

Bradford County Telegraph

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147th year, 48th Issue — \$1

Bradford gets price tag for new school

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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The Bradford County School Board recently took several steps toward funding construction of the next school.

This is the grades 7-12 combination school that will replace the campuses of Bradford Middle School and North Florida Technical College.

Greg Kelly with CRA Architects told board members that the all-in price for the junior-senior high school is nearly \$131.7 million.

"It is a big project, so we're proud of it. It's something that will be very nice for the community," he said.

Superintendent Will Hartley will speak about the project in Tallahassee later this month as it receives a priority ranking along with a new high school for Hardee County and a new K-12 school for Lafayette County.

School board members approved a resolution formally requesting construction funds from the state and certified completion of the Phase 1 construction plans.

Those plans do not depict the school in its final form, according to Hartley. Phase 1 simply shows the Department of Education that there is indeed enough land to accommodate the new school.

The capacity is 1,463 students and



The junior-senior high school designed by CRA for Crescent City. Image from the Putnam County School District.

is based on a school designed by CRA for Crescent City. The separate classroom buildings for the junior and senior high schools are preliminarily arranged in a L shape with the administrative building separating

them at the vertex. The cafeteria is at the end of one building and the gymnasium at the end of the other. The buildings are two stories, and the library/media center currently sits on top of the administrative building.

Students won't be completely isolated by grade as they will share some classes like algebra. While some of the business-oriented career-technical classes will take place in the high school wing, there is also a separate building for courses in agriculture, manufacturing, etc. The nursing program will continue in the soon-to-be renovated health science building at the corner of Orange and Weldon streets.

The school district is also swapping land with the city of Starke. The city purchasing and public works facility will become the new bus barn while the city moves its operations to the old Southside Elementary School campus.

The Crescent City school project, which broke ground in May of last year, is due to be complete in August with more than 1,300 student stations and a price tag of just under \$85 million.

Union County School District is ranked number one on the current list of school construction projects for its new elementary school, which includes moving fifth grade from the middle school. Whether that project remains on track depends on the outcome of Florida's budget negotiations, which is more than a month past the completion deadline.



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WORTH NOTING

Cowboys signing up players

Bradford County Cowboys are preparing for their fall football/cheer season. Conditioning is ongoing, with practice set to start July 1 at 801 Thomas St. in Starke. The signup fee is \$150, and the scheduled is every Monday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Contact Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association on Facebook with any questions.

Juneteenth and VBS at True Vine

True Vine Ministry will be hosting a special Juneteenth celebration on Thursday, June 19, from 6-8 p.m. There will be a special rendition, audio presentations, breakout sessions, refreshments and so much more.

True Vine will also be hosting a special one-night Vacation Bible School on Friday, June 20, from 6-p.m. Once again, there will be breakout sessions, games, fun and refreshments for all ages.

The church is located at 422 N. Saint Clair Street in Starke. For more information, feel free to call 904-964-9264 or view the website www.truevinemin.org. The public is invited to attend and there is no cost or registration required.

Juneteenth Celebration 2025

The Dreamers and Doers of Bradford County will present the third annual Juneteenth Pageant and Gala on Saturday, June 21. The theme for this year's Juneteenth celebration recognizes that we are reclaiming the past, remembering Black voices, and reshaping the future. This is an opportunity for parents and children to be part of Bradford County history.

The pageant welcomes girls in the Little Miss category, 4-8 years of age, tweens in the Junior Miss category, 9-14 years of age, and teens in the Miss category, 15-19 years old. Young men can compete in the Mister category, 15-19 years of age. In addition to the traditional formal attire competition, they will demonstrate skills such as public speaking, singing, cheerleading and original writing. Scholarships will be awarded to the winners.

The Juneteenth Pageant and Gala will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 at the National Guard Armory in Starke. The suggested donation is \$10 for children and \$20 for adults. Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to participate as a sponsor or enroll your child in this year's event, please contact Dreamers and Doers at 904-612-3942 immediately, or write JuneteenthCelebration23@gmail.com.

Races taking shape in Starke election

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Qualifying for Starke's August election is taking place this week, with candidates running for one of two city commission seats as well as the office of city clerk.

A referendum seeking to remove the clerk as an elected official from the charter failed in April, making way for the two candidates who have thrown their hat in the ring so far.

The first is Lisa Heeder, a fixture in the clerk's office since Ricky Thompson held the position. She continued to work as deputy clerk for Jimmy Crosby and fulfills those duties now in the absence of a full-time clerk.

Running against her is Chrissy Thompson. Owner of The Downtown Grill and other businesses over the years, she is known for her work on behalf of the Downtown Merchants and many other organizations, and



she once held a seat on the city commission. She is now married to the former clerk Ricky Thompson.

Commissioner Janice Mortimer has filed to run again in District 2 and has no challenger at this time. In District 4, however, Commissioner Scott Roberts has two.

The first is Dimple Overstreet. Overstreet was a downtown business owner for many years but has equally been celebrated for her work on behalf

of the Bradford County Education Foundation, Communities for Schools, Altrusa and her church.

Fred Flaherty, the second candidate, retired from the U.S. Navy after nearly 30 years with experience in managing facilities and operations. He owns a lawncare business, SunCat, named after his daughters. His wife, Heather, owns Magnolia Engraved Gifts.

Roberts is in his fourth year on the commission. He owns and

operates Roberts Insurance. His community work includes the chamber of commerce, The Arc of Bradford, Communities for Schools the Keystone Airport Authority and Masonic Lodge No. 35.

Qualification continues through Friday at noon. Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang is conducting the election, which will take place on Aug. 19 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early voting will take place Monday, Aug. 11, to Friday, Aug. 15, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Individuals interested in becoming a candidate should contact the elections office for qualifying information and requirements. For more details, please call 904-966-6266. For information on voter registration or to request a vote-by-mail ballot, call the office or visit www.votebradfordfl.gov.

Starke's new wastewater plant goes to work

A new \$25 million wastewater treatment plant began operations in Starke last month and is now at work increasing the level of service to existing customers, protecting human health and the environment and preparing the city for future economic development opportunity.

The city of Starke partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development to finance and fund the project.

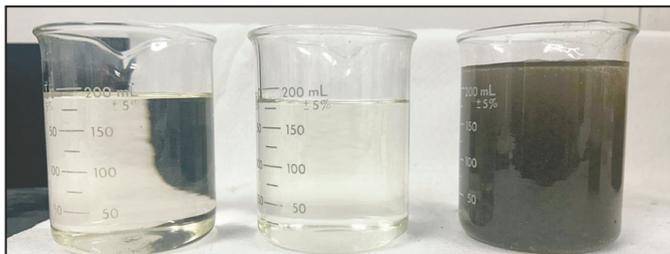
Located near the National Guard Armory on Edwards Road, the new plant replaces an aged wastewater treatment facility that originally was built in the 1960s and was last upgraded in the 1990s. The existing facility struggled in recent years with effluent quality and the city was under order by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to invest in the facility and bring it up to current treatment standards.

The new plant features the latest technology in wastewater treatment that makes it far more efficient at removing total solids, nitrogen and phosphorus from the wastewater before treated effluent is discharged.

Chris Russell, project manager for Woodard and Curran, which operates the city of Starke's wastewater treatment facilities, said the new technology goes by the name of "Bardenpho Oxidation Ditch," which combines both aerobic, anoxic and



Starke's new \$25 million wastewater plant began operations in mid-May 2025. Photos provided by Woodard and Curran.



Starke's new wastewater plant is far more efficient at removing nutrients. On the right, the beaker contains raw wastewater (before treatment). The beaker in the middle contains treated effluent. The beaker on the left contains a background water sample from Alligator Creek.

anaerobic zones within the same tank. The term "aerobic" refers to the presence of oxygen; "anaerobic" means "without oxygen."

"In the old facility, we had two stages of treatment in one tank. With the new plant, we have five stages of treatment in the same tank," Russell said. "At this point, we have been up and running for only a few days, but we are already seeing tremendous improvements in the quality of the effluent that is discharged from the facility."

Starke's treated wastewater is permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to be discharged into a seasonal sprayfield and the natural waterbody of Alligator Creek. Russell said the discharge to a natural water body "raises the bar" in terms of ensuring that nutrient levels are reduced to the level allowed by new technology.

Since Starke's partnership with Woodard and Curran was launched in May 2023 to operate the city's wastewater treatment facilities, the company has implemented a program of predictive and preventive maintenance. This will help extend the life of the new plant and avoid major malfunctions in the future.

See PLANT, page 3



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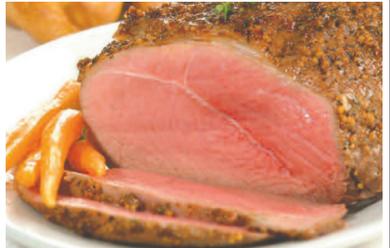
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Recreation board shares vision for Lawtey project

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

Lawtey Recreation Board Chairman Isaac Williams reported a very successful meeting of the recreation board during which board members and the public shared ideas for the Middleburg Road redevelopment project.

Williams had a packet on hand showing city council members possibilities for the future of Lawtey and the north end of Bradford County.

“We aren’t just looking at it as a building but as a rural redevelopment project,” he said.

Members envisioned fully operational building with proper lighting, wi-fi, outdoor pavilions, a modern playground, walking trails and proper security. Those were needs, but they also dreamed big with a wish list that included a community pool, regulation size basketball court and auxiliary building for business use.

Williams said the group agreed that the best path forward was to tear down the existing structure and have a recreational engineer develop a site plan that integrates features, layout and long-term maintenance needs.

“This needs to be seen as a renovation of our city,” he said, emphasizing the need for the council to enforce the cleanup of the surrounding properties that are either abandoned or rundown. He said there’s no point in having a \$1 million complex while not cleaning up the surrounding areas.

He said the recreation board members want to recognize those who sacrificed in the



Lawtey citizens and local leaders cautiously entered and assessed the recreation building last year.

past to make the old property viable for the community, but moving forward the city and the surrounding community should plan for a space that will provide opportunities for economic development.

Williams did clarify that the citizens said they do not want one block torn down until the council agrees to and put a real plan in place.

Williams said he plans to have three bids from engineers by the next city council meeting. He said he looks forward to creating a public-private partnerships in which businesses can invest in a location that could house daycare, college classes and

recreation facilities. The future property could create rental revenue for the city.

“If we don’t dream now, it will never come to fruition,” he said.

The council voted unanimously to accept the presentation.

In other news:

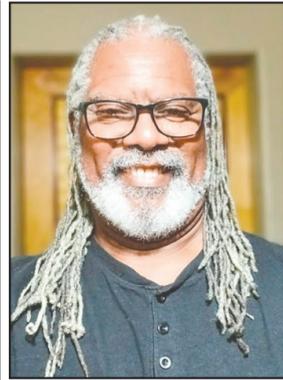
—late fees on water bills are being waived due to the issue of lost mail. The Lawtey Post Office has a shortage of workers and now sends all mail, even local, to be sorted in Jacksonville. The process has caused the delay or loss of mail. Many city residents didn’t receive their bills last month.

—Maj. Nathan Blom sat in

for Chief Feltner, requesting a firearms update. The cost to replace all officers’ sidearms will be \$10,786 and will be paid for out of public safety funds. Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

—Florida Department of Transportation will resurface U.S. 301 in March 2026. Concerns over proposed detours and dangerous impacts on local infrastructure were addressed. Attorney Dan Sikes will meet with FDOT and the police department to discuss the plans.

—Lawtey Recreation Board will meet June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at city hall. Lawtey City Council will meet July 7 at 7 p.m.



Phillip Miner



Lucia Sanchez

Equality for All Roundtable Saturday

June is many things to many people. Father’s Day is in June, and so is Juneteenth, our newest federal holiday. June is Pride Month, marking the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising.

In recognition of Pride Month, and the fact that so many marginalized people are worried for their safety, there will be an Equality for All Roundtable on June 14. If you are concerned for your safety as a woman, an immigrant, a person of color, an LGBTQ+ person, or a person with a disability, come share your experiences and search for solutions. Local and area leaders will be there, including Phillip Miner and Lucia Sanchez.

Phillip Miner will be joining us from Jacksonville. In 2011, he was recruited out of retirement to direct the Multicultural Center

for Academic Excellence and the GLBTA Programs Office at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He is the current Co-Chair of the DEI committee for the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida.

Lucia Sanchez comes to us from south Putnam County where she is the director of the Florida Migrant Interstate Program and has 25 years of experience implementing migrant education.

A free, welcoming event, the Equality for All Roundtable will be held on Saturday, June 14, at 2:30 p.m. in the community room of Faith Presbyterian Church, 2738 SE State Road 21, Melrose. This is midway between Melrose and Keystone Heights. For further information, call 386-972-4324.

Leaders anxious over future of property taxes in Florida

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The state’s new fiscal year begins July 1, and while Florida legislators have yet to pass a budget, it’s what they could do to local government budgets that has leaders worried.

Bradford County Manager Scott Kornegay said while they have tried to ignore it, it’s time for the county to talk about a proposal in Tallahassee to eliminate property taxes.

“No one has a crystal ball. We don’t know which way this thing is going to go. Just talking to Senator Bradley about it a little bit earlier, he and I agree that it’s there’s probably going to be a lot of wailing and gnashing of teeth

between now and whenever this thing is resolved,” Kornegay told county commissioners.

Gov. Ron DeSantis and House Speaker Daniel Perez have indicated that a measure to eliminate property taxes could be placed on the November 2026 ballot. It would require 60% voter approval. While DeSantis’ believes property taxes are the equivalent of paying government rent to live in your own home and that high property values are generating excess revenue, local governments are left to convince their citizens that paying taxes is for their benefit.

