

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, May 1, 2025

146th year, 42nd Issue — \$1

Nearly 200 students left Union schools this year

Net loss of 57 students creates \$500,000 budget hole

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Union County School District's finance director told the school board that 197 students have left district schools during the current year, while 140 have come on board, resulting in a net loss of 57 since the beginning of the school year.

Renee Prevatt estimated that, based on the state's unweighted FTE reimbursement rate of \$8,987.67 per student, the net loss of 57 undergraduates cost the district up to \$512,297 in funding.

The finance director estimated that of the 197 students who left district schools over the current year, 113 went to other public-school districts, 63 went into home schools, and 20 went into adult education.



Making homeschoolers pay: Union County Schools Superintendent Mike Ripplinger (center) said his district will charge homeschool parents whose students participate in the district's extracurricular activities, like sports, beginning next year. Also pictured are (l-r) School Board Attorney Dan Webb and Chair Curtis Ciyatt.

Other counties losing students

Prevatt added that other Florida school districts have experienced similar student losses over the year.

"(Lake County is) estimating close to 1,600 students have been lost this fiscal year, and they're planning for another 1,500 students to be lost next year," she said. "Columbia County, they've lost approximately 3.28% this year, planning for another 3.1% to exit and leave their district next year. And

then Levy County is at 1.25% (for this year) and 1.33% for the next year."

Superintendent Mike Ripplinger added that based on a recent meeting with officials from other school districts, 47 of the state's approximately 67 public school systems lost students during the school year.

"That's two-thirds of your counties," he said, "from small counties like ours to large counties like Lake County and others. So, the trend is not unique to one geographical area."

Economic incentives

Prevatt and Ripplinger blamed the student losses on Florida's Personalized Education Program and Family Empowerment Scholarships.

The state's Personalized Education Program is a scholarship that funds educational savings accounts for homeschool parents. It reimburses them for money they spend on their children's education, up to around \$8,500 per student, depending on grade level.

See LEFT, page 5

Bradford learns fair deeded property to nonprofit

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County — now owner of the fairgrounds — has questions about 8 acres of land south of Market Road that was transferred to a nonprofit by the fair board during last month's transition period.

The county acquired the fairgrounds in exchange for paying off a loan and saving the property from foreclosure. That agreement including dissolving the former Bradford Fair Association in place of a new board that will be established later this month when the county approves its slate of additions to the board.

In the meantime, County Manager Scott Kornegay is serving as interim fairgrounds manager, a position he will eagerly retire given the headaches — including the discovery of the fair board deeding those 8 acres to the nonprofit Friends of the Bradford Agricultural Fair and Youth Shows without the county's knowledge.

According to Bob Milner, former

president of the fair association and nonprofit, the fair association created the Friends group to award youth scholarships and financially assist the swine and cattle associations with their annual shows. Milner, who said he was no longer involved, claimed no knowledge of what the Friends nonprofit intends to do with the land.

Originally, the fair association envisioned an RV park there to host campers for fairgrounds events with potential for longer stays, he said. The cost of running utilities to the property for 50 or 60 campsites was much more than they imagined and more than they could afford. Milner said it's the nonprofit's now to sell and raise money for scholarships and the animal associations.

Not so, according to Kornegay, who called the property transfer into question via an email Tuesday morning to Milner and former fairgrounds manager Dale Woodruff. In it, Kornegay recalls the agreement signed April 11 by the county and fair association which dissolved the fair

board until a new board is seated. That won't happen until May 15, the night of the scheduled county commission meeting.

Kornegay wrote, "Any action taken by any individual(s) after April 11 on behalf of the Fair Association is considered null and void. After consulting with our law firm, Bradley, Garrison and Komando, it is the position of Bradford County that the conveyance of the property south of Market Road on April 17 and recorded in the Clerk's office on April 22 was inappropriate and without authority."

The county manager then advised them to consult with their attorney and rectify the situation.

Reached for comment, Woodruff — who still serves as executive director for the Friends nonprofit — said he was unaware of the email. He reached out to the fair association's attorney and confirmed that — along with two pieces of equipment — the Bradford Fair Association board voted on April 7 to deed the property to Friends of the Bradford Agricultural Fair and Youth

Shows.

Asked about the fair association's April 7 meeting, Kornegay wanted to see the meeting's minutes. That would have been before the April 11 agreement between the county and the fair association. However, the deed wasn't signed until April 17 by Milner and Chuck Kramer, the president and treasurer of the fair board dissolved on April 11.

While that issue was not settled as of press time, Kornegay had made progress in another area. He said the fair association had until Wednesday of this week to vacate the fairgrounds. When it was apparent on Monday that they hadn't started and would not meet the deadline, the county's public works and inmate crews got it cleaned out.

"We got everything moved out, all the trash thrown away, and all the documents and important things are now in the courthouse across from my office," he said.

Despite complaints, Lake Butler sticks by waste company

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Lake Butler City Commission voted 4-1 to retain its current solid waste contractor, GFL, despite Mayor Melissa Hendrix's complaints about the trash hauler's customer service response.

"I can speak to myself as a citizen as well as the commission," Hendrix told her colleagues. "I don't know how many complaints you all have received, but I received quite a few of garbage not getting picked up. Our roads have been damaged by the trucks."

GFL and Waste Pro were the only two bidders for the solid waste contract. While Waste Pro appeared competitive with the incumbent in residential prices, the challenger's fees for commercial pickups were up to five times GFL's.

GFL responds to complaints

The mayor added that, according to the city's current contract with GFL, the contractor is supposed to pick up yard waste. However, according to Hendrix, city workers have been collecting tree limbs and leaves because GFL has failed to do so.

"When the truck breaks down," Hendrix added, "another truck's supposed to come in and be replaced to finish that for the day. Well, I can



Dayna Williams (right), the director of governmental affairs for Waste Pro, asked commissioners to look at value instead of only price. Also pictured (left) is Lake Butler Mayor Melissa Hendrix.

tell you that hasn't happened because that has happened here over the past few years, where a truck would break down, and what they do is they come back the next day."

Kevin Smith, the general manager for Gainesville's GFL office, told commissioners that his company brought in a replacement after hearing complaints about trucks damaging city streets.

"We made an initial investment, and we brought another style truck up, which is the brand new one that you all see now to help reduce some of that turn friction," he said.

Smith added that the company's communication with city leaders was

hurt by the COVID-19 Pandemic, but he was confident that his team would now adequately respond to any complaints by Lake Butler residents.

Smith told commissioners that two hurricanes passing through the area over the past year affected service. One storm closed the landfill GFL had been using to dispose of Lake Butler's trash.

"I've been doing this for 20 years of my life," he said. "Situations do arise, but it's all about the response that you give to make sure that as much as you possibly can, that things are intact."

Smith said that even during COVID, when other companies stopped picking up trash because of staffing

shortages, his company continued serving Lake Butler.

"We didn't have to stop servicing garbage like other companies did because we had a commitment," he said.

Waste Pro: Look at value, not just price

Dayna Williams, Waste Pro's director of governmental affairs, focused on the company's ownership and added that private, American-owned enterprises deliver better service than the alternatives. She said Waste Pro's corporate headquarters is in Longwood, just north of Orlando, and that Waste Pro's founder and executive board chair, John Jennings, has driven through Lake Butler.

"I don't know necessarily that other companies, their upper CEOs, even would know where Lake Butler is, and we are the — as far as your two proposals in front of you — we're the only American company of the proposals in front of you."

Williams added that instead of only looking at price, Lake Butler officials should also consider value.

"Obviously," she said, "if you were happy with what you currently have, I wouldn't be here (and) we wouldn't be here talking about this."

See WASTE, page 4



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WORTH NOTING

Celebrate May Day

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County is once again sponsoring a May Day celebration on Saturday, May 3, beginning at 11 a.m. Celebrate the spring alongside a Community Health and Wellness Resource Fair. Activities include softball games, a kids' corner with bounce houses, a senior citizens corner with bingo, a Motorcycle Club display, food trucks and vendors, and the plaiting of the maypole. There will be music, including a Gospel Fest in the park.

All this will take place at the RJE Complex ballfield, N. 1080 Pine St. in Starke. For more information or to sponsor, please call 904-966-1100 or email ccbc_inc@yahoo.com.

Identify signs of mental health struggles in youth

You can train to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health challenges among young people through a daylong training program this weekend at Victory Christian Center in Lake Butler (705 SW Sixth St.).

The free training funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will teach you a five-step action plan for helping you with early or worsening signs of mental health challenges in crisis and noncrisis situations. The training is important for parents and grandparents, youth leaders, educators, etc. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card. To signing up for the training, which will take place Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., visit <http://education.ufl.edu/reach/events/>. For more information, please call Iana Patterson at 904-964-7732, ext. 1600.

Sponsor a day camper

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County's Summer Day Camp returns this year from June 9 to July 3 for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade at the RJE Complex in Starke. The cost is \$200, which includes four weeks of camp — from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day — plus a special field trip.

In addition to free breakfast and lunch, there will be math and language labs, arts and crafts, healthy cooking and baking classes, athletics, and more.

Sign up or sponsor a child for \$200, which can be paid at once or in installments through May 31. Please contact one of the listed CCBC member for more information: Sherry Williams at 352-278-3540, Alica McMillian at 904-966-1100 or Glenda Ruise 904-769-1691.



National Day of Prayer is May 1: Pray with Starke at the Downtown Square

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The city of Starke joined local churches in approving a resolution recognizing the

National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1.

Cynthia Ross approached the city commission in April with supporters from many

local churches in the crowd after first speaking with Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby about the resolution.

Ross worships and serves at

the Starke Church of God by Faith where James E. McKnight Jr. is pastor. She is part of her church prayer team and the community prayer group that she said evolved during the last Day of Prayer in 2023.

She asked that Starke help host the event at the Downtown Square and approve a resolution in recognition of the National Day of Prayer. The national organization has selected the theme for the 74th annual occasion: Pour out to the God of

hope and be filled. From Romans 15: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

The National Day of Prayer Observance at the Downtown Square will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 1.

Ross told the commission the point is to pray for our nation, our state, our city and the needs of the people.

"That's all that we're about is

to help, is to usher in the grace of God over our community and over our nation," she said.

Multiple churches have participated in hosting prayer events. Some mentioned included First Baptist of Starke, True Vine Ministries, Grace Community Fellowship, New Hope Missionary Baptist and River of Life Church of God. Ross said the events help bring people together despite their differences.

Commissioner Janice Mortimer remarked: "It is so good and refreshing to see such a diverse group of folks coming together in our small little county on one accord, and that is so rewarding of us to be able to participate and support this, because we all need prayer. Whether we realize it or not, we all need prayer."

The day's focus will be prayer, although there is likely to be some singing as well. Everyone is welcome to come by, just to drop in or stay and pray all day.

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FMPA CEO visits Starke

Gives municipal power a glowing review

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke electric customers receive “great value” for their money according to the man managing the Florida Municipal Power Agency.

FMPA General Manager and CEO Jacob Williams told city commissioners in April that things have evolved a lot, and the city is currently in a great position.

“The electric utility is serving the community very well,” he said, and the goal of his presentation was the reveal the value of the utility to citizens.

Starke does not generate its own electricity but is part-owner of FMPA, which has 33 total municipal members. Most purchase some or all their power from FMPA. The cities purchase that power wholesale, and they turn around and sell that power to their customers at rates that allow the cities to recover their cost and operate their system. More than 4 million residents and businesses receive power from FMPA.

“Fourteen percent of the population gets electricity from one of these municipal utilities,” Williams said.

As a member of the All-Requirements Project, Starke derives all its electricity through FMPA. FMPA has ownership 22 generating units. Some it owns and operates; some it has minority ownership. The fuel mix is currently 81% natural gas, 8% coal, 4% nuclear and

around 1% each for solar or other sources.

“Natural gas has been, in general, one of the reasons why costs have been low,” Williams said. “Our mission, real simply, is to provide you with low cost and reliable power, and also along the way, reduce emissions.”

The state’s humid climate means Floridians use twice as much electricity as others in the country, Williams said, so what they pay really matters. Compare more than 13,000 kilowatt-hours used by the average Floridian in 2024 to around 6,000 for the average Californian.

“Florida has such a large fixed-income population, retirees, plus the low-income population, that they’re very dependent on low-cost electricity,” he said.

Prices are based on generation costs, which are driven by the cost of fuel. Spikes in FMPA’s costs have mostly reflected high natural gas prices given the amount of natural gas generation in the mix. Williams also mentioned the impact of inflation, which when taken into consideration places FMPA’s wholesale price at the same levels as the late 1990s and early 2000s.

He also compared the average of municipal power customers’ costs per 1,000 kWh to those served by investor-owned utilities. Between 2015 and 2024, municipal customers’ bills were up an average of 8% while IOU customers’ bills were up an average of 26%. Plus, he said 2024 comparisons showed Starke’s average bills were also low when compared to other municipal utilities. This rate spread will only increase as

Florida Power & Light seeks rate hikes, he said.

“FPL right now is in front of the Public Service Commission of Florida, and they’re asking for a 17% rate increase over the next four years. So, their rates are going to keep going up,” he said.

According to Williams, Starke’s municipal utility provides around \$2 million in economic value to the city, including saving customers more than \$1 million annually than if they were served by Clay Electric or Florida Power & Light. There is also about \$500,000 in impact by those employed by the city who live here and spend their money here.

FMPA has advantages. Williams said IOUs are more sensitive to high interest rates during this time of expansion. FMPA is paying off its debt and is not building. Smart decision-making by board members, including Starke, also meant that debt will be paid off in 20 to 25 years instead of 40, he said.

He also talked about smart decisions at home, including the city shifting its financial focus to maintaining and improving its utility infrastructure, and how that has improved system reliability. Outages are shorter and less frequent. Investments in long-term reliability and fast power restoration also saves money.

The people who govern the utility, operate it and use it all live right here, not 50 miles away, Williams said. Decisions over operations, standards and customer service are all made at home.

