

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, June 13, 2024

145th year, 48th Issue — \$1

Black Creek water should be flowing by January

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The president of the Save Our Lakes Organization told the Keystone Heights City Council that the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project is on schedule and that water should be flowing from the creek toward Keystone Heights no later than the first quarter of 2025.

The project is a combination of pumps, a filtration system, and 18 miles of pipe that could transport up to 10 million gallons of water daily from the creek to Keystone Heights lakes and the Floridan Aquifer. The project is the critical element of the district's recovery plan for Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva, which have both fallen below regulatory minimum flows and levels.

Vivian Katz-James told the council that installation of the pipe along State Roads 16 and 21 should be complete



Vivian Katz-James told the council that installation of the pipe along State Roads 16 and 21 should be complete in October.

in October based on information from the St. Johns River Water Management District. The district will take around two months to test the filtration system and other project elements.

"So, water should start flowing into Alligator Creek, best guess: December (2024) or January of 2025," she said. "It's coming in south of (Lake) Magnolia, so it doesn't have a long way to go to get into Brooklyn. (The water management district) expects to have an average of 7.5 million gallons a day coming into Brooklyn, and we're going to see what happens with Geneva."

Katz also spoke to the Lake Geneva fishing pier project. She said she would ask Clay County Commissioners to support the pier, in addition to the Clay County Utility Authority. She added that Save Our Lakes has earmarked a contribution to the nonprofit by the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire

Department a few years ago for pier construction.

"I think we're in very good shape funding-wise for the pier," she said.

Regarding the Geneva Project, a SOLO-led effort to clear the dry lakebed of Lake Geneva of trees and vegetation before water levels on the lake rise, Katz-James said her group is awaiting permits from Florida's Department of Environmental Protection.

"We're not sure what the permit will be, but what we're hoping for...is a permit that allows us to move in and cut and haul everything out in a very simple fashion."

She added that once her group gets regulatory approval for the project, a logging company can clear the trees and debris from the lakebed in two weeks.

Starke placing finance department under city manager

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke commissioners are agreeing to permanently transfer certain duties from the city clerk to the city manager.

The vote was split three to two on first reading, with one commissioner wanting to fill the vacant office by election and another preferring to hold a referendum on the future of the position first.

Ballot language is being prepared that would let voters decide if the police chief should remain an elected official, and the city may do the same for the city clerk. If or when these votes will take place has not been decided.

The commission previously reduced the police chief to a ceremonial position with a \$1 annual salary after shuttering the police department and the resignation of Chief Jeff Johnson.

City Manager Drew Mullins is acting as interim city clerk per the commission's request following the resignation of Jimmy Crosby, who now works for Mullins as operations director.

The commission's intention is not to eliminate the position of city clerk. The ordinance amending the clerk's duties places finance fully in the hands of the city manager. The clerk would still act as the city's treasurer and records keeper. All personnel

matters, including the clerk's office, would be in the manager's hands, with supervision in finance provided by the finance director.

Later, if voters approve, the clerk would be a city employee, not an elected official.

Most commissioners believe this better reflects how other municipalities operate.

Commissioner Danny Nugent opposed the changes, saying the city manager's duties should be kept separate from finance and that Mullins did not have a background in finance.

Commissioner Shannon Smith wanted the future of the city clerk as an elected official or an employee

decided first.

The issue of which "side of city hall" should be responsible for finance is not new and has been debated more than once since the Starke established a city manager form of government. The manager was assigned the task of budget preparation, but deference was shown to the city clerk, who had always overseen finance. This led to clashes more than once.

If the ordinance is approved after the second reading, the manager and finance director would supervise the department, while the clerk would keep the books, recording all receipts and disbursements of funds.

See STARKE, page 3

Library and county say farewell to longtime library director

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

When Union County Library Director Mary Brown spoke to the Union County Board of Commissioners at their May 20, 2024 meeting, she told them that it would be her last official visit to one of their meetings.

Following that announcement, commissioners made a few comments about how deeply she will be missed and how she was, for many county residents, THE Librarian, the one they had known their whole life.

"To me you are the library," Commission Chairman Channing Dobbs told Brown. "I remember when I was small coming to see you and now, I still am and am bringing my children. We will all miss you."

Brown said that was one of her joys during her latter years as director — seeing people she had worked with in youth programs in years past now bringing their children in to see Miss Mary and participate in the library's youth programs and story time. And she said they seemed to remember her fondly.

Interestingly, that was how Brown got her start at the library — she started in 1993 in a position creating children's programming.



Library Director Mary Brown informed the members of the Union County Board of County Commissioners that the meeting seen here (May 20, 2024) would be her last. Her retirement date is set for July 1. Pictured are (l-r) Jimmy Tallman, Willie Croft, Diane Hannon, Mary Brown, Channing Dobbs, Pretti McNutt, Donna Jackson and Mac Johns.

"I love all the facets of my job, but my heart has always been in youth services," Brown said.

Brown became director a few years later, when the New River Library Cooperative was being formed in 1997 and the current director left the library to head up the Co-op. When Brown started the Library was located in the building that now is home to the Supervisor of Elections Office, on Main St. in Lake Butler. Now, the

library is still in Lake Butler, but it has moved a few blocks into its own new (2009) building. Brown worked tirelessly to help raise funds to cover the new library — holding raffles for donated items and even taking a few turns in a dunking booth.

"The new building was many years in the making," Brown said. "There was fundraising, grants, in kind labor — it was a total community effort, and everyone did what they could."

Brown said many of the highpoints in her life occurred during her time as director.

"I went to college, raised a family of three children, was active with the Red Cross for about 12 years and headed up Toys for Kids for about 20 years."

See LIBRARY, page 8



DLPbank
Proud to Sponsor

WORTH NOTING

Candidates for public office

Candidates may submit announcements of their intention to run for office to the Telegraph along with a photograph through Monday, June 17, by emailing editor@bctelegraph.com. There is a \$50 charge, and no exceptions will be made to the deadline. Payment must be made prior to publication.

Fairgrounds food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, June 18, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

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 plans a food distribution on Thursday, June 20, from 10–11:30 a.m. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawley Road in Starke. This distribution may begin early depending on the arrival of the food truck.

Collection site closings

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

Under NEW Management

Summer Service Special

- Free AC Check
- Conventional oil & filter change — \$29.95 (up to 6qt)
- Synthetic oil & filter change — \$89.95 (up to 6qt)
- Tire rotation — \$19.95
- Wiper blades — Starting at \$10.95 each installed
- Alignment — \$79.95
- A/C cabin filter replacement — starting at \$37.95 installed
- A/C sanitizing service — \$24.95

STARKE LOCATION

DUVAL

CHEVROLET



Used Vehicle Financing Available to everyone regardless of credit

Up to \$12,000 OFF New Silverados

1018 N Temple Avenue
Starke, FL 32091
www.duvalchevy.com
(904) 964-7500

Weekly deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. • Phone 904-964-6305 • Fax 904-964-8628

editor@bctelegraph.com • BCTelegraph.com •



6 89076 63869 2

IGRA *Spires IGA Market* est. 1890
 Old-Fashioned Customer Service.
 610 S.W. 1st Street • Lake Butler, Florida • Phone: (386) 496-3361 • Deli: (386) 496-3969
 Email: Spiresmarket@windstream.net • Website: spiresmarket.com
 Like us on Facebook @SpiresMarket
 We gladly accept Debit, Credit, EBT and WIC

LOCAL FRESH
 Products Available While Supplies Last.
Father's Day SALE

Fresh Quality Meat Specials



USDA Select Angus Beef T-Bone Steak
\$11.99 Lb.
 SAVE UP TO \$2.00 Lb.



Fresh Lean N' Meaty • Family Pack Ground Beef
\$3.49 Lb.
 SAVE UP TO \$1.50 Lb.



Sanderson Farms • Grade A Whole Fryers
\$1.49 Lb.
 SAVE UP TO .50c Lb.



Fresh Lean N' Tender • St. Louis Style Pork Spare Ribs
\$2.99 Lb.
 SAVE UP TO \$2.00 Lb.

3 DAY SALE
 June 13th - 15th
Bone-In Pork Loins
\$1.59 Lb.
 Family Pack

Ground Beef Patties
\$3.19 Lb.
 Juneteenth Celebration - 2 Day Sale June 18 & 19

Pork Neckbones
69¢ Lb.
 Family Pack

Chicken Drumsticks
89¢ Lb.
 Family Pack

Chicken Leg Quarters
\$3.00 40-Lb. Case

Oxtails
\$8.99 Lb.
 Family Pack

Republicans welcome leaders, public to dinner

Join the Bradford County Republican Party on Saturday, June 22, 2024, for an evening with Senator Rick Scott, Congresswoman Kat Cammack, and State Representative Chuck

Brannan at the Woman's Club of Starke beginning at 6 p.m. Location is 201 N. Walnut St. in Starke.

Dinner will include a 10 oz. ribeye, potato, green beans, roll, side salad and dessert, with tea, coffee and water. Tickets are \$65 and are payable by personal check, cashier's check or money order made out to BCREC. Mailing address is P.O. Box 213, Starke, FL 32091. If you mail a check your tickets will be

available for pick up at the door. Seating is limited. Purchase of a ticket is a donation to the Bradford Republican Party and is not refundable. For tickets contact BCREC Treasurer Donna Solze at 904-364-6076.

Solicitations in connection with this event are made by Bradford County Republican Party and are not made by any federal officeholder.

Pastor anniversary at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries will be celebrating Pastor Jeffrey T. and Sister Daffany Jones' eighth anniversary on Sunday, June 23, at 11 a.m. The Rev. Ellsworth McGuire and St. John Missionary Baptist Church will be in charge of the service. The public is invited. Dinner will be served.

Florida Twin Theatre
 904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!

WEDNESDAY KID SHOW 6/12 MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU-10AM & 1PM All tickets are \$5 and include a small popcorn & drink!	WEDNESDAY 6/12 FURIOSA- 6:30 (Upstairs) BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE- 6:30 (Downstairs)	THURSDAY KID SHOW 6/13 MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU-10AM & 1PM All tickets are \$5 and include a small popcorn & drink!	THURSDAY 6/13 FURIOSA- 6:30 (Upstairs) BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE- 6:30 (Downstairs)
FRIDAY 6/14 BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE- 7:00 (Upstairs) INSIDE OUT 2- 7:00 (Downstairs)	SATURDAY 6/15 BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE- 4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs) INSIDE OUT 2- 4:00 & 6:45 (Downstairs)	SUNDAY 6/16 BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE- 4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs) INSIDE OUT 2- 4:00 & 6:45 (Downstairs)	Visit us on-line at www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com

TEAL TILE
CARPET ONE
 Local Flooring Specialists • Over 40 Years
 Sales • Service • Installation
 Free Estimates
 COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

THANK YOU
 for allowing us the opportunity to serve you for the last 46 years.

Call for DIY specials!

12 months interest free financing on approved credit.
We will beat all competitor pricing!

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

- Vinyl • Carpet
- Ceramic Tile
- Hardwood & Laminate Floors

131 N. Cherry Street
 Starke, FL 32091
904-964-7423

DISCOUNT PRICING POWER OF OVER 1,400 STORES!!

Let's celebrate Dad with the great savings at...

BAM BUILDINGS AND MORE

Financing Available
FREE DELIVERY

We Have AMAZING DEALS! **\$95 DOWN** on all portable BUILDINGS

POLE BARN
\$8,112 + TAX
\$115 MO/WAG

Expertly installed by Cutting Edge Development LLC.
 License Number: CGC1523449

\$0 DOWN DELIVERS
STEEL Garages & Barns W.A.C.

Stop by today to TOUR OUR LOT MODELS!

MANAGER'S SPECIAL

- 12x30 SIDE ENTRY DOOR 8X7 ROLL-UP DOOR: \$8,975 \$307 MO RTO
- 10x14: \$5,690 \$196 MO RTO
- 10x20: \$5,990 \$207 MO RTO
- 12x24: \$7,800 \$269 MO RTO
- 18x25 BOAT COVER: \$3,000 \$57
- 6x12 NEW! \$3,600 \$65 RTO
- 12x12 46" DOOR \$3,899 \$128 RTO
- 10x12 2 DOORS PORCH MODEL \$4,190 \$145 RTO
- 10x12 GREEN HOUSE \$3,990 \$138 RTO
- 7x10 \$4,250 \$77 RTO
- 10x16 \$4,010 \$139 RTO
- 10x20 60" DOOR \$4,580 \$159 RTO
- 12x20 SCREEN ROOM \$5,915 \$204 RTO
- 12x20 ROLL-UP DOOR \$6,270 \$216 RTO
- 12x24 LUMBER JACK \$7,448 \$255 RTO
- 42x26 CAROLINA BARN \$122 MO WAG \$7,630
- 18x21 CARPORT \$33 MO WAG \$2,018
- 18x31 UTILITY \$77 MO WAG \$4,752
- 18x41x12 VERTICAL ROOF BY CURVEN \$84 MO WAG \$5,244
- 18x26x9 INCLUDES 1/2" X 2" LEAN TO \$128 MO WAG \$8,009
- 30x51x12 \$255 MO WAG \$16,408

1540 S Walnut Street
 Starke, FL 32091

BAM BUILDINGS AND MORE

904-966-0077
 www.BuildingsAndMore.com

Authorized Dealer for **TES TUNING BUILDING SYSTEMS**

Find us on **facebook**

Lawtey votes to request operational audit

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

There was high public turnout at the city of Lawtey's June council meeting following reporting on an inquisitive letter from the Florida Legislature's Joint Legislative Auditing Committee letter sent to city leaders.

The committee addressed potential violations related to budget transparency, public records requests, and financial and other reporting.

Discussion of the city's response to the letter was absent on the agenda but was added at the request of Councilwoman Emily Hoffman.

City Clerk Lisa Harley had previously responded to the committee's letter, clarifying some matters and acknowledging shortcomings the city needs to address.

City attorney Dan Sikes said — as the letter had pointed out — that the council could request an operational audit and suggested the city research the cost. Councilwoman Debra Norman said this was a good idea and would help the city to "repair its reputation." Council members decided to move forward with a vote to allow the audit even before establishing cost because of the seriousness of the committee's letter.

Hoffman, attorney address council

Public comments included a lengthy address by Attorney Bobi Frank, serving as legal counsel

for Councilwoman Hoffman, who is awaiting fulfillment of large public records request.

"I don't want to come to the city of Lawtey, I assure you, but I feel forced to, to represent Councilwoman Hoffman," she said.

Frank directed some of her statements specifically to Sikes and his previous statements at the May council meeting regarding the cost of Hoffman's public records request. Sikes told council members that the city could be liable for the cost associated with the request.

"Actually, when people do public records requests, it saves the taxpayers money because Ms. Hoffman's public records request is being paid for in full by her," she said. "The taxpayers, the people that vote and put a lot of you public officials in office understand what the statute provides."

She went on to say these requests should be encouraged.

Sikes later responded to Frank by saying when he told the city it could be expensive to fill a records request he was talking about "failure to properly comply is very expensive."

Frank called the council to task regarding their lack of a special meeting to address the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee letter. She read portions of the city's response letter to the state. In the response, the city stated they post agendas the Monday prior to the meeting, but as of the week prior, her client had not received the agenda, nor were other materials available at the time of the meeting.

Hoffman also addressed the council regarding the lack of an emergency meeting to discuss the letter and the city's response. Her second concern was her perceived conflict of interest with Sikes serving as the city's attorney. Hoffman said that she had to abstain from the vote to hire Sikes as city attorney because he had represented Harley, Chief Jerry Feltner and Capt. Nathan Blom in a complaint against her.

Hoffman said the council "never voted to solicit" other attorneys for the job. She said she had hired counsel to represent her for these reasons. Hoffman then made a motion to terminate Sikes as the city attorney. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Hoffman continued, saying she had finally received her public records request from the warden at Lawtey Correctional Institution. Hoffman said the records revealed that the city maintenance man had "wrote a fraudulent report on me." She told her version of events of the day she took pictures of trash falling on her car from a trailer, that unbeknownst to Hoffman was the city's trailer. This was the incident used to file a complaint against her.

Hoffman alleged that the maintenance man lied on his report so he could blame her for the loss of inmates, possibly to cover up his own mistakes causing a temporary loss of inmate workers.

In response to these revelations, Hoffman made a motion to fire the current maintenance man. Councilwoman Amy Blom recused herself from voting

due to a family connection. Hoffman used her recusal to bring attention to what she called obvious nepotism within city departments.

Just as her previous motion to fire Sikes, this motion also died due to a lack of a second from another council member.

Brandon Road still unresolved

Sikes reported his findings to the council on Brandon Road and the city's options on handling road repairs and garbage service. Sikes warned council that the biggest issue in making the road a city property is the cost incurred. If the city takes over the road, it will be liable for road improvements and maintenance.

Currently, residents are very concerned over access to emergency services. The conditions of the road make it nearly impossible for an emergency vehicle to quickly respond to a call. One resident stood up and stated she was concerned that if she needed help, she would die before the medics could arrive.

The long, detailed discussion concluded with council members voting to hold a workshop to discuss cost and informing Brandon Road residents of the city's intentions and property owner's legal rights.