In addition to providing financial relief to homeowners, those who support eliminating

property taxes believe it will boost Florida’s economy and make it more attractive to live and do business here. If so, that would be important to replacing the lost local revenue.

To offset the loss of revenue from property taxes — which law enforcement, fire and rescue services, education, and other important services — some have suggested a significant increase in the state sales tax. While the exact increase has not been finalized, estimates suggest it could rise to 10% or higher.

Sales tax critics claim taxing consumption is more regressive than taxing property and disproportionately impacts low- and middle-income households

by driving up the cost of everyday goods.

The need for a ballot initiative means that no change will take place quickly, and it could be years before the full impact on local government is realized, according to Kornegay.

Former Sen. Rob Bradley as county attorney steered the commission away from panic, believing any change would be made with fiscally constrained counties in mind.

“It’s a mistake to try to predict what’s going to happen, and tensions are high for other reasons in Tallahassee between the various parties, but I do believe that when it comes to fiscally constrained counties that

there’s an understanding and recognition that that’s a particular group of local governments that rely on that revenue stream,” he said.

“I just thought it was important to have a brief discussion about this publicly, because I think all of us were hoping in the beginning that it was posturing, politics, and that it would just

go away,” Kornegay said. “But it has not gone away, and there’s no way to predict which way it’s going to go.”

The loss of property tax revenue would leave a nearly \$14 million hole in the county’s budget.

Lawtey food giveaway

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Saturday, June 14, from 9–11 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey. Distributions will continue each Saturday through Aug. 9.

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.

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share’s upcoming food distributions will take place on Thursday, June 19, and Thursday,

July 3, from 10 a.m. to noon. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. (Distribution could start early depending on delivery.)

Father’s Day at Magnolia Missionary

The Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Raiford will

hold its annual Father’s Day worship service on Sunday, June 15, at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PLANT

Continued from page 1

“Like many small cities which operate on tight budgets, the city of Starke used to be in ‘reactive mode,’ which means they fixed things when they were broken,” Russell said. “But when you are working with a complex system like a wastewater plant — with so many moving parts — a plan for predictive and preventative maintenance helps you avoid trouble before it even begins. And fortunately, predictive and preventative maintenance is part of the Woodard and Curran culture.”

“We are excited to finally have a new, more efficient plant that meets our current and future needs and allows us to be in full compliance with FDEP,” Drew Mullins, general manager for Starke utilities, said. “This project is many years in the making and we appreciate USDA-RD, Woodard and Curran, and our contractor Weiss Construction for making this a reality.”

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Sky-D's Place set to launch in Lawtey

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

There will soon be more than speed limits to slow travelers down as they drive through Lawtey. Sky-D's Place is set to open on June 17, and Skylar Davis is excited to launch his second restaurant serving up his spin on homemade classics like fried chicken, a secret recipe meatloaf, that Davis says is "the best you've ever tasted," and his homemade spaghetti sauce that he likes to call "country boy meat sauce."

The new restaurant will serve the same burgers and wings that have made his Clay County restaurant Dalton's Sports Grill popular, but the main fare will be country cooking. Davis loves fresh ingredients and made-from-scratch recipes that will be on the menu at the new Lawtey restaurant.

Davis said his philosophy "There are no strangers here, just friends you haven't met yet," guides his overall approach to business and life. So much so that he painted it on the wall. The location, which previously housed Barnyard Diner and Slice-n-Dice BBQ, has undergone several upgrades,

the most visible one being the large, covered patio area that, in addition to inside seating, will help welcome up to 90 hungry new friends at Sky-D's.

Family connections & small-town charm

Davis said he'd been wanting to open a second restaurant, and when his food service provider told him about the Lawtey space, he was instantly interested because the location was great, and his wife, Emily, has local connections. Emily grew up in Lawtey near the Tatums' sawmill, attended Northside Christian Academy, but moved to Middleburg after high school. The couple met when she began working at Dalton's Sports Grill.

So, the city has family roots, but Davis said it was a phone call to Lawtey City Hall that had him hooked. He said he couldn't believe that when he called city hall for information on the utilities an actual person answered the phone with just the words "city hall."

"I knew right then I was where I wanted to be — a small town,"

he said.

Davis said the irony is, it's exactly a 23-minute drive from his front door to either of his restaurants. He took that and the small-town support system as a good sign to move forward with the expansion.

Challenges, goals and a mouthwatering menu

Davis has been in the restaurant business since January 2017 and said it's not for the faint of heart. He's faced flooding from Hurricane Irma, COVID shutdowns and a relocation. He said the restaurant business is not for the weak.

"You just have to take a punch on the chin and just keep moving," he said.

His goals are to provide delicious food served up with remarkable tableside service. Davis and his team take pride in making personal connections. He said he wants his servers to make eye contact. Although he's young, at 35 he prefers the old-school touch, with just pen and paper because that creates a human connection with customers.

That special touch is evident when talking about the restaurant's country cooking recipes. Davis' eyes light up when he talks about the fresh ingredients he uses. Everything



Skylar Davis is opening his second restaurant this month in Lawtey.

must be made to order. The squash or green tomatoes aren't cut, battered or fried until the customer decided what they want. With the exception of corn nuggets, the restaurant will not serve any frozen, premade items. Everything else will be from scratch, and as Davis said, "made with love."

The new restaurant menu

will include daily specials: Taco Tuesday, 75 cent Wing-Night Wednesday, Homemade Spaghetti Thursday, Shepherd's Pie Friday, Bone-in Fried Chicken Saturday, and Sunday will spotlight his secret recipe meatloaf. Davis said he was also excited to have the only restaurant in Bradford offering fried venison on the menu.

Skylar and Emily Davis, along with their Sky-D's crew are eagerly anticipating reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, and creating a new stopping place where all who enter will be served up small-town charm, unbelievable flavor, and a large side of love.

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Annexation required for utilities under new ordinance

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

In a move that could reshape how city utility services are extended to surrounding areas, the Starke City Commission approved the first reading of an

ordinance requiring annexation in exchange for city utilities.

Under the ordinance, utility services — including electric, potable water, wastewater, and natural gas — would be extended to properties beyond city boundaries if owners agree to annexation. The policy aims to expand Starke's footprint while ensuring that those who benefit from its utilities also contribute to the city tax base and comply with its development regulations.

—Per the ordinance,

annexation must be completed before utility connection.

—Noncontiguous properties may still connect to utilities at outside-city rate schedules, though they could bear the construction costs.

—Properties ineligible for annexation at the time of service may sign agreements to annex once they become eligible.

Franchise fee agreements with Florida Power & Light and Clay Electric limit the expansion of Starke's electric utility outside of

the city limits, however, demand for water and sewer service from new residential and commercial developments could continue to grow.

The city planning department will review all annexation requests, which will then undergo two public hearings before final approval.

The final vote on the ordinance will take place following a second public reading at a future commission meeting.



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PS159472-3/18/25

Revive Awareness Day

The Florida Department of Health in Bradford and Union counties observed Revive Awareness Day on Friday, June 6, 2025, and reminds residents that naloxone (Narcan) is a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Floridians can find naloxone for their community by calling DOH-Bradford at 904-964-7732 and DOH-Union at 386-496-3211.

DOH-Bradford offers naloxone (Narcan) at the following location:
DOH Bradford
1801 N Temple Ave.
Starke, FL 32091

DOH-Union offers naloxone (Narcan) at the following

location:
DOH Union
495 W Main St.
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Signs of an overdose

All Floridians need to know the signs of an overdose, which include:

- small, constricted "pinpoint pupils."
- falling asleep or losing consciousness.
- slow, weak or not breathing.
- choking or gurgling sounds.
- cold or clammy skin.
- discolored skin, especially lips and nails.
- limp body.

What to do if you think someone is overdosing

If you suspect someone has overdosed, call 911 immediately.

Administer naloxone (Narcan) if available, lay the person on their side to prevent choking, and try to keep them awake and breathing until emergency assistance arrives.

If you or a loved one need help

The Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network is the first of its kind in the U.S. and aims to eliminate the stigma of addiction and treat substance use disorder as a disease, with the same level of continuous care. Floridians battling with addiction can utilize the CORE Network (www.floridacorenetwork.com) for stabilization and to receive medication assisted treatment from a network of specialized medical experts that will help guide them on a sustained pathway to healthy success.

NFLT thanks governor, cabinet for land conservation efforts

North Florida Land Trust is celebrating a huge win for conservation as Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Cabinet approved the strategic acquisition of more than 78,000 acres of conservation lands, including over 76,000 within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor.

The O2O is 1.6 million acres of public and privately owned forested land that stretches 100 miles from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest.

The biggest conservation project encompasses a more than 61,000-acre conversation easement that is a working forest in Baker and Union counties in the core of the O2O. It stretches from the Raiford Wildlife Management Area to the Osceola National Forest.

Protecting the land secures a contiguous landscape for a wide range of species, including the Florida black bear, and helps safeguard significant aquifer recharge, wetland habitats and rural forestry economies. The second largest conservation easement is over 14,000 acres in Baker and Bradford counties, also within the O2O that connects to Jennings State Forest and Camp Blanding Military Training Center.

"This is a truly historic pair of acquisitions, not only in size but they are the key pieces in the O2O Wildlife Corridor," said Allison DeFoor, NFLT president and CEO. "This will both protect the environment and keep the land in agriculture."

Through the years, NFLT leaders have met with legislators to advocate funding for

conservation in Florida and in 2023, the legislature allocated \$400 million dedicated to conservation.

DeFoor added, "This could not have been possible without former Florida House Speaker Paul Renner and former Florida Senator Rob Bradley. When we met with Paul during his tenure to express the importance of this specific project in the O2O corridor and its importance to North Florida, he took the lead in securing \$400 million in funding for the O2O wildlife corridor and defending it. Rob has also been a long-time supporter of conservation in Florida and was quietly pivotal in this success."

With today's move by the governor and Cabinet, the land protected in North Florida has now reached more than 100,000 acres.

Animal Tales told at the library

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

The Bradford County Library has kicked off its summer program and it's already been a showstopper with one of the highlights being the Animal Tales show last Thursday.

Lead naturalist Nick Petryk captured the children's attention with various animals ranging

from the scary, hairy tarantula to the funny, baby lemur. Those in attendance were educated and entertained and even had the chance to pet a few of the animal friends.

The Animal Tales program is available to come to you, just contact them at www.AnimalEdZOOcation.com.

The library will continue many

exciting programs throughout the summer and encourages everyone to stop by and pick up a calendar or check out their programs listed on the website www.newriverlibrary.org/bradford or their Facebook page. Upcoming events will include reading to shelter animals, a magic show, Santa Fe Teaching Zoo and zombie makeup.



What is any animal show without a chance to line up and touch a snake? These kids didn't want to miss their chance to walk away with their own animal tales after attending this summer program.



Are you brave enough to pet a blue tongued skink? This guy is! The library's summer programs not only educate, but also help children have small adventures. Check out this summer's events at www.newriverlibrary.org/bradford.



This creature wowed the crowd at the Animal Tales show on Thursday. The great horned owl showed off, but don't worry, his handler, Nick Petryk had him under wraps. The crowd learned that the grip strength of this guy was 600 pounds per square inch!

Collection site closings

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Thursday, June 19, for Juneteenth. They will reopen Friday, June 20, at 10 a.m.

John Missionary Baptist Church in Providence will speak at the morning service, and the Rev. Alvin Greene and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Lake City will lead the afternoon service. Dinner will be served.

Kids will learn about Jesus by discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things. Each evening will begin with a meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by Vacation Bible School from 6-8. For more information, please call 904-796-2359.

Pastor's anniversary at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries invites the public to celebrate the ninth anniversary of Pastor Jeffrey T. and Sister Daffany Jones on Sunday, June 22, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Minister Dwayne Bailey of St.

Magnified VBS at New River Baptist

Join New River Baptist Church, located at 16703 SW 144th Ave. near Brooker, for Vacation Bible School beginning Sunday June 22, and continuing through Thursday, June 26. "Magnified" Vacation Bible School will be for kids 3 years old through fifth grade.

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.

How to report a problem with a Clay Electric outdoor light

If you are aware of an inoperative or malfunctioning outdoor light on Clay Electric Cooperative's lines, call **1-800-224-4917** to report the problem; login to MyClayElectric, click Submit an Inquiry, then Other Issues/General Inquiry, then Outdoor Light Problem; or email contactus@clayelectric.com to report the problem.

When reporting the problem, you will need to provide the following information so the co-op can make the appropriate repair, and contact you should there be any questions:

- (1) Specific street address where the outdoor light is located
- (2) A description of where the outdoor light is located on the property
- (3) A description of the nature of the malfunction or failure of illumination of the outdoor light
- (4) Sufficient contact information, including your name, address, telephone number, and account number (if a Clay Electric Cooperative member)



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Sounding off on coach's firing

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Citizens lined up at the June 10 Union County School Board meeting to express their opinions on the firing of Union County High School football coach Andrew Thomas.

Mike Jackson started off the lineup by emphasizing that the most important consideration was the student-athlete.

He then complained about the lack of quality equipment for the program and warned about the risk of injury. He also criticized coaches using profanity under Thomas's watch and said his son quit the team, and the squad dwindled to under 20 players after the spring game.

Steve Hoard, who has coached in Union County for years, asked audience members to refrain from attacking one another. He also rebuffed claims about the program he had seen on social media.

