You know what? I think the time is right.'"

"We listed it. We sold it in two days."

The Nylands already owned a Class A motorhome, so they looked around for a place where they could park it and stay when they weren't using it for traveling. That led them to the Keystone Heights RV Resort.

"We had thought about downsizing eventually," Ron said, "but instead of downsizing and buying another piece of property, where you have taxes and other stuff and the insurance, we just decided to go this route."

Ron and Liz eventually bought a Class Super C motorhome when their Class A motorhome had its windshield crack while driving over a slight bump on a trip out west.

"You're not looking at pennies and dimes with that," Ron said. "That was like over \$4 grand for the labor and the windshield."

When their travels ended, and they returned to the RV resort, Ron and Liz decided they needed more elbow room.

"It was a beautiful motorhome," Ron said, "but it felt almost claustrophobic."

They bought a fifth wheel and have since replaced that with another fifth wheel that has fewer steps.

"My knees are starting to give out," Ron said.

Ron and Liz have discovered they're perfectly happy living in their fifth wheel.

"I don't want a house," Liz said. "There's too much responsibility."

Downsizing

It's not easy sometimes to look through your possessions and

See SIMPLER, page 16



Tina Bullock (far right) is pictured by her travel trailer, which is her permanent residence at the Keystone Heights RV Resort. She is pictured with neighbors Ron and Liz Nyland.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

10+ Acres Starting at
\$99,900

Nicely wooded lot with county paved road access. Power and high-speed internet available. Perfect for your dream home or weekend getaway!

CALL (844) 398-9403
FOR MORE DETAILS.



EVERGREEN
WOODS



Hours Open
Monday-Friday
9am-5pm

✓ \$4 Generic Plan

✓ Free Delivery

✓ Free BP Check up

✓ Compounding

✓ No Wait Guaranteed

✓ DME Products

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

Thank you to all our customers for making our 1st year a success! We invite new folks to stop by and see us for a great local pharmacy experience!



LAKE BUTLER
PHARMACY

Located Inside
IGA Grocery Store

620 SW 1st St
Lake Butler, FL 32054

ALL MAJOR INSURANCE ACCEPTED

P: 386-291-7007
F: 386-291-7017

Right Care For You

Ease the Burden of Holiday Bills

with FCU's Home Equity Line of Credit

Intro rate for the first 6 months

5.99% APR¹

AFTERWARDS RATES AS LOW AS

7.50% APR¹

\$10,000 minimum

Plus, NO closing costs for loans of \$10,000 or more!²



904-964-1427
fclu.org

1. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Your rate may be higher based on your creditworthiness and property valuation. Minimum loan amount \$10,000. Rate quoted is as of 12/19/2024, based on a HELOC with a 10-year draw period, 20-year repayment period, and a Loan-to-Value (LTV) up to 80%. The HELOC rate is a variable rate and is based on Wall Street Journal Prime. Minimum APR 7.500% - Maximum APR 11.250%. For example, a \$25,000 10-year Home Equity Line of Credit with a 7.500% rate and an 80% Loan-to-Value (LTV) will have an APR of 7.500%; 120 payments of \$296.75; total finance charges of \$10,610.53 for a total payment of \$35,610.53. Rates will be no less than Florida Credit Union's minimum interest rate. This discount promotion cannot be combined with other Florida Credit Union promotions. Limited time offer and subject to change without notice. 2. No closing costs with \$10,000 minimum loan amount. Title insurance for loans \$250,000 and greater paid by member. Insured by NCUA. FCUMKNP0572-0125

Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.

SIMPLER

Continued from page 15

decide what to keep and what to get rid of, but as Liz put it, "You just have to realize that some of this stuff is just stuff."

She and Ron have a small storage unit on their RV site as well as a storage unit in Jacksonville. Liz said the unit in Jacksonville contained "boxes and boxes of pictures and stuff because Ron took a lot of pictures of the kids."

At Christmastime, the Nylands removed six or seven boxes of photos and took them to their children. Liz said they were told, "Anything you want, you keep. If you don't want them, throw them away, because we're not taking them with us."

"You just have to let go of a lot

of things," Ron said.

Bullock, because of her involvement in community organizations, had accumulated an office full of plaques and awards. She said she found that part of downsizing the most challenging — having to determine which ones she'd keep.

"It just broke my heart because I know those clubs and organizations paid a lot of money to do that," she said, adding, "That part was hard — to let go of some of those."

Bullock said it was hard to get rid of everything she wouldn't be keeping in her trailer. Like the Nylands, she has a storage unit. Still, she said she sometimes looks at an item she does have in her trailer and asks herself, "Why did I bring that?"

That question doesn't get

asked of one appliance on her kitchen counter that rarely gets used.

"I brought my big mixer," Bullock said. "Once a year, I make divinity. It kills little hand mixers. I use (the big mixer) for that. That's it."

Savings, amenities

Since they no longer own homes, Bullock and the Nylands don't have to pay for upkeep or any emergency repairs that arise. They no longer have to take care of the swimming pools they both had.

Ron said it's nice to not have to pay home insurance, which he believes is going to continue to increase. Bullock said she was paying almost \$5,000 in insurance.

The savings also include no

property taxes.

Aside from buying a trailer or motorhome (if you don't already own one), Ron said, "All you pay for (at the RV resort) is your lot and your electric." Bullock added that the cost of living at the RV resort includes internet and cable.

For Bullock, the Keystone Heights RV Resort was a good option because it kept her in Keystone and still involved in the organizations and activities she enjoys.

"It wasn't far away, so I didn't have to leave my friends," she said. "I still play cards at the Woman's Club. I'm still a member of Kiwanis. I'm

still involved in a lot of those organizations."