FMPA Power Costs Coming Back to 2015-2021 Levels Inflation Adjusted: 2024 Wholesale Prices Lowest Since 2000s

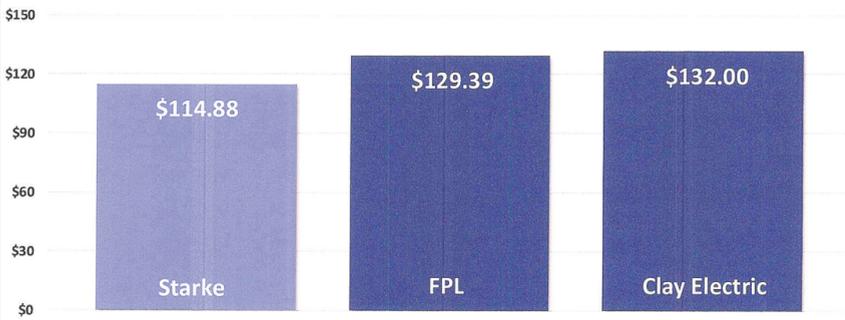
All-Requirements Project Power Costs



FMPA’s chart showed the cost per megawatt-hour for power purchased by All-Requirements Project members like Starke and the impact of natural gas prices. Levels are also shown adjusted for inflation.

Starke Electric Rates ~11% Lower Than Neighbors ~\$1 Million Benefit of Lower Rates to Customers

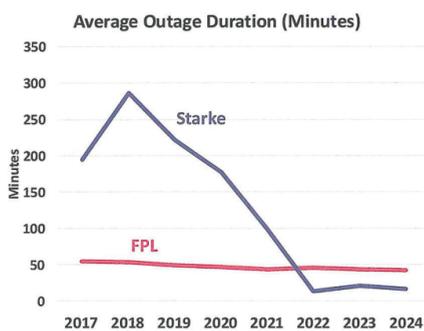
1,000 kWh Residential Bill – CY 2024 Average



According to FMPA, Starke’s power bills are 11% lower than its neighbors.

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- Previous fund transfers supported city services to improve everyday life



The average duration of a power outage in Starke has decreased dramatically.

BHS Class of 1975 reunion planned

The Bradford County High School Class of 1975 will hold its 50th anniversary reunion on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the Starke Woman’s Club. Social will begin at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Price for the reunion is \$50 per person,

payable by check or money order only. Make payment to BHS Class of 1975 and mail to Donna Solze, BCREC, P.O. Box 213, Starke, FL 32091. Please include your full name and the name of any guests.

Deadline for payment is June 1, 2025. Organizers also need your help in locating classmates. So spread the word. For more information, please contact Joy Tetstone at 352-745-6672 or Randy Martin at 352-235-6410.

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Soil and Water board meeting

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District invites all to the regular meeting held the

first Tuesday of each month at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. (U.S. 301) in Starke. The next meeting, Tuesday, May 6, at 4:30 p.m. Topics on the agenda include updates on the Chemours

Trail Ridge South unauthorized wastewater discharge from Feb. 16, 2025.

Contact Amy Morie at 323-274-8858 or email a.morie@bswcd@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

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Thirty-seven volunteers cleared 3,020 pounds—over 1.5 tons—of debris, making a significant difference in their community.

Save Our Lakes organizes cleanup of Geneva's boat ramp area

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

On Saturday, April 25th, Save Our Lakes rallied the community for a cleanup and restoration project near the county's Fifth Street boat ramp in Lake Geneva.

The areas designated for cleaning are part of a large project to restore Lake Geneva. Once the county receives approval from the state, trees in certain parts of Lake Geneva will be removed.

Thirty-seven volunteers cleared 3,020 pounds—over 1.5 tons—of debris, making a significant difference in their community.

"Thank you so much to all the Save Our Lakes volunteers who came out for the Fifth Street Boat Ramp cleanup," said County Commissioner Betsy Condon. "It's crazy to see all the things people have illegally dumped in the woods over the years. Now our beautiful lake area is a little

cleaner."

"It was a big cleanup event for— actually a pre-cleanup event for the Geneva restoration project that hopefully will begin, I'll say, in about a month," added Save Our Lakes President Vivian Katz James. "Thank you to everyone for coming out and helping with this project today."

The SOLO president added that once the 21-day comment period for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's permit expires, contractors will remove trees and underbrush from Geneva's dry lakebed.

"We're waiting for the 21-day waiting period, which will be up May 1st," Katz James said, "and then everything should start moving quickly. The paperwork is being done now and is ready for when May 1 hits; they really can't do anything in particular until that happens."

WASTE

Continued from page 1

Williams also said her company's proposal went into detail about how Waste Pro would avoid school zones and Main Street during busy times, and how its routes programmed the trucks' turns on main roads, which are better suited to handle heavy equipment.

"We talked about what our trucks are equipped with, including GPS, and including Third Eye," she said. "Third Eye is a camera system that allows us to pull up video, and we're able

to pull up a specific stop... if staff needed to confirm something about a stop, we would be able to pull up video of that stop and be able to answer those questions."

LB VFW hosts bingo

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

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Strawberry Festival clears \$25K

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The president of the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce told Bradford County's Tourist Development Council that the 2025 Strawberry Festival earned a net profit of around \$25,000.

Pam Whittle said that despite the event's first-ever rain and lightning interruption on Sunday, March 30, vendors were happy with the event.

"Saturday was a bumper crop day," she told the council during its April 17 meeting. "All of our vendors told us, 'We made our money Saturday.'"

Whittle said she had never witnessed a Strawberry Festival crowd like the one she saw on March 29.

"We had so many people pouring in," she said. "I've never seen them coming in the gates like that."

The chamber president, who provides staff support to the tourist development council, said the Bradford County Sheriff's Office Explorers program typically raises \$3,500 from parking donations for the two-day festival at the fairgrounds.

Whittle said the youth program made that amount on Saturday alone.

The festival's revenue came from sponsorships and vendor fees. Primary expenses included advertising.

Tourist Development Council Chair John Miller told Whittle he had received several inquiries about returning the festival to downtown.

Whittle responded that her board had already discussed bringing the event back to Call Street and that she would meet with City of Starke officials and the Sheriff's Office to discuss moving it.

She added that when the Strawberry Festival was downtown, Call Street merchants and festival vendors had complaints.

She also said that for the last two years the festival was held downtown, CSX charged the chamber \$800 a day for a railroad employee to be posted at the railroad crossing, telling pedestrians when it was safe to cross the tracks.

"Okay, let's figure this out," replied Miller. "We have to have an event downtown."

Bed tax revenues up 59%

The chamber president gave the TDC a summary of the county's participation in Rural County Day in Tallahassee.

The event is designed to raise the profile of smaller Florida communities with state lawmakers.

Whittle showed TDC members photographs of the event and told them temperatures dropped dramatically during the Capitol courtyard function.

Whittle also reported that tourist development tax revenues had increased from \$17,263 in January 2024 to \$27,449 in January 2025, a 59% increase.

The state collects a four percent levy on hotel and other transient housing charges within the county. The county then uses that money to promote tourism.

Whittle credited Starke's new Holiday Inn Express and the continuing expansion of the Keystone Heights RV Park for the increase.

As of March 25, the county's tourism bank account had a balance of \$810,866.53.



Iana Patterson with the Bradford Health Department, Sarah Livingstone (daughter of the late Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone, seen in the portrait), Commissioner Carolyn Spooner and the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bailey.

Walk raises cancer awareness, donations for second year

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner thanked all of the participants, donors and volunteers following the completion of the second annual Cancer Awareness and Education Walk held last Saturday. In addition to spreading awareness and education, the event supports the Shirley Livingstone Brown Scholarship Foundation, which Spooner founded in memory of her sister, a nurse who died of breast cancer. The scholarship helps fund further education for those seeking a degree in the medical field for a career dedicated to service.

Several churches assisted with plans and refreshments,

including Mt. Pisgah AME, Ebenezer Baptist, Greater Allen Chapel AME and Antioch Baptist. Thanks were also extended to the Florida Department of Health in Bradford County, the Bradford County Commission, Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Bradford County Fire Rescue and the Downtown Grill.

Spooner said donors raised nearly \$4,000 toward the \$5,000 goal.

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, such as nursing, pharmacy, radiology, cancer research, or clinical psychology or sociology.

Applications are available at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center in Starke, the 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.



North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce President Pam Whittle shows Tourist Development Council members a photograph of the county's participation in Rural County Days in Tallahassee. Also pictured are TDC members (l-r) John Miller, Steve Futch, and Dale Woodruff.

'Emotions in Motion' STEM Camp enrolling

This summer, children in grades 2 through 8 are invited to dive into an exciting world of science, technology, engineering and math at the "Emotions in Motion: STEM Adventures from the Inside Out" summer camp. Hosted by 12G Mentoring, this engaging and educational camp will run from June 16 to July 25, operating Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Church of God by

Faith Community Learning Center, 721 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

Inspired by the animated film Inside Out, the camp promises a creative blend of emotion-themed activities and hands-on STEM learning. Participants will explore topics such as neuroscience, gaming, artificial intelligence, project-based learning and engineering design challenges. Curriculum

and supplies will be provided, ensuring all campers are equipped for success.

Registration is \$75 with a \$150 weekly fee. Scholarships available upon request. Families can register online at www.iamstemcamps.com. For more information, please contact Edrick Hamilton at l2gibt.l2gip@gmail.com.

Mother's Day Breakfast

The New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Women's Ministry will be hosting its annual Mother's Day Breakfast on Saturday, May 10, at 9 a.m. Breakfast will be held in the New Bethel fellowship hall at 901 N. Keller St. in Starke for a donation of \$15 per person. Come and bring your mother for a heartwarming breakfast and Mother's Day message.



Soldier of the Cross

There is a war, there is a fight
There is a battle, day and night
There is a way, we must choose
There is a tool, we must use
There is a place, we must go
There is a truth, we must show
There is a people, we must tell
There is a product, we must sell
There is a person, we must lift
The same one, that brought us life.

~ By Henry Hodges

Honoring Ona Hardee, a true example of God's amazing grace. 106 years old and counting. Wow!

LEFT Continued from page 1

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options provides around \$8,000 a year to families of private school students.

Ripplinger said parents have always had alternatives to public education. However, they now have an economic incentive to take advantage of those options.

"So, when a student or a parent can now receive nearly \$8,500 a year to go to a private school or to homeschool or do things such as that—" he said. "We've always had students in homeschool. We've always had students that have gone to private schools both locally and in the area. Now, with the changes that have occurred over the last year, year-and-a-half, now, there's an economic incentive to go in that direction."

his district's extracurricular activities, like sports, beginning next year.

Now, the state reimburses the parents of students in the Personalized Education Program for costs like private music lessons or dance studios.

The superintendent said that next school year, the district would invoice the parents of PEP students in the same way for participating in district activities, with the parents receiving a reimbursement from the state.

"Currently, the homeschool students or the PEP students that we're collecting nothing off of, then they can take advantage of that, and there is no skin in the game, so to speak," he said.

"So, putting something into place to where if all they do is they come and they play a sport, okay, well that's great, that's the parents' choice, I support that," Ripplinger continued. "But you're going to have to pay X fee to help pay for that supplement that we're paying for the coach, and those types of things. That's only fair. And they should know that because they know as a member of the PEP program, they have reimbursements. So, we give them the invoice, they pay for the class or whatever it is, and they can turn that invoice in, and they get reimbursements from the state as long as those are allowable expenses."

Making homeschoolers pay

The superintendent added that some homeschoolers have returned to Union County public schools this year, particularly 12th-graders who wanted to experience the traditional senior year and walk with their class at graduation.

He also said the district is adjusting to homeschooled students participating in public school activities, like clubs and sports.

Ripplinger said that the district will charge homeschool parents whose students participate in

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Hospital launches program for people 55+

Lake Butler Hospital is

pioneering a program for those 55 and older to keep them active, sharp and connected. Gather practical health wisdom to make your days brighter and more independent. Laugh, learn and grow with folks who share your zest for life. Each event will include delicious snacks,

keepsakes and a chance to win prizes.

The program takes place every second Thursday each month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Lake Butler Hospital. Let them know to expect you by calling 386-496-9277.

DLP merging with Oklahoma bank holding company

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Regent Capital Corporation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, said in a news release that it has signed a merger agreement with DLP Bancshares, Inc., the parent company of Starke's DLP Bank.

Under the agreement, the Oklahoma holding company, which now operates four branches in the Sooner state, and one each in Texas and Missouri, would acquire DLP Bancshares in an all-stock transaction.

"After the closing of the transaction," Regent Capital said in the release, "DLP Bank and Regent Bank will operate as separate community banks, both owned by Regent Capital Corporation. The combined organization is expected to have approximately \$2 billion in total assets, \$1.8 billion in deposits, \$1.6 billion in loans and leases, 8 full-service branches, and three loan production offices in four states: Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Florida."

Three DLP Bank board members plan to join Regent Capital Corporation and Regent Bank's boards, each of which will maintain a 10-member board.

"We are honored to partner with a high-quality organization that aligns so well with our culture



Regent Bank's corporate headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

and accelerates our strategic priorities," said Regent Bank Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Sean Kouplen in the news release. "DLP Bank brings a tremendous investor base for future growth capital, a strong core deposit base, and a loan mix that increases the diversification of our loan portfolio. The central and northeast Florida markets are an excellent complement to our existing rapidly growing markets in Oklahoma, southwest Missouri, and north Texas."

Founded in 1957 as Community State Bank by former Gov. Charlie E. Johns,

DLP Bank operates three full-service branches in Starke, Lake Butler, and Interlachen. As of December 31, 2024, DLP Bank had \$247 million in total assets, \$201 million in deposits, and \$114 million in loans and leases.

The merger is pending approval from the Federal Reserve, which will accept public comments on the transaction through May 30.

DLP acquired Community State Bank in September 2022. Don Wenner is the CEO of DLP Capital, whose motto is dream, live, prosper.

NOTICE APPLICATIONS FOR UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council invites interested persons to apply for membership on the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board is an advisory Board that oversees the provision of transportation services for older adults, persons with disabilities and persons with low income.

These are volunteer positions. Applicants must be residents of Union County.