Hero recognition

Chief Feltner recognized Sgt. Robert Jordan for saving the life of a choking child on April



Lawtey's Sgt. Robert Jordan was recognized by Chief Jerry Feltner for saving the life of a choking child.

29. Feltner said Jordan arrived at the home before emergency rescue and was able to administer lifesaving techniques that allowed the child to start breathing again.

Feltner said Jordan will be receiving an award.

"We want to thank Sgt. Jordan for that and for his quick responses to the city and to the county based on our MOU that we have with the county sheriff's department," Feltner said.

Everyone at the meeting gave a hearty applause for Jordan, who was in attendance.

In other business: — a fire department MOU was still not approved due to two council members awaiting financial information from the county.

— in response to citizen concerns over the city clerk being bonded, Sikes said there

is no law in Florida that requires the clerk to be bonded, but if it is in the city's charter, she can and will be bonded.

— impact fees were suggested by a member of the public. Council members said they will refer to what the county decides.

— Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter discussed fire assessment fees under county consideration.

— council approved \$2,700 for the cost of fence supplies to repair areas around the recreation building and park.

— John Mercier presented the council with a certificate of completion from the county and explained the max capacity for the building.

— the traffic camera program sent over 900 violations in May.

Chemours highlights mission, economic contribution

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation and the Northeast Florida Chamber of Commerce sponsored a lunch and learn about Chemours.

The company's Florida Operations Leader, Jason Geiger, said Chemours's \$20 million annual payroll supports 231 employees, of which 124 live in Bradford County.

He added that Chemours operates three business segments. Its advanced performance materials unit markets resins, the nonstick coating Teflon, lubricants and fluoros: materials that can withstand heat.

The company's thermal business unit manufactures

refrigerants like freon and fire suppressants.

Its titanium technologies business mines, manufactures, and sells titanium dioxide, which is used as a whitening agent in many products.

Not only for paint

The Trail Ridge operation mines the raw materials for titanium dioxide.

"It's not only (for) paint," he said, "but it goes into plastics and laminate paper, all kinds of other things. Lots of things that it makes white."

He added that the chemical is used extensively in food packaging to prevent ultraviolet rays from reaching products from milk to potato chips.

He said the company now

operates two mines in Baker County near Maxville, a mineral separation plant north of Lawtey, a mineral separation plant at Trail Ridge within Camp Blanding, and a new mine started in 2022 called Trail Ridge South.

Geiger said the Trail Ridge plant, within Camp Blanding, is the longest-running zircon plant in the world.

"They started building it in 1948, and it's been running since 1949," he said. "We still have original equipment from 1949 running in that plant."

The manager said that since the manufacturer of some of the equipment within the plant went out of business years ago, Chemours has to fabricate its own replacement parts.

From toilet seats to dinner plates

Geiger said the Northeast Florida plants produce around 10% of the company's raw materials used in its TiO2 products. Chemours buys the other 90% from Africa, Australia, and the Ukraine.

He added, however, that the best quality heavy minerals originate locally.

Geiger said some titanium is milled into a fine flower-like substance called opacifier.

"And then that goes into the glazes that make your toilets white, your sinks white, even dinner plates and coffee mugs," he explained. The manager added that the Florida and Georgia zircon opacifier gives

off a slight blue hue. In contrast, the opacifier made from zircon in the rest of the world emits a yellow tint.

"So, the most interesting thing about this fact is all of us men in the room, we can't tell the difference," he said. "We can't

see it, but you ladies have more rod cells or cone cells. I can never remember which, but you have more rods or cones in your eyes, and you can actually tell the difference. If I showed you

See MISSION, page 5

STARKE

Continued from page 1

Commissioner Andy Redding said the changes preserve "separation of powers" while making Starke more consistent with other cities around the state.

Mayor Scott Roberts said the city's charter hasn't been revisited, and there are many archaic things in it that need to be addressed with a formal charter review. The ordinance only concerns duties in finance, not charter amendments.

"We're just making this like most other cities already operate," Roberts said. "We will address the charter issues at another time, because they do need to be addressed."

Nugent pressed the mayor on when the city will decide about the charter referendum for city clerk and police chief. Crosby said they had been working with the attorney on ballot language for the police chief position and could do the same for city clerk as well.

If the commission can pass the ordinances within the elections supervisor's time frame, the questions could be on the ballot this year.

Nugent, however, called for a special election for city clerk to take place alongside the special election to replace Commissioner Smith, who is resigning in his run for county commission. There was no other support on the commission for that action.

Commissioner Janice Mortimer expressed her opinion that the charter votes on the

police chief and city clerk positions should be voted on at different times, just so the public is free from confusion.

Crosby said the city also has the option of conducting a single-issue referendum by mail instead of placing it on the ballot. The commission could move forward with the police chief referendum this fall, placing it on the ballot. It could conduct the city clerk referendum by mail in the spring before qualifying takes place next June for the city's 2025 election.

Nugent didn't understand the "big holdup" on electing a new clerk when they were filling Smith's seat in a few months. Mortimer explained they don't

have the authority to appoint an interim commissioner, but they can appoint an interim clerk. Nugent said the city manager is already overloaded and again said his background is not finance. Mortimer countered that staff in finance has a lot of things working better than they have before.

"Doesn't matter who's supervising them. The people that are doing the everyday work are the people that actually running the city and doing the job, and I think that our staff in finance now is doing a fantastic job," she said.

In other business: — the commission set budget workshops before its next three

meetings, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

— the commission finalized land use changes downtown to make way for the CityWalk townhome development.

"Home At Last"

Oh happy day when I see His face,
After the sunset, after my race.
My long journey here will soon past,
What I've done for Christ only will last.
Thru valleys low or mountains high,
To all of these I'll bid goodbye.
I'll soon be walking on streets of gold,
So many things will then unfold.
Home at last to riches untold,
Home with my Savior as ages roll.

— Henry Hodges
Lawtey, FL

In Memory of
Paul R. Torode

The Genuine. The Original.

OVERHEAD DOOR

Overhead Door Company of Gainesville
• Garage Doors & Openers • Springs, Cables & Sections Replaced
• Residential & Commercial • Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured
Sales - Installation - Service
352-468-2733 www.OverheadDoor.com

D.R. BAKER
CONSTRUCTION

CBC1258123
Custom Homes and Remodels
Dalton R. Baker
Owner
352-266-8587 daltonrbaker@gmail.com
www.drbaakerconstruction.com

THE ORIGINAL BRADFORD • UNION • CLAY COUNTIES

REGIONAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

<p>JBS JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY</p> <p><i>"I am the way, the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father but through me"</i> John 14:6</p> <p>Starke 904-964-6078 Lake Butler 386-496-3079</p>	<p>R ROBERTS INSURANCE</p> <p>EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES</p> <p>Starke Keystone Heights Middleburg Lake Butler 904-964-7826 352-473-7239 904-282-2665 386-496-3411 www.georgerobertsins.com</p>	<p>Bryan's ACE Hardware</p> <p>Starke 904-964-4642 Melrose 352-475-2400 Keystone Hts 352-473-4006</p>
<p>Southland Surveying & Mapping, Inc.</p> <p>Professional land surveying and mapping services since 1975 www.SouthlandSurvey.com 386-496-3107 Licensed AL, FL, GA</p>	<p>A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST</p> <p>Yield Ferreira Funeral Services</p> <p>Starke Funeral Home 904-964-5737 Lake Butler Chapel 386-496-1400</p>	<p>FIRST CHURCH OF STARKE</p> <p>200 N. Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-6864 FirstUMC.cc</p>
<p>JONES-GALLAGHER FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>Distinguished Caring Service for Over 50 Years</p> <p>Joe Gallagher - Owner Starke 904-964-6200 Keystone Heights 352-473-3176</p>	<p>DLPbank</p> <p>Starke Lake Butler Interlachen</p>	<p>Rev. Diane M. Wilson Pastor</p> <p>First Presbyterian Church of Starke 851 E. Call Street Starke, FL 32081</p> <p>"With God All Things Are Possible" Worship 10:30</p>
<p>Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.</p> <p>Competitive Rates, non-profit, right here in your community</p> <p>A Tri-county Energy Cooperative Keystone District Office 352-473-4917 • clayelectric.com</p>	<p>After Church on Sunday Come to Powell's Dairy Freeze</p> <p>"Home of the Foot Long Steak" Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night! US 301 NORTH • STARKE, FL</p>	<p>Come Worship with us STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St • Starke, FL</p>
<p>DOUGLAS BATTERY OF STARKE</p> <p>We rebuild starters, alternators, generators. Auto • Marine • Cycle Batteries 407 N. Temple • 964-7911</p>	<p>Morgan Road Baptist Church</p> <p>3784 NW CR 233 Starke</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Evening Worship 6pm 964-4422 Wednesday Evening 7pm</p>	

Lake Region

Airport leaders explain history and outlook for facility

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The chair of the Keystone Heights Airport gave a Clay Chamber group an overview of the facility and the outlook for the airport's growth.

David Kirkland told the Lake Region Prosperity Partners that he has been leading the facility's governing board since 2009. Airport Manager Craig Coon assisted Kirkland during the presentation.

"We were able to get him out of Iowa," Kirkland said of the recently hired manager. "He was an airport manager out there and has been a corporate pilot."

Coon showed a brief video outlining the facility's history, starting in 1942 as one of two Army airfields in the area, the other in Alachua County.

During World War II, the airfield was the training site for various observation, squadron, and tactical reconnaissance groups.



Keystone Heights Airport Chair David Kirkland (left) and Airport Manager Craig Coon give the Lake Region Prosperity Partners an overview of the facility and the outlook for the airport's growth.

In 1945, the airfield was placed on inactive status, and the City of Keystone Heights acquired the property two years later.

According to the video, branches of the military continue

to utilize the Keystone Heights Airport for training exercises throughout the year, including parachute training, recurrence training, equipment drops, and troop mobilization. The main

runway is 100 feet wide and 5,046 feet long and can support aircraft weighing up to 150,000 pounds. The second runway is 75 feet wide and 4,899 feet in length.

The facility is the only fully functional airport in both Bradford and Clay counties and provides aviation services to military, corporate, and general aviation.

Economic impact

Kirkland said that there are 129 public-use airports in the Sunshine State.

"That includes commercial, international airports like Jacksonville, Orlando, and Miami," he said. "Then you have general aviation airports: Keystone, Palatka, Williston, Alachua; those are the smaller versions. And then the military. Up here, we're familiar with NAS-Jacksonville and probably Cecil Field, and there's also Eglin, MacDill, and Homestead.

So, there's a lot of aviation that goes on in the state of Florida."

The airport chair cited a 2023 Florida Department of Transportation report that stated airports generate \$336 billion of economic impact to the state, providing 398,600 jobs with a payroll of \$23.6 billion. Additional impacts come from military budgets, capital investments, and revenue from leases and fuel sales.

He added that over the past three years, the Keystone Airport has brought \$2.8 million to the Lake Region with projects to rehabilitate taxi lanes, install new runway lighting, construct a new FBO terminal, and purchase equipment.

Upcoming projects exceed \$14 million

Kirkland said that 10 projects at the facility are scheduled through 2030, totaling \$14.3 million in upgrades.

The two most significant projects are runway improvements totaling \$10.2 million. Others include \$950,000 to expand the airport's fuel farm, \$700,000 to build 10 T-hangars, and \$650,000 to update the facility's master plan.

He said the projects are funded through the state's Aviation Grant Program, which levies 4.27 cents on every gallon of aviation fuel sold in Florida, and the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program.

Kirkland said additional projects his board is looking at over the next several years include working with local governments on updating land use and zoning regulations, installing turning lanes on State Road 100 for the airport's entrances, getting water and sewer service to the property, developing a marketing plan and constructing additional T-hangars.

Lake Region Kiwanis celebrates 35 years

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The Lake Region Kiwanis Club recently 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."

Over the next three decades, Bullock would hold every office in the club except treasurer and represent the group as Lt. Governor.

The group's mission is to improve the world, one child, and one community at a time.

Although Lake Region Kiwanis organizes the Keystone Heights Christmas and Our Country Day Parades, Bullock maintains that its most significant impact remains the character-building Terrific Kids program, which recognizes elementary school students for positive behavior and builds self-esteem and perseverance.

"I know the parades are kind of our signature pieces," Bullock said, "but the Terrific Kids are always up there too because we've been doing that for so long. I think Badger Moring got us started in that, and the Starke Club picked it up from us."

Bullock said the program has touched thousands of Lake Region students over the past 30-



Lake Region Kiwanis charter member Johnny Mason (left) and Tina Bullock welcome new member Carlton Page in 2017.

plus years.

"We now have parents who come up and say, I was a Terrific Kid," Bullock stated. "It's touched so many kids, and I like it because they don't have to be straight-A students. They just have to try to improve and achieve and do the best they can."

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.

Bradford County Eye Center would like to congratulate **Dr. Minesinger** on a wonderful career!

If Dr. Minesinger's existing patients would like a copy of their records, they are being stored at the Bradford County Eye Center.

"Justis is the best! She will guide you every way possible. She's flexible, reliable and dependable!! Highly recommend in Clay County. Very honest and informative. She will help find you the best property possible! She deserves a raise! 5 stars and if I could, I would give her 10 stars!"



SouthLand REALTY & MANAGEMENT CO

Justis Smith
352-258-4619
100 E Nightingale St.
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
justis@southland-realty.com



For Sale!

5675 Cherokee Street
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
MLS #2017970



MeLissa Pellerito REALTOR®

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

Florida Homes Realty & Mortgage

"She's everything you could want. Hands down the best. Thanks for everything you have done for my family and continue to do for our friends we send you. You are amazing!"



For Sale!

MLS #2011753

4930 NW 182nd Way,
Starke FL, 32091



Featured Listings From Your Local Realtors!



COLDWELL BANKER SMITH & SMITH REALTY

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

"Austin was amazing to work with from start to finish. He helped my husband and I find the perfect home that fit all of our needs & wants! Extremely easy to communicate with and answer all (we had a lot) of our questions during our home buying process. Highly recommend!"



Austin Carter
(352) 258-2152
austinc@smithandsmithrealty.com



For Sale!

MLS #2023076

4395 Seminole Street,
Starke FL, 32091



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

MLS #237498



For Sale!

MLS #237498

4352 SE County Road 21b,
Keystone Heights, FL 32656



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

CB ISAAC REALTY



Keystone Heights Rotary Club President Heather Davis gives a \$2,000 check to Trevor (L) and Branden Waters of Keystone Youth Soccer.



Sandra Kahle, chair of the Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation, introduces Jason Geiger and Kristen Woods of the Chemours Company.

Rotary donates to soccer program

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Keystone Heights Rotary Club President Heather Davis presented Keystone Youth Soccer with a \$2,000 check during the civic club's May 15 meeting.

Trevor and Branden Waters accepted the donation on behalf of the nonprofit.

Davis said the club contributes annually as part of Rotary's participation in a yearly tournament at Twin Lakes Park.

Trevor Waters told the club

the tournament is approaching its 20th anniversary. He added that around 12 years ago, he switched the event from a winter tournament to a summer event to increase participation.

MISSION Continued from pg. 3

a white tile that was made with Australian zircon and one that was made with ours, you would know that this one was the one from the U.S. because it's got a slight blue tint."

New technology allows more mining

Senior Geologist Kristen

Woods added that the Trail Ridge runs from Starke to Jesup, Georgia and that the company mines heavy minerals from the former sand dunes, including zircon, ilmenite, and rutile.

"It's about one to two kilometers, east-west, 160 north-south," she said.

Woods added that for 70 years, miners have extracted heavy minerals from the area using a dredge operating along the top of the ridge.

Now, mobile mining

technology allows Chemours to mine on the slopes of the ridge, around and between wetlands, and in other areas inaccessible by the dredge.

"It's not quite as economical," she said of the dump-truck-sized units compared to the dredge, "but it's better in the fact that we can avoid wetlands, and we can get into little, tiny pockets that we couldn't dream of getting with a dredge. So, it's got good and bad points."

Highly Rated Local Businesses!

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



"Nothing but good things to say about Phillip McDonald plumbing... They are super responsive, show up on time, respectful of your property, and do good work. The office staff is amazing and so friendly. I will definitely use them again and recommend them to all my friends."

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



"Great service! Fast and efficient place with very nice and knowledgeable people. Great place to bank and a trusted bank in the community for over 100 years!"

CJ Appliances
442 W Call St, Starke, FL 32091
(904) 452-1968



"Great place, Starke needed an appliances store with good prices. I bought my mom a brand new dryer from them for 60% off of what it would cost at Lowes or Home Depot. Seriously check this place out!"

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



"Very helpful in taking care of your needs!"
-Ted Gornto

Sporting Chance
218 N Temple Ave,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-7434



"Great experience! Great communication! Very honest people and fair prices! I cannot recommend Beth enough and will NOT GO ANYWHERE else for custom shirts ever again!"

Duval Chevrolet
1018 N Temple Ave,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-7500



"In and out in a very timely manner for scheduled maintenance. Brandi is very courteous and professional! Marshall in sales is top-notch!!"