"Being in that locker room and being around for over five years, a lot of things that I've read on social media or heard people say, I never saw, never heard," he said. "Now that didn't mean that I heard or saw every single thing that happened."

Hoard added that Thomas and his family invested in Union County and loved the school system.

"Does that mean they're perfect?" he continued. "No, myself, none of us are perfect."

Agriculture teacher Tom Williams said he had worked with Superintendent Mike



Ripplinger for decades and Mr. Ripplinger's character,"

Steve Hoard

trusted his judgment.

"I've had the opportunity to work with our superintendent of schools for 25 years and in that time I've seen him in the good times and the difficult times," Williams said, adding that he has seen Ripplinger give money to students and pray for them.

"I've witnessed a man that had the fortitude and the resilience to make difficult decisions and difficult times and difficult environments that we live in today," he said.

Lem Lane told Ripplinger that he disagreed with the decision to fire Thomas and said the reasons the superintendent gave for the dismissal were vague. Lane then refuted some of the reasons he had heard Thomas had been let go, including team culture, a shrinking roster, and the use of profanity.

Aaron Dukes criticized the timing of the termination.

Nobody's calling into question

less than half the time required by horse and wagon. The boat had the advantage that it could carry more than several wagons.

Spraying arsenic to kill hyacinths

No one knows for sure how they got here, but water hyacinths were giving the boaters trouble even back then. They clogged the canal and rapidly closed on Lake Alto when the brothers decided they had better do something before their boat could not move. Hearing that arsenic would kill the weed, they decided to spray it on all the hyacinths and rid the area of the pest.

"Everyone wants to know how come I'm still living," El said when interviewed in 1989. "Where we cooked that arsenic up on the banks of the canal, it killed every pine tree."

They rigged up a sprayer on a 55-gallon drum, and using a mix of six pounds of arsenic to 12 pounds of sal soda, they "sprayed hyacinths on one side of the boat and drank water from the other."

One of the brothers would pole the boat around while the other would pump the sprayer and put out eight barrels daily. It was backbreaking work, and the arsenic solution would frequently blow back in their faces, but it didn't seem to do them any harm.

After spraying, the hyacinths would turn black, die, and sink to the bottom of the lake, and within a few weeks, the boats could again navigate through the waterway.

"In those days, we didn't know

he said. "I do call into question his decision. I think it was a bad decision. I think it was the decision that sabotaged our 2025 football season. And I'm standing up here today not to criticize Mr. Ripplinger personally because as Mr. Williams said, he has made a difficult decision, but sometimes difficult decisions can be made in error and sometimes a good man can make a bad decision."

Scott McDaniel praised Thomas for the improvement in players' behavior and the coach's personal contributions to their wellbeing.

McDaniel also accused Ripplinger of treating the coach unfairly, acting on parents' complaints without giving the coach a chance to respond.

"I would hope that when someone complains about a principal, you don't just rain down on their head, but that you speak to them," he said.

how bad that stuff was," El said. "These days, we wouldn't even think of doing something like that!"

The trials of hauling freight on the canal

Business was sporadic. During orange picking season, good money could be made hauling oranges to the rail head in Waldo for shipment to northern markets. The boat averaged two trips a day with more than 200 fruit boxes on board, making more than \$100 a day.

During the summer, business was often slack, and the boat usually averaged only about two weekly trips hauling farm produce and passengers. Sometimes, during the summer, the water level would drop so low that the boats had trouble clearing the sand bars. When this happened, El and his brother unloaded the boat and carried the freight across the sandbars by hand.

Later, his brother left the business, and El became the boat captain. He said that in those days, good deckhands were paid \$1.50 a day in wages, and they really earned their pay.

Telling of their problems, he said, "One night, we were coming through the canal about 10 or 11 at night, and where the bridge was over the canal, it was pretty shallow, and somebody had thrown a fish trap there. When the boat went over it, the propeller picked it up and wired it up. There wasn't anything you could do except build a fire on the bank, take off your clothes, crawl under the boat, disconnect everything, pull it out, take an ax, and cut all that trap off."

Better roads sideline City of Melrose

In the early 1920s, the road system began to improve, and trucks started becoming a more dependable and faster means of transportation. The freight business shifted to trucks, and by 1924, the old City of Melrose was unable to make enough to earn her keep, and the line was discontinued.

Once her work had been completed, the City of Melrose was moored just outside Melrose Bay. Nobody seems to know how it happened, but she eventually sank and now rests in the mud below the water's surface.

El worked in a grocery store in Keystone Heights for a couple of years and picked up some fundamentals that helped him in later years when he had his own store.

Keystone Inn was social hub until 1954 fire

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Monitor

The old Keystone Inn is no more, and few, if any, residents of the area will mourn the passing of what it became over the years, but many still regret the loss of what once was and could have been again if only the building had been reached in time and restored.

Built in the early 1920s by Keystone Heights founder John J. Lawrence, the Inn was initially intended as a resort residence that would provide prospective land buyers a place to stay while considering their purchases.

Lawrence's brother, Jess, supervised the construction, and his nephew, Stewart Stevens, served as construction superintendent. Men from several local families worked on the construction crew, including members of the Sargent, Stanley, and Baker families. Don Pangborn cut the wood for the windowsills by hand. Ed Wiggins, owner of a Green Cove Springs hardware store, contracted to furnish the plumbing and wiring. The building was originally planned as a two-story structure, but it was decided to add a third floor at the last minute.

The total cost of construction, when completed in 1923, was \$50,000.

Grand opening

At the time, the Inn was reported to be modern in every way, with large rooms, connected baths, hot and cold running water, electricity, and telephones. While architecturally austere and utilitarian in a strict New England style, the interior was still notable for its staircase and large fireplace.

The Inn held its grand opening on New Year's Day of 1924 but held a special New Year's Eve banquet the night before for local dignitaries.

About 150 people attended.

The following day, the first of many New Year's Day open house dinners was held at the Inn, a tradition that continued until the facility could no longer accommodate all of the members of the growing Keystone Heights community.

Visitors included governor, U.F. football team

For many years, the Inn served as

the hub of the social community in Keystone Heights. The men set up a board of trade in the dining room after dinner, with the women retiring to the lobby and eventually organizing a woman's club, with the Inn serving as the headquarters of the convention of the National Federation of Woman's Clubs during the late 1920s, hosting representatives from clubs in every state.

The Keystone Heights Rotary Club also held meetings at the Inn for many years. At that time, the owners of the Inn were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walrath.

Over the years, many celebrities came to stay at the Inn, including Florida Governor John W. Martin and State Attorney General J.B. Johnson.

Students from the University of Florida used the Inn for many social events, and the football team would stay there on the eve of their homecoming game. The players faced a 9 p.m. bed check to ensure their readiness for the next day's matchup.

By the 1950s, the Inn's heyday was over, with fewer guests each year.

Eventually, the Inn stopped serving meals because of the few guests on hand to consume them.

Decline and fire

Keystone Heights City Councilman Bill Beam remembered the Inn with fond memories — he lived there for a week when first coming to the area with Dupont.

"I came to the Inn in July of 1951 with a group of six or eight other engineers with Dupont,"

Beam said. "At the time, there was only one motel in Starke: the Temple Motel, and we just preferred to stay at the Inn."

Beam remembers coming in from work and sitting out on the porch with his fellow engineers, drinking a cold beer and enjoying the view of the lake. He said that, on occasion, a porter would come out and ask the men what they would like to drink. While most ordered beer, Beam said that occasionally, someone would ask for a whiskey.

"The porter would say, in a solemn voice, 'Now you fellows know that this is a dry county and we can't be serving any drinks here, but Mr. Smith has a bottle in here on the shelf, and if one of you would like a drink out of it I'm sure he wouldn't mind, so long as you leave a little something to help him buy his next one,'" Beam recalled.

Beam said that in 1951, the Inn no longer had a standard menu for its guests; they would be asked each morning and evening what they would like to have. He also remembers the wake-up calls given by Inn staff, delivered as shouts and loud rappings on each guest's door at the appointed time.

Beam was also on hand at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1954, the night of the fire, which signaled the beginning of the end for the Keystone Inn. As a Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department member, he lived near where the city tennis courts are today.

"I heard the alarm that the Inn was on fire, and several of us went straight there to battle the blaze," Beam said. "We went up to the second floor and shot water from a hose up through a hole in the floor up to the third floor. When the truck arrived, others came to help, but we really couldn't do much."

"It was the hottest fire I have ever seen. I remember the hermit bombs in WWII; this fire was as hot as that," he continued. "Even though we had the newest firetruck in the county, we just didn't have the equipment to fight it. We didn't have jackets or boots or anything like that."

A boat they called 'The City of Melrose' and its captain

BY BARNEY BARCO
Special to the Monitor

(This article was reprinted from the 110th-anniversary issue of the Telegraph in 1989.)

He might not have been the oldest man in Melrose, but "El" Robinson was most certainly the town's oldest resident in 1989 in terms of years spent there.

Born Jan. 19, 1899, in a house on the west side of town, Elwell spent his entire life here except two years when he went to New Jersey to work in a laundry plant. His father came to the area right after the Civil War to work for Capt. D.E. Maxwell, president of the Seaboard Railroad Capt. Maxwell had extensive orange groves west of Melrose, and the senior Robinson cared for them.

Young Elwell went through the eighth grade at the Melrose Union School and then went to work for his older brother, who was the captain of a freight boat on Lake Santa Fe.

The boat, a beautiful cypress launch with a 50-foot keel, was built by Tom Birt, grandfather of the Rev. Al Vaught, and called the "City of Melrose." It carried freight and passengers up through Lake Santa Fe into Lake Alto through the canal and unloaded at the railway docks in Waldo. At that time, the trip usually took about two hours,

Woman's Club celebrates 100 years



"It's only fitting on today's celebration that we also dedicate the clubhouse in her honor," Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin said of Tina Bullock, while handing over to her a metal plaque that will be posted on the clubhouse. "She has been a guiding light, offering not only her time but also her wealth of knowledge. This space will forever be a living tribute to her legacy." Also pictured (left) is Janice Goetzman. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The Keystone Heights Woman's Club celebrated its 100 years of service to the Lake Region during a January 20, 2024 ceremony.

President Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin recognized longtime members, including 50-year member Tina Bullock, 28-year member Joan Vaughn, 24-year member Joanne Motter, 15-year member Barbara Crawford, 14-year member Sally Linton, 13-year member Darlene Hart, Mary Lewis: 10 years and Maria Walker.

Three clubhouses and 50 years

Longtime club leader Tina Bullock told the crowd that the organization's first clubhouse was built in 1924.

"The land was donated by

the Lawrence Development Company, and a 20 by 30 building was used," she said.

The following year, a larger building was constructed on a lot purchased from the Community Church.

"For the next 37 years," Bullock said, "it was used as a community center."

In 1958, the club joined the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, and the first Keystone Heights Junior Women's Club was formed.

In 1962, a fire destroyed the clubhouse near Community Church, which also housed the first public library in the city.

The church bought the lot back and provided interim space for the club until 1969, when H.T. Williams and Charles Oliver donated the former site of the Chautauqua Opera House, and Triest Construction built the club's current home.

In 1974, the Junior Woman's Club launched the Keystone Heights Christmas Parade, which, 50 years later, still exists and is operated by Lake Region Kiwanis.

In 1985, the first junior club dissolved.

Bullock said that throughout the last century, the club has provided scholarships to deserving students, and supported animal rescues, the Lake Area Ministries food bank, the Seeds of Grace book bus, and countless other worthwhile projects.

"A house is just a house until a family moves in and makes it a home," she said. "And this building is just a building until the members and community make it a club of its own."

A fusion of

See CLUB, page 7



OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE
JUNE 17, 2025
8:00AM TILL 12:00

We wish to inform you that the Bradford County Tax Collector's office will be closed on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, from 8:00am to 12:00 for a scheduled training session. During this time, our team will be unavailable to respond to inquiries. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Teresa G. Phillips, CFC

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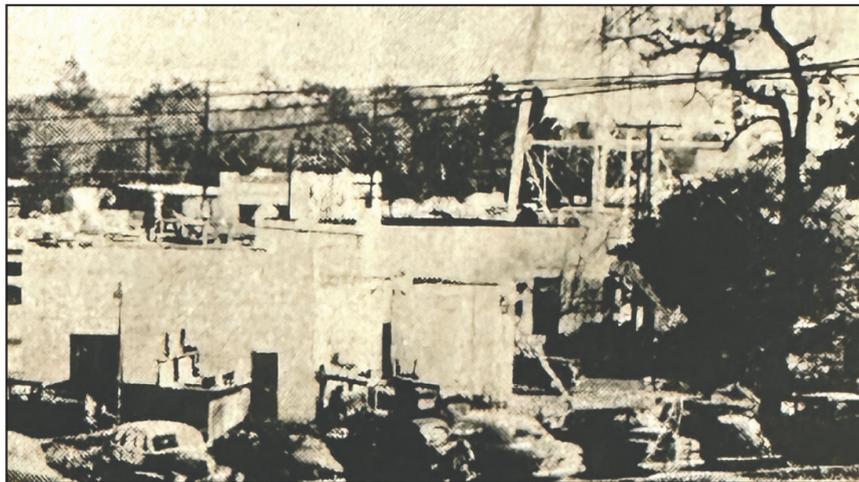
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Lake Region

Wiggins provides spark to bring Clay Electric to life



The Clay Electric Cooperative parking lot in the 1950s.

BY LARRY HORNE
Clay Electric Cooperative

This story first appeared in the monitor's April 13, 2000, edition and has been updated.

In the 1920s, Ed Wiggins, an agent for the Lawrence Developing Company, established a small power plant in the new City of Keystone Heights. In 1925, the company decided to exit the power business, so Wiggins purchased the plant.

