

# Bradford County Telegraph

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## Excessive airspeed blamed for fatal flight from Keystone

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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The National Transportation Safety Board blamed excessive airspeed on a March 2, 2022, flight from Keystone Heights to St. Augustine that resulted in the pilot's death.

Marianne Fox, 49, was piloting an Extra NG aerobatic plane when she departed Keystone Heights around 4:45 p.m. She was flying with her fiancée Jim Bourke, president of the International Aerobatic Club. Bourke was in a separate Extra NG.

In its final report on the crash, recently released, the NTSB said Fox's plane overturned and landed upside down in a marsh beyond the runway and that she survived the impact, telling the tower, "I had too much speed; I should have come in slower."

The federal agency reported that the airport dispatched a riverboat to rescue the pilot, but the vessel was delayed by low tide.

"A good Samaritan was the first to reach the airplane and provided visual directions to assist the emergency boats in locating it," the NTSB said. "The good Samaritan reported that the airplane was inverted in the marsh and that he was able to reach in and



Marianne Fox and Jim Bourke

hold part of the pilot's face out of the water."

However, by the time rescuers arrived on the scene in airboats, the water level in the cockpit had risen, and the pilot was no longer visible. They extracted Fox from the plane 50 minutes after the crash. The cause of death was drowning.

According to flight recordings, Bourke warned Fox she was approaching the airport too high and instructed her to execute a slip: turning the plane somewhat sideways to increase drag on the fuselage, hastening the aircraft's descent.

"You're going to make it now,



First responders at the site of Fox's Extra NG, overturned beyond the end of the runway. Photo: St. Johns Fire Rescue.

Marianne," Bourke radioed. "Just cut the throttle and slip it in. You've got a lot of energy now. Just cut the throttle and slip it really deep."

The tower radioed to first responders after the crash, indicating that Fox was trapped in the cockpit.

"Alright, airport people, that woman needs help out there," an air traffic controller radioed. "She's trapped in the cockpit. She needs help."

Fox was first transported to Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine but was later

airlifted to a trauma unit. She died 12 hours after the crash.

The NTSB said that the loss of engine power for undetermined reasons was a factor in the crash.

"Contributing to the severity of the accident were the environmental challenges related to the airplane's location in a marsh," the federal agency said, "which increased the emergency response time."



## Log truck flipped in Lawtey

Just before 11 a.m. May 7, U.S. 301 and Lake Street in Lawtey was the site of a nearly unbelievable accident. A log truck had stopped at the intersection to wait on the traffic signal. The logs, however, failed to clear the tracks, so when the train pictured above in the background sped by, it collided with the logs causing the truck to flip onto its passenger side. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the truck driver was not injured. The road was closed for several hours. Photo: Bradford County Fire Rescue.

## Economic development leader searching for strategy

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation's strategic alliances business partner said her immediate goal is to put together a comprehensive strategy to market Bradford County and the surrounding area to potential employers.

The development corporation is the successor organization to the Bradford County Development Authority, which was dissolved by state statute in 2022 when lawmakers abolished the governmental district overseeing Walt Disney World. The legislation also did away with similar local districts, like the one in Bradford County.

The new entity is led by some of the officers of the old development authority and includes Chairwoman Sandra Kahle, Treasurer Patricia Evans, Secretary Marty Shaw, and board members Dean Weaver, Avery Roberts, Evan Douglas, and Dawn Strickland.

Amber Shepherd is the Development Corporation's strategic alliances business partner. She said she is now seeking grant money for a new plan that would pull from previous economic development studies written for the county between 2018 and 2022.

### Three previous studies

In 2018, the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government wrote a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis for the chamber and the county's

development authority. The report said county residents have access to higher learning and technical training, as well as high-quality healthcare. The document added that the area has abundant, affordable land for development and enjoys a tight-knit, faith-based, and family-centric community. Weaknesses included underperforming schools, the lack of an attractive and positive brand to promote the county, and poor relationships between City of Starke and county officials.

In 2019, The Urban Land Institute studied the economic impacts of the U.S. 301 bypass on Starke and Bradford County. That report recommended that area leaders capitalize on natural resources to create ecotourism and agritourism businesses. The report also recommended improving the city's appeal through infrastructure upgrades and implementing what it called a complete-streets approach.

In 2022, an analysis by the International Economic Development Corporation provided an overview of the county, a history of the area's development, and significant economic sectors. That report also emphasized the need for infrastructure improvements in the county.

Shepherd said each document provides detail and insight into the community. However, they lack a guiding strategy.

"It's been good work," Shepherd said of the previous studies. "We just need that information synthesized and then develop a strategy to market the Bradford County area, not just



(L-R) Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay, Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation Treasurer Patricia Evans and Amber Shepherd, the corporation's strategic alliances business partner, at FPL's economic development conference.

within Florida but nationally and internationally."

### Chemours lunch and learn

Shepherd added that her organization continues to develop relationships with local leaders and state and national economic development contacts.

One step in that process is a lunch-and-learn on May 9, highlighting the work of Chemours at the Bradford-Clay County line within Camp Blanding.

Shepherd said the mining concern

wanted to reach out to the community, and the economic development corporation was eager to help.

"Some of the members of the EDC had attended the Chemours community advisory panel," Shepherd explained. "While we were there, Chemours shared a lot of details about what goes on out at their facility and how they operate. Their big desire is to share with the community what they do and how they do it and let people in the community know how they really work to preserve the ecosystems. That's how the lunch and learn came together."



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**WORTH NOTING**

### Republicans meet May 9

The Bradford Republican Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, May 9, in the Capital City Bank community room beginning at 7 p.m. The bank is located at 350 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. If you are a Republican candidate or thinking of becoming a candidate for office, the committee encourages you to attend.

Bradford REC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. All registered Republicans are welcome. For more information about the meetings or running for office, contact Chairman Richard Solze at 904-964-5803.

### Women celebrated at Tea

The Juneteenth Committee has announced it will be honoring women who have encouraged and amplified excellence in the community at its first Women of Excellence Hat and Tea.

Join the committee on Friday, May 10 at Let's Do it Productions, 210 E. Call St. in Starke at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30. All proceeds will go towards the Miss Juneteenth Gala 2024. Each woman is asked to please wear a hat.

### Celebrate mothers at New Bethel

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 901 N. Keller St. in Starke, will celebrate mothers — genetic and spiritual — on Saturday, May 11, at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The Mother's Day Prayer Breakfast will welcome the Rev. Cynthia Bailey, past of Greater Allen Chapel AME Church as guest speaker.

All New Bethel Women's Ministry members have tickets available for a donation of \$10. Children 5-17 are half price, and children 1-5 are free.

### Scholarship available for medical study

The Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship is available for the 2024-25 school year. Students must apply by May 30, 2024, to be considered for the upcoming fall and spring semesters.

This scholarship is for students entering any field of study related to medicine, such as nursing, medical research, cancer research, etc. The scholarship is provided in memory of the late Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone, a registered nurse who died from breast cancer.

Applications are available at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center, Bradford High School guidance office, North Florida Technical College and Starke City Hall. For further information, you may contact Carolyn Brown Spooner at 904-964-5807.



# “Equalizer” star from Lawtey headed to Broadway

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Actor Tory Kittles, has a new starring role on Broadway.

Kittles will play Cephus Miles alongside Brittany Inge and Stori Ayers in a revival of the Tony

Award-nominated 1979 play “Home” by Samm-Art Williams.

According to New York Theater Guide, the creative team also includes Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon, set designer Arnulfo Maldonado,

costume designer Dede Ayite, lighting designer Allen Lee Hughes and sound designer Justin Ellington.

“Home” is the story of a man who is devastated when his love interest goes to college

and marries another man. It is described as a coming of age story in which Kittles’ characters searches for a new person or place to call home.

The limited engagement at Todd Haines Theatre runs from

May 17 to July 21, with opening night on June 5.

Kittles is the son of Archie Kittles and Elaine Slocum. He stars with Queen Latifa in the CBS series “The Equalizer,” a reboot of the film franchise

starring Denzel Washington with Latifa playing the titular role. It debuted to more than 20 million viewers following the Superbowl in 2021 and is currently airing its fourth season.



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# Meet the Candidates

## Kendrick running for superintendent

The following is an announcement of intention to seek public office paid for by the candidate.

My name is Tracey Kendrick, and I am a candidate for Bradford County Superintendent of Schools.

Children in Bradford County deserve a better education than they currently receive and we, as a school district, can do better. Despite the tremendous work of our teachers and school staff, we have consistently dropped in statewide rankings over the past four years, and neighboring counties like Union, Baker, Putnam, and Clay consistently outperform our district. This lack of improvement is the direct result of ineffective leadership and misguided priorities at the district office.

With over 28 years teaching in classrooms and leading schools, I have a proven record of leading school improvement. I am known for implementing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills into classrooms to build workforce-ready and college-capable students. I am an experienced educator that has dedicated my life to the belief that students deserve the highest quality education we can provide. I believe public education is a cornerstone of our republic, vital for continued national security, and essential to keeping our technological edge against competitors like China and Russia in today's fast-paced global environment.

I began my education career in 1996 after receiving a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of North Florida. I served internships during my coursework with the Bradford, Clay, and Duval school districts. I was hired by the Clay County School District (CCSD) immediately after graduation. While teaching with the CCSD, I served as a fifth-grade teacher at Clay Hill Elementary as well as the Title I Coordinator and Reading Coach for McRae Elementary.

I earned a Master of Education Leadership degree from University of North Florida in 2004 and was promoted by the CCSD in 2007 to Assistant Principal at the Oakleaf School with 1,800 students serving kindergarten through eighth graders. I also served as the Assistant Principal at Oakleaf Village Elementary. When hired, the school was still under construction, and I was responsible for overseeing the final phases of construction, hiring teachers and staff, creating school processes and procedures for how the school would operate, ordering office furniture and classroom materials, and ensuring the school was ready to open in 2008.



**Tracey Kendrick**

I currently serve as the principal of Brookview Elementary (BVE), a 100% free and reduced lunch school, in the Duval Public School District. BVE is fully staffed instructionally and with support staff. Through my leadership, and lots of hard work by my teachers and staff, BVE improved its school grade from a projected "D" in 2020 to a 61 point "B" in 2023.

This year BVE is striving for an "A" grade, and I have been overwhelmed by the number of former and current teachers that have expressed an interest in moving to Bradford County to teach upon learning of my campaign for Superintendent of Schools. On a personal note, I am a proud military spouse and mother. I married my high school sweetheart in Starke in 1993, and we have three daughters Katie, Chloe, and Kelsey. Our oldest daughter, Katie, is a U.S. Air Force veteran, and my husband has spent the past 35 years serving in the U.S. Army and Florida National Guard. One of the reasons that I am passionate about improving education in this district is my family's deep ties to Bradford County. My grandfather taught in this district, my parents graduated high school here in 1965, and Brian and I graduated Bradford High School in 1989. We have many family members that live and work in the county, and we are currently renovating our "forever" home amongst our family in Graham. I look forward to earning your vote and leading the Bradford County School District to the top of Florida rankings. The children of this county deserve more, and together we can do better!

Candidates may submit an announcement and photograph to run one time for \$50. The deadline to submit announcements is Monday, June 17, at 5 p.m. Email announcements to editor@bctelegraph.com and make arrangements to pay prior to publication.

When the current principal at Oakleaf Village Elementary (OVE) retired, the staff at OVE urged the district to allow me to lead the school. Oakleaf Village Elementary had a population of 1,100 students, and during my first year, I led the faculty to realize a 26-point gain in school grade calculation and returned the school to an "A" grade. We maintained an "A" grade for the remainder of my tenure. Other qualifications and experience gained over the course of my career include being a certified Intel Math Instructor Trainer, Microsoft Hacking STEM Trained educator, and a Title I Federal Grants Coordinator. I was a State Portfolio Reviewer for the Brevard Public School District's Technology Integration Project, and I have served as an AdvancED School District Accreditation Team Member for numerous accreditation reviews for districts in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arizona.

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## Summer day camp

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County is offering a four-week summer day camp at the RJE Complex in Starke from June 3-28, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Campers will receive breakfast and lunch, math and reading labs, behavioral health classes, healthy cooking and baking classes, arts and crafts and athletics.

The cost is \$160 per child, not including the cost of a field trip, and the Concerned Citizens group is asking for sponsorships. Payments can be made in installments, but must be paid in full by May 10. To register or sponsor a child, please call Sherry Williams at 352-278-3540, Alica McMillian at 904-966-1100 or Glenda Ruise 904-769-1691.

## STEM is for heroes

This summer's hero-themed STEM camp is I am STEM: Activating the Hero Within. It will run from June 17 to July 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Faith Community Center, 721 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

The camp is open to rising second-eighth graders. They will spend the summer learning to code, conducting experiments, building robots, engaging in social emotional learning and protecting the galaxy!

Registration is \$75 and the camp is \$100 per week for six weeks. Visit www.iamstemcamps.com to register. Contact 12gibt.12gip@gmail.com or 904-364-0868 for more information.

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www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com

## Library pushes on after dismissal of director

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County commissioners officially voted to fire Robert Perone as library director during its meeting May 7 just before his replacement charted the library's path forward.

Perone was arrested on charges of grand theft and illegal use of a credit card for allegedly stealing more than \$12,000 from the nonprofit Friends group that raises money for library programs and staff.

Tricia Wylie, the director of the New River Public Library Cooperative, is taking over Perone's duties, assisted by Deputy Director Kim Crawford and the library staff. They are making sure the library continues doing what it does best — providing educational and entertaining experiences for all ages through programs that promote reading, art, imagination and community.