Jackson Building Supply Inc.
937 S Walnut St,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-6078



"Very friendly and knowledgeable staff. Always have what I need and at good prices."

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



"They not only have some of the best staff, they always work to get you in! My entire family gets adjusted here- so glad we found them!!"

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



"I was very pleased with the professionalism of the staff and the genuine care during my eye exam and with the choice of my new glasses. I chose the Bradford Eye Center based on their reviews and I was not disappointed."

Turners Automotive & Transmission
135 Commercial Cir,
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(352) 473-3404



"Great customer service! Dropped off overnight and got it back the next afternoon. Accurate estimates."

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



"They did an awesome job! It looks great and the beach was busy all weekend. Thank you for all you do for our city, county, and the citizens!!"

Hearing Aids Today
450 S Lawrence Blvd,
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(352) 877-4471



"This is the 2nd pair of hearing aids from this company. The people are wonderful, personable and professional. If there are any questions or concerns they are addressed immediately. I love this place."

Dr. Nancy Short, Chiropractor
SE 28th St, Melrose, FL 32666
(904) 778-6859



"Nancy is very proficient in this art. I drove well over an hour to see her because seeing anyone else would be nonsensical. Trust me, just go see her! She's fantastic."

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



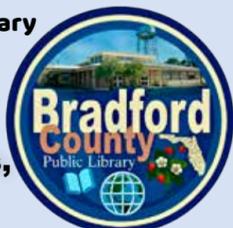
"Officer Adam helped me with my flat tire. I was kinda awestruck. I've never had a police officer do something like that for me. I moved to this county from Jacksonville 5 months ago, and I'm really impressed! Officer Adam thank you!"

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



"Best place to get any kind of flooring.. professional, friendly and easy to work with! Highly recommend- cant say enough good things about service, installation and products!"

Bradford County Public Library
456 W Pratt St,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 368-3911



"Great place, spaces, resources and an awesome staff!"

Durrance Pump
864 N Temple Ave STE C,
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 964-7061



"Great hometown people. They do excellent work and clean up behind themselves. Super friendly it was great doing business with them and I have them on speed dial for any future needs I may have. Highly recommend them!"

UNION COUNTY

Union band enjoys exceptional year

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The Union County High School Band, under the instruction of Band Directors Kelly Dorsey and Pam Higginbotham, has had another banner year!

Even though the band consistently receives overall Superior Ratings, it is important to note that this is the second year in a row they have received the Otto J. Kraushaar Award for Superior Ratings from all adjudicators in every category at every level. Both the marching band and concert band took honors at their highest level for district and state.

Forty-five band members performed individually in the MPA District Solo and Ensemble Assessment, with 43 of them bringing home superior medals. Nine of these young musicians qualified to perform at the MPA State Solo and Ensemble Assessment. To achieve this qualification, they had to perform music on a collegiate level. All nine students brought home superior ratings.

In addition, ten students were selected through audition to be a part of the North Florida Honor Band, composed of high school

band students from six area counties.

Those students were Braden Adams, Nolan Beighley, Kendyl Brannen, Natalie Campbell, Trestin Durant, Imarhi Green, Reese Harrison, Eli Hendricks, Josie Regar and Matthew Ring. This summer, Barry Andersen-Davis will be performing with the Florida Bandmasters Association's Nine-Star Honor Band (for students completing ninth grade and entering tenth grade next year). Nolan Beighley was also selected to be part of the FFA National Honor Band and, along with Trestin Durant, to the FSU Tri-State Honor Band. Durant was also selected for the Florida Bandmasters Association's All-State Honor Band.

In the past year, all of the various UCHS ensembles have been busy with performances. The Jazz Band performed for the Lake Butler Rotary Club, Christmas Concert, Jazz Spring Concert and the Spring Prism Concert.

The Concert Band performed for the Veterans Day Ceremony, Christmas concert, District and State performances and in the Spring Prism Concert.



The UCHS Symphonic Band at the State Music Performance Assessment. Pictured are: Row 1: Chloe Gartman, Lacy Fipps, Kayley Tomlinson, Brie Elixson, Imarhi Green, Jessica Kingsbury, Makayla Nelson, Josie Regar, Kerri Miller and Malik Hendricks; Row 2: Ke'Andre Stephens, Gracie Crawford and Noah Beighley; Row 3: Band Directors Pam Higginbotham and Kelly Dorsey, Madison Andrews, Braden Adams, Natalie Campbell, Princess Maxwell, Rebecca Langkau, Tori Smeal, Kendyl Brannen, Adrian Tucker, Hunter Cruz, Matthew Walin, Evan Jones, Barry Anderson-Davis, Reese Harrison, Kaylee Thompson, Lillie Lane, Maggie Wade, Zulma Gomez-Gomez, Nadia Norman, Katie Adams, Alexis Morris, Preston Flick, Eli Hendricks, Nathan Pavlisko and Phoenix Forbes; Row 4: Kamerohn Wilson, Kaelyn Hanna, Gabriel Fussell, Quinton Patterson, Trestin Durant, Matthew Ring, Edward Durant, Donny West, Aubry McDowall and Camryn Barringer.

The Marching Band performed at all Tiger football games, the Homecoming Parade, the Christmas Parade, the District Marching MPA, and the Spring Prism Concert.

The Tigerettes performed as part of the Marching Band at all football games and parades. In the second semester they formed a Winterguard and performed for

LBMS as well as their Friends and Family night.

Not to forget, the LBMS Middle School band program also performed at the Christmas Concert, District Concert MPA, "Music in the Parks" Festival in Orlando and the Spring Prism Concert.

"This has been an exceptional year with so many wonderful

young musicians," Dorsey said.

"We have had numerous students branch out beyond their expected curriculum. Several have been composing and arranging music. This is a very dedicated group that spends an enormous amount of time improving their craft on their own, including before school, during lunch, and after school. I am so proud of each and

every one of them for elevating themselves and in turn, the band program".

Dorsey said plans are already in the works for next year, with the band members working on some of the pieces they will perform in their various appearances, but she will say no more for now. She wants it to be a surprise.

Lake Butler facility celebrates National Hospital Week

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The week of May 12-18 was National Hospital Week. In Lake Butler, the owners and administrators of Lake Butler Hospital decided to treat their employees to a special gathering. This luncheon included both the employees and interested members of the community and was planned to show appreciation of all they do at LBH and for the confidence and support the hospital receives in the community.

On May 15, 2024, a large event tent was set up with tables and chairs, and a meal was catered by Hills Barbeque of Gainesville, featuring a nacho



Shane Collins, president of Lake Butler Rotary, related his positive experiences at the hospital when making a trip to the ER with his son as Tina Lloyd looks on.



Union County Sheriff Brad Whitehead thanked everyone at Lake Butler Hospital for being there and helping the community.



Lake Butler Hospital President and CEO Paula Webb talked about the role of hospitals in rural communities and gave a number of surprising facts about LBH.

bar with three meats and all the fixings. The weather, however, was not cooperating, and just about the time everyone got to their seats, the wind and rain made themselves known in a big way. People sitting near the edges of the tent got a little damp, but the rain did nothing to dampen the festive spirit of the event.

We are health care

Once everyone was settled, the program began. Chief Ancillary Services Officer Tina Lloyd spoke to the group of employees and guests, welcoming them and talking about National Hospital Week (always the second week of May), which is the second largest health care event in the U.S.

"The event focuses on the care and compassion that plays a vital role in serving the community," Lloyd said. "This year's theme, 'We are health care,' reflects the essential role that Lake Butler Hospital employees have in keeping our community healthy. We would like to extend our appreciation to each of you for taking the time to join us in our celebration today."

Lloyd then introduced some special guests. First was Shane Collins, President of Lake Butler Rotary, who shared his experience at Lake Butler Hospital when his son was injured.

"It felt like I was dealing with family. That is how we were treated," Collins said. "All the caring and compassion we were shown made a bad situation much less stressful for both of us."

Union County Sheriff Brad Whitehead was also complimentary of the hospital, its staff, and its place as a part of the community.

"We appreciate everything they do here," Whitehead said. "They are here to help, and

everyone knows where to go where they will be treated as a person and not a number."

Celebrating hard work and achievement

Lake Butler Hospital President and CEO, Paula Webb, spoke next, thanking the employees for the jobs they do and the community for the support they have shown the hospital over the years.

"...we came here to celebrate the hard work and achievements of hospitals across the country and specifically to celebrate Lake Butler Hospital," Webb said. "I would like for us to take just a moment to be reminded of how blessed and fortunate we are to be standing here together to celebrate because there are so many rural hospitals across the country that are no longer celebrating."

Webb went on to give some figures concerning the nation's small and rural hospitals. She said that, since 2005, 104 rural hospitals have closed, with 37 (35%) of them closing in the last four years. She also stated that 30% of the nation's rural hospitals are at risk of closure in the near future. In Florida, she reported that there have been eight closures, three of which were Critical Access Hospitals, like LBH, and three of the closures were within 50 miles of Union County.

Ranked Number 1 in shortest ER wait times

Webb then touched on Lake Butler Hospital's success. The hospital ended its fiscal year 2023 at record levels of growth

and financial performance. Most departments ended that year with a 15-30% growth in revenues. LBH provided over \$4.5 million in charity care to the community, one of its highest years. Lake Butler Hospital ranked number one out of 175 hospitals in its peer group in Florida and 93 out of almost 4,000 hospitals nationally for the shortest time patients spend in the Emergency Room, from time of admission to discharge.

She spoke of personal issues, losing a loved one. She said that anyone who had had that experience knows "the extraordinary effects compassion and kindness have. She said such situations make one think about how they want to be remembered. "We are not remembered for what we did for ourselves, but remembered for how we made a difference for others."

She said the hospital was doing well, thanks to the hard work, sacrifices and exceptional care provided to patients by the staff. She concluded by encouraging the staff to keep doing their part, expect better from themselves and "make a difference" for others.

At the end of the program, cake was served to all, and many of the staff had to go back to work. Members of the community seemed not to be in a hurry to leave but walked around talking to friends and neighbors and personally thanking staff members for being there when needed. Most guests left with a smile, seeming to have enjoyed the event and the chance to say thank-yous often forgotten in times of stress. It was truly a community event.

CAPTIVATE YOUR AUDIENCE!

4TH OF JULY!

JUST IN TIME

ATTENTION BUSINESSES, STORES, EVENTS & SERVICES:

- Cost effective HYPER LOCAL outreach.
- DIRECT MAIL your ad to homes & mailboxes in Keystone Heights, Lake Geneva, Melrose, Starke. *Free-to-every-consumer!*
- Reach MORE than 15,000 customers in THREE COUNTIES along the SR-100 corridor.

Publication date: JULY 1

Lake Region Monitor

SPECIAL

LOCAL NEWS

Extended Ad Deadline: JUNE 21, 2024

email: johnryan@bctelegraph.com phone/text: (904) 796-3534
email: douglass80@embarqmail.com phone/text: 904-796-0781

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 73
Starke, FL 32091

Juneteenth recognized by Bradford commission

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County is officially recognizing Juneteenth as commissioners voted unanimously to close county offices on Wednesday, June 19, in recognition of the holiday.

The holiday commemorates the day in 1865 when the Emancipation Proclamation was read in Galveston, Texas, freeing the remaining enslaved people.

Juneteenth has been celebrated since that time but was not recognized as a national holiday until 2021. Some have tried for state recognition in Florida, but others object, insisting Florida's Emancipation Day is May 20. That is when the proclamation was read in Tallahassee, an event that is reenacted every year.

Locally, the Juneteenth Committee is marking the occasion with its second annual Miss Juneteenth Pageant. It will take place at the Florida National Guard Armory, 720 Edwards Road in Starke, on Saturday, June 29. Advertised as more than an event — a celebration of Black girlhood — you can follow them on Facebook for more information.

Last year's Dreamers and Doers-themed pageant was sponsored by the Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Foundation. The reception and program featured storytelling, poetry and drumming, awards and recognitions for young ladies and the crowning of Miss Juneteenth.

County commissioners also closed county offices on Friday, July 5, the day after the Independence Day holiday.

Owners of Best Western settle lawsuit

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The shareholders of the corporation that owns Starke's Best Western have settled a 2019 lawsuit.

Pushpa Patel said in a complaint that although she has been a 25% shareholder in Shiv Crupa Inc., and the company issued tax documents indicating her share in the company's profits, she was not paid accordingly.

The minority shareholder said that one other entity owns 25% of the company, with the remaining 50% controlled by Shuresh Patel.

The plaintiff further claimed that from 2010 through 2018, she received no distributions from the corporation, even though the company sent her tax documents indicating available profits for distribution.

"For instance," wrote her attorneys in the complaint, "for the tax year 2016, the corresponding K-1 issued to Pushpa showed ordinary business income attributable to her in the amount of \$169,109. Despite receipt of the yearly K-1 forms, Pushpa has not received corresponding distributions from Shiv Crupa since 2010."

The plaintiff added that in 2019, the company sent her \$200,000, which corresponded to Shiv Crupa's 2018 profits attributable to her.

Pushpa also asserted that the corporation's officers denied her access to corporate records as required by Florida law and further claimed that Shuresh failed in his fiduciary duties to shareholders.

In answering Pushpa's claims, the corporation and Shuresh said that the plaintiff induced Shiv Crupa to loan nearly \$472,000 to a company controlled by Pushpa and her husband and that the company was mismanaged, resulting in a default of the loan.

The defendants added that Shiv Crupa was under no legal obligation to distribute the plaintiff's share of profits to her and that Shiv Crupa provided all the information about the company to which she was legally entitled.

The terms of the May 28 settlement were not disclosed in court documents.



2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Starke

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection Public Water System ID # 2040211



We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a dependable supply of quality drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water source is groundwater from three wells located in the community. The wells draw from the Floridan aquifer, one of the world's most protected drinking water sources, at depths of 520 feet, 600 feet, and 607 feet. Our water is chlorinated for disinfection purposes, and aerated for odor control.

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are four potential sources of contamination identified for our system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAPP) website at: <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/Welcome/detailsByPublicOutreachDate/2040211/10012023>.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Starke City Hall at (904) 964-5027 during our normal business hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. We encourage our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

The City of Starke routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing performed in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

- Action Level (AL)** – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- Level 1 Assessment** – A study of a water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system.
- Level 2 Assessment** – A very detailed study of a water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in the water system on multiple occasions.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial growth.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.
- N/A** – Not applicable.
- ND** – Not detected; indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.
- Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** – one part of analyte (by weight) to 1 million parts of water sample (by weight).
- Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per Liter (µg/L)** – one part of analyte (by weight) to 1 billion parts of water sample (by weight).
- Treatment Technique (TT)** – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Microbiological Contaminants							
Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	TT Violation Yes / No	Result	MCLG	TT	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	P (present) / A (absent)	07/2023	Yes	Present	N/A	Level 2 TT	Naturally present in the environment
We sample monthly as required for microbiological contaminants in your drinking water. The dates of sampling included in the chart above are only the months of 2023 wherein a Treatment Technique violation occurred.							

Inorganic Contaminants								
Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	(ppm)	09/2023	No	0.013	0.010-0.013	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	(ppm)	09/2023	No	0.31	0.31-0.38	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories; water additive which promotes strong teeth when at optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Mercury	(ppb)	09/2023	No	0.00006	ND-0.00006	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills; runoff from cropland
Sodium	(ppm)	09/2023	No	15	N/A	N/A	160	Saltwater intrusion; leaching from soil
For Inorganic Contaminants, "Level Detected" is the highest level detected at any sampling point in 2023. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2023.								

Stage 1 Disinfectants								
Disinfectant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MRDLG	MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	(ppm)	Monthly 2023	No	1.05	0.20-2.0	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes.
For Chlorine, "Level Detected" is the highest Running Annual Average (RAA) that occurred in 2023, computed quarterly, of monthly averages of all samples collected. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2023.								

Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products								
Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Yes / No	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5s)	(ppb)	09/2023	No	13.65	7.88-13.65	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	(ppb)	09/2023	No	51.22	30.41-51.22	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
For HAA5s and TTHMs, "Level Detected" is the highest level detected at any sampling point in 2023. "Range of Results" is the range of all individual samples collected in 2023.								

Lead and Copper (Tap Water)								
Contaminant	Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation (Yes/No)	90th Percentile Result	No. of Samples Exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	(ppm)	08/2022	No	0.14	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	(ppb)	08/2022	No	1.2	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

Bacteriological Sampling Public Notice

In February 2023, we failed to complete the required sampling for Total Coliform and therefore were in violation of monitoring and reporting requirements. Because we did not take the required number of samples, we do not know whether these contaminants were present in your drinking water, and we are unable to tell you whether your health was at risk during this time. The monitoring period was February 1 through February 28, 2023. We were required to take one raw water sample from each of our wells (3 total), and 8 distribution samples. We took zero well samples, and only 7 distribution samples. The adequate number of samples were collected for the following month on March 27, 2023.

Level 1 and Level 2 Assessments; Treatment Technique Violation

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that another potentially harmful waterborne pathogen may be present, or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. In 2023, we found coliforms, indicating the need to look for potential problems in our water treatment or distribution system through an Assessment. Assessments are conducted in order to identify and correct any problems that could potentially introduce contamination into a system.