In the next few years, Wiggins extended the powerlines to Lake Geneva, Hillcrest, Putnam Hall, Grandin, Florahome, Lake Swan, and Lake Rosa, all from a small 115-kilowatt plant in Keystone Heights.

However, Keystone Heights was growing and needed the plant's full capacity, and the other areas were also growing. So, he needed more money for expansion than the little plant could provide.

It was 1936, and the money for investment was not too

plentiful. But actually, more was available locally than at first seemed possible. The trouble was that the source of the local cash wanted control. They didn't want to finance Wiggins's expansion. They tried to buy him out. He held back because Wiggins was motivated more by the desire to help the new area grow than a wish to make a profit. Besides, he wanted to investigate a new possibility, a new federal program, the Rural Electrification Administration.

After an REA representative visited Keystone Heights, it was decided that an REA loan could be made. However, the government official suggested that expansion must be more significant than Wiggins had envisioned. What the REA representative wanted seemed more than he could undertake, so he agreed when the REA suggested that he sell out, not to a commercial power company but to a new

cooperative.

The first meeting to learn about this plan was held in Gainesville. The meeting was well attended, and there was advanced publicity over WRUF, so the group decided to try it. Full of enthusiasm, the group started a sign-up in Clay, Alachua, Putnam, Columbia, Union, and Marion counties. As sometimes happens, the excitement fizzled out. The only spark left was Wiggins. He refused to give up.

In fact, he spent his own time and money—\$85—on a set of maps prepared by UF students, for example, to breathe life into the co-op. He placed dots on the maps for each signed-up and prospective user and went to Washington. He received much encouragement and some good advice but no money. Returning to Keystone Heights, Wiggins employed an electrical engineer to help with a broad and intensive

sign-up campaign.

It's official

With new maps, REA gave the go-ahead signal, and on December 9, 1937, the co-op received its state charter.

The cooperative's incorporators then met on December 21, 1937, at the Keystone Inn to adopt bylaws and elect officers. F.W. Doying of Keystone Heights was elected president, F.W. Budington of Middleburg was vice president, and James Hauser of Keystone Heights was secretary-treasurer. The other incorporators were Alberta Miller of Brooker, R.F. McGill of Peniel, D.E. Roberts of Worthington Springs, and W.G. Watkins of Florahome.

At that meeting, Wiggins was named project superintendent. Later, however, the REA did not approve the selection of Wiggins because the cooperative would be purchasing the Keystone Power and Light Company, which Wiggins owned.

First construction loan and annual meeting

With a formal organization and a good sign-up, the REA approved its first loan to the new co-op on February 10, 1938. This was \$205,000 for 143 miles of line in Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Putnam and Union counties.

The first annual meeting for the cooperative members was in January 1939, a little over one year after the co-op was organized. The meeting minutes indicate that 343 customers were taking current, 245 miles of line were built, and 415 customer services were installed.

At the first annual meeting, Horace Zetouer of Alachua County expressed great desire for his area to receive electric service and "as speedy action as possible."

Milestones

Other milestones in the cooperative history include, 1964-the cooperative

opened its Orange Park office. Two years later, Clay Electric opened its Gainesville district office. Four additional district offices were established by 1973 in Keystone Heights, Palatka, Salt Springs, and Lake City.

In 1984, Seminole Electric's generating plant near Palatka began operations. Previously, Clay Electric purchased power from private investor-owned utilities.

1990-The 100,000th member of Clay Electric joined the co-op. Three years later, the cooperative and JEA agreed to transfer all Clay County accounts to the co-op and all Duval County accounts to JEA.

In 2009, Ricky Davis became the fifth co-op general manager and has served in that position since. Davis was previously the Orange Park district manager and then director of operations. Previous general managers were A.G. "Pat" Loudon, 1940-1962; E.T. Martin, 1962-1983; Tommy Millican, 1983-1989; and Bill Phillips, 1989-2009.

CLUB

Continued from page 6

legacies, values, and wisdom

The celebration also marked the merger of the Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club. Bullock recognized the outgoing board members, including co-presidents herself and Sally Linton, Secretary Charlotte Evans, Corresponding Secretary Karen Lake, Treasurer

Patricia Hatch, and Card Party Chairs Darlene Harp and Maria Walker. Bullock added that Walker is also the club's 2023 Volunteer of the Year.

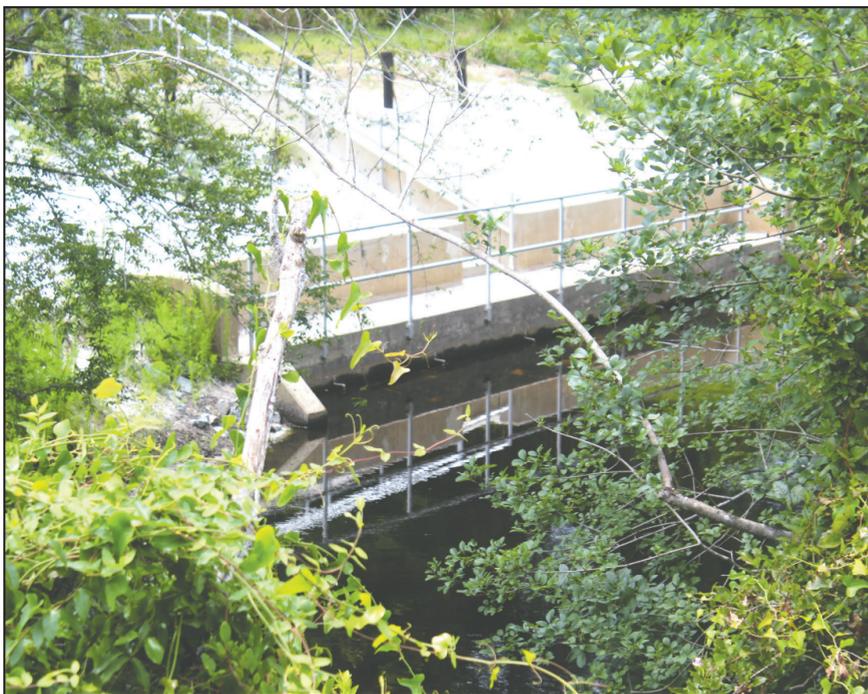
Bullock said that several years ago, as she watched many community organizations, especially those with clubhouses such as the Lions Club and the Jaycees, close their doors, she began to look at the inevitable for the Woman's Club and had many sleepless nights.

"I worried and then prayed," she recalled, "and that prayer

was answered two years ago as Dana Bennett Eatmon, whose mom was also a junior back in the day, talked to me about forming another junior club."

Bullock said the new group formed and proved volunteerism is alive and well as the new group put its time, energy, and resources to work.

Water project is ready, but Black Creek is not



The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project's intake apparatus in the north prong of Black Creek.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Division director for the St. Johns River Water Management District said that although the district is ready to begin pumping water from the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project into the Lake Region's Alligator Creek which leads to Lake Brooklyn, it cannot at this time because of low flows and low water levels in the creek.

"We are ready to put water into Alligator Creek," Dale Jenkins told the district's governing board during a June 10 meeting, "which would eventually flow to Lake Brooklyn, but we've got to have enough flow in

Black Creek, and we don't. The extended period of dry weather has put the flow in Black Creek below 25 (cubic feet per second), so we're hoping that pretty soon, the rain will start coming. We're getting into that time of year. So as soon as that happens, we'll be ready."

Jenkins told governing board members that the project is essentially complete with the exception of the treatment plant within Camp Blanding.

He added that two of the six treatment cells at the facility are operational, which means that if Black Creek flows were satisfactory, the district could disburse Black Creek-filtered

water into the Etoniah Chain of Lakes.

Jenkins said the district has tested water from both operational cells, which meet all the criteria of permits issued for the project.

"Moving on to cell number three," he briefed the governing board, "everything's in place in cell number three. It's ready for media, and it is getting media. It's about 65% filled right now."

He reported that Cell 3 should be operational by mid-July.

Jenkins added that the piping in Cell 4 is complete and the cell is being filled with stone. He reported that piping is being installed in cells 5 and 6.

The Matthews Museum (Bradford County Museum) Needs Volunteers!

- * Show visitors around the museum.
- * Share interesting facts about Bradford County.
- * All of this in a climate controlled location.
- * Students can earn Community Service Points.

To find out more

Contact: Chuck Kramer
(904) 964-5001 or (904) 364-6977



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

Missed appointment

Cicera Barnett, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 5 for a conditional release violation.

According to court papers, the defendant was originally arrested by Lawtey police on May 1, 2024, for driving an unregistered vehicle, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and driving with a revoked or suspended license.

On June 13, 2024, County Judge D. Tatum Davis revoked Barnett's pre-trial release because she missed an appointment with a forensic mental health specialist as required by her pre-trial release and made no effort to contact Meridian Behavioral Health.

Karen Buhler, 66, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 4 for a probation violation.

Richard Casper, 64, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for an out-of-county warrant.

Radues Cull, 42, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for a probation violation.

Jason Harden, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Lisa Hunt, 38, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 4 for failure to appear.

Leslie Johnson, 63, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Kaeli Jones, 35, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Accused of punching wife in the face

Rochak Kunwar, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 31 for battery and simple assault.

According to an arrest report, deputies noted bruises on the victim's arms, which the victim said were from a separate incident and the injuries were also caused by her husband.

"The victim also had swelling and light bruising on the right side of the face," wrote a deputy in the report. "(She) stated that Rochak punched her in the face tonight when they were having dinner."

The officer added that, according to the victim, the couple got into an argument, and the defendant threw a water bottle at the victim, but missed. She claimed that the

defendant punched her in the face and told her he wanted to kill her.

"(The victim) alleged that Rochak also grabbed her by the neck, however, she was unable to recall if her airway was blocked or not," wrote officers. "There were no visible signs of injury on the victim's neck."

According to deputies, the defendant admitted to officers that he and his wife were arguing over sending money to a family member overseas. He claimed he threw the water bottle at the refrigerator, not at his wife. Rochak denied all allegations of battery and assault made against him.

According to deputies, when asked about the bruises on his wife, the defendant responded, "I don't know, probably like hit by a door or something."

William Martinez, 25, of Ocala, was arrested by Lawtey police on June 5 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Karl McKinley, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 31 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

Arrested for shoplifting

Veronica Seymour, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for larceny.

According to court papers, a loss prevention officer at Starke's Walmart told Starke police on May 1, 2023, that Seymour stole \$319.31 worth of merchandise from the retailer. The store employee further claimed that during the previous month, Seymour attempted to take around \$600 in goods from the store. Police did not arrest Seymour due to an apparent seizure, and she was instead transported to a hospital.

A judge issued an arrest warrant for Seymour in October 2023.

Noah Shores, 25, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 5 for larceny, burglary, and trespassing.

Edward Smith, 39, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for withholding support.

Michael Smith, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 6 for a probation violation.

Accused of striking household member

Najeeb Smith, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 4 for domestic battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim claimed Smith slapped and punched the victim.

"Investigation revealed that the victim and the suspect were engaged in an argument," wrote a deputy. "At some point during the argument, the suspect battered the victim by striking the victim with

his hands/fist. During this investigation, I observed a small cut on the inside of the victim's upper lip."

Kevin Thomason, 54, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 6 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jessie Wimer, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 6 for larceny, possession of drug equipment, resisting an officer, and criminal mischief with property damage.

Union

Abraham Arreola Galvan, 23, of DeLeon Springs, was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Said to have lied about boyfriend's whereabouts

Melissa Campbell, 38, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 7 for resisting an officer without violence.

According to an arrest report, while deputies were searching for Campbell's boyfriend in a residence near the Department of Corrections' Reception and Medical Center, the defendant misled the officers about the boyfriend's whereabouts, lying that he was not in the home, and leading them to areas of the house she knew the boyfriend was not hiding.

Deputies later found the boyfriend, Eric Knight, behind a closed door that Campbell told them had been accidentally locked.

Richard Casper, 64, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Angela Dickinson, 21, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 8 for smuggling contraband into a detention facility.

Adam James, 46, of Archer, was arrested by Union deputies on June 6 for a probation violation.

Toddler reveals Dad's violation

Eric Knight, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 7 for contempt of court.

According to an arrest report, a judge had issued a no-contact order, preventing Knight from being near his two-year-old daughter after Knight was arrested for putting the two-year-old's life in danger.

A case worker told Union deputies that Knight was arrested for driving over 130 mph while the child was in his vehicle.

The case worker added that while conducting a home check on the toddler, the child told her that her father was in the same home where she was.

Deputies located Knight, hiding in the home.

Lavell Strong, 28, of



Barnett



Kunwar



Seymour



Najeeb Smith



Mike



Hagin

Archer, was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for failure to appear.

Deputies- Man shoved wife in chest, slapped her in the face

Michael Thornton, 43, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 5 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant's wife told deputies that after she questioned the defendant about why another family member suddenly left the home, Thornton became angry and shoved her in the chest four times, even after she backed away.

The woman said that after she called 911, her husband slapped her in the face, and she slapped him in return.

Clay

Anniversary dinner ends with van in flames

Willie Hagan, 50, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 2 for arson.

According to an arrest report, when deputies arrived on scene, they found a van fully engulfed in flames, with

Clay County Fire Rescue attempting to extinguish the fire.

The defendant's girlfriend told deputies she and Hagan began to argue after an anniversary dinner, and that her boyfriend was "extremely intoxicated."

Neighbors of the victim said they heard arguing next door and began monitoring their exterior security cameras.

