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# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, June 20, 2024

145th year, 49th Issue — \$1

## Inmate escapes custody, recaptured in Hampton

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

An inmate at the Bradford County jail escaped from the Temple Avenue facility on the morning of Tuesday, June 18, and was captured a few hours later at his home in Hampton.

In May, a Bradford County jury found Mark Randall Hersey, 63, not guilty of burglary and grand theft of a firearm but guilty of giving a false name to a law enforcement officer. In addition, during the trial, a judge found the defendant in contempt of court for illegally talking to a witness during the trial, possibly in view of the jury. Judge James M. Colaw sentenced Hersey to one year in jail for the false identification verdict and five months in jail for contempt of court.

Sheriff Gordon Smith said that Hersey was on a ladder scraping paint from the wall of the female recreation area when he climbed over the wall and then breached a perimeter fence.

Smith said that once outside the fence, Hersey ran to Meridian



**Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith said that after the Bradford-Union SWAT Team arrived at Hersey's residence, the escapee fled on foot but was quickly apprehended by officers.**

Behavioral Healthcare, where he attempted to carjack a vehicle from two women.

The females refused to comply with his demands, and the escapee then ran to a thrift store behind Powell's Dairy Freeze and stole a gray hoodie from the business.

From there, Hersey went to a car wash on Brownlee Street, where he convinced a motorist to give him a ride to Hampton.

Smith said that after Hersey arrived at his camper in the Hampton area, a neighbor spotted the escapee and called the sheriff's office.

"They thought that guy was in jail, and they'd heard some rumor about our alert system that we had an escape," Smith said. "So, they thought it might be the same guy."

The sheriff said he did not know who called in the information, but after receiving the tip, the Bradford-Union SWAT team immediately responded to the inmate's residence.

"As luck would have it," the sheriff said, "SWAT was training today, so they were all together. They all surround the area where this camper is in the woods, and he sees them and

flees on foot. They run him down, tackle him, and bring him back into custody."

Smith said that in addition to the escape felony, Hersey is now facing an attempted carjacking charge and may face additional charges.

The sheriff called his agency's response to the incident "phenomenal."

"Within minutes, we flooded the area and put canines on the ground," he said. "Within less than 30 minutes, we had everything in play."

As a result of the escape, Smith said he and his team would consider adding razor wire to the female recreation area to match that of the male recreation courtyard.

He added that his staff will review the jail video and evaluate the incident.

"We will do a review to make sure we haven't failed anywhere," he said. "That's standard. We always review our policies and make sure there wasn't any lapse there, but we also look at some safety measures and that's going to be the big thing."

## Analysis to document need for new Bradford school

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Preliminary steps are being taken toward the construction of Bradford County's next school.

Superintendent Will Hartley called the item "a big one" when introducing it to the school board during its June 17 meeting.

Hartley asked the school board to approve Castaldi assessments for Bradford High School, Bradford Middle School, North

Florida Technical College and the transportation department.

A Castaldi analysis is "a method of determining the economic feasibility of modernization of an existing facility and includes a detailed, comprehensive estimate of the costs of rehabilitation versus replacement."

"This is for the newly proposed junior-senior high school with the technical college all in one location together," Hartley said.

Board members unanimously approved the request without

discussion.

Paul Stressing Associates — the architectural firm hired for Bradford Elementary School — will conduct all four analyses. They are required by the Florida Department of Education to obtain special funding for new facility construction.

According to Stressing, "This assessment will require a great deal of investigative field work in preparation for the actual assessment report and these efforts will be coordinated very closely with you and your staff so as

not to disrupt the daily operation of the facility. ... The assessment report will require photographic documentation of existing conditions to memorialize the conditions encountered and as a means of conveying to the State Review Committee the urgent need to recognize Bradford County's needs."

The cost of the analysis for each campus is \$30,000, plus \$20,000 for the transportation department, for a total of \$110,000.

## Landscape islands reborn

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

Main Street in Lake Butler is looking brighter and more vibrant these days, thanks to the joint efforts of the City of Lake Butler and the Lake Butler Woman's Club, which worked together to rehabilitate the landscaping islands placed at the curbs in several locations on the city's main thoroughfare.

City Manager Kimberly Hayes contacted Woman's Club member Monica Bayer about a project conceived last year to rework the planting areas to improve the appearance of the downtown area.

The Woman's Club set aside funds to help pay for the project, but with the many issues faced by the city last year, the project was put on hold.

Last month, Bayer and Hayes made it active again, with Bayer securing professional design and plant selection services, which were donated by Greenhouse Nursery/Conceptual Landscape Design of Gainesville.

When the islands were first created, the idea was to brighten up the area with flowering plants, some of which were not drought tolerant or ideal for the growing conditions. Most of these

See ISLANDS, page 7



The plants selected were Sunshine Ligustrum (yellow), Cerise Charm Lorapetalum (purple), and Lomandra Breeze Grass (green).



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## WORTH NOTING

### 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 Lawtey Road in Starke. This distribution may begin early depending on the arrival of the food truck.

### Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith is distributing food on the third Thursday during the summer. Dates for drive-thru giveaways are June 20, July 18 and Aug. 15 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the church, 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

### Lifeline food giveaway

Lifeline Ministries and Gleaners Dispatch will hold a food giveaway on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to noon at 325 N. Christian St. in Starke.

### Food distribution in Lawtey

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, June 26, at 9 a.m. at the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

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.

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# Library summer programs feature arts, animals

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The assistant director and the circulation supervisor of the Bradford County Library previewed its summer programs to the Starke Rotary Club during the civic group's Wednesday, June 12 meeting.

Kim Crawford and Misty Dubose said the Pratt Street center launched its summer program on June 6 with a luau that featured limbo.

"It was outside, and it was hot," recalled Crawford of the event. "We didn't think we were going to get that many, but we did actually get 115, I think. So that was really good."

Crawford said two summer features this year are a partnership with the county's animal shelter and a canvas painting class for

adults.

She said the sheriff's office, which runs the shelter, will bring dogs from the facility to the library and that children will read to the animals.

Crawford added that the library will simultaneously promote a donations drive for the shelter. Interested residents may donate food, blankets, and other pet care products to the library.

The assistant director added that the primary adult program from June through August would be a canvas painting activity. Crawford emphasized that the painting sessions are not limited to adults and that teens may also participate.

## Read to your kids

Crawford also emphasized the importance of reading to young

children during her talk.

The assistant director told the Rotarians that a child's brain development during its first five years is critical and that parents and grandparents should prioritize reading to children during that important growth period.

"You can read the Bible," she told the Rotarians. "You can read the telephone book. Anything that they take in is just so vital for children whenever they're that young."

Crawford added that one of her most memorable achievements at the library was the success of the Baby Prime Time program. The group reading sessions tell stories from books to children ranging from newborns to two-year-olds.

## 35,000 visitors

Dubose told the audience that from January 1 through June 11, 35,495 people had walked through the library's doors.

"That could just be somebody coming with their grandkids to a program or just somebody walking in and saying: 'Hey, I need to use the bathroom,'" she added.

Dubose said that the library had issued 271 new library cards over that same period, and patrons had checked out 12,961 items.

"It doesn't sound like a lot,"

Dubose added, "but that is a lot when you have to put them all away, I promise."

She also said anyone five or older can get a library card.

Crawford interjected that Rotarian John Smith or a family member visits the Pratt Street center every other day to check out books, and audience member Roger Crews frequently utilizes the library's Libby online eBook and audiobook service.

"We have the free Wi-Fi," Crawford said of the facility's additional services. "We have the study room where there's peace and quiet. We have the genealogy room."

Crawford encouraged the club's members to get a library card, even if they have no intention of checking out a book, noting that additional library cards increase the facility's state funding.



Bradford County Library Assistant Director Kim Crawford previewed the library's summer programs to the Starke Rotary Club during the civic group's June 12 meeting.

## Looking for friends

Crawford encouraged the

Rotarians to join the Friends of the Library, an independent

nonprofit group that supports the facility. She said memberships start at \$20 a year and that Bradford County Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang leads the group as president.

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[www.tobaccofreeunioncounty.com](http://www.tobaccofreeunioncounty.com)

## Juneteenth program celebrates young women

The Juneteenth Committee is hosting the second annual Juneteenth program for young ladies ages 15-18. The event will be held Saturday, June 29, 6:30 p.m. at the Florida National Guard Armory at 720 Edwards Road in Starke. All are invited to attend this event for the cost of admission, which is \$25.

## Democrats meet June 24

The Bradford County Democratic Party will meet in person on Monday, June 24, at 7 p.m. All Democrats are welcome. The meeting will be held at Capital City Bank conference room, Hwy 301 North in Starke. For further information, please contact [bradfordcodec@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordcodec@gmail.com).