Applications or additional information may be obtained by contacting: Lynn Franson, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653; phone 352.955.2200 x 110, e-mail godfrey@ncfrpc.org or by visiting our website at <http://www.ncfrpc.org/TD/td.html>

Applications must be received no later than May 30, 2025.

Lake Butler hires lawyer to recover water main break costs

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The city of Lake Butler has hired a Gainesville attorney to help it recover nearly \$72,000 in costs related to a water main break on Friday, Jan. 17.

The mishap shut down water service to city customers and forced Union County public schools to close early.

Then-Director of Public Works Sam Norris said the break was caused by a Florida Department of Transportation contractor, taking soil borings on Southwest

6th Avenue in front of the city's waterworks facility.

"Obviously," he said, "they bore sighted in the wrong spot. We had to do a shut-off of the whole city."

During an April 14 city commission meeting, City Manager Kimberly Hayes gave commissioners a breakdown of costs to repair the line, which included a \$67,680 invoice from W.W. Gay, a \$2,212 bill from Fortline Waterworks, and \$1,565 in additional labor charges from the city's public works department.

She said the state road agency hired Preferred Materials for help on the turning lane project, which in turn hired Future Works to perform the boring samples.

"I was working with FDOT, Future Works, and Preferred Materials, and I've been on the phone with these guys since January trying to get payment for the...\$71,818 (for) damages, staff salaries, and parts we had to purchase that night," she told commissioners. "It's been a fight ever since. Preferred Materials has been talking with me. Future Works has not talked with me

yet."

Hayes added that she asked City Attorney John E. Maines, IV for advice and the lawyer recommended they call Robert Butts in Gainesville, a specialist in construction law and a general contractor.

"We made contact with him," Maines explained to commissioners, "and interestingly, when DOT discovered we had consulted with Mr. Butts, they immediately put a stop payment on the \$71,000 of the subcontractor. So, I mean, it's amazing how that worked. I mean, it was like, as soon as we mentioned outside counsel, it was like no, no, no, no."

Commissioners approved a \$71,818 loan from the city's Wastewater Fund to the Water Fund for the municipality to pay W.W. Gay and the other contractors who repaired the line.

Hayes and Maines told commissioners they will continue to work with Butts to resolve the matter. However, the Gainesville lawyer's rate is \$450 an hour, and the city is unlikely to recover those legal fees.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Lake Butler plans to apply to Florida Commerce for a FFY 2023-2024 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$2,827,800.00 in the Neighborhood Revitalization category. For each activity that is proposed, at least 70% of the funds must benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The activities, dollar amounts and estimated percentage benefit to low- and moderate-income persons for which the City of Lake Butler is applying are:

03J – Sewer Line Replacement – The project involves the installation of approximately 15,000 linear feet of new 10-inch and 12-inch wastewater force main from the City's new master pump station to the new Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF). The City's existing system includes parallel 6-inch cast iron (installed in 1913) and 8-inch PVC (installed in 1998) force mains that are severely undersized, deteriorating, and insufficient to handle the current and projected wastewater flow demands. These aging pipelines are no longer reliable and pose significant risks of sanitary sewer overflows, public health hazards, and frequent, costly emergency repairs. The proposed new force main will run through a utility easement along SW 158th Road, along the City's sprayfield property through another utility easement along 6th Avenue.

Activity Number and Name	CDBG Budget	Local Match	
		For Points	LMI% Benefit
03J – Sewer Line Replacement	\$2,550,000.00	\$ 0.00	At Least 51%

The amount allocated for Grant Administration and Engineering is as follows:

Activity Number and Name	CDBG Budget	Local Match	
		For Points	LMI% Benefit
03J – Engineering for Sewer Line Replacement	\$ 73,800.00	\$50,000.00	N/A
21A – Administration	\$ 204,000.00	\$ 0.00	N/A
Total	\$2,827,800.00	\$50,000.00	

The City of Lake Butler does not anticipate that anyone will be displaced as a result of CDBG-funded activities. If any persons are displaced as a result of these planned activities, the City of Lake Butler will assist as described in the City's anti-displacement and relocation policy, which is available for review at City Hall.

A public hearing to provide citizens an opportunity to comment on the application will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible at the City of Lake Butler's City Hall Council Meeting Room located at 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler Florida 32054, Florida. A draft copy of the application will also be available for review during normal business hours at the City of Lake Butler City Hall by noon on Friday, May 2, 2025. Persons wanting to submit written comments on the application should send them to Ms. Kimberly Hayes, City Manager, City of Lake Butler or by e-mail at khayes@cityoflakebutler.com no later than noon, Thursday, May 8, 2025.

A copy of the final application will be available for review at the City of Lake Butler City Hall, no later than Thursday, May 15, 2025. The application will be submitted to Florida Commerce on or before May 16, 2025. To obtain additional information concerning the application and the public hearing, contact Kimberly Hayes, City Manager, City of Lake Butler at (386) 496-3401 or by e-mail at khayes@cityoflakebutler.com.

The public hearing is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours-before the workshop by contacting: Kimberly Hayes, City Manager, City of Lake Butler at (386) 496-3401 or by e-mail at khayes@cityoflakebutler.com.

Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact Ms. Hayes at (386) 496-3401 or by e-mail at khayes@cityoflakebutler.com at least five calendar days prior to the meeting and a language interpreter will be provided. 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).

A Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity/Handicap Accessible Jurisdiction

Bradford County Schools to honor the school lunch heroes serving healthy meals

Between preparing delicious food, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies and offering service with a smile, Bradford County School District nutrition professionals have a lot on their plate.

To celebrate their hard work and commitment, Bradford schools will celebrate School Lunch Hero Day on May 2.

This day, celebrated annually since 2013, was designated by The School Nutrition Association and Jarrett Krosoczka, author of the "Lunch Lady" graphic novel series. School Lunch Hero Day provides an opportunity for parents, students, school staff and communities to thank those who provide healthy meals to nearly 30 million of America's students each school day.

All across the school district, school nutrition professionals will be honored and recognized by students, school staff, parents and the community. Lunch heroes will be wearing

a specially designed T-shirt to commemorate the day.

"School nutrition employees must balance many roles and follow numerous federal, state and local regulations to ensure safe and healthy meals are available in schools. School Lunch Hero Day provides the opportunity for the community to thank these hardworking heroes for their dedication to fueling our students for success," said Blake Dicks, food and nutrition director for Bradford County Schools.

Federal nutrition standards ensure that school cafeterias always offer low-fat or fat-free milk, fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean protein. School meals also meet limits on calories, sodium and unhealthy fats. The importance and nutritional value of school meals are well documented.

For many children, school lunch is the most important and nutrient-rich meal of their day. All of the schools in Bradford County participate in the Community Eligibility Program, or CEP, meaning that all students enrolled are eligible for free breakfast and lunch each day, no application needed.

Get the details about School Lunch Hero Day at www.schoollunchheroday.com. To learn more about the school nutrition program for Bradford County Schools, visit BradfordSchools.org.

LBMS honors Fitzpatrick as Teacher of the Year

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Times

With her trademark smile and a heart rooted in faith and education, Meredith Fitzpatrick has been named Lake Butler Middle School's 2025 Teacher of the Year—an honor she describes as humbling and affirming.

"It's an honor and something I was so blessed to receive," Fitzpatrick said. "There are so many teachers here who are just as worthy to receive it, but I was so thankful to be nominated."

Fitzpatrick, who teaches 8th-grade Algebra I Honors and 7th-grade Accelerated Math, has dedicated the last 11 years of her life to teaching. Eight of those years were spent nurturing young minds at Lake Butler Elementary School before she returned to her first teaching love—middle school—where she's been for the last three years.

"My first job was in middle school," she shared. "Then I ventured into elementary school, and now I'm back in middle school."



Meredith Fitzpatrick

Grew up in a family of educators

For Fitzpatrick, education is not just a profession—it's a calling. Growing up in a family of educators, she saw firsthand what it meant to serve a community through teaching. Her mother was an elementary teacher, and her father spent three decades as a PE teacher. That legacy helped

shape her own path, eventually earning her degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Florida.

"Both of my parents were in education for 30 years, so they had a huge impact on my life," she said.

Her passion for teaching is rooted in relationships, not just the "light bulb" moments that happen in the classroom, but the deep, meaningful connections that extend far beyond test scores and equations.

"I love the relationships with students and that's what's kept me in education," Fitzpatrick said. "Just building relationships with students is what I value the most."

While many teachers find satisfaction in academic success, Fitzpatrick finds her deepest joy in those unexpected, heartfelt moments—conversations that go beyond math lessons and connect on a personal level.

"Seeing the light bulbs go off when teaching is important, but whenever you have conversations with them about real life and see what's going on with them, it's just really important to be able to have an impact," she said.

That impact becomes even more evident when former students return years later with hugs and kind words.

"Years later, when they come back and they say, 'I miss you' and hug your neck, that's when you realize you've made an impact," she said.

Speaking life and worth into students

But her influence isn't accidental. Fitzpatrick is intentional about speaking life and worth into her students every day. She said one of her greatest goals is to help her students recognize their value, both academically and personally.

"I always want to make sure students are giving their best effort every day, and I want to make sure they have high standards for themselves and that they see a future for themselves," she said. "I want them to have value for themselves and know they are worthy."

This mindset permeates her classroom, where encouragement and high expectations go hand in hand. Whether guiding students through algebraic equations or

encouraging them to believe in their potential, Fitzpatrick's presence makes students feel seen and supported.

An extension of her faith

Her approach stems not only from her upbringing but also from her personal relationship with God—a foundation she says has guided her every step of the way.

"Without my relationship with the Lord, I wouldn't be where I am today, so I try to have a light that shines so that they see a difference in me," she said. "This is a calling. I wouldn't be able to do this job if I didn't know this was a calling."

For Fitzpatrick, teaching is an extension of her faith, a way to serve and pour into others—one student, one conversation, one day at a time.

Outside the classroom, Fitzpatrick leads a full life. She's a proud mom of two children—her son, a 7th grader at Lake Butler Middle School, whom she now has the unique opportunity to teach, and her daughter, a 4th grader at Lake Butler Elementary.

She and her husband, a pastor, enjoy attending Cross Church together, binge-watching Netflix on cozy evenings, visiting the beach, and spending quality time with family on the weekends.

And while she may be known for her engaging math lessons and warm presence in the halls of LBMS, Meredith Fitzpatrick's influence stretches far beyond formulas and homework assignments. Her students don't just leave her class better at math—they leave better equipped to face the world.

Being named Teacher of the Year, Fitzpatrick says, is more than an award—it's a reminder that she is exactly where she's supposed to be.

She smiled and added, "It's validation that I am living my purpose and that others notice it."

In a world where the value of educators can sometimes be overshadowed, Meredith Fitzpatrick stands as a radiant example of what it means to teach with heart, purpose, and unwavering faith. Lake Butler Middle School—and the students who walk its halls—are all the better for it.

Kelley Holder named LBMS Employee of the Year

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Times

Kelley Holder never set out to be in the spotlight. In fact, she'd be the first to tell you she'd rather lift someone else up than talk about herself.

But after six years of quiet dedication, joyful interactions, and tireless work behind the scenes, the Lake Butler Middle School community has spoken loud and clear: Holder is more than deserving of recognition. She's been named Lake Butler Middle School's School-Related Employee of the Year.

I just love my job

For Holder, being a custodian is more than a job—it's a calling.

"It feels pretty good," she said of receiving the honor. "I just love my job."

Her work begins before the school bell rings and doesn't stop when the last student heads home. She ensures that classrooms are clean, facilities are safe, and teachers have what they need to succeed. But it's the personal connections she builds along the way that truly make her role special.

Throughout the school day, she greets students with warmth and a playful spirit. Her sense of humor shines as she jokes with students in the hallway, sometimes calling out a fake "Your shoes are untied!" just to get a smile.

"They even pick back with me, telling me my shoes are untied," she said with a laugh.

These lighthearted exchanges aren't just for fun—they're part of Holder's intentional approach to creating a positive and welcoming environment for all students.

"I joke with them to put a smile on their faces because I do not know what their home life is like," she said.

Holder's presence is a steady reminder to students that kindness matters and that someone at school genuinely sees and cares about them. She's not just a custodian; she's a comforting figure, a listening ear, and for some students, a beacon of stability and care.

Cleanliness is about respect for each other

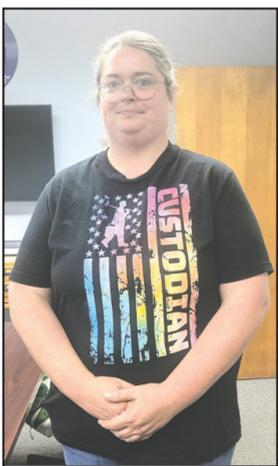
Her pride in her work is evident in everything she touches.

"The classroom reflects on me; how clean it is," she said.

She sees every swept floor and wiped surface as an extension of her commitment to giving students and staff a safe, clean, and dignified place to learn and grow. And when that environment is disrespected, she doesn't turn away—she addresses it head-on.

"If they destroy the bathroom, like vandalize it or something, I will talk to them," she said.

Her direct, respectful approach has made an impact. Over



Kelley Holder

time, she's seen a decrease in those kinds of behaviors. Students come to understand that cleanliness isn't just about appearances—it's about respect for each other and for the people who take pride in maintaining their spaces.

"They apologize when they realize that is disrespect to the work that others put in," she said.

It's a testament to the kind of relationship-building Holder has prioritized—relationships grounded in mutual respect and genuine care.

Re-entered the workforce

Before joining Lake Butler Middle School, Holder spent 13 years as a stay-at-home mom, raising five children with her husband of 16 years. When she was ready to re-enter the workforce, she accepted a substitute custodial position. She quickly realized she'd found more than just a job.

"The kids, when they see you, they will come up and give you the biggest hug in the world," she said. That was the moment she knew this was a place she could make a difference.

Now, she balances her work life with family time, fishing trips, and volunteering at football games—just a few of the things she enjoys outside of school. But even at work, she finds herself surrounded by a strong support system.