"I viewed the footage," wrote Deputy Mason McClain in the report, "which showed several clips leading up to the fire and during the fire. The vehicle that the defendant sets fire to is observed just out of frame."

McClain added that although the video does not capture Hagin setting the vehicle on fire, "he was observed being the only one around the van during video clips, and then after it was lit. He was heard in the audio of another clip saying, 'I'm just going to sit back and enjoy the music.'"

Lisa Hunt, 38, of Melrose, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 3 for failure to appear.

She wouldn't give him the vape

Mark Mike, 32, of Charleston, West Virginia, was arrested by Clay deputies on

Lake Region Kiwanis celebrates 35 years

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

In May 2024, the Lake Region Kiwanis Club celebrated its 35th anniversary with an event at the Montgomery Conference Center.

In the organization's newsletter, Karen Lake reported that 33-year member Tina Bullock organized the party, which included several games. Guests included former Lt. Gov. Laura Dean, square dance caller Bill Chestnut, former Mayor Tony Brown, and former members Jude Sorano, Betty Hodges, Keith Hatch, and Rebecca Farmer.

After the meeting, Bullock said that the club's only remaining charter member is Johnny Mason, founder of Johnny's Barbecue.

Bullock recalled that her involvement with Kiwanis began in 1992 when she was the Assistant Principal at Keystone Heights Elementary School.

"Laura Dean was doing the Terrific Kid program," Bullock said. "She and I were on the stage, and when I saw the first kid come up there for Terrific Kid, I leaned over to her, and I said, my gosh, what a great organization, and look how excited these kids are, and I just went on and on.

So, at the end of the program, she said, I'd like to introduce our newest Kiwanis member, and she introduced me at that time. I joined the week after that."

Bullock said Lake Region Kiwanis's sponsorship of K-Kids at elementary campuses and Key Club at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School has also fulfilled the nonprofit's mission.

"K-Kids teaches students about volunteerism and leadership," she said. "We have clubs at Keystone Elementary and McRae."

Bullock said the club took over organizing the Christmas parade in the 1980s after the Junior Woman's Club launched the event in the early 1970s and ran it until the club disbanded.

She added that the Kiwanis' involvement with the Our Country Day Parade occurred because Noel Thomas was Commander of American Legion Post 202 and President of Lake Region Kiwanis simultaneously. When the post wanted to start an Independence Day parade and sought help, Thomas recommended that the Kiwanis Club step in.

Bullock now serves and has for years served as the announcer for both processions.



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NFTC's Geiger retires from job that didn't feel like work

Editor's note: The interview for this story took place before the school year ended.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Mark Geiger has worked for 23 years at North Florida Technical College, but in a sense, he hasn't worked a day.

That's how much he has enjoyed teaching the school's welding program. Except for times when he was sick, Geiger said he never once thought, "Man, I don't want to work today."

Geiger's now ready to enjoy a different type of day as he will retire at the conclusion of this

school year.

"I really enjoyed what I did," Geiger said, "but my boat's ready to go fishing."

That's not to say it was an easy decision for Geiger to tell himself now is the time to walk away.

"Working with these students, you know you're doing something good," Geiger said. "There's nothing better I could be doing than teaching these students a trade."

Yet there was a time in his life when he never would've envisioned himself as a teacher.

"I would've told you you were nuts," he said.

It made sense, though, for someone who had so much

knowledge to share.

Industry experience

Geiger worked at Boone Welding in Gainesville, but he didn't begin his career there as a welder.

"I actually started out there sweeping the floor," he said. "I started in maintenance, just as a job to do when I got out of high school."

He did become a welder and wound up doing all the company's tig welding and special-metals work for eight years.

Geiger eventually became the company's general manager and vice president his final eight



Mark Geiger is retiring after 20-plus years as the instructor of North Florida Technical College's welding program.

years there.

"You just start at something, and you give it your all," Geiger

said. "If you see that you're making progress, you continue to do it."

Boone was bought out by a waste company, so the job "just kind of went away," Geiger said.

"I had the opportunity to buy the business, but it was tough managing that company for eight years," Geiger said, adding, "I worked hard at that job. I gave it everything I had."

Going into teaching

J.T. Mahoney, who taught welding at Santa Fe College, offered Geiger a teaching position, which he said he's glad he accepted.

Geiger said he was scared

during his first year of teaching, but after that, he described being an educator as "relatively easy."

"Everything I learned at Boone I've brought to the classroom," Geiger said.

Teaching at Santa Fe lasted a couple of semesters. Geiger was then contacted by Jim Ward, who was the administrator at North Florida Technical College. Ward was friends with Geiger's father, W.C., who taught agriculture at Alachua's Santa Fe High School. NFTC was in need of a welding instructor.

Geiger admitted he wasn't aware the school in Starke.

"I did not know it was on the

See GEIGER, page 10

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GEIGER Continued from page 9

map, but I've tried to put it on the map," he said.
He certainly liked what he saw when he visited the school, which had had all-new welding equipment.
"The lab was set up to the T," Geiger said. "I was just really elated when I got the opportunity to come up here and work."

Preparing students for career success

The welding program at NFTC consists of students who are currently in high school or who are adults. Geiger said his students have always gotten along and willing to help each other out — something he encourages them to do.
"I teach teamwork," Geiger said, adding, "It's going to be just like that in the shop (as part of a job). You've got to be a part of the team."

Students in the NFTC program gain experience doing work for customers. Geiger said people

will bring equipment such as lawnmowers by to be repaired by students. The cost, if any, is minimal.

"The kids get so much out of it," Geiger said. "It's hard to charge money when the kids just learn so much. We do charge some, but I also do so much for free around here."

Geiger said his students have probably built a dozen grills/smokers for people in the community.

"We cook on every one before leaves out of here to make sure it works," Geiger said. "That's a requirement of building a smoker — me getting at least 10 pounds or 20 pounds of chicken quarters and making sure it's worthwhile."

The knowledge and the experience students leave the program with are in demand. Geiger said the United States needs more than 200,000 welders.

"Our kids have a job when they get out of here," Geiger said.

Retired life

Geiger not only loved teaching at NFTC; he loved Starke. He

moved there from Gainesville in 2001, purchasing 15 acres near the Pleasant Grove area.

He's looking forward to spending more time on his land, with a goal of becoming a self-sustaining farmer.

When he's not tending to his garden, chickens, dogs and cats, he'll enjoy fishing. Geiger said his boat needed some repairs, which were recently completed, just in time for his retirement.

Geiger enjoys all types of fishing, but especially likes taking his boat onto freshwater lakes and catching specks. Orange and Santa Fe are his favorite lakes.

"You catch more in Orange, but to me, there are better fish out of Santa Fe," Geiger said. "I fish Orange and Santa Fe quite a bit."

He also likes to hunt.
"I've spent most of my life outdoors," Geiger said.

Geiger has passed on his passion for outdoors activities to his four grandchildren, who, of course, will occupy quite a bit of his life in retirement.

"I'm looking forward to spending time with them," Geiger said. "They all go hunting



Mark Geiger (left) chats with student Rory Matusz about a trailer dropped off for repairs. Such jobs have given students practical experience before they enter the workforce.

and fishing with me. They love it, even my two granddaughters. I raised all of them around the woods and water."

He'll enjoy being with his grandchildren and participating in various activities, but it will be an adjustment.

"It's going to be different. I've worked all my life," Geiger said, adding, "It's a little scary when

you think about it, but on the other hand, I'm tickled to death that I don't have to get up and sign in every day. I've done it for 40-plus years."

The upside is that he couldn't have been happier with the career he had for 23 years at NFTC.

"It's been a great ride," Geiger said. "I couldn't have had a better job."

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Retiring teacher Ramseur ready to learn new things

Editor's note: The interview for this story took place before the school year ended.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Vivian Ramseur has had a lifelong love of learning, so you can be sure that her retirement will be filled with acquiring new knowledge.

The only change will be that she won't be inspiring children to learn also as a teacher at Bradford Elementary School.

Ramseur, who's been in the Bradford County School District since 2002, will teach her final day on May 23. Except for four years at the former Hampton Elementary School, her entire education career has been spent at Bradford Elementary/Southside Elementary.

"I'm excited, but I'm going to hate not being around the kids," Ramseur said. "It's kind of bittersweet. I'm excited that I'm retiring, but these children — you get attached to them."

Though she grew up wanting to be a teacher, Ramseur post-college life began with several jobs that had nothing to do with that profession. It was because of her desire to learn new things — a desire that has never gone away.

"I'm still that way," Ramseur said. "They keep asking, 'What are you going to do when you retire?' I say, 'I have never had a problem finding something to do. Don't worry about me. I'll be just fine.'"

Childhood passion

Ramseur began preparing herself for being a teacher early



Bradford Elementary School's Vivian Ramseur is retiring after a 20-plus-year teaching career, all of which was spent in Bradford County.

in life. As a 7-8-year-old growing up in Lawtey, she'd use paper and pencil, a rock and the sidewalk or the set of encyclopedias her parents bought to teach things to her sister and brothers.

"I knew I loved learning, so I wanted you to love learning," Ramseur said.

She laughed at the memory of pointing to something and asking her siblings, "What sound does this make?"

"I was doing phonics even back then," Ramseur said.

Ramseur said she had "wonderful" role models who were educators, including Dorothy Moore and Olivia Scott.

"They were my major heroes," she said.

Ramseur's parents, Freddie and Emma Lou Bell, were role

models as well, teaching her to love others, something she was reminded of as a third-grader, when she began attending Lawtey Elementary School because of integration. Her family was the first Black family to attend the school.

"I was very blessed to have parents who taught me that skin color doesn't matter. It's how you love people and treat people," Ramseur said.

Yes, some children didn't like her being at the Lawtey school, but Ramseur said they were few.

"The majority of those kids are still friends to me today," she said.

College experience

Ramseur, after graduating from high school, attended Santa

Fe College for a year and a half before moving to Georgia to attend Clark Atlanta University. The historically Black college offered an environment that consisted of Black people from various walks of life. She knew students whose parents were in such professions as accounting, law and medicine.

"To see that was very impressive," Ramseur said.

She also enjoyed really delving into Black history. Ramseur said in elementary school, you'd learn about such people as George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, but at Clark Atlanta University, she was becoming familiar with people she had never heard of before, such as author, poet and teacher Gwendolyn Brooks, columnist, novelist, playwright, poet and social activist Langston Hughes, and political activist Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

"Gwendolyn Brooks came to my school and did her poetry," Ramseur said. "That was just mind-boggling."

Joseph Lowery, who founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Martin Luther King Jr., was her pastor. Ramseur, who had a friend who worked with SCLC, had the opportunity to meet Coretta Scott King.

The experiences in the Peach State didn't end there. Rather than go into the classroom and put her degree in Education to work, she held jobs at a bank and florist shop and even got real-estate license.

"It was about learning different things," Ramseur said. "Real estate was learning something new. Working at the bank was

just learning something new. I've always been crafty, so learning to do flowers was just something else I could learn to do."

Ramseur eventually moved back to Florida to care for her mother. It's what she was perfectly suited for anyway. Though she loved her time in Atlanta, she is, as she described herself, one who loves "the southern, quiet living."

So, she once again enjoyed the comforts of home in Lawtey. Next, it was time to start enjoying the comforts of a career she was

always destined to be a part of.

Teaching

When she sought a job after moving back to Florida, teaching wasn't on her mind. Instead, she wanted to work in the school system as a paraprofessional. However, when Bill McRae, who was principal at Southside Elementary School at the time, found out she had a degree in Education, he told her, "You're

See RETIRE, page 12

Community for Schools Bingo Night is June 30

Bradford Community for Schools will be hosting a fundraising Bingo Night on Monday, June 30, at The Downtown Grill in Starke. Doors open at 5 p.m., with play beginning at 5:30 p.m.

To play is \$20 cash for 10 games. The last game is blackout for \$100.

All bingo proceeds, as well as 20 percent of the food and beverage sales, will go to Bradford Community for Schools, a nonprofit with the

mission of surrounding students with a caring community of support and empowering them to reach their full potential and achieve success in life.

Community for Schools connects with students in sixth-12th grades and enables at-risk youth to access a broad range of needed social and educational services.

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FOR SALE

Obituaries

Earl Barber

Earl "Duke" Barber, a lifelong resident of Lawtey, passed away Wednesday, June 4, 2025, just days before his 86th birthday. Born on June 9, 1939, in Lawtey, he remained deeply rooted in the community that shaped his life. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bishop Ruthie Delores Barber; sister, Melense Hamilton; and brother, LeVern Barber. Their memories remain cherished by those who knew and loved them.

He is survived by his sons, Keith (Rolanda) Barber and Dominic Barber; daughters, Carmen Barber-Jamison and Tracee (Randall) McCreary; sisters, Annette Barber Burke and Leola Barber Holmes; as well as a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him. The viewing will be held Friday, June 13, at Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke, 32091 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. A funeral service will be on Saturday, June 14, at 2 p.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry, 422 N. St. Clair St., Starke. A repast will be held at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, C.R. 200-B, Lawtey.