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# Meet the Candidates

## Hartley seeks four more years

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

Dear Bradford County Residents,

My name is Will Hartley, and for the past four years, I have had the distinct privilege of serving as your Superintendent of Bradford County Schools. As I reflect on the progress we've made together, I am inspired by our shared resilience, commitment to excellence, and collective achievements. With great enthusiasm and a vision for continued growth, I am seeking your support for reelection to build upon the foundations we've set.

The past four years have brought unprecedented challenges, the most significant being the COVID-19 pandemic. It tested our district's flexibility, resilience, and capacity to adapt rapidly. Together, we ensured that no student fell through the cracks. Our diligent efforts to track down students who did not return to school post-shutdown were crucial in maintaining educational continuity. We implemented safety measures, embraced remote learning technologies, and provided continuous support to our community, ensuring that education remained accessible to all. The consistency in our approach provided stability during uncertain times.

Facing significant financial distress was no small feat. We've worked tirelessly to address budgetary constraints. By focusing on hiring dedicated staff and implementing prudent fiscal policies, we have not only stabilized our finances but also brought the district to its best financial condition in over a decade. This financial turnaround is a testament to our community's relentless efforts and our commitment to responsible governance. Consistently managing our finances with prudence has laid a solid foundation for future growth and improvements.

One of our proudest accomplishments is the marked improvement in student attendance, reflecting a positive trend in engagement and participation. Additionally, we successfully helped two schools exit the state's turnaround status. These achievements have set a new precedent for academic excellence in our district. Consistently focusing on student engagement and school improvement has been key to driving these positive outcomes.

Recognizing the fundamental role that teachers play, we have focused on creating a supportive environment. I'm proud to report an 87% teacher retention rate for the upcoming school year—an indication that our teachers feel valued and invested in our community. Consistency in support and encouragement for our educators has resulted in a committed and stable teaching workforce. We are also committed to growing our own educators. We currently partner with two universities to support our noninstructional staff who wish to become teachers. We currently have 7 noninstructional staff members working towards their teaching degrees.

Our district's academic progress is evident in this year's state testing highlights. We saw



Will Hartley

increases in 13-18 subcategories for school grades, with several scores still above state averages even when experiencing slight drops. Notably:

- All three elementary schools are poised to earn B grades. Having 3 schools at this level is something that hasn't been achieved since 2011.

- Four out of our five schools increased their proficiency in ELA and math, with Lawtey leading in math proficiency not only within our district but also above state averages.

- Districtwide, our proficiency in ELA, math, and science has improved from last year, and the total possible points earned for school grades have increased for the second consecutive year.

- We witnessed a rise in the number of Level 5 scores across the district, from 224 to 326.

- Our graduation rate has increased for the second straight year.

- Early literacy scores are up, underscoring our strong focus on foundational education and partnership with the University of Florida's Literacy Institute.

These achievements are not just numbers; they are evidence of our consistent dedication and the hard work of our students, teachers, and families.

Our district isn't just setting high standards academically; we are excelling in athletics, too. We celebrated two team state championships, a state runner-up, and multiple individual state champions. These achievements display our dedication to fostering well-rounded excellence in our students. The consistency in our athletic programs has allowed our students to shine, developing not only their skills but also their character.

Last November, we moved into the first new school in Bradford County in 27 years—a state-of-the-art facility that supports modern learning and offers our students the resources they deserve. This achievement underscores our commitment to consistently providing the best educational environment for our students.

Looking to the future we aim to continue growing our Cambridge program and expanding opportunities for high school students to qualify for the 100% Bright Futures Scholarship.

Increasing college and career readiness opportunities at

Bradford High School remains a priority. This includes the development of a new Truck Driving School. This facility will allow the possibility of new programs like heavy equipment operation and commercial logging.

We are partnering with Santa Fe College to bring a registered nursing program to North Florida Technical College. We were recently awarded a \$4 million grant that will enhance health care education in our region and allowing our LPN students an opportunity to bridge into registered nursing right here in Bradford County.

STEM opportunities will be enriched through our collaboration with Thermacell at Bradford High School, preparing students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

We will continue implementing districtwide practices proven to lead to student success, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive. Our unwavering focus on these areas represents our commitment to maintaining a consistent path toward excellence.

In addressing the facilities needs at Bradford Middle School and Bradford High School, our ultimate goal is the construction of a new Junior-Senior High School. This ambitious project aims to provide a modern, unified environment for secondary education, aligning with our district's long-term vision of excellence. Our consistent investment in the development and maintenance of our facilities ensures that our students learn in safe and conducive environments.

The journey of the past four years has been one of progress, resilience, and community spirit. I am deeply honored to have served as your Superintendent and am committed to continuing the work we've begun. Consistency has been, and will continue to be, our guiding principle—the cornerstone upon which we build our progress and future achievements.

With your support, we can achieve even greater heights for our school district and our children's futures. Together, we have the power to drive Bradford County forward, creating new opportunities and endless success stories. Your vote will help us continue this transformative journey. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our shared vision for Bradford County Schools. Let's keep building on the foundations we've set and ensure a consistent path toward student and community achievement.

For more information and to stay up to date on my campaign, please follow me on Facebook at Re-Elect Will Hartley, Superintendent of Schools.

Sincerely,  
Will Hartley  
Your Superintendent of Schools

## Andrews running again in BC District 5

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

My name is Diane Andrews and I am the County Commissioner for District 5, in Bradford County, and I am seeking your support for reelection.

I have had the honor of serving as your County Commissioner for the past four years, and have done my best to help the people of Bradford County in whatever way was needed. I have regularly attended city council meetings in Brooker to ensure that I know and understand their needs and their position on issues facing our county. There are several things that I have worked diligently towards such as providing a fire station in Brooker, completing the boat ramp at Cypress Run, improving the equipment at Three Pipes, implementing impact fees, continue to work on the county's budget until we finally have a balanced budget without using our reserves, create a five-year



Diane Andrews

Strategic Plan to measure our successes and failures, allowing our constituents to follow as we proceed through the process, and be kept informed of what your Board of County Commissioners are working towards for you.

I have learned a great deal in the last four years, and unfortunately I have also learned that some problems are much harder to find an answer than others. I have searched for answers to making needed repairs to roads such as "River Bend," "Wynn Cemetery Road," "Sampson Lake," and many others in my district, but due to the fact these are private

roads, I have been unable to find an answer. However, it is my belief that when you are told, "no you can't do that," it simply means change directions until you find the right answer.

If reelected, I promise to continue to listen to your suggestions, needs and requests, holding the position with integrity, honesty and always understanding I am acting as your voice. I would love to see the projects we are working on now come to fruition, and continue to help build a firm foundation for our local government, see our bypass grow and our assets grow to a level where we can lower taxes while still being able to balance our budget from the funds brought in.

I would love to assist in helping Bradford County continue to grow and become the beautiful county that everyone wants to move to, one with great job opportunities, great schools for their children, cultural events that the citizens could enjoy, while maintaining our small town feel and safety for our residents. Thank you again for the last four years, looking forward to another term of serving you!

## Vacation Bible school at New River Baptist

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.



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).

**Bradford High Class of 1964**  
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All BHS 64 grads & spouses are invited. Please let Jerome Kelly 352.538.0741 OR Eugenia Whitehead at 352.745.1828 know if you plan to attend.

**THANK YOU**  
to the voters of Starke for allowing me the privilege of running unopposed for the unexpired term in District 3. I will endeavor to always listen to you and represent you with integrity and honor even if we disagree on some issues. I look forward to working with my fellow commissioners to make the City of Starke an inviting place to live, work and play.  
**-Bob Milner**  
Paid Political Advertisement. Paid for by Bob Milner for City Commissioner District 3

## Summer Bingo fundraiser for CIS

The June 24 Summer Bingo Fundraiser for Communities of Schools of Bradford County, hosted by Bradford County Telegraph, will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Downtown Grill. Ten games for \$20. Last game blackout for \$100 prize. All bingo proceeds plus 25% of food and beverage purchases will go directly to CIS students.



## To the Citizens of Bradford County:

I would like to thank you for allowing me the honor of continuing to serve as your Property Appraiser. Your confidence in my staff and I remains very humbling. My family and I appreciate the support and encouragement that so many have shown and continue to show.

Sincerely,  
**Kenny Clark**

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# Races for superintendent, school board, commission set

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Four Bradford County political races emerged from the qualifying process last week.