During 2023, we were required to conduct one Level 1 Assessment for our water system. One Level 1 Assessment was completed. In addition, we were required to take one corrective action, as identified through the Assessment. We completed one of these actions.

Also during 2023, we were required to conduct three Level 2 Assessments for our water system. Two Level 2 Assessments were completed. In addition, we were required to take two corrective actions, as identified through the Assessments. We completed both of these actions.

After learning that we exceeded the Level 2 TT Trigger in July 2023, we failed to conduct a Level 2 Assessment in August 2023. As a result, our system incurred a Coliform Treatment Technique violation. To make up for missing this Assessment, a Level 2 Assessment was conducted in February 2024. No potential problems or required corrective actions were identified through the make up Assessment.

SOCs Public Notice

Our water system did not meet the requirements of a drinking water rule. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

During the 2023 monitoring period, we monitored for Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs). As a large community water system, at each of our water plants we should have either taken two sets of SOC's, 60 or more days apart, or taken one set of SOC's and submitted an application to the Department of Environmental Protection to qualify for a reduced SOC monitoring waiver for the second set of SOC's. However, we only took one set of SOC's, and did not submit an application for a reduced SOC monitoring waiver. Therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water at that time.

Required Health Effects Statement: Some people who drink water containing SOC's could become seriously ill. Health effects language for individual contaminants can be obtained by visiting the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/table-regulated-drinking-water-contaminants>, or by contacting us at any of the numbers listed.

Make up samples were collected February 27, 2024 and April 16, 2024 for the missed second sets of SOC's. All make-up sample results returned undetected, meaning no SOC's were detected in our water this compliance period.

We do not believe that the missed testing and reporting had any adverse effect upon public health. Nevertheless, our system will strive to meet all future sampling and reporting requirements.

2022 CCR Public Notice

Due to administrative oversight during a busy part of the year, our office failed to publish City of Starke's 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to customers by July 1, 2023, and failed to submit a Certification of Delivery form for the 2022 CCR by August 10, 2023, as required by the DEP. These violations had no impact on the quality of the water our customers received, and they posed no risk to public health. We have established a report tracking file to ensure that all reporting requirements are met in the future.

Lead in Drinking Water

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Starke is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Possible Contaminants

- Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
 - Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or arming.
 - Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
 - Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
 - Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Vulnerable Population Statement

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Closing Statement

The City of Starke would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call City Hall at (904) 964-5027.

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

James Robert Baker, 41, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for battery.

Garvin O'Neal Brown, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for battery.

Lucio Cappilla, 24, of Savannah, Georgia, was arrested by FHP troopers on June 1 for an out-of-county warrant, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and driving with a valid out-of-state license while a Florida license was suspended.

Michael Robert Chandler, 34, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for larceny.

Rodney Gene Cook, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for battery.

Janet Louise Gibbs, 42, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for a probation violation.

Lanorris Bernard Jackson, 49, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Calvin William Lane, 32, of Lake City, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 5 for probation violations.

Chad Robert Meade, 39, of Jacksonville, was arrested by FHP troopers on June 2 for possession of drug equipment, possession of cocaine, and possession of marijuana.

Timothy Warren Potts, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for

larceny.

Tyler Anthony Ruland, 28, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for arson.

Paul Raymond Smith, 50, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for a conditional release violation.

Alvin B. Stinson, 37, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and a weapons offense.

Ryan Jonathan Taylor, 27, of Orange Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 5 for possession of a controlled substance.

Thomas Earl Woods, 45, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 7 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Union

Travis Edward Aldridge, 39, of Lawtey, was arrested by Union deputies on June 6 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Edward Alexander Bernas, 28, of Lake Butler, was arrested by union deputies on June 9 for battery.

Jesse Lee Dover, 29, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 6 for a probation violation.

Harold William Plass III, 33, of Lulu, was arrested by Union deputies on June 7 for a probation violation.

Helen Roxanne Satterfield, 48, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Clay

Sean Wilson Armstrong, 32, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 4 for domestic battery.

David Wayne Bollinger, 57, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 4 for probation violations.

Mark Steven Faulkner, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 2 for

battery.

John G. Hermsdorfer, 55, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 2 for battery and a probation violation.

Drake William Newberg, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 6 for grand theft, resisting an officer, giving a false name to law enforcement, and leaving the scene of an accident involving property damage.



Daniel Ray Brown

6 months for shooting rounds over victim's head

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A 45-year-old Starke man was sentenced to six months in jail after pleading to firing a shotgun round over the head of a woman who insulted his mother.

Daniel Ray Brown pleaded to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, discharging a firearm in public, and improper exhibition of a dangerous weapon. Judge James Colaw also sentenced the defendant to 24 months' probation.

According to a November 6, 2023, arrest report, the defendant's mother rented a residence to the victim, and the two women argued over a utilities matter.

After the tenant insulted the landlord, the defendant stated to the tenant, "Y'all done (expletive deleted) up," and retrieved a shotgun from his residence.

According to the victim, Brown fired a round over her head.

The defendant admitted to

AI could help county road maintenance

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

A technology company is proposing a solution to better direct county road maintenance.

Roadway Management Technologies regional consultant Aaron Rimes said real time data collection of pavement performance and deterioration modeling can be used help manage the county's roadways.

Rimes said proprietary hardware mounted underneath the county's fleet vehicles would collect data, allowing an objective view of what areas in the roadway network need to be targeted for maintenance.

Rimes said the company first began meeting with Public Works Director Jason Dodds a few months ago, and he presented to the county commission last week.

With more data than a visual inspection provides, Rimes said Dodds would be able to make more informed decisions when recommending priority road projects to the commission.

Passive data collection on pavement conditions takes place as county vehicles are driven throughout the normal workday.

In addition to a camera capturing imagery, the system registers vibrational feedback that is unique to different types of deterioration.

Information is uploaded at the end of the day to the pavement management system, and artificial intelligence software takes the data from the variety of sensors to render a picture of the best and worst roads in the county. Public works can see where the county needs to spend its money to get the "best bang for your buck," Rimes said.

Over time, public works would be able to see which roads are deteriorating more or less quickly than expected, and which types of paving solutions are performing best in which area. It can make recommendations about what solution would work best on a road and provide an estimated cost. It can also provide an expected return for each project. Rimes said the county would move from a "worst first" approach to a proactive road maintenance program in which funds are more efficiently allocated. Having the data-backed applications could also help the county pursue grant funding.

There is an annual cost to the county to bring such an advanced system to the county. Rimes said they initially quoted Dodds a price of \$90,000 a year with a four-year commitment. Further discussion about the county's needs reduced that to \$50,000 a year.

Rimes said the company was founded in 2017 and went to market in 2019. It has grown exponentially from two to 16 states, and they are looking to add eight more. They work with a handful of cities in Florida, including Dunedin, Winter Haven and Delray Beach. Bradford could be the first county signed, although they are also talking to Escambia and Leon counties, Rimes said.

Commissioners heard the presentation and asked questions, ultimately directing staff to continue discussions. Dodds expressed confidence in what he has seen so far, and County Manager Scott Kornegay said long-term savings could help recoup the county's investment in the program if it does move forward with Roadway Management Technologies.

exhibiting the shotgun and firing the round straight up in the air to scare the victim.

"Daniel stated that his actions were unnecessary and stupid," wrote Deputy Taylor Sanders in the arrest report.

The judge withheld adjudication on the aggravated assault charge and adjudicated Brown guilty of the two misdemeanors.

Caught by video, license plate reader

A 36-year-old Melrose man was sentenced to a year in prison after video and a license plate reader assisted police in connecting him to a shoplifting crime.

Kevin Aurther Ratliff was arrested on December 28, 2023, for the February 25 offense of grand theft. On May 29, he pleaded to the felony.

According to a warrant affidavit, a Walmart loss prevention officer told police that a white male left the retailer through the garden exit with stolen merchandise, including a Samsung television and a

microwave.

The store employee provided Officer Jarred Altman with a video of the incident and a photo from which the officer could identify the make and model of the suspect's vehicle, along with the first three characters of the Ford Expedition's license plate.

Altman wrote in the report that he asked a sheriff's office deputy to access the data from a license plate reader stationed at the south end of the Starke Bypass and search for a vehicle matching the description of the suspected getaway car. The search yielded a 1997 Ford Expedition belonging to the defendant passing the reader minutes after the theft.

"I ran Kevin Ratliff's Florida driver's license, and based on his driver's license photo compared to the video footage from Walmart, I was able to determine that Kevin Ratliff was the suspect in the shoplifting," wrote Altman. "Kevin Ratliff also has a Florida inmate release status for trafficking in stolen property."

The officer added that the value of the stolen merchandise totaled \$1,096.55.

The defendant's prior convictions include grand theft, resisting detainment after theft, retail theft, possession of drug

paraphernalia, domestic battery, pawnbroker transaction fraud, and dealing in stolen property.

Ratliff was facing a maximum sentence of five years for the felony.

VBS at New River Baptist

New River Baptist Church is having vacation Bible school for children ages 3 through 5th grade. This year's VBS is called "Breaker Rock Beach." It will be held from Sunday, June 23, through Thursday, June 27. The time will be 5:30 to 8:10 p.m. nightly.

At Breaker Rock Beach, kids will learn to recognize the difference between what the world says is true and what God says is true. They'll discover how to discern the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2).

New River Baptist Church is located at 16703 SW 144th Ave. in Brooker. For more information, please call 352-485-1276 or 904-796-2359.

LIBRARY

Continued from page 1

Now, Brown has two grandchildren, with whom she wants more time. She said a seven-year-old girl and a one-year-old boy were more than enough to keep her occupied when she had grandma duty.

Brown's official retirement date is July 1, 2024, but it is an action she has long been planning for.

"I spent years convincing myself to retire," Brown said. "When I finally came around to the idea, I spent time to pave the way for a smooth transition to a new director. I out my heart and soul into it. This has never been just a job to me, it is a passion and walking away will be one of the hardest things I have ever done."

Brown said she had seen many changes in her time as a library director. She said that from her beginning there were no computers in the library, but she said she soon saw the future

being different and always worked towards bringing in public access computers.

"I saw it coming," she said, "and we ended up being one of the top three libraries in the state to get Internet access. The Gates Foundation provided the public access computers."

Brown said that she saw the advent of e-books as well, and the library offers patrons access to more e-books than it has regular books on the shelves, as well as offering access to a number of accurate databases for research, some with vetted articles. Still, she does not believe that "hold-in-your-hand" books will ever go away, or at least anytime soon.

"Children will still need books, for themselves and for story-time with someone reading to them," Brown said.

Brown has seen tremendous change in the library but said the most important things have not changed.

"Our programs have remained solid," Brown said. "People still need people and the library is a good place to meet. We have always been a community based

library. We now stand with an 80% approval rate with the voters in the county. We have been written up in a national magazine (about the library industry). This makes it easy for me and all of my staff to serve the community to the best of our ability."

Brown seems to have a talent for finding things that will be popular, or very necessary. She has helped create a number of highly creative children's programs that leave kids (and sometimes parents) begging for more. She said that one of her favorites was called "Library Rocks" and featured all of the staff dressed up as rock-and-roll superstars. She was Elvis.

One of her most challenging tasks was to devise a program that would allow patrons some form of library access during the COVID-19 epidemic, where libraries and other public gathering places were closed. She thought that having books to read would help people ride out the isolation forced on them... and she turned out to be right.

"I had to think outside the box on that one," Brown said. "For



Mary Brown, dressed as a unicorn, assists a library patron during the library's drive-through check-out program during the pandemic.

kids, we stepped up our online offerings and developed kits with the materials for the programs that could be picked up without parents having to come inside.

Then we started the drive-thru library. Patrons could call ahead and order the books they knew they wanted to read and talk to the staff for recommendations on other books that they might like or need. So, we started, and the cars lined up. The books were sanitized between patrons and everything went well. As is often the case, my staff and I decided to have a little fun with it as well — we all dressed up as superheroes and other characters to stand outside and allow patrons to check out and return books."

Union County Public Library was one of the first libraries in the state to reopen, thanks to this program. But, "some days it felt like we were on a roller coaster,"

Brown said.

Brown said she plans an active retirement with her husband, Richard, who retired several years ago. She is an avid disc golf player and wants to help grow the sport. She also wants to learn to play pickleball, travel some, maybe some cruises, and enjoy her family. She said she had a lifetime of memories from her work, feeling that she could write a book if so inclined, and that many of these memories made her smile.

The library is ready for the coming transition — Brown has been working for several years, training staff and caching ideas to let the new director get up to speed. That won't take long, because the Board of Commissioners hired Brown Assistant, Pretti McNutt, as her successor — a roll Brown has been grooming her for. So, there

will still be a familiar face at the library, who knows the patron's names and remembers their tastes in reading. And no one knows when "Miss Mary" might drop in to see old friends. The summer programs are planned, Brown said it is always a big deal to plan and get ready for these.

The library is ready, the staff well trained and all of them love the library and the people they serve. It may take a little getting used to, but once the dust settles it should be business as usual. Brown will be missed and remembered by all, but change is progress and the library is all about that.

Have a wonderful time, Mary, but remember us and that we will all miss you!



Russ Wade
Attorney at Law

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

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate



Bradford's Rookie All-Stars went 4-0 in winning the Santa Fe Babe Ruth District 5 tournament championship and earning a berth in the Cal Ripken state tournament. If you'd like to support the team, please use the accompanying Cash App QR code. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Mason Poole, Chance Reed, Ashton Brown, Wynnlin Lansford, Rylan Noegel, Bryson McCollum, (middle, l-r) Liam Hobbs, Braxton Lee, Trey Waldon, Cash Collins, Easton Wiseman, Sebastian Almanzar and (back, l-r) coaches Will Hobbs, Brandon Lee, Cletis Brown and Braxton Britt.

Bradford Rookie All-Stars win district championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

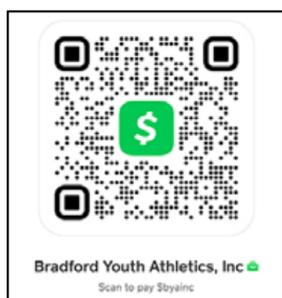
Four players drove in at least three runs each as the Bradford Rookie All-Stars defeated Santa Fe 16-6 to win the Santa Fe Babe Ruth District 5 championship on June 2 at the Hal Brady Recreation Complex in Alachua.

Bradford will now compete in the Cal Ripken Florida State Tournament, which will take place Wednesday, June 19, through Sunday, June 23, at Jacksonville's Ed Austin Regional Park (3450 Monument Road or 11751 McCormick Road).

The District 5 championship game was tied at 3-3 going into the bottom of the second. Bradford then scored six runs. With two on and one out, Rylan Noegel hit an RBI double. The team then scored five runs with two outs. Easton Wiseman hit a two-run double, while Ashton Brown hit a two-run single. Trey Waldon drove in a run on a double.

Bradford scored six runs in the third inning to go up 15-6. Noegel and Brown each had a hit with the bases loaded, with Noegel driving in two runs on a single and Brown driving in three on a triple. Wiseman drove in a run on a single.

Brown, Noegel, Wiseman, Sebastian Almanzar, Braxton Lee and Trey Waldon each finished 3



Use this Cash App QR code to support the Bradford Rookie All-Stars.

for 3. Brown had five RBI, while Wiseman had four. Noegel and Waldon each drove in three runs, while Almanzar had one RBI.

Cash Collins and Bryson McCollum each went 2 for 2.

Noegel pitched all four innings, giving up 14 hits and no walks, while striking out four.

Bradford got off to an impressive start in the tournament, with Brown hitting a grand slam and finishing with two home runs total and eight RBI in a 15-0 win over Gainesville on May 30. A seven-run first inning included two-run doubles hit by both Lee and McCollum.

After defeating Palatka 10-2 on May 31, Bradford played the first of two games against Santa Fe. Brown and Wiseman had four and three RBI, respectively,

in a 16-1 win on June 1.

Brown, Wiseman and Liam Hobbs each hit an RBI single in the first inning.

A seven-run second included two-run doubles hit by Waldon and Wiseman, an RBI double by Hobbs and RBI singles by Lansford and Noegel.

Almanzar, McCollum and Noegel each drove in a run in the third inning before Brown had a two-run hit. Brown was able to circle all the bases on the throw and score himself.

Brown, Lansford and Noegel each went 3 for 3. Brown and Noegel had four and two RBI, respectively, while Lansford had one.

Almanzar, Collins, Hobbs, Lee and Wiseman each went 2 for 2, with Wiseman driving in three runs. Hobbs and Almanzar had two and one RBI, respectively.

Waldon drove in two runs, while McCollum drove in one.

Noegel pitched all three innings, giving up three hits and no walks, while striking out five.

Santa Fe rebounded with an 8-0 win over Palatka, setting up the rematch with Bradford in the championship game.

Bradford ended up with more to celebrate than a district championship and a berth in the state tournament. The team received an invitation to the Babe Ruth World Series, which will be played Aug. 1-11 in Ocala.

CIS Bradford to host June 24 bingo event

Communities in Schools of Bradford County will host a bingo fundraiser from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. on June 24 at Starke's The Downtown Grill.