PAID OBITUARY

Geraldine Cragg

Geraldine Brady Cragg, 88, of Starke passed away Thursday, June 5, 2025, after a brief illness. Geraldine, lovingly known as "Granny," was born Feb. 15, 1937, in Stephens County, Georgia. She graduated from South Habersham High School in 1954 and soon began working at Carwood Manufacturing Company. On Nov. 14, 1959, she married the love of her life, Andrew Cragg, in South Carolina. Together, they raised two sons, Richard and David. In 1965, the Cragg family moved to Jacksonville, where she worked as the assistant director of Woodstock Park Daycare. Later, in 1988, she and Andrew made their home in Starke. A devoted member of First Baptist Church, she faithfully served for many years as the 3-year-old Sunday school teacher, touching the lives of many young children in her community. She was passionate about caring for her family and found great joy in spending time with her loved ones. She especially loved cooking, and her kitchen was often the heart of every gathering. Her homemade biscuits and gravy were legendary, and her fried apple tarts and rich chocolate pies were treasured family favorites. Geraldine poured love and warmth into every meal she served. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ben and Ella Brady; her sisters Irene Parker, Lurlene Hart, Christine Blair, and Betty Duckett; and her brothers Roy "Buck" Brady, James Brady, and Carson Brady.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 65 years, Andrew Cragg; her sons Rick (Carolyn) Cragg and David (Kathy) Cragg; her sister, Mamie Arrendale; six grandchildren, Candace (Michael) Osteen, Jenna (Robert) Hewett, Courtney (Brad) Witt, Holly Cragg, and Jessie Cragg; and eight great-grandchildren: Michael, Madelynn, Ella, Aubrey, Knox, Oaklee, Brady, and Riley. She is also survived by countless nieces and nephews who cherished her deeply. On behalf of the family, thank you for celebrating the life of Geraldine Cragg—a devoted wife, loving mother, proud Granny, and faithful servant whose warmth, kindness, and unforgettable cooking will be lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

The family received friends at First Baptist Church of Starke on Sunday, June 8, followed by funeral services. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Pastor Jonathan Rodriguez officiated all services.

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



PAID OBITUARY

David Gray Sr.

David Dwaine Gray Sr. passed away Monday, June 2, 2025, in his home, surrounded by family. He was 80 years old. David was a long-time resident of Lake Butler. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama on Jan. 24, 1945. He was an iron worker, who traveled the states working on major structures. After retirement, he helped with the Union County marching band until 2005. He was a 32nd degree Master Mason. He was preceded in death by his dad, Alvie Clinton Gray; mom, Virgie Mae Reese; brother, Royce Doyle Gray; and sister, Linda Y. Gray.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Pamela Ann Gray (Lindsay); two brothers, Terry Williams and Mike Williams; three children, David Dwaine (Pearla) Gray III, Alicia Dawn (Forrest) Harmon, and Catherine Renee Gray; and eight grandchildren, Menachem Thornton, Avi Gray, Riley Trowell, Annabelle Gray, Mae Brookins, Natalie Trowell, C.J. Brookins, and Lily Harmon.

This Tribute was prepared by the family of Mr. David Dwaine Gray Sr. Services were held at First Baptist Church of Lake Butler, on Monday, June 9. The family invited everyone to share memories and food as they remembered the life of David Gray Sr.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Ferreira Funeral Services, 458 S. Marion Ave., Lake City, 32025. 386-752-1234. Please leave special memories and messages of condolence for the family at our online website at www.ferreirafuneralservices.com



PAID OBITUARY

Alicia Nooney

Alicia Renee Nooney, well-loved daughter, mother, grandmother and friend passed away Saturday, June 7, 2025. Born May 4, 1979, in Gainesville, she was the cherished daughter of Kim Belk (Randy) Martin of Ocala and James (Brenda) Nooney Sr. of Keystone Heights. She was raised and lived most of her adult life in Keystone Heights. She was a graduate of Keystone Heights High School, Class of 1997. She was a beloved mother and grandmother, not only to her daughter and grandchildren, but also to her daughter's friends, offering direction, laughter, and a sense of belonging to all fortunate enough to have been a part of her world. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Charles and Juanita Belk of Keystone Heights; paternal grandparents, Frank and Dorothy Nooney of Jacksonville; grandfather, Billy Martin of Starke and Earl Dockery of Ocala.

She is survived by her only child, Starlyn Taylor Wright and son-in-law, Seth Donahue of Keystone Heights; and was affectionately known as "GaGa" to grandchildren, Seanna, Sladen, Syress and Klent Donahue. She is survived also by brothers, James "Jamie" (Kim) Nooney Jr. of Keystone Heights and Joseph (Victoria) Martin of Kaiserslautern, Germany; sister, Rachel LePanto of Keystone Heights; nieces, Morgan (Karsen) Nooney of Keystone Heights, Caleigh LePanto (Tristan) Allen of Trenton; nephews, James "Trace" (Saige) Nooney III and Jacob LePanto of Keystone Heights; beloved grandmother, Myrna Dockery; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, June 13. The family will receive friends at Hope Baptist Church, 3900 SE SR 100, Starke, beginning at 1 p.m., with services at 2 p.m. Interment will be at a later date. In true Alicia fashion, this will be a casual, joy-filled gathering, with pink attire encouraged in her honor.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Anna Perry

Mrs. Anna Finley Perry, 80, of Jacksonville, passed away Sunday, June 8, 2025, in Fleming Island. She was born July 19, 1944, in Burdine, Kentucky to the late Arthur and Carrie (Baker) Finley. She had a wonderful 30-year career as a school bus driver, retiring from First Student in Duval County. She was a member of Regency Baptist Temple, where she raised her children, making sure they attended church every week. She enjoyed shopping, doing puzzles, listening to good ole country music, and going on golf cart rides. She also enjoyed reading the Sunday paper, taking trips, and playing with her "doggie," Rudy.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her daughters, Karen (Robert) Augustine and Kimberly (Joey) Knapp; and siblings, Connie Sanders, Geraldine Barker, and Grace Clark. She was lovingly called "Memaw" by nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday, June 14, beginning at 10 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. with Rev. Ed Wilds and Rev. Robert Augustine officiating. Interment will follow at Orange Springs Cemetery.

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



PAID OBITUARY

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

RETIRE

Continued from page 11

not going to be a para. You're going to be a teacher."

Ramseur may have taken some detours, but in the end, she wound up making her childhood dream come true.

"I fell in love with it all over again," she said.

Wanting to teach had once been a passion, but Ramseur said she was "scared to death" when she first began doing it. She said she was grateful for the help she received from her fellow teachers at Southside, including Vicki McKinney.

"She taught first grade right next to me," Ramseur said. "Every day, she would come over and check on me."

McKinney would ask Ramseur what she did in her class each day, offering encouragement and suggestions.

"She just trained me to be a good teacher," Ramseur said.

Ramseur is not only grateful for the teachers who helped her, but also for all the administrators she worked under, describing them as "just awesome principals

who encouraged you and gave you insight on what you needed to do." She took any suggestions on how she could improve seriously.

"I've always loved learning, so if there was another way that I needed to do something to improve my learning environment for my students, that's what I was going to do," Ramseur said.

Ramseur taught second, third and fourth grades throughout her career. She also filled the roles of reading interventionist and (this past year) ESE interventionist.

As is the case for any teacher, Ramseur lived for those moments where students finally grasped something they were struggling with.

"It's just a sigh of relief (for me)," Ramseur said, "but it's also an excitement for them because once they get it, then they want to do more."

Retirement

When it comes to thinking about what she'll do during retirement, Ramseur said all the home projects that have been put off over time can finally be

Harry Stallings

Harry C. Stallings of Gainesville passed away at E.T. York Hospice House on Friday, May 30, 2025. He was 82 years old. Born in Cordele, Georgia on Sept. 2, 1942, as the youngest son of Tom C. and Esther T. Stallings, his family moved to Starke when he was in the fifth grade. After graduating from Bradford High School in 1960, he married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Ann Phillips, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Starke. They would have celebrated 65 years of marriage on July 4 of this year. Harry commuted to work from Starke to Gainesville for the next seven years, then moved his family to Gainesville in 1967. His employment with Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) lasted 40-plus years, retiring as a lab supervisor at Deaverhen Generating Station on July 4, 2003. As an active member of CWA Local 3170 (Public Employees of Gainesville and Alachua County FL), he was on the bargaining team that negotiated and brought to fruition a pension plan for all rank-and-file employees. He fought for and succeeded in fair and equitable testing practices for job advancement. His focus was on the "little people" (you know — "us worker bees") throughout his Union affiliation and served as Secretary-Treasurer for almost 20 years. An avid sports fan, he coached City League football during the '70s, with his primary focus being sure every one of his young athletes had a chance to "get on the field and play." No player sat on the bench the entire game. And those who needed a ride home from a game or practice got one from Coach Stallings! Active in Eastside High School Sports Boosters, he was among a group of parents who raised the money for purchasing a van shared by the school's minor sports. He was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of Bradford Lodge No. 35, Starke since 1975. Hunting, fishing, camping, working in his vegetable and herb garden, cooking, grilling and drinking with his buddies were many of the activities enjoyed by this big guy. He was very interested in outer space and our mysterious universe. He absolutely LOVED dancing and socializing. This husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather loved his family and always said they were his greatest treasure. He was predeceased by his oldest son, Luke; brother, Tom C. Stallings Jr.; parents, Tom and Esther Stallings; sister-in-law, Jane Allen; and brother-in-law, Freddie Dinkins.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Ann Stallings of Gainesville; daughter and son-in-law, Lissa (Tim) Boone of Belleville, Illinois; daughter and partner, Lauri Stallings and Rick Carvlin of Palmetto, Georgia; son, Linc Stallings of Lansing, West Virginia; granddaughters, Isla (Linc) Noelle and Ashley Boone of Portland, Oregon; great-granddaughter, Evelyn (Ashley) Trillum; grandson and wife, Jarrod (Andi) Boone of Ames, Iowa; sister, Melissa Griggs of Hiwassee, Georgia; sister and brother-in-law, Susan (Hunter) Sahler of Riverview; sisters-in-law, Carolyn Stallings of Keystone Heights, Rebecca Christopher of Winter Haven and Anna Dinkins of Lakeland; brother-in-law and wife, John (Donna) Phillips of Moniac, Georgia; and many nieces and nephews. Harry is also greatly missed by his devoted golden retriever, Lizzie, and her sidekick, Miss Lona, a terrier mix nicknamed "Tripp" because Harry decided "that dog is a real trip." Sounds just like Harry!

So dear family and friends: Mark your calendar, dress comfortably and join us for a celebration of Harry's life on Friday, July 11, at Milam Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation is from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., with services at 5:30 p.m. A social gathering and light supper will be held afterward for family and friends at the home of Chris and Jaya Brew. Inurnment will be at Crosby Lake Cemetery, Starke, on Saturday, July 12, at 11 a.m. For those who wish, contributions may be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 N.W. 90th Blvd., Gainesville 32606, or to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1212 N. Church St., Starke 32091.

Arrangements are in the care of Milam Funeral and Cremation Services, 311 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601. 352-376-5361 www.milamfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

William Sutton II

William James Sutton II, 53, of Starke, passed away Friday, April 4, 2025, at Orange Park Hospital. He was an organ donor. He was preceded in death by his father, the late William James Sutton Sr.

He is survived by his mother, Alice Rigdon Sutton; and children, William James Sutton III, Isabella Sutton, Suniva Smith, and Angelique Smith.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, June 14, at 2:30 p.m. at Kingsley Lake Cemetery, Mary Dot Lane, Starke. A Celebration of Life dinner will be held at 3:30 p.m. at Kingsley Lake Civic Center, 6109 Kingsley Lake Drive, Starke.

addressed. As a self-professed list maker, she said, "I have my long list of things. My husband (Byron) is already afraid that I'm going to have him working a lot when I retire."

Traveling will be part of the next chapter of her life as well as the upcoming wedding of one of her sons. (Ramseur has three children: Emmali, James and Calvin.)

Of course, time will be spent learning new things.

"I want to learn how to tile," Ramseur said. "I've always wanted to do a tile backsplash for my kitchen."

Ramseur wants to take an interior-design class or intern with an interior designer. She's also considering taking a class so she can learn how to do her own taxes.

"I can do mine, and I can probably help somebody else do theirs, too," she said.

You may also find her still showing up at Bradford Elementary School.

"I know how hard it is to get enough teachers certified to do testing, so I've considered going back to help with testing," Ramseur said.

Even if she's not at the school, she'll still have children as a part of her life. She has two grandsons: Nehemiah and Titus.

Ramseur said the fact that she's retiring probably won't affect her much on her last day because it won't feel much different from the last days of previous school years. After all, she's used to taking a break during the summer.

It'll be two or three weeks before the new school year starts that it'll hit her. She won't be going through her usual routine of preparing for another year of teaching.

Ramseur said she just may have to sleep in late on the first day of the 2025-26 school year.

"I won't have to get up at 5, so that will be a beautiful thing," she said.

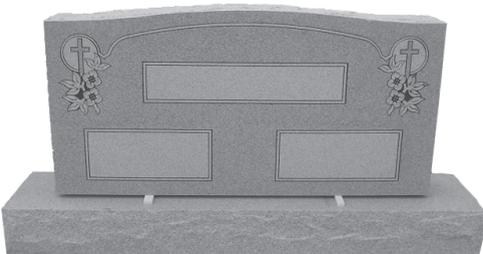
She won't stay in bed too long, though. Ramseur said she's an early riser anyway who can't sleep past 8 a.m.

The earlier she starts the day, the more time available to her to satisfy her craving for learning and doing new things.

"I can't help myself," Ramseur said.