Wylie said Friends of the Library's biggest fundraiser will kick off Thursday, May 9. The three-day book sale includes



**Tricia Wylie, the director of the New River Public Library Cooperative, has taken over Perone's duties in Starke while retaining her responsibilities with the library co-op.**

other media for sale as well, such as music and movies. The inventory includes a little bit of everything, Wylie said, books for everyone, hardbound and paperback, VHS cassettes and DVDs, etc.

Weekday hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wylie said Saturday is also dollar bag day, and you can fill a grocery store bag for \$1.

Most of the planning, however, has been for a summer full of events. Melanie Jackson and Tonya Mitchell prepared the June summer schedule for ages 0-12. There is Hawaiian luau planned, animal encounters that include a reptile show and petting zoo, crafting, games and a magician.

Wylie said most activities are tied to the summer reading theme "Adventure Begins at your Library." The fun for ages 0-12 continues in July with more events, including Book Bingo, crafting, music making, and to wrap up the summer, a Water Day.

Teens aren't left out. They can take on the Summer Reading Challenge and participate in special events with their fellow readers. Throughout June and July, teens can explore song writing, jewelry making, scrapbooking, map making and story crafting. It all ends with

a party to announce the contest winners.

The teen programs are planned by Amy Turney and Mary Green.

"Teens can be challenging to reach out to, but they do a great job, and they have a dedicated group of kids who come in to hang out and make cool crafts and so forth," Wylie said.

There are also multiple painting-themed events for all ages, including neon glow-in-the-dark painting, rock and mini canvas painting.

The library has book clubs for adults as well, with a club that meets for brunch and dessert club that meets in the evenings, each once a month. They are an opportunity to eat out at a local restaurant and discuss books with friends.

See LIBRARY, page 5

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# Lake Region

## Keystone church launching kindergarten

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The pastor of Fresh Start Fellowship said his congregation is starting an elementary school next school year.

Fresh Start Academy will begin with 10 kindergartners for the 2024-2025 school year.

"Kindergarten only is what we're beginning with this year," Steve Conner said. "The plan is to build slowly a grade at a time."

Connor added that although Hope Baptist Church in Bradford County offers a Christian education, two other church-based schools in Keystone Heights, operated by Community Church and Friendship Bible Church, have closed over the years, leaving the Lake Region underserved in Christian education.

He added that he and other church leaders have been planning Fresh Start Academy for two years.

The pastor said the church's worship leader, Jamie Graves, a Florida-certified teacher with an education degree from the University of Florida, will lead the inaugural class of 10 students.

"She graduated with the intent of going into elementary education and then began to really feel kind of a pull to maybe start her own small school," Conner said of the instructor. "And that just kind of merged with us as we were looking at what we were doing, and she was praying about what she wanted to do."

Conner said Graves worked in early learning centers in Gainesville and concluded she could not fulfill her vision of education in those organizations.

"And so, she began to look at what she could do on her own," Conner continued. "She and her husband began actually looking at buildings in the community and all that kind of stuff. And that was probably a year before the Lord opened the doors here with us."



(L-R) Fresh Start Fellowship's Associate Pastor for Students and Families Mark Southam and Pastor Steve Conner.

The pastor said his vision for Fresh Start Academy began after his church started hosting a local home school network, Classical Conversations of Keystone, in its building.

"They were looking for a place where they could meet once a week," Conner recalled. "They were using another church mostly that they had outgrown, so they came in here for a year."

Conner said the home school group's presence coincided with his growing conviction that his congregation should enter education.

"It's like, yeah, this is what we need to be doing," he recalled. "So that was the impetus for this."

### Small classes, certified teachers

Conner said that, based on his research, small class sizes are a

key component of a student's success, and the new school will emphasize that feature.

"Ten-to-one is the ratio," he said of Fresh Start's class sizes. "That's part of the uniqueness of what we're doing. We'll never do more than 12, but 10-to-one is what we're looking at, which is much better than what the public schools have. It's probably one-half of what the public schools do; I'm just guessing."

Conner also said certified instructors will lead students at Fresh Start.

"A lot of Christian schools, and I'm not belittling them at all, but a lot of Christian schools don't feel the need, and they're not required by the state to have certified teachers," he said. "We think that's important. We think

having a qualified, certified teacher is extremely important."

### It's not about the money

Conner said the biggest question people are asking him is why the church is only starting with kindergarten.

His response is that running a school is new to him, to Graves and to Student and Family Pastor Mark Southam.

"This is all new territory for all of us as far as running a school," he said. "Mistakes. We are on a learning curve, and there's less opportunity to do real damage to anything if we have a small group. You lower your risk and learn."

Conner said that with the



Fresh Start Academy's Kindergarten Teacher Jamie Graves.

expansion of Florida's Family Empowerment Scholarships, some private schools might be tempted to expand as quickly as possible.

"We'll never get to where we just say: Okay, we want the money that comes with the kids, so we'll just bring in more kids," he said. "We're not looking to make money off this. This is not a money-making project for the church. And I don't say that as if that's what churches do this for, but it does bring in income to churches."

He added that his school's commitment to certified teachers and small class sizes limits the revenue additional students could generate because, with every 10 new students, the school would hire an additional certified teacher.

### Distinctively Christian

Conner said the curriculum at Fresh Start Academy will be distinctively Christian.

"We want a Christian

worldview with a solid education foundation at the elementary level: reading, writing, arithmetic."

The pastor said that teaching a Christian worldview means teaching that everything about the story of humanity is really a reflection of the story of God.

"Our lives are impacted by that view," he said. "We, as an evangelical Christian Church, believe that Jesus is God. So therefore, it comes from that worldview that evolution is not something you're going to be teaching to a kindergartner, but I think probably by fourth and fifth grades, they're beginning to look at those types of things in school, dealing with dinosaurs, dealing with the age of the earth, all those kinds of things. We're going to view that from a very distinctly Christian perspective. I'm not saying that we won't teach opposing views, but we will teach them as that, not as fact."

## Foundation honors animal services volunteer

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Amie Hagar won the Reinhold Foundation's 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award during the April 23 Celebrate Clay Awards breakfast. Hagar donates her time to Clay County Animal Services.

The county said the honoree has worked at the county's shelter for over five years and has been instrumental in finding



(L-R) Clay County Commissioners Kristen Burke, Mike Cella and Jim Renninger, Volunteer of the Year Amie Hagar and County Commissioners Alexandra Compere and Betsy Condon.

foster and permanent adoption homes for many animals.

"Her exceptional commitment to the welfare of dogs is demonstrated by the countless hours she spends caring for

them both at the shelter and in her home," the county said, "collecting donations and transporting shelter pets. She does everything she can to foster a live release of shelter dogs,

and her selflessness and tireless efforts make her an exemplary candidate for this prestigious recognition."



### Students win for home art and horticulture projects

Students from Keystone Heights High School entered home art and horticulture projects in the Clay County Fair recently and were awarded with ribbons and monetary prizes. Students entered projects of colored-pencil drawings, sculptures, tie-dye shirts, jellies, picture frames, homemade paper and terrariums. The students brought home Best in Class, Best in Show, blue and red ribbons and a total of \$256 in prize money! Students pictured (not in order) are Chase Anthony, Cayden Hernandez, Chason McKittrick, Rylee Dixon, Elizabeth Pins, Aliyah Bernier, Allisa Reynolds, Talon Lybarger, David McCumbers and Noah Bell.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

As provided by Chapter 197 Acts of 1974, notice is given that tangible personal property taxes assessed for the year 2023 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, 2025, 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:

01392-000 P-0095800 \$373.11 HORIZON GLOBAL AMERICAS 127 PUBLIC SQ STE 5300 CLEVELAND, OH 44114	TION INC 16139 NE 15TH PLACE STARKE, FL 32091	06900-005 P-0110000 \$73.75 NEUROLOGY ASSOC OF STARKE INC 107-F EDWARDS RD STARKE, FL 32091	PO BOX 723597 ATLANTA, GA 31139
02318-000 P-0087200 \$85.81 CLINEMAN WAYNE 6759 NW 204TH TERRACE STARKE, FL 32091	03660-000 P-0097000 \$250.72 FORD JOHN F 10634 SE 38TH AVE STARKE, FL 32091	07515-000 P-0114000 \$825.85 OTTEY BONE & JOINT ASSOCIATES 417 W CALL ST STARKE, FL 32091	09420-005 P-0124800 \$230.88 TRIPLE H SEPTIC & SITE WORK IN 879 NE 185TH ST STARKE, FL 32091
02540-004 P-0089100 \$1,304.60 COUNTRY CATERER'S BAR-B-QUE 6217 SE CR 21B KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656-9707	03728-000 P-0097200 \$1,060.42 STARKE BIG B PROPERTIES, LLC 800 S WALNUT ST STARKE, FL 32091	07655-000 P-0115300 \$638.37 RAIN-FLOW OF NORTH FLORIDA, IN 7400 SW 86TH ST HAMPTON, FL 32044	09605-080 P-0125700 \$1,863.73 VERIFONE INC C/O RYAN, LLC PO BOX 802206 DALLAS, TX 75380
03030-003 P-0092800 \$221.44 S&G PETROLEUM LLC 5488 RIVER TRAIL RD S JACKSONVILLE, FL 32277	06488-000 P-0108100 \$342.78 MIDSTATE POWER SYSTEMS INC 10065 S HWY 301 HAMPTON, FL 32044-4318	07811-000 P-0116800 \$2,061.27 RHODEN HAY LLC 2914 SE 109TH ST STARKE, FL 32091	10100-000 P-0127700 \$73.12 WILLIAMS JEWELRY 134 WEST CALL ST STARKE, FL 32091
03060-000 P-0093100 \$826.66 DURRANCE PUMP & SUPPLY PO BOX 97 STARKE, FL 32091	06675-000 P-0108400 \$593.17 MOSLEY FARMS, INC PO BOX 293 HAMPTON, FL 32044-0293	08289-000 P-0119200 \$220.77 SHUFORD ENTERPRISES LLC 24310 GROVE ST LAWTEY, FL 32058-3808	10235-000 P-0128500 \$1,744.70 WORKS OF ORANGE BLOSSOMS UNIT 7845 BAYMEADOWS WAY JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
03320-015 P-0094700 \$1,498.36 EVAN DOUGLAS CONSTRUC-	06844-010 P-0109300 \$467.49 MSB INC % KEN THAKOR 1100 E BROWNLEE ST STARKE, FL 32091	09139-010 P-0123300 \$2,236.09 AMERICAN TOWERS, LLC FL	10250-030 P-0128600 \$1,409.67 WYNNS WELDING INC 5512 CORONADO STREET KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656

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

# Keystone charter amendment passes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights voters passed a charter amendment 22-10, changing one seat on the airport authority from representing Camp Blanding to an additional seat representing Keystone Heights.

The change was prompted by a Florida National Guard request that its members not vote on municipal matters. The town's governing document had to be changed since the seat was

designated as a Camp Blanding seat in the city's charter.

During the city council's May 6 meeting, City Attorney Rich Komando blamed the low turnout on the election's mail-in-only status.

"I do want to thank the 32 people who voted," he told council members, "and that's something I really hope you consider when you make a decision to do a mail-only ballot, but fortunately, the amendment did pass with 68.75%."

# Co-op members donate to Bradford's Communities in Schools

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Clay Electric Foundation donated \$13,500 to the Bradford County Communities in Schools during the foundation May grant cycle.

The foundation said Communities in Schools of Bradford County surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. It added that the grant will be used for programming

to increase Bradford County students' graduation rates.

Other recipients in the Clay Electric Foundation's May grant cycle were Gainesville's Celebration United Methodist Church, Saint Catherine Society of Vincent de Paul in Clay County, Catholic Charities Bureau of St. Augustine, Gainesville Thrives, The Palatka Police Athletic League, Fraser Outreach Foundation in Williston, and Renew Recovery Café in Volusia County.



County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner (far left) welcomed supporters to the Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Foundation Cancer Awareness Walk, which was well attended April 27 despite the rainy weather. Participants walked 2.2 miles to support public education about breast cancer and the importance of early detection through monthly self-exams and periodic mammograms. Women and men are both at risk, and information was shared with those who attended. They can in turn share that information with others. Spooner thanked those who supported the event: Bradford County Fire Rescue and the sheriff's office, members of multiple churches, including Mt. Pisgah A.M.E., Antioch Missionary Baptist, Ebenezer Baptist, Greater Allen Chapel A.M.E. and Mt. Moriah, and other community participants.

# Walk for a cause



# Arc welcomes public to see program, new community hub

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

The Arc of Bradford is holding a grand opening at its Hampton location to showcase its adult day program.

The site is at the former Hampton Elementary School, 10501 Hampton Ave, on Tuesday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop in at any time to meet the director, staff and volunteers serving the site.

The site features a new Community Health and Wellness Resource Hub dedicated to Arc's mission to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as Hampton residents.

The Bradford Community Partners latest community hub will also be open to residents on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The partners are a group of community organizations, governmental agencies, health care providers, businesses and churches who are working together to improve access to needed health, employment and other resources in order to improve the quality of life in Bradford County.

Hampton will be the third hub location. There are also locations serving the Starke area at the RJE Complex, 1080 N. Pine St. in Starke, and Lawtey at Tatum Bros. Park, 22598 Park St. The Starke location is open on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The Lawtey location is open the second Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The hubs are open to all residents. No appointments are necessary. Walk-ins are welcome.