The cost to play 10 games is \$20. Last game blackout for \$100 prize.

All bingo proceeds and 25 percent of food/beverage purchases will go toward supporting CIS students.

BHS to host youth football camp featuring former players

A Bradford High School Alumni Football Camp will be held for ages 7-14 on July 5 at David Hulse Stadium.

The camp, which will run from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. will feature players Dontae Balfour, Torin Brazell, Chason Clark, Manny Covey, Ahman

Covington, Chalil Cummings, Amari Jones, Malakai Murphy, Dae'Jon Shanks and Jontez Williams.

Current BHS student-athletes will work the camp as well.

The cost is \$40.

To register, please visit gofan.co and enter Bradford High School in the search bar.

Camp for ages 11-18 on July 11.

Participants will dive into the basics of meat processing, food safety and meat preparation.

Activities include a tour of the University of Florida Meat Processing Center, carcass evaluation and a grill-off.

The cost to attend is \$25.

Limited spots are available. Please pre-register by July 8.

Visit www.bradfordmeatscamp.com or contact Lizzie Whitehead at 904-966-6224 or liz.whitehead@ufl.edu.

You may also visit "UF IFAS Extension Bradford County 4-H" on Facebook, which will provide a website link and QR code for registration.

Learn meat processing at Bradford 4-H day camp

Bradford County's 4-H program will host a Meat Masters

Have an opinion you'd like to share? Write a Letter to the Editor and email to socials@bctelegraph.com.

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)



This ad is printed in compliance with Florida Statute 768.1382.



Bradford Majors make it to state

Bradford's Majors all-star team finished as the runner-up in the Santa Fe Babe Ruth District 5 tournament and will compete in the Cal Ripken Florida State Tournament, which will take place June 26-30 at Jacksonville's Ed Austin Regional Park (3450 Monument Road or 11751 McCormick Road). Bradford defeated Williston 14-4 in its first game of the District 5 tournament, but then lost 11-1 to Chiefland. The team then won three straight games, defeating Archer 10-3, Keystone 8-7 and Santa Fe 13-2. That set up another game against Chiefland, which won 12-6 to win the championship trophy. To support the Bradford Majors, please use the Cash App QR code embedded in the accompanying story on the Bradford Rookie All-Stars. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Tanner Roberts, Jett Crawford, Ryleigh Gardner, Klayton Knipp, Kaleb Dyal, Paxton Noegel, (back, l-r) Coach Roxann Crawford, Tucker Roberts, Logan Lewis, Coach Kelley Dyal, A.J. Jackson, Landon Lewis, Cody Cowart, Gage Fischer, Graham Davis, Avery Crawford and coaches Jeremy Noegel and Nikki Baxter.



Scott Gerber
Client Experience Manager



The best kind of facial recognition is face-to-face.

A smiling face helps open your phone and, at Capital City Bank, it helps open lasting relationships. We're proud of our online banking and app, yet face-to-face is how we get to know you personally and match your financial needs with the best banking solutions. ccb.com.



More than your bank. Your banker.



Concerned Citizens camp offers up fun and learning

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Summer is a good time for fun and games, but why not complement with a bit of academic help as well?

That's the question Concerned Citizens of Bradford County would ask regarding its annual summer camp.

This year's camp, which is held at the R.J.E. Center, began June 3 and runs through June 28 and was designed for children at least 5 years of age (and kindergarten completers) through those who have completed the eighth grade.

From 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., children participate in various games and activities — indoors and outdoors — but they also work in reading and math labs.

"It's not all play," said Camp Director Alica McMillian, who is the president of Concerned



Yara Moody raises her hand to answer a question.

Citizens of Bradford County. Retired educators Norma Robinson and Glenda Ruise teach

math and reading, respectively. "My interest is keeping the kids on task with basic skills," Robinson said. "That's what they need. If they can't do basic skills, they cannot do math at all."

Robinson likes the fact that the camp exists, which means that some children can't say they did nothing over the summer. Plus, they might take a bit of knowledge with them into their classroom when school resumes.

Any improvement is a step in the right direction.

"If they don't remember but one thing, it's good," Robinson said.

The camp also consists of "Stepping Up" classes, which feature personnel from Meridian Behavioral Healthcare. One of the classes on June 10 featured the youngest group of campers listening to the story of "The Three Little Pigs" as a way of learning the value of patience when it comes to making decisions.

McMillian called the partnership with Meridian "a blessing."

Cooking classes are offered to participants as well. Speaking of food, free breakfasts and lunches are provided, courtesy of the Bradford County School District.

As of June 10, the camp consisted of 30 children, though more could still sign up — up to a maximum of 40.

The good news is that even if the camp reaches its maximum number, most of its attendees will have had their fee paid for,



Teacher Norma Robinson (far right) calls on Olivia Cruger (far left) to answer a question in the math lab. Also pictured are Lee Cruger (second from left) and William Blocker.

thanks to individuals, businesses and churches who donated enough money to sponsor 31 children to attend for free.

The camp cost is \$160, with a registration fee of \$25.

"I've always said, 'It takes a village to raise a child,'" McMillian said. "It makes me feel good to see the community come together."

Most of the camp staff is composed of volunteers who are members of Concerned Citizens of Bradford County — the organization that McMillian is the president of.

The camp is also made up of some teenagers who are serving

See CAMP, page 13



Antonio Smith (left) and Tristan Matthews enjoy their time in the game room.



Kaisyn Davis (right) gets some help from teacher Norma Robinson.



Nyla Joiner (right) participates in an activity with Melanie Daniles of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare.



William Blocker (left) and Lee Cruger do some work on a computer.

Happy Father's Day!

#1 DAD

864 N Temple Ave STE C,
Starke, FL 32091
.....
(904) 964-7061

Happy Father's Day

Scott Roberts
Agent/Owner

R

ROBERTS
INSURANCE

EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES

Starke 904.964.7826 Keystone Heights 352.473.7209 Middleburg 904.282.7665

AUTO • HOME • MOTORCYCLE • BUSINESS
ATV • BOATS • RV • LIFE • HEALTH

Lori Thompson
Agent

We Are Your Local Healthcare Enrollment Center

Stricklands

LAWN CARE SERVICES LLC

- Lawn Care
- Gutter Cleaning
- Pressure Washing
- Hardscape & Landscape
- Blow Roof Debris
- Driveways

Jonathan Strickland
Owner

386.288.5847

- Year Round Services
- Senior Discounts
- Serving Melrose, Gainesville, Starke, Keystone Heights & High Springs

Celebrating ALL Dads THIS FATHER'S DAY!

Wishing all Dads a Very

Happy Father's Day!

Tatum Brothers Lumber
22796 NW Co Rd 200A
Lawtey, FL 32058
(904) 782-3690

Happy FATHER'S Day

Joe Gallagher
Owner/Funeral Director
Starke
904.964.6200
620 East Nona Street

Kelli Parks Moreland
Funeral Director
Keystone Heights
352.473.3176
340 E. Walker Drive

352-473-3404

TRANSMISSION
Keystone Heights, FL

31 YEARS

SERVICING NORTHEAST FLORIDA

We do them all:
A/C to Brakes
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
WE NOW DO
WHEEL ALIGNMENTS!

"Near Stone's Irish Pub"
135 Commercial Circle
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
www.Keystone-Auto-Repair.com

Have a Ball Dads!

- Real Estate Closings
- Title Insurance • Notary

www.latsikh.com

Sandra Darley
Title Agent

Full Service Land Title Company
Keystone Heights Office
352-473-9009
Lake Butler Office
386-496-8238

To All Dads:
Thank You
for Being You
& for All You Do!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Mosley Tire Company

Tires • Brakes • Alignment • Exhaust Repair
Vehicle Repair

14669 US-301 • Starke, FL 32091
(across from Walmart)

(904) 964-6600

Mon-Fri 8AM - 5:30PM
Sat 8AM - 12PM • Closed Sunday

Quality • Satisfaction
and Service with a Smile!

Grateful for Great Dads!

Celebrate Father's Day!!!

Spires IGA

610 1st STREET SW, LAKE BUTLER, FL
(386) 496-3361 WE ACCEPT EBT & WIC

Nigel and his 'crew' putting autism in the public eye

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

"To infinity and beyond!"
If you're not familiar with that quote, it's from the Pixar movie "Toy Story," which happens to be one of Nigel Clance's favorite movies.

Nigel and a large group of family and friends — collectively known as Nigel's Crew — are hoping to take local awareness of autism to infinity and beyond as part of an annual skeet-shooting event and the willingness to share Nigel's story.

When Nigel, 20, was diagnosed with autism, his parents, Angela and Donnie Clance, embarked on a life they never envisioned for themselves, but it's the life they have, and they're making the most of it. Angela said, "I think that we love each other so much, it's like, 'It'll be fine. It's the three of us. It'll be OK. It's not the end of the world. We'll figure it out.'"

Along the way, the Clance family and those in Nigel's Crew have wanted to help others figure it out when it comes to autism, a neurological and developmental disorder that doesn't affect all who have it in the same way. As Kim Jolley, who teaches in the autism unit at McRae

Elementary School, put it, some with autism may always need help from others and be unable to communicate, while others may be like Dustin Hoffman's character in the movie "Rain Man," exhibiting exceptional aptitude in some areas.

"It's a spectrum — like a number line," Jolley said. "I think that's the hardest thing for people to understand. That was one of the hardest things for me to wrap my head around."

The bottom line, though, is it doesn't matter where someone falls on the autism spectrum. They're still human beings like the rest of us.

"I just want people to approach people with autism kind of like there's nothing wrong with them," Angela said, adding, "Just let them know that they might have different quirks about them, like sensory issues, but they're just regular kids or adults."

Jolley said, "They're not babies. We don't need to talk to them like they're babies."

"They have a lot more going on up there than people give them credit for," Angela said.

Living with autism

Nigel was 18 months of age when his parents noticed that

he wasn't progressing in his communication skills. He was taken to his developmental pediatrician, which led to his eventual diagnosis of autism.

"It was heartbreaking," Donnie said, while Angela added, "It was tough. If you think about it, we'll take care of him the rest of our lives and then hope we find someone who's going to be able to take care of him after we're no longer here."

Communication is hard for Nigel. His parents utilized charts throughout their home to teach Nigel simple words like "eat" and "drink" when he was younger. Angela said that worked well, with Nigel being able to point to things he wanted.

Nigel has progressed to the point where his parents can leave him at home by himself during the summer — with others periodically checking on him — while they're at work.

"We'll make a sandwich and put a snack out — that type of thing," Angela said. "If he wants a drink or a Pop-Tart, then he can grab something. We feel comfortable enough that he can be able to take care of himself for a couple of hours."

Nigel even does chores around the home now, such as feeding the dogs, taking the trash out and watering plants.

Those with autism can experience sensory overload, being affected by sounds, smells and lights. At times, Nigel will wear sunglasses or noise-cancelling headphones.

Angela recalls instances when a weighted blanket had to be placed on Nigel to calm him down. Sometimes, it was simply her and Donnie providing physical contact.

"(Donnie) would lay on the floor next to him, and I would lay on top of him," Angela said. "We would just talk him through it. 'We've got this. We're going to get through this.'"

Angela and Donnie have learned through trial and error what types of situations and places will make Nigel uncomfortable. Simply keeping Nigel at home, though, was never an option. Angela said she never wanted Nigel to wonder why he never got the chance to do certain things.

Keystone Heights High School Transition Teacher Patti Singletary, who's taught Nigel since 2016, said he wouldn't be the person he is today if not for his parents pushing him. Singletary recalled the first time Nigel attended the Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine, a prom-style event for youth with special needs. Nigel became upset and didn't want to go, but his parents insisted he go. Singletary said Nigel went and ended up having a good time.

"If they had given in to him because he was resistant...he would've missed out on that

experience," Singletary said. "Now, we go every year. He looks forward to it."

Angela said she and Donnie want to push Nigel out of his comfort zone.

"If he doesn't like it, we won't do it again," Angela said, "but that's the only way to know if he's going to like something or not."

Enjoying life

What does Nigel like?
Well, he's a big movie buff, for starters. When he and his family go to the theater to see one movie, they walk away with Nigel having created a future schedule of movie watching based on the previews they watched prior to the main feature.

"When you go to a movie, and they show three or four movies that are coming out, that's when we're in trouble," Donnie said.

Angela said, "He already has them lined up for the next six months."

Nigel watches movies at home, but rarely watches completely from beginning to end.

"He finds scenes that he likes and goes through them 100 times," Donnie said.

Nigel prefers to watch movies at home on VHS tapes as opposed to DVDs (he likes the previews better on VHS tapes) and enjoys watching the credits scroll by. He knows the name of every actor or voice actor in his favorite movies and also likes to use some of those names as nicknames for people he knows.

"He loves movies," Angela said. "I think it just makes him come out of his shell."

Nigel enjoys playing online video games, shooting his air rifle and taking annual trips to Disney World with his cousins. His favorite Disney ride is Epcot's Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind.

Another thing Nigel likes to do is to drive a tractor. His parents, as Angela described it, have watched him progress in that activity to where it's now nothing for him to "start it up, back up and take off."

"We practiced and practiced and practiced," Angela said, explaining that Nigel is good about eventually being able to do things on his own through repetition.

Nigel has also found joy in interacting with others.

'Social butterfly'

Donnie said Nigel has "a pile of people on his phone" that he communicates with.

"All he does is text 'good morning' and 'good night,'" Donnie said. "I try to tell (the people Nigel communicates with), 'When he does that, make it go farther. Ask him a question.'"

His interactions aren't limited



LEFT: Nigel is ready to go scalloping.



BELOW: Clance (far right), crowned Incredible King, rides in the Keystone Heights High School 2021 homecoming parade. Grayson Goolsby (far left) is the driver. Patti Singletary, Clance's teacher since 2016, watches him from the back seat.



LEFT: Nigel Clance (right) enjoys himself at Disney with family friend Tommy Parker. BELOW: Nigel, who's dressed as Woody from "Toy Story," is pictured at Disney with (l-r) Tommy Parker, Clance, Uncle Derrick Gilmore, Cousin Grace Gilmore, Aunt Rosie Gilmore, Cousin Gloria Gilmore, Kim Parker and Austin Parker.



to text messages. Nigel enjoys making trips to Carquest Auto Parts and Keystone Power Equipment.

"He loves (owner) Clint (Gillen)," Donnie said.

Nigel likes to make trips to the waste-collection site. Part of the reason why was the woman who worked there.

See CLANCE, page 15

Information about autism

What is autism (or autism spectrum disorder)?

Autism Speaks (autismspeaks.org) defines it as a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. On average, it is diagnosed at the age of 5 in the U.S., with signs appearing as early as 2-3 years of age.

The core symptoms, as described by Autism Speaks, are challenges with social communication/interaction skills and restricted/repetitive behaviors.

Regarding social communication/interaction skills, those with autism may have difficulty in the following (as listed by Autism Speaks):

- Starting and taking turns in conversations.
- Sharing interests or emotions.
- Understanding what others are thinking or feeling.
- Making eye contact.
- Understanding others' body language, gestures and facial expressions.
- Regulating tone of voice.
- Expressing feelings and seeking emotional comfort from others.
- Making friends and playing

with peers.

- Understanding boundaries and personal space.
- Feeling overwhelmed in social situations.

Regarding restricted/repetitive behaviors, a person must show at least two types of the following behaviors in receiving a diagnosis of autism (as listed by Autism Speaks):

- Repetitive movements, play or speech patterns, including stimming, which is making repetitive body movements (rocking, hand flapping, spinning, running back and forth) to regulate emotions; lining up toys in a row, spinning wheels, repeatedly flipping light switches; and imitating another person's speech, repeating words or phrases.
- Insistence on sameness and need for routine, which can include extreme distress at small changes in plans our routine; ritualistic behaviors (watching same videos over and over, repeatedly touching objects in a set order); and need for routine (same daily schedule, meal menu, clothes, route to school).
- Intense and highly focused interests, such as extreme interest or knowledge of specific, narrow topics; and strong attachment to

See AUTISM, page 16

Happy FATHER'S Day

DAD #1

CARPET • HARWOOD • VINYL • LAMINATE • AND MORE

TEAL TILE CARPET ONE

131 N. Cherry Street • Starke, FL • 904-964-7423

YOUR FLOORING SPECIALISTS & NEIGHBORHOOD STORE

Oldest & Largest Carpet and Tile Facility in the Area!
WE WILL BE THERE NEXT TIME YOU NEED FLOORING!

Thornton & Co. Realty

50 West Main Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386.496.8147 ofc

Happy FATHER'S Day!

www.ThorntonCoRealty.com

Happy Father's Day to all Dads!

from SHERIFF GORDON SMITH & The Bradford County Sheriff's Office

Gordon Smith Sheriff

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL DADS & GRANDDADS

CLYATT WELL DRILLING

386-496-2488

Licensed & Insured

Sales & Service for

- Well Drilling
- Pumps
- Water Treatment

5941 SW SR-12
Lake Butler, FL 32054

A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST

V. Todd

Ferreira

Funeral Services

Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel 904-964-5757
Lake Butler Chapel 386-496-1400

Warmest wishes for the **Happiest of Father's Days**

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

www.ferreirafuneralservices.com

DICK'S WINGS & GRILL

Happy Father's Day #1

1371 S. Walnut St.
Starke, FL 32091
(Hwy 301 So. near Tractor Supply)

904-368-8158

DicksWingsandGrill.com

Come check out our delicious new menu items!