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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 12, 2025

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.
042024CA000430CAAXMX
Division No.
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE OF CIM TRUST 2022-R3

Plaintiff,
vs.
FOREST GARBER SR, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FOREST G. GARBER, JR., UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY L. GARBER, UNKNOWN TENANT 1 9736 NW COUNTY AND UNKNOWN TENANT 2 9736 NW COUNTY, et al,

Defendants
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment dated April 29, 2025, and entered in Case No. 042024CA000430CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for BRADFORD County, Florida, wherein Wilmington Savings Fund Society, Fsb, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely In Its Capacity As Indenture Trustee Of Cim Trust 2022-r3 is the Plaintiff and FOREST GARBER SR, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FOREST G. GARBER, JR., UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY L. GARBER, UNKNOWN TENANT 1 AND UNKNOWN TENANT 2, the Defendants. Denny Thompson, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for BRADFORD County, Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 in accordance with section 45.031, Florida Statutes on **June 26, 2025**, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE S 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID S 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 AND RUN SOUTH 00 36' 01" EAST, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 763.81 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 57' 17" EAST, 24.13 FEET TO THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 225 (FORMERLY STATE ROAD 225) FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING (SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A COUNTY). FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE SOUTH 89 57' 17" EAST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL (O.R. BOOK 212, PAGE 75), 411.49 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET AT AN INTERSECTION WITH A NORTHERLY PROLONGATION OF THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN O.R. BOOK 137, PAGE 44 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE SOUTH 00 36' 01" EAST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY PROLONGATION AND ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL (O.R. BOOK 137, PAGE 44) AND PARALLEL WITH THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTH OF THE NE 1/4, A DISTANCE OF THE WESTERLY

BOUNDARY OF SAID S 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 A DISTANCE OF 114.98 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET ON THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL (O.R. BOOK 137, PAGE 44), THENCE SOUTH 89 39' 07" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY 412.10 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET ON THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID COUNTY ROAD 225, THENCE NORTH 00 17' 40" WEST, ALONG LAST SAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY, 117.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.. IF YOU ARE A 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, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK OF COURT BEFORE OR NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A TIMELY CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF THE RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

If the sale is set aside, the Purchaser may be entitled to only a return of the sale deposit less any applicable fees and costs and shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's Attorney.
DATED at BRADFORD County, Florida, this 14th day of May, 2025.
RUBIN LUBLIN, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
2313 W. Violet St.
Tampa, Florida 33603
Telephone: (813) 656-8801
Fax: (813) 656-8802
ELe-mailservice@riseup.com
By: /s/ Brittany L. Harvey
Brittany L. Harvey, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 124795
24-F000027/TL
Published in: Bradford County Telegraph
6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 24000272CAAXMX
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,

vs.
ELIZABETH MARIE COODY, et al.,
Defendant.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered April 28, 2025 in Civil Case No. 24000272CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT in and for Bradford County, Starke, Florida, wherein PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC is Plaintiff and Elizabeth Marie Coody, et al., are Defendants, the Clerk of Court, DENNY THOMPSON, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Lobby, Starke, FL, 32091 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 26th day of June, 2025 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:
Lot 7 and Northerly 1/2 of Lot 6, Block 27, Livingston, Truby and Company's Addition to Starke, in Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, as per the Plat recorded in Deed Book J, Page 232, of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.
Any person claiming an interest in

the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was: [check all used]
(x) E-mailed (x) Mailed this 30th day of May, 2025, to all parties on the attached service list.
By: /s/ **Morgan B Lea**
Morgan Lea, Esq.
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
225 E. Robinson Street, Suite 155
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: (407) 674-1673
Fax: (321) 248-0420
Email: MRService@mccalla.com
Fla. Bar No.: 96405
Published in: Bradford County Telegraph Inc.

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.
24-10244FL 6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 24000138CAAXMX
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,

vs.
BENJAMIN JACOB BUCHBERGER, et al.,
Defendant.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered February 24, 2025 in Civil Case No. 24000138CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT in and for Bradford County, Starke, Florida, wherein FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION is Plaintiff and Benjamin Jacob Buchberger, et al., are Defendants, the Clerk of Court, DENNY THOMPSON, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Lobby, Starke, FL, 32091 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 26th day of June, 2025 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

A parcel of land lying in Lot 1 "Woodlawn" according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 17, in Section 11, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:
Commence at the Southwest corner of said Lot 1 and run N 00°32'54"W, along the West line of said Lot 1, also being the West line of said Section 11 and the centerline of NW 22nd Avenue (66' R/W) for a distance of 295.00 feet; thence run N 89°15'42"E for a distance of 33.00 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod located on the Easterly R/W line of said NW 22nd Avenue for the Point of Beginning.
From the Point of Beginning thus described run N 00°32'54"W, along said Easterly R/W line of NW 22nd

Avenue and parallel with the West line of said Lot 1, for a distance of 363.80 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod located on the North line of said Lot 1; thence run N 89°15'39"E, along said North line of Lot 1, for a distance of 262.00 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run S 00°32'54"E, parallel with the West line of said Lot 1, for a distance of 363.80 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run S 89°15'42"W for a distance of 262.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.
Subject to any covenants, easements, and/or restrictions of record.
The above described parcel being the same lands as described and recorded in ORB 1712, Pages 464-465 of the public records of said County, LESS and Except that portion lying within the right of way of NW 22nd Avenue.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was: [check all used]
(x) E-mailed (x) Mailed this 30th day of May, 2025, to all parties on the attached service list.
By: /s/ **Morgan B Lea**
Morgan Lea, Esq.
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
225 E. Robinson Street, Suite 155
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: (407) 674-1673
Fax: (321) 248-0420
Email: MRService@mccalla.com
Fla. Bar No.: 96405
Published in: Bradford County Telegraph Inc.

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.
23-08047FL 6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 23000527CAAXMX
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF TREEHOUSE SERIES V TRUST,
Plaintiff,

vs.
ROBERT P. MARSHALL, et al.,
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment in Foreclosure entered on May 1, 2025 and entered in Case No. 23000527CAAXMX in the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein ROBERT P. MARSHALL, are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court, DENNY THOMPSON, will sell to the highest bidder for cash at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091 on July 24, 2025 at 11:00am, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE NE

1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 225 (A 100 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY) AND THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 16 (A 100 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY) IN SAID NE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 26; THENCE RUN S 90 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E. ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 16, A DISTANCE OF 638.73 FEET; THENCE RUN N 83 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 17 SECONDS W A DISTANCE OF 300.47 FEET; THENCE RUN N 88 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 21 SECONDS W A DISTANCE OF 896.81 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 57 SECONDS E A DISTANCE OF 209.20 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE AFORESAID NE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 26; THENCE RUN S 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 05 SECONDS W, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 208.22 FEET; THENCE RUN N 00 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 57 SECONDS W A DISTANCE OF 209.20 FEET; THENCE RUN N 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E A DISTANCE OF 208.22 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 1987 FLEETWOOD DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME ID # AFLC22AG480512344 AND AFLC22BG480512344 and commonly known as: 7400 NE 221ST TRAIL, STARKE, FL 32091 (the "Property"). 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.

IMPORTANT
IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS AN ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A COURT PROCEEDING OR OTHER COURT SERVICE, PROGRAM, OR ACTIVITY, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE PRESENTED ON THIS FORM, IN ANOTHER WRITTEN FORMAT, OR ORALLY. REQUESTS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY USING THE FORM AVAILABLE; VIA EMAIL TO ADA@CIRCUIT8.ORG; BY MAIL TO ADA COORDINATOR, ALACHUA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 201 EAST UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ROOM 410, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601; OR ORALLY BY PHONE AT 352-337-6237. PLEASE MAKE REQUEST AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE, BUT PREFERABLY AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE OR OTHER COURT ACTIVITY. IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, PLEASE CALL 711.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served via e-mail upon all parties registered to receive notification via the service list for this action maintained by the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal Governed or via U.S. Mail to those parties on the

attached service list on this 2nd day of May, 2025.
GHIDOTTI BERGER LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
10800 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 201
Miami, FL 33161
Telephone: (305) 501-2808
Facsimile: (954) 780-5578
By: /s/ **Johanni Fernandez-Marmol**
Jason Duggar, Esq.
FL Bar No.: 83813
Christophal Hellewell, Esq.
FL Bar No.: 114230
Anya E. Macias, Esq.
FL Bar No.: 0458600
Tara Rosenfeld, Esq.
FL Bar No.: 59454
Johanni Fernandez-Marmol, Esq.
FL Bar No.: 1055042
fcpleadings@ghidottiberger.com
6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 679
Year of Issuance: 2022
Parcel Number: 02949-0-00310 Case Number; 04-2025-TD-001
Description of Property: Lots 10 and 11 of Block C in Blanding S/D and Lot 12 Except West 150' of S 1/2, also described in Official Records Book 113-043-3000- 2/26/73
Name in Which Assessed: HERMINIGILDA B DEKEYZER
Name on last tax roll, if different: HILDA DEKEYZER (DAUGHTER) %MELY CLARKE
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: June 3, 2025
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025
6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

CITY COMMISSION
The City of Starke Commission will hold a budget workshop on June 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in the Commission Room. Public participation is welcomed.
6/12 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE
T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on June 20th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.
2015 KIA VIN# KNDJN2A24F7151067
2010 FORD VIN# 2FMDK3JC4ABA36193
6/12 2tchg 6/19-BCT

Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads 6/12/25

40 Notices

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

in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

SPACE FOR LEASE- STARKE, FL- Close to Downtown 1800 +/- Sq. Ft. Professional, General Office, Insurance, Realtor, Attorney, etc. Two rest rooms, space

flexible for small business
Rent \$1,400.00
utilities not included
Call - 904-964-7404

50 For Rent

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

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

4BR/2BA for rent in country. \$1500/ mo plus security. 352-745-1189

WATERFRONT Home on Lake Geneva. 2BR/1.5BA with kitchen,

dining and living room combination. Full brick fireplace in living room. Large washer/dryer room for possible office or small bedroom. Fenced in yard with trash pick up. \$1500/mo. plus deposit. Caregiver and maint. jobs available to reduce rent. 352-278-4578.

2BR/1BA HOME. 696 Epperson St. \$1000/mo., first, last & deposit. No pets. 904-796-7906.

HERITAGE VILLAS
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts
607 Bradford Court
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-6216
TDD 771
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Lake Butler Apartments 1, 2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS
HC & Non-HC accessible.
1005 SW 6th St.
Lake Butler, FL
386-496-3141
TDD/TTY 711
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.
Equal Housing Opportunity

57 For Sale
12 foot x 50 inch wire filled gate, 2 inch x 4 inch mesh. Black. Never installed. \$100. 352-215-7117

2013 Transit Connect, 161k miles,

Orangewood Apartments
801 South Water Street
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-4214
TDD/TTY 711
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!
1, 2, & 3 bedroom HC & Non-HC accessible apartments.
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.
Equal Housing Opportunity

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

a/c & heat. Shelving, power converter, new paint, runs good. \$7000 firm. 904-729-6505.

65 Help Wanted

CAREGIVER needed for weekends. Korean War Veteran. 352-278-4578.

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67 Hunting Land for Rent
68 Rent to Own
69 Food Supplements
70 Money to Lend
72 Sporting Goods
74 Computers & Computer Accessories
Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay
Worded Classified Ad up to 25 words is \$10
Classified Display Ad is \$7.35 per col. inch
Deadline for Classified ads - **Tuesday 12 noon**
904-964-6305
classads@bctelegraph.com
WE ACCEPT
MasterCard, Visa, American Express

Set Right Mobile Homes
Specializing In Relocations, Re-Levels, Set-Ups & Disposal
Rodney A. Carmichael, Owner
Email: set_right_homes@yahoo.com
904-364-6383
Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Lic# IH/1025656

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

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 12, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 64 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 00544-0-00103 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-002 Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4 and run North 89° 41' 35" East along the Northernly boundary thereof, 1639.47 feet to a concrete monument found on the Westerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 229; thence South 37° 51' 01" East along said Westerly boundary, 1188.41 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described, continue South 37° 51' 01" along said Westerly boundary, 473.00 feet to a found iron rod; thence run South 00° 15' 53" East, 13.47 feet to a concrete monument found at the Southeast corner of the N 1/2 of said NW 1/4; thence run South 89° 44' 28" West along the Southerly boundary of said N 1/2 of NW 1/4, a distance of 1112.21 feet to a set iron rod; thence run North 64° 30' 08" East, 910.59 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Name in Which Assessed: AMY ANDRE; MONTELUIS PIERRE NEWTON; GLADYS FENELON Name on last tax roll, if different: AMY ANDRE ET AL All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 322 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 01268-0-00106 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-003 Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in Lots 45 and 52 of Woodlawn, in Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 22 East as per plat recorded in Plat Book 1, page 17 of the public records of BRADFORD COUNTY, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Southeast corner of said Section 19 and run North 01 degree 21 minutes 56 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 2664.18 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of Lot 33, thence South 89 degrees 32 minutes 33 seconds West, along the Northernly boundary thereof, 349.34 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of the W 1/2 of said Lot 33; thence South 01 degree 30 minutes 46 seconds West, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 660.27 feet to an iron rod found at the Southeast corner thereof; thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 49 seconds West, along the Southerly boundary of said West 1/2 and along the Southerly boundaries of Lots 34 and 35, a distance of 1690.33 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of said Lot 45 for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described, run South 00 degrees 49 minutes 42 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof and along the Easterly boundary of Lot 52, a distance of 819.93 feet to an iron rod set on the Northernly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225, said Northernly boundary being on a curve, concave to the Southeast and having a radius of 7689.49 feet; thence Southwesterly, along said Northernly boundary and along to arc of said curve, 630.24 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 71 degrees 46 minutes 08 seconds West to an iron rod set at the beginning of a curve, concave to the Northeast and having a radius of 50.00 feet; thence Northwesterly, along the arc of said curve, 82.24 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 49 degrees 46 minutes 14 seconds West to an iron rod set on

the Easterly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225-A; thence North 05 degrees 33 minutes 18 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 971.40 feet to an iron rod set on the Northernly boundary of said Lot 45; thence South 89 degrees 41 minutes 49 seconds East, along said Northernly boundary 555.52 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Name in Which Assessed: WILLIAMSON LAND DEVELOPMENT INC Name on last tax roll, if different: WILLIAMSON LAND DEVELOPMENT

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 1086 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 06203-A-04100 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-004 Description of Property: Lot 41, GENEVA LAKE ESTATES, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, Pages 36A and 36B of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida, Name in Which Assessed: DENNIS MAHONEY Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/17/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. ENG: DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 431 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 01872-0-01400 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-005 Description of Property: 35 5S 22 LOT 14 IN PEETSVILLE Name in Which Assessed: MARTHA J WHITLEY Name on last tax roll, if different: MARTHA J WHITLEY (DEC) % VERONICA WHITLEY All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/17/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

NOTICE OF TELEPHONIC PUBLIC HEARING

The Capital Trust Authority (the "CTA") has been requested by Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation, and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and/or one or more related and/or affiliated entities (collectively, the "Borrower"), to issue its Health Facilities Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds, in one or

more series of tax-exempt qualified 501(c)(3) bonds or taxable bonds, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$950,000,000 (the "Bonds"). For the purposes of Section 147(f) of the Code, notice is hereby given that, in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service Revenue Procedure 2022-20, a telephonic public hearing will be held by a hearing officer on behalf of the CTA on June 19, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. CDT/12:00 P.M. EDT, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, using the telephone conference instructions provided herein. The purpose of the hearing is to take public comments regarding the issuance of the Bonds by the CTA, the nature and location of the Project (hereinafter defined) and the plan of finance.