"I have a wonderful work family," she said. "Ms. Ricks and Ms. Tucker are the best. They're there for you whenever you need them. Even though they have a ton of stuff on their platter, they're there."

A quiet agent

That feeling of being appreciated is something that motivates Holder every day. Her peers frequently express their gratitude for her dedication and the positive energy she brings to the school.

"Being there for people," she said simply, is what drives her. That's what she gets out of her job.

Despite the well-earned recognition, Holder remains humble.

"I'm not the type of person to brag on myself," she said. "I would rather encourage other

people and be there for somebody else."

And that, perhaps more than anything else, captures why she's this year's School-Related Employee of the Year. Her

selfless spirit, consistent work ethic, and deep love for the students and staff of Lake Butler Middle School have left a lasting impact.

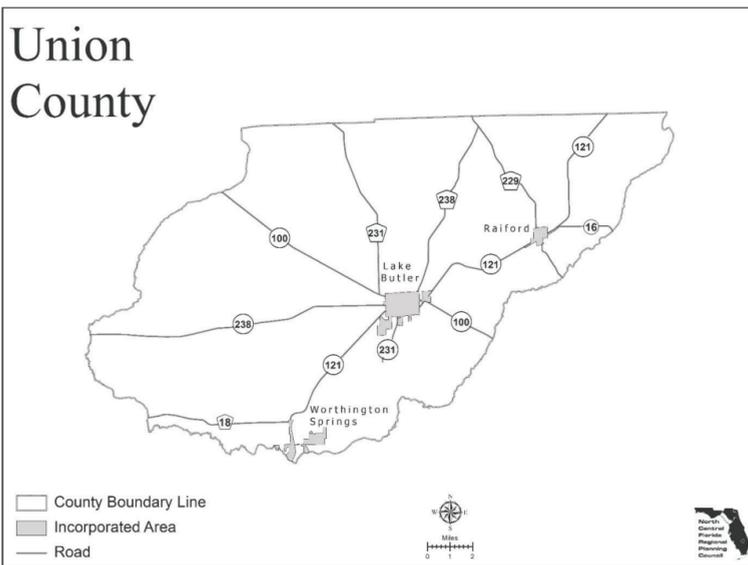
In a world that often overlooks

the quiet heroes, Kelley Holder shines as an example of how meaningful it can be to simply show up each day, give your best, and care deeply.

NOTICE OF A TRAVEL TRAILER PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS MORATORIUM

The Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida proposes to declare a moratorium, within the area shown on the map below by adopting Ordinance No. 2025-02.

Ordinance No. 2025-02, concerning Moratorium No. M 25-01, is an ordinance by the Board of County Commissioners, declaring a moratorium on the acceptance of applications and processing of special exception applications for travel trailer parks and campgrounds for a period of one year.



A public hearing will be conducted by the Board of County Commissioners to consider the moratorium and enactment of the moratorium Ordinance No. 2025-02 on May 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Union County Courthouse located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSING OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL TRAILER PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING AN EXPIRATION DATE

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the Ordinance No. 2025-02.

Copies of Ordinance No. 2025-02 are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

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

Amber Barbour, 35, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 20 for an out-of-county warrant.

Charles Brown, 25, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 24 for sexual assault.

Susan Bryan, 40, of Lawley, was arrested by Lawley police on April 23 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, habitual offender.

Teresa Carrigan, 54, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 23 for being an out-of-state fugitive.

Jimmy Dixon, 36, of Maccleddy, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 22 for a probation violation.

Richard Holocka, 37, of Hilliard, was arrested by Lawley police on April 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and attaching a tag not assigned.

Ka'shon McCallum, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Nadia Molnar, 28, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 19 for DUI.

Ryan Newell, 38, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 21 for a probation violation.

Kenneth Phillips, 56, of Palm Beach, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 25 for dealing in stolen property and fraud.

Chance Ray, 34, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 25 for a probation violation.

Glenda Rickoff, 36, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Alan Smith, 44, of Dallas, Georgia, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 24 for battery.

Tonya Williams, 47, of Starke, was arrested by FHP troopers on April 19 for vehicle theft.

Union

Nicholas Boatwright, 45, of Maccleddy, was arrested by Union deputies on April 24 for a probation violation.

Malachi Davis, 21, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 27 for an out-of-county warrant.

Eric Gunter, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on April 21 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Gary Jones Jr., 28, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 27 for burglary with assault or battery, simple assault, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug equipment.

Michael Long, 57, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 25 for an out-of-county warrant.

Kyle Oltmer, 36, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 28 for a probation violation.

Gary Powell, 44, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on April 23 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill.

Clay

Billy Avance, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 19 for domestic battery.

Austin Bowles, 30, of Keystone Heights, was arrested

by Clay deputies on April 24 for retail petit theft.

Patrick Davis, 60, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 19 for resisting an officer.

Denise McKinney, 50, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 25 for battery on a person 65 years of age or older.

Man killed in Sunday crash

The Florida Highway Patrol said a 57-year-old Lake Butler man died after his vehicle hit a tree south of Providence and west of Worthington Springs.

FHP said in a news release that the driver was traveling westbound on County Road 18, near County Road 241, when his pickup left the roadway and onto the right shoulder.

The driver then overcorrected, crossed the highway, and struck a tree off the left shoulder.

No other drivers were involved in the 8:02 p.m., April 27 crash.

Phone call prompts Putnam school lockdowns

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office said staff at Melrose Elementary School received a threatening phone call around 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29. In response to the threat, the school initiated a lockdown, and the school district locked down other West Putnam schools, including those in Interlocken.

"At the same time," the sheriff's office said in a news release, "similar phone calls were made to communities across the state and nationwide. The calls are all similar in nature. At the time Melrose received the threat, St. Johns County received the same call to three of their schools. The phone number is to a cell phone in the Miami-Dade area."

The law enforcement agency said it, along with school administrators, completed two sweeps of the campus.

'If I go five and five, I'm getting fired

Jamie Rodgers talks about the upcoming season, recruiting, and paying players

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School football coach Jamie Rodgers addressed a wide range of topics during a speech to the Starke Rotary Club on April 17, including transfers, paying players, and recruiting.

However, the Baker County native surprised the civic group when he told them about a primary key to his team's success.

Rodgers claimed one critical contribution to his team's 36-5 record over the past three years is a meal regimen funded by a grant, his booster club, and a church.

"Our kids eat tons of calories," he told the civic group, "so many calories, which they have to at this age, and that's probably what's changed us the most over the last three years and having so much success is our kids are taking in more calories than everybody else's kids, and they're lifting weights, and all that does is gain weight and gain strength and gain speed."

The coach said that with the grant, his players eat breakfast and lunch on campus during the summer.

"And then our booster club does an amazing job," he added. "It's protein smoothies one day after a workout, maybe a milkshake with some kind of protein in it another day."

Rodgers added that a local church donates a full meal once a week, and the booster club provides another.

'What we're doing is working'

Rodgers credited talented players and assistant coaches for the Tornados' 88% winning percentage, which includes 18 shutouts.

"I get the credit in the paper, but I take the bad stuff too," he said. "When we lose, I take the criticism for that, and that's fine. That's a good trade-off when you've got good players and good assistant coaches, because you win more than you lose, most of the time."

The coach said that this week, every one of his players increased his maximum bench press from six weeks ago.

"It gives me a sense that what we're doing is working," he told the Rotarians. "Our system works, the things we've had in place for a long time. A lot of years, not just here, but moving forward, we do different things



"I'm getting accused of (recruiting). Union County's getting accused of it. Everybody's getting accused of it." - Bradford High School head football coach Jamie Rodgers.

and tweak stuff."

Rodgers said that over the summer, he works with the team four days a week for six weeks, with the week of Independence Day off. He added that compared to his regimen leading Cook County High School's program in Georgia, the Florida routine is mild.

"In Georgia, when I was up there, man, it was insane," he recalled. "I mean, it was six days a week in the summer, just all summer, no vacation time. We need it as much as the players need it, but the players really need to get away from it for a little bit, so they get some excitement back."

Opens season with three-time state champs

Rodgers said the Tornados open the season with an August 16 kickoff classic against the squad that denied Bradford two state titles in the last three years: Cocoa High School.

"So, we'll see where we're at really early," he said. "That'll be our first game. Caught a little bit of flak for it. Why is it so far away, and this and that, but this group we've got coming is going to be really good. They don't understand how good they can be. We go down there, and we fight them and we battle them to the end in the very first week, that'll give them a lot of confidence."

Never recruited a player

The Bradford head coach said that as much as the transfer portal and name-image-and-likeness have upended college football, the situation is worse at the high school level.

"I'd rather be the commissioner

over NCAA football than over high school football," he said. "It's pure insanity what's going on right now. And I don't know what to do."

Rodgers said the leaders of the Florida High School Athletic Association are equally puzzled about how to get control of the constant transfers occurring in high school football.

The coach said that so far this year, five players have left his program and seven have transferred in.

He said he has never recruited a player, but his successful program recruits for him.

"I'm getting accused of (recruiting)," he told the Rotarians. "Union County's getting accused of it. Everybody's getting accused of it."

"I have never gone out and talked to a kid and tried to get him to come play football for me, ever, and I'm not going to do that," Rodgers declared. "But if they show up at our school in our weight room walking around and asking questions, I'm going to answer the questions, right? I mean, anybody else would."

Asked if he thought some high school players in Florida were being paid to play, the coach responded, "Absolutely, a thousand percent."

"I don't think they're getting paid at Bradford, cash money... but I don't know that. I'm being transparent."

The coach added that if any of his players were being compensated, word likely would have gotten back to him about it, and he has heard no such rumors.

"But if you're asking me if there's a receiver—there's one down in Orlando that's definitely getting paid. There's no question in my mind. It's big business."

'If I go five and five, I'm getting fired.'

Rodgers said he understands why some parents move their students to other programs to get them more playing time.

"I'm a parent too," he said. "I'm a parent and a dad before I'm a coach, so I try to keep that in mind. I don't know how I would feel if a really good football player transferred into the place where I grew up, and he's better at that position, and that's his position now."

Rodgers said that, as a Dad, he would be conflicted if the same thing happened to his family member. But as a coach, he would have no reservations about playing the more talented athlete.

"If I go five and five, I'm getting fired," he said. "That's how I feel about it."

Kindergarten, here I come!

When you look down into the eyes of your 14-year-old, it's hard to imagine that in 13 years, you will be looking up into the eyes

of your child on the threshold of stepping out on their own to college or career opportunities.

Bradford County School District Kindergarten Registration is underway. To enter kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year, a child must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2025. There is no early admission provision for kindergarten enrollment.

The transition to kindergarten can be an exciting time for both parents and students. Each elementary school will host a Kindergarten Orientation event on Tuesday, May 13, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This free event will give families the opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom, meet staff from the school, ask questions and schedule an appointment to complete the kindergarten screener.

Documents required for registration include: a birth certificate, a school entry health exam performed within 12 months prior to the first day of school, a required immunization certification and proof of residency, including a rental agreement or mortgage documents plus a utility statement. A photo ID or driver's license of the parent/guardian plus the voluntary collection of the child's Social Security number (which may be used for specific purposes including Medicaid eligibility and billing, scholarship applications, state assessments, and driver's licenses) round out the required registration documents. More details are available at www.

bradfordschools.org under "Enrollment." A student is not considered enrolled until all documents are submitted.

Not sure which school to enroll in? Visit www.bradfordschools.org for an interactive zoning map. Choose "Enrollment," "Interactive Zoning Map" and type in your home address to learn which zoned school your child will attend.

Superintendent Will Hartley is delighted to provide early enrolling kindergarteners with a Tornado sport bag and new book for their home library while supplies last. The books selected for this year are designed to support your child's kindergarten entry. The district hopes parents will enjoy time being a reading role model for their child. After all, parents are the child's first teacher. Take the sport bag and new book home and read it all summer long.

Kindergarten enrollment is digital, but help is available at each site. At www.bradfordschools.org. Select "Enrollment" and then the category that applies to your child.

August 12 will be here before you know it! Learn more about your child's first day and the staggered start dates at your school. Help your child arrive on time every day through graduation 2038!

First through 12th grade registration documentation requirements parallel those for kindergarten enrollment. See the enrollment information at www.bradfordschools.org.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

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PD BY CSTF

Starke Kiwanis Club awards Steve Denmark Memorial Scholarships

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Kiwanis Club of Starke is awarding three Bradford High School seniors with Steve Denmark Memorial Scholarships and recognized each recipient at its April 22 meeting.

Carolyn Adams, Alissa Reddish and Amber Wynn — who all dual enroll at Santa Fe College — will each receive \$500.

The club annually budgets for two scholarships. A contribution

from Kitten Denmark, the wife of the late Steve Denmark, allowed for the club to add a third recipient this year.

Steve Denmark, who was a charter member of the club, passed away at the age of 71 on April 28, 2019.

"This is one of my favorite times of year, when we give out scholarships in honor of Steve Denmark," said club member Cheryl Canova, who serves

See KIWANIS, page 12



The Kiwanis Club of Starke awarded Steve Denmark Memorial Scholarships this year to Bradford High School seniors Carolyn Adams, Alissa Reddish and Amber Wynn. Each scholarship is \$500. The club funds two annually, with a contribution from Denmark's widow, Kitten Denmark, allowing for a third recipient this year. Pictured (l-r) are scholarship committee members and this year's recipients: Brad Smith, Cheryl Canova, Cliff Smelley, Reddish, Adams, Wynn, President George Konkel, Virginia Walkup and Nelson Green.

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SHOP LOCAL ALL
2025

KHHS' Thomas, UCHS' Bethea win 2 district titles each

Ryder Thomas crosses the line 1st in 1600m and 3200m races

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's Ryder Thomas ran to victory in both the 1600m and 3200m to automatically qualify for region-level competition at the April 25 District 4-2A track and field meet at Alachua's Santa Fe High School.

The top four finishers in each event automatically qualified for the Region 1 meet, which will be held Friday, May 2, at Pensacola's Pine Forest High School.