Obituaries

Dorothy Foster

Mrs. Dorothy Ann Foster, 85, longtime resident of Waldo, died Wednesday, June 5, 2024, in the E. T. York Hospice Care Center, Gainesville, following a brief illness. She was born in Gainesville on June 15, 1938, to the late Dale and Delsia Drew, and had lived in this area her entire life. She worked for many years at Central Florida Office Supply until her retirement over 20 years ago. She was also very proudly a longtime Avon sales representative. She was a longtime and very active member of Orange Heights Baptist Church, serving in many ministries, including the shut-ins ministry, Operation Shoebox and, while attending Waldo Baptist Church, working in the children's church, alongside her late husband, Mr. Claude Foster, who preceded her in death in 2008. She enjoyed crafting, puzzles and watching her birds. She was also preceded in death by her three brothers, Don, Billy and Ralph Drew.

She is survived by her four daughters, Christina Ann (Elgan) Altizer, of Waldo, Linda Wilson, of Ft. White, Donna Wilson, of Brooker and Pat Starling, of Hampton; one son, Marty Wilson, of Gainesville; two sisters, Patti (Lauren) Markham, of Lake City and Pam Eddy, of Tennessee; 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 8, at Orange Heights Baptist Church, 16700 FL-26, Hawthorne, with church pastor, Aaron Morgan, officiating. The family received friends on Friday, June 7, at Williams-Thomas Funeral Home Downtown, 404 N. Main St., Gainesville. Interment followed at Santa Fe Cemetery Hampton. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Orange Heights Baptist Church, Building Fund or to Haven Hospice, 4200 N.W. 90th Blvd., Gainesville 32606 or at www.beyourhaven.org/donate. Please visit her memorial page at: www.williamsthomasmemorialhome.com. For further information contact, Williams-Thomas Downtown, 352-376-7556.



PAID OBITUARY

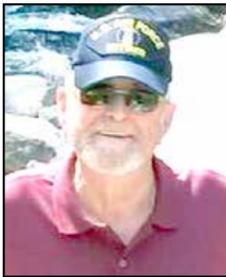
James Hudgens

James "Monroe" Hudgens, 81, a beloved resident of Jacksonville, passed away on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, surrounded by his loving family at his son's residence. He was born on Sept. 12, 1942, in Jacksonville, to the late James Henry Hudgens and Bernice Taylor. He was a lifelong resident of Jacksonville. He graduated from Englewood High School in 1960 before pursuing higher education at Jacksonville University. He exemplified loyalty and dedication through his 32 years of service in the Air National Guard, where he served proudly as a supply officer. On July 20, 1972, he married his best friend and lifelong companion, Shirley Horlivi, with whom he shared almost 52 remarkable years of marriage. He was a devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, finding immense joy and fulfillment in the presence of his family. He was known for his passion for collecting hammers and pens, a unique hobby that reflected his eclectic interests and personality. He was filled with joy when he was outdoors, whether it be through hunting, fishing, or simply immersing himself in the beauty of nature. He was an avid supporter of Florida Gator football and wrestling. His love for his family and unwavering patriotism left a mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will certainly be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Anthony Hudgens; and brother, David Hudgens.

He is survived by his loving wife of almost 52 years, Shirley Hudgens of Jacksonville; children, Beverly Jean (Rob) Buylaar of Jacksonville, James (Lacey) Hudgens of Hampton, and Kim Hudgens; brothers, Charles (Linda) Hudgens and Keith (Christy) Hudgens, both of Jacksonville; sister-in-law, Pam Hudgens of Jacksonville; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter; along with several extended family members and friends.

Per his wishes, he will be laid to rest at Jacksonville National Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial chapel, Starke, 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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

(904) 964-4111
407 W. Georgia St. • Starke

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you information about our qualifications and experience.

Travis Rogers

Travis Rogers, 48, passed away on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. He was born on May 25, 1976, in Lake City, to Wilbur and Rita Rogers. He was a lifelong resident of Union County, a loving son, father, brother, and friend. Educated at Union County High School, he graduated in 1994 before receiving a football scholarship to Wofford College. At Wofford College, he excelled in sports until an unfortunate injury cut short his athletic career. Despite the setback, he remained resilient and focused on building a fulfilling life. He had an innate ability to bring laughter into any room he entered; his witty personality and charm made him the life of the party wherever he went. He had a deep passion for sports; whether he was umpiring, participating, or watching, his love of the game showed through. An avid card player, especially enjoying poker, he always found time to engage in friendly competition with friends and family.

He is survived by his children, Travis Rogers Jr. of South Carolina, Trevor (Audrey) Rogers of Tennessee, and Jolena Rogers of Lake Butler; his father and mother, Wilbur and Rita Rogers; his brother, Wilbur "B.B." (Loree) Rogers II; his grandmother, Cora Rogers; as well as his former wife, Joni Rogers of Alabama.

Services to honor and celebrate his life will be held at the Archer-Milton Funeral Home on Thursday, June 13. A visitation will take place from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., followed by a funeral service beginning at 11 a.m.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Linda Starling

Linda Ann Starling, 79, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation in Starke. Ann was born on Nov. 26, 1944, in Raiford, to the late Junior Clemons and Betty Jenkins Nalls. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her warm, nurturing personality and kind spirit. She was passionate about teaching. She taught young children at Brooker Elementary School for 30 years. She loved little children and guided them toward a bright academic future. Ann also taught Pre-K Sunday school at New River Baptist Church, where she taught and shared Jesus' love. She was preceded in death by her parents, Junior Clemons and Betty Jenkins Nalls; and brother, Andy Gainey.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Kenneth (Kenny) Starling. Ann and Kenny stood side by side through every joy and challenge of their lives together. She also leaves behind her sons, Randy, Kevin, and Kyle (Trina); her beloved grandchildren, Kenny, Jarred (Sher), Devin, Collin, Lydia, Kyle Jr. (Nicole) Starling and Lindsey (Kurt) Spurlock, and Dawson Starling. She also leaves her great-granddaughters, Olivia and Brynlee Spurlock. Additionally, Ann is survived by her siblings, Phil Gainey, Carol McLean, Gail (Mack) Bymun, and Lynn Clemons.

A visitation was held for family and friends to honor Ann at her church, New River Baptist in Brooker, on Tuesday, June 4. This was followed by the funeral service. The church is located at 16703 S.W. 144th Ave., Brooker. She was laid to rest immediately following the service in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to honor her life can be made to New River Baptist Church Cemetery Fund.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. They can be reached at 386-496-2008 or www.archerfuneralhome.com.

PAID OBITUARY



Marvin Thornton Sr.

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, surrounded by his loving family at his home, Marvin Thornton Sr. peacefully passed away. He was born on July 27, 1946, in Lake City to the late Les and Magdalene Finley Thornton. He worked two years with the state road department until dedicating 30 years of his life to service with Union County Road Department before his well-deserved retirement. His commitment and hard work left a lasting impact on those around him. Known for his personality, he found joy in various hobbies such as fishing, gardening, mechanic work, and carpentry, and he had a knack for being a jack of all trades. He also had a special appreciation for bluegrass music, which brought him moments of relaxation and happiness.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Francis McKinney Thornton; his children, Marvin (Sharon) Thornton Jr., Terry W. Thornton, Brian (Daisy) Thornton, and Mary Thornton (Matt Perez), along with 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In addition to his immediate family, he is also survived by his siblings, Robert Thornton, Ruth (H.D.) Sapp, Virginia Manning, and Sammy (Donna) Thornton; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A visitation to honor his life was held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler on Monday, June 10. This was followed by a funeral service at the same location. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Sapp Cemetery. Services were officiated by Pastor Randall A. Griffis Sr.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Darlene Tomlinson

With much sadness, we announce the death of our mother, Darlene Tomlinson. She passed away on Friday, June 7, 2024, at the age of 86. She was born the only daughter to her parents, John and Dorothy (Wall) McDonald of Chicago, Illinois, who had two sons, Robert McDonald and Jack McDonald, a decade earlier. She has loved and missed them ever since. She married Jim Tomlinson and had twin daughters at the age of 19. They started their lives together in Chicago in the late '50s. Another daughter and they became a family of five. They moved to Florida in 1969 and found their forever home on Little Lake Keystone. She worked as a secretary for attorney firms in Starke and Gainesville before becoming Judicial Assistant for Judge George H. Pierce until her retirement in 1994. Smart, beautiful, funny, with a flair for the dramatic would describe her well. She and Jim lived a wonderful life together and provided so much love, laughter and inspiration to their children and loved ones. They will definitely be a hard act to follow. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years in 2021.

She leaves behind her three daughters, Terri Seymour, Lorri (Paul) Parsons and Susan Tomlinson (Steve Orr). She was also "Granny" to Tyler (Ashley) Parsons and "Gigi" to their sons, Kyle and Nathan. Also left to mourn her passing are many nieces, nephews, cousin (June Beverly, Melrose), dear friends far and wide, and so many church members of which they have served and worshiped with for over 40 years.

A church service and memorial will be held in July 2024 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church with Pastor Paul Lemke presiding. Further information will be provided through Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home website, Keystone Heights location. Donations would be much appreciated for Haven Hospice/Roberts Care Center in Palatka.

PAID OBITUARY



Raiford Tetstone Sr.

Raiford Tetstone Sr., 86, passed away on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Haven Hospice Lake City, surrounded by his loving family. He was born Aug. 21, 1937, in New River to the late George and Obelia Tetstone. His life was a tapestry woven with hard work, perseverance, and a generous spirit that endeared him to all who crossed his path. Throughout his life, he wore many hats - from being a self-employed plumber for 25 years to working in construction framing houses and even driving trucks on his own terms. His career spanned various fields, showcasing his versatility and dedication to providing for his family. Those who knew Raiford will remember him as an outgoing individual who never met a stranger. His warm personality and welcoming nature made him a cherished friend to many. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, traveling, and camping - activities that allowed him to connect with the great outdoors. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife of 34 years, Nancy Tetstone.

He will be deeply missed by his children, Norman Jean Bass of Pensacola, Marie (Joe) Forsyth of Keystone, Lori (Jimmy) Hudnall of Lake Butler, Vickie (Danny) Benton of Brooker, Bogie (Cindy) Tetstone of North Carolina, George (Susan) Tetstone of DeLand, and Sandra (Nic) Watts of Lake Butler. Additionally, he leaves behind 23 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren whom he adored. In addition to his immediate family, he is survived by his brothers Otis (Deanne) Tetstone and Lonnie Tetstone; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Visitation services will be held on Wednesday, June 12, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler, followed immediately by a graveside service at Ft. Call Cemetery, officiated by Pastor Terry Elixson.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Doyle Truett

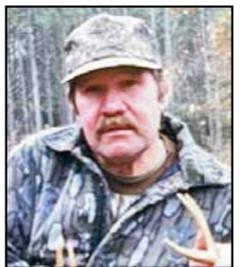
Doyle Eugene Truett of Brooker, Florida passed away on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville after an extended illness. He was 78 years old. He was born Dec. 17, 1945, in Tallapoosa, Georgia to Howard Felton Truett Sr. and Lizzie Jeanette Truett. He joined the US Army and proudly served for three years. He retired as a meat cutter/butcher. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, and woodworking. He lived in Brooker and was a member of Dedan Baptist Church of Brooker. He was preceded in death by his father, Howard Truett; his mother, Lizzie Davis Truett Prescott Sprik; his wife, Sandra Grace Truett; sisters, Francis Estelle Truett Norris, Effie Mae Truett Drennon, Maude Truett Rogers, Pauline Truett Sullivan, and Mary Joe Truett; brothers, William Robert Truett, Howard Felton Truett Jr., Arther Lee Truett, John Hendry Truett, Claude Arnold Truett, Edgar Truett, Howard Walton Truett, and Vernon Prescott.

He is survived by his daughters, Ann Truett and Rhonda Truett of New Port Richie; brothers, Charles Truett of Brooker, Louis Prescott of Land O'Lakes; sisters, Francis Prescott of Duette, Betty Hunter of Spring Hill, Inez Prescott of Wesley Chapel, Nellie Delong of Land O'Lakes, and Catherine Manning of Fairbanks; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a ton of nieces and nephews.

A service to honor him was held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home on Wednesday, June 12. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Dedan Cemetery in Brooker.

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

PAID OBITUARY



We're here for you... Your loved one NEVER leaves our care...

To help celebrate a life...to help say goodbye.

Whether your loved one wanted a traditional funeral or a more casual way to bring family and friends together, we'll help your remembrance be something special. Let us ease the burden and help you celebrate a life in a wonderful way.

Complete Funeral Arrangements • Pre-planning Assistance • Cremation Services • Monuments

Out of Town Arrangements • Spacious and Intimate Facilities • Off Street Parking

P. Steven Futch
Funeral Director

Austin Gaver
Funeral Director

620 East Nona Street
(corner of SR 100)
Starke
904.964.6200

Joe Gallagher
Owner/Funeral Director



JONES-GALLAGHER
FUNERAL HOME
jonesgallagherfh.com

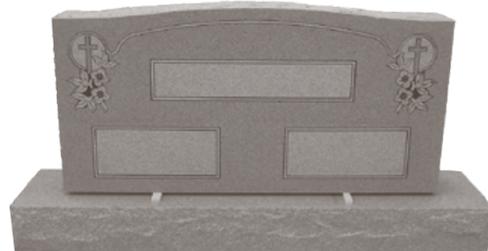
Kelli Parks Moreland
Funeral Director

Laura Crews
Office Manager

340 E. Walker Drive
(SR 100)
Keystone Heights
352.473.3176

Charles Custom Memorials

Serving Families in North Florida since 1973



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

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

Primary Location in Lake City at 561 NW Hilton Ave.

CharlesMonuments.com

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

FL Lic. # F037700

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.

Only on-site crematory in Bradford, Union & Lake Region area



If the smiles are any indication, Lenaya Wilson(left) and Lee Cruger are enjoying the camp. As Camp Director Alica McMillian said, "We need to make sure that each day they come is the most enjoyable day they have."



An'drako Moody plays air hockey.

CAMP

Continued from page 10

as volunteer counselors, such as Az'rya Davis, Aiden Jackson and Jaquez Mitchell, all of whom attended the camp in the past.

Jackson is still age-eligible for the camp, but he would've been unable to participate entirely due to middle school football camp. However, he likes the idea of "helping out somewhere I grew up at," so he wanted to be a counselor.

"As a volunteer, I'm really responsible for just making sure everything is going right and that no people are getting in trouble," Jackson said. "I'm making sure that none of the kids get hurt, and I'm also making sure that everything is OK."

Mitchell likes the fact that children are able to get some academic work in, saying, "It helps kids get their minds in the right place. They can learn more stuff, so when they go back to school, they already know what they're going to learn about."

Davis believes the camp is a benefit for a child's entire family,

saying, "It's really good because parents who work don't have to worry about their kids being home alone or with somebody untrustworthy," Davis said.

McMillian said counselors are reminded to serve as examples to the younger children.

"They've got these little kids looking up to them. They've got to make right decisions," McMillian said, adding, "To some of these little kids, they're heroes. They look up to them that

much."

Mitchell embraces that role, saying that as the children get older, they may remember him as one of their mentors.

"They're going to be like, 'This is the guy who taught me how to do this. I want to be just like him,'" Mitchell said.

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County has been offering the camp since the Starke Recreation Department was dissolved in 2008. Since then, McMillian has had the opportunity to meet fellow campers who are now adults. She enjoys catching up with them and hearing such things as how they went to college or how they're now married with families.

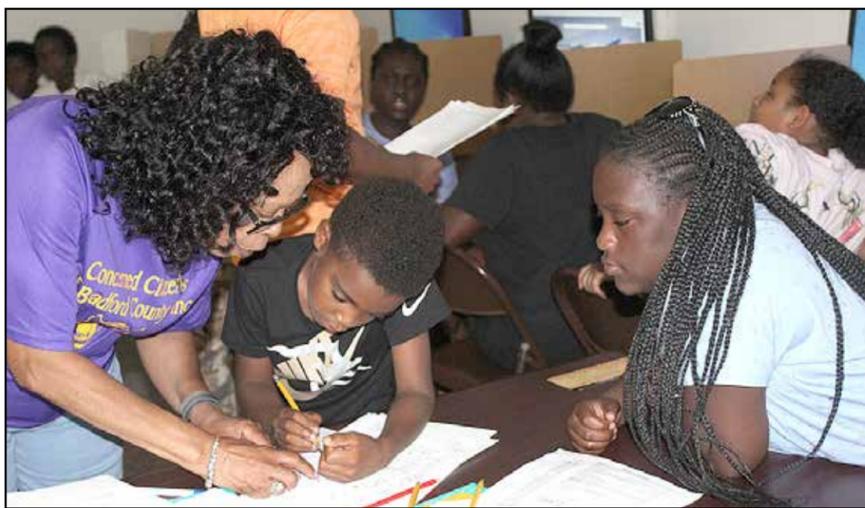
"It makes you feel good to see that," McMillian said. "They're living productive lives. Perhaps this program did something to help with that."