Bullock also has her son and granddaughter nearby in Orange Park.

Ron likes living in Keystone, saying, "You have everything here that you want, and Gainesville's not that far."

The Nylands and Bullock love the fact that the RV resort has various activities to enjoy, even though Ron admitted he's "not one to go out for all of this stuff."

"The thing is, it's there if you want it," he said.

As for their current homes, the Nylands and Bullock have no plans to take them on the road.

"I don't want to have to travel

and to pull a 44-footer," Ron said.

No, the trailers are nothing more than an alternative to owning and maintaining a house.

Bullock said she got a little sad when she and her son locked the door to her house for the last time before turning the keys over to a Realtor. The sadness didn't last long. When her son said, "Mom, this is my childhood," Bullock replied, "You're not coming back here."

Since then, she has enjoyed her new "simplistic lifestyle."

The Nylands enjoy their new way of life, too.

"We don't have any regrets at all," Liz said.

AHG

Continued from page 13

—Pathfinder (5-6): This level introduces the youngest girls to the AHG experience, teaching them to grow in knowledge and truth through fun activities.

—Tenderheart (6-9): Exploration of the world through badges focusing on certain topics and lessons emphasizes teamwork and building confidence.



—Explorers (9-12): The badges that the girls can earn increase in their challenge, providing Explorers the opportunity to learn important life skills as well as develop their friendships.

—Pioneers (12-14): Pioneers have the opportunity to find out their identity in Christ. At this level, girls are encouraged to advance their Christian leadership skills and learn more about who God is.

—Patriots (14-18): In the last level of AHG, adult leaders step back and let the Patriots lead. Girls get the chance to truly test their leadership abilities by making decisions regularly as well as make stronger friendships through joint activities.

904-859-4188

Kay & Donald Smith

G.R.O.W. OUTDOOR SERVICES INC.

Fully Licensed & Insured • Workers Compensation

CALL US FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

904-859-4188
atlantictree64@gmail.com

18001 Wells Road
Jacksonville, FL 32234

TREE SERVICES:

- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Debris Removal & Hauling
- Hazardous Or Unwanted Trees
- Storm Damage & Emergency Cleanup

EXCAVATION/BOBCAT SERVICES:

- Site Clearing
- Underbrush Mulching
- Site Prep & Grading
- Fill Dirt, Top Soil & Gravel

CONCRETE SERVICES:

- Driveways
- Sidewalks
- Patios

UNDERBRUSH MULCHING

via excavator

STARTING AT \$450.00

- Retention Ponds
- Fence Lines
- Ditches & Trenches
- Other Underbrush Areas

BEFORE

AFTER

FULLY LICENSED & INSURED
WORKERS COMPENSATION

904-859-4188
atlantictree64@gmail.com

BAMA BUILDINGS AND MORE

MARCH TO THESE MAD SAVINGS! SALE

\$95 on all portable BUILDINGS

DOWN

UP TO 15% OFF STEEL BUILDINGS

Financing Available

FREE DELIVERY

12x12 46" DOOR

\$4,200 ~~\$4,400~~ **\$144/MO** ~~\$150/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

10x12 GREEN HOUSE

\$3,990 ~~\$4,190~~ **\$138/MO** ~~\$145/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

18x21 CARPORT

\$33/MO ~~\$35/MO~~ **\$2018** +TAX

18x30 UTILITY

\$77/MO ~~\$80/MO~~ **\$4,752** +TAX

18x41x12 VERTICAL ROOF RV COVER

\$84/MO ~~\$88/MO~~ **\$5,244** +TAX

10x16

\$4,450 ~~\$4,650~~ **\$152/MO** ~~\$160/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

10x12 2 DOORS PORCH MODEL

\$4,190 ~~\$4,390~~ **\$145/MO** ~~\$155/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

7x10

\$4,250 ~~\$4,450~~ **\$77/MO** ~~\$85/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

42x26 CAROLINA BARN

\$122/MO ~~\$128/MO~~ **\$7,630** +TAX

18x26x9 INCLUDES 92X26X7 LEAN-TO

\$128/MO ~~\$135/MO~~ **\$8,009** +TAX

30x51x12

\$255/MO ~~\$265/MO~~ **\$16,408** +TAX

10x20 60" DOOR

\$4,580 ~~\$4,780~~ **\$158/MO** ~~\$168/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

SCREEN ROOM

\$5,915 ~~\$6,115~~ **\$204/MO** ~~\$215/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

12x20 ROLL-UP DOOR

\$6,270 ~~\$6,470~~ **\$216/MO** ~~\$228/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

10x14

\$5,690 ~~\$5,890~~ **\$196/MO** ~~\$208/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

10x20

\$5,990 ~~\$6,190~~ **\$207/MO** ~~\$219/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

18x25 BOAT COVER

\$3,000 ~~\$3,200~~ **\$57/MO** ~~\$62/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

12x24 LUMBER JACK

\$7,446 ~~\$7,646~~ **\$255/MO** ~~\$267/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

12x24

\$7,800 ~~\$8,000~~ **\$269/MO** ~~\$281/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

12x30 SIDE ENTRY DOOR 8X7 ROLL-UP DOOR

\$8,975 ~~\$9,175~~ **\$307/MO** ~~\$319/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

POLE BARN

\$8,112 ~~\$8,312~~ **\$115/MO** ~~\$120/MO~~ +TAX **RTO**

Expertly installed by

Cutting Edge Development LLC.

License Number: CGC1523449

1540 S Walnut Street
Starke, FL 32091

BAMA BUILDINGS AND MORE

904-966-0077
www.BuildingsAndMore.com

Lark Authorized Dealer for TBS TUBULAR BUILDING SYSTEMS