The plan of finance contemplates that the CTA will issue, in respect to the Project, not exceeding \$950,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of its Bonds, in one or more series of tax-exempt qualified 501(c)(3) bonds or taxable bonds, and loan the proceeds of the Bonds to the Borrower for the principal purposes of:

(i) financing and/or reimbursing the cost of acquiring, constructing, improving and equipping certain healthcare facilities of the Borrower, as generally described below (the "Project"); (a) a new health care facility in St. Johns County, Florida, to be known as the "Durbin Park Hospital and Health Park Development," consisting of an acute care community hospital, and other related health care facilities, located on a new 42.5 acre health and wellness campus at the southwest corner of the intersection of Peyton Parkway and Flagler Health Way in St. Johns, Florida, with the initial address of 100 Flagler Health Way, St. Johns, FL 32259, including related facilities, fixtures, furnishings, and equipment, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000,000; (b) a bed expansion project at UF Health Leesburg Hospital in Lake County, Florida, consisting of 48 new acute care beds located at 600 E. Dixie Avenue, Leesburg, FL 34748, including facilities, fixtures, furnishings, and equipment, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$70,000,000; (c) renovations to and equipment for various units within UF Health Shands Hospital's north tower located at 1600 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608, including renovations to and equipment for two pediatric units located on the fourth floor of the north tower, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$21,000,000; and (d) a new acute care patient tower, which will be located adjacent to UF Health Shands Hospital's existing south tower hospital at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608, including facilities, fixtures, furnishings and equipment, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000,000.

(ii) refunding all or a portion of certain indebtedness of the Borrower: (a) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2007A (Shands Healthcare Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$40,395,000 (the "2007A Bonds"); (b) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds (Shands Healthcare Project), Series 2008A, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$49,990,000 (the "2008A Bonds"); (c) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Series 2008C Health Facilities Revenue Bonds (Shands Healthcare Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$13,125,000 (the "2008C Bonds"); (d) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2014A (Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc. at the University of Florida Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$250,000,000 (the "2014A Bonds"); (e) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2014B (Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc. at the University of Florida Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$50,000,000 (the "2014B Bonds");

(f) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2016A (Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc. at the University of Florida Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$24,150,000 (the "2016A Bonds"); (g) City of Leesburg, Florida Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds (Central Florida Health Alliance Projects), Series 2011, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$41,315,000 (the "2011 CFHA Bonds"); (h) Sumter County Industrial Development Authority Hospital Revenue Bonds (Central Florida Health Alliance Projects), Series 2014A, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$40,385,000 (the "2014A CFHA Bonds"); (i) Sumter County Industrial Development Authority Hospital Revenue Bonds (Central Florida Health Alliance Projects), Series 2014B, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$19,765,000 (the "2014B CFHA Bonds"); and (j) City of Leesburg, Florida Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds (Central Florida Health Projects), Series 2017, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$23,020,000 (the "2017 CFHA Bonds").

(iii) funding a debt service reserve fund for the Bonds, if deemed necessary or desirable; (iv) funding capitalized interest for the Bonds, if deemed necessary or desirable; (v) funding swap termination payments, if deemed necessary or desirable; and (vi) paying certain costs of issuing the Bonds, including, but not limited to the cost of credit enhancement. The 2007A Bonds and 2007B Bonds were issued for the purposes of financing and refinancing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located (i) on the Borrower's primary medical center campus with a primary address of 1600 S.W. Archer Road, Gainesville, Florida and including adjacent and proximate facilities with primary addresses of 1505 and 1515 S.W. Archer Road, Gainesville, Florida (collectively, the "Primary Medical Campus"); (ii) on the campus of UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital and UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital located at 4101 N.W. 89th Boulevard, Gainesville, Florida (the "Psychiatric Hospital Campus"); (iii) on the campus of Shands AGH (now closed) located at 801 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida (the "Shands AGH Campus"); (iv) on the campus of the UF Health Florida Surgical Center located at 3480 Hull Road, Gainesville, Florida; (v) on the campus of Shands Starke Regional Medical Center located at 922 E. Call Street, Starke, Florida (the "Starke Campus"); and (vi) on the campus of Shands Live Oak Regional Medical Center located at 1100 11th Street S.W., Live Oak, Florida (the "Live Oak Campus").

The 2008A Bonds were issued for the purpose of financing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the Primary Medical Campus. The 2008C Bonds were issued for the purposes of refinancing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the Primary Medical Campus. The 2014A Bonds and 2014B Bonds were issued for the purpose of financing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the LRMCC Campus and the TVRH Campus. The 2017 CFHA Bonds were issued for the purpose of refinancing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the LRMCC Campus and the TVRH Campus. All facilities financed and refinanced with proceeds of the Bonds will be owned and operated by the Borrower, or an affiliate thereof or another entity chosen by the Borrower. The Bonds, when issued, will be special, limited obligations payable solely out of the revenues, income and receipts pledged to the payment thereof and derived from financing agreements with the Borrower, and none of the CTA, Alachua County, Florida, Lake County, Florida, Sumter County, Florida, St. Johns County, Florida, Suwannee County, Florida and Bradford County, Florida (collectively, the "Counties") or the State of Florida (the "State") will be obligated to pay the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the Bonds except from the payments of the Borrower. The Bonds and the interest thereon shall never (i) pledge the taxing power of the Counties, the State or any other political subdivision, public agency or municipality thereof within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory provision, (ii) constitute the debt or indebtedness of the CTA, the Counties, the State or any other political subdivision, public agency or municipality thereof. CTA has no taxing power. Issuance of the Bonds is subject to several conditions including satisfactory documentation and receipt of necessary approvals for the financing.

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Kramer honored at SFC Foundation event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County's Chuck Kramer was one of the recipients at Santa Fe College Foundation's Pillars of Service Awards luncheon, a May 23 event at the Hilton University of Florida that also encouraged attendees to support foundation scholarships.

Kramer, the general manager and morning personality at WEAG 106.3-FM, which he and his family own, joined the Climb for Cancer Foundation, Katie Belanger, Carrie Lee, Héctor Puig and Kristina Ramer as recipients of the inaugural awards. Pillars of Service replaces the longtime Women of Distinction awards program.

Portia Taylor, who retired as the college's vice president of student affairs in 2012, provided the event's welcoming remarks, saying, "These honorees represent the very best of us, enriching our communities, uplifting others and inspiring future generations. Their strength and their perseverance ripple outward, transforming lives and building stronger, healthier and hopeful communities."

Attendees watched a video presentation that highlighted each honoree. Kramer talked about how Bradford County and Starke, in particular, were welcoming when he and his family moved from New Jersey in the fall of 1991.

"It's a pleasure to be a part of the community," Kramer said. "I'm involved in various organizations here."

Brenda Thornton, a Starke Realtor and photographer, was interviewed, saying, "He literally is involved in so much in the community." She added, "We're just really proud of him."

Also interviewed was Starke City Commissioner Bob Milner, who talked about how so many in the community count on Kramer each morning for local news and



Chuck Kramer (left) receives a Pillars of Service Award from Santa Fe College President Paul Broadie. Photo by Matt Stamey of Santa Fe College.

weather as well as to "find out what's going on."

In speaking of Kramer and his family, Milner said, "They have touched so many aspects of the Bradford County community and have been so effective in investing in others so that countless others in Bradford County have benefitted."

Kramer, Milner and Thornton all talked of the death of Kramer's daughter Danielle, who was killed at the age of 20 in a 2007 traffic accident.

"When that event happened, it was very heartbreaking for the family and the community," Thornton said. "So many people just rallied around the Kramers. It really showed how much our community cares about them."

Kramer said Cheryl Canova, the former director of the Santa Fe College Andrews Center in Starke, encouraged him and his wife, Mary, to endow a Santa Fe scholarship in Danielle's name, which they did.

"Every two years, we're always included in the (scholarship) selection process," Kramer said.

Thornton said the scholarship is a plus for Bradford students who struggle to find the financial means to go to college.

"This is one avenue they can really count on to go to the next level," Thornton said.

Santa Fe College President Paul Broadie, who spoke prior to the video presentation, said Kramer and his family are helping make students' dreams come true, while also honoring the memory of their daughter, who was a Santa Fe student.

"When tragedy struck his life, he and his family said, 'I'm going to touch another life.' They established a scholarship in the name of their daughter," Broadie said, adding, "Her legacy lives on and has a tremendous impact."

Teamwork makes Santa Fe a success

Broadie took the time to talk about the highlights of Santa Fe College, such as student success and its transfer rate of students to the University of Florida. He also mentioned that Santa Fe earned an award for workforce development and was one of two Florida public colleges to earn a new Opportunity for Colleges and Universities designation by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

The Carnegie designation recognizes colleges "for excellence and being models for the nation for high access, high student success and high earnings for graduates," Broadie said.

The credit, the president said, goes to many. First, he asked the faculty and staff members present to stand, saying, "We talk about our faculty, which is incredible day in and day out, having an impact. We talk about our staff — incredible, giving of themselves to advance someone else's educational dreams. Incredible."

Broadie also talked of the importance of the community through donations and partnerships that are "all focused on changing a life, taking helplessness and turning it into hope, and taking a dream and turning that dream into reality."

"It's all of us pulling on the rope in the same direction to have a transformational impact," Broadie said.

Broadie thanked his board of trustees, which includes Bradford County's Mike Goldwire and Jeff Oody. Emeritus trustees include Bradford's Arley McRae and Lisa Prevatt.

"I get to serve with the most incredible trustees," Broadie said. "I tell my colleagues all the time, 'My trustees are better than yours.'"

The president gave kudos to Vice President for Advancement Sherry Houston and her team for "incredible organizing and planning and incredible leadership" regarding the Pillars of Service event and upcoming plans for celebrating the college's 60th anniversary.

"For 59 years, we have been the community's college," Broadie said. "We will never stop being the community's college."

'Be a hero,' invest in SFC scholarships

The mission of the Santa Fe See HONOR, page 16



Rhoden, Brown to compete at 4-H State Horse Show

Bradford 4-H member Saylor Rhoden won Speed Events Ground Handling in the junior division at the Area North 4-H Horse Show in May. She also placed second in Western Horsemanship and Western Pleasure and fourth in Keyhole. Rhoden will advance to the July 10-12 Florida 4-H State Horse Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa.



Cassidy Brown, like Saylor Rhoden, is a junior Bradford County 4-H member who qualified for the Florida 4-H State Horse Show. At the Area North 4-H Horse Show, she placed third in Barrel Race, fourth in Pole Bending and fifth in Stake Race.

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HONOR

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College Foundation is to inspire, cultivate and assist private donors to enrich students and the community through scholarships, program enhancements and facilities support.

Taylor spoke specifically on scholarships, saying, "We distribute almost 600 (scholarships) a year, with the value exceeding \$1.6 million. "At Santa Fe College, it costs approximately \$2,500 per year to take classes toward an associate degree and a little over \$3,000 toward the baccalaureate degree. Plus, you have lab fees. You have

books. Then, you have some things that sometimes are just out of the students' control. Much like our own economy, we have things that come up. "These scholarships help our students." Taylor said every student has a dream — one that can become a reality through a scholarship. "Your investment opens the

door to educational opportunities, providing students with the keys to a better life and, in turn, enriching our communities," Taylor said. The return on a Santa Fe College Foundation investment is seen daily, Taylor said, mentioning some of the people we interact with, such as dental hygienists, nurses, EMTs, police

officers and firefighters. "The students we have now will continue to be in our communities and serve our communities," Taylor said. "We need you to help our students." Those at the Pillars of Service luncheon were provided an opportunity to make a donation online via a provided QR code or to submit a check in a provided

envelope. "I want to thank you for your support in the past and thank you in advance for the support you're going to give our students in the future," Taylor said. Please visit sfcollege.edu/foundation if you'd like to donate or to learn more about the Santa Fe College Foundation.

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