

Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 44th Issue — \$1



Appreciatoin in its sweetest form was served up to local educators by the members of Bradford County Education Foundation at the annual dessert reception. Pictured (r-l) above are Sheila Cummings, Lila Sellars, Chrissy Thompson and Leisa Simms. For more from the event, see inside.

Black Creek project putting water into Alligator Creek this month

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A division director for the St. Johns River Water Management District informed the district's governing board that the Black Creek Water Resource Development project should be releasing water into Alligator Creek by the end of May.

Dale Jenkins, the district's director of the Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources, told the board during its May 13 meeting that all six of the filtration cells at the project's water treatment facility within Camp Blanding would not be fully operational until the end of November.

He added, however, that with some of the filtration cells already complete, the project would be partially operational by the end of May.

The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project is designed to recharge the Upper Floridan aquifer and raise the water levels of Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva. It is part of the lakes' recovery plan, which helps the district comply with regulatory minimum flows and levels.

The project consists of an intake apparatus and pumps at the intersection of State Road 16 and the creek's south prong, 17 miles of pipe running parallel to State Roads 16 and 21, and a water treatment facility within Camp Blanding.



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WORTH NOTING

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, May 27, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to change based on availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Outdoor movies at St. Mark's

Join a nostalgic evening of outdoor movies with cartoons at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on May 14 and May 28 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Relive old memories and make some new ones. Free tickets are available for a hot dog and beverage.

Ride your bikes, pull a wagon or push a stroller and come enjoy a night of old-fashioned family fun. The church is located at 212 N. Church St. in Starke.

Bradford Democrats date change for May

The Bradford County Democratic Party will meet on Monday, May 19, at 7 p.m. Please note this date early in the month due to Memorial Day. All registered Democrats are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at Capital City Bank, U.S. 301 North in Starke, in the conference room. For further information, please contact bradfordcodec@gmail.com.

Soil and Water board meeting

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District's next meeting will include discussion of open supervisor positions and potential water, flood and invasive species projects for the district's 2026 annual plan. All are welcome to the District's supplemental meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at 10:30 a.m., at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. (U.S. 301) in Starke.

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

Starke proceeds with pavilion despite questions

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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While considering the contract with Scherer Construction for its new music pavilion, some Starke commissioners considered changing course.

Mayor Andy Redding had the contract moved from the consent agenda for further discussion May 6.

"I know that it passed last time, but I just have some concerns. I want to make sure that we're getting the most return on our investment," he said.

The plan that won previous approval calls for matching a state legislative allocation of \$400,000 (\$800,000 total) to build a new stage at the northwest corner of the Downtown Square, directly opposite the existing stage. The new pavilion would support theatrical lighting and sound, as well as a retractable projection screen. Without engineering or design plans for the older stage, the architect doubted it could be retrofitted to do the same.

That doesn't mean the old stage will be torn down. Proposals include using it as a staging or seating area for VIPs

or sponsors.

One drawback, Redding said, is that, while the existing stage faces downtown, which is more commercial, the new pavilion would face a residential area, albeit one with a railroad running through it and a highway overpassing it.

"Obviously, we have citizens that live in that area. There is some expectation to come with that of having noise, but we want to try to make things as good as we can," he said.

The mayor also questioned if it was the best investment of the funding.

Commissioner Danny Nugent said the city should continue to use the stage it has and use the money for enhancements such as restrooms. Commissioner Bob Milner also expressed his desire to explore revamping the existing stage area before spending this much money on a new one.

Commissioner Scott Roberts tried to clarify the vision for the new pavilion.

"What we're trying to do downtown and the stuff we're trying to bring

down there, the pavilion that we're going to put there is the proper one, in my opinion. We're trying to do something that's a class act. If anybody visits anywhere else, that's the kind of stuff they see," he said.

Roberts said they not only have a low bid, but a contractor who has guaranteed the price regardless of any overruns.

"We can nickel dime downtown, and that's what we'll end up with. We're trying to spend the money wisely," he said.

Commissioner Janice Mortimer asked if there was more information they needed to consider. Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby said if the commission wanted to spend additional money, the existing pavilion could be stress tested, and new architectural and engineering plans prepared. If commissioners wanted to go in another direction, they would have to take another look at what the legislative funding can be used for. Or they could send the money back to the state, he said.

Mortimer agreed it would cost more money to consider changing course

now, reminding the others they have a contractor willing respect the bid despite anticipated cost increases.

"I think it's important for us to stick with what we've done and keep moving forward with the plan that we have, because the longer we wait, the higher costs are going to be, and the less opportunity we're going to have to get the best bang for our buck," she said.

Whatever they decided, Crosby said they needed to move quickly.

"We will have to move rather quickly, though, because we're starting to run out of time. This has been sitting on the drawing board now in excess of a year, going on the second year," he said.

Nugent's motion to table the construction contract failed for lack of support. Roberts motion to approve the contract passed 3-2, with Nugent and Redding voting no.

In response to public concern about noise, Mortimer added she would like the city to look at some form of sound barrier.

Superintendent pitches land swap with city of Starke

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Bradford County Schools Superintendent Will Hartley received a favorable response from Starke city commissioners after proposing that the city deed over the land now hosting its public works yard in exchange for the school district giving the city the 11-acre site of the former Southside Elementary School.

Hartley proposed the land swap during the city commission's May 6 meeting.

Starke Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby told council members that the school district would move its bus barn to the former city yard at the corner of Orange and Weldon streets to make room for a new high school that would include the current bus barn site.

"And it would give us a lot more property to expand our utility department and utility system and use there," he said of the proposed deal.

Crosby added that if the city wanted to pursue the deal, it would pass a joint resolution with the school board codifying the two parties' intent to go through with it.

"We wouldn't do it physically and actually until they know they're going to build a new high school," added the city official. "The reason they need to know we want to is so they can put it in the plans when they get approval from the state on how to fund the various aspects of their project."

More safety for pedestrians

City Commissioner Bob Milner

said the proposal would enhance pedestrian safety at the intersections of Washington, Orange and Weldon streets. He said the current situation results in heavy public works trucks and other vehicles mixing with students on foot.

"I like the idea of getting all of our big city trucks out of there and out of an active school zone," he said, "and obviously, Will, if that helps you all with your bus barn, I think that's even a better idea."

Hartley told commissioners that the district could alternatively move its bus barn to the former Southside school site.

"If we did that," the superintendent added, "we would have to tear a lot of buildings down to pave a lot of stuff."

He also said the district could move the bus barn to the former Hampton

Elementary, "but that would cost us astronomically."

Old Starke Elementary might be demolished

The superintendent stated that if the land swap goes through, the district would utilize the parking lot behind the Rainbow Center for bus parking. He also said his long-term plan is to demolish the old Starke Elementary School on Washington Street for public parking.

The superintendent informed commissioners that the district would know by July 2026 whether the new high school would be funded.

See SWAP, page 7





Teacher of the Year honorees Sally Brugnoli, Donna Padgett, Audrey Murphy and Michelle Greist. (Not pictured: Kendra Griffin and Makayla Elixson.)



School-Related Employees of the Year: Andrea Trowell, Courtney Allen, Angel Autry, Jo Clark, Loretta Levenson, Karen Henry and Valarie Jones. (Not pictured: Gerald Smith and Kenna Dreer.)

BCEF hosts sweet celebration for schools' best

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

The Bradford County Education Foundation hosted its annual awards ceremony and dessert reception on May 7. The event is a time of recognition for all those who were nominated by their schools for the honor of Teacher and School-Related Employee of the Year, including those selected as the districtwide representatives.

Superintendent Will Hartley spoke before presenting the awards and explained that when the committee presented him the final names out of the list of honorees he told them, "It doesn't matter who you say right now because anyone, literally on either of those lists would have been a fantastic representation of the school district."

Hartley praised all the teachers and employees in the district, not just those recognized at the event. He said he appreciates them and is grateful for all they do in what is seemingly a thankless job at times. Hartley

went on to say, "I see what you do for our children ... and I can't thank you enough."

This year's districtwide Teacher of the Year is Bradford High School curriculum resource teacher Audrey Murphy. Murphy has been teaching for 25 years and said her favorite part of the job is the community of people she gets to be involved with on a daily basis.

The districtwide School-Related Employee of the Year is Jo Clark. Clark has been serving just two years in her role at Bradford Elementary but has already made a huge impact on the lives of the children and the educators. Clark said her favorite part of the job is just being able to help the children.

Other Teacher of the Year honorees included Kendra Griffin (BMS), Donna Padgett (BES), Makayla Elixson (LES), Sally Brugnoli (NFTC) and Michelle Greist (SES).

Honorees for School-Related Employee of the Year were Loretta Levenson (BHS), Gerald Smith (BMS), Angel Autry (district



The 2024-2025 Bradford County Teacher & School Related Employee of the Year Dessert Reception was hosted by the Bradford County Education Foundation on May 7. The yearly event recognizes the teachers and employees voted as honorees and employees of the year with awards and homemade cakes. Pictured (l-r) are Cheryl Canova, Brenda Thornton, Will Hartley, Lila Sellars, Angel Autry, Leisa Sims, John Williams, Vorease Jones, Sheila Cummings, Matt Dyal, Brenda Donaldson and Chrissy Thompson.

office), Karen Henry (LES), Valarie Jones (NFTC), Courtney Allen (Rainbow Center), Andrea Trowell (SES) and Kennra Dreer (Transportation).



Raymond Jones joined his wife Valarie Jones (North Florida Technical College) as she was recognized for being a School-Related Employee of the Year. The date was extra special because the duo was also celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary on May 7!

Democratic Women meet May 22

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet on Thursday, May 22, at 7 p.m. (with doors opening at 6:30). The Democratic Women's Club of Florida is turning 69 years old and the club will hear about the annual convention from attendees. All Democrats are welcome. Meetings are held at the Melrose Center, 309 State Hwy 26, Melrose. For further information call 352-235-4161.

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Chamber breakfast addresses small businesses' most pressing needs

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Around 15 business leaders from the Starke-Keystone Heights-Lake Butler area attended a quarterly breakfast organized by the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, April 30, to discuss their top challenges in operating a small business.

Chamber President Pam Whittle led the discussion. North Florida Economic Development Corporation partner Amber Shepherd, CareerSource representative Resa Morris, and North Florida Technical College Director Keith Kirby also informed attendees about the resources available from their respective organizations.

When asked about their most pressing business needs, several attendees mentioned that promoting their establishments was challenging. They also emphasized the need for an all-inclusive calendar of events for the area, similar to the one the chamber now operates, but more expansive.

Hoping for tariff help

Chamber President Pam Whittle asked the 17 attendees of the breakfast about the impact of the economy on their businesses.

Leisa Sims, owner of It's Your Day Bridal, said she hoped tariffs on China would enable her to compete more effectively with knock-off designer gowns made in Asia.

"For me," she said, "it's companies like Amazon and Shein that are going to put me out of business."

Sims added that she cannot obtain the authentic products at



North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce President Pam Whittle led a breakfast meeting on Wednesday, April 30, to discuss the top challenges small business owners face operating in rural areas.



Keith Kirby said North Florida Technical College trains students for careers in commercial truck driving, welding, and nursing certifications.



Resa Morris, an employment security representative with CareerSource of North Central Florida told the audience that her agency can host recruiting events, create flyers for employers, and advertise job openings.

wholesale for the same prices at which online businesses sell the knock-offs for at retail.

The bridal shop owner said her alterations service has kept her afloat while Bradford County brides who do buy from brick-and-mortar stores drive to Gainesville or Orange Park for their gowns.

"It's kind of funny," Sims said. "Everybody here goes to Gainesville and Orange Park, but Gainesville and Orange Park (customers) come to me. So, I do get the shoppers."

Diversifying is key

Amber Shepherd, a strategic business partner of the North Florida Economic Development Corporation, provided attendees with a summary of her background.

She piggybacked off Sims's

comments on small business survival, stating that diversifying, like Sims is doing, is a key to thriving in rural markets.

She also responded to some attendees' earlier complaints about the difficulty of marketing and promotion by telling business owners they must invest in marketing to attract customers.

"Your marketing really has to be about 25% of your expected revenue," she said. "And so you have to create that marketing budget, and in that marketing budget, you have to create materials, you have to have a plan to get yourself out to the marketplace."

Shepherd also said that, like Sims, Starke, Keystone Heights, and Lake Butler businesses should look to Gainesville and Jacksonville for customers. Shepherd said she has had success marketing the area through the social media platform, LinkedIn.

Tourist Council green lights Splash Bash, turns down rodeo

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Bradford County's Tourist Development Council voted to recommend to county commissioners that they approve a \$5,500 grant for the Star-Spangled Splash Bash on July 4 and 5. The council also turned down a funding request from Splash Bash organizer Michael Heeder for a rodeo at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

Heeder told the council that 2024 was the Splash Bash's first year at the fairgrounds.

"We expected 6,000 people to turn out," Heeder said of last year's event. "Our numbers came out right at about 8,100 people. We're expecting more this year and scaling it back to two days, just Friday and Saturday, July fourth and fifth."

Heeder said that a sponsor is covering the cost of the water slides, and the City of Starke is

contributing to fireworks costs. The tourist development grant will cover advertising.

Heeder said a rodeo is now produced in Nassau, Baker, and Clay counties, adding that the group organizing the Baker event would run the Bradford County rodeo.

Former Bradford County Fair Manager Dale Woodruff, a member of the tourist development council, told his colleagues that the area Heeder had pinpointed for the rodeo is in disrepair and could not sustain the event.

He added that the fair association had already obtained estimates totaling \$280,000 to restore the area formally used by the Bradford Roping Club. He added that pavement removal, replacing a water well, and replacing bathrooms are among the needed upgrades.

Starke expands visioning study citywide

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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The city of Starke is continuing a visioning study and expanding it beyond the downtown area.

In December, the city announced Woodward and Curran, which assisted the city in obtaining a \$58,500 Florida Commerce Community Planning Technical Assistance Grant, would be developing a vision for a downtown entertainment district.

Last week, Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby announced that the visioning study has been expanded to encompass a broader, citywide scope. Several smaller grant-funded projects that had yet to be addressed will now be folded into this initiative.

Crosby said he, General Manager Drew Mullins and the engineers decided to combine these efforts so that engineers aren't returning multiple times for different visions. Instead, they're taking a step back and looking at the whole city — not just downtown — to create a unified plan.

Woodward and Curran will conduct in-depth meetings May 20 and 21. The firm will meet with

city staff, economic development representatives, planning and zoning officials, and parks and community development staff. Interviews will also include the county manager, the sheriff's office, county commissioners and members of the city commission.

Crosby emphasized the importance of public input, noting that community groups such as the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County and local service clubs will also be involved.

A key driver of the study is the increasing importance of having a documented vision plan when applying for federal and state grant funding. Crosby noted that the lack of such a plan had hurt Starke in the past, specifically during a recent application for several million dollars in funding.

This is something the city must put in place first if it wants to be competitive for future grants,

Crosby explained.

Crosby concluded by assuring city leaders they had already approved the funding, everything was in place, and they would be part of the process.

All meetings and interviews will be held in accordance with

of the largest classes that we've had in a while."

Kirby said his most critical needs are instructors, with two nursing teachers having recently left and a welding instructor who is nearing retirement.

Kirby said that for the time and money investment, his programs offer the most life-altering training in the area.

"Our (commercial vehicle driving) program is, if not the oldest, one of the oldest in the state," he said. "We constantly have 13 to 15 students, four times a year, maybe five if we offer a summer class. In eight weeks, a person can go from a GED-level education to making 60, 70, \$80,000 a year...and it only costs \$4,000, roughly. That program, to me, is just mind-boggling that you can go from minimum wage to \$80,000 a year in eight weeks."

Kirby said that students who complete his school's nine-month welding program can earn up to \$200,000 if they are willing to travel and work in harsh environments, such as on oil rigs.

"I tell all the students," he said, "Congratulations, in 10 months, you'll be making more than me."

After Kirby's presentation, two audience members urged the administrator to expand the school's offerings.

Lori Riley, owner of Nicky's Beauty Bar, told Kirby there is an urgent need for cosmetology training in Bradford County.

"I've been 40 years in the beauty industry," Riley told the administrator, "Ten percent of the girls that work in my salon make more than \$100,000 a year. And I will tell you this is a growing business that will never go away."

Chrissy Allen of the Downtown Grill, which hosted the breakfast,

109 applied for Wawa

Resa Morris, an employment security representative with CareerSource of North Central Florida, also addressed the attendees.

Whittle told the group that the workforce development agency could help small businesses with one of their most pressing needs: staffing.

She added that CareerSource, working with the chamber, processed 109 applicants for Starke's Wawa and over 100 job seekers for the city's new Zaxby's.

Morris told the audience that her agency can host recruiting events, create flyers for employers, and advertise job openings.

"I email close to 200 (people) weekly with upcoming events for job fairs," she said, adding that CareerSource is promoting a job fair for the City of Waldo in June.

Morris said it is essential for employers seeking help to reach out to her, because "we just don't have the manpower to go door-to-door anymore."

CareerSource also maintains a database of openings that job seekers can use to search for employment.

Morris said the onboarding process for employers is easy, adding that businesses can create an employer account with the agency and then post openings online.

The employment security representative stated that she also assists potential employees throughout the job-seeking process.

Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law, so interviews with elected officials will be scheduled individually.

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Citizens want more action in Lawtey

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

The May council meeting in Lawtey had a running theme coming from citizens and council members: It's time to make decisions!

Public comments at the beginning of the meeting started the conversation about old business needing to be addressed. Vyunda Strong told council she was tired of the public's concerns being expressed at monthly meetings and the response always being the same: "Look at it later."

One pressing concern is the building at the Middleburg Road Park. The building's future has been in discussions for years and last year the city received bids from developers to price its repairs or demolition. The decision was delayed for over a year, so the recreation department head, Councilwoman Debra Norman, requested new bids because costs have probably risen from last year's estimates.

Newly elected Councilman Joshua Bell also expressed concern about the issue, saying he'd previously requested the engineer's report from the city clerk but had not received it as of

the meeting.

Recreation Board Member Isaac Williams also spoke to council about concerns with the decisions being made — or not being made — about the park, the building and its future.

"You have to have a plan to replace it before you demo it," he said. Williams expressed the need to have a viable plan prior to the building being condemned and demolished out of respect to Lawtey citizens who have a long history with the park. He acknowledged there are many people who have sentimental attachments to the park's past.

"Whether people like it or not, the train has moved. ... Don't just leave it where it is," he said.

Williams submitted various ideas about the potential for the park and suggested members need to think outside the box, look at parks in cities like Gainesville to get creative ideas, and form public and private partnerships to help with costs.

Fellow recreation board member Nathan Blom spoke up and said the first thing to do was to get the council to deem the building condemned and removed, and then the city can look for grants. Williams

countered, saying that if you want grant money, you must have a plan to present because organizations aren't going to grant money to an unknown idea.

Councilwoman Amy Blom expressed concern about the city's delayed response and is concerned about liability for public safety as the building sits in a dangerous state of disrepair. She too urged the council to decide.

City audit

The state audit has been looming over the city for months and now the city is faced with a choice: allow the state auditors to come in and point out what is being done right or wrong at an estimated cost of \$80,000-\$100,000 dollars, which the council says the city can't afford, or hire an outside auditor.

Mayor Jimmie Scott said the city originally thought the state was requiring a forensic financial audit, but it's an operational audit. The city's policies and procedures need to be examined. An outside auditor is needed to not only point out incorrect policies or procedures, but to correct them.

Using an outside auditor was suggested as the best course of action by Mayor Scott, Councilwoman Blom and city attorney Dan Sikes. Sikes stated the outside auditor would come at a lesser cost and the services would be more in line with what the city needs.

Safety and street signs

Strong talked to the police department about street safety. Strong noted that since Nathan Blom was no longer a full-time police officer, the patrols on C.R. 225 had decreased and speeding has increased. Strong confronted Chief Jerry Feltner on what she viewed as a lack of availability by the chief.

Feltner defended his record by telling Strong he is available 24 hours a day. Feltner acknowledged there has been a change in police presence due to the recent job turnover in the city's police department. The department has lost five officers over the last several months but is restaffing. The chief said the department has added three full-time officers but still needs to add one more full-time and one part-time to have full coverage.

In another case of unfinished city business, updated street signs were addressed by Feltner. He asked the council how much longer it would be before the signs could be replaced. City Clerk Lisa Harley said they are still awaiting 30 more signs to be completed before all the signs ordered are ready to be picked up. Councilwoman Blom asked Harley that the maintenance crew be allowed to move ahead on the project by picking up the completed signs and begin the process of replacing the old ones.



Joshua Bell, Lawtey's newest councilman, was sworn in at the April council meeting by Judge Tatum Davis. Bell said he is ready to work to make a difference for his fellow citizens.

Other news

— Councilman Bell announced his appointment to the recreation board: May Merritt.

— Council voted 4 to 1 to hire a part-time, seasonal maintenance employee to help with the extra lawn maintenance and garbage collection during the summer and early fall.

— Chief Feltner stated that officers need to be paid more to keep them with the department. He also reported that of tickets that were issued in the past

month, 80 citations went to court and 60 were thrown out.

— A water leak was repaired on C.R. 225, but a new leak has occurred due to old pipes. The leak repair also requires sidewalk repairs.

— Mayor Jimmie Scott reported a YTD general fund surplus of \$100,760.

— The next Lawtey Recreation Board meeting is May 19 at 6 p.m. at city hall.

— The next Lawtey City Council Meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 7 p.m.

Keystone welcomes new council members

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

On Monday, May 3, Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth swore in two new council members.

Dave Welch and Ryan Knight were officially inducted onto the council Monday night.

Nightingale Street Culvert

Council members also heard a presentation by City Engineer James Booth about the need for repairs at the Nightingale Street culvert.

He said, "The culvert has been damaged and eroded for some time in certain areas. It's been 50 years since water flowed through the tunnel."

Booth emphasized that the

estimated design cost to repair the culvert is around \$35,000, a necessary investment to ensure the safety and longevity of the city's infrastructure.

The culvert is part of the system that replenishes Lake Geneva, with outflow from Lake Brooklyn moving beneath State Road 100, passing through the Clay Electric area and under Nightingale into Lake Keystone. The outflow from that lake then passes under State Road 21 and into Geneva.

Now, the culvert only carries stormwater. Booth said the repairs are essential because, once Lake Brooklyn outflows into Lake Geneva increase due to the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project, the increased load could cause significant damage or backflow of water that would affect residents around Nightingale Street.

The project is likely to commence by the end of 2025.



Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth swears in new council member Dave Welch.



New Keystone Heights council member Ryan Knight with Mayor Nina Rodenroth.

Keystone Airport seeks second opinion on FIRM request

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Airport Authority Board voted to seek a second legal opinion before responding to a letter from lawyers representing the Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park.

Last February, the Federal Aviation Administration told the board that part of the track intruded into the runway protection area and the runway object-free area of the airport's runway 11/29. The airport board also discovered that the track went outside the area leased by the airport to the FIRM.

In April 2025, the FAA approved a corrective action plan by the airport to resolve the federal agency's objections.

Airport Manager Craig Coon told the airport authority board during its April 1 meeting that the plan would go into effect the following day.

The law firm's April 16 email to the airport board accompanied a preliminary reconfiguration plan for the FIRM's track on the airport's west side.

In the letter, the FIRM's legal

counsel said the airport should assume financial responsibility for changing the track.

"It is essential for the Airport Sponsor to assume responsibility for the costs associated with reconfiguring the existing racetrack," wrote an associate for DLA Piper. "The Airport Sponsor will benefit from collecting fair market value rent on the newly configured leasehold and may explore opportunities for federal or state funding to support related capital improvements. More critically, the Airport previously represented to our Client that the current leased area was suitable for racetrack development and free from legal impediment. As a result, our Client now faces considerable uncertainty, is subject to cease-and-desist notices, and is experiencing substantial financial hardship."

In response to the request, Airport attorney Jim Taylor told board members he saw no legal obligation for the airport to pay for the track reconfiguration.

Responding to a question from board member Bobby Ludwig, asking if the airport was liable for the costs, Taylor responded,

"No, I don't think Florida law or common sense would cover such a duty."

Board member James Eifert recommended that, given the impact of the FIRM's request, the airport seek a second opinion to Taylor's.

Taylor said he agreed with the board's decision to seek another viewpoint.

"I would have no quarrel whatsoever if the board wished to obtain another legal opinion," he said. "This is a serious issue."

Medicare classes offered online

SHINE offers virtual classes on Medicare basics, prescription drug coverage, Medicare Part C, long-term care planning and more. Visit www.floridashine.org to view the schedule, register and explore information on the latest scams.

For more information, you may also contact Elder Options at 1-800-262-2243 or visit www.agingresources.org.

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Art and artists on display at school board meeting

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke Elementary School Principal Laurén Morgan presented a group of young art students to the Bradford School Board on Monday, praising their talent and imagination.

Examples of their artwork were on display at the back of the boardroom.

"I am excited to share some of the incredible artwork that has been created by our elementary students at Starke Elementary School," she said. "These pieces are more than just colorful drawings or paintings. They actually represent imagination, growth and the unique perspectives of our young learners that are here tonight."

"Through their art students, explore emotions, tell stories and connect with the world around them. It is a vital part of their development, supporting creativity, critical thinking as well as confidence. We're proud to celebrate their efforts today and showcase the power of visual expression in our schools," she

said, thanking the school board for continuing to support the arts.

"It truly makes a difference in every child's educational journey," Morgan said.

Each of the students introduced received a round of applause before being photographed with their artwork.

In other business:

—the school board approved advertisement of an RFP for the remodeling of the nursing program building at North Florida Technical College.

—the board approved documents for land sold to the Sandcastles Foundation, which is constructing a housing subdivision off North Westmoreland. The property was needed for stormwater drainage. The purchase price was \$25,000.

—documents related to a land swap with the city of Starke were also approved. (See related story.)

—budget dates were approved, including a July 14 budget workshop, and July 28 and Sept. 8 for the first and final public hearings.



Students and their art. Students recognized included (not all pictured) kindergartener Tyeley Durbin-Taylor, first-grader James Wiggs, second-graders Caliber Holloway, Nicholas Newman and Mason Warren, third-grader Savannah Kuerzi, fourth-grader Ariana Hadley, fifth-graders Keegan Hunsicker, Arabella Thornton and Lucas Garber, and sixth-graders Hayden Underwood, Elaina Sparks, Jerrod Burnett and Elayna Martin. (Photo: Lila Sellars.)

Hope Christian students to perform 'In His Steps'

Two performances are planned for Hope Christian Academy drama students' production of "In His Steps" on May 16 and 17. The production is adapted by Philip Grecian from the novel by Charles M. Sheldon and based on a true story set in America's Midwest circa 1890. The story will challenge one's thinking and inspire as the characters grow, fail and overcome in their life journeys.

Play performance dates

and times are Friday, May 16, at 6 p.m. and a Saturday, May 17, matinee at 1 p.m. in the Hope Baptist Church sanctuary at 3900 SE State Road 100, Starke.

The students invite you to attend and bring a friend! No admission fee, but a free-will offering will be taken. (Due to thematic content and performance length, suggested attendee age is 10 years or older. An intermission will take place between the acts.)



Lillie Drew (Rose), Abby Leon (Millie Wright), and Morgan Cass (Dr. West) focus on their scene during rehearsal for opening night on Friday, May 16, at 6 p.m. in the Hope Baptist Church sanctuary.



HCA students Noah Gaffney — who plays the lead character — and Lesly Salvidrez rehearse Act I, Scene I of 'In His Steps' set for two performances including a matinee on Saturday, May 17.

Principal in honor society

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

On May 1, the National Technical Honor Society announced the induction of Bradford High School Principal Christopher Coffey as an honorary member of the organization, in recognition of his support for career and technical education.

The BHS chapter said in a statement that Coffey's visionary leadership has enabled the growth of programs that are now producing some of the most certified high school students in the region.

"None of this would be possible without Principal Coffey," said Computer Science and Information Technology professor Steven Djavaheri. "He didn't just support these programs—he made them possible. His commitment to

our students, teachers, and future workforce deserves every bit of recognition."

Founded in 1984, the National Technical Honor Society honors top-achieving students in career and technical education. With more than 100,000 active members across the country each year, NTHS promotes excellence in workforce readiness, leadership, and service. The organization has awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships and remains a vital part of developing America's future talent.

Bradford High School Computer Science and Information Technology professor Steven Djavaheri (left) presents Principal Chris Coffey with a certificate recognizing the administrator's honorary membership in the National Technical Honor Society.



Bradford High School Computer Science and Information Technology professor Steven Djavaheri (left) presents Principal Chris Coffey with a certificate recognizing the administrator's honorary membership in the National Technical Honor Society.

Former KH council member joins law firm

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Former Keystone Heights City Councilman and Clay County Commissioner Gavin Rollins passed the Florida bar exam earlier this year and has joined a Mount Dora-based law firm.

Rollins resigned from the county commission in 2020 after the Florida National Guard assigned him as the executive officer of the National Guard Bureau in Washington.

Rollins said his job for two years was coordinating the 50 separate state National Guard units.

The former local lawmaker said he had always had a passion for law, and after he completed his active-duty assignment, he was accepted into Florida A&M's law school in Orlando.

"Normally, law school is three years," Rollins said. "I did it in two and a half. I kind of squished it in and did some summers to get out."

Rollins graduated last December, took the bar exam in February, and was sworn in as a

Florida attorney on April 14.

The new lawyer is an associate with The Sabatini Law Firm, led by former Eustis City Commissioner and State Representative Anthony Sabatini.

"I'm doing a lot of civil litigation, some government work, and I'm still in the National Guard," Rollins said. "I'm a major now working for an air defense artillery unit."

The former Lake Region resident said he still owns a home in Keystone Heights and sits on the Lake County Water Authority, whose mission is to protect water quality in Lake County's lakes.

"Obviously, lakes and water are still close to my heart, and I'm excited to see the pipeline and what's happening with the Keystone lakes," he said.

Rollins said he watches developments in the Lake Region closely, noting Dave Weldon's recent five-vote win for Seat 2 on the city council.

"That's where I started as a kid and won by three votes," he said of the city council.



Former Keystone Heights City Councilman and Clay County Commissioner Gavin Rollins is sworn in as a Florida attorney by Circuit Judge Brian Welke of the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

RJE summer camp applications

Applications for the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County's Summer Day Camp are available through June 5. Applications will be picked up from Starke City Hall, the public library, Meridian and the RJE Complex (Monday and Tuesday, 4-6 p.m. only at RJE). Limited scholarships are available to all who are eligible on a first come, first serve basis.

The camp runs June 9 to July 3 for kids in kindergarten

through eighth grade from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. 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.

Please contact one of the listed CCBC members for more information: Sherry Williams at 352-278-3540, Alica McMillian at 904-966-1100 or Glenda Ruise 904-769-1691.



Stellar Development, Inc is soliciting the participation of Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms in response to the FDOT's DBE requirements for the following projects:

Keystone Heights Bulk Aircraft Storage Hangar

Pricing must be received by May 27, 2025

Any DBE firms interested in participating in this project are requested to contact Stellar Development, Inc. at www.stellargc.com or email tiffany@stellargc.com The firms and services requested include the following: surveying, sitework, pavement, concrete, insulation, doors and hardware, windows, PEMB, airplane hangar doors, electrical, etc.

Stewart named KHHS School-Related Employee of the Year

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Monitor

This year, Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School named Kay Stewart its School-Related Employee of the Year.

"I'm honored and grateful to be part of a team that believes in the potential of every student and recognizes the importance of every role in helping them succeed," Stewart shared.

As a Title I Assistant, she spends her days working one-on-one and in small groups with students who need extra academic support, helping bridge learning gaps and giving them the confidence to keep going.

From business owner to teacher to assistant

But her journey to Keystone Heights is more than a job title; it's a story of a lifelong calling to serve and uplift children. With over two decades of experience nurturing young minds, Stewart has devoted her career to helping students flourish, both academically and personally.

Her path began in Alabama, where she owned and operated a childcare and learning center. That hands-on experience in early childhood education laid the foundation for her future in the classroom.



Title I Assistant Kay Stewart spends her days working one-on-one and in small groups with students who need extra academic support.

"Even before I entered the education industry, I had always worked with children in some capacity—through childcare, youth programs, or volunteer work," she said. "I've consistently been drawn to roles where I could support and nurture children's growth and development."

In 2014, Stewart relocated to Florida and spent the next seven

years teaching second grade in private schools. There, she honed her instructional skills and cultivated a nurturing classroom environment that emphasized both academic excellence and character development. That love for teaching and connecting with students never left—and eventually led her to Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School, where she found her place

making a difference behind the scenes.

Now in her third year at KHHS, Stewart's days are filled with intentional support for students who need it most. Whether it's helping a student understand a tricky math concept or encouraging them not to give up when things get tough, her presence is both gentle and powerful.

More than a plaque

The recognition as School-Related Employee of the Year, she said, is more than just a plaque. "It's a powerful reminder that the work I do to support students who need extra academic help is valued and impactful."

What makes Stewart's influence so remarkable is not just what she does—it's how she does it. Her work is rooted in three core values: empathy, commitment, and lifelong learning.

"Empathy allows me to connect with students and colleagues in ways that honor their experiences and identities," she explained. "Commitment keeps me grounded in the belief that persistence and care can change lives. And lifelong learning reminds me that growth is not just for students—educators must continually evolve to meet the needs of a changing world." Stewart isn't just helping

students learn how to read or calculate fractions—she's modeling what it looks like to show up with heart. Her colleagues have taken notice and so have the students who benefit from her compassion, patience, and positivity every day.

Outside of school, Stewart finds joy in the little things.

"I really value moments spent with my family—that's what brings me the most joy," she said.

Whether it's walking through quaint towns, browsing antique shops, or discovering cozy coffee spots, she appreciates the beauty of quiet, peaceful places. And when she's ready to unwind, a good book is her go-to escape.

Family, it turns out, is the thread that runs through everything Stewart does.

Thank you for believing in me

"I'm incredibly grateful for the love and support of my family," she said. "Coming from a large family, I've always known the value of standing by one another. My husband and children are my greatest motivators—they lift me up, especially on the hard days, and remind me why I do what I do."

Her five grandchildren—and one more on the way—are her pride and joy. "They make everything sweeter and inspire

me to keep growing, learning, and giving my best."

Though humble in nature, Stewart is quick to extend her thanks to those around her. "I want to sincerely thank my principal, assistant principals, and my fellow employees for believing in me. Their support and encouragement have meant so much, and I am truly grateful to work with such caring people and dedicated leaders."

It's clear Stewart views her work not as a job, but a calling—and one she fulfills with grace and gratitude. "Their belief in me helped me grow, stay motivated, and feel valued every day. It's a privilege to be part of a team that leads with both heart and purpose."

At Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School, where every student's story matters, Kay Stewart is helping write a chapter of hope, encouragement, and possibility, one small group at a time.

Her legacy isn't about being in the spotlight. It's about showing up, day in and day out, for the kids who need her most. And this year, the school community returned that love tenfold, with a well-deserved title that says what her actions already have: You make a difference. And we see you.

From cafeteria to classroom

Jan Houston is
Keystone High's
teacher of the year

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Monitor

Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School's Teacher of the Year, Jan Houston, didn't take the traditional path to the classroom—and that's precisely

what makes her story so inspiring.

At 41 years old, Houston made the bold decision to return to school, kicking off a journey that would take her a decade to complete. She graduated with her bachelor's degree magna cum laude—just a fraction of a point away from summa.

"They would not give me that extra fraction of a point," she recalled with a smile. "That's

a lesson I bring into my own classroom: do the work and earn your grade."

That belief in accountability, combined with deep compassion, is at the heart of her teaching style.

"I try to be compassionate because some students do not come from a stable environment. Stable can be relevant," she said. At the same time, she doesn't lower the bar—she helps her

students rise to meet it.

Now in her second year teaching English Language Arts to 7th and 8th graders, Houston started out as an Intensive Reading teacher. But her path to education didn't even begin in the classroom.

Eight years ago, she joined the Clay County School District, working in the cafeteria. It wasn't glamorous, but it was a foot in the door.



Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School's Teacher of the Year, Jan Houston

"I rely on my coworkers," Houston said, grateful for the community she's found along the way.

Her transition from cafeteria staff to full-fledged teacher was made possible by the district's Para to Pro program, which allowed her to pursue a teaching role thanks to her associate's degree.

So, what does she think makes a great teacher? For Houston, it comes down to three things: "Good strong classroom management, never be afraid to ask for help, and don't be afraid to read everything."

Reading, in fact, is one of the biggest challenges she sees in her students.

"They don't read anymore. Everything is so fast-paced these days," she said. In response, she's made independent reading a daily part of her class.

"Their bell work is reading the book they checked out and writing a short paragraph on what they read," Houston said.

It's a simple but effective strategy aimed at building both literacy and attention span.

Houston believes deeply in the power of education, but she knows teachers can't do it alone.

"I would love to see more parents volunteer," she said. "I think they would find it enjoyable to watch their students learn."

Before stepping into the classroom, Houston wore many hats. She was a stay-at-home

mom, worked for H&R Block for ten years, and even substitute taught for a year and a half while finishing school.

"It took me 10 years to get my bachelor's degree," she said. "But I never gave up."

Born in Gainesville and raised in a small southeast Texas town, Houston now calls Keystone Heights home. When she's not teaching, she enjoys life's simpler pleasures—gardening ("although I've barely grown a single serving of peas, but I'm trying"), refurbishing furniture, and tending to her handful of chickens.

She credits much of her success to her husband, whom she lovingly describes as "the best guy on the planet" and "my biggest cheerleader." Together, they plan to build a retirement home in Tennessee. But Jan's not done learning yet—she's also considering going back to school to pursue a master's degree in English or Curriculum Instruction.

Her story reminds us that the road to success isn't always direct—and that's okay. What matters is showing up, doing the work, and keeping your passion alive, no matter your age or how long the journey takes.

Jan Houston may have started her career in a school cafeteria, but today, she's feeding minds. And Keystone Heights is all the better for it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

As provided by Chapter 197 Acts of 1974, notice is given that tangible personal property taxes assessed for the year 2024 are now delinquent and beginning April 1st, such taxes are drawing interest at 18 percent per year plus the proportionate cost of publishing this notice and delinquent cost. Unless the amounts set opposite each name below are paid prior to the 1st day of May, 2026, warrants will be issued thereon and the Tax Collector will apply to the Circuit Court for an order directing levy and seizures of the tangible personal property of the taxpayers for unpaid taxes, penalties and additional cost. The name of delinquent personal property taxpayers and the amounts including the cost of advertising for the first month's penalty of delinquent cost are as follows:

00098-000
1 P-0076700 \$2,468.91
ALLIANCE SOURCE TESTING
LLC
255 GREENT STREET STE 600
DECATUR, AL 35601

01195-010
2 P-0081900 \$1,360.90
BUSH TRAILER COMPANY
LLC
5311 NW 54TH CT
GAINESVILLE, FL 32653

01274-000
3 P-0082500 \$1,492.12
CAPITAL TELECOM HOLD-
INGS, LLC
PO BOX 606
SHORT HILLS, NJ 07078

02540-004
4 P-0086500 \$1,298.70
COUNTRY CATERER'S BAR-
B-QUE
6217 SE CR 21B
KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL
32656-9707

03250-000
5 P-0092100 \$1,267.01
ENGINEERED SPRAY SOLU-
TIONS LLC
13953 US HWY 301 S
STARKE 32091

03605-000
6 P-0094700 \$2,826.32
FLORIDA TRACTOR REPAIR
10875 US HWY 301 S
HAMPTON, FL 32044

05150-000
7 P-0101000 \$423.75
DISCOUNT BEVERAGE
JAI MA OF STARKE, LLC
401 W BROWNLEE ST
STARKE, FL 32091

05239-010
8 P-0101400 \$985.78
JOE'S TIRES INC
13761 US HWY 301 S
STARKE, FL 32091

06675-000
9 P-0106400 \$590.60
MOSLEY FARMS, INC
PO BOX 293
HAMPTON, FL 32044-0293

06844-010
10 P-0107300 \$507.45
MSB INC
% KEN THAKOR
1100 E BROWNLEE ST
STARKE, FL 32091

07139-005
11 P-0108300 \$1,841.71
NORTH FLORIDA FITNESS
PO BOX 1073
STARKE, FL 32091

07270-000
12 P-0109600 \$217.14
PARKSIDE PLACE OF BRAD-
FORD CTY
329-C NORTH CHURCH
STREET
STARKE, FL 32091

07470-015
13 P-0110600 \$47.90
PINE FOREST LTD
% HALLMARK MANAGE-
MENT COMPANY
3111 PACES MILL RD. STE
A-250
ATLANTA, GA 30339

07515-000
14 P-0111900 \$575.39
OTTEY BONE & JOINT ASSO-
CIATES
417 W CALL ST
STARKE, FL 32091
917-865-5639

07690-000
15 P-0114000 \$158.18
REDBOX AUTOMATED RE-
TAIL LLC
% ALTUS GROUP US INC
PO BOX 1339
COCKEYSVILLE, MD 21032-0

07690-003
16 P-0114100 \$49.36
REDBOX AUTOMATED RE-
TAIL LLC
% ALTUS GROUP US INC
PO BOX 1339
COCKEYSVILLE, MD 21032-0

07690-006
17 P-0114200 \$46.66
REDBOX AUTOMATED RE-
TAIL LLC
% ALTUS GROUP US INC
PO BOX 1339
COCKEYSVILLE, MD 21032-0

07876-000
18 P-0115400 \$1,779.08
RIVERWOOD HEALTH AND
REHAB
400 RELLA BLVD STE 200
MONTEBELLO, NY 10901

08335-000
19 P-0117500 \$2,671.79
STARKE BEEFS LLC
850 E BLOOMINGDALE AV,
PMB 687
BRANDON, FL 33511

08650-000
20 P-0119900 \$1,378.78
STARKE SHELL LLC
115 S TEMPLE AVE
STARKE, FL 32091

08663-000
21 P-0120000 \$195.53
C & W AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
402 NORTH TEMPLE AVE
STARKE, FL 32091

09341-000
22 P-0122600 \$546.77
TONY & AL'S DELI
200 E CALL ST. STE B
STARKE, FL 32091

09420-005
23 P-0123100 \$230.02
TRIPLE H SEPTIC & SITE
WORK IN
879 NE 185TH ST
STARKE, FL 32091

**Teresa G. Phillips,
Tax Collector, Bradford County, Florida**

Construction project leaves resident without sewer service

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The demolition of a home to make way for Express Oil Change in Starke has caused problems for a neighboring property, which has been left without sewer service.

Lathell Blaine lives at 101 Alexander Road, right next to where the new business is being constructed.

“As a result of the excavation that they’re doing, my sewer was disconnected, destroyed. So, I had no sewer service for several weeks now,” he explained to the city commission last week.

Blaine said he spoke with General Manager Drew Mullins and was told he would be financially responsible for reconnecting the service, which would involve installing a new line and pump station.

Mullins explained that Blaine’s home had been connected through a line to the home that was torn down by the developer, the house where Blaine’s aunt lived. The sewer line was on private property, not the city right of way. Water usage was metered on separate accounts, and he confirmed the bills were paid.

“Whenever the developer requested the cut off, the disconnect, for water, electric, sewer, everything, all the utilities there, when it was disconnected, that’s when this issue popped up, which is how, again, we were able to determine that this is one connection with two pipes going

into it,” he said.

Blaine said he spoke to a supervisor at the construction site, who told him the sewer service was cut six months ago. Explaining why the problem was discovered more recently, Mullins said there was a very long pipe leaving the property that had been filling up ever since. He reminded Blaine he was advised to speak with the contractor about the situation.

Blaine said it was the city who issued the permit for them to build.

Mayor Andy Redding called it an unfortunate civil issue. The city’s responsibility is to get utility lines to a property. The city is not responsible for what happens on the private property, he said.

“Obviously you need to be rectified sooner than later because of the sewer issue, but you’re on that grounds of a civil issue between yourself and the contractor when we’re responsible to where the private property starts,” Redding said.

In other business:

—Robert Padron complained that city right of way crews always skip mowing the property in front of his West Market Road home, leaving him to do it for 20 years. Now that he is 87 and no longer capable of doing so, he wanted to know why he is skipped. He was told the city would explore whether it was city or county right of way.

—management of Pine Forest Apartments debated responsibility for the sewer lift

station serving the complex. Mullins maintains that the station is on private property and is not the city’s responsibility.

—the commission finalized adoption of an ordinance raising fees for excessive false property alarms.

Memorial Day

Chamber of Commerce President Pam Whittle asked for the city’s blessing to use the Downtown Square on Memorial Day, May 26. To encourage more public participation in the American Legion’s annual ceremony, they are introducing refreshments — hot dogs and drinks — as well as a car show. The ceremony begins that morning at 10 a.m. and will include a special speaker and wreath laying to honor fallen military heroes.

Election this fall

The city commission approved the first reading of an ordinance reducing the city clerk’s starting salary from \$69,000 to \$45,000. Commissioners also passed a resolution approving an agreement with Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang to oversee the Aug. 19. In addition to the vacant city clerk position, the District 2 and 4 commissioner seats are up for election. Those interested in qualifying for any position should contact the elections office at 904-966-6266.

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

Joseph Battiest, 45, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 8 for DUI.

James Charron, 36, of Interlachen, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 8 for an out-of-county warrant.

Kevin Donley, 48, of Melrose, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 5 for a conditional release violation.

Lindsey Frisk, 40, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 7 for possession of a controlled substance.

Patricia Groom, 56, of Dunnellon, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 6 for DUI.

John Hubner, 38, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 9 for failure to appear.

Khariyah Jackson, 20, of Eustis, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 8 for a probation

violation.

Frank Maddox, 20, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 8 for a probation violation and an out-of-county warrant.

James Martin, 57, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 6 for a probation violation.

Jessica Martin, 39, of Melrose, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 8 for a probation violation.

Michael McDonnell, 32, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 8 for out-of-county warrants.

Antonio Morgan, 44, of High Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 7 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jennifer Rhoden, 38, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 7 for larceny and burglary.

Wyatt Seeley, 20, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 7 for lewd and lascivious behavior.

Jamal William, 24, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 8 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Henry Wimberley, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 4 for possession of drug equipment and larceny.

Kaylin Wright, 23, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 6 for a probation violation.

Union

Colby Craft, 27, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 8 for violating a domestic violence injunction.

Stacy Harrell, 58, of Sanderson, was arrested by Union deputies on May 6 for possession of drugs.

Zeldrum Highland, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 7 for an out-of-county warrant.

Eric Knight, 36, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 11 for reckless driving, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and child cruelty.

Albert Smith, 30, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 11 for trespassing.

Serrano Solimar, 22, of Tampa, was arrested by Union deputies on May 5 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Clay

James Dulaney, 33, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 8 for domestic battery.

Craig Stewart, 48, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 6 and on May 9 for simple battery.

Mason Wright, 23, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 7 for making a written threat to kill or cause bodily harm.



Chairman Ida Sue Wright with New Bethel Missionary Baptist Women Ministry volunteers Myra McCray, Rosa Thomas, and Alica McMillian joyfully prepare the food.

New Bethel hosts Mother’s Day breakfast

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Telegraph

The New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Women’s Ministry hosted a special Mother’s Day breakfast on Saturday, May 10, honoring mothers with fellowship, food,

and faith.

Inspired by a visit to her mother’s gravesite, Women’s Ministry Chair Ida Sue Wright envisioned the event as a meaningful tradition.

With the theme “Mothers Walking in God’s Purpose,” the morning included an opening

prayer by Deaconess Linda Nichols, a welcome from Mother Amanda Chandler, a solo by Sister Shirley Sewell, a poem by Sister Taliyah Wilson, and a blessing by Reverend Abie C. Williams, Jr.

Williams Jewelry hosts festive Mother’s Day pop-up

BY AMBER J. CRAFT
Special to the Telegraph

Williams Jewelry celebrated Mother’s Day weekend with a lively Pop-up event on Saturday, May 10th, drawing a crowd of local shoppers and families.

A wide variety of craft vendors set up shop, offering handmade goods and unique gifts perfect for the holiday.

Among the guests were Tabitha Story and her daughter Amelia, who strolled over from the nearby Hometown Grounds Mom & Me Tea for Two event to browse the vendor booths and soak in the festive atmosphere.

The pop-up proved a charming addition to the town’s Mother’s Day celebrations.



Mom Tabitha Story and daughter Amelia Story enjoy a stroll looking at the craft vendors at the Williams Jewelry Mother’s Day Pop-up Event

35 days of freedom

Man jailed 1 month after release, sentenced to 10 more years

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A 42-year-old Bradford County man was sentenced to 10 years with the Department of Corrections after pleading to burglarizing a Starke home during a state of emergency, an offense he committed one month after his release from prison.

William E. Sanders, III pleaded to unarmed burglary of an occupied dwelling, criminal mischief, and threatening a victim or witness.

According to an arrest report, the victim, who resides on North Water Street in Starke, originally wanted Sanders trespass. However, after the victim’s home surveillance video revealed the 42-year-old breaking a privacy gate to gain entrance to the property, attempting to break

into the home through various entrances, and staying on the property for an hour, Bradford deputies arrested Sanders for attempted burglary during a state of emergency, criminal mischief, and possession of burglary tools.

According to the report, the video showed Sanders using items he found on the property to try to gain access to the home. At one point, he attempted to unlock a door through a doggie door.

Sanders committed the offenses two days after Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in several counties, including Bradford, because of Hurricane Helene.

According to a motion for pretrial detention filed by prosecutors, Sanders committed the offenses 35 days after he was released from the Department of Corrections on other charges.

“The Defendant has also previously been sentenced as a habitual felony offender...on May 26, 2015, at which point in time he was sentenced to 10 years in the Department of Corrections



Sanders

for felony battery, great bodily harm,” the State Attorney’s Office wrote in the motion.

In a letter to the court, Sanders’s parent said the son struggled with drug addiction and mental health problems and asked the judge for leniency.

“I don’t see how more prison time will help him anyway,” wrote the parent. “He is more clean-headed today than I have seen him in years. He has been in jail over six months and drugs are all out of his system.”

SWAP

Continued from page 1

“We were officially approved by the Department of Education Facilities Committee in March,” he said. “I have to go in front of a new committee which involves them, some other superintendents from around the state, and some other legislators on June 19.”

Hartley said that during the June 19 meeting, the committee would rank the three school

districts vying for funding during the 2026 session: Bradford, Hardee and Lafayette.

“When I go to that meeting,” Hartley told commissioners, “I need to tell them where we’re moving the bus barn. So, the goal would be that if the city decides that this swap is a good deal for the city, that resolution would be in place before that June 19 meeting.”

Commissioner Janice Mortimer stated that, from her perspective, the city would benefit under the proposal.

“I just can’t see why it would not be an advantage for us,” she told her colleagues. “Three acres (for) 11 acres.”

Hartley stated that, of the three options for relocating the bus barn, the school board had agreed that the land swap is the best alternative. He added that the school district attorney had already begun drafting the joint resolution for both governing boards to pass.

RUSS WADE

Attorney at Law

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UCHS' Bethea earns 2 medals at state meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School junior Amia Bethea continues to break her own school record in the 100m, only this time she also earned a state medal in the process.

Bethea earned two medals overall, which were awarded for top-eight finishes, at the May 9 Class 2A Florida High School Athletic Association Track and Field Finals at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

It was quite a battle for third place in the 100m, with two



Amia Bethea (center) displays her two state medals, which she earned in the 100m and 200m. She's pictured with coaches Craig Slocum (left) and Scott McDaniel.

hundredths of a second separating Parham and Diamond Bryant — the third and fifth place. Trinity both of Cocoa — placed third

and fourth, respectively, with times of 11.85 and 11.86, while Bethea placed fifth at 11.87.

Glades Central's E'tesia Forbes won the championship with a time of 11.51, edging out Montverde Academy's Dasia Reed, who crossed the line in 11.52.

Bethea's time broke her previous UCHS record of 11.93, which she ran at the previous week's Region I meet.

In the 200m, Bethea ran a seventh-place time of 25.14. The event was won by Montverde's Reed, who had a time of 23.89.

Bethea was the first UCHS girl to compete at state since Tiana Sheffield in 2011.

The last UCHS athlete to earn two medals at the state track and field meet was Malcolm Odum in

2022. He competed in the 200m and 400m.

UCHS softball team loses 4-2 in regionals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Host and top seed Madison County scored three unearned runs in defeating the Union County High School softball team 4-2 in a Region 3-Rural semifinal game on May 8.

The fourth seed Tigers (15-9) scored a run in the top of the seventh and had two on with one out, but Madison pitcher Alden Bass struck out two straight

to end the game. She had 10 strikeouts in all.

Madison (19-1) scored its first run in the bottom of the first. Bass walked with one out and stole second before Anna-Kayte Smith reached on an error. A pop-up to shortstop Bass scored on a two-out error, which allowed Smith to advance to third. Pitcher Shyla Crowe then recorded a strikeout to get out of the inning.

Madison's half of the third began the same as its half of the first, with Bass walking and stealing second. Smith hit a fly ball and reached on an error, which allowed Bass to score and Smith to advance to third. Kylee Hutto ground into a fielder's choice, which allowed Smith to

See REGION, page 10

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SHOP LOCAL ALL

2025

NCA softball team is SECC runner-up to First Christian

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Northside Christian Academy took an undefeated record into the Southeastern Christian Conference's best-of-three championship series, but dropped two games to visiting First Christian of High Springs on May 12.

The Eagles, who lost 11-2 in the first game, held a 6-2 lead in the second game, but couldn't force a third game in the series, losing 8-6 and finishing the season as conference runners-up.

First Christian (14-4-1) scored 13 of its runs in the two games on errors, passed balls and wild pitches.

Northside (12-2-1) trailed 1-0 in the first game, but evened the score in the bottom of the

first. Brylee Gay drew a leadoff walk, followed by a bunt single by Caylee Young. Gay was eventually put out when she tried to advance to third on a fly out, but the Eagles would load the bases on walks drawn by Brook Parrish and Aliyah Crocker. Kaylea King fell behind 0-2 in the count, but took three balls and fouled off two pitches before walking to force a run in.

The Lions, despite having just one hit, scored four runs in the third, taking advantage of walks, passed balls and wild pitches. All the runs were scored with two outs in the inning, putting First Christian up 5-1.

Northside scored its final run in the bottom of the third. Young drew a leadoff walk, while Briley Parrish reached on an error. The runners advanced on a passed

ball, putting Young in position to score on a sacrifice by Crocker.

First Christian had a 6-2 lead before scoring four runs in the fifth. Again, it wasn't the Lions' bats that did the bulk of the damage as the inning consisted of two errors and two passed balls/wild pitches.

Pitchers Crocker and Brook Parrish combined to allow just five hits, three of which resulted in runs.

First Christian pitcher Victoria Loehr pitched a complete game, allowing two hits and striking out eight.

In the second game of the series, First Christian (the designated home team) scored two runs in bottom of the first, taking advantage of a single, two errors and a passed ball to go up 2-0.

Northside answered with a big second inning. Crocker drew a leadoff walk, while Gay reached on a bunt single. Crocker was put out at third when King ground into a fielder's choice, but the Lions committed an error on a Caydance Slayton bunt, which allowed the Eagles to score two runs and make it a 2-2 game.

The inning continued with a double by Gabby Smith and a run-scoring single by Ava Welsh. After the second out, Briley Parrish drove in two runs on a single. An error on the play allowed Parrish to circle the bases and score, putting the Eagles up 6-2.

First Christian's Corie Wheeler hit a double to lead off the bottom of the third. She stole third and scored on a passed ball, cutting Northside's lead in half.

Northside had two outs with no one on in the fourth when Brook Parrish kept the inning going with a walk. Crocker singled before Gay walked to load the bases. A strikeout ended the scoring threat.

The Lions found themselves trailing by just one when they scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth. Arabella Blake singled and stole second and third before scoring on a ground out by Loehr. Wheeler singled and stole a couple of bases. Northside committed an error in trying to pick Wheeler off at third, which allowed her to score and make it a 6-5 game.

Northside had no one on with two outs when Brook Parrish singled and advanced to second on an error. She moved to third on a single by Crocker, but was

tagged out when trying to score on a wild pitch.

First Christian's Peyton Gray led off the bottom of the sixth with a walk, followed by a bunt single by Roniyah Bennett. Blake reached on a ground-ball error, which allowed two runs to score. Blake was able to score on the play as well, putting the Lions up 8-6.

Loehr, who pitched another complete game for First Christian, recorded three outs with just seven pitches in the final inning, striking out two of the three batters she faced. She finished with eight strikeouts in all.

Crocker and Brook Parrish had seven of Northside's 13 hits, with Crocker batting 4 for 4 and Parrish batting 3 for 4.

Eagles advanced off semifinal wins over Hope Lions

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Northside Christian Academy's softball team capped an undefeated regular season and then got the Southeastern Christian Conference playoffs started with a 2-0 semifinal series sweep against visiting Hope Christian Academy on May 8.

Northside had a 6-0 record on the regular season before finishing in a 6-6 tie against visiting First Christian on April 22. The Eagles then reeled off wins by scores of 23-8 over Open Bible on April 24 in Valdosta, Georgia, 21-3 over visiting Hope on April 29, 23-5 over host Brunswick (Georgia) Christian on May 2 and 21-1 over Corinth Christian on May 5 in Jasper.

The Eagles scored a total of 170 runs in compiling its 10-0-1 regular-season record, while opponents scored a total of 40 runs.

Northside earned the number-one seed in the SECC playoffs, which had them hosting fourth seed Hope in a May 8 double-header. The Eagles took the first game 12-2, while winning the second 23-2.

The Eagles had no trouble in finishing off the sweep (and avoiding a third game). They already had a big lead in the second inning of game two when Ava Welsh had a hit to drive in a pair of runs and make the score 11-1.

Hope, which was the host team in the second game, scored its final run in the bottom of the second. Allyssa Wilson hit a leadoff single and stole second. After an Anne Amis single, Wilson scored on a ground out by Trinity Casielles.

Brook Parrish pitched the first two innings for Northside before



Northside went undefeated in the regular season and swept its Southeastern Christian Conference semifinal series against Hope. Pictured (l-r) are Alliyah Crocker, Kaylea King, Ava Welsh, Coach Todd von Weyhe, Jordan Padelford, Bat Boy Carter Welsh (in front of Padelford), Briley Parrish, Caydance Slayton, Brook Parrish, Emma Calhoun, Briley Parrish, Gabby Smith, Caylee Young and Coach John Parrish.



LEFT: Northside's Caylee Young (left) and Brook Parrish show that you can play winning ball and still find time to have some fun. BELOW: Northside players (l-r) Kaylea King, Briley Parrish, Ava Welsh and Jordan Padelford show that they got the "dub" in a playoff series against Hope.



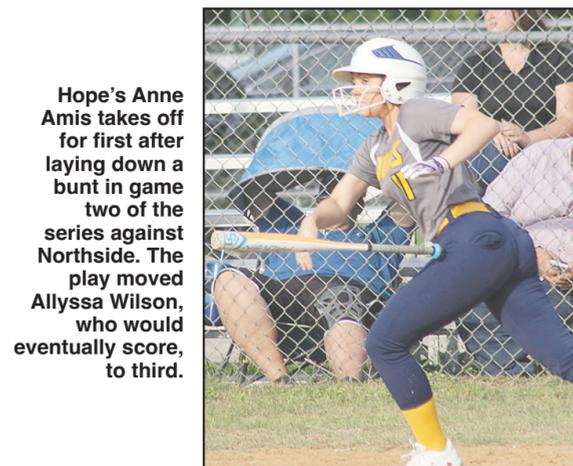
Ava Welsh (left) reaches second safely for Northside. Hope second baseman Allyssa Wilson is also pictured.



Aliyah Crocker pitched two innings of no-hit ball in game two of the series against Hope.



Hope's K.J. Odom makes a throw from left field.



Hope's Anne Amis takes off for first after laying down a bunt in game two of the series against Northside. The play moved Allyssa Wilson, who would eventually score, to third.

giving way to Aliyah Crocker. Crocker threw two innings as well, giving up no hits and no walks.

The Eagles held a 12-2 lead going into the fourth. Gabby Smith hit a one-out single, while Ava Welsh and Caylee Young both walked to load the bases. Briley Parrish walked to force a run in before Brook Parrish drove in a run on a ground out. Crocker then had a hit to plate another two runs and put Northside up 16-2.

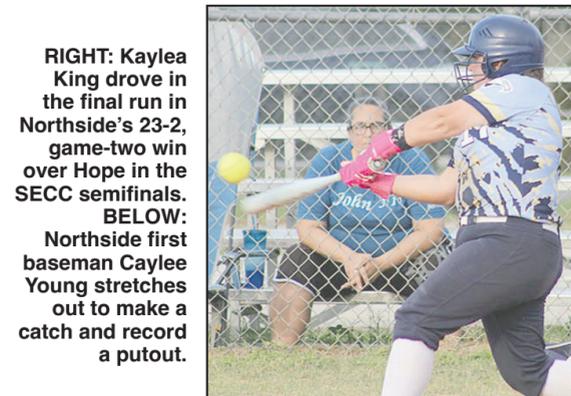
Northside kept the inning going with a Brylee Gay single, but Hope shortstop Addyson Wilson caught a line drive for the third out.

The Eagles pushed their final seven runs across in the fifth. Caydance Slayton and Smith both walked, while a Welsh single loaded the bases. Young ground into a fielder's choice, which resulted in Hope's Addyson Wilson tagging Smith out, but Slayton scored, while Young reached safely. A Briley Parrish hit then scored two runs to put the Eagles up 19-2. Brook Parrish followed with an RBI single, while Crocker drew a walk. While Crocker was making her way to first, Brook Parrish stole third. Crocker took the opportunity to steal second, with Parrish then stealing home for Northside's 21st run.

Northside's final runs of the inning occurred when Crocker scored on a passed ball and Kaylea King drove in one on a ground out.

Gay pitched the bottom of the fifth for the Eagles. She retired the first batter she faced before Hope's Casielles drew a walk. Northside shortstop Briley Parrish then made a diving catch, robbing Brianna Bradshaw of a hit.

Briley Parrish caught a pop-up for the game's final out.



RIGHT: Kaylea King drove in the final run in Northside's 23-2, game-two win over Hope in the SECC semifinals. BELOW: Northside first baseman Caylee Young stretches out to make a catch and record a putout.



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Obituaries

Joe Barrow Jr.

Joe Barrow Jr., 90, of Keystone Heights died Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Haven Hospice in Palatka. He served in the United States military. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife of 56 years, Oleta (Bacon) Barrow.

He is survived by his wife, Colleen (Ebling) Barrow; daughters, Cindi Adams and Valerie Cole; several grandchildren; as well as Colleen's family.

At his request, there will be no services.

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

Pamela Crawford

Pamela Jenene Crawford, a cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully at home in Starke on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, after a brief illness. Born on Sept. 20, 1960, in Starke, she lived her life with a deep appreciation for nature and a profound love for the Lord. She enjoyed nature watching, where she found joy in observing squirrels and birds in their natural habitats. Reflecting on the tranquility and simplicity of God's creatures seemed to draw her closer to the Lord. She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles Eugene Crawford Sr. and Betty Joyce Harris Crawford; as well as her siblings, Wayne Crawford and Debbie Crawford; and sister-in-law, Becky Crawford. She was also preceded in death by her cherished pet, Mia, who brought her much comfort and companionship.

She leaves behind her loving children, Christopher (Christy) McFarland, Jennifer McFarland, and Britney Napier; grandchildren, Hannah McFarland, Madison Highland, Brooke Napier, Allie McFarland, Taylor Napier, Marisa Highland, and Kylie Plemons; as well as her great-granddaughter, Nova Napier-Crawford. Pam also shared a special bond with her brothers, Stephen (Tina) Crawford and Charles Eugene "Gene" Crawford Jr.; and is remembered fondly by many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, May 17, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at 2651 NW 210th St., Lawtey, 32058. Friends and family are invited to gather to share memories and honor the remarkable life of Pamela Jenene Crawford.

Her final memorization will be by cremation under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Edith Kent

Edith Anne "Mema" Kent, 67, of Starke died Monday, May 5, 2025, following an extended illness. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Leo, Hank and Susan Kent; and two granddaughters.

Survivors are her children, Kimberley Clemons, Steven (Marie) Tusa, and D.J. (Judy) Tusa; two grandchildren; extended family members; and friends.

As she wished, the family will hold a small, private memorial to celebrate her life.

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



Betty Krajnovich

Betty Alberta Krajnovich, 63, of Brooker, passed away at her residence on Friday, May 2, 2025. She was born on June 11, 1961, in Clinton, Iowa with her twin brother, Barry Krajnovich, to the late Robert Krajnovich and Harveyetta-Nelson-Krajnovich. Betty and her seven siblings were raised in Iowa. She graduated from Camanche High School in 1979 and shortly after, in 1986, relocated to Stuart. She had a long, successful career in customer service and was currently employed with the Alachua County Health Department in Gainesville. She made Bradford County her forever home in 2019 to be closer to her twin brother, Barry. She had a lifelong passion for arts and crafts. She loved being creative and her enthusiasm for DIY projects was infectious. She saw beauty in every day and inspired others to do the same. She was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Michael E. Krajnovich, Peter L. Krajnovich, and Samuel J. Krajnovich; and sister, Roberta A. Krajnovich.

She is survived by her brothers, Barry Krajnovich of Brooker, and Robert J. Krajnovich of Clinton, Iowa; sister, Diana L. (James) Mussen of Clinton, Iowa; along with several extended family and friends.

Her family will celebrate her beautiful life on Saturday, May 17, at 1 p.m. at Christian Missionary Baptist Church, 4976 SW 107th Ave. Lake Butler, 32054.

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

PAID OBITUARY

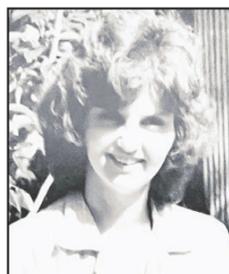


Lila Mader

We are heartbroken to share the passing of our beloved Mother and LaLa, Lila Diane Spires Mader, on Saturday, May 10, 2025. A Celebration of Life will be held in her honor on Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m. at Central Christian Church, Ocala. Lila Diane Spires Mader, 73, of Ocala, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, May 10, 2025, surrounded by her family, whom she loved so well. Born on Sept. 8, 1952, in Lake Butler, Lila was a devoted wife, mother, LaLa, sister, teacher, and friend. Lila married Bob Mader, June 7, 1984, and together they raised two boys, Joey and Josh, in a home filled with love, laughter, music, and scripture. Lila was a lifelong, faithful follower of Christ, and a cornerstone of her church community. Over the years, she joyfully played piano and worshiped along with her church family. Her ministry as a Kingdom worker was to faithfully and lovingly serve adults and children with special needs. She lived her life as a true servant of Christ and was a living testimony to Proverbs 31:28, "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

She is survived by her loving husband of 40 years, Bob; her children, Joey (Tamara) and Joshua (Meghan); and her five grandsons, Toby, Caleb, Elliott, Gavin, and Luke. She was preceded in death by her parents, F.L. Spires Sr. and Willie Mae Spires; her brother, Tommy Spires; sister-in-law, Nancy Spires; and brother, F.L. Spires Jr. The greatest comfort to our broken hearts is knowing Lila is with our loving God, our Lord and Savior, the only one who could love her even more than us. In lieu of flowers or donations, the family suggests you set aside special time with your spouse and/or other loved ones to continue to build your love and create lasting memories.

PAID OBITUARY



L.E. Padgett

Mr. L.E. Chester Padgett, 88, a lifelong resident of Bradford County, passed away suddenly Friday, May 9, 2025, at Shands Hospital. He was born Aug. 27, 1936, to Harry and Lillie (Tanner) Padgett. He retired from the Bradford County Road Department as a heavy equipment operator in 1998. He attended Smyrna Baptist Church and enjoyed tinkering around the house and working on old cars and mowers that he could resale. But, most of all, he loved riding his grandchildren around on his side-by-side. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Gregory "Greg" Padgett; brother, Homer Padgett; and sister, Mildred Batton.

He leaves behind his loving and devoted wife of nearly 64 years, Velma Padgett; their son, Bryan (Connie) Padgett; as well as a daughter-in-law, Marcilla (Carter) Padgett, all of Starke. He was lovingly called "Papa" and "Papa2" by grandchildren, Alyssa (Trey) Shannahan and Ashlyn (Connard) Rodgers; and great-grandchildren, Mason and Asher and soon to be two more. Also left behind is his niece and nephew, Linda and Joey Baldree.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at Smyrna Baptist Church with Brother Charles Starling officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 12 p.m. Interment will follow at Long Branch Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Danielle Perone

In loving memory of Danielle Elise Perone, born on Jan. 7, 1991, in Gainesville, her vibrant spirit was ushered into heaven on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, in Starke. Her life was a testament to humor and kindness; she was a bright light who had an uncanny ability to lift the spirits of those around her with her infectious laughter and playful nature. Ever the hard worker, she dedicated herself to her role at Taco Bell, where she was on the cusp of achieving greater heights within the company, but her ambitions were but a small part of her rich life. She embraced faith and community, generously offering her time to Bayless Highway Baptist Church, where she assisted with various events, including VBS, fall festivals, and community meals. With her Sisters in Christ group on Monday nights, she found sisterhood and inspiration, cherishing the bonds formed therein. An avid fan of the Florida Gators, she took pride in rooting passionately for her team in all types of weather. A devoted wife to her husband, Robert Perone; and a loving mother to her daughter, Dakota Thornton, Danielle's heart was woven deeply with family ties. She was a cherished daughter to her mother, Candace Dent; and shared a bond with her brothers, Robbie (Jessica) Godwin, Joshua (Adrianna) Godwin, and Jacob Dent; and her sister, Misty Dent, held a special place in her heart. The warmth of her grandmother, Violet Doolittle, provided yet another layer of connection and love that grounded her. She cherished her role as "Nae Nae" to her numerous nieces and nephews, each of whom holds a special memory of their aunt's caring antics, blending laughter and compassion in all she did. She has numerous aunts, uncles, extended family and friends who held a special place in her heart. The fur babies she adored, Kessler Edward, Lucy Alana, Shiloh, and Cocoa "Darlin'" were an ever-present light in her life. She was preceded in death by her father, Donny Dent; and grandparents, Mildred Adkinson, Luis Dent, and Callis Finley.

A gathering to honor her memory was held during a visitation on Tuesday, May 13, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler, followed by a funeral service on Wednesday, May 14, at Bayless Highway Baptist Church, Starke. She was laid to rest immediately following the funeral service next to her father at Sapp Cemetery in Raiford. Brother Mike Conner officiated the services.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve Danielle's family during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the funeral home to help with the unexpected expenses. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Debra Taylor

Debra "Debbie" Diane Taylor, a devoted mother, cherished grandmother, and a pillar of kindness and selflessness, finally met her Savior face to face Monday, May 5, 2025, at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. Born March 9, 1960, in Lake City, she spent her life setting a godly example to all who knew her, embodying the principle of placing Christ first, then family. Her journey through life was marked by her unwavering dedication to her role as a mother of three boys, Leo (Cassandra) Taylor of Lake Butler, Phillip Taylor of Branford, and Stephen (Devyn) Taylor of High Springs. Each of her sons carried the values she instilled in them: love, integrity, and humility. As they grew into adults, she continued to be a source of strength and nurturing, a guiding light in their lives. Her legacy extends beyond her immediate family; she was blessed with many grandchildren who adored her. Hailey, Grace, Kerri, Addyson, Emily, Mason, Taylor, L.J., P.J., Finlee, Harper, Jack-Jack, Aspen, and Charley Mae have all experienced the warmth of her love. She also welcomed the joy of great-grandchildren, Jaideen, Alaia, K.K., and Kai, who brought her immeasurable happiness. In addition to her family, she is survived by her beloved siblings, Robin Peoples of Starke and Robert Hampton of Lake City. The impact she had on her family and friends is a testament to her kind and even-keel personality, which shone brightly against the backdrop of life's storms. She faced every challenge with grace, never complaining, which inspired all around her. Her devotion to Christ served as a reminder to others of the beauty of God's goodness and grace.

As we remember Debbie, there will be a Celebration of Life held on Saturday, May 17, starting at 10 a.m. at her church, Bible Baptist Church, 150 S. Cherry St., Starke. This gathering will honor her spirit and reflect on the countless lives she touched through her kindness and unwavering faith. "God is with me on Earth and I'll be with him in Heaven."

PAID OBITUARY



LeLonnie Tuller

With great sadness, enduring love and profound gratitude, the family of Mrs. LeLonnie Carlson Tuller, 83, of Keystone Heights announce that she passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, in Gainesville. She was born March 15, 1942, in Hartford, Connecticut, to the late Lawrence and Amelia Ruth (Emerick) Carlson. After graduating East Hartford High School (CT), she earned her bachelor's degree in education from Central Connecticut State College, where she met her husband, Richard, and then her master's from the University of Florida in education. Prior to marriage, she spent two years in the Peace Corps in the Philippines, for which she spent 10 weeks in California learning Tagalog to communicate with and teach English to Filipino adults. She knew she wanted to be a teacher from the age of 8, and it showed. Prior to retirement, she was employed with the Clay County School Board, where she taught elementary and high school students for 36 years. She was a longtime, active member of Community Church of Keystone Heights, where she was involved in a prayer chain: always praying for others. She loved hosting family get-togethers, spending every moment with them, and gardening, nature and beach walks, and watching birds, especially her favorite, cardinals. She truly enjoyed boating, camping, trips to north Georgia mountains and other adventures with her beloved husband and family. She loved dancing, especially with her husband. She danced ballet in high school and was a cheerleader (captain) in high school and college. She also loved to sing, performing with her mother in the International Sweet Adelines, and also lovingly sang The Carpenters tune "Sing a Song" to her young daughters, then grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 57 years, Dr. Richard Tuller; their daughters, Beth (Greg) Miller, Kim (Todd) Sigmon; her brother, Ronald Carlson of Boston, Massachusetts; and sister Joy Carlson (Bob) Waters of Micanopy. She was lovingly called "Grammie" by her adored grandchildren, Anna (Josh) Brown, Oliver Miller, Madielyn Miller, Natalie Sigmon; and great-grandchildren, Addison Brown, Jensen Brown, and Jackson Brown.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 16, at Community Church of Keystone Heights with Pastor Steven Klingler officiating. She lived a God-filled life. Well done my good and faithful servant. To God Be The Glory. Interment will be private at Keystone Heights Cemetery. The family prefers flowers at the church, which she loved, then to be cherished by family.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Dorothy Yarbrough

Dorothy Grace Matter Yarbrough, 73, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, after a courageous nine-year battle with cancer. She touched many lives and will be deeply missed by her family and friends. She was born April 17, 1952, in Youngstown, Ohio to the late Attorney Carroll E. Matter and Grace V. Moyers Matter. She was raised in rural Ohio and graduated from Western Reserve High School in Berlin Center, Ohio. In 1973, she enlisted in the United States Navy and served on active duty and in the reserves until 1978. Her military career brought her to Jacksonville, where she remained until 2017, when she moved to Starke. After the Navy, she earned her bachelor's degree in allied health from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. She became a master cosmetologist and quickly realized that cosmetology was her passion. It afforded her the opportunity to witness, grow extended family, fulfill her artistic bent, and make people happy. She shared her knowledge and skills by being an educator in the corporate sector as well as for the Duval County Public School System until her retirement in 2016. She was actively involved in each of her home churches, the most recent being Grace Methodist Church in Lawtey. She had many interests. Over her lifetime, she was involved in ballroom dancing and competition, became a master gardener, was a member of several garden clubs and was involved in genealogical research. She loved and was loved by people and could easily strike up a conversation with almost anyone. She was preceded in her new journey by her parents, Carroll E. Matter (1910-1973), Grace V. Matter (1917-1982); and her brother, Carroll Allen Matter (1956-2017).

She is survived by her husband, Timothy Lamar Yarbrough. There will be a celebration of life at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Starke, on Monday May 19, at 10 a.m., followed by interment at Jacksonville National Cemetery the same day at 2:30 p.m., where she will be laid to rest with her brother and sister veterans.

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

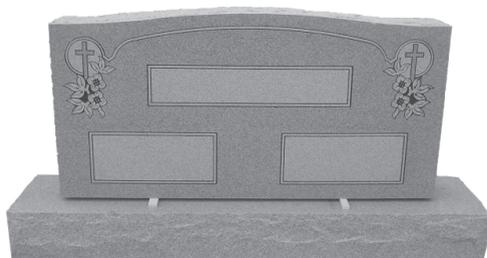
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If you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks you'd like to publish, please email to socials@bctelegraph.com or call 904-964-6305.

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Ruby Sutton

Ruby Joyce (Broughton) Sutton, a devoted, loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and "Gema," passed away Monday, May 12, 2025, at home in Starke, surrounded by her loving family at the age of 77. Born May 6, 1948 she was preceded in death by her loving husband, John; and her parents, Willis and Corene (Kitchens) Broughton. She was a lifelong member of Smyrna Baptist Church in Starke, where over the years she volunteered as treasurer, secretary and Sunday school teacher. She was also involved with Girl Scouts as an assistant leader, leader and cookie chairperson. She worked for many years in Starke at Vogue Manufacturing, Suwannee Swifty, Eckerd Drugs, retiring from CVS in 2015. From the mountains to the beach, she loved to travel. A special shell or rock from many trips added to her collection. She enjoyed nature and her collection of azaleas, hydrangeas and gardenias. Her true joy came from spending time with and spoiling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, Wayne Sutton of Gainesville and Marian (Tad) Crews of Starke; grandsons, Christopher (Jennier) Crews of Dothan, Alabama and Brandon (Holly) Crews of Rocky Face, Georgia; five great-grandchildren, Maddison, C.J., Levi, Lucy and Morgan; siblings, Lorene Sumner, Buddy (Debbie) Broughton and Lou (Jimmy) Simpson; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m. at Smyrna Baptist Church in Starke with Pastor Paul Cannon, Christopher Crews and Brandon Crews officiating. The family will receive friends an hour prior at the church. Interment to follow at Santa Fe Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



REGION

Continued from page 8

score and put the Cowgirls up 3-0.

The Tigers got a one-out double from Courtney Manning. With two outs, Webb hit a fly ball and reached on an error, which scored Manning and put Union on the board. An infield pop-up ended the inning.

Madison's Smith hit a solo home run in the fifth to end the

scoring for the Cowgirls.

The final inning saw leadoff batter Webb reach on an error. After a strikeout, Webb moved to second on a passed ball before scoring on a Crowe double. Mia Kent then drew a walk before Madison's Bass fanned two in a row.

Crowe, Dicks and Manning had all of the Tigers' hits, with each going 2 for 3.

In the circle, Crowe pitched a complete game, allowing just four hits.

Mitzel to play baseball at Daytona State College

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School senior Ty Mitzel signed a letter-of-intent to play baseball at Daytona State College during a May 8 ceremony in the KHHS cafeteria.

Mitzel thanked Daytona State for giving him a chance, but said that more importantly, he thanked God.

"I'm beyond blessed with the opportunity to play at the next level," Mitzel said.

KHHS Head Coach Chris Roach said Mitzel has a tenacity that makes him "a pain in the butt" at times, but added that's

why he's getting the chance to pitch in college.

"He wasn't going to accept, 'No.' He's going to prove what he can do," Roach said.

Mitzel is always ready to compete and give it all every time he's on the field.

"I play like it's my last time every time because you never know when it will be," he said.

Mitzel led the team this past season with an ERA of 1.20, compiling a 4-2 record. He threw 40.2 innings, struck out 46 and walked just 15 — all totals that ranked second on the team.

The initial plan was to use Mitzel, who went 2-3 with 41 strikeouts and 11 walks as a

junior, as a middle reliever this season, but he worked his way into becoming a starter and throwing two complete games, both of which were wins.

Roach said Mitzel realized his sophomore year that if he was going to be a successful pitcher, he was going to have to make up for his lack of velocity. As the KHHS coach put it, "He can't blow it by you."

What Mitzel had to do, Roach said, was be creative and "craft" pitches that worked for him and that he was able to control and put where he wanted them.

"Now, he sidearms four

See MITZEL, page 13



Ty Mitzel (center) signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Daytona State College. His sister and brother-in-law, Madi and Clayton Kicklighter, are pictured to his right, while his parents, Jessica and J.D. Strickland, are pictured to his left.



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40 Notices

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KHHS softball season ends with 4-2 loss in Region 2-2A quarterfinals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Host and second seed Trinity Catholic hit three homers for all of its runs in defeating the seventh-seed Keystone Heights High School softball team 4-2 in a Region 2-2A quarterfinal game on May 7 in Ocala.

Keystone (9-17) was held to three hits by pitcher Caylee Barbe, who struck out nine and gave up just one walk in a complete-game effort.

The Indians had runners in scoring position in the top of the first. Bella Cumbo hit a one-out single and stole second and third, while Amber Wagner drew a two-out walk and stole second.

A ground out, though, left the runners stranded.

Trinity (20-8) scored all the runs it would need in the bottom of the first. Leadoff batter Barbe was down 0-2 in the count, but took a third pitch for a ball before hitting a home run to center. After Kristina Fogelman walked, the Celtics got another homer, with Hailey Wilson sending a long ball to left to put Trinity up 3-0.

Wilson wasn't done. With two outs and no one on in the bottom of the third, she homered again, giving the Celtics their final run.

Keystone got a one-out single from Wagner and a two-out single from Bailey Amato in the fourth. An error on Amato's hit allowed Wagner to score and Amato to make it all the way around to third. An infield pop-up ended the inning, leaving the Indians trailing 4-1.

The Celtics threatened to add to their lead in the bottom of the fourth. The first two batters — Dakota Cobb and Julianna Ortega — both fell behind 1-2 in

the count before hitting singles. Keystone, though, recorded three straight outs, with the third coming on pitcher Kadence Massey's seventh strikeout.

Chloe Still reached on an error to lead off the Indians' half of the fifth. After a strikeout for the inning's first out, she stole second and scored on an error, making it a 4-2 game. Trinity's Barbe recorded another strikeout before an infield pop-up ended the inning.

Trinity had two outs and no one on in the bottom of the fifth before Emma Simms hit a double. She was left stranded at second when Massey struck out the next batter.

The Celtics got their leadoff batter on in the sixth when Cobb drew a walk. However, Ortega hit a line drive that was caught by Massey, who then threw to first to complete a double play. Massey then recorded a strikeout to end the inning.

Massey pitched a complete game, striking out nine.

Trinity's Barbe capped her night by striking out the side in the top of the seventh as she helped the Celtics move on to the next round. Trinity will host third seed Melbourne Central Catholic (20-3) in a semifinal game on Tuesday, May 13.

KHHS grad's FAU softball team to play NCAA regional games at UF

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Florida Atlantic University's softball team, which includes 2023 Keystone Heights High School graduate Kiley Channell, will play in the Gainesville Region of the NCAA tournament at the University of Florida's Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium. The Owls (44-9) will play



KHHS graduate Kiley Channell will play with her FAU team at the NCAA Gainesville Regional. Photo courtesy of FAU Athletics.

Georgia Tech (27-22) at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 16. The game will be televised on ESPNU and also available via ESPN+. Florida (43-14), the third seed nationally, will play Mercer (38-24) at 4:30 p.m.

If FAU defeats Georgia Tech, it will play the Florida-Mercer winner at noon on Saturday, May 17. Otherwise, it'll play the Florida-Mercer loser in an

elimination game at 2:30 p.m. on May 17. The elimination-game winner will play the winner of the day's first game at 5 p.m.

The championship game will be played at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 18. If necessary, a second game will be played at 3:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at floridagators.com or ncaa.com. Single-game tickets are \$10 (general admission) and \$25 (reserved). All-session tickets are \$25 (general admission) and \$30 (reserved).

Channell, a sophomore shortstop, earned second-team All-American Athletic Conference honors this season. She is batting .343 (fifth on the team) and leads the Owls in doubles with 14, which is second-most in the conference. The former KHHS Indian also has 44 RBI, which ties her for second on the team.

FAU won the regular-season AAC championship and is making its second consecutive NCAA tournament appearance.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of May 15, 2025

BRADFORD

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 4tchg 5/22-BCT

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2024 CC 000496 FLORIDA CREDIT UNION,

Plaintiff,
vs. JOHN JOHNS, ZENAIDA JOHNS, AND LVNV FUNDING, LLC.,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE Notice is hereby given that the Bradford County Clerk of Court will on June 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. EST, at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 offer for sale and sell at public outcry, one by one, to the highest bidder for cash, the property located in Bradford County, Florida, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in the NW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 12, Township 6 South, Range 20 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Southwest corner of said NW1/4 of SW1/4 and run North 86 degrees 49 minutes 51 seconds East, along the Southerly boundary thereof, 95.45 feet to a concrete monument found at an intersection with the Easterly boundary of the right of way of SW 132nd Avenue (a county graded road) for the POINT OF BEGINNING. From the Point of Beginning thus described, run North 02 degrees 30 minutes 22 seconds West, along said Easterly boundary, 208.71 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 84 degrees 47 minutes 25 seconds East, 229.17 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 02 degrees 30 minutes 22 seconds East, 216.87 feet

to an iron rod set on said Southerly boundary; thence South 86 degrees 49 minutes 51 seconds West, along said Southerly boundary, 228.93 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Together with a 2001 Mobile Home ID# FLHML2B155724907A and FLHML2B155724907B which is permanently affixed to the lands above described and a such is deemed to be a fixture and a part of the real estate.

pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on April 17, 2025, in the above-styled cause, pending in said Court. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim with the Clerk no later than the date the Clerk reports the funds as unclaimed.

s/ Stephen Orsillo
Stephen Orsillo (FL Bar # 89377) of Sorenson Van Leuven, PLLC Post Office Box 3637 Tallahassee, Florida 32315-3637 Telephone (850) 388-0500/Facsimile (850) 391-6800 creservice@svllaw.com (E-Service E-Mail Address) Attorneys for Plaintiff

5/8 2tchg 5/15-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801 - 83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Waldo. Will sell for CASH to the highest bidder on Storageauctions.net

For location at 15540 NE HWY 301, Waldo, County of Alachua, Florida; ending at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, the 21st day of May; 2025, and continuing day to day thereafter until sold: the household goods and misc. contents of the following: 0B048 James Stanton Perry

5/8 2tchg 5/15-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801 - 83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Starke will sell for cash to the highest bidder on storageauctions.net for location at 1630 North Temple Ave, Starke, County of Bradford, FL, at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, the 21st day of May; 2025 and continuing day to day thereafter until sold: the household goods and misc. contents of the following: OD004 Justin Scott OJ040 Earnest Fowler

5/8 2tchg 5/15-BCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on November 1, 2024: Thousand Oaks Ranch, Inc. 6741 Lloyd Rd W, Jacksonville, FL 32254-1249 has submitted Water Use Permit application #219386-3, for renewal of maximum daily withdrawals of 0.1201 million gallons for agricultural and recreational use. This project is located in Sections 18 and 7, Township 7S, Range 20E; Sections 11-14, Township 7S, Range 19E in Bradford County.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings.

Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

PUBLISH: no later than May 15, 2025 /tm

5/15 1tchg-BCT

WORKSHOP The City of Starke Commission will hold a workshop with the Downtown Merchants on May 20, 2025 at 4:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in the Commission Room. Public participation is welcomed.

5/15 1tchg-BCT

Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Safe and Easy Self Storage located at 7192 SE 9th Ave Starke FL 32091 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the Facility by the below list of Occupants who are in default at an Auction. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.lockerfox.com on 6/5/25 at 10:00 AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Travon Faulks unit #133; Humberto Ferrer unit #2. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

5/15 2tchg 5/22- BCT

NOTICE OF SALE T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on May 30th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

5/15 2tchg 5/22- BCT

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, CREDITORS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST KESHA LYNN JOHNS DECEASED.

Defendant(s)
Last Known Address: 1490 Northeast 158th Street, Starke, FL 32091

REQUEST FOR BIDS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bradford County S.H.I.P. Program will receive sealed bids until 2:30 p.m. June 2, 2025 at the Bradford County Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 for the following: Renovation/Demo/Replacement of residence located at: A. 1011 Florida Street, Starke (demo/Replacement) B. 1297 Estelle Street, Starke (Rehab)

A mandatory walk through is a requisite to a valid bid. All interested bidders will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025 at the Community Development Office located at 925-E North Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida. If you plan to submit a bid, a representative of your firm must attend the "walk through" of the unit to become familiar with the property and the scope of work to be completed.

No contractors shall visit the subject property for any reason without first making arrangements with the County and owner. All contractors must have proof of Residential or General Contractor's License, proof of Liability Insurance, proof of Workers' Compensation Insurance (or Exemption Card), a statement of non-discrimination, and at least two references from previously completed jobs. Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on June 2, 2025 or as soon thereafter as possible in the presence of the Clerk or his designee, Community Development staff, and all interested persons in the Bradford County Board of County Commission Meeting Room. The opened bids will be read into public record and preserved in the custody of the Community Development Department.

Bids will not be valid unless received by the bid deadline and in a sealed envelope marked, "Sealed Bid, S.H.I.P." and received by 2:30 p.m., June 2, 2025.

Questions to be submitted in writing to the Community Development office at kelly_canady@bradfordcountyfl.gov or Fax (904) 966-6384 no later than 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

The County reserves the right to reject all bids when in its best judgment they are too high or when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County that the bids be re-advertised.

Pursuant to Section 255.0991, Florida Statutes, Bradford County WILL NOT offer a local preference for this project.

It is the policy of the County to promote equal opportunity to obtain adequate housing by all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap, or national origin.

5/15 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO: 2024CA000206 ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC,

Plaintiff
-vs- UNKNOWN HEIRS, CREDITORS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST KESHA LYNN JOHNS DECEASED.

Defendant(s)
TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS, CREDITORS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST KESHA LYNN JOHNS DECEASED.

Last Known Address: 1490 Northeast 158th Street, Starke, FL 32091 You are notified of an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County: LOT 2, OF COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 22, PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA 1490 Northeast 158th Street, Starke, FL 32001

The action was instituted in the Circuit Court, Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford, County, Florida, Case No. 2024CA000206; and is styled Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. vs. Keshia Lynn Johns. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Kelley Church, Esq., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 255 South Orange Ave, Suite 900, Orlando, FL 32801 on or before (or 30 days from the first date of publication) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately after service; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter a judgment or decree in the Plaintiff's interest which will be binding upon you, DATED: April 9, 2025 Bradford Clerk of the Circuit Court As Clerk of Court BY: KANETRA JENKINS As Deputy Clerk

5/15 2tchg 5/22-BCT

UNION

30 Day Notice of Abandoned Property

Attention Heirs of VICTOR ARTHUR DONNELL (hereafter referred to as "tenant"), of , or any and all other tenants of one or more abandoned residential property owned by IVAN FOWLER 6349 SW CR 241 Lake Butler, Florida 32054. When tenant died and vacated the leased premises at 6349 SW CR 241 Lake Butler, Florida 32054, some or all of the tenant's personal property remained. If you own any of this property, you may claim it 6349 SW CR 241 Lake Butler, Florida 32054.

This Property is believed to be worth less than \$500, and accordingly, it may be kept, sold, or destroyed without further notice if you fail to reclaim it by June 9, 2025. Unless you pay the reasonable cost of storage and advertising, if any, and take possession of the property to which you are entitled to, the property may be disposed of pursuant to §715.109. The property will be disposed of starting June 9, 2025.

To make arrangements, please contact IVAN FOWLER c/o attorney M. Aaron Dukes, Esq. 352-225-1654 or aaron@dukeslegal.com

5/8 2tchg 5/15-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a REGULAR MEETING on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD MEETING NOTICE The City of Lake Butler City Commission serving as the Planning & Zoning Board will hold a PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEETING on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 5:45pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.

5/15 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION Case No. 63-2024-CA-000098 Division CARDINAL FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP Plaintiff,

vs. PATSY JO ADDISON BROOKER / A/K/A PATSY ADDISON BROOKER A/K/A PATSY ADDISONBROOKER A/K/A PATSY A. BROOKER A/K/A PATSY BROOKER A/K/A PATSY ADDISON, DONALD K. BROOKER, SR. A/K/A DONALD BROOKER, CURTIS LEROY ADDISON AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on April 28, 2025, in the Circuit Court of Union County, Florida, Regina H. Parrish, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell the property situated in Union County, Florida described as:

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF FLORIDA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING A TOTAL AREA OF 2.0 ACRES MORE OR LESS BEING SITUATE IN SECTION 17 TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH RANGE 20 EAST UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SAID SECTION 17 AND RUN SOUTH 85 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 2219.01 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 732.01 FEET TO

THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN NORTH 78 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 135.46 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 167.68 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 29 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 37 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 108.38 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 36.65 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 30 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 125.87 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 59 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 163.88 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 86 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 89.36 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 11 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 308.08 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH A 20 FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS AND UTILITIES BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SAID SECTION 17 AND RUN SOUTH 85 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 17 A DISTANCE OF 2219.01 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 04 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 732.01 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 78 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 41.26 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED 20 FOOT EASEMENT; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING NORTH 78 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 32.63 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 64 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 67.69 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 72 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 41 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 157.20 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 80 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 73.43 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 76 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 02 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 302.94 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WIT WITH THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NUMBER S-238 (80 FEET RIGHT OF WAY); THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 39 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 20.63 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 76 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 301.90 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 80 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 78.92 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 72 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 41 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 160.10 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 64 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 94.84 FEET TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING.

And commonly known as: 17886 NE 124TH PL, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, in the front lobby of the courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, on June 26, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.. Any persons claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. Dated this 9th day of May, 2025. Kellie Hendricks Rhoades Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: CRYSTAL HOLLINGSWORTH Deputy Clerk

5/15 2tchg 5/22-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goodge
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UNION COUNTY TIMES

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BHS, KHHS, UCHS football teams set to wrap up spring

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

May brings about thoughts of the end of the school year and graduation, but for some, it's also a time to think about football.

For approximately three weeks, the sounds of whistles blowing and coaches giving instructions have filled the air at Bradford, Keystone Heights and Union County high schools, with players donning helmets and pads as part of an early preparation for the 2025 football season.

Practices are now set to wrap up by lining up against opponents during spring games/jamborees. Bradford will host Suwannee on Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m., while Union will travel to Folkston, Georgia, that same night to play against Charlton County High School at 6 p.m.

Keystone will host a four-team jamboree on Tuesday, May 20, at 6 p.m. Eight total quarters will be played, beginning with the Indians taking on West Nassau for two quarters. West Nassau then plays Interlachen, followed by two quarters of play between Interlachen and Lafayette. The jamboree ends with Keystone vs. Lafayette.

Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers has a team that returns experience in the skill positions on offense and in the defensive secondary, but he and his staff are looking at a lot of players who haven't played much on the varsity level, if at all.

"We've got so many kids who



Offensive linemen Ridge Bradley (left) and Bryce Daniels participate in the Tornadoes' May 13 practice.

haven't had to play on Friday nights for us who are going to have to contribute," Rodgers said, adding, "That's the biggest obstacle we have right now."

With that in mind, practices have been more physical than they've been in the past, and the entire duration of spring practices was shortened.

"We're severely beat up after a couple of weeks," Rodgers said. "That's one of the reasons I didn't extend it and have four weeks of spring this year. I just knew we were going to be hitting so much more this spring than we have in the past."

"It's 10 to 12 days. That's enough to get what we need and then play a game, evaluate where we're at and use the summer to get better."

Besides a lot of inexperience,

the Tornadoes are working on operating out of a 3-3 stack defensively, which features three linebackers lined up behind three linemen.

"That'll be completely new to everybody," Rodgers said. "It's more movement. The last three years, we've been able to get in a base defense pretty much, sit there and then make teams beat us. Then we'd throw a couple of different looks at them."

"This year, we're going to have to move around quite a bit more."

The Tornadoes have a lot of work to do beyond the spring game, so Rodgers said what he's looking for against Suwannee is simple — players giving it their all.

"I want to see them play hard every single down," Rodgers

said. "If they're out here jogging, that means they're probably not going to play very much in the fall for us. It's about their effort and loving football. We can teach everything else."

For UCHS Head Coach Andrew Thomas, this spring has been about developing players — players having to fill positions vacated by graduating seniors and players who are new to the Tigers' program. Many of those players will also have to play on both sides of the ball.

"We've got a lot of kids who are young who are coming up and having to take over," Thomas said. "We've got a lot of inexperience. We're not deep. Our roster is a little short of what it has been."

Thomas, who was interviewed for this story on May 9, likes how practices have progressed, saying, "I've really been pleased with the growth over two weeks. We've got a long way to go, but we've made some good gains overall."

Making gains will be important because the Tigers' most experienced unit, according to Thomas, is probably the offensive line, which will return three starters. The coach, in talking about some of the holes that have to be filled, said his team has to replace its entire defensive line and linebacker corps. The defensive secondary will have one returning starter.

Thomas said the offense has some experience with its backfield, but also said the Tigers will be relying on a new quarterback.

"There's just a lot of inexperience right now," Thomas said.

The spring game will be between teams that don't know much about each other. Thomas said the coaching staffs have talked to each other about some of the things each team does, but added it's hard to fully prepare for a team that you haven't seen on video.



Jordan Cason carries the ball for Bradford.



Union's Ezekiel Taylor runs after a catch.



Wyatt Elixson (right) tackles Drew Simmons for a loss during the Tigers' Purple and Gold scrimmage.

"You know there are going to be some mistakes," Thomas said.

Therefore, the goals are for the players to compete, be physical and put into play everything they've been learning in practices.

"The things that we've worked

on — we want to see us be able to put a little bit of it out there on the field," Thomas said, adding, "We're not really keeping score, but we're looking forward to playing somebody else. That'll

See SPRING, page 14



Jagger Lancaster (right) prepares to tackle running back Kyle Perkins during Keystone's scrimmage.



Colton Hollingsworth gets a carry for the Indians.

MITZEL

Continued from page 11

pitches, so you don't know what's coming," Roach said.

Mitzel talked of the work he put in to develop his command of multiple pitches, saying, "It was just staying with it and never giving up and trying new things to make it work. It's through trial and error."

In fact, Mitzel said he began throwing a knuckleball this past season for no reason, "and it turned out to be one of my best pitches."

Daytona State isn't unfamiliar to Mitzel. His sister, Madi, received a scholarship to play softball there. Mitzel said it's a good starting point for him after high school.

"They focus a lot on grades," Mitzel said. "It's going to hold me accountable. It's a great first school. That'll keep me on task."

His goal is to be able to play at a four-year school after Daytona State. Mitzel said the University of Florida is his dream school, but added, "If I don't go there, just any other one that gives me the chance."

Until then, he's focused on improving and adapting to the collegiate level.

"I need to work, obviously, on putting on size because I'm not the biggest guy, and I need to focus on throwing harder," Mitzel said.

Everything else is just doing what he's been doing.

"If I can keep controlling (my pitches) and throwing strikes, that's what they need," Mitzel said.

If Mitzel's time at KHHS has proven anything, it's that he's willing to put in the effort. Roach said Mitzel was one of several players on the team who always wanted to do more than what they did during practices.

"That's the thing about this group of guys," Roach said. "When they drag you, as a coach, to the ballfield, things are really good. You don't have to drag them to the field. These guys want to play baseball."

With that in mind, Roach said of Mitzel, "I think he'll do just fine."

Mitzel can't wait to step onto the field for the first time as a college player.

"Emotions are going to be high, and nerves will be high," he said, "but I'll just be ready to go."

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SPRING

Continued from page 13

be good.”
Keystone will have the chance to compete against two opponents

in its spring jamboree, but the Indians have been competing all spring. Head Coach Steve Reynolds has made that a point of emphasis.

“It’s going really well,” Reynolds said. “The kids are

learning a lot of new stuff and competing. That’s one thing we’re doing — really focusing on competition every day. Compete at something. We finish practice with a competition. We start practice with a competition.

We’re keeping score. They’re in teams.”

Reynolds said he likes where the Indians are at, with many experienced players returning and the number of players participating in practices totaling approximately 50 (varsity and junior varsity).

“We have some kids who’ve played a lot of football,” Reynolds said, citing such players as Colton Hollingsworth, Zane Leger and Kyle Perkins — all of whom will be seniors.

The coach added, “We’ve also got some kids who played a lot of football as young guys.”

Reynolds said one of the team’s strengths right now is a defensive line that has a rotation of six players.

“That transitions to the offensive line, too,” Reynolds said.

He added that Keystone also has four players who bring experience at linebacker.

The goals for the spring jamboree include continuing what’s been occurring in practices.

“I want to see kids compete. I want to see kids finish. I want to see kids give tremendous effort,” Reynolds said, adding, “We want them to compete and to have fun, and we don’t want anybody to get hurt. That’s it. Then, we’ll evaluate it.”



Iyen Addison (left) prepares to receive a handoff from Cy Cubbedge during a Bradford practice. Addison is one of the team’s experienced players on offense, while Cubbedge will take the reins at quarterback after starting for the junior varsity team last year.



Union defensive lineman Domo McBride (right) prepares to take part in a drill, with former UCHS great Gerard Warren looking on. Warren has been volunteering his time with the Tigers this spring.



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- Repipe
- Water Heater
- New Construction & More!

A CHILD’S GARDEN

Pre-K Graduates 2025



FRANK ALEXANDER	LUCA BEARDEN	KRISTINA BOYLE	SCARLETT BRADLEY	BOBBY BRITTINGHAM	EMERSYN BRUNINK	ALLISON CARLTON	DAXTON CREWS	MACKENZIE DYAL	DAVID EARNEST
ADDILYN EDWARDS	HOLDEN FULFORD	ASPEN GLENN	LILITH GRISWOLD	REMINGTON HALL	JENNA HANSENS	ISABELLA HERNANDEZ	LUKE HOLLAND	IVY JENKINS	CARTER JOHNSON
GRAYSON KENNEDY	MARCO KYZER	BRYCEN LUNDIN	MASON MAHLER	GAVIN MALAGUTI	CHRISTOPHER MANSELL	ANABELLE MARTIN	JADE MELENDEZ	LAEKIN MERWARTH	HARLYNN MILLER
CHAD MORRISON	TAYLOR MOON	ADILYNN NORMAN	TOPANGA OSTEN	COLTON OUTLAW	CODY PAVAI	OLIVIA PLYMPTON	TRISTAN PROSE	TYLER RIVERA	CALIMAE RODRIGUEZ
ARWEN ROSS	SKYLER RUCKMAN	MADISON SCHRODER	KOLTON SHARP	WESTLEY SHOAF	TUCK STANLAND	HAIZLEIGH TILLMAN	SUMMERLIN TODD	DEMETRIOUS WAHL	AMELIA WILLIS

A Child’s Garden, Inc.

Childcare and Learning Center

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