Keystone had six individuals besides Thomas earn top-four finishes, while the Indians also had three at-large qualifiers.

Thomas won the 1600m with a time of 4:43.34, finishing ahead of Eastside's Luke Engels, who had a time of 4:47.26.

The Indians' Hunter Sheppard placed fourth in the event with a time of 4:53.86, which left him trailing Eastside's Joseph McDonals, who crossed the finish line in 4:53.08.

Thomas finished with a time of 11:06.25 in the 3200m, which put him ahead of Eastside's Benjamin White, who had a time of 11:06.94.

Jamari Turner was runner-up in the boys high jump, clearing 5 feet, 9.75 inches. That left him trailing only Santa Fe's Michael Merriex, who cleared 6-2.

The Indians got a third-place finish in the javelin from Luke Lewis, who had a distance of 105-5. Baldwin's Jeramie Morgan won the event at 118-8, while Newberry's Keari Neal had a second-place distance of 117-4.

Tyler Kerner just missed out on qualifying in the javelin, with a fifth-place throw of 98-2.

Baylor Ford qualified for regionals in the boys long jump with a fourth-place distance of 19-11.5.

The boys 4x400m relay team of Ford, Sheppard, Turner and Ryeland Wahl fell one spot shy



Ryder Thomas (far left) is pictured during the early portion of the 1600m. He would go on to win the event and later also win the 3200m to capture the Indians' only District 4-2A championships.



Jamari Turner was the runner-up in the high jump, punching his ticket to the Region 1-2A meet.

of qualifying for the Region 1 meet, running a fifth-place time of 3:41.83.

Ford also earned points in the triple jump and the 400m,

helping Keystone placed fifth overall in the 11-team field. He placed sixth in the triple jump

See TRACK, page 12

Amia Bethea sprints to 1st place in 100m and 200m

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's Amia Bethea won two races and helped the girls 4x100m relay team automatically qualify for region-level competition at the District 4-2A track and field meet on April 25 at Alachua's Santa Fe High School.

Like Bethea, Holly Halfacre also ran in the 4x100m relay and qualified for regionals in two individual events.

The top four finishers in each event earned the right to advance to the Region 1 meet, which will be held Friday, May 2, at Pensacola's Pine Forest High School.

Betha won the 100m with a time of 11.99 seconds, with Eastside's KeAisha Williams trailing her and crossing the line in 12.49.

It was Bethea and Williams placing first and second in the 200m as well, with Bethea running a winning time of 25.45 to Williams' 25.99.

Betha and Halfacre teamed up with Faith Sirmones and Brianna Taylor to run a third-place time of 51.46 in the 4x100m relay. Eastside won the event with a time of 49.66, while Palatka took second with a time of 51.21.

Halfacre earned her regional berths in the long jump and triple jump. She placed third in the triple jump with a distance of 32 feet, 1 inch, which left her trailing Eastside's Tysha Smith (38-0) and Palatka's Destiny Williams (34-5.75). In the long jump, Halfacre jumped 16-2.5 to place fourth behind Interlachen's Mya Shivers (17-7.5), Eastside's Smith (16-9.25) and Palatka's Jhane Fountain (16-8).

Melinda Mabrey earned points for the girls team with a seventh-place distance of 26-5 in the shot put.

The girls team, which placed sixth out of 11, also had the following results: 100m —



Amia Bethea (left) and Eastside's KeAisha Williams battle it out in the 200m. Bethea and Williams placed first and second, respectively, in the race as well as in the 100m.

Taylor 13.51, Hayden Robinson 14.33; 200m — Ivy Wilson 29.66, Elauna Roberts 34.71; 800m — Rachel Harris 3:21.61; 1600m — Harris 7:29.12; long jump — Gloryanth Reyes 8-10.25; shot put — Jamie Webb 22-7.25; and discus — 48-1.

Union had one individual and one relay team fall one spot shy of qualifying for the Region 1 meet on the boys side. The 4x800m team of Ashton Bunkley, Clayton Cason, Joseph Harris and Gavin Smith placed fifth with a time of 10:12.90, while C.J. Ivey had a fifth-place distance of 110-3 in the discus.

The Tigers had two sixth-place finishes, with Edward Durant throwing 104-5 in the discus and the 4x100m team of Jesse Chakin, Gavin Jenkins, Bo Thomas and Jabari Young running a time of 44.13.

Union, which placed ninth out of 11 teams, also got a point from Ivey in the shot put. He recorded an eighth-place distance of 36-7.75.

Thomas just missed out on scoring in the long jump with a ninth-place distance of 18-2.5.

Other results for the boys team were: 100m — Jenkins 11.21, Chakin 11.33, Young 11.90; 200m — Natwan Richardson



Holly Halfacre qualified for the Region 1-2A meet in both the long jump and triple jump.

25.58; 800m — Harris 2:20.08, Gaultney Cole 2:56.25; 1600m — Harris 5:07.21, Bunkley 6:02.27, Cason 6:41.45; shot put — Durant 32-7; and discus — Matthew Rogers 96-6.

BHS' Lee and Lopey earn regional track, field berths

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Parviele Lee and Ny'asia Lopey earned Region 1-2A qualifying berths for Bradford High School with their performances at the District 4 meet, which was held April 25 at Alachua's Santa Fe High School.

The top four finishers in each event automatically qualified for the Region 1 meet, which will be held Friday, May 2, at Pensacola's Pine Forest High School.

Bradford had no one receive at-large bids.

Lee placed fourth in the boys shot put with a distance of 42 feet, 9.75 inches. That left him trailing Palatka's Julius Leonard (46-1.25), Santa Fe's Sam Lopez

(45-7) and Palatka's Justin Fells (44-9.5).

Girls team member Lopey also earned a fourth-place finish with a distance of 31-9.5 in the triple jump, which put her behind Eastside's Tysha Smith (38-0), Palatka's Destiny Williams (34-5.75) and Union County's Holly Halfacre (32-1).

The boys team also earned points from Justin Hall, who had a sixth-place distance of 19-0 in the long jump, and Elijah Lawrence, who had an eighth-place time of 23.42 in the 200m.

Lawrence just missed scoring in the 100m with a ninth-place time of 11.20.

Bradford also had the following boys results: long jump — Jaydin Williams 14-3; discus — William Aldridge 95-11; shot put — Raimond Pedro 32-5.5; 100m — Branden Williams 11.30, Iyen Addison 11.95; 1600m — Liam Reaves 6:07.30; and 800m — Reaves 2:52.82.

BHS softball team loses in district semis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's softball team was held to two hits in a 12-2, six-inning loss to host Bishop Snyder in a District 3-2A tournament semifinal game on April 28.

The third seed Tornados (10-11) scored the game's first two runs and led 2-1 before the second seed Cardinals (14-9) scored 11 runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

Keegan Yowell led off the top of the first for Bradford with a walk. She advanced to second on a Kingslee Phillips sacrifice bunt before stealing third and scoring on an error with two outs.

Bradford added a run in the third inning, which began with a Kolee Lemire walk. She advanced to second on a Phillips

ground out, which was the second out of the inning. Kallie Yowell hit a line drive into center field to bring Lemire home and make it a 2-0 game.

Bishop Snyder's Gabriella Rogers reached on an error with one out in the fourth. Courtesy runner Alessandra Ruiz advanced to second on a wild pitch and then moved to third on a single by Faith Bennett. Amelia Biroshchik's ground out brought a run in to make the score 2-1.

The Cardinals were held to two hits through the first four innings by pitcher Bailey Smith, but after Lola Aberly reached on an error to lead off the bottom of the fifth, Bishop Snyder got three consecutive hits, with Caitlyn Boshell's double driving in two runs. Two ground outs resulted in runs scoring as the Cardinals took a 5-2 lead.

Boshell hit a three-run homer as part of a seven-run sixth inning, which ended when a two-run single by Aberly enforced the mercy rule.

The Tornados entered the game off an 11-3 loss at Newberry on April 23.

Tayrn Flowers hit a two-out single in the top of the second, advancing to second on a wild pitch before scoring on a Regan Adams double, which left the Tornados trailing 3-1.

Newberry answered with five runs in the bottom of the inning and then scored three more in the third.

Amber Wynn, who batted 2 for 3, hit an RBI double as part of a two-run fifth. Keegan Yowell drove in the second run on a ground out.

Indians defeat Tornados 6-0 in softball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bella Cumbo drove in two runs, while Kadence Massey pitched a three-hit shutout in the

Keystone Heights High School softball team's 6-0 win over host Bradford on April 22.

Massey walked just one and struck out eight.

Cadie Bowles, who went 2 for 4 with an RBI, hit the first of her two doubles in a two-run third. After Massey walked, Bowles scored on an Amber Wagner single. Cumbo then drove in a run on a sacrifice bunt.

Bowles reached on an error in the fifth and scored with two outs on a Cumbo triple. An error on the play allowed Cumbo to score and make it a 4-0 game.

The Indians scored their final runs in the sixth. Kaleigh Marquart singled, but was put out at second when Taylor Buchanan hit into a fielder's choice. Buchanan scored on Bowles' second double, while Bowles scored her team's sixth run on an error.

Bowles was one of only two batters with multiple hits in the game. Bradford's Tayrn Flowers went 2 for 3.



FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING in your local area

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

- **COMMUNITY:** Events, fairs, gatherings, concerts sponsored by local schools, churches & community organizations; food banks, help, resources; crime reports, arrests; law enforcement, businesses, services, government.
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- **GOVERNMENT:** Taxes, fees, local & regional boards, commissions, officials, decisions, spending, budgetary oversight, local emergencies.
- **SPORTS:** local teams, athletes, scores, events, outdoor happenings, festivals, achievements, championships, competitions.
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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of May 1, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF ACTION
Bradford County, Florida
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN RE: The license to practice Nursing Assistance
Jessica L. Yates, C.N.A.
4673 Southeast 8th Avenue,
Melrose, Florida 32666
CASE NO.: 2023-02313
LICENSE NO.: CNA331464
The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Philip A. Crawford, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 558-9829. If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by May 22, 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.

4/10 4tchg 5/1-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 04-2025-CA-53
DIVISION:

SHERMAN BEAU CARNES and
DORIS M. CARNES,
Plaintiff,
v.
ESTATE OF MARION SAMS,
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MARION
SAMS, HARRIETT MOORE, ESTATE
OF ANN L MEYERS A/K/A ANNIE
LEE MYERS and HEIRS OF ANN L.
MEYERS A/K/A ANNIE LEE MYERS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: ESTATE OF MARION SAMS
O JONES LANE
LAWTY, FL 32058
UNKNOWN HEIRS
OF MARION SAMS
O JONES LANE
LAWTY, FL 32058
ESTATE OF ANN L. MEYERS A/K/A
ANNIE LEE MYERS
C/O HARRIETT T. MOORE
6318 LORENZO AVENUE
ORLANDO, FL 32818
HEIRS OF ANN L. MEYERS A/K/A
ANNIE LEE MYERS
6318 LORENZO AVENUE
ORLANDO, FL 32818
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LAND, SITUATE, LYING, AND BEING IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO WIT: THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTH EAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH EAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH EAST QUARTER QUARTER OF SECTION TWENTY SIX, TOWNSHIP FIVE SOUTH OF RANGE TWENTY TWO EAST AND CONTAINING FIVE ACRES MORE OR LESS, has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on The Law Office of C.W. Wickersham, Jr., P.A., Plaintiffs attorney, at 2720 Park Street, Suite 205, Jacksonville, Florida, 32205, Phone Number: (904) 389 6202, not less than 28 days of the first date of publication of this Notice, and me the original with the Clerk of this Court, at 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, Florida 32091 before service on Plaintiff or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a Default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated this 26th day of March 2025 Clerk of the Circuit Court By: Kanetra Jenkins Deputy Clerk

4/10 4tchg 5/1-BCT

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AIRPORT AUTHORITY
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be received by the **Keystone Heights Airport Authority** in the Conference Room at the **Keystone Heights Airport Terminal Building**, located at **7150 Airport Road, Starke, Florida 32091**, until **2:00 PM EDT on May 29, 2025** at which time all proposals received will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bidders are invited to submit proposals for:
BULK AIRCRAFT STORAGE HANGAR

AT KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AIRPORT A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting and site inspection will be held at **10:00 AM on May 1, 2025** in the **Conference Room at the Keystone Heights Airport Terminal Building**. **Bidders are strongly urged to attend.** The meeting will be held in person and/or as a Teams meeting for anyone who wishes to attend virtually. Contact Bill Prange prior to **April 30, 2025** to receive the Teams meeting invitation, bill.prange@aecom.com. The project work includes the construction of new 80' x 80' Pre-Engineered Metal Building aircraft hangar with a single piece hydraulic aircraft door. The project also includes site clearing, earthwork, drainage work, new asphalt pavement section to construct a Taxilane and an apron area, electrical and lighting work, and related work.

Bidders are invited to submit Proposals for this work on the Proposal Forms provided. Other proposal forms will not be accepted. The complete examination and understanding of the Contract Documents consisting of the Plans and Specifications, and all addenda or other revisions, and Site of the proposed work is necessary to properly submit a Proposal. Contract Documents consisting of the Plans and Specifications, and all addenda or other revisions will be available on or before **Monday, April 28, 2025** for examination or may be obtained from the offices of the AECOM, 7650 West Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, Florida 33607, Phone (813) 636-2139 (Diane Kline). There is no fee to obtain a set of the Contract Documents. Printed copies of documents will not be made available. Only PDF project plans and specification files, either on CD or sent via File Transfer will be made available. Contractor must obtain the Contract Documents from the Engineer of Record in order to be considered a responsive bidder. A Bid Bond in the form as bound in the Contract Documents or Certified Check in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount bid must accompany each Bid. Successful Bidder shall be required to execute and to provide a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in an Amount of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the total value of the Contract awarded to him with a satisfactory surety or sureties for the full and faithful performance of the work. No bid may be withdrawn after closing time for the receipt of Proposals for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days.

The **Keystone Heights Airport Authority** reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in or reject any or all bids and to award or refrain from awarding the Contract for the Work.