That's why it's so important to make sure the camp is a positive experience for all who attend. That's not an easy task, McMillian said, considering the children come from all walks of life, but that's the goal, nonetheless.

"We need to make sure that each day they come is the most enjoyable day they have," McMillian said. "We've got to love them and work with them."



Jayceon Thomas works out a problem in the math lab.



Norma Robinson (far left) assists Tajuan Williams (center) with a math problem as Chloe Cruger looks on.

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



Terry McCarthy
Complete
TREE SERVICE & STUMP GRINDING
Free Estimates Provided!
We do tree removal, tree trimming, and skid steer mulching. We have a lift for those hard-to-reach heights and places! **WE DO IT ALL!**
904-364-7065 Fully Insured

CLASSIFIEDS

Yard Sale Now Hiring DEADLINE! TUESDAY by 12 pm FOR RENT FOR SALE
CALL 904-964-6305 OR EMAIL CLASSADS@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Class Ads 06/13/24

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)**

TURN KEY BEAUTY SALON. Located at 144 W. Call Street, next to Walgreens. \$700/mo. 1st, last & security. Call 904-964-6305.

**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

3BR/2BA \$1200/mo., in Raiford. Lawn care included. No smokers, no pets. 1st/last & security deposit required. Leave message or send text if no answer. 904-662-3735.

1BR UPSTAIRS apt for rent. \$900/mo., first, last & security. Call Marty Shaw 904-964-9222.

**53 A
Yard Sales**

YARD SALE; 1371 Blanding St., Starke. Fri. 8am-12pm, Sat. 8am-2pm. Costume jewelry, toaster oven, refrigerator cooler, much more. If weather is bad will move to next weekend, same days, same time. See you soon!

**53 B
Keystone Yard Sales**

FATHER'S DAY yard sale/estate sale; Sunday 9:30am. 327 State Rd 21, 5 miles south of Melrose 2 miles north of Hawthorne on SR 21. Please donate to our Melrose library.

**57
For Sale**

MUSICAL EQUIPMENT for sale. Amps, speaker cabinets, guitars. Hampton. brubibus@aol.com

**65
Help Wanted**

WRITER POSITION OPEN- News & event coverage in Bradford, Union & Keystone Heights. Writing experience necessary, must

have good transportation. Assignments are all office based and often require night meeting and activities. Not a part-time gig. Call for appt. at 904-964-6305 or send resume to P.O. Drawer A, Starke, FL. 32091.

THE BRADFORD County Road Department is currently accepting applications for a full-time, qualified Heavy Equipment Operator at a pay rate to be determined by level of experience. Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D. and a valid current Class B Florida Driver's License is preferred. Applicants must complete and pass a field test to be considered for hire. Applications along with a job description may be obtained from the Bradford

County Road Department, 812 B North Grand St. in Starke or from the county's website at www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. The deadline for accepting applications is June 28, 2024, before the close of business. Bradford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For questions, please call 904-966-62431.

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

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

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

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS

Needed to Practice & Train on Table Tennis Robot as seen in YouTube Videos by searching For:

Table Tennis Liaison

19488 US Highway 301 N
Starke 904 517-4803
tlliaison@gmail.com

Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County
Telegraph
Lake Region
Monitor
Union County
TIMES



INDEX

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 40 Notice | 57 For Sale |
| 41 Vehicles Accessories | 58 Building Materials |
| 42 Motor Vehicles | 59 Personal Services |
| 43 Rv's & Campers | 60 Secretarial Services |
| 44 Boats | 61 Scriptures |
| 45 Land for Sale | 62 Vacation/Travel |
| 46 Real Estate Out of Area | 63 Love Lines |
| 47 Commercial Property Rent, Lease, Sell | 64 Business Opportunity |
| 48 Homes for Sale | 65 Help Wanted |
| 49 Mobile Homes for Sale | 66 Investment Opportunity |
| 50 For Rent | 67 Hunting Land for Rent |
| 51 Lost/Found | 68 Rent to Own |
| 52 Animals & Pets | 69 Food Supplements |
| 53 Yard Sales | 70 Money to Lend |
| 54 Keystone Yard Sales | 72 Sporting Goods |
| 55 Wanted | 74 Computers & Computer Accessories |
| 56 Trade or Swap | |

Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay

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

904-964-6305
classads@bctelegraph.com

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

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

WE ACCEPT
LISA MCMILLIAN

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 13, 2024

BRADFORD

PUBLIC AUCTION
Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on 6/14/2024 10:00am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items:
Unit 142 – Belonging to J. Addison
Unit 110 – Belonging to V. Atkinson
Unit 79 – Belonging to H. Brazell
Units 54 & 55 – Belonging to D. Truman
Unit 155 – Belonging to C. Simpson
Unit 60 – Belonging to N. McCutchen
Unit 16 – Belonging to J. Griffis
Unit 75 – Belonging to L. Glisson
6/6 2tchg 6/13-BCT

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the below named owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: **TITAN CHEVROLET** located at 2605 S. Dundee Street, in the City of Tampa, State of Florida 33629 intends to register the said fictitious name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida, pursuant to Chapter 865.09, Florida Statutes, Fictitious name registration.
Dated this 7th day of June, 2024.
Owner's Name: **TITANS AUTO GROUP LLC**
6/13 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the below named owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: **TITAN CHEVY** located at 2605 S. Dundee Street, in the City of Tampa, State of Florida 33629 intends to register the said fictitious name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida, pursuant to Chapter 865.09, Florida Statutes, Fictitious name registration.
Dated this 7th day of June, 2024.
Owner's Name: **TITANS AUTO GROUP LLC**
6/13 1tchg-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on June 20, 2024, at 6:30 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.
6/13 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO.: 04-2024-CP-70
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: ESTATE OF LANG RAY PONS, Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of LANG RAY PONS, deceased, File Number 04-2024-CP-70, is pending

in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
The date of the first publication of this Notice is June 13, 2024.
PAUL SANDERS, P.A., Attorney for Petitioner
Florida Bar No.: 557463
132 E. Call St.
Starke, Florida 32091
Telephone: 904/964-2323
sandersmplaw@mail.com
ADDIE PONS, Personal Representative
130 Long Lake Road
Hawthorne, Florida 32640
6/13 2tchg 6/20-BCT

CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP
The City of Starke Commission will hold a Budget Workshop on June 18, 2024 at 4:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in the Commission Room. Public participation is welcomed.
6/13 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 06/28/2024 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N THOMPSON ST, STARKE, FL 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.
IFMFK19588LA08569 2008 FORD
This notification is published in **BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH** on 06/13/2024.
6/13 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Family Law Division
Case No.: 2024-DR-0029
IN RE: THE MATTER OF:
THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR BRAXTON WESLEY DAVIS
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION
TO: BRIAN WESLEY DAVIS
ADDRESS UNKNOWN
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action

for Termination of Parental Rights has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on Brian M. Monk, Esq., of Monk Law Group PLLC, Petitioner/Mother's attorney, whose address is 1102 South Florida Avenue, Suite 111, Lakeland, Florida 33803, on or before June 17, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this court at Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street #1654, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, either before service on Petitioner/Mother's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
DATED this 9th day of May, 2024.
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
C. NORMAN
Deputy Clerk
For Publication in:
Union County, Florida
Bradford County, Florida
Gilchrist County, Florida
5/23 4tchg 6/13-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 63-2024-DR-0062 and 63-2024-DR-0063
Division:
SCOTT THOMAS, Petitioner and
CRISTINA THOMAS, Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER
IN UNION COUNTY, FL CASES 63-2024-DR-0062 AND 63-2024-DR-0063
TO: **CRISTINA THOMAS**
12137 NE SR 121, RAIFORD, FL 32083
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **SCOTT THOMAS**, whose address is 1660 S JEFFERSON AVE, CLEARWATER, FL 33756, on or before JUNE 25, 2024 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at: **UNION COUNTY CLERK OF COURT, 55 WEST MAIN STREET, ROOM 103, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054** before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: MAY 21, 2024

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER
IN UNION COUNTY, FL CASES 63-2024-DR-0062 AND 63-2024-DR-0063
TO: **CRISTINA THOMAS**
12137 NE SR 121, RAIFORD, FL 32083
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **BONNIE B. GREEN, DARBY PEELE & GREEN, PLLC**, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1241 South Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida 32025, on or before July 15, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
DATED this 23rd day of May, 2024.
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, Clerk of Circuit Court
BY: **C. NORMAN**
6/6 2tchg 6/13-UCT

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby made to all those concerned and affected that A. West Enterprises, LLC is performing Project Number TX-09(ESU), Reception and Medical Center, Lake Butler, FL, Reception and Medical Center Primary Switchgear Replacement and Primary Electrical Repairs. All parties furnishing labor, materials and/or equipment to said Project are to provide notice of such in writing by certified mail to the Florida Department of Corrections, Attn: Tracy Mullins, 501 S. Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500, within 20 calendar days of first providing such labor, materials and/or equipment.
6/13 3tchg 6/27-UCT

SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE
Six (6) wheelchair equipped transit vehicles. Envelopes marked "Sealed Bids" must be mailed or delivered to Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. P.O. Box 70, Live Oak, FL 32064 by Monday, July 8, 2024. Please make sure the VIN is clearly marked on bids submitted. Vehicles may be inspected by appointment only. For appointments to inspect vehicles contact Sheryl Hartzog, Operations Manager, at shartzog@suwanneec.net or 386-496-0624. For additional information or questions contact Stephanie Barrington, Director of Transportation, at sbarrington@suwanneec.net. Suwannee River

KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
BY: C Norman
Deputy Clerk
5/23 4tchg 6/13-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NUMBER: 63-2024-CA-0015
BULLARD-DENUNE INVESTMENT CO., a Florida corporation,
Plaintiff,
VS.
LUBOV BOGOPOLSKAYA, and **THE COMMONS LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**, a Florida non-profit corporation,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: **LUBOV BOGOPOLSKAYA**
1317 Edgewater Dr. Apt. 1914
Orlando, Florida 32804
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose an Agreement for Deed on the following described property in Union County, Florida:
Lot 4, PALMETTO COMMONS, a subdivision according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, page 4, on file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and in for Union County, Florida.
Tax Parcel Identification Number: 01-05-18-LL-000-0040-0
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **BONNIE B. GREEN, DARBY PEELE & GREEN, PLLC**, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 1241 South Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida 32025, on or before July 15, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
DATED this 23rd day of May, 2024.
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, Clerk of Circuit Court
BY: **C. NORMAN**
6/6 2tchg 6/13-UCT

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby made to all those concerned and affected that A. West Enterprises, LLC is performing Project Number TX-09(ESU), Reception and Medical Center, Lake Butler, FL, Reception and Medical Center Primary Switchgear Replacement and Primary Electrical Repairs. All parties furnishing labor, materials and/or equipment to said Project are to provide notice of such in writing by certified mail to the Florida Department of Corrections, Attn: Tracy Mullins, 501 S. Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500, within 20 calendar days of first providing such labor, materials and/or equipment.
6/13 3tchg 6/27-UCT

SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE
Six (6) wheelchair equipped transit vehicles. Envelopes marked "Sealed Bids" must be mailed or delivered to Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. P.O. Box 70, Live Oak, FL 32064 by Monday, July 8, 2024. Please make sure the VIN is clearly marked on bids submitted. Vehicles may be inspected by appointment only. For appointments to inspect vehicles contact Sheryl Hartzog, Operations Manager, at shartzog@suwanneec.net or 386-496-0624. For additional information or questions contact Stephanie Barrington, Director of Transportation, at sbarrington@suwanneec.net. Suwannee River

Economic Council, Inc. reserves the right to refuse or reject any bid.
6/13 1tchg-UCT

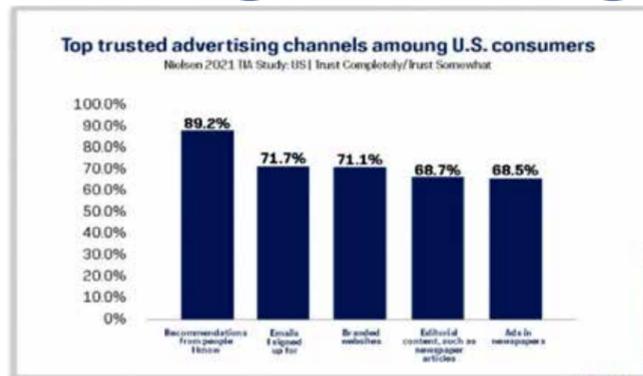
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 23000078CAAAXMX
UNITED WHOLESAL MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff,
VS.
HONAR MZORY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF **HONAR MZORY**; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY,
Defendant(s)
NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s): **HONAR MZORY** (LAST KNOWN ADDRESS) 13135 NE 235TH CT RAIFORD, FLORIDA 32083
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
Exhibit "A"
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
A parcel of land lying, being and situate in Section 17, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Union County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:
COMMENCE at the Northwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of said Section 17, and run South 01 degree 39 minutes 35 seconds East, along the West line of said Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, a distance of 1332.41 feet to the Southwest corner of said Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence run North 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds East, along the South line of said Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, a distance of 552.18 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of the hereinabove described parcel of land: Thence run North, 00 degrees 57 minutes 18 seconds West a distance of 628.40 feet; thence run North 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds East a distance of 346.59 feet; thence run South 00 degrees 57 minutes 18 seconds East a distance of 628.40 feet to the intersection with the aforesaid South line of the Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence run South 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds West, along said South line of the Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, a distance of 346.59 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
SUBJECT TO A County Maintained Limerock Road over, across and along the Southerly boundary thereof. a/k/a 13135 NE 235TH CT, RAIFORD, FLORIDA 32083
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on **Kahane & Associates, P.A.**, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220, Sunrise, FLORIDA 33323 on or before July 11, 2024, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the THE UNION COUNTY TIMES and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 55 West Main Street, Rm. 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054, Phone No. (352)374-3648 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-995-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 10th day of June, 2024.
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
As Clerk of the Court
BY: **C. NORMAN**
As Deputy Clerk
Publish: (Please publish in THE UNION COUNTY TIMES)
Submitted by:
Kahane & Associates, P.A.
1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220
Sunrise, Florida 33323
Telephone: (954) 382-3486
Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380
Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com
6/13 2tchg 6/20-UCT

NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendant(s): **HONAR MZORY** (LAST KNOWN ADDRESS) 13135 NE 235TH CT RAIFORD, FLORIDA 32083
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
Exhibit "A"
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
A parcel of land lying, being and situate in Section 17, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Union County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:
COMMENCE at the Northwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of said Section 17, and run South 01 degree 39 minutes 35 seconds East, along the West line of said Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, a distance of 1332.41 feet to the Southwest corner of said Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence run North 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds East, along the South line of said Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, a distance of 552.18 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of the hereinabove described parcel of land: Thence run North, 00 degrees 57 minutes 18 seconds West a distance of 628.40 feet; thence run North 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds East a distance of 346.59 feet; thence run South 00 degrees 57 minutes 18 seconds East a distance of 628.40 feet to the intersection with the aforesaid South line of the Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence run South 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds West, along said South line of the Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, a distance of 346.59 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.
SUBJECT TO A County Maintained Limerock Road over, across and along the Southerly boundary thereof. a/k/a 13135 NE 235TH CT, RAIFORD, FLORIDA 32083
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on **Kahane & Associates, P.A.**, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220, Sunrise, FLORIDA 33323 on or before July 11, 2024, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the THE UNION COUNTY TIMES and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 55 West Main Street, Rm. 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054, Phone No. (352)374-3648 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-995-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 10th day of June, 2024.
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
As Clerk of the Court
BY: **C. NORMAN**
As Deputy Clerk
Publish: (Please publish in THE UNION COUNTY TIMES)
Submitted by:
Kahane & Associates, P.A.
1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220
Sunrise, Florida 33323
Telephone: (954) 382-3486
Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380
Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com
6/13 2tchg 6/20-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, June 18th, 2024 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located at City Hall located at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.
6/13 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION
Project Title: Demolition and Site Preparation Services for Existing Building
Introduction: The City of Keystone Heights, located in Keystone Heights, FL is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to provide demolition and site preparation services for an existing building located at 125 E Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. The scope of work includes the demolition and removal of the existing abandoned building and site furnishings, disconnection of electrical and plumbing systems, debris removal, and maintenance of traffic during the demolition process.
Project Overview: The project involves the complete demolition of an existing building encompassing 1,500 square feet. The building is a vacant brick restaurant. The City of Keystone Heights shall make its best efforts to maintain the site conditions existing at the time of inspection for bidding purposes. The demolition must be conducted in accordance with all relevant local, state, and federal regulations. Qualified contractors must carry Commercial General Liability Insurance of 100/300
Scope of Work: The scope of work for this project includes, but is not limited to:
-Demolition and removal of the existing building, concrete/asphalt slabs, and foundations.
-Demolition and removal of site improvements, including but not limited to foundation, parking slab, concrete sidewalk, underground structures, signs, and poles.
-Disconnection and removal of all electrical and plumbing systems. Contractor required to call 811 for locates prior to work being commenced.
-Proper disposal of hazardous materials, if any, in accordance with environmental regulations.
-Removal and disposal of all debris generated during the demolition process.
-Implementation and maintenance of traffic control measures to ensure safety during demolition activities. Conduct demolition operations to prevent injury to people and damage to adjacent facilities. Ensure safe passage of people and traffic around the demolition area.
-Restoration of the site to a clean and level condition upon completion of demolition activities.
Quality Assurance: Contractor shall comply with all applicable EPA, state and local notification regulations before starting demolition. Contractor shall comply with hauling and disposal regulations of authorities having jurisdiction; all other codes, standards, regulations, and workers' safety rules that are administered by federal agencies (HUD, EPA, OSHA, and DOT) or state agencies (State OSHA, DEM, DOH, etc.); and any other local regulations and standards (i.e. building codes) that may apply. The demolition contractor must secure all associated permits. By submitting a proposal, Contractor affirms they have familiarized themselves with the legal requirements (federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations) and other conditions which may affect performance of this Scope of Work.
Proposal Requirements: Interested contractors are requested to submit proposals that include the following information:
-Company profile, including relevant experience in demolition and site preparation projects.
-Description of the proposed methodology and equipment to be used for demolition and debris removal.
-Proposed timeline for completion of the project.
-Safety plan outlining measures to ensure the safety of workers and the surrounding community during demolition activities.
-Environmental protection plan detailing how hazardous materials will be identified, handled, and disposed of in compliance with regulations.
-Cost proposal, including a breakdown of all expenses related to the project.
Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
-Experience and qualifications of the contractor.
-Proposed methodology and equipment.
-Compliance with safety and environmental regulations.
-Cost-effectiveness of the proposal.
-Proposed timeline for completion of the project.
-Appropriate insurance coverage (\$1 Million/\$3 Million)
Submission Instructions: Proposals must be submitted electronically to Beau.Wright@wright@keystoneheights.us no later than July 16, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. Late submissions will not be considered.
Site Visit: A mandatory pre-bid site visit will be held on June 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at 125 E Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Contractors must attend the site visit to familiarize themselves with the project site and requirements. Contractor must survey the existing site to determine the scope of demolition as well as the existence of any potential hazardous materials.
Contact Information: For inquiries or clarifications regarding this RFP, please contact Beau Wright at wright@keystoneheights.us or 352-473-4807.
Reservation of Rights: The City of Keystone Heights reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received, to waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals received, and to select the proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the city.
Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to receiving your proposal.
6/13 2tchg 6/20-LRM