The race for District 5 county commissioner will be decided in August between incumbent Diane Andrews and challenger Brian Outlaw. Both are running as Republicans, so their race will be a universal primary, open to all registered voters in District 5 to decide.

The other universal primary is for the nonpartisan school board race in District 4, where incumbent Candace Osteen has two opponents, Dana Bell and Mitchell Gunter. The three-way race will be decided in August if one candidate manages to get more than 50% of the vote. Otherwise, the top two candidates will move on to a runoff in November. Again, the vote is open to all registered voters in District 4.

There are also three candidates in the race for superintendent of schools — two Republicans and one nonpartisan. Incumbent Will Hartley and opponent Tracey Kendrick will face each other in the August primary, with only Republicans countywide

deciding on their preferred candidate. The winner of the primary will then run against Alan Bhajan in November with all registered voters countywide deciding the outcome.

Headed directly to the November ballot is the District 1 race for county commission. Incumbent Carolyn Spooner is running as a Democrat, and Shannon Smith is her Republican challenger. All registered voters in District 1 will choose their commissioner.

Nearly every other office open to election this year will be filled by an unchallenged incumbent. Sheriff Gordon Smith, Clerk of Court Denny Thompson, Tax Collector Teresa Phillips, Property Appraiser Kenny Clark, Elections Supervisor Amanda Seyfang and District 3 County Commissioner Chris Dougherty will all be sworn in for four more years.

Also facing no challenge will be the next District 3 school board member, Julie Johnson. She qualified to run and was unopposed. Incumbent Cheryl Canova is retiring from this school board seat at the end of her term.

Smith is resigning from

his District 3 Starke City Commission seat to run against Spooner, and taking his place on the city commission is Bob Milner. Milner was unopposed after announcing his run.

The August primary will take place on Aug. 20 and the general election is Nov. 5. Voter registration closes on July 22 for the primary and Oct. 7 for the general election.

To register to vote, go to [www.votebradfordfl.gov](http://www.votebradfordfl.gov) online or [www.registertovoteflorida.gov](http://www.registertovoteflorida.gov). You can also visit the supervisor of elections office.

Early voting will be available Aug. 5-18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily for the primary and Oct. 21-Nov. 3 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily for the general election.

Visit [www.votebradfordfl.gov](http://www.votebradfordfl.gov) to print a vote by mail request or go by the office. You must request a ballot by Aug. 8 for the primary and by Oct. 24 for the general election.

Update your address if necessary before election day and check your voter registration to see which voter precinct to visit if you are voting on election day. Polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Enoch Durban, Wonderful West and Logan Jackson.

## Bradford's newest Eagle Scouts

On June 8, Troop 70 had itsr Eagle Court of Honor. It was conducted at the American Legion Post 56 Lodge. Scoutmaster David Lee conducted the court.

Scouts Enoch Durban, Wonderful West and Logan Jackson received the esteemed Eagle Award. Eagle is the highest rank achieved in the Boy Scouts of America organization.

Less than three percent of scouts entering the program achieve Eagle status.

Scouts must achieve 21 merit badge and complete a public service project that the scout puts together from start to finish, and advancing in rank to Life Scout before starting his Eagle project.

All three scouts began in the Cub Scout program at age six and advanced into the Boy Scout

program for a combined 12 years in Scouts. Eagle displays to the world that these young men will achieve the goals in life they set. Family and friends were beside them on their climb to the top.

Enoch and Logan plan to continue their service in the Florida Air National Guard and Wonderful will be continuing with college in the business field.

# 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."

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



"The staff there is great. Up beat atmosphere"

**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."

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



"Great service, courteous, and professional. Took truck in at 2pm and got it back the same day. Thanks guys. Will be back in future, highly recommend them. Thanks again, Donovan"

**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."

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



"I love the staff here. They are always kind & helpful to me & my 3 girls. We go in to just grab a few books & stay an hour just to chat with everyone & check out all the upcoming events they offer."

**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!"

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



**SPORTING CHANCE**

"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!"

**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!!"

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



"Your guys were very punctual in getting our well fixed. Within one day of the issue arising, someone came out. Day 2 it was fixed. The guys even worked in the rain and stayed late until it was done. Super professional company! 5 stars from me!"

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

"Keystone Heights doesn't have much, but it does have a chiropractor who is certified in the activator method. If you can't physically handle the bending and twisting of a manual adjustment, there is still hope via this gentle yet effective method. Be good to your body and let Dr Short's healing hands help set you straight!"

**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!"

**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!"

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



"Thank you Marshall for the great service and efficiency during our sale of our new truck. You made everything easy!"

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



"We had a great experience here! They got us in the same day to remove some debris from my child's eye. Dr Mike was great...knows what he's doing and was friendly! Office staff was also courteous and pleasant. We will definitely go back for regular eye appointments."

**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!"

**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!"

# Meet the Candidates

## Bhajan announces challenge

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

I am Alan Bhajan and this year as a science teacher at Bradford Middle School, I helped the eighth-grade students achieve the best scores Bradford County has seen in more than a decade in the Florida state science exams.

I am an accomplished and experienced educator with a twenty-five-year career serving students in Guyana, South America, Colorado and in the last two years, at Bradford Middle School. In the span of my career, I have been a classroom teacher, a college lecturer, the principal of a college and an education officer/school superintendent.

My core philosophy of teaching is that given a safe and conducive learning environment and with compassionate but disciplined quality teaching, each child can achieve excellence and maximize their greatest potential. In short, I believe in each child and teach them to believe in themselves and work hard to achieve academic and life goals. The last batch of eighth-graders at BMS bore fruit to my philosophy and work.

During my stint at BMS, it became evident that after successive years of failure, the school was in danger of entering a "turnaround" phase. With frequent visits from state officials, local school leaders made interventions to mitigate failure and avoid impending "turnaround" status. However, these interventions showed a lack of sound educational acumen and a concern more for numerical outcomes than delivering a sound education to the students.

Decisions to curtail the full



Alan Bhajan

delivery of the curriculum to some students, among other bizarre interventions, were ill-informed, ill-advised and disadvantaged some students. Despite the challenges posed by an administration getting vacuous leadership from their supervisors, my students proved that with disciplined learning, Bradford students are right up there with the very best!

Another observation that gives grave concern for the welfare and education of our children is the apparent movement of Bradford Schools from a K-6 to a K-8 configuration. This will lead to the closure of all except one elementary school together with the closure of the middle school and moving to an amalgamation of elementary and middle school students in one facility. Research data shows a K-8 configuration has zero long-term gains for students but creates major negative implications for their safety and education.

If my perception is wrong, I challenge my fellow candidates to publicly declare that they will not close any more elementary schools nor the middle school. Parents of Bradford County deserve the right to know of plans that will affect their children and the Bradford community, so that they can make an informed

decision at the ballot box. We need to do what is best for our kids, not what is expedient for the treasury.

Perhaps the most insidious and dangerous occurrence in our schools is the promulgation of a seemingly unconscious tyrannical culture that goes directly against the very American ideal of freedom. When teachers and students have their first amendment rights muzzled by local statute forbidding them to express their personal political beliefs, Bradford County and America is in trouble. The first amendment is the central pillar on which the rights and guarantees of the Constitution stands. Teachers and students should never live under threats of fear of censure in any American school, and certainly NOT in Bradford Schools. The battle for America will be won or lost in our classrooms and the halls of our schools.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "It is not the critics on the sidelines that count. The credit belongs to the man who stands in the arena, face covered by dust and sweat and blood, who spends himself in a worthy cause." There is no cause more worthy than helping our children to be safe and be the best they can be and so I stand in the arena to champion the cause of every child, every teacher, every custodian and kitchen staff, every bus driver and every administrator, to do that which is right for our children, for Bradford County and for the future of America.

Stand with me! Together let's make our schools safe and successful and our children into strong, principled citizens who achieve their best potential and love and value with their lives, the American ideals articulated by the Founding Fathers. God bless Bradford County, and God bless America!

our students through our policies. I would also use my position to reach out to our state and federal leaders for help in areas that need financial improvements

I will also use the position to protect female sports. Over the past years, males have been infiltrating female sports. I think you have to look at the science that shows males are stronger and faster than female athletes. There are many reports of female athletes being injured during competition and destroying their opportunities for college scholarships. I will help protect those athletes within the school boards policies.

I will work to help our ESE program by trying to bring in federal dollars to help employ more staff in these areas.

One important matter is making sure when deciding on the schools curriculum. We're not inviting a woke agenda into our schools and make sure the correct curriculum is being used.

In closing, I hope that you will consider me to represent our school board because our kids' education is of the utmost importance to me.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Mitchell Gunter for Bradford County School Board District 4.



Mitchell Gunter

events.

I have also been active in getting our roads safer for our community to travel on, such as having no passing lines installed at the intersection of SR 100 and 109th Street, improvements to the intersection of SR 100 and 21B, and having the speed limit lowered at both ends of the bypass intersections and now I'm currently trying to get traffic lights installed at SR 100 and 144th Street. This area is very crucial because many students travel this area going to and from school daily.

As your representative, I would like to bring in new ways to advance our ways of educating

issue in the neighborhood, with some residents afraid to speak out for fear of retaliation.

"People were afraid to come even tonight," she said during the June 11 meeting in Green Cove Springs. "I appreciate all of you who came out and all of you who've called me, and some of you, I consider you friends, so it is a very difficult decision."

## Dangerous road, crash fatality

In his petition to close the dirt grade, Tumlin said the road, in some places, reduces to a width of 12 to 14 feet.

"This portion of the road is not designed, constructed, and permitted to acceptable industry standards for safety,

vehicular and pedestrian traffic, has no signage, and is driven on by many motorists that are put at risk to the hazards of this minimally maintained single-lane dirt road with curves and heavily treed edges resulting in limited sight-distance," he wrote in the application. "People travel down the road at high rates of speed, and there has already been at least one fatality in the past few years where a driver lost control of his vehicle and ran into the trees."

Drug sales, vandalism, dead body

Tumlin added that because of

See ROAD, page 7

## Bell running for school board District 4

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

After prayer and consideration, I am excited to announce that I am running for Bradford County School Board member, District 4. My name is Dana Reddish Bell, and I am a lifelong Bradford County resident and a proud 1993 graduate of Bradford High School. I am a married mother of five children and currently work for the Bradford County School District. Over the past eight years, I have been a class sponsor, PTO officer, and SAC member. I am passionate about joining in the future success of our county school district.

Our county faces several challenges, including a decline in student enrollment, high teacher turnover, and a lack of resources for children with learning disabilities.

If elected, my focus will be on the following:

- Increasing retention of students and teachers through fair pay and compensation, and helping ensure every classroom is equipped for 21st century learning.

- Providing necessary resources and support for children with learning disabilities and unique abilities.

- Being an advocate and voice for students and parents



Dana Bell

concerning issues related to classroom learning, classroom environment, and discipline.

- Ensuring careful and responsible fiscal management of the district's budget.

My passion for change comes from personal experiences with children with learning disabilities. As a parent myself of children who needed extra support, I have faced challenges to ensure they received the resources they needed for education and growth. Four of our children are proud Bradford County High School graduates with my youngest child still in our system. I will advocate as passionately for all children as I have for my own.

I am also a proud second-generation school district employee, following in the footsteps of my late mother, Becky Reddish, who helped start the Bradford County Education Foundation. She continues to

impact our community through the Becky Reddish Memorial Scholarships at Santa Fe College.

As your board member, I will advocate for all students and openly discuss any issues parents feel need attention. I will collaborate on new policies and procedures to ensure a safe and effective learning environment for our students and teachers. While not all decisions will be easy, I am committed to making the right choices for the best interests of our children and district. I will also advocate for smart spending of approved budgets and careful consideration of expenses.

My life and work experiences have prepared me for this position, and I look forward to devoting my time to protecting our children's education and shaping the future of our schools.

My slogan is simple but impactful: "Every Student Counts." My passion and dedication to children and education drive my commitment to change.

I am seeking your support in this election. I look forward to walking door-to-door and speaking with my neighbors in District 4. Together, we can make Bradford County Schools a model district where every student succeeds.

Sincerely,  
Dana Reddish Bell  
Political Advertisement paid for and approved by Dana R. Bell for Bradford County School Board District 4.

## Democratic Women meet June 26

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet

on Wednesday, June 26. Please note the date change. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, candidate for U.S. Senate, will be the speaker. She is running in the Democratic primary to challenge Rick Scott.

The business meeting will start at 7 p.m. with the speaker

arriving at 8 p.m. All Democrats are welcome, and doors open at 6:30. Meetings are held at the Melrose Center, 309 State Hwy 26 in Melrose. For further information, please contact 352-235-4161 or Info@dwc-la.org.

## Gunter running for school board

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

Hello everyone, I'm Mitchell Gunter and I would like to announce my candidacy for the Bradford County School Board District 4.

I'm a lifelong resident of Bradford County and a graduate of Bradford High in 1994. I continued my education at Santa Fe College and graduated in 1999 as a commercial and industrial electrician.

Most of my work experience has most been in construction and facility management. I'm currently employed by the Eighth Judicial Circuit in administration in Gainesville.

I'm married to my wonderful wife, Nicole, and a father of three wonderful children, Hailey, Damian, and Zane. I'm also a grandfather of two.

Over the years, I have been active in the community, working with community partners like the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Merchants during their annual

## Clay County closing part of Melrose Road

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Clay County Commissioners voted unanimously to close the southern half of Melrose Road. The closed portion begins south of Lily Lake Road and continues to State Road 21, approximately 1.2 miles.

Reggie Tumlin requested the closure. He owns the property on both sides of the road for the 1.2 miles north of State Road 21.

County Commissioner Betsy Condon, who represents the western one-third of the county, called the road closure "a complicated issue," with the overwhelming majority of residents favoring closing the grade.

She added that Tumlin's petition has become a divisive

The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number NAVCA210430-03-00 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.

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# Lake Butler Fourth includes fishing tournament and fireworks

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

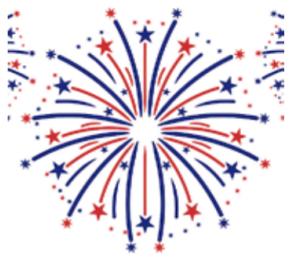
The plans are all set for the annual Lake Butler Rotary Clubs Independence Day celebration at Lakeside Park. This year, the event will be held on Saturday, July 6, with activities beginning at 4 a.m. and continuing until dusk.

The day will begin with the start of the Tommy Spires Memorial Bass Fishing Tournament. Preliminary activities, such as registration, entry fee of \$50 per fisherman, and getting the boats in the water, will begin at 4 a.m., and the boats will be allowed to launch and begin competition as soon as it is light. Weigh-out will take place at 10 a.m., and the winners will be determined.

Winning fish will be determined by weight rather than length. First Place will go to the captor of the Largest Bass, who will be awarded \$1,000, the prize sponsored by Spires IGA. Second place will be awarded for the second largest bass, with the prize being \$500, sponsored by Lake Butler Mini Storage. Third place will go to the largest trash/other fish and brings an award of \$250. During the weigh out the fisherman may not be the only winners. There will be a raffle for several prizes, including a cooler, tackle, gift certificates and more.

There will be a 5K and a Fun Run beginning at 8 a.m. Competitors not pre-registered should arrive 30 min. before the event to get the paperwork done and be informed of the route.

Vendors and food trucks are scheduled to be up and running at 9 a.m. The car show will begin at 10 a.m. Cars should arrive between 9-9:30 a.m. and will be allowed to leave at 1 p.m. but



can stay until after the fireworks if desired. Judging will be by popular vote and there will be five categories: Overall Top Pick, Best in Show (with first, second and third place winners chosen), Top 10, Most Patriotic and Best Truck. The entry fee is \$20 per vehicle.

Beside shopping with the vendors and patronizing the food trucks, there will be a day of fun between the morning events and the fireworks that end the event. There will be a petting zoo, bounce houses, live music and fun in the splash park ongoing all day. Regular park rules will apply, including the prohibition of alcoholic beverages and smoking/vaping on park property. Officers from the Union County Sheriff's office will be on hand to see that everyone stays safe as will members of Union County Fire and Rescue.

If the current weather trend continues, it promises to be a bright hot day so don't forget the sunscreen and make provisions to stay hydrated. Coolers are allowed so attendees may bring their own cold drinks and snacks. It is a day for family time and to remember the true beginning of our free country, so come and enjoy the fun.

# Business Partner Appreciation



At the April School Board Meeting, the Union County School District was honored to recognize Jamie Parrish and Union Direct Primary Care for their continued support for the students of Union County. UDPC regularly supports several athletic programs at Lake Butler Middle School and Union County High School through team sponsorships and also by providing sports physicals to athletic team members. UDPC also provides support to the nursing program at Union County High School and to those who show market animals at the Union County Livestock Association Fair. The Union County School District is grateful for the support and generosity provided by Parrish and Union Direct Primary Care to the students of Union County and the invaluable service she and her staff provide to the district employees. Pictured (l-r) are Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger and Jamie Parrish.



At the May School Board Meeting, the Union County School District was honored to recognize Tom Jenkins and Tom Jenkins Electrical Services Inc. for his continued support of the students of the Union County School District. Jenkins is a proud supporter of multiple athletic teams for Lake Butler Middle School and Union County High School, as well as support for students who show a market animal at the Union County Livestock Association Fair. Jenkins' support has been a great help to district teams and students, providing them with opportunities they may not have otherwise enjoyed. The Union County School District is grateful for the support of Tom Jenkins and Tom Jenkins Electrical Services Inc. and appreciates his commitment to the students of Union County. Pictured (l-r) Tom Jenkins and Superintendent Mike Ripplinger.

# Beekeepers look to next generation

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

Things were buzzing at the May meeting of the Union County Beekeepers as seasoned beekeepers heard a presentation about bringing the art and fun of the practice to future generations.



Union County Beekeepers President Steve Lane, Past President Cecelia Young, Extension Program Coordinator Natalie Parkell and Union County UF-IFAS Extension Agent Jim DeValerio.

May 21, 2024, saw the beekeepers meeting, as usual, at the Union County Agricultural Education Center, to hear a presentation from UF/IFAS Education and Training Specialist Natalie Parkell concerning a new 4-H project book produced by the University of Florida's departments of Entomology and Nematology entitled "Welcome to the Hive!" The program was timely, as it took place the day after World Bee Day (May 20) as designated by the United Nations. This year's theme? "Bee Engaged With Youth!" - raising awareness in youth about the essential role of bees in the environment. The major concern is that the next generations are not picking up beekeeping as a hobby or vocation.

Parkell comes from South Central Florida, where she worked as a 4-H extension agent. She now works at UF and is involved with the UF/IFAS Honeybee Research and the Bee College (located in the Department of Entomology).

Parkell went into great detail about the new publication

and how it works with the progression of teaching/learning children of different ages in the best and most effective way. The booklet begins with learning activities for early childhood (5-8), focusing on learning through activity and experiences. These children are concrete thinkers who are sensitive to criticism and need positive reinforcement with teamwork and cooperation, not competition.

In the middle childhood stage (9-11), children learn by working with small pieces of information with simple and short directions. Group activity is important, as is group membership and learning through common projects.

In early adolescence (12-14), youth are ready for deeper and longer learning experiences and the exploration of leadership roles. They may avoid difficult tasks and benefit from assistance in choosing tasks at which they can succeed.

In middle adolescence (15-18), young people show a strong desire for status and need a learning climate conducive to success. They are capable of reaching high levels of abstract

thinking and complex issues and learning decision-making skills. They are group-oriented and like co-educational activities.

The new publication is free and can be accessed at [http://edis.ifas.edu/publication\\_4H419](http://edis.ifas.edu/publication_4H419). The 51-page booklet covers bee anatomy, vision, life cycle, castes of bees (3 kinds), worker bee tasks and communication & swarming.

During the presentation, seasoned beekeepers got the chance to do one of the exercises from the publication - a matching exercise using bee attributes and bee caste, which has or does them. Very few in the group of about 25 attendees got all the right answers. They took this in stride, however, with several saying that there was always something to learn in their hobby.

The Union County Beekeepers meets the third Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the UC Ag building. For information about joining contact Cecelia Young at [youngcae@cedartechology.com](mailto:youngcae@cedartechology.com) or UC Extension Agent Jim DeValerio at [jtd@ufl.edu](mailto:jtd@ufl.edu).

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## Budget Inn in Lawtey sold

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
[dan@bctelegraph.com](mailto:dan@bctelegraph.com)

Om Shree Jalaram Inc., and Dhansukhbahi and Rekha Patel bought Lawtey's Budget Inn for \$475,000 from Asha09 LLC. and Suresh and Asha Shukla.

The four buildings, just under 9,500 square feet, and two parcels totaling less than one acre, are at the southwest corner of U.S. 301 and County Road 125 in Lawtey.

The buying entity's officers for the property's commercial portion are Piyush Patel and

Chaitalibahen Patel. The motel previously sold for \$375,000 in 2005.

## Aldi shopping center sells

The Starke shopping center that houses Aldi and Tractor Supply has changed hands from a Los Angeles-based owner to one in South Florida.

Starke Walnut LLC conveyed the two parcels totaling around 18 acres to RG Starke Holdings LLC of Miami on May 14 for \$7.9 million.

The properties last sold in 1995 for \$4.5 million and are valued

at \$4 million by the county's property appraiser.

## 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.

# 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.

## Kidnapping defendant pleads

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 35-year-old Starke woman has pleaded to kidnapping a 16-year-old and beating the boy in retaliation for a car theft.

Tiescha Latrese Mitchell, 35, was arrested in January for kidnapping and aggravated battery. On May 29, she pleaded to false imprisonment and was sentenced to 64 days in jail and three years' probation.

According to court papers, the victim told deputies that on January 8, he was walking on Starke's Estelle Street near Dell Street when a gray vehicle approached him, and Mitchell and Leroi Lamant Luzunaris, 47, of Jacksonville, exited the car. According to the victim, the couple took him to a home on Lamar Street where they, along with Donnie Risby, 64, of Starke, beat him with a tire iron, fists, feet, and possibly a handgun. Prosecutors dropped charges against Risby in February. Luzunaris is awaiting trial.

## Probation for perjury

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 33-year-old Tallahassee woman accused of lying on the witness stand during a murder trial was sentenced to three years' probation, 100 hours of community service, and was fined \$2,500.

Ashley Nicole Whitefield pleaded to perjury in an official proceeding.

According to a complaint, the defendant testified during the 2022 trial of her brother, Marcus Whitefield, that Marcus visited her in Havana, Florida, west of Tallahassee, from mid-June through mid-July 2020.

Marcus was standing trial for the July 10, 2020, murder of Blake Williams on Starke's Old Lawtey Road near Brownlee Street. He was found guilty of shooting the 19-year-old in the head and sentenced to life plus 30 years.

According to the complaint, Ashley also lied when she denied that she and her brother communicated via cell phone during the first 10 days of July 2020. Marcus's call records revealed 11 answered phone calls, one missed call, and one unanswered call between the two from July 1 through July 10, 2020.

## ISLANDS

Continued from page 1

plants died relatively quickly, and travelers passing through the downtown area saw only weeds and dead plant matter.

The new design focused on plants with bright and attractive colored foliage as this type of plant is always attractive, not just for the short blooming time for flowering plants.

The plants selected were Sunshine Ligustrum (yellow), Cerise Charm Loropetalum (purple), and Lomandra Breeze Grass (green).

In total, 84 plants were placed in seven islands. Local individuals and businesses sponsored islands to pay the difference between the funds the Woman's Club provided and the actual cost for each island.

These sponsors were Jack Schenck (three islands in

memory of his late wife, Ann), the Rondell and Lisa Huggins family, Free State Realty/Marco Van Peterson, the Fred Sirmones family, and Clarence and Jean Brannen.

City public works personnel did the hard part, clearing away the dead vegetation, digging out the old mulch, and planting the plants according to the design.

New Public Works Director Sam Norris was on hand to see that things got done. Bayer supervised the plantings, making sure the design was followed, and Woman's Club President Cathryn Reagan helped wherever needed, carrying plants, helping set up the plant spacing, and whatever else needed to be done. Hayes dropped by the planting sights to see what the end result looked like and commented on the workers' handiwork.

"This is really an improvement to the appearance of the downtown area of Lake Butler, and I really want to thank the

Lake Butler Woman's Club for helping out in so many ways to make it happen," Hayes said.

Bayer was equally complimentary of the city's efforts to make the project a reality.

"I cannot emphasize enough that the city's cooperation and effort to make this project happen was wonderful," Bayer said. "I can say only that we could not have done this without them."

At first, there was a question about seeing that the plantings got watered regularly, but city workers came through with a plan to get it done and said they would be taking care of it.

The final touch needed to complete the project according to plan is creating and placing signs recognizing the support of the contributors mentioned above. Contributions are being accepted towards this final goal, with checks accepted at Lake Butler City Hall.

## UCHS Class of '74 reunion

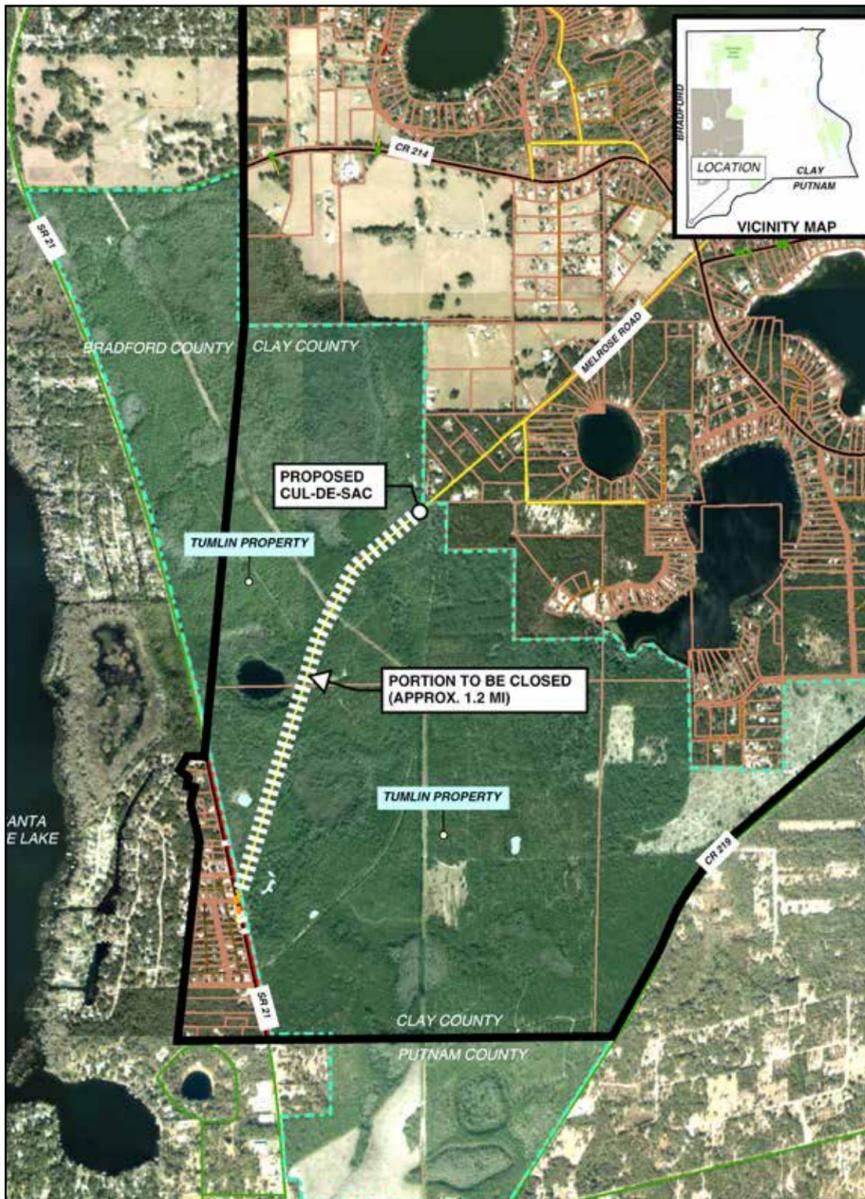
Union County's Class of 1974 will celebrate 50 years on Saturday, June 22, 2024. Save the date. The reunion will take place at 5 p.m. at Lake Butler Community Center. From 3 to 4:30 p.m., there will be a tour

of Marjorie McGill Driggers Historical Museum, 401 W. Main St., Suite C in the Townsend-Green Building.

The reunion begins at the community center a 5 p.m. Please bring any memorabilia you would like to share with the class.

## Foster, adoption classes

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



The closed portion will begin south of Lily Lake Road and continues to State Road 21, approximately 1.2 miles.

## ROAD Continued from page 5

the road's secluded surroundings, his property had become a magnet for illegal dumping and illicit drug sales.

"Just recently," he wrote, "a pickup truck was stolen in Bradford County and was stripped in a chop shop and then hauled to this segment of the road and dumped on my property. Years ago, a dead body was found next to this portion of the road, and it was dumped on my property from this segment of the road. The body wasn't found for a couple of weeks after being dumped from the road. The vandalism is so bad that timber companies will not work or store equipment near this road. In addition, I had to move all our heavy equipment off the property to my residence due to the vandalism that comes from this dirt road."

Tumlin further claimed that his grandfather constructed what became Melrose Road and that the family never granted an easement to the county for the trail. It only gave the county the right to grade the dirt road.

A 1998 memo from then-County Engineer Don Miller appears to back up Tumlin's claim. Miller said a records search yielded no deed, easement, or any other document allowing the county to claim any rights to the road.

## Nearly 100 signed petition

With the application, Tumlin provided commissioners with a petition containing nearly 100 signatures of residents supporting his request.

Most people who spoke at a public hearing about the closure

supported the application. Many complained about speeding and reckless motorists using the thoroughfare as a cut-through from County Road 214 to State Road 21.

Joseph Foy said one of his daughters was nearly hit while boarding a school bus by a speeding driver who ignored the bus's stop lights.

Melrose Road homeowner Corey Meade told commissioners that off-road vehicles use the dirt grade in addition to cars.

"Recently, it's become a speedway for four-wheelers, dirt bikes, and side-by-sides all day long," he said. "They just put up a 25-mile-an-hour sign out there. It's more of a recommendation because nobody drives 25 with that road being situated the way it is. There's no real way to enforce that. Police officers have nowhere to sit out there to enforce a 25-mile-per-hour zone."

## Road saved my life twice

Meade said he recognized that closing the road would inconvenience commuters. He added that his wife, who works at the veterans' hospital in Gainesville, will take a longer route if the southern half of Melrose Road is inaccessible.

William Beck opposed the closure and said his wife had saved 32,000 miles in her commute to UF Health Shands Hospital over the last 20 years by using the cut-through.

Beck added that a Clay Electric line crew recently blocked Melrose Road with large trucks, and the work effectively closed the road between Lily Lake Road and County Road 214. He added that if the southern half of Melrose Road had been closed during that time, many residents

would have been trapped on their properties.

Gordon Curtis told commissioners that the southern portion of Melrose Road saved his life twice because it was open.

"Once, there was a tree down between Lily Lake Road and 214, and they came in and got me," he recalled. "I had broken my neck in five places. Once more, it saved my life when I had a heart attack. They had a trailer blocking the road, and they came up from the other end to get me and to take me to Shands."

## Legal liability

County Engineer Richard Smith told the board that because the southern part of the road is in such poor condition, he could be sued if the county took no action, allowing the unsafe artery to remain accessible to motorists. He added that if the county did not close the road, it would have to invest significant money to make it safe.

Condon said that based on Smith's recommendation to block public access to the road, she favored closing it.

Commissioner Mike Cella acknowledged that Condon had been working on the potential road closure more than her colleagues, including holding a public meeting in December, which 80 people attended.

"The thing that puts me over the top is the owner of the property," Cella said. "Unless we're willing to make an extensive investment in that particular road...I think that we risk everyone's safety by keeping it open, and if the owner of the property decided that he was not going to allow us to go in there and do what we had to do on his property, then obviously, we would be in a position where that would still be open and people would still be using it."



# RUSS WADE

## Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054  
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# Lowery steps down at KHHS to take position at Palatka

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Lantz Lowery, who helped make Keystone Heights High School one of the state's best in the sport of boys weightlifting, is leaving to become the head weightlifting coach and handle strength and conditioning for the football program at Palatka High School.

"We've had success at Keystone — great success," said Lowery, who led the Indians to five state championships. "This is an opportunity to go someplace else and see if we can replicate that success. Can we do it again before I retire? Am I capable of doing this again?"

Lowery has coached football and weightlifting at KHHS since 2003, with the exception of the 2015-16 school year when he accepted the position of head football coach at Interlachen High School.

Keystone shared the Class 1A state title with Baker County in 2014. When Lowery returned to KHHS after one year at Interlachen, the Indians won three Class 1A championships in a row from 2021 through 2023. In 2022, the Indians won two state titles, earning the top trophy in both the traditional and newly added snatch events.

"It is hard enough to win one state championship in a coaching career, let alone three in a row," KHHS Athletic Director Chuck Dickinson said. "He has done this because of his dedication to our student-athletes — being able to motivate them and hold



**Lantz Lowery, who won five boys weightlifting state championships at Keystone Heights High School, is leaving to take over the Palatka High School program.**

them accountable to each other."

Head Football Coach Steve Reynolds, who worked alongside Lowery the last four years, described Lowery as having been an "incredibly valuable asset" to KHHS.

"We're grateful for all the hard work he put in," Reynolds said.

Palatka High School experienced its own impressive run of weightlifting success, winning five straight state championships from 1991 through 1995, making it one of four schools to have won at least five titles in a row. Palatka also won state titles in 1987, 2000 and 2007 and was state runner-up in 1984, 1985, 1988, 1996, 1997 and 1999.

"Palatka has a history of state championships," Lowery said. "It'd be pretty cool to be able to restore that."

Keystone's recent history of state championships also includes numerous district and regional titles. Since 2012, when the district and regional formats were created, the Indians have won their district every year, including the year Lowery was at Interlachen. That includes winning two titles each in the last three years with the addition of the snatch event, which then morphed into the Olympic event.

The Indians have won their region every year during the same span with the exception of this past season, when they were runners-up to Suwannee in both traditional and Olympic. Keystone earned traditional and snatch regional titles in 2022 and was traditional champ and Olympic runner-up in 2023.

Keystone also won the Clay County Championship meet (which involves all county public schools) from 2021 through the past season.

Dickinson said Lowery "is without a doubt the best coach in Clay County in the sport of weightlifting."

Lowery shared the Florida Dairy Farmers Class 1A Boys Weightlifting Coach of the Year honor in 2014 and was the outright 1A Coach of the Year in 2021 and 2022.

Recently, he shared the Best Overall Coach in Florida for the 2022-23 school year by the National Federation of High School Coaches Association.

"He's been a beacon of hard

**See LOWERY, page 12**



**Bradford High School graduate Ajiyah Jackson (center) is pictured at her June 12 signing ceremony with her mother, Andrana Hamm (far left), and grandmother Harriet Hamm. Jackson will play volleyball at Edward Waters University.**

# BHS' Ajiyah Jackson to play volleyball at Edward Waters

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Ajiyah Jackson already celebrated one special moment when she walked across the stage during Bradford High School's May 17 commencement. The recent graduate has since celebrated another, signing a letter of intent to play volleyball at Jacksonville's Edward Waters University during a June 12 ceremony in the BHS gymnasium.

"It's always been a dream since I tried out in middle school," Jackson said of playing the sport at the collegiate level.

Chelsea LeMire, who was Bradford's first-year head coach during Jackson's senior season, said one of the things that was evident to her when meeting and working with her players prior to the season's start was that Jackson had the potential to play in college. She said she told Jackson she'd do whatever she

could to help make that a reality. As it turned out, LeMire didn't have to do much.

"Honestly, she gets all the credit for this," LeMire said. "She took this on herself and did it. I'm just super proud of her already growing into an adult and taking that next step. She is definitely deserving of the opportunity to play at the next level."

**See JACKSON, page 14**

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 20, 2024

## BRADFORD

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

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance, the title of which appears below, will be considered for

enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida at a public hearing to be held on July 2, 2024, at 9:30 AM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be considered, at the County Commission Chambers, in the North Wing of the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the County Manager, located at 945 N Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO THE PROVISION AND FUNDING OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, AND FACILITIES; AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY SPECIALLY BENEFITTED BY THE PROVISION

OF SUCH SERVICES AND FACILITIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY HEREUNDER; PROVIDING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURES FOR IMPOSING, COLLECTING AND ADMINISTERING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING THAT FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS CONSTITUTE ALIEN UNASSESSED PROPERTY EQUAL IN RANK AND DIGNITY WITH THE LIENS OF ALL STATE, COUNTY, DISTRICT, OR MUNICIPAL TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS AND SUPERIOR IN DIGNITY TO ALL OTHER PRIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES, TITLES, AND CLAIMS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any

continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published. All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in the meeting are requested to notify the Office of the County Manager at the above address or by telephone at 904-966-6327 at least two business days in advance; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. 6/20 1tchg-BCT

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# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 20, 2024

## BRADFORD

IN THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 2023 CA 421 21<sup>ST</sup> MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. BRIDGET RENEE HILL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRIDGET RENEE HILL; JUSTIN MICHAEL HILL; BRADFORD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER and UNKNOWN TENANT

Defendant. **NOTICE OF SALE** NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated April 25, 2024 entered in Case No. 2023 CA 000421, of the Circuit Court in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein BRIDGET RENEE HILL and JUSTIN MICHAEL HILL are the Defendants, that Denny Thompson, the Clerk at the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the Clerk of the Circuit Court, in the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091 on August 15, 2024, beginning at 11:00 a.m., on the prescribed date, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment: Legal: SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TOGETHER WITH A 2020 LIVE OAK 52X32 MODEL MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL NO. S: LOHGA31971145A and LOHGA31971145B

**NOTICE** IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

**NOTICE** If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Bradford County Clerk of the Court, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091 and whose telephone number is 904-966-6280, within two working days of your receipt of this notice. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8711. **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing has been served on this 6th day of June, 2024. Bridget Renee Hill, 5418 NW 177<sup>th</sup> Street, Starke, FL 32091; Justin Michael Hill, 8501 Hampton Springs Road, Perry, FL 32348. SEND MAIL TO: Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth, P.A. Attn: Leslie S. White Post Office Box 2346 Orlando, FL 32802-2346 By: /s/ Leslie S. White Leslie S. White, for the firm Florida Bar No. 521078 Telephone 407-841-1200 Facsimile 407-423-1831 primary email: lwhite@deanmead.com secondary email: bransom@deanmead.com

**Exhibit A** A parcel of land lying in the West 1/2 of Northeast 1/4 of Southeast 1/4 of Section 18, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at an old axle found at the Northwest corner of said West 1/2 and run South 01°01'16" West, along the Westerly boundary thereof, 119.05 feet to an iron rod found on the Southerly boundary of the right-of-way of County Road NW 177th Street (80' R/W) for the Point of Beginning said Southerly boundary being on a curve concave to the North and having a radius of 17,230.45 feet; from Point of Beginning thus described run Easterly along said Southerly boundary and along the arc of said curve, 192.93 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 89°53'54" East, to an iron rod found at the Northwest corner of a parcel described in O.R. Book 737 Page 344, Public Records of said County; thence South 00°30'52" East, along the Westerly boundary of said parcel, 287.16 feet to an iron rod found at the Southwest corner thereof and the Northwest corner of a parcel described in O.R. Book 1135, Page 164, of said Public Records; thence South 00°31'08" East along the Westerly boundary of said parcel, 480.13 feet to an iron rod found at the Southwest corner thereof; thence South 89°55'22" East, along the Southerly boundary of said Parcel, 220.51 feet to an iron rod found at the Southeast corner thereof; thence South 00°05'52" East along the Westerly Boundary of a parcel described in O.R. Book 256, Page 465, a distance of 254.01 feet to the Southwest corner of said parcel and the Northeast corner of a parcel described in O.R. Book 1194, Page 69; thence South 89°12'05"

West, along the Northerly boundary of said parcel, 421.19 feet to an iron rod found at the Northwest corner thereof; thence South 00°07'10" East, along the Westerly boundary of said parcel, 210.00 feet to an iron rod at the Southwest corner thereof and on the Southerly boundary of said West 1/2; thence South 89°10'25" West, along said Southerly boundary, 22.17 feet to a concrete monument (3" X 3") Found at the Southwest corner of said West 1/2; thence North 01°01'16" seconds East, along the Westerly boundary of said West 1/2 a distance of 1238.50 feet to the Point of Beginning.

6/20 2tchg 6/27-BCT

**NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA**

The City of Starke Florida will hold a City Commission Meeting on July 2, 2024 at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091 during which the second reading and a vote will occur for the following ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-14 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 3 CITY MANAGER; REMOVING THE PROHIBITION ON CITY COMMISSIONERS OR ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM BEING APPOINTED TO THE CITY MANAGER POSITION; REMOVING ALL REFERENCES TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AMENDING THE CITY MANAGER'S DUTIES TO INCLUDE SUPERVISION OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 4 CITY CLERK; AMENDING THE CITY CLERK'S RESPONSIBILITIES BY ALLOWING FOR THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO OVERSEE RECEIPT OF MONIES AND ISSUE LICENSES AND COLLECT FEES FOR SAME; PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR CODIFICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance is available for public inspection at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Interested parties may appear and have an opportunity to be heard at the meeting with respect to the proposed ordinance.

6/20 1tchg-BCT

**COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on July 2, 2024, at 9:30 AM 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.

6/20 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE** To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on July 17, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on July 10, 2024 and end at 2PM on July 17, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storageasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121 Time: 02:00PM CST A19, Crapp, Shaunte, A21, Wilson, Kelley, A23, Crapp, Shaunte, A57, George, Charlene, B07, McKinney, Susan, B13, Sofield, Ashley, B79, Deweese, Rachel, C03, George, Charlene Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storageasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.

6/20 2tchg 6/27-BCT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION** File No.: 24000045CPAXMX Division: 8

**IN RE: ESTATE OF SHIANNE SHIMER** Deceased. **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** The administration of the estate of Shi Anne Shimer, deceased, whose date of death was January 9, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth

below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is June 20th, 2024 Attorney for Pethronal Representative: Diane A. Vidal E-Mail: DVidal@legaleamforlife.com Florida Bar Number: 1008324 CHIUMENTO LAW 145 City Place, Suite 301 Palm Coast, FL 32164 Telephone: (386) 445-8900 Fax: (386) 445-6702 E-Mail: DVidal@legaleamforlife.com Secondary E-Mail: Proserv@legaleamforlife.com Personal Representative: Preston Leon Shimer 7114 SW 90th Street Hampton, Florida 32044 6/20 2tchg 6/27-BCT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION** CASE NO.: 24000072CPAXMX DIVISION: Probate

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JUANITA FORTNER ROPER** A/K/A JUANITA F. ROPER A/K/A JUANITA ROPER, Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** The administration of JUANITA FORTNER ROPER A/K/A JUANITA F. ROPER A/K/A JUANITA ROPER, ("Decedent") deceased, whose date of death was April 2, 2024, and whose Social Security Number is XXX-XX-3979, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is June 20th, 2024. DAKOTA T. BOND A/K/A DAKOTA TYLER BOND, Petitioner 39 Wainwright Way, Avon Park, Florida, 33825 LAW OFFICES OF AL NICOLETTI /s/ Alfred V. Nicoletti ALFRED V. NICOLETTI, ESQ. Florida Bar No.: 125446 7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd. Suite 50-647 Orlando, Florida 32819 6/20 2tchg 6/27- BCT

**NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA**

The City of Starke Florida will hold a City Commission Meeting on July 2, 2024 at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091 during which the second reading and a vote will occur for the following ordinance:

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-15 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM QUESTION TO BE PLACED BEFORE THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STARKE AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024; PROVIDING CHARTER REFERENDUM QUESTIONS DETERMINING WHETHER TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF STARKE; PROVIDING FOR THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED CHARTER FOR THE**

CITY OF STARKE; PROVIDING FOR REQUISITE BALLOT LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance is available for public inspection at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Interested parties may appear and have an opportunity to be heard at the meeting with respect to the proposed ordinance.

6/20 1tchg-BCT

## UNION

**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

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION** CASE NO. 23000078CAAXMX 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 hereinafter 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).

6/20 1tchg 6/27-UCT

**PUBLIC MEETING AND VOTE:** 7/2/ 2024 7:00 PM LOCATION: WORTHINGTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER 11933 SW 36th Drive Worthington Springs, Florida 32697 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS, FLORIDA TO FORMALLY ABANDON RIGHTS OF WAY IN UNION COUNTY TAX PARCELS 2 8 - 0 6 - 1 9 - 2 3 - 0 3 6 - 0 0 1 0 - 0 and 32-06-19-00-000-0022-0. Pat Harrell, Clerk Town Worthington Springs 386-496-1006 352-316-6776 6/20 2tchg 6/27-UCT

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 10<sup>th</sup> 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

**NEW RIVER BOARD MEETING** The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the DLP Bank, 811 S Walnut St., Starke, FL 32091 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. 6/20 1tchg-UCT

**SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE** The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **SPECIAL MEETING** on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:30pm at the City Commission Chambers located at 200 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. The **SPECIAL MEETING** will be held to swear in Joe Stephenson into Seat 1 and Rondoll Huggins into Seat 2 on the Lake Butler City Commission, and for the board to appoint a Mayor and Vice-Mayor among the City Commission. 6/20 1tchg-UCT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION** File Number: 63-2024-CP-0003 Division: Probate

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF STEPHEN LEE MURPHY,** Deceased. **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** The administration of the estate of Stephen Lee Murphy, deceased, whose date of death was March 14, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida. Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W. Main Street, #103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. THE HINSON LAW FIRM, P.A. Matthew H. Hinson, Esq. Florida Bar No. 90417 Kathryn E. Stanfill, Esq. Florida Bar No. 1002636 300 West Adams St., Suite 500 Jacksonville, FL 32202 Phone: 904-527-1700 Fax: 904-355-8088 Matt@HinsonLawPA.com Kathryn@HinsonLawPA.com Attorney for Personal Representative Personal Representative Stephen Lee Murphy, II 600 South Westmoreland St. Starke, FL 32091 6/20 1tchg 6/27-UCT

**PUBLIC MEETING AND VOTE:** 7/2/ 2024 7:00 PM LOCATION: WORTHINGTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER 11933 SW 36th Drive Worthington Springs, Florida 32697 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS, FLORIDA TO FORMALLY ABANDON RIGHTS OF WAY IN UNION COUNTY TAX PARCELS 2 8 - 0 6 - 1 9 - 2 3 - 0 3 6 - 0 0 1 0 - 0 and 32-06-19-00-000-0022-0. Pat Harrell, Clerk Town Worthington Springs 386-496-1006 352-316-6776 6/20 2tchg 6/27-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

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 at 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

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# Youth forge new skills at Bradford 4-H blacksmith camp

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The days have been getting pretty hot, but hot enough to bend steel?

Maybe not, but that's exactly what some youth found themselves doing as part of the Bradford County 4-H Blacksmith Camp, which was held June 13-14.

The camp was led by Luke Harlow, Bradford's UF/IFAS Extension agent who works in the area of horticulture/small farms. One of his hobbies is blacksmithing, which he began approximately eight years ago.

"This is the fourth year I've provided this for the 4-H program," said Harlow, who was assisted by his wife, Erin, a UF/IFAS Extension agent in Columbia County, and

Jacob Mudge, a commercial blacksmith. "We're pretty much the only one in the state providing a blacksmith camp."

Five camp participants made wall hooks and grilling forks out of steel on the camp's first day.

"I thought they'd make a nice gift for Father's Day," Harlow said of the grilling forks.

Participants worked with copper on the second day, making roses — something that Mudge enjoys doing.

At the start of each camp, Harlow likes to ask participants why they wanted to be there. The most-popular answer is to learn how to make knives, which Harlow said is a testament to the popularity of such TV shows as "Forged in Fire" and "Last Blade Standing."

"That draws in a lot of kids,"



Will Conner wields a hammer at the start of a project.



Corbin King twists his metal piece, providing decorative touches to a wall hook.



LEFT: Zane Vandruff works on shaping his wall-hook project. BELOW: Luke Harlow (left) observes Will Conner curving his metal rod in what will become a wall hook.



Michael Woodruff creates a split on a metal rod in the beginning stages of creating a grilling fork.

he said, "but there are a lot of techniques those bladesmiths had to learn before they even started their first blade."

Camp participants learned some basic techniques, such as bending, twisting and drawing out, which is making a piece of metal longer and thinner by using a hammer and an anvil.

Then there's the technique that takes place prior to those other ones — heating up the metal. Camp participants had two coal-fueled forges at their disposal.

Harlow told the youth to remember blacksmithing's "cardinal rule," which is, "Assume everything is hot."

"Safety is our number-one concern," Harlow said. "I haven't had anyone burn themselves in four years, but there is always the potential."

Teaching moments occurred along the way. One participant carried a hot piece of metal to an anvil and then asked, "Where's my hammer?"

"We're learning a lesson," Harlow said. "Make sure you have your tools ready."

Another lesson? Let the hammer do the work. Harlow said one of the misconceptions about blacksmithing is that it requires brute strength, adding that most people think of "that iconic blacksmith who raises his hammer — usually a big sledgehammer — and just waits on metal."

"It's not like that," Harlow said. "If you did it that way, you'd probably only be able to do this for an hour before you were exhausted."

"I think one of the things they're already learning (after approximately an hour into the first day) is just how much a hammer does the work rather than the smiths themselves."

Will any of the participants continue working on blacksmithing skills after the camp? Harlow doesn't know, but he admitted that's not his goal. He'd love it if the youth continued exploring blacksmithing, but he wanted to at least impart some knowledge of working with tools and being comfortable using them.

"It may not be blacksmithing, but if they're working at home on projects, they've got some of that confidence to use tools," Harlow said.

Harlow likes the idea of



Brent Bailey hammers out the tines on a grilling fork.

presenting something new to youth — something they're not going to learn in school. Unless they have family members who are blacksmiths, they're not going to learn it at home either.

"Even if this is as far as they go (in blacksmithing), having them have the experience — that makes it fun for me," Harlow said. "That's why I continue doing this."



Zane Vandruff (left) heats up a piece of metal as Luke Harlow looks on.



Erin Harlow demonstrates twisting metal as Will Conner, Zane Vandruff and Brent Bailey (background, l-r) look on.



Brent Bailey (left) hammers the tip of