For additional information, contact William R. Prange, P.E., AECOM, at (386) 898-2298 or bill.prange@aecom.com.
Dated: **April 24, 2025**
By: **Keystone Heights Airport Authority**
Ad run April 24 and May 1

END OF NOTICE TO BIDDER
4/24 2tchg 5/1-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2025-CP-00010
DIVISION:

IN RE: The Estate of:
MARIAN DARLENE HEATH
Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Marian Darlene Heath, deceased, whose date of death was July 16, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Avenue, 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, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME 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: April 24, 2025. Personal Representative Gabriel Giles 18564 NW 84th Ave. Starke, FL 32091 Attorney Justin Cerrato, Esquire BLUE OCEAN LAW Florida Bar No.: 104938 4309 Pablo Oaks Court, 2nd Floor Jacksonville, FL 32224 Telephone: (904) 239-3646 jcerrato@blueoceantitle.com

4/24 2tchg 5/1-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NUMBER: 04-2025-CA-162
DALE R. BRIDWELL,
Plaintiffs,

vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, BENEFICIARIES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JOHN EDWARD ADAMS, deceased,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of the filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following described property in Bradford County, Florida: Lots One (1), Two (2) and Three (3) of Block "A" of Block Eight (8) of Temple's Addition to the Town of Starke, being in the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) and Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. TPN: 03604-0-00000

You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukes, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 5th day of June, 2025, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED this 23rd day of April, 2025. DENNY THOMPSON Clerk of the Circuit Court By: KANETRA JENKINS Deputy Clerk Published in: Bradford County Telegraph On (dates): May 1, 2025, May 8, 2025, May 15, 2025, & May 22, 2025

5/1 1tchg-BCT

FIRE ASSESSMENT
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will hold a workshop to discuss a proposed

Fire Assessment on May 6, 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.
5/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Regent Capital Corporation, Nowata, Oklahoma, intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to acquire by merger 100% of the voting stock of DLP Bancshares, Inc., Saint Augustine, Florida and thereby indirectly acquire control of all of the stock of its subsidiary, DLP Bank, Starke, Florida. The Federal Reserve will consider a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application, including the record of performance of banks we own in helping to meet local credit needs. You are invited to submit comments in writing on an application filed with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City electronically to KCApplicationComments@kc.frb.org or in hard copy to: Jeff Irgarten, Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, One Memorial Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64198. The comment period will not end before May 30, 2025, and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262.25. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the Notice if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last date of the comment period.
5/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Town Council of Town of Brooker, Florida, at a public hearing on May 13, 2025 at 7:00p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the Town Council Meeting Room, Community Center, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, at same address as above, during regular office hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 2025-01
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING INCLUSION OF THE TOWN IN THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT ESTABLISHED BY BRADFORD COUNTY TO FUND THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES EACH YEAR; PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF SUCH AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. This public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of this public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notices regarding this matter will be published.
5/1 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NUMBER: 04-2025-CA-162
DALE R. BRIDWELL,
Plaintiffs,

vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, BENEFICIARIES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JOHN EDWARD ADAMS, deceased,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of the filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following described property in Bradford County, Florida: Lots One (1), Two (2) and Three (3) of Block "A" of Block Eight (8) of Temple's Addition to the Town of Starke, being in the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) and Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. TPN: 03604-0-00000

5/1 4tchg 5/22-BCT

UNION

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **SPECIAL MEETING** on THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 at 5:45pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. The **SPECIAL MEETING** will be held to discuss City-owned parcel #30-05-20-13-004-0110-0 located at 102 W Main Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.
5/1 1tchg-UCT

BUDGET WORKSHOP

FIRST BUDGET WORKSHOP NOTICE
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold their **FIRST BUDGET WORKSHOP** on THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. The **FIRST BUDGET WORKSHOP** will be held to discuss the City of Lake Butler's upcoming Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget.
4/24 1tchg UCT

TRAVEL TRAILER PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS MORATORIUM NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, at a public hearing on May 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, County Courthouse located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. A copy of Ordinance No. 2025-02 may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to said ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02
AN ORDINANCE OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS AND PROCESSING OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL TRAILER PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING AN EXPIRATION DATE. All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decisions made at this public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).
5/1 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 24000047CAAXMX
PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION
PLAINTIFF,
vs.
REBECCA M. NETTLES, AGNES R. HODGES A/K/A AGNUS RUTH SODGES A/K/A AGNUS RUTH SAPP F/K/A AGNES R. COMBS, ROBIN CAPRICE JOHNS ET AL.,
DEFENDANTS.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
(Please publish in Union County Times)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated the 22nd day of April, 2025, and entered in Case No. 24000047CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein PHH Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and AGNES R. HODGES A/K/A AGNUS RUTH SODGES A/K/A AGNUS RUTH SAPP F/K/A AGNES R. COMBS, REBECCA M. NETTLES, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF REBECCA M. NETTLES, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROBIN CAPRICE JOHNS, ROBIN CAPRICE JOHNS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT and UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY N/K/A LORETTA MERRITT are defendants. Kelly Hendricks Rhoades as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the lobby of the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 at 11:00 A.M on the **26th day of June, 2025**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: Part of the South 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 5 South, Range 20 East, Union County, Florida, containing one-acre, more or less, as

defined by four concrete monuments. These monuments are located as follows: Running Southerly along the supposed East boundary of the above 20 acre tract to a monument said to be the Southeast corner thereof, run right through a deflection angle of 86°15'; Thence 163.33 feet to a point, at which turn right through a deflection angle of 48°05'; Thence Northwesterly along this course a distance of 512.00 feet, to a monument, this monument being the East corner monument of the one-acre tract herein described, thence run left through a deflection angle of 89°59'; Thence along this line, being a boundary of the one-acre tract herein described for a distance of 209.00 feet to a monument, being the Southern corner of the one-acre tract herein described, thence turning right through a deflection angle of 90°03'; Thence along this course being a boundary of the one-acre tract herein described, a distance of 210.00 feet to a monument, being the West corner of the aforesaid one-acre tract, thence turning right through a deflection angle of 89°50'; Thence along this course, being a boundary of the one-acre tract herein described, a distance of 210.00 feet to a monument, being the North corner of the aforesaid one-acre tract, and thence turning right through a deflection angle of 90°07'; Thence along this course, being a boundary of the aforesaid one-acre tract, a distance of 210.00 feet to a monument, being the East corner previously mentioned; It being specifically understood the aforesaid monuments are and remain the boundaries of the parcel herein described. AND Commence at the Northwest corner of the South 1/2 of Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, Section 15, Township 5 South, Range 20 East, Union County, Florida, and run North 84° 30' 27" East along the North line of said South 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, 146.89 feet, thence South 44° 32' 28" East, 420.69 feet to the point of

beginning, thence South 42° 52' 17" West 122.00 feet, thence South 47° 08' 43" East, 210.00 feet, thence North 42° 52' 17" East, 210.00 feet, thence North 47° 08' 43" West 210.00 feet, thence South 42° 52' 17" West, 88.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770. Dated this 24th day of April, 2025. Kelly Hendricks Rhoades Clerk of the Circuit Court By: C. HOLLINGSWORTH Deputy Clerk Submitted by: Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF 210 N. University Drive, Suite 900 Coral Springs, FL 33071 DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516 ESERVICE@MGS-LEGAL.COM
5/1 2tchg 5/8-UCT

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders

Attorney at Law



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Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

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Sports Editor:	Cliff Smelley
Advertising:	John R. Tillman
Typesetting:	Mary Goode
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Lake Region Monitor

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UNION COUNTY TIMES

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Obituaries

Denmark is honoree at Scouting event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ron Denmark was this year's honoree at the Bradford American Values Dinner, which was held April 22 at Starke's Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center.

The annual event is a fundraiser for Boy Scouts of America's North Florida Council. Almost \$22,000 was raised through this year's dinner.

Starke City Commissioner Bob Milner, the event's dinner chair, introduced Denmark.

"Most people know Ron as the owner of Pipeline Constructors," Milner said. "He and his wife, Jo Ann, also have Denmark Mini Storage.

"He actually had a little bit of a life before this."

That life before included Denmark graduating from Jacksonville's Ed White High School (also his wife's alma mater) and earning an AA degree at what was then Florida Junior College and is now known as Florida State College at Jacksonville.

Milner said Denmark worked for Farm Bureau before striking out on his own and opening an independent insurance agency.

Denmark sold the agency and began Pipeline Constructors with his father, Roy, in 1987.

Milner said it's impressive to be in your 20s and start your own business in a field you've never worked in before.

"Seriously, that takes a lot of grit," Milner said.

Pipeline began with Denmark and his father working from home. The business grew and is now established in Starke with more than 160 employees.

Denmark and his wife have been married 45 years and have three children (Evan, Katy and Sara), four grandchildren and

one grandchild on the way.

Milner said he knows Denmark and his wife well through their service at the Starke church they all attend.

"They have been active at Madison Street Baptist Church for the 45 years that they've been married," Milner said. "That's amazing today — not only to be married to the same person for 45 years, but to be active in the same church."

When Denmark took the stage, he admitted he was wondering what he could say, being one who's not used to talking before a crowd. However, he said one thing that's easy for him to talk about is his youth — a youth that was influenced by Scouting. Denmark said he had a brother who was in Scouting first. When he heard about the experiences he was having, he couldn't wait to become a Scout himself.

Denmark talked about being what was known as a "Tenderfoot" at age 11.

"Of course, you don't know anything (at that age)," he said. "You just want to go camping. That's all you want to do."

His first camping experience led to a funny story. Denmark said the Patrol of older boys were cooking something that was producing a lot of smoke. One of the Patrol members asked him to go to another Patrol and ask for a "smoke catcher." Denmark said, "I trotted off, went over there and said, 'Can I borrow your smoke catcher?'"

Denmark realized he was the butt of a joke when he was met with laughter.

"I knew I had been had," he said.

He recounted another amusing story that took place just within the last couple of years. Denmark said he remembered he and his fellow Scouts being dropped off



Bob Milner (left) presents a commemorative award to Ron Denmark, who was honored at the Bradford American Values Dinner in support of the Boy Scouts of America's North Florida Council.

along the side of the road to hike the rest of the way to what was then known as the Baden Powell Campground.

"Now, at 10 or 11 years old, I had no idea where this was," Denmark said.

He found out as an adult when he became aware of Baden Powell Road and where it was located — in the Hawthorne-Melrose area.

Denmark, who earned the rank of Life Scout, described his time in Scouting as made up of "fun experiences." He said what he didn't realize at the time, of course, was that he was being taught structure and leadership.

"There is a person I'm sure you all know — the founder of Chikfil-A, Truett Cathy," Denmark said. "He authored a book. It's called, 'It's Better to Build Boys than Mend Men.' Scouting helps do that. I'm glad I was a part of it."

Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay, who served as

the American Values Dinner emcee, talked of the North Florida Council, which serves Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee and Union counties.

"Tonight, I am pleased to report that here across north Florida, we are serving over 8,900 youth and 2,800 adult volunteers," Kornegay said. "We partner with 151 local churches and civic and community organizations to bring a quality program to our youth on a weekly basis. Here in Bradford County, Scouting grew over 25 percent just in the last year alone."

Kornegay thanked those in attendance for their support in providing youth with "this vital, character-building citizenship training and physical-fitness experience."

See HONOR, page 13

Eddie Baker

In loving memory of Charles Edward "Eddie" Baker, Aug. 31, 1954 - April 21, 2025. "The song is ended, but the melody lingers on." - Irving Berlin. Charles Edward "Eddie" Baker passed away peacefully on Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 70 following an extended illness. Though his body grew weary, his spirit remained unshaken - resilient, gentle and full of grace. He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Jessie (Jay) Edward Baker and Bessie Fay (Rice) Baker; his cherished sisters, Kathryn, Edna and May; and nephew, Shawn Baker.

While his passing leaves a space no one else can fill, his memory lives on in the hearts of those he leaves behind: his longtime and devoted girlfriend of 15 years, Betty Rhoden; children, Christopher (Victoria) Gilliland, Kelly Holder, Michael (Mary) Watmough; grandchildren, Krystal Rhoden, Matthew Watmough, Christal Gilliland, Wanniss Gilliland and Rebekah Gilliland; brothers, Tommy, Jay and Ronnie; sister, Julia; nephews, Jay (Shona) Baker Jr., Thomas (Sarah) Baker, and Edwin Baker; nieces, Ann Bowe Hepburn and, Edna Lee Coleman; and too many other nieces and nephews to mention. All of whom shared in a bond that time, distance or loss could never break. "Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are at peace." - Inuit Proverb.

Rest easy, Eddie. Your journey here may be complete, but your story lives on in all those who loved you.

PAID OBITUARY

Loyd Bryan Jr.

Loyd James Bryan Jr., 74, of Lawtey, died Monday, April 21, 2025, at HCA Florida North Florida Hospital in Gainesville. He married Marian Marice Anderson, on Jan. 1, 1971.

Survivors are his wife, Marian Marice Bryan; children, Loyd (Jeana) Bryan III and Cheryl Lynn (John, Sr.) Hipps; two brothers; two sisters; and extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, April 26, at Northside Baptist Church. Interment followed at Dyal Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, Starke, 904-964-5757.

Linda Russell

Mrs. Linda Ann Russell, 66, of Melrose died suddenly Monday, April 28, 2025, at Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

Survivors are her sister, Diane Tabler of Hawthorne; nephews, Kevin and J.D. Tabler; and her significant other, Roger McKenzie of Melrose.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at Paran Baptist Church.

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

Gladys Shaw

Gladys Marie (Tanner) Shaw, 83, of Lake Butler, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at North Florida Regional Medical Center surrounded by family and friends. She was born on May 23, 1941, in Ft. White, where she grew up with her siblings and parents, J.B. and Pearl Tanner. After graduating high school, she married her husband, Royce Albert Shaw, and made Lake Butler her home. Their bond was one of joy and partnership, lasting for 59 wonderful years until Royce Albert's passing in 2017. She had a heart that radiated happiness, always wearing a warm smile that brightened the lives of those around her. Her unwavering positivity and joyful spirit left an indelible mark on everyone she knew. She dedicated her career to serving as an aide at various institutions, including the Northeast Florida State Hospital and Union County Schools. Beyond her work, she embraced life fully, finding joy in all sorts of activities. Whether riding ATVs, thrift shopping, or camping, she made every moment count, often sharing her adventurous spirit with family and friends. She was always ready for an outing, no matter the destination. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Royce Albert; and her parents, J.B. and Pearl Tanner.