CONSUMERS TRUST NEWSPAPERS



Special note: The Relevance Project thanks The Nielsen Co., a global leader in audience, measurement, data, ad analytics, for this excerpt from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 23 channels, a term to distinguish where ads show up or are referenced, in the study.

NEWS NEWSPAPER POWER.
Print, Digital & Creative Solutions for our advertisers.
ADVERTISE & PROMOTE LOCAL
John Ryan: johnryan@bctelegraph.com 904-796-3534 cell
Darlene: douglass80@embarqmail.com 904-796-0781 cell
THE LAKE REGION MONITOR SPECIAL MAILS FREE TO ~21,000 HOMES & MAILBOXES IN THE LAKE REGION : FROM STARKE TO INTERLACHEN

Here's further proof that advertisers and marketers seeking a trusted media should hire newspapers. Newspapers show up as two of the Top 5 "trusted advertising channels" rated by U.S. Consumers in Nielsen's 2021 Trust in Advertising Study. Seven out of 10 consumers said they either trust completely or trust somewhat four of the channels that included newspapers or products they offer advertisers. The top channel applies also to newspapers because their readers are informed consumers.

SHOP • EAT • READ ADVERTISE LOCALLY
We're Local. Like You!
www.BCTelegraph.com
Lake Region Monitor UNION COUNTY TIMES
MOBILE • PRINT • ONLINE

Bradford County Telegraph
USPS 062-700
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Bradford County Telegraph
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
John Miller, Publisher
Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:
Subscription Rate in Trade Area
Area: \$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months

Lake Region Monitor
USPS 114-170
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Lake Region Monitor
P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628
John Miller, Publisher
Editor: Dan Hildebran
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:
Subscription Rate in Trade Area
Area: \$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months

UNION COUNTY TIMES
USPS 648-200
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
UNION COUNTY TIMES
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091
uctimeseditor@gmail.com
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628
John Miller, Publisher
Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goode
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goode
Front office Asst:
Subscription Rate in Trade Area
Area: \$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$52.00 per year;
\$26.00 six months



LEFT: Ayden Thomas (left) and Nigel Clance are pictured taking part in a Christmas parade. BELOW: Clance (far left) is pictured at one of the Skeet Shoot for Autism Awareness events with members of the 501st Legion (Squad 7), a worldwide "Star Wars" costuming organization.



CLANCE
Continued from page 11

"She loved seeing him," Donnie said.

That woman no longer works there, but that's OK. Angela said it's just an opportunity for Nigel to make a new friend.

Jolley can attest to the fact that it's quite a change from how Nigel used to be. As she was being interviewed for this story, she often had Nigel by her side, wanting to talk to her or show her something.

"He went from not wanting to be around anyone to this, wanting to be right next to you and show you everything on his phone — just being a social butterfly," Jolley said.

For Singletary, the change has been "absolutely amazing." She saw Nigel arrive on the KHHS campus as a shy individual to one who walked down the hallways making eye contact with others and fist bumping them.

"He'll say things to them.

He'll introduce himself now," Singletary said, adding, "He's very friendly. He was always friendly, but maybe just a little timid until he got comfortable with everybody."

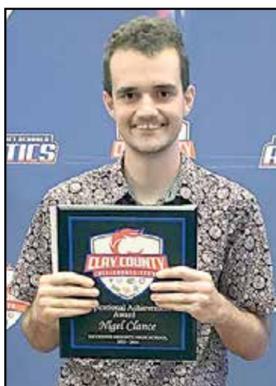
Angela said, "That's one thing he likes to do, communicating with others and trying to make friends. That makes us very happy. That gets us excited."

Awareness and classroom support

Nigel can be observed displaying his willingness to socialize with others at Nigel's Crew annual Skeet Shoot for Autism Awareness. Donnie said when the event first began, Nigel would sit in the car throughout its duration.

"Now, he's wanting to meet everybody," Donnie said.

This past April was the 12th year of the skeet shoot, which is held at Keystone Heights Sportsmen Club, but Nigel's parents have been putting a spotlight on autism since before



Nigel Clance shows off his Inspirational Achievement Award, which he received at the Clay County Athletics Awards Show.

the start of the skeet shoot. Following Nigel's diagnosis, they set up a booth at Keystone's annual Our Country Day, selling bottles of water, having prize drawings and talking about autism. Angela said it was a resource for other parents with autistic children.

"It was nice to be able to have somebody for them to go to or to have a friend," Angela said.

Nigel's Crew got its start as a group of family and friends participating in the Autism Speaks Walk in Jacksonville.

"We wanted to do something in this community, to give back to our community," Angela said, "so we kind of stopped participating in (the Autism Speaks Walk) and started doing our skeet shoot."

The skeet shoot involves more than shooting participants. It consists of vendors and booths offering activities and games for children with autism. Jolley and Singletary are there to talk to any parents about what they and their autistic children can expect on their journey through school.

Jolley said the event benefits those parents who are in the same shoes that Angela and Donnie were in when Nigel was diagnosed with autism — parents who are seeking knowledge about living with an autistic child and who are seeking companionship of others "who are walking the same walk."

"It's all about raising awareness, but it's also about developing a community in which you have resources to pull from," Jolley said.

More awareness will hopefully lead to more employment opportunities for those with autism (or any disability) when they become adults.

"In the bigger towns, there are more opportunities that there are in Keystone," Singletary said.

Angela asked, "What's the

next thing we can do to employ all the disabled kids in this town? What can we do?"

Besides awareness, the skeet shoot also raises money to support Jolley and Singletary and the special-needs students they teach.

"We don't raise tens of thousands of dollars, but we do good," Angela said. "One year, we did \$10,000, but we usually average about \$6,000 a year. We just split it in half between the two teachers."

Whatever the amount, it's a big help.

"With the school system, our funds are very limited," Singletary said. "This is giving me extra funds to do different things."

Such as pay for a bus to take students to Night to Shine or to add things to her classroom, such as covers for the fluorescent lights so that autistic students don't experience sensory overload.

"We have a lot of lights in our room," Singletary said, explaining that paying for the covers would've gone way beyond her school budget.

Jolley has been able to purchase such items for autistic students as a spinning chair and sensory tables — items that are typically \$100-plus and wouldn't be able to be purchased with her classroom budget.

"I want to buy stuff that's going to mean something for these kids," Jolley said.

Skeet-shoot funds have helped her create a sensory area outside of her classroom, transforming an area that was grass and sandspurs to one with a concrete base, tarps and sensory items.

"When they're just too overwhelmed — even in our controlled environment — they can go outside," Jolley said.

As you would imagine, the teachers are grateful. Angela talked about visiting Jolley's classroom to see what she's been able to buy because of the skeet-shoot funds, saying, "It's fun to see (Jolley's) face. She's excited. She's like a little kid."

An inspiration

Nigel received a special recognition at the May 13 Clay County Athletics Awards Show as he was presented with an Inspirational Achievement Award for his participation in Special Olympics.

Donnie remembers Nigel's first year in Special Olympics. He wouldn't compete in front of his parents, so they had to be out of his sight.

"The next year, we didn't have to hide to get him to participate,"



Nigel Clance (right) enjoys scalloping with his father, Donnie.



Nigel Clance (left) is pictured with friend and Nigel's Crew supporter Clint Gillen.



Nigel's Crew hosted its 12th annual Skeet Shoot for Autism Awareness this past April. The event takes place every spring at the Keystone Heights Sportsmen Club. Follow "Nigel's Crew 4 Autism Awareness" on Facebook for news on upcoming events.

Donnie said.

Nigel's parents were sure he'd want to be close to them during the Clay County Athletics Awards Show, which took place at Orange Park's Thrasher-Horne Center, but he sat with Singletary away from his parents.

Singletary said Nigel wouldn't walk onto the stage without her accompanying him, but the fact he even did so in front a packed house was yet another example of how far Nigel has progressed and how he has become comfortable in situations that would've bothered him in the past.

"That was definitely a teary moment for me," Singletary said.

Nigel's parents, of course,

would gladly give him an award for being an inspiration. He has helped put life in perspective.

"It's kind of, 'Don't sweat the small stuff,'" Angela said. "Regular, everyday stuff we take for granted is a big accomplishment for him."

The journey hasn't been easy. Donnie described it as being on a roller coaster, but Angela added, "It's been good."

"The best part is trying to be a happy family," Donnie said.

If you'd like to keep up with Nigel and learn more about autism, visit the "Nigel's Crew 4 Autism Awareness" Facebook page.

Breathing Easy: A Sincere Thank You for Making Our Parks Tobacco-Free

The Tobacco Free Union Partnership extends heartfelt appreciation to our Lake Butler City Commissioners for their continued support and recent adoption of the tobacco-free park ordinance. Policies like these create healthier environments for all to enjoy and promote healthier choices, while reducing youth exposure to tobacco.

Let's get out and enjoy our beautiful parks and celebrate the positive impacts that result from tobacco-free parks throughout our community. Tobacco Free Park signs will be placed at Lake Butler Parks soon! We wanted to share the sign



Thank you for prioritizing our community's health and making our parks more enjoyable for all.

www.tobaccofreeunioncounty.com




Your Meridian Journey Starts Here!

Join Our Team of Compassionate Professionals TODAY!

AN EXCITING HEALTHCARE JOURNEY AWAITS...

NOW HIRING:

- NURSES
- NURSE MANAGER
- CLINICIANS
- EMERGENCY SCREENERS
- MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS
- DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL RECEIVING



Visit MyMeridianJourney.org

OF-39467082



Starke Altrusa installs new officers

Altrusa of Starke installed its officers for the 2024-25 year during a May 23 banquet at The Downtown Grill in Starke. Pictured (l-r) are President Rachel Rhoden, Immediate Past President Sarah Long, board members Gale Trotter, Sandra Luke and Rachel Baier, Treasurer Amanda Seyfang and First Vice President Shelly Bowen. Not pictured: Second Vice President Lucy Montford, Recording Secretary Pam Woodruff and Corresponding Secretary Kim Roberts.



LEFT: Outgoing President Sarah Long (left) is presented with a plaque by Rachel Rhoden, the new president. RIGHT: Rachel Rhoden (right) receives the Altrusan of the Year Award from Hilma Gaskins.

AUTISM

Continued from page 11

a certain object (toy or figurine).

—Uner- or over-sensitivity to sensory stimulation, including sensory differences (like unusual sensitivity to light, sound, touch, texture); lack of sensitivity to pain or temperature; and sensory seeking behaviors (smelling or touching objects, visual fascination with lights or movement).

Other characteristics of those with autism (as described by Autism Speaks) include:

—Using other kinds of communication besides spoken language (typing on a computer, pointing to pictures or communicating through behavior).

—Difficulty with executive functioning (planning how to complete a task, juggling multiple tasks, making decisions).

—Trouble with fine motor skills and coordination.

—Needing help with daily living skills.

—Difficulty regulating and/or communicating emotions, sometimes resulting in harmful or self-injurious behaviors, sensory overload, meltdowns or shutdowns.

Stats and frequently asked questions

According to the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), one in 36 children in the U.S. have autism, an increase from one in 44. Boys are nearly four times more likely to have autism than girls.

The National Autism Association website (nationalautismassociation.org) reveals that approximately 40 percent of children with autism don't speak, while 25-30 percent have some words at 12-18 months of age before losing them. Others might speak, but not until later in childhood.

The Beyond Autism website (beyondautism.org) presents the following answers to frequently asked questions:

—What causes autism?

There is not one known cause for autism. It is something you are born with rather than something you catch or develop over time. It has been proven by researchers from Statens Serum Institut and the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and Stanford University School of Medicine in the U.S. that vaccines and certain types of foods do not cause autism.

—Can autism be cured? Can autism go away?

Autism is a lifelong condition; it is something you are born with and is usually identified in early childhood. It cannot be "cured," but if diagnosed early, education and therapy can help with the child's development and communication, so they can live a life full of freedom and opportunity.

— Does autism run in families?

Autism can sometimes affect people in the same family. The direct impact of genetics on autism is unknown however, so we don't know if autism can be inherited.

—What are the main characteristics of autism?

There are many different signs and indicators of autism in adults and children, which can often be mistaken for other conditions. It's important that if you suspect you or someone you love has autism, then seeking a diagnosis could help with getting the support that is available.

—What are some of the common signs of autism in young children?

Not responding to their name. Avoiding eye contact. Not smile when you smile at them.

Becoming very upset if they do not like a certain taste, smell, or sound (sensory overload).

Engaging in repetitive movements, such as rocking back and forth or tapping surfaces.

Not talking as much as their peers.

Repeating the same phrases. —Can you have autism and be social?

Autism is different for everyone. Some autistic people find reading body language or understanding peoples' emotions difficult and therefore find making friends tricky. They may also feel anxious in certain social situations. However, that doesn't mean this is the case for everyone.

PHILLIP MCDONALD
PLUMBING AND SEPTIC
904-964-3737
CFC 1428926
(904) 964-3737

Happy Father's Day

from our family to yours!

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

Scan the QR code for our Google Reviews:

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

TOBACCO FREE UNION

TOBACCO FREE UNION PRACTICES

1

Educating Community members on tobacco-related issues.

2

Building strong community relationships for collaborative efforts.

3

Promoting healthy and nicotine free lifestyles.

The mission of Tobacco Free Union is to advance policies that will help end nicotine addiction in Union County. We work collectively towards eliminating initiation and use of tobacco and alternative nicotine products among Union County residents, supporting tobacco policy change and educating decision makers about the impacts of tobacco use and nicotine addiction on the lives of Union County residents and visitors.

TOBACCO FREE UNION MEETINGS

The Tobacco Free Partnership of Union will meet on google meet virtually at 3:15 pm

To receive an invite to the meeting email:
info@tobaccofreeunioncounty.com

2024-2025 Meeting Dates

September 18, 2024

November 20, 2024

February 19, 2025

April 16, 2025

Williamson's Food Store

"Your personal grocers"

Since 1972

Celebrating Our 52nd Anniversary and Father's Day!

Meat Specials Wed thru Sat... June 12-15

- ★ **T-BONE & PORTERHOUSE STEAKS USDA \$9.99 lb**
- ★ **CHICKEN WINGS \$9.99 5-LBS**
- ★ **WHOLE BONELESS PORK LOINS \$2.72 lb**
- ★ **10 LB GROUND CHUCK ROLL \$3.72 lb**
- ★ **10 LB DRUMSTICKS .72 lb**

WINE TASTING

FRIDAY JUNE 14 4 - 6 PM

We will also honor veterans at 3 pm on Saturday, June 15 in memory of Mr. Williamson. We will have a painting being done of the flag in honor of our veterans.

840 N SR 21 • Melrose, FL 32666 • 352-475-1144