# LIBRARY

Continued from page 3

Kathy Paddock is coordinator for adult programs and a very talented painter, Wylie said.

Wylie also previewed a grant-funded book giveaway. They have chosen geology as the theme, and participants will also receive geodes they can take home and crack open to discover the crystal formations inside.

"We have 600 of everything, so we're hoping to have a really good turnout," she said.

Programs are free to attend. Some do request advance sign-up. Some activities are first come, first served. The library will have schedules to distribute, and you can also follow events on social media.

Reach out to the library for more information at 904-368-3911.

County Manager Scott Kornegay told commissioners it was Wylie who suggested staffing changes that could save the library \$85,000 annually, as well as \$15,000 for the library cooperative.

Wylie has worked for the cooperative for seven years, which is a cooperative of the Bradford, Baker and Union county libraries. She received rave reviews from commissioners and the manager.

"We're off to a great start with new leadership, and I just want to publicly thank you for everything you've done so far," Kornegay said, adding kudos for Crawford as well.

# Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, May 14 and 28, 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 availability. This institution is an equal opportunity

provider.

# Lifeline food giveaway

Lifeline Ministries and Gleaners Dispatch will hold a food giveaway on Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to noon at 325 N. Christian St. in Starke.



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KHHS Grad Edition is 5-23-24, KHHS graduation is 5/24/24

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# UNION COUNTY

## NOTICE OF LAND USE CHANGE

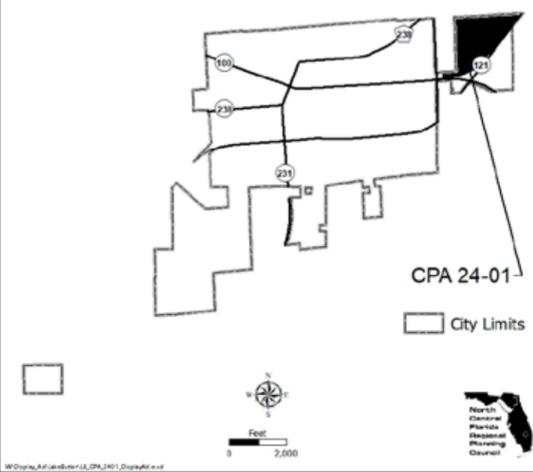
The City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida proposes to regulate the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending Future Land Use Plan Map of the City of Lake Butler Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

CPA 24-01, an application by Tomahawk Land II, LLC, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use classification from RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (less than or equal to 2 dwelling units per acre) to COMMERCIAL for the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 29, Township 5 South, Range 20 East, Union County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of the South 1/2 of said Section 29; thence South 85°49'47" West 1,058.92 feet, along the North line of the South 1/2 of said Section 29 to the Westerly right-of-way line of State Road 121; thence South 37°14'02" West 34.68 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121, to the South right-of-way line of Northeast 107th Terrace and the Point of Beginning; thence South 37°14'02" West 1,555.64 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121; thence South 36°44'02" West 621.31 feet, continuing along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121 to a Point of Non Tangent Curve to the right; thence Southwesterly continuing, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121, a distance of 555.06 feet as measured along the arc of a curve concave Northwesterly and having a radius of 1,876.86 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of South 54°56'12" West, and a distance of 553.04 feet, to a Point of Tangency; thence South 63°24'32" West 173.42 feet, continuing, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121; thence North 26°35'28" West 17.00 feet, continuing, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121; thence South 63°24'32" West 86.04 feet, continuing, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121, to a Point of Curvature to the right; thence Southwesterly, continuing, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121, a distance of 216.40 feet as measured along the arc of a curve concave Northwesterly and having a radius of 553.11 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of South 74°37'02" West and a distance of 215.02 feet to a Point of Tangency; thence South 85°49'32" West, continuing, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121, a distance of 136.35 feet to a Point of Non Tangent Curve to the left and the North right-of-way line of State Road 100; thence Westerly, along the North right-of-way line of said State Road 100, a distance of 241.93 feet as measured along the arc of a curve concave Southerly and having a radius of 2,924.79 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of South 88°11'43" West and a distance of 241.86 feet to a Point of Tangency; thence South 85°49'32" West 75.41 feet, continuing, along the North right-of-way line of said State Road 100; thence North 02°22'16" West 202.29 feet to the South right-of-way line of Northeast 1st Street; thence North 85°36'47" East 459.70 feet, along the South right-of-way line of said Northeast 1st Street; thence North 02°24'28" West 1,858.41 feet to the North line of the South 1/2 of said Section 29; thence North 85°49'47" East 1,639.35 feet, along the North line of the South 1/2 of said Section 29 to the South right-of-way line of said Northeast 107th Terrace; thence South 78°43'43" East 80.43 feet, along the South right-of-way line of said Northeast 107th Terrace; thence North 85°52'39" East 529.66 feet, along the South right-of-way line of said Northeast 107th Terrace; thence South 89°31'41" East 51.36 feet, along the South right-of-way line of said Northeast 107th Terrace to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 68.86 acres, more or less.

### City of Lake Butler



The first of two public hearings on the proposed amendment will be held on May 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall, located at 200 Southwest 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The City Commission will hold the public hearing to consider the amendment, conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the amendment and consider transmittal of the amendment to the Florida Commerce. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF MORE THAN 50 ACRES OF LAND TO THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 24-01, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 2 DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE) TO COMMERCIAL OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested persons may appear and heard with respect to the amendment and the ordinance adopting the amendment on the date, time and place as stated above.

Copies of the amendment and the ordinance adopting said amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the City Manager in the City Hall, at 200 Southwest 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

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

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the Office of the City Manager at 386.496.3401 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).

## 4-H celebrates with awards

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

Union County 4-H held its annual Awards Banquet on May 3, 2024 at Sardis Baptist Church in Lake Butler.

The event featured a buffet-style dinner of smoked chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, baked beans, rolls, and dessert.

The Fellowship Hall, where the meal was served, and the Sanctuary were nearly full of 4-H members and their families.

The awards event began at 7 p.m., with Union County UF/IFAS 4-H Extension Agent Meagan Daniel welcoming the crowd and overseeing the opening ceremony.

Latoya and Naliana Hampton presented the 4-H Pledge, followed by Luke Alvarez leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Kylee Thomas sang the National Anthem, followed by the prayer offered by Cadence Collins. Daniel then recognized and welcomed some of the people who had helped make the event possible. Mentioned were: Union County Extension Agent Jim DeValerio, UF/IFAS NE District Director Eric Simone and his wife, Amy, attending county commissioners, Justin and Jesse Howard (he roasted the chicken and she prepared the macaroni and cheese), Sardis Baptist Church Music Director Tog Goodson for operating the sound equipment, George and Ashkea Dyal (for set-up), Farm Bureau (which donated the door prizes), Emerson Nursery (who provided the ferns for the stage) and several families which offered help and brought dessert.

Daniel then went on to give some perspective on the Union County 4-H. She said there were 18 different clubs, 26 approved and background-checked volunteers, with seven additional volunteers who have specialty certifications. She said that, currently, there were about 280 youngsters involved in the program.

The volunteers were then recognized with the club they worked with. These volunteers were: Amanda Boyette (Beyond the Buckle), Selena Chassie (Pigtails and Ponytails), Kimberly Collins and Shane (Bullseye Brigade), Priscilla Conner (New River), Kenneth Cox (Barrel Burners), Shannon Croft (Sew Cute SPIN), Kayla and Channing Dobbs (Sugarberries), Jennifer and John Duniven (Bunny Buddies), Ashkea Dyal (Homeschool), Erin Elixson (Homeschool), Dana Gill (Beyond the Buckle), Jessie Howard (Cloverbuds), Richard Kelley (Barrel Burners), Benji Bennett (Barrel Burners), Leah and Donald Manning (Rooted in Union), Kristyn Neuhofer (Day at the Capital), Randa Roddenberry (New River), Nancy Stalnaker (Pigtails and Ponytails), Waylen Tetstone (Chasin' Ribbons), Ashlynn Turknett (Chasin' Ribbons and Emily and Shane Wilson (Bullseye Brigade).

Next came the club recognitions, with each youngster receiving a certification of completion and the club officers also receiving a pin.

The Avid Anglers Club came first, with all members receiving a Wildlife and Fisheries pin for a completed club project books. The officers were Ella Griffis (President), Weston Daniel (Vice-President), Jenson Tetstone (Reporter).

Members of the Baas and Billies Club all received certificates of completion.

The Barrel Burners all received shooting sports pins. The team from this club shot at state competition, with Dallen Cox placing third. He will represent the club at the national shooting sports competition in Grand Island, Nebraska, held June 23-28.

The Beyond the Buckle Club all received a horse pin for the project book completed in the club. Club officers were Lorelai Smith (President), Ryan Boyette (Vice-President), Emerson



Kylee Thomas sang the National Anthem at the beginning of the 2024 awards ceremony.



Cailynn Boggs and Sydney Box were the winners of the 4-H Scholarship, for the first time it has been awarded since founded in 2019.



Members of the Sew Cute SPIN Club received certificates of completion for the year. Pictured (l-r) are Shaw Daniel, Sadie Croft, Naomi Croft and Annalise Lewis.



Members of the Community Service Club awarded certificates at the awards ceremony. Pictured (l-r) are Sydney Box, Jacee Box and Cailynn Boggs.



Winners of Certificates of Completion from the Avid Anglers Club. Pictured are Weston Daniel, Ethan "Zeke" Balkin-Gair and Logan Miller.

Garmon (Secretary), Savannah Thornton (Treasurer), Paislee Ricketson (Reporter) and Tinsley Moates and Paislee Melette (Sgts. At Arms).

Members of the Bullseye Brigade all received shooting sports pins. Club officers were Miley Wilson (President), Cadence Collins (Vice-President), Gage Lewis (Reporter and Historian) and Celia Elixson.

The Bunny Buddies received bunny pins. The officers were Dallas Salter (President) and

Addilyn Reid (Vice-President). The Chasin' Ribbons Club all received certificates of completion, as did the Cloverbuds and the Community Service Clubs. The members of the Citizenship SPIN (DATC) Club all received citizenship pins.

The New River Club members received a certificate of completion, while the officers received officer pins. The officer were Cole Welch (President), Braxton Johnson

(Vice-President), Reed McNeal (Secretary), Everett Emery (Treasurer), Ayda McNeal (Chaplain) and Rafe Alvarez (Reporter).

Members of the Pigtails and Ponytails received Certificates, while the officers also received pins. Officers were Alayah Jefferson (President), Latoya Hampton and Callie Smith (Vice-Presidents), Naliana Hampton (Secretary), Ava Jefferson, Addy

See AWARDS, page 7

# May Day Celebration breaks ground for new playground

BY MELISSA PYLE  
Special to the Telegraph

Members of The Concerned Citizens of Bradford County were joined by city leaders to break ground and bring new life into a long fought dream at the May Day Celebration held May 4.

Festivities included a health and wellness fair, bounce houses, a community kick ball game and the plaiting of the May Pole. It also served as a fundraiser for summer day camp scholarships.

The spotlight of the event was the groundbreaking ceremony for the new playground on the property. The playground is one more piece of a long list of dreams that the Concerned Citizens have been slowly bringing to life.

The playground was provided through a \$50,000 grant through the health department. The playground will be just steps away from the RJE gymnasium, which is halfway through its own renovation.

The exterior of the gym has been completed, but the interior still needs to be renovated. Concerned Citizen member Glenda Ruise said the project is set to begin phase two in the next two months. She said the second phase of the renovation will bring the interior of the gym to modern standards.

The new playground is part of a larger vision to provide a safe location for the children of the community to play. Concerned Citizens President Alica McMillan, said they are currently awaiting an grant that will complete the outdoor space with a sidewalk to provide senior citizens a safe walking trail around the property.

Many who spoke prior to the groundbreaking recognized the history of the property and the desire to honor the memory of ancestors who had passed down



No May Day Celebration is complete without the May Pole Tradition. This old tradition was once carried out by school children to mark the beginning of summer festivities. Last Saturday, it was a part of the groundbreaking ceremony held by the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, which is building a grant-funded playground at the RJE campus.



Mayor Roberts shared a few words before the groundbreaking and said, "It takes passion to get things done...and he knows the Concerned Citizens have all kinds of passion for the community."

the property to them. Commissioner Carolyn Spooner shared a memory of "Chester B. Crumb, who contributed this land so that we might have a school for our children and for the future." She went on to acknowledge the RJE founders and the Concerned Citizens who have worked tirelessly to preserve this piece of Bradford County history.

The property currently houses services such as Head Start program and the bimonthly Community Health and Wellness Resource Hub. A summer day camp will be held during the month of June. Registration is underway. Anyone interested can contact the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County.

The playground will be one more step to making the property a fully functioning community center. The new equipment will be installed by May 30 and will be a fun addition to all the summer activities currently on the agenda at RJE.



City leaders and members of the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County came together to see yet another part of the dream of RJE coming to life on Saturday at the May Day Event. Pictured L-R: Jimmy Crosby, Iana Patterson, Glenda Ruise, Rosa Thomas, Alica McMillan, Carolyn Spooner, and Carmella Williams and Norma Jean Robinson.

## AWARDS Continued from page 6

Thomas and Haven Hankerson (Sgts. at Arms), and Marcus Jefferson (Chaplain).

Members of the Providence Friendship and Rooted in Union Clubs all received Certificates of Completion.

The Sugarberries Club members all received certificates and baking pins. Officers were Ella Dobbs (President), Maddie Feltner (Vice-President), Reese Taylor (Secretary), Raylynn Dobbs (Treasurer), Kyler Harper and Grace Box (Secretaries), Ethan Yeagger (Parliamentarian) and Kimber Wallace and Caroline Dukes (Rec. Leaders).

The Homeschool Club members received certificates, while their officers received pins. Officers were Wyatt Rogers (President), Klayton Neuhofer (Vice-President), Hannah Rizer (Secretary), Alyssa Lee (Treasurer), Teghan Sullivan (Reporter), Raylan Dyal and Mazie Redding (Sgts. at Arms) and Sawyer Dyal (Chaplain).

The Horse Judging Team had some achievements announced before receiving their awards. The two teams competed at the State Fair, with one of them placing fourth. The High Individual was Cailynn Boggs. Also, Cailynn Boggs, Cadence Collins, Cuyler Collins and Maddie Croft competed at the state 4-H contest, placing second in the state. They are eligible to compete at 4-H Regionals, in Perry, GA. July 31- Aug. 4, 2024. Boggs was the Number Two Individual and can represent Union County on the Florida Team at nationals in Louisville, KY the first weekend in November.

Finally, the Sew Cute SPIN Club members all received certificates for their work in the past year. In addition to all the certificates and pins awards members of the clubs, more than 240 project pins were given out to members of clubs who either completed a special project in their club, competed in a local or state competition or completed a

project book.

Certificates and pins were awarded to members who have been in 4-H for five years or more. The winners were: Five Years – Kamryn Hartley, Blaine Orton, Tripp Connell, Kassi Kadlec, Corbin Neal, Cooper Gemelli, Paisley Schmitt-Theus, Vivian Hunt, Cain Addison and Cailynn Boggs; Six Years – Farrah Elixson, Anderson Griffis, Raylan Dyal, Emmy Croft, Maddie Croft, Naomi Croft, Latoya Hampton, Natalia Hampton, Alayah Jefferson and Charley Box; Seven Years – Logan Cannon, Callen Collins, Cuyler Collins, Quentin Elixson, Nathaniel Harlow, Delana Barton, Kalli Kadlec, Kalyn Reynolds and Marcus Jefferson; Eight Years – Reagan Williams, Cadence Collins, Celia Elixson, Jacee Box and Klayton Neuhofer; Ten Years – Miley Wilson; Eleven Years – Macie Wilson and Twelve Years – Sydney Box.

Clover Awards were given to nine Cloverbuds, 13 Juniors, five Intermediates and one Senior.

The final presentation of the evening was the awarding of two \$1,000 4-H Scholarships. This was the first time these scholarships had been awarded since the scholarship program was founded in 2019. Winners Cailynn Boggs and Sydney Box each received a medallion and tassels for their achievements.

## UCHS Class of '74 reunion

Union County's Class of 1974 will celebrate 50 years on Saturday, June 22, 2024. Save the date. The reunion will take place at 5 p.m. at Lake Butler Community Center. Additional details are forthcoming.

## Medicare classes offered online

SHINE offers virtual classes on Medicare basics, prescription drug coverage, Medicare Part



Many neighborhood friends and family like Alissa, Jantoria, Wynter, and Zion came out to play on the ball field and enjoy the May Day Celebration on Saturday.



Florence Jenkins was a vendor at the May Day Event but has strong ties to property. Jenkins grew up in the community and fondly remembers using the RJE basketball court. She is now a mom and teacher and looks forward to seeing a new generation enjoy the RJE grounds.

C, long-term care planning and more. Visit [www.floridashine.org](http://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](http://www.agingresources.org).

## LB VFW hosts bingo

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

## Get help quitting

Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. If you're ready to quit, join the next Tools to Quit Tobacco group. Virtual options by computer and phone are also available. This free, one-time two-hour group will give you tips on how to deal with triggers and withdrawal symptoms and how to prevent relapse. You'll also receive up to four weeks

of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges. This group more than doubles your chance of quitting for good. Pre-registration is required. Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot.

## Lake Butler text alerts

You can now receive text alerts from the city of Lake Butler about events and incidents that may affect you. Text the "Lake Butler" to 91896 to opt in. You may also report issues to

the city via text and even upload images of the problem. Text "Report" to 386-272-5227 about problems with streets, lighting and more.

## May sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of May, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations: U.S.

Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.

## Foster, adoption classes

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

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# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

### Bradford

Sara Raven Armstrong, 28, of Interlachen, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 30 for a probation violation.

Sierra Denise Barnett, 30, of Starke, was arrested by Lawtey police on May 1 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of cocaine, and driving an unregistered vehicle.

Jack Edward Brown, 34, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 27 for a probation violation.

James Brandon Brown, 40, of Ocala, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 1 for withholding support.

Jon Allen Carney, 39, of Davenport, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 3 for battery, resisting an officer, and an out-of-county warrant.

Jacob Wallace Crenshaw, 39, of Jacksonville Beach, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 30 for a probation violation.

Wyatt Jaycob Davis, 25, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 28 for aggravated assault, aggravated battery, kidnapping, false imprisonment, and criminal mischief with property damage.

Michael T. Holmes, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 28 for battery.

Tabatha Jeanette Hopkins, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 2 for DUI, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and hit and run.

Ocean Allen James, 21, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 28 for

an out-of-county warrant.

Stefano L. Linnex, 39, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 2 for a probation violation.

Kathy Lynne McKelvey, 58, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on April 29 for DUI.

### Union

Karen Marie Balas, 43, of Macclenny, was arrested by Union deputies on May 2 for failure to appear.

### Clay

Dyllan Brad Page, 20, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 28 for grand theft.

Kymberly Sierra Smith, 34, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on April 28 for a pre-trial release violation and failure to appear.

Joshua Aaron Soto, 28, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 1 for possession of methamphetamine and illegal use of a two-way communications device.

## Baker man picks fight with 10-year-old

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford deputies arrested a 39-year-old Sanderson man for enticing a 10-year-old boy to fight and then taking a swing at the child's grandmother.

Leroy Jay Combs was arrested for trespassing and simple assault, resulting from a confrontation in the area of Northwest 22nd Ave., between Lawtey and Highland.

According to an arrest report, the 10-year-old's grandmother told deputies that the defendant's son and her grandson had been arguing over a girl, and Combs followed the 10-year-old from the street into her driveway.

"(The grandmother) said that she told Jay that he was childish (and) that an adult should not get



Combs

involved and threaten anyone," wrote Deputy Paul Moody

Jr. in an arrest report. "(The grandmother) said she told Jay to leave her property because he had walked from the street and was now in her driveway. (She) said Jay began yelling and swung his hand up at her, missing and not making contact."

The victim added that Combs then threatened her daughter-in-law before leaving.

The daughter-in-law said Combs wanted more family members involved in the dispute. She repeated the defendant's threat.

"I'm going to have my daughter stomp on you and rearrange (your) face," the woman told a deputy, repeating the man's threat. "Have your husband meet me, and I'll take care of him."

## Convicted killer threatens judge and prosecutor

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A man serving a life sentence for two murders in the McRae area has now been indicted for threatening the judge and prosecutor in his murder trial.

Twenty-six-year-old Taylor Ryan Hill was convicted of shooting three people at a Lori Loop Road home, killing two on New Year's Eve, 2019.

He subsequently pleaded two years later to possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, armed robbery, attempted murder, and first-degree murder and was sentenced to life.

Since then, the case has been reopened, resulting from

the defendant's claims that he received inadequate counsel and was coerced into the plea.

A judge had scheduled a hearing to hear Hill's arguments. However, the hearing was delayed because, according to a federal indictment, the defendant sent a letter threatening to kill the prosecutor and judge involved in his case.

Hill's girlfriend at the time of the crimes told investigators that the shooting was sparked because the victims had been stealing clothing from her and Hill and that she and the defendant were planning on stealing the clothing back and then leaving the residence they



Hill

shared with the victims.



Hometown Grounds co-owner Amy Polk and her son Brett cut the ribbon at Hometown Grounds Coffee Company. Front (l-r) Calloway Morrell, Emory Sweat, Eli Sweat, and Silas Sweat (held by Rachel Sweat). Back (l-r) Brittany, Welborn, Mary Thomas, Brett Polk, Northeast Florida Economic Development Corp. Vice chair Bob Milner, Business co-owner Amy Polk, Northeast Florida Economic Development Corp. Treasurer Patricia Evans, Kennedy Polk, Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay, Business co-owner Rachel Sweat, Keith Sweat, Chamber President Pam Whittle and Cindy Russell.

## Chamber cuts ribbon at coffee shop

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Hometown Grounds Coffee Company on April 11.

The Step-mother-daughter

partnership of Amy Polk and Rachel Sweat opened the business at the corner of Starke's Thompson and Call Streets on February 1.

Sweat said she fell in love with coffee during mission trips to Honduras, adding that in addition

to its taste, she saw the beverage create community among the people of Central America.

The co-owners said they hope their new business will help create stronger bonds among the people in Bradford County and the surrounding area.

## Not guilty of burglary, theft

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Bradford County jury acquitted a man of breaking into an unoccupied structure and stealing a firearm from the home. However, the panel found the defendant guilty of giving a false name to a law enforcement officer, and he was cited for contempt of court during the trial.

The jury found Mark Randall Hersey, 63, not guilty of burglary and grand theft of a firearm.

According to an arrest report, on May 16, 2023, the owners of a Sampson Lake-area residence reported that while they were away on a camping trip, someone broke into their home. They added that they believed Hersey committed the crimes. A woman taking care of the owners' horse told deputies she saw a slender man with a beard walking with a limp on the victims' property and asked him what he was doing there. According to the witness, the man answered that he was looking for family members, and the witness responded by telling him they were not home.

On May 23, a person matching the defendant's description was seen in Starke, and deputies stopped him. According to the report, Hersey told officers his name was "Mike Glover."

Detective Michael Garmon wrote in the report that he knew the pedestrian's real name was Mark Hersey and searched the walker. He found a small green flashlight and a set of keys. Garmon added that one of the victims claimed the items were stolen from her home, in addition to the black jeans Hersey was wearing.

Hersey's attorney, Michael T. Ruppert, argued that there were no eyewitnesses to the break-in, that the person taking care of the victim's horse could not identify Hersey as the person she saw on the property, and that the witness did not see anyone breaking into the home.

Ruppert added that no latent fingerprints were found at the crime scene and that although investigators found hair samples in a shower and fecal matter in a toilet allegedly left by the burglar, lab tests failed to link the

evidence to the defendant.

The defense attorney also said the items found while searching Hersey were insufficient to prove he stole them from the Sampson Lake area home.

"The search yielded a key chain, a small flashlight, and a black pair of jeans," wrote Ruppert in a motion to suppress. "These items were identified on scene by (the victim). These items were never traced to the victims' home independently and are common items found in abundance within the community. Also, these items were never previously reported as items missing from their home."

Judge James M. Colaw sentenced Hersey to one year in jail for the misdemeanor. The judge also cited Hersey for contempt of court for illegally and untruthfully talking to a witness during the trial, possibly in view of the jury. Arraignment for the contempt charge is scheduled for May 8.



## RUSS WADE

### Attorney at Law

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Erica Vargas cuts the ribbon for EV Studio Photography during a North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event. Pictures (l-r) are Dale Woodruff, Scott Kornegay, John Miller, Carolyn Spooner, Reagan Harris, Mika Vargas, Kaylah Vargas, Erica Vargas, Richard Vargas, Nikolas Vargas, Lee Kimbrell, Ben Carter, Dylan Rodgers and Marty Shaw.

## Studio photographer opens on Call Street

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for EV Studio Photography on May 2.

Owner Erica Vargas said she had been dabbling in photography for a long time, but her husband Richard's active duty with the Navy took the family away from Bradford County for a while. When the couple and their children returned, she began sessions in her garage but now has established a business presence in downtown Starke.

Vargas said two popular types of sessions are maternity photos and cake smash sessions for children. "I have a room for that because they're quite messy," she said of the cake smash shoots. "Can't do that on carpet."



Erica Vargas shows off her cake-smash studio.

Scott Kornegay, Chamber President Pam Whittle, County Commission Chair Carolyn Spooner, Telegraph Publisher John Miller, Fire Rescue officials Ben Carter and Dylan Rodgers, and Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation Treasurer Marty Shaw took part in the ceremony.

# Punkin' reflects on long law-enforcement career and future

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Titles may change, but the person remains the same.

That's the view Jeff Johnson takes when thinking about the fact that he's no longer police chief. The dissolution of the Starke Police Department prevented him from a proper retirement and going out on his terms, but "Punkin'," as most know him, is still "Punkin'." He loves Starke and Bradford County and will continue to assist citizens in any way he can.



Jeff Johnson served almost four decades in law enforcement, including 34 years at the Starke Police Department.

"I've had 200 people come by the house and tell me they're supporting me and all that kind of stuff," Johnson said, referring to the aftermath of the city commission's 4-1 vote to allow the Bradford County Sheriff's Office to take over sole law-enforcement duties within the city limits. "I just tell them, 'I don't have to be the chief of police to help. If you need me, and I can help you, you call me.'"

because I let them do their job. I didn't babysit them. I worked with their strength, and we fixed what their weakness was."

## The path to a law-enforcement career

Johnson served as SPD chief since 2009 and was with SPD a total of 34 years overall, with two different stints surrounding time when he worked for the Waldo Police Department. He describes it as a blessing that he enjoyed such longevity in a career that can be dangerous and that he avoided any health matters that could affect any of us.

A part-time job at the Starke Recreation Department turned into a full-time job for Johnson when he turned 18. He eventually left and worked briefly as a firefighter and then onto performing a variety of jobs as a city of Starke employee. He returned to the recreation department.

Then, there's that feeling of having been a part of something that served the community for the good.

Johnson was with his brother Chuck when Gordon Smith approached Chuck and said he had the dates for when they were going to start the police academy at what was then Lake City Community College (now Florida Gateway College). That piqued the interest of Johnson, who asked more about the academy. He decided he wanted to go, too.

"I'm proud of the accomplishments — what we've done, how we've protected the people and how we took care of the people," Johnson said.

Three days after Johnson graduated on Dec. 23, 1987, he was hired at SPD by Chief Jimmy Bowen.

"We" is a key word when Johnson talks about himself and SPD. It's an indicator of how he approached his role as chief.

Johnson remembered having to work a murder scene on Old Lawtrey Road early in his career. "I didn't know what I was doing. Didn't have a clue," he

said. "Ricky Bennett and Scotty Rhoden said, 'It's time for you to learn what you're fixing to get into. This is the time.'"

"They sent me over there just to stay out front and make sure nobody went inside — kind of secure the scene, but at the same time, have a part in it."

The victim was a well-respected member of the community, Johnson said. That, in turn, he said, led to people talking to police and sharing anything they knew or had heard concerning the crime.

In two or three hours, the two men who committed the murder were arrested, Johnson said. The speed in which that happened amazed him, but it also taught him that the success of law enforcement really comes from the trust it has from its community and being able to work hand in hand with those community members.

"At that point, I learned that you can be the best police officer in the world, but without the community support, and without the community trusting you, you're worthless."

Johnson said he won't "throw anybody under the bus," but "there was some stuff" going on at SPD, which made him leave after two years when Joe Kiser asked him to come work for him at the Waldo Police Department.

## A beneficial move to Waldo Police

"I say it was God's timing for me to leave," Johnson said. It was the best thing he could've done for his development as a police officer, Johnson said, explaining that Waldo officers were dispatched through the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and sent primarily to areas in the east end of the county.

"They'd send us to alarms and calls, and we'd just wait for the deputy to get there," Johnson said. "We just calmed things down. When the deputy got there, he'd take over."

See PUNKIN', page 15



Jaden Park (second from left) received this year's Betty Warren Memorial Scholarship. His mother, Mindy, is pictured to his right. To his left are Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution members Virginia Walkup (treasurer) and Anne Smoak (regent).

# Jaden Park receives Betty Warren Memorial Scholarship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School senior Jaden Park is the recipient of this year's Betty Warren Memorial Scholarship, which is presented annually by the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Col. Samuel Elbert Regent Anne Smoak and Chapter Treasurer Virginia Walkup presented a \$1,500 check to Park during the May 6 chapter meeting at Keystone Beach Historic Pavilion.

Park has a weighted 4.4 GPA and has already earned his AA degree through dual enrollment at Santa Fe College.

"I only have three to four classes left at Santa Fe before transferring over to UF to continue my degree in Animal Sciences," Park said. "I want to eventually become a large-animal vet."

Despite his focus on academics, Park made time for extracurricular activities. He was involved in FFA and participated in the sports of cross country, soccer and track and field.

"You are indeed a well-rounded young man as you are involved in church, sports and clubs, while maintaining a high GPA," Walkup said.

Karen Lake, advising



Karen Lake, advising specialist at the Santa Fe College Watson Center, spoke about how important scholarships are in helping students make their dreams come true.

specialist at the Santa Fe College Watson Center, said, "Jaden is a wonderful example of the kinds of students we have the pleasure of working with at the center."

Lake said because of dual enrollment, Park took college courses for free that would've normally cost \$6,726 in tuition alone. He also avoided the extra cost that comes with books and materials.

"That's his first two years, but Jaden's got many years to go," Lake said.

That's why scholarships like the Betty Warren Memorial

Scholarship are so important.

"I appreciate what you guys are doing because you're helping him get to his dream," Lake said.

The scholarship is named after Betty Eileen Dye Warren, a longtime resident of Starke who was active in First Baptist Church of Starke, the hospital auxiliary and the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, NSDAR. She passed away in 2003.

Warren was born in 1924 to Cyril and Rena Warren. She lived in West Virginia with her parents and five sisters. She attended West Virginia University for a short time before leaving to join the wartime workforce with the FBI in Washington, D.C.

"She never had an opportunity to return to school," Walkup said, "but her love of books was a constant reminder that she cherished life-long learning."

Warren and her husband, Joseph, moved to Starke, where they started their own family. Warren's son Jeff is a donor to the scholarship fund, as is Lynda Warren Perez, who was married to Warren's son John, who's now deceased.

"This scholarship is a fitting example of Betty's life," Walkup said. She told Park, "She would be honored to know that in her memory, she will be helping a deserving student like achieve his dream of a degree."

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# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of May 9, 2024

## BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO. 23000430CAAXMX  
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,  
VS.  
RYAN RUSSELL RAMSEY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RYAN RUSSELL RAMSEY; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION  
To the following Defendant: RYAN RUSSELL RAMSEY (LAST KNOWN ADDRESS) 8462 NW 210TH STREET STARKE, FLORIDA 32091  
To the following Defendant: UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY 8462 NW 210TH STREET STARKE, FLORIDA 32091  
who is evading service of process and the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the defendant(s), who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:  
SEE EXHIBIT A Exhibit "A" LOT 7  
A parcel of land situated in the South One Half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said NE 1/4  
and run S 89 deg 39 min 07 sec W, along the South line of said NE 1/4 a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, 495.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, along the center-line of a 60 foot easement for Utilities and general road purposes, 140.00 feet; thence run S 70 deg 11 min 40 sec E, 390 feet more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said center-line to a point bearing S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec W, from the point of beginning; thence run N 75 deg 41 min 40 sec W, 352 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO an easement for Utilities and general road purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof. SUBJECT TO the easement right of way as recorded in Deed book 90, Page 377, of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.  
LOT 8  
A parcel of land situated in the South One Half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said NE 1/4  
and run S 89 deg 39 min 07 sec W, along the South line of said NE 1/4 a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, 355 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, along the center-line of a 60 foot easement for Utilities and general road purposes 140.00 feet; thence run S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, 352 feet more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said center-line to a point bearing S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, from the point of beginning; thence run N 75 deg 41 min 40 sec W, 335 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO an easement for Utilities and general read Purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof.  
LOT 9  
A parcel of land situated in the South One Half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said NE 1/4  
and run S 89 deg 39 min 07 sec W, along the South line of said NE 1/4 a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E, 215.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue N 14 deg 18 min 20 sec E along the center-line of a 60 feet easement for Utilities and general road purposes, 140.00 feet; thence run S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, 335 feet more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said center-line to a point bearing S 75 deg 41 min 40 sec E, from the point of beginning; thence run N 75 deg 41 min 40 sec W, 300 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO an easement for Utilities and general road purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof.  
Together with 1989 Pine Doublewide Mobile Home with Title No's 47469171 and 47501543 located thereon and bearing VIN# HMLCP28151504104A and HMLCP28151504104B.  
a/k/a 8462 NW 210TH STREET,

STARKE, FLORIDA 32091 has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220, Sunrise, FLORIDA 33323 on or before \_\_\_\_\_ a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065.  
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 945 North Temple Avenue, Rm. 137, Starke, FL 32091, Phone No. (904)966-6280 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-995-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 16th day of April, 2024.  
DENNY THOMPSON  
As Clerk of the Court  
BY: Kanetra Jenkins  
As Deputy Clerk  
Publish: (Please publish in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH)  
Submitted by:  
Kahane & Associates, P.A.  
1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220  
Sunrise, Florida 33323  
Telephone: (954) 382-3486  
Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380  
Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com  
23-01303 IPC  
5/2 2tchg 5/9-BCT

PLANNING & ZONING MEETING  
The City of Starke Planning & Zoning Board will not meet on May 20, 2024 but will meet on May 13, 2024 at 5:30 pm at 209 North Thompson Street.  
5/2 2tchg 5/9-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO.: 23000392CAAXMX  
MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC Plaintiff,  
VS.  
UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF CARRIE F. LEWALLEN A/K/A CARRIE FRANCES LEWALLEN A/K/A CARRIE LEWALLEN A/K/A CARRIE BAUGHMAN, ET AL., DEFENDANTS.  
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE  
(Please publish in Bradford Telegraph)  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, and entered in Case No. 23000392CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein Mortgage Assets Management, LLC is the Plaintiff and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; CAPITAL ONE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.; WALTER EUGENE LEWALLEN A/K/A WALTER EUGENE LEWALLEN JR. A/K/A EUGENE LEWALLEN; CARRIE L. WHITTLESEY A/K/A CARRIE WHITTLESEY A/K/A CARRIE FRANCES WHITTLESEY; KENNETH LAMAR LEWALLEN A/K/A KENNETH L. LEWALLEN A/K/A KENNETH L. LEWALLEN; TABATHA RENEE CLARK A/K/A TABATHA RENEE DICKERSON A/K/A TABATHA CLARK; UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF CARRIE F. LEWALLEN A/K/A CARRIE FRANCES LEWALLEN A/K/A CARRIE LEWALLEN A/K/A CARRIE BAUGHMAN; EQUITY ONE, INC.; FIA CARD SERVICES N.A. F/K/A BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION F/K/A MBNA AMERICA BANK N.A.; DOVE INVESTMENT CORP are defendants. Denny Thompson as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 at 11:00 A.M. on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:  
PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST AND ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SOUTH 1/2 OF SOUTHWEST 1/4

OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 35, A DISTANCE OF 662 91 FEET TO A POINT FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED, CONTINUE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 505.10 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 05 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 331.62 FEET TO A POINT, THENCE RUNNING NORTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 492.15 FEET TO A POINT; SAID POINT BEING IN A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTHWEST AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 50 FEET; THENCE ALONG AND AROUND SAID CURVE, AN ARC DISTANCE OF 77.93 FEET; SAID ARC BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD BEARING NORTH 44 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST. A DISTANCE OF 70.28 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 54 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 380 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.  
IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.  
Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.  
By: Liana R. Hall  
Bar No. 73813  
Submitted by:  
Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC  
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF  
210 N. University Drive, Suite 900  
Coral Springs, FL 33071  
DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE  
PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516  
ESERVICE@MGS-LEGAL.COM  
5/2 2tchg 5/9-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE  
T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on May 18th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M 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.  
2016 VW  
Vin#3VVD17A16GM33872  
2016 CHEVROLET  
Vin#1GCVKREC1GZ333028  
5/2 2tchg 5/9-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 04-2023-CA-364  
CALEB Z. BRYANT, Plaintiff,  
v.  
ROBERT ROCKY BERNIER JR., JOSEPH BERNIER and MICHAEL ANTHONY BERNIER SR., as the known intestate heirs of Joanne Bernier; and any and all of Joanne Bernier's other heirs, devisees, grantees, administrators, creditors, assigns, and any and all other persons and parties claiming by, through, under or against Joanne Bernier, or any of the foregoing unknown persons or parties.  
Defendants.  
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO F.S. CHAPTER 45  
NOTICE IS GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 25, 2024, in the above-styled action, the clerk of court, Denny Thompson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Bradford County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Bradford County, Florida 32091, in the hallway directly past the security checkpoint, at 11:00 a.m., on June 20, 2024, the following described property in Bradford County, Florida:  
Parcel ID No.: 00551-0-00300  
A parcel of land situated in the South one half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:  
Commence at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said Northeast 1/4 and run South 89 degrees 39 minutes 07 seconds West, along the South line of said Northeast 1/4, a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 14 degrees 18 minutes 20 second East, along the center-line of a sixty (60) foot easement for utilities and general road purposes, 972.48 feet; thence run Northwesterly along said center-line with a curve concave Southeasterly, said curve having a central angle of 27 degrees 29 minutes 14 seconds, an arc length of 163.11 feet, a radius of 340.00 feet and chord bearing and distance of North 28 degrees 02 minutes 57 seconds East, 161.55 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence run Northeasterly along said center-line with a curve concave Southeasterly, said curve having a central angle of

13 degrees 30 minutes 46 seconds, an arc length of 80.19 feet, a radius of 340.00 feet and chord bearing and distance of North 48 degrees 32 minutes 57 seconds East, 80.00 feet; thence run North 55 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds East, along said center-line, 100.00 feet; thence run South 55 degrees 11 minutes 40 seconds East, 405 feet, more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said center-line to a point bearing South 53 degrees 41 minutes 40 seconds East, from the Point of Beginning; thence run North 53 degrees 41 minutes 40 seconds West, 445 feet to the Point of Beginning.  
Subject to an easement for utilities and general road purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof. Subject to the easement right of way as recorded in Deed Book 90, Page 377 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.  
Together with a perpetual right of ingress and egress over a right of way constructed along the Westerly boundary of the Northwest 1/4 of Southwest 1/4 and Southwest 1/4 of Northwest 1/4, Section 35, Township 5 South Range 21 East, as described in Official Records Book 205, Page 570 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.  
TOGETHER WITH A 1983 CHAD mobile home, with ID numbers GAFL2AD22056387 and GAFL2BD22056387, which is located thereon.  
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 within 60 days after the sale. DATED this 26th day of April, 2024.  
TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A.  
By/s/Katelyn T. Hardwick  
Katelyn T. Hardwick  
Florida Bar No. 118454  
420 S. Lawrence Blvd.  
Keystone Heights, Florida 32656  
Primary Email: katie@tah-law.com  
Secondary Email:  
kim@tah-law.com  
352) 473-8088 (telephone)  
(352) 473-8161 (facsimile)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
5/9 2tchg 5/16-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 2023 CA 176  
FLORIDA CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OF ANTHONY J. NEW, DECEASED, PATTY NEW, CHRISTINA NEW AND GLENN NEW, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE  
Notice is hereby given that the Bradford County Clerk of Court will on June 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, offer for sale one by one, to the highest bidder for cash, the property located in Bradford County, Florida, as follows:  
PARCEL NO. 8 OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NW CORNER OF THE TRACT AT A CONCRETE MARKER ALONG CR-229, PARCEL 8 BEGINS 641.67 FEET S 47 DEGREES 34' 53" EAST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE N 42 DEGREES 25' 07" EAST FOR 355.11 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD, THENCE S 47 DEGREES 34' 53" EAST FOR 184 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE S 42 DEGREES 25' 07" WEST FOR 355.11 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD ON THE BOUNDARY OF CR-229; THENCE N 47 DEGREES 34' 53" WEST FOR 184 FEET ALONG BOUNDARY OF CR-229 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.  
PARCEL NO. 8A OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NORTH AND EAST OF COUNTY ROAD 229 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT IN THE NE CORNER OF SAID TRACT RUNNING 837.41 FEET, S 89 DEGREES 45' 24" WEST TO SET IRON ROD AS POINT OF BEGINNING FOR PARCEL 8A; THENCE 184 FEET S 47 DEGREES 34' 53" EAST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 236.22 FEET S 42 DEGREES 25' 07" WEST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 184 FEET N 47 DEGREES 34' 53" WEST TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE 236.22 FEET, N 42 DEGREES 25' 07" EAST TO A SET IRON ROD AT POINT OF BEGINNING OF PARCEL 8A.  
PARCEL NO. 8B OF THE WAYSHNER TRACT LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NE CORNER OF SAID NW 1/4 AND RUN S 89 DEGREES 45' 24" WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 587.19 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED RUN S 42 DEGREES 25' 07" WEST, 169.56 FEET; THENCE N 47 DEGREES 34' 53" WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 229 (FORMERLY STATE ROAD S-229), A DISTANCE OF 184.00 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID NW 1/4; THENCE N 89

DEGREES 45' 24" EAST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY, 250.22 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.  
TOGETHER WITH A 2000 DOUBLEWIDE ID # GAFLX34A72909SH21 AND ID # GAFLX34B72909SH21 WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED TO THE LANDS ABOVE DESCRIBED AND AS SUCH IS DEEMED TO BE A FIXTURE AND A PART OF THE REAL ESTATE.  
pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on April 26, 2024, 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  
oreservice@svllaw.com (E-Service E-Mail Address)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
5/9 2tchg 5/16-BCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING  
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on May 16, 2024, at 6:30 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.  
5/9 1tchg-BCT

CONCURRENT NOTICE  
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS  
Date of Publication: May 9, 2024  
Name of Responsible Entity: City of Starke  
Address: 209 N. Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091  
Phone: (904) 964-5027  
These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Starke, Florida.  
REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS  
On or about May 28, 2024 the City of Starke, FL will submit a request to the Florida Department of Commerce (FC) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a public infrastructure improvements project within the City of Starke. The proposed activity is the replacement of deteriorated water mains with safer more durable PVC water mains within the City of Starke, which is the County seat of Bradford County, Florida. The project will also involve installing/replacing fire hydrants in the same area that is served by the replaced water mains. The proposed water line replacement and fire hydrant activities will take place in Service Area #1 which includes the Old Lawley Road and E. Brownlee Street area. The replaced water line will extend from Oak Street along Brownlee Street in an eastward direction for 1240 LF to Old Lawley Road. From there the line will extend northward for 1275 LF along Old Lawley Road to Crum Street. The fire hydrants will be located on the replaced water lines and at street intersections within the service area. The proposed locations include Oak Street/North Street; Pine Street/Florida Street; Keller Street/North Street; Old Lawley Road/Crosby Street; Keller Street/Brownlee Street; Pine Street/Brownlee Street; and Oak Street/Crosby Street. The area of benefit for these improvements is bounded by Oak Street to the west, Old Lawley Road to the east, Pecan Tree Apartments to the south and North Street and Crum Street to the north. A portion of this area is located in the 100-year flood zone. After the water line and fire hydrant activities are completed, and if funds are available the City will use grant funds to install up to 54 water meters in Service Area 1. Also, the City will install one fire hydrant at the intersection of Crum Street and Old Lawley Road, which is Service Area #2 and is also in the floodplain. The anticipated funding sources for the proposed improvements include the following:  
\$700,000 from CDBG grant # 23DB-N10  
\$50,000 from the City of Starke, American Rescue Plan Funding  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
The City of Starke has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City of Starke City Hall, 209 N. Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091, and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm., and by appointment during normal business hours.  
PUBLIC COMMENTS  
Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Starke at 209 N. Thompson Street, Starke, FL 32091.

Comments may also be submitted by email to dmullins@cityofstarke.org. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Russell A. Mullins, City Manager at (904) 964-5027. All comments must be received by May 27, 2024. Comments will be considered prior to the City of Starke requesting a release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.  
RELEASE OF FUNDS  
The City of Starke certifies to the Florida Department of Commerce and HUD that Scott Roberts, in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Starke to use the CDBG funds.  
OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS  
The Florida Department of Commerce will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Starke certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Starke; (b) the City of Starke has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the State; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures at 24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76 and shall be addressed to the Florida Department of Commerce, CDBG Program, MSC-400, 107 East Madison Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-6508. Potential objectors should contact the City of Starke to verify the actual last day of the objection period. Scott Roberts, Mayor, Environmental Certifying Official  
5/9 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:  
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 05/24/2024 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N THOMPSON ST, STARKE, FL 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.  
1GDCD1420RZ122910 1994 CHEV  
1GTCS1924R8505049 1994 GMC  
This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 05/09/2024.  
5/9 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.  
V 24-02, an application by Joel Islam to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.7 "R" Residential Estate, Section 4.7.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 10' to a requested 5' along the Northerly line of the property being described as follows:  
Lot 16, Indian Beach Unit No 3, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Pages 42 – 43 of the public records of Bradford County, Fla. and being Bradford County Parcel Number 06190-0-00000  
The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. Aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal.  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
5/9 1tchg-BCT

**Bradford County Telegraph**  
USPS 062-700  
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
**Bradford County Telegraph**  
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091  
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091  
John Miller, Publisher  
Editor: Mark J. Crawford  
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley  
Advertising: John R. Tillman  
Typesetting: Mary Goodge  
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston  
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge  
Front office Asst:

**Lake Region Monitor**  
USPS 114-170  
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.  
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**Lake Region Monitor**  
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091  
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091  
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628  
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Editor: Dan Hildebran  
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley  
Advertising: John R. Tillman  
Typesetting: Mary Goodge  
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Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge  
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USPS 648-200  
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uctimeseditor@gmail.com  
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628  
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Advertising: John R. Tillman  
Typesetting: Mary Goodge  
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston  
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge  
Front office Asst:



# 4 receive Dr. Franklin Scholarships

Maya Farmer, Lyka Fuentes, Caitlynn Hartley and Macy Lauramore were this year's recipients of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Recognition Day Scholarships, which were presented April 28 at Lawtey's Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church.

Franklin, the scholarship fund's namesake, was a member of Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church.

The scholarships are awarded to students with an interest in medical/health professions.

Applicants were required to write an essay on their goals, objectives and need for financial assistance.



## Maya Farmer

Maya Farmer will complete her work at Rasmussen University of becoming a registered nurse in January 2025. She'd like to continue her studies and earn a bachelor's degree in nursing, with a goal of specializing in pediatric nursing.

In the letter that accompanied her scholarship application, Farmer wrote: "I have always wanted to be a nurse and work in healthcare. Nursing is a way that I can do something that I love and have financial independence. According to salary.com, pediatric nurses start out making an average of \$62,000 to \$96,000 per year.

"I took CNA classes in high school to make sure this profession was a good fit for me. I researched different types of nursing and specializations to help me understand what specialization suited me best.

"Helping people — especially children — has always been my passion. I was raised in a family of teachers, and helping children was ingrained in the way I was raised. I want to be there to help children in need. Nurses are key in the healthcare industry and provide care and compassion for their patients."

Farmer would like to be a travel nurse or move to a different city and work in a hospital after earning her bachelor's degree. She has created a network of current RNs and has discussed things like the best hospitals and

cities for new nurses.

"Nursing will allow me to see different places and make a difference in children's lives wherever I am," she wrote.

Though she plans to specialize in pediatric nursing, she hasn't ruled out becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist, which will require two years of ICU experience in a doctorate program.

"A CRNA is a nurse who administers anesthesia and other medications," Farmer wrote. "They also can monitor and care for people who are receiving or recovering from anesthesia.

"I would still like to practice in a hospital like Nemours Children's Hospital, no matter if it's as a pediatric nurse or a CRNA. The end goal is to be able to help children."

In closing, Farmer wrote, "This scholarship will immediately help me as I make the transition to going on site to do clinicals in July. I will have to travel to Ocala and to Advent Health locations for classes and in hospital training. I also will need different supplies for being in the hospital setting that I will have to purchase out of pocket, like a watch with a second hand and a stethoscope.

"The scholarship will be a real blessing to me at this time of transition to my next phase of classes. This will benefit me on my journey into healthcare and help me reach my goal of becoming a pediatric nurse."



## Lyka Fuentes

Lyka Fuentes is currently enrolled in the LPN program at North Florida Technical College and works as a nursing assistant in a Jacksonville hospital. In her scholarship application letter, she wrote that "being a woman and maintaining work and school as well as home activities on a daily basis" creates difficult tasks and leaves her in need of financial assistance.

"The original factor that motivated my journey to pursue a career in the nursing field was my time working as a housekeeper in a nursing facility in Jacksonville, Florida," Fuentes wrote. "During this time, I had an opportunity

to engage with different patients in hospitals. These experiences significantly sparked my interest, strengthened my personal aspirations and established my professional goals."

Fuentes' goal is to become an RN and "contribute to the improvement of society as a whole and serve as an inspiration to aspiring nurses in this field." She wrote that the scholarship would help her meet her financial needs while also enabling her "to focus on my education whilst simultaneously making a significant contribution to my community."

"I am deeply committed to achieving outstanding clinical results, academic success, professional growth and scientific involvement," Fuentes wrote. "However, the financial hurdles associated with my nursing education are challenging."



## Caitlynn Hartley

For as long as she can remember, Caitlynn Hartley has dreamed of being a nurse. In the letter accompanying her scholarship application, she wrote, "Growing up with my siblings, I was always asking my older sisters to play nurse with me, using baby dolls, plastic stethoscopes and our imagination. Naturally, as we grew older, everyone started asking what we wanted to be when we grew up, and my answer remained the same: a nurse. Although I knew it would be a challenge, my determination and excitement for my future success remained throughout the years."

Hartley began researching schools with nursing programs when she became a Bradford High School student. She learned of schools' requirements and wrote out a plan that would ensure her acceptance into a nursing program.

"I chose Santa Fe College," Hartley wrote. "I visited the campus multiple times while still only in my junior year of high school and prepared to follow my plan carefully up until the day I would receive my nursing degree."

Her plans were put on hold, though, when her mother (her only parent active in her life) moved away without warning.

"My plans to move to Gainesville and attend Santa Fe College and eventually their nursing program were put on hold," Hartley wrote. "My priority was now finding a place to live without my mother's support and learning how to be an adult without the guidance of a consistent parent. When my mother left, she also cut off any and all communication that she once had with me.

"After about a year, the time had finally come when I thought I was in a good place to start my college career, but as I was applying to receive financial aid, I quickly realized it was going to be much harder than I had anticipated (due to her mother's failure to provide needed information)."

Hartley began taking classes

anyway, paying all the costs herself, but she couldn't keep that up, so school was put on hold. She has since been working two jobs to support herself and save money for school.

"I began the practical-nursing program at North Florida Technical College in August of 2023," Hartley wrote. "Having the opportunity to kickstart my dream of becoming a nurse has been nothing short of a blessing. Attending college and clinicals has been amazing, and I continue to learn new things daily with a grateful heart.

"However, being in school still comes with a cost. I am in need of financial assistance in order to complete the nursing program because I am a low-income student providing for myself amidst the seemingly sudden increase in today's cost of living. "I believe I deserve this scholarship because I have set long-term goals for myself and my nursing career. Although I have faced a multitude of challenges, I have overcome them one by one."

Hartley closed her letter by writing, "With this scholarship, I would have the confidence needed to succeed, not only with the nursing program, but also within my nursing career."



## Macy Lauramore

Whenever Macy Lauramore was asked about her goals in life, her reply was always the same: "I want to be a nurse." In her scholarship application letter, she wrote, "Specifically, my heart's desire is to be a neonatal nurse working in the NICU. While working in the NICU, I plan to continue my education to obtain a master's degree and take the certification test to become a certified nursing midwife."

Lauramore must first take the "necessary steps," which means going through an LPN program and then earning an RN degree and a bachelor's degree. After that, she can "begin working to make a difference in little lives."

"I long to be a help to those in their times of great trial. 'NICU' is what every parent dreads to hear a lot of the time, and I want to be a little bit of light in the amount of time I have with these families," Lauramore wrote. "There are also many babies who don't have a full support family who need someone to care for them as, obviously, they cannot care for themselves.

"I believe a nurse can make or break a hospital experience when giving care. People just want caregivers to love their people. I fully believe I can offer love, care and support to a family in a tough situation. It may take me a while to get there, but my eyes are fixed, and my heart is eager."

In closing her letter, Lauramore wrote, "Thank you for sowing into the future of healthcare. The future for the field is brighter because of opportunities like this one."

# Obituaries

## Roger Barnett

Roger Barnett, 82, a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away suddenly on Friday, May 3, 2024. He was born June 22, 1941, to Cecil and Ora Barnett. He was born in Willard, Ohio but went on to spend much of his adult life traveling the United States as a minister, mechanic and business owner. He and his family settled in Union County around 1980. Roger enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, and spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his parents; his infant son, Roger Jr.; grandson, D.J.; great-granddaughter, Saylor Reese; seven brothers; and four sisters.

He will be missed by his two sisters, Jackie McKinney and Pearl Woodruff; brother, Ronnie Barnett; the mother of his children, Rosanna Barnett; seven children, Kim (Marvin) Prose, Regina (Marvin) Seay, Rodney (Kim) Barnett, Faith Barnett, Hope (Eddie) Seay, Charity (David) Clemons and Ezra Barnett; 13 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; one soon-to-be great-great-grandchild; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and family friends that he loved to talk to and spend time with. He was loved by many and will be missed by all.

A service to honor him was held Tuesday, May 7, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. The family received friends for a visitation before the service. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Elzey Chapel Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Dorothy Donley

Mrs. Dorothy "Dot" S. Donley, 80, of Speedville, transitioned on Sunday, April 28, 2024, following a brief illness.

Dot is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Lloyd; daughter, Gwen; grandchildren, Takenya, Adrien, and Ta'Kera; seven great-grandchildren; and a host of sorrowing family and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 11, at 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 163 W. Jefferson St., Starke. Burial will be at Speedville Cemetery.

Public visitation will be held Friday, May 10, at Pinkney-Smith Funeral Home Inc., 21400 SE Hawthorne Road, Hawthorne, from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. There will be a viewing at First Baptist Church on Saturday, May 11, beginning one hour prior to the service. For further information visit www.pinkney-smithfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Harvey Geiger

Harvey Leon Geiger, 74, of Jacksonville passed away Sunday, May 5, 2024, at Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was born in Macclenny on March 12, 1950, to the late Homer Lee Geiger and Mary Bell Dicanadio Geiger. He was raised in Starke and attended Bradford High School. Shortly after school, he pursued his career in welding. He moved to Miami to become certified, then to Tampa for a brief season, and finally settled in Georgia. He spent most of his life in Moultrie, Georgia, where he was a longtime member of the Christian Life Center. In October 2019, he made Jacksonville his home to be closer to family. Harvey was known for his love of welding, tinkering, and fishing. He was certainly a treasure and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Joyce Geiger; sisters, Wanda Rhoden and Sue Strickland; and brother-in-law, Raymond Rhoden.

He is survived by his sons, Harvey (Donna) Wilson of Moultrie, Georgia and Homer (Lori) Geiger of Wichita, Kansas; sister, Mary Lee (Terry) Carswell of Jacksonville; grandchildren, Jeffery (Kimberly) Wilson, Anthony Wilson, Karina Wilson, Marisela (Mynor) Ajpop, Alaxandar Wilson; great-grandchildren, Rhylee Wilson, Shaun Wilson, Jensen Scarborough, Jonavan Scarborough, Scarlett Bruce, Mia Ajpop, Elian Ajpop, and Kaylee Ajpop; along with several extended family members.

A graveside Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, May 8, at Dyal Cemetery, C.R. 229, Stake, with Pastor Billy Bray officiating.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Ferreira Funeral Services, 1320 Chaffee Road South, Jacksonville 32221, 904-378-7777. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

## Katrina James

Katrina "Kathy" Y. James, 65, of Starke, passed away on Friday, April 26, 2024, at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born in Lawtey and was a lifelong resident of Bradford County. She attended the local schools of Bradford County and was a member of True Vine Outreach Ministry.

She leaves precious memories to her sisters, Mildred Postell, Bette Reeves, Sharon Brown, Shirley Green and Janice Bennett; brothers, Leonard Heath, Raymond Heath and Wayne Finn; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and many sorrowing friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 11, at True Vine Outreach Ministry Church, 422 St. Claire St., Starke 32091. Interment will be at Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey, under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091. Visitation for friends will be held Friday, May 10, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Carl and Elaine D. Haile Memorial Chapel/Haile Funeral Home Inc.

PAID OBITUARY

## Grady Watson Jr.

Grady Eccelle Watson, Jr., 71, of Melrose died Monday, April 29, 2024, at his home.

Survivors are his wife, Karen (Faircloth) Watson of Melrose; children, Kimberly Keough, Ian Pate, Farah (Rick) Betsill; four grandchildren; three siblings; and extended family members.

Services were held Monday, May 6, at Pine Grove Baptist Church. He was laid to rest next to his parents in the church cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Waston Milton Funeral Home, Trenton. 352-463-8888. www.WastonMilton.com

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# Tigers to play for Region 3-1A title after 9-inning win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Landen Miller drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth to bring the winning run home in the Union County High School baseball team's 3-2 win over visiting Liberty County in a Region 3-1A semifinal game on May 7.

Miller was facing a full count when he fouled off a pitch. He then took the next pitch for a ball, which put the second seed Tigers (15-13) into the Region 3 championship game. Union will travel to play top seed Lafayette (22-2) on Saturday, May 11, at 7 p.m.

It's a rematch of last year's Region 3 final, which was won by Lafayette 12-3. The Hornets,

who defeated fourth seed Madison County in the other Region 3 semifinal game, are 3-0 against the Tigers this year, including a 2-1 win in the May 2 District 6 championship game.

Third seed Liberty (16-8) put multiple runners on in each of the first three innings, but all they managed off starting pitcher Erick Lasseter in those innings was one run.

The Bulldogs' Sy Shiver and Samuel Burns hit back-to-back singles with one out in the top of the first. Gavin Jenkins then hit a ground ball to third baseman Jake Walker for the start of an inning-ending double play.

Thomas Fletcher was hit by a pitch to lead off Liberty's half of the second. Cayson Evans ground into a fielder's choice

with one out, with Fletcher being put out at second. Gabriel Patton then hit a double, with Evans holding up at third. Union got out of the inning on a ground out to second baseman Riggs Davis.

Liberty's Rylan Roddenberry led off the top of the third with a single. Shiver then reached on an error. Lasseter struck out Burns, but Jenkins followed with a run-scoring double to put the Bulldogs up 1-0.

The Tigers' Ayden Androlevich led off the bottom of the third with a single and advanced to second on a passed ball. He was still standing on second with two outs, but scored when Trenton Klein hit a double, tying the game at 1-1.

Liberty's leadoff batter was hit by a pitch to start the fourth, but a strikeout and a double play ended the inning.

The Bulldogs again put their leadoff batter on in the fifth when Roddenberry singled. Roddenberry advanced to second when Union committed an error on a pickoff attempt. Bonsall then recorded three straight put outs in center field.

Androlevich led off the bottom of the fifth with a walk. He advanced to second on Davis' sacrifice bunt and to third on a single from Bonsall. Klein's sacrifice fly brought Androlevich home to put the Tigers ahead 2-1.

Liberty put its leadoff batter on in the top of the sixth, but the Tigers' third double play helped them get out of the inning.

Patton led off the top of the seventh with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Tanner McSpaddin. After Roddenberry walked, Shiver hit a line drive into center field to score Patton and tie the game at 2-2.

Union got a one-out walk from Bonsall in the bottom of the seventh. He moved to second on a balk and stole third before Thomassen drew a two-out walk. A ground out ended the threat.

Bonsall had Union's first hit in extra innings with a one-out single in the eighth, but he was picked off at first before Klein followed with a single of his own. A fly out ended the inning.



Trenton Klein (right) slides safely into third on a steal attempt. He drove in two of the Tigers' three runs.

Liberty put its leadoff runner on in the ninth when Jenkins reached on an error. Fletcher bunt into a fielder's choice, which resulted in Jenkins being put out at second. Trenton Hires drew a walk before the Tigers turned another double play, with Walker catching a line drive hit by Evans. Walker threw to Davis to double off the runner at second.

The Tigers' half of the ninth began with a strikeout, but a

Walker single and walks drawn by Lasseter and Diggs loaded the bases with one out for Miller.

Lasseter finished 3 for 3, while Klein was 2 for 3. Bonsall and Walker went 2 for 4 and 2 for 5, respectively.

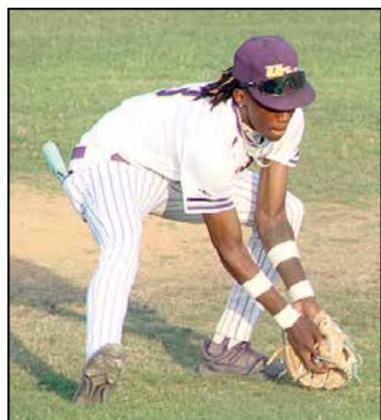
On the mound, Lasseter allowed two runs (one earned), eight hits and one walk in 6.1 innings. He struck out three.

Bonsall and Clayton Poppell combined to allow no hits in 1.2 innings.

Androlevich earned the win, giving up no hits in the final two innings.

If the Tigers defeat Lafayette for the Region 3 title, they'll advance to the state tournament at the Lee Health Sports Complex-Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers, playing a semifinal game on Wednesday, May 15, at either 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.

The state championship game will take place on Thursday, May 16, at 4 p.m.



TOP LEFT: Second baseman Riggs Davis throws to first after fielding a ground ball in the first inning. TOP RIGHT: Starting pitcher Erick Lasseter pitched 6.1 innings, giving up one earned run. LEFT: Shortstop Devin Diggs fields a ground ball in the second inning.



First baseman Ayden Androlevich awaits a throw from pitcher Erick Lasseter as a Liberty County runner dives back to the bag.

# UCHS loses District 6 championship game on wild pitch

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

It was a game worthy of the teams' rankings, but in the end, the second-seed Union County High School baseball team came up short, losing 2-1 to top seed Lafayette in the District 6-1A tournament championship game on May 2 in Hilliard.

Lafayette, which is second in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 1A power rankings, loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the seventh and scored the winning run on a wild pitch. The Hornets earned the automatic bid to the

Region 3 playoff and, as the top seed, defeated fourth seed Madison County 1-0 in the May 7 semifinals.

The Tigers, who are eighth in the 1A power rankings, received an at-large bid to the playoffs. As the number-two seed, Union defeated third seed Liberty County 3-2 in nine innings (see related story).

Lafayette had runners in scoring position in two of the first three innings of the District 6 final, but the game remained scoreless until the fourth.

With two outs in the bottom of the first, Garrett Taylor and

Richardson both singled, but a fly out to center fielder Preston Bonsall ended the inning.

The Hornets J.T. Cook walked with one out in the third. Brayden Richardson singled before Taylor ground into a fielder's choice, which resulted in Richardson being put out at second and Cook advancing to third. Just like in the first, a fly out to Bonsall ended the threat.

Kacen Thomassen drew a walk for the Tigers to lead off the top of the fourth. Foster Smith hit a double, followed by a line-drive single into center field by Jake Walker that scored Thomassen.

A fly out and a strikeout left runners stranded at the corners.

Union's lead was short-lived. Lafayette had two on with one out in the bottom of the fourth, with Noah Lamb and Pearson Bass both walking. The runners advanced on a wild pitch before a strikeout gave the Hornets their second out. Lamb scored on a wild pitch before a strikeout ended the inning.

The Hornets put two on with two outs in the fifth, with both runners reaching on walks, but the Tigers got out of the inning with a ground out.

Smith hit a one-out double for

Union in the sixth, but he was left stranded on a fly out and a ground out.

The Tigers put their lead runner on in the top of the seventh when Devin Diggs walked. After a strikeout, Diggs stole second. He remained there after a fly out and a ground out ended the inning.

Lafayette began the bottom of the seventh with a ground out to second baseman Walker, but the next three batters reached, with Cook hitting a double, Brayden Richardson walking and Taylor getting hit by a pitch. Cook scored on a wild pitch with Hyatt Richardson at bat to give the

Hornets the championship.

Hyatt Richardson pitched a complete game for the Hornets, who've now won their last five games against the Tigers. Richardson allowed four hits and two walks, while striking out seven.

Smith was the game's only batter with multiple hits, going 2 for 3.

Union starting pitcher Ayden Androlevich allowed one run and three hits through 3.1 innings. Diggs and Clayton Poppell combined to give up no hits in 2.2 innings, while Bonsall gave up one hit in one inning.

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# Indians fall to Celtics by 2 in District 4-3A championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School batters struck out 13 times against Trinity Catholic pitcher Mekai Griffin, who helped his own cause at the plate with a three-run homer as the host Celtics defeated the Indians 5-3 in the May 2 District 4-3A baseball tournament championship game.

The second seed Indians (20-8) never led, but trailed by just one run entering the sixth. Four of the final seven batters struck out.

Griffin threw a complete game for the top seed Celtics (12-11), allowing four hits and just one walk.

Trinity earned an automatic berth in the Region 1 playoffs, while Keystone received the final at-large bid in Region 1.



**Pitcher Austin Musgrove prepares to throw to first in an attempt to pick off a runner.**

Episcopal and seventh seed Trinity Catholic.

In the bottom of the first of the District 4 championship game, Trinity had two runners on with two outs, courtesy of two singles. Brian Rudman's single scored one run. Aidan Morey attempted to score from second on the play, but Connor Guy's throw from center field enabled catcher Tallon Campbell to put him out and end the inning.

Keystone's Andru Siemer hit a ground ball to third and reached on an error with one out in the top of the third. He scored on an Alex Addington single into right field, tying it up at 1-1. Addington was left stranded after a fly out and a strike out.

The Celtics put two on in the bottom of the third, with Nate Colon drawing a walk and Connor Tundis reaching on a bunt single. Morey bunted a ball toward pitcher Austin Musgrove, who threw to home to put out Matt Wetherell, who was running for Colon. Griffin then stepped to the plate and crushed the first pitch he saw over the scoreboard in left, putting Trinity up 4-1.



**Andru Siemer (right) slides safely into second after an error in the third inning. Siemer eventually scored, tying the game at 1-1.**

Trinity's lead was cut in half in the fourth. Campbell was hit by a pitch and stole second before advancing to third on an Aiden Screen single. A Brady Kerlin ground out scored Campbell. Screen was left stranded on second when a strikeout ended the inning.

Siemer led off the top of the fifth with a single and advanced two bases when the Celtics committed an error on a pickoff attempt. Guy, who was hit by a pitch, appeared to be caught

in a rundown between first and second, but with Siemer heading home from third, Trinity decided to try to get the out at home. Siemer was safe, while Guy advanced all the way to third. Two straight strikeouts left Guy stranded, but the Indians now trailed just 4-3.

Keystone, though, couldn't get anything going against Griffin. The sixth inning began with two straight strikeouts. Ty Mitzel was hit by a pitch, but Griffin followed that play with another

strikeout. Griffin led off the bottom of the sixth with a walk. He stole second and advanced to third on a Rudman ground out before scoring on a passed ball.

Down to their last chance, the Indians struck out to start the seventh. Two straight fly outs ended the game.

Musgrove pitched a complete game for Keystone, allowing eight hits and two walks, while striking out five.



**Catcher Tallon Campbell waits on a throw from center fielder Connor Guy, which resulted in an out at home to end the bottom of the first.**

The eighth seed Indians traveled to play top seed (and the top overall team in the entire state regardless of classification in the Florida High School Athletic Association power rankings) Pensacola Catholic (26-1) in a quarterfinal game on Wednesday, May 8. If the Indians won, they'll travel to play fourth seed Bishop Snyder (18-8) or fifth seed Providence (13-11) in a semifinal game on Saturday, May 11, at 7 p.m.

The championship game is Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. If Keystone advances that far, it will travel regardless of its opponent.

Region 1 also consists of second seed Trinity Christian, third seed Bolles, sixth seed

## KHHS softball team loses 12-7 in district finale

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The number-one seed Keystone Heights High School's softball team fell behind 9-1 in a 12-7 loss to second seed Palatka in the championship game of the District 3-3A tournament, which was played May 2 in Palatka.

Keystone (12-12) didn't earn the automatic bid that comes with winning a district championship, but did receive an at-large berth in the Region 1 playoffs. The Indians earned the region's seventh seed and played second seed Episcopal (23-3) in a quarterfinal game on May 8. If they won, they'll travel to play third seed West Nassau (16-8) or

sixth seed Suwannee (16-10) in a semifinal game on Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m.

The championship game is Friday, May 17. If Keystone advances that far, it'll travel unless its opponent is eighth seed Palatka.

Region 1 consists also of top seed Baldwin, fourth seed North Bay Haven and fifth seed Marianna. In the District 3 final, Palatka (12-15) took advantage of two walks, a single, a ground out and a wild pitch to take a 2-0 lead in the top of the first.

Ashley Nugent hit a two-out double for the Indians in the bottom of the first. She stole

second and scored when the Panthers committed an error on a ground ball hit by Kadence Massey.

The Panthers scored six runs in the second, which began with back-to-back home runs by Emily Brown and Emma Knighten. After Molly Allbritton walked and Hannah Faulkner doubled, Zophia Clark hit a two-run single. Haleigh Faulkner hit into a fielder's choice, which scored another run. Brown came up to bat again and hit a two-run double to put Palatka up 8-1.

Haleigh Faulkner hit an RBI double in the third to increase the Panthers' lead to 9-1.

Riley Shuford reached on an error to lead off the Indians' half of the third. Back-to-back one-out singles from Alaina Kinsall and Nugent loaded the bases. A Massey sacrifice fly scored Shuford.

The bottom of the fifth began with an Abbie Roach single, followed by a Kinsall walk. Two outs later, Amber Wagner walked to load the bases. Roach scored on a wild pitch before Nattalie

Gliniski walked, loading the bases again. Delia Johnson hit a double that plated two runs and made it a 9-5 game. The inning ended on a ground out.

Palatka increased its lead to six in the sixth. Abigail Huerta tripled, followed by a single from Brown. With two outs, Huerta scored when the Indians committed an error on a pickoff attempt. Brown scored on a Whitney Seebacher single.

Roach, who went 2 for 4, singled with one out in the bottom of the sixth. Nugent, who went 3 for 4, then drove a 2-2 pitch over the fence in left for a two-out, two-run homer, making the score 11-7.

Palatka's Hannah Faulkner was hit by a pitch to lead off the top of the seventh. She scored on an error, giving the Panthers their final run.

Keystone failed to put a runner on base in the bottom of the seventh, striking out once and hitting into two ground-ball outs.

Massey, who relieved starting pitcher Caitlin Frampton, struck out nine in the losing effort.



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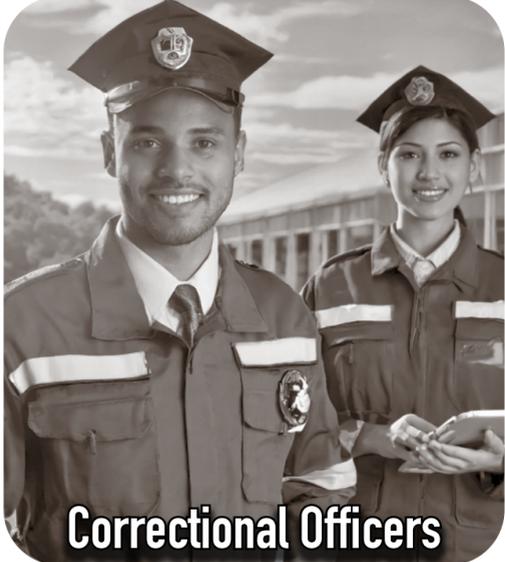



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## PUNKIN'

Continued from page 9

"You got to dabble in that large-agency operation without being at that large agency."

Johnson remembers three calls he responded to — a T-bone and rollover crash south of Waldo in which four were killed and three injured, a crash in front of the old Bobby's Hideaway in which two Florida National Guardsmen were killed and a plane crash into the Santa Fe River north of Alachua County Road 225 in which the pilot experienced spatial disorientation (he thought the plane was right side up when it was in fact upside down).

Those were "bad" calls, Johnson said, describing the T-bone and rollover crash as "horrific." However, such scenes have never affected him to where he was unable to do the job that needed to be done.

"Prior to me being in law enforcement, I had seen three or four bad accidents and helped in those accidents," Johnson said, adding that he believes God was preparing him then for a career as a police officer.

### Return to Starke

Johnson said he and Kiser had been talking about returning to their home communities. They were able to do that, with Kiser going to the Bradford County Sheriff's Office and Johnson returning to SPD.

"(Chief) Jimmy Epps gave me the opportunity to come back," Johnson said. "He had been after me for about a year."

It was certainly the right move, leading to a long career and being able to spend all of his time in his home community.

Johnson moved up through the ranks and attained the rank of major, but he never saw himself as ever being in the role of chief. Yet that's exactly where he found himself when Gordon Smith successfully ran for sheriff.

"He was more confident (in me) than I was," Johnson said, adding, "Gordon convinced me to be the chief. I wanted him to stay chief and me being the major until I retired. That's what I wanted. God had a different plan."

His appointment as chief followed a 5-0 vote by city commissioners. After that, Johnson ran unopposed in one election and had opponents in three others.

### Reflections

In looking back on his career in law enforcement, Johnson said he was blessed to have never fired his weapon.

"I can remember twice I pulled my pistol and probably had half the trigger pulled," he said. "Fortunately, it worked out to where I didn't have to pull the trigger."

That was in his role as real-life officer. He did pull the trigger, however, as an extra in the 1999 movie "Trash," which was also released under the names "Nobody's Children" and "No Fear." One of the scenes in the movie, which was filmed in downtown Starke, had two characters robbing a jewelry store. They ran out of the building, which was the old Tony and Al's location, and were chased by by Johnson and

two other SPD officers: Kevan Russell and Kaye Sargent.

"I shot him in the leg," Johnson said of the character played by Jeremy Sisto, who's been in such TV series as "Six Feet Under," "Law and Order" and (currently) "FBI."

Johnson was also an extra in two other movies that were filmed locally: "G.I. Jane" and "Tigerland."

Being an extra in just one movie was something he surely never imagined. Something else he never envisioned was a real-life event that had SPD arrest people who were involved in selling baby formula on the black market. The black-market ring operated out of Texas, with individuals traveling to various stores such as Target and Walmart to shoplift baby formula and ship it for sale in Mexico.

"My guys and I caught one of the groups at our Walmart," Johnson said. "Six of them in two vehicles."

The aftermath of the scene led to involvement of the FBI and Texas law-enforcement personnel.

"That was probably one of the craziest calls (SPD had)," Johnson said.

Johnson, of course, saw changes over the course of his career. One of the biggest was the reliance upon computers and computer-aided design systems.

In Johnson's opinion, technology had its good and bad sides. One of the good things was that it put officers out into the community more because their vehicles essentially became offices.

"If they're wanting to type up a police report, instead of them having to come into the station, they just did their report while sitting in somebody's yard or sitting at the gas station."

"Having visibility is real good."

Officers may have been out in the community more, but personal interaction decreased.

"Everybody relies on a phone or a computer instead of talking to someone (in person)," Johnson said. "If someone called (SPD) on the phone, I made sure my officers went and talked to them. Now, some people don't want you to come. They don't want the police car sitting out front

because then everybody asks questions, but if they wanted contact, you made contact."

"That's how you communicate. You don't communicate with a phone and a laptop."

Johnson is proud of the fact that he was able to help give SPD officers better salaries. He said officers were making \$11.50 an hour when Gordon Smith was the chief. When Smith was elected as sheriff and Johnson became chief, Johnson didn't have his salary bumped up to what Smith was making.

"I took just a 10-percent raise so I could add money to the starting salary and bump everybody else up. I didn't want to hire somebody at \$11.50 an hour."

Johnson said starting salaries increased to \$12.15 an hour. Over time, that rose to \$19 an hour. By the end, officers were making between \$38,000 and \$39,000 per year.

Of course, SPD still served as a "conveyor belt" in Johnson's words, but he said he understood someone "going just down the road to make \$15,000 more per year."

"I couldn't fuss at them for that," he said.

When officers did leave to work for another agency, they took a lot of skills with them. They worked an incident from the initial call to its final result, something Johnson said doesn't happen at larger agencies.

"I heard all the time that my police officers, when they left to either go to the sheriff's office here or to another sheriff's office of PD, came in with so much more experience," Johnson said, adding, "My guys did it all from start to finish."

### The future

Johnson admitted he has no idea what retirement holds for him. He knows that as of right now, he's got nothing planned by playing with his grandchildren this summer and working on some projects building cabinets and chests.

He'll continue to take hunting trips to Wyoming, where he has a place, but doubts he'll travel there more often.

"I don't think I'll do more hunting trips, but I think I'll

stay longer," he said. "Instead of going for two or three days, I might stay four or five days. Instead of going to Wyoming for a week, I might go for two weeks."

One thing he knows for sure is that he's not leaving Starke.

"I've been here all my life," Johnson said. "I've been at 618 Lafayette St. Now, I'm at 602. I just moved a little bit."

And if anyone in the community needs assistance, he's still willing to help in any way he can. It'll just be in ways different than from when he was chief of police.

His desire to be there for people surely stems from his childhood. He'll tell you he was brought up right, crediting his mother and grandparents.

People in Starke get that credit as well.

"The city of Starke has been good to me and my family. It takes a town to raise kids," Johnson said before then taking a playful dig at his two brothers. "I can't say for Chub or Chuck, but they did good with me."

Johnson said he can't even think of every person who had a positive impact on him throughout his life, but they all helped make him the man he is.

"I was blessed enough to have Godly people in my life,"



Jeff Johnson (right) is sworn in as police chief in December 2008 by then City of Starke Attorney Terry Brown.

Johnson said, adding, "You are who you hang around, and you become who you listen to."

His retirement may not have come about the way he wanted, but Johnson is ready to move forward and see what life has in

store. "Did I want to retire in the way it happened? Absolutely not," Johnson said, "but God's got a plan."



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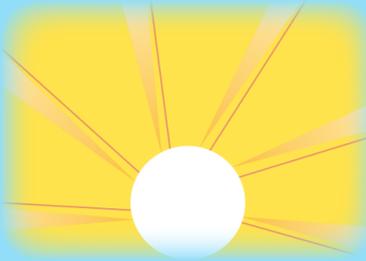
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