She is survived by her children, Jack Royce Shaw, James Albert Shaw, and Glenda Marie Shaw; grandchildren, Nicole Shaw and Jared Benton; great-grandchildren Carmen Dobbs, Jaelyn Watkins, Trinity Watkins, Alayna Watkins, and Kaylin Taylor, and even great-great-grandchildren Spencer Williams and Azaire Sosa. She is also survived by her sisters, Nancy (Bobby Gene) Stalnaker and Sarah Pearl Edwards; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Her life will be honored by services on Tuesday, April 29, at New Zion Cemetery Church. A visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. She will be laid to rest by her husband immediately following the service. Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the Shaw family during this time. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com
PAID OBITUARY

Robert White Sr.

Robert "Bob" White Sr. died Friday, April 18, 2025, in Estero. His father, Olin Wesley White; and brother, Larry Olin White, preceded him in death.

Survivors are his wife, Melinda White; daughter, Kelly W. (Jason) Fennemore; sons, Robert Wesley White Jr., Keven White (Nathalie); mother, Lucy White of Bonita Springs; and extended family members.

Graveside services will be Friday, May 2, at 10 a.m. at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, Gainesville. Memorial services will be Sunday, May 4, at 1 p.m. at Bay Presbyterian Church.

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



KIWANIS Continued from page 9

as chair of the scholarship committee. "It's hard to believe he's been gone as long as he has. He would be very proud of and happy for you guys getting these today."

Adams was a student manager intern at VyStar's BHS branch for two years and works as a cashier at Sonny's. Adams has been a member of the BHS varsity cheer squad and marching band and a mentor teacher for Beginning Band. She also sings at community events.

"I am very excited," Adams told the club. "I'm not graduating with my AA degree, but I am very close to it. I should, hopefully,

graduate with my AA degree by next spring.

"I'm majoring in Health Sciences. At the end, I want to be a pediatric physical therapist. I enjoy working with children.

"I want to be able to do something where I know I'm helping others. That's very important to me."

Her educational path, after completing work on her AA degree, will include earning bachelor's and Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees.

"I really appreciate you all considering me for the scholarship and choosing me as a recipient," Adams said. "Clearly, I have a lot of school to go through, so it's going to help me a lot."

Reddish has been a member

of Students Working Against Tobacco, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has served in the greet and children's ministries at Cross Church. Reddish creates chalkboard signs for the Cross Church children's ministry and has also assisted with Bradford Middle School and BHS track-and-field events.

"I just want to say thank you for selecting me for this scholarship," Reddish said.

Reddish said she's had the desire to be a teacher for most of her life and said she'd like to substitute for Bradford schools while she continues work toward her AA degree. She described that as the chance "to kind of get my feet wet and get a little better of an idea of what being a teacher is like."

She plans to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

Wynn has been an active leader for the BHS softball team and has served as a group leader in vacation Bible school activities.

"Thank you, for choosing me for this scholarship," said Wynn, who added that she'd continue work toward her AA degree and then possibly pursue a career in the medical field.

"I'm not sure what my plans are, but that's kind of what I'm leaning toward," she said.

The Kiwanis Club received 11 applicants for this year's scholarships. Canova said the committee had a tough time selecting the recipients.

"They were all good," Canova said of the applicants. "They were all very good."

TRACK Continued from page 10

with a distance of 38-8.25 and eighth in the 400m with a time of 54.25.

Also earning points (awarded to top-eight finishes) were De'Shawn Williams, with a sixth-place time of 19.57 in the 110m hurdles, Turner, with a seventh-place time of 1:07.56 in the 400m hurdles, Wahl, with a seventh-place time of 2:13.64 in

the 800m, and Mason Clark, with an eighth-place time of 20.61 in the 110m hurdles.

Sheppard just missed scoring in the 800m with a ninth-place time of 2:19.87.

Olivia Griffin and Kaylee Park earned third-place finishes for the girls team, with Griffin running a time of 2:30.77 in the 800m and Park running a time of 16.93 in the 100m hurdles.

Palatka's Ah'Tilah Dean and Eastside's Ingrid Astrom placed ahead of Griffin in the 800m with times of 2:27.78 and 2:28.68,

while Palatka's Avre'yana Rodgers and Morgan Hammond finished ahead of Park in the hurdles race with times of 16.74 and 16.92.

Griffin and Park teamed up with Christine DJavaheri and Ashly McCarthy to run a fifth-place time of 4:32.32 in the 4x400m relay. Though one spot shy of automatically qualifying for regionals, the team did earn an at-large bid.

Xana Briley had a fifth-place distance of 73-4 in the javelin and will advance after receiving

an at-large berth.

Though finishing 10th in the 400m, Griffin received an at-large bid in the 400m with her time of 1:08.74.

Laura Herndon missed automatically qualifying in the triple jump with a fifth-place distance of 31-7.5.

Keystone, which placed fifth overall in the 11-team field, also got points from Briley, with a sixth-place distance of 69-4 in the discus, Melody Tyre, with a sixth-place time of 6:00.30 in the 1600m, and Park, with an eighth-place time of 1:21.21 in the 400m hurdles.

The girls team also had the following results: long jump — Herndon 13-8.75, Raven Bastin 11-7.75, Jasmine Walls 10-9.5; 100m hurdles — Cali Chamberlain 20.52; 100m — McCarthy 13.54, DJavaheri 13.56, Herndon 14.15; 400m hurdles — Chamberlain 1:25.54; 800m — Bailee Morris 2:53.88, Bastin 3:02.71; and 200m — DJavaheri 28.31, McCarthy 28.38, Sophia Moses 30.27.

Additional boys results were: high jump — Carter Andrews 4-4; long jump — Clark 15-6.75, Williams 15-6.75; triple jump — Andrews 30-1.5, Clark 30-0.75; discus — Ricardo Rosario 94-6; javelin — James Carsey 46-10; shot put — Rosario 34-4, Kerner 32-0.25; 100m — Aaron Wiley 11.37, Turner 11.63; 1600m — Hunter Gray 5:49.99, Eli Rabe 5:56.61; 400m hurdles — Clark 1:11.41; 800m — Gray 2:35.66, Gavin Morford 2:44.35; 200m — Wiley 23.76, Williams 26.95, Andrews 30.36; and 3200m — Jason Parales 13:02.34, Alex Mahaffey 13:25.61, Oliver Miller 13:27.69.

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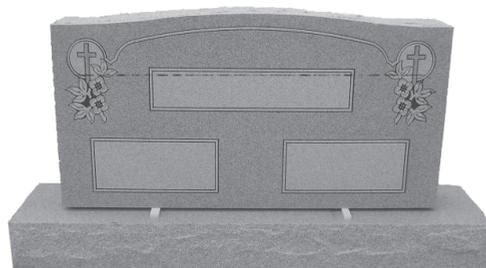
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UCHS sweeps Branford, will play for Region 3-Rural title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Jeffrey Brugh, Erick Lasseter and Jake Walker combined to drive in 10 runs in the Union County High School baseball team's 12-0, five-inning win over visiting Branford on April 29 to record a 2-0 sweep in a best-of-three Region 3-Rural semifinal series.

The second seed Tigers (14-14) will now play top seed Lafayette (22-2) for the Region 3 championship in a best-of-three series that begins Monday, May 5, at 7 p.m. in Mayo. Lafayette, which swept Aucilla Christian in the semifinals, will host the second game on Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. If a third game is necessary, it will be hosted by Union on Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m.

Union was put out in the semifinals of the District 6 tournament by Branford, but in the two Region 3 semifinal games, the Tigers outscored the third seed Buccaneers 21-1.

Branford finished its season with a 21-9 record.

Erick Lasseter threw all five innings in the second game of the series, allowing one hit.

The Tigers scored a run in the first, with Brugh drawing a leadoff walk, stealing second and then going home on a Lasseter single.

With one out and no one on in the second, Kacen Thomassen hit a double. Courtesy runner Evan Roberts advanced to third on a wild pitch before Brezdyn Browning was hit by a pitch. Brugh hit into a fielder's choice



Jeffrey Brugh (right) successfully steals second in the first inning of the Tigers' second game against Branford.



Jake Walker (right) chats with Head Coach Jiwan James while standing on third in the second inning of the Tigers' second game against Branford. The three-run inning featured the first of Walker's four RBI.

that resulted in Roberts scoring and Browning being put out at second. Brugh reached first safely.

The inning continued as Lasseter and Walker hit back-to-back run-scoring singles to put the Tigers up 4-0.

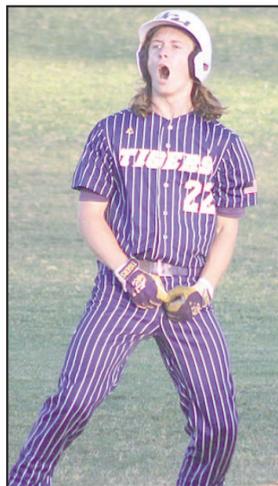
Thomassen hit his second double in the third inning. After Browning was hit by a pitch, Brugh hit an RBI single. The throw home in an attempt to put courtesy runner Roberts out got away from the catcher, which allowed Browning to score. Brugh advanced to second on the play and then scored on a Lasseter double. Walker drew a walk before Trenton Klein hit a single that scored courtesy runner Caiden Polinsky, making it 8-0.

The Tigers pushed their final four runs across in the fourth. Thomassen reached on an error, while Browning was again hit by a pitch. Brugh hit a ground ball and reached on an error, with courtesy runner Roberts scoring. After Lasseter was intentionally walked to load the bases, Walker, who went 3 for 3 with four RBI, drove the first pitch he saw into center field to score all three base runners and put Union up 12-0.

Lasseter finished 3 for 3 with three RBI, while Brugh went 3 for 4 with three RBI.

Klein, who went 3 for 3, had one RBI.

The first game of the series, which was played April 28 in Lake Butler, saw pitchers Browning and Bo Wilson combine to allow five hits in a



Kacen Thomassen celebrates after hitting the first of his two doubles in the second game against Branford.



Erick Lasseter gave up one hit in the 12-0 win over Branford.

9-1 win.

Wilson started on the mound and earned the win, giving up three hits and a run in 4.1 innings.

Browning finished it off, allowing two hits in the final 2.2 innings.

With the pitchers' efforts, the Tigers scored all the runs they'd need in the first inning. Brugh hit a leadoff single, stole second and advanced to third on a fly out by Walker. Klein and Kendall Carter both walked to load the bases for Devin Diggs, who drove in two runs on a single.

Union went up 3-0 in the

See REGION, page 15



Jo Ann Denmark receives a bouquet of flowers and a hug from Bob Milner.

HONOR

Continued from page 12

"Tonight's event will help provide a safe, quality program to our youth and adults," Kornegay said. "Included in this are underprivileged youth, who need assistance to enjoy a quality Scouting program. Your gifts will help provide books and uniforms and help send them to camp."

Milner said Scouting is as valuable as it has always been.

"Scouting today still instills the kind of values and ethics and character in young men and women that are so desperately needed in this country," Milner said. "Your support here — your pledge and any donations you make — will be well-utilized, I promise you."

The 2025 Bradford American Values Dinner host committee consisted of Kornegay, Virginia Griffiths, Edrick Hamilton, Courtney Padgett, Scott Roberts and Pam Whittle.

J.B. Coxwell Contracting Inc. was a Gold Sponsor, while Silver Sponsors were Fortiline Waterworks, G's Slow-Smoked BBQ, Miracle Automotive and Towing, Pipeline Constructors Inc. and Smith Trucking Company Inc.

KHHS softball team defeats P.K., will play for district title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Audry Cisco struck out 10 batters in a complete-game effort, while Kadence Massey, Chloe Still and Amber Wagner combined to drive in all of the Keystone Heights High School softball team's runs in a 7-4 win over third seed P.K. Yonge in a District 5-2A tournament semifinal game on April 29 in Keystone.

The second seed Indians (9-15) will play top seed Newberry (19-5) on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. in Keystone.

Keystone scored three runs in the first. Tayler Buchanan

singled, while Bella Cumbo reached on an error. Both scored on a Massey single. Still hit a ground ball to drive in the third run.

Cumbo reached on an error to start a two-run third. She advanced to second on Massey's sacrifice bunt and scored on a Wagner double. Wagner then scored on a Still single to put the Indians up 5-0.

The Indians scored their final runs in the fourth. Cumbo singled and scored on a Massey double. Wagner then hit an RBI single for her team's seventh run.

P.K. Yonge (11-13) scored all of its runs in the seventh, taking advantage of one hit, two errors and two ground outs.

Keystone entered the game off a 6-5, eight-inning loss to visiting Ridgeview to conclude the regular season on April 23.

Cumbo, who batted 2 for 3, scored the first run when she hit a triple in the first inning and was brought home on a Massey



Audry Cisco struck out 10 batters in the Indians' 7-4 District 5-2A semifinal win over P.K. Yonge.

ground out.

Ridgeview hit a two-run homer as part of a three-run third, which also included a run scoring on an error.

Keystone tied it at 3-3 in the bottom of the third. Buchanan reached on an error and scored on a Cumbo single. Massey and Cadie Bowles each singled as well, with Bowles' hit driving in a run.

With two outs and no one on in the fourth, Madi Glinski reached on an error for Keystone. She advanced to second on a passed ball before scoring on a Buchanan single.

The Panthers took advantage of a walk, a double and a ground out to tie the score at 4-4 in the fifth.

In the top of the eighth, Ridgeview scored runs on a double and an error.

Keystone got an RBI single from Bailey Amato with two outs in the bottom of the eighth.

A ground out to second ended the game.

UCHS softball team falls in district semis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's softball team scored 29 runs in its last four games, but the bats were mostly silent in a 6-0 loss to second seed Branford in the semifinals of the District 6-Rural tournament on April 29 in Branford.

The third seed Tigers (15-8) had just four hits. Leanne Dicks had two of them in three at-bats.

Branford (18-6) scored its first five runs in the second inning, taking advantage of three hits, two errors, a walk and a sacrifice fly.

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Tornadoes defeat University 18-7 in Region 1-1A semifinals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's flag football team kept host University Christian out of the end zone until 1:09 remained and handed the second seed Fighting Christians their first loss in an 18-7 Region 1-1A semifinal win on April 28.

After the game, Bradford Head Coach John Staples exclaimed to his players, "We're going to Tally!"

As in Tallahassee, where the third seed Tornadoes (14-2) will play top seed Florida High (14-3) for the Region 1 championship on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. at Gene Cox Stadium. Florida High advanced off a 33-0 semifinal win over fifth seed Suwannee.

It's a rematch the Tornadoes have been looking forward to. The Seminoles won a 13-7 home game against Bradford on April 8 in which Florida High scored with 11 seconds remaining. Bradford quarterback/defensive back Ar'Nayshia Griffin didn't play in the first quarter of that game due to a finger injury.

"We're getting a chance to go back to Tallahassee," Staples said. "I think we'll be ready for them."

Against University, Bradford

players such as Tatyana Brown, Talaysia Cummings and Izarriya Desue brought constant pressure against quarterback Elissa Murdock.

"Our plan was to hem her up, keep her in the pocket and force her to throw it downfield," Staples said, adding, "I felt like we caused her a lot of problems."

Murdock, who was 17 of 28, did throw for 130 yards and a touchdown, but she was held to 15 yards in the first half on 4-oof-10 passing.

"They completed a lot of passes tonight, but luckily we kept everything underneath," Staples said.

Bradford threatened to score on the game's opening series, with Griffin completing 5 of 6 passes for 32 yards. Griffin also had three runs for 14 yards to help the Tornadoes drive to the University 10, but she was sacked by Jahniyah Robinson for a 7-yard loss on a fourth-down play that resulted in a turnover on downs at the University 17.

University (10-1) picked up a first down on its first series, but couldn't pick up the 14 yards it needed for another first down, forcing a punt on fourth-and-8. Nichelle Brown returned the punt 24 yards to give the Bradford offense a first down at the University 34.

Nichelle Brown and Rhianna Davis caught passes of 6 and 5 yards, respectively, to move the Tornadoes to the 23. On fourth down from there, Bradford was able to get University to jump offsidelines, resulting in first-and-goal at the 18. Griffin threw three straight incomplete passes, but then hooked up with Nichelle Brown for the first of two scoring connections between the two players, putting the Tornadoes ahead 6-0 early in the second quarter. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

The Tornadoes increased their lead on their third series, which began at their own 27-yard line. A penalty on University resulted in first-and-1 at the 39, which Griffin converted with a 3-yard run. A 6-yard run by Nichelle



Nichelle Brown (left) comes down with one of her two touchdown catches.

Brown had additional yardage tacked on because of a penalty, giving Bradford a second-and-2 play at the University 22. Nichelle Brown caught a 9-yard pass to pick up the first, while a pass-interference penalty later gave the Tornadoes first-and-goal at the 7. Another penalty on University moved the ball to the 3. Griffin kept the ball for a 2-yard gain before scoring on a 1-yard run, making it 12-0 with eight seconds left in the first half. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

University threatened to make it a one-score game on its first series of the second half. Murdock completed four straight passes for a total of 51 yards, setting up first-and-goal at the 11. After a 4-yard run by M.J. Bishop, Murdock had a pass picked off by Griffin at the 1-yard line.

"That was huge for us," Staples said, describing it as "the play of the game."

University drove into Bradford territory on its next series, but flag pulls by Tatyana Brown and Alysia Rentz held the Christians to 9 yards on two consecutive pass plays. After an incompletion on third down, University went for it on fourth, with Kamela Marshall catching a pass and being stopped 1 yard short of

forced a turnover on downs and gave the Bradford offense the ball at the University 30.

Nichelle Brown had two straight carries to set up third-and-3 at the 23. Cherish Bing caught a 4-yard pass to set up first-and-goal. Griffin then threw a 19-yard pass to Nichelle Brown to put the Tornadoes up 18-0. The one-point conversion attempt failed.

Brown finished with six receptions for 65 yards, while Griffin completed 14 of 22 passes for 110 yards.

University cashed in on the ensuing drive, with Murdock completing four passes for 39 yards. Abbey Mehm scored on a 16-yard reception, with Murdock adding a successful run on the one-point conversion attempt.

The Christians attempted an onside play — one try to gain a first down at the 40 (midfield) from the 20-yard line. Murdock never got a pass off as she was sacked by Desue.



University quarterback Elissa Murdock (left) gets a pass off before Tatyana Brown can pull her flag.

Tornadoes reached semis with 37-9 win over Keystone

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ar'Nayshia Griffin had three touchdowns passing and rushing and added another score on an interception as the Bradford High School flag football team defeated visiting Keystone Heights 37-9 in a Region 1-1A quarterfinal game on April 23.

Despite the 37 points, 179 yards passing and rushing yards from Griffin and 142 receiving and rushing yards from Nichelle Brown, Bradford Head Coach John Staples thought his team didn't play to its full capability.

Still, it was the Tornadoes' first-ever region playoff win.

"The monkey's off our back, but I didn't feel like we played with the tenacity we've been playing with lately," Staples said. "We got done what we needed to get done. Business trip accomplished."

The sixth seed Indians (9-9) actually gained more yards than the Tornadoes, with quarterback Alea Horton gaining 235 yards passing and rushing.

"Keystone's got a good club," Staples said. "They're scrappy, with a good short-passing game. The quarterback did a great job tonight. She gave us a lot of problems."

Still, the Indians never made it into the end zone until the end of the game.

On the opening series, Bradford had to overcome an early penalty that left the Tornadoes needing 28 yards to gain a first down at midfield. Brown's 33-yard reception moved the Tornadoes well past midfield to the Keystone 26. A 7-yard run by Griffin to the 19 set up first-and-goal. Griffin completed a 9-yard pass to Brown before keeping the ball on two straight carries, with the second run resulting in a 2-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was successful on a Kaylee Devore reception, giving Bradford an 8-0 lead.

Keystone picked up a first down on its first series, with Horton running for a 9-yard gain, but the drive would end with Griffin's first interception, which occurred at about the Bradford 35-yard line. Griffin returned the ball to the Keystone 10, but a penalty on the play back the Tornadoes up 10 yards, giving them first-and-goal at the 20.

Two plays later, the Indians were penalized for pass interference, moving the ball to the 10-yard line. The Tornadoes eventually cashed in on a 7-yard touchdown reception by Rhianna Davis on the final play of the first quarter. Ny'asia Lopey caught a pass from Griffin on the two-point conversion attempt to make the score 16-0.

Griffin finished 10 of 16 passing for 150 yards.

The Indians went three-and-out on their next drive, with a short punt giving Bradford's offense the ball at the Keystone 23. Brown had an 8-yard reception to the 15, while a 13-yard run by Griffin set up fourth-and-goal at the 2-yard line. Griffin then slipped for a 1-yard loss, resulting in a turnover on downs.

Keystone's second play of the ensuing series resulted in another Griffin interception, which she took back approximately 15 yards for a touchdown to put the



Nichelle Brown (right) catches a pass for Bradford, while Keystone's Tatum Hall pulls Brown's flag.



Bradford's Ar'Nayshia Griffin (right) throws a pass before Keystone's Aubre Miller can come up and make an attempt at a flag pull.

Tornadoes up 22-0. The two-point conversion attempt was no good.

The Indians put together a promising drive as the first half wound down. Aubre Miller had a 7-yard reception to pick up one first down, while Horton completed a 7-yard pass to Whitnee Buchanan to convert a fourth-and-3 play and give Keystone a first down at the Bradford 36. Horton ran for a 10-yard gain to the 26 and later had a 5-yard run to set up first-and-goal at the 18. After an incomplete pass, the Indians were backed up 10 yards on a penalty. Two more incompletions followed before Horton took off on a 14-yard run to the 14, resulting in a turnover on downs.

Keystone's offense found some success to start the second half as well. Horton completed passes of 26 and 7 yards to Riley Shuford and then took off on a 14-yard run for a first-and-goal at the Bradford 19. Ashlyn Brown had an 8-yard reception to the 11 before Griffin came down with her third interception.

The Tornadoes took over at their own 4-yard line, but a fumble into the end zone resulted in a safety, putting Keystone on the board and making the score 22-2.

Keystone's offense took over at its own 30 following the safety, but ran just one play, which had Griffin intercepting her fourth pass, which she returned 16 yards to the Indians' 24-yard line.

Griffin handed off to Brown



Alea Horton gets loose for a big gain for Keystone.

on two straight plays, with the second run resulting in a 15-yard touchdown and giving the Tornadoes a 28-2 lead. The two-point try was no good.

Brown finished with 26 yards on just three carries, while Griffin added 29 yards on five carries.

The Indians' next drive began with a 13-yard reception by Alex Papaianou. A penalty on Bradford set up a second-and-3 play, which Keystone converted with Miller's 16-yard reception to the Bradford 27. Two consecutive plays netted just 2 yards before Horton broke

See FLAG, page 15

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FLAG

Continued from page 14

free for a 17-yard run to the 8. A penalty on the play tacked on additional yardage, putting the Indians at the 4. The Tornadoes got an 8-yard sack from Tatyana Brown before Keystone threw three straight incomplete passes, resulting in a turnover on downs.

One play was all Bradford needed to add to its point total. Brown caught a short pass out of the backfield, put the move on a couple of would-be tacklers and went the distance for a 63-yard touchdown. Brown, who caught five passes for 116 yards, took a pitch from Griffin on the three-point conversion attempt (which had half the distance marked off due to a Keystone penalty) and got into the end zone, making it 37-2.

"She's got 143 (touchdowns) now for her career, which is crazy," Staples said of Brown, a senior who leads the state in all classifications this season in touchdowns, total points and receiving yards.

The Indians got a 6-yard run from Horton on the first play of the ensuing series, setting up first-and-20. After two straight



Keylee Devore (right) celebrates with teammate Nichelle Brown after catching a two-point conversion pass for Bradford.

incompletions, Horton hooked up with Miller for an 18-yard gain. On fourth-and-2, Horton completed a 28-yard pass to Makayla Becknel for a first-and-goal at the Bradford 15. Two plays later, Papaianou scored on a 6-yard touchdown reception. Horton had a successful run on the one-point conversion attempt

for the 37-9 final.

Horton finished with 73 rushing yards on nine carries, while completing 18 of 37 passes for 162 yards.

Miller led the Indians in receiving with five catches for 48 yards. Becknel (two receptions) and Shuford (three receptions) each finished with 31 yards.



ABOVE: Keystone's Makayla Becknel (left) runs for a big gain on a pass play, with teammate Alex Papaianou running beside her and Bradford's Ar'Nayshia Griffin coming up to pull Becknel's flag. RIGHT: Bradford's Ar'Nayshia Griffin (left) intercepts a pass intended for Keystone's Aubre Miller.



Alex Papaianou catches a touchdown pass for Keystone.

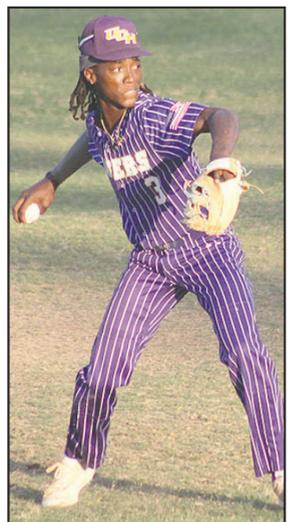


Caiden Polinsky (right) is safe on a play at third in the first inning of the second Region 3-Rural semifinal game against Branford.

REGION

Continued from page 13

second. Browning singled, advanced to second on a Brugh



Devin Diggs drove in three runs in the 9-1 game-one win.

ground out and scored on a Lasseter single.

Branford put two runners on in the top of the fourth when Troy Roberts singled and Jackson Skinner walked. Enalee Perry hit a ball into right field to score the Buccaneers' lone run.

Browning got out of the inning on two straight ground outs.

The Tigers answered with two runs in the bottom of the fourth to go up 5-1. With two outs and no one on, Browning, Brugh and Lasseter all walked to load the bases. Browning scored on a wild pitch before Walker hit an RBI single.

Diggs, who batted 2 for 3 with three RBI, hit a double in the fifth, followed by Thomassen getting hit by a pitch. The runners advanced on a wild pitch before Diggs scored on a passed ball with two outs. Browning walked, while Brugh was hit by a pitch to load the bases. An error on a ground ball hit by Lasseter allowed a run to score.

A two-run sixth featured singles by Klein and Carter. Klein scored on a sacrifice fly by Diggs, while an error on the play allowed Carter to score.

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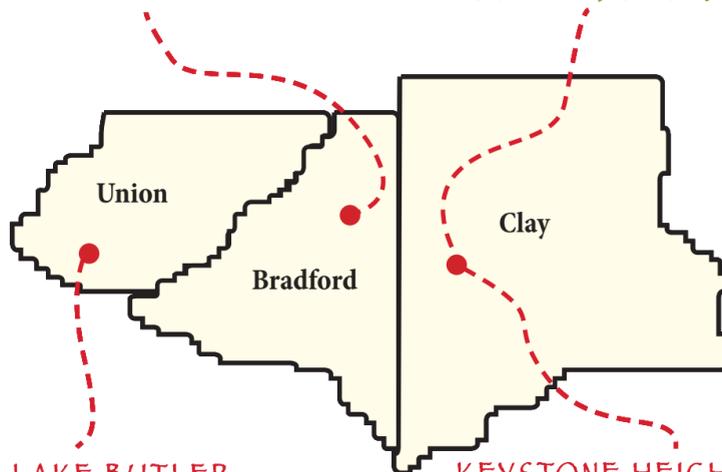
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Lake Butler, FL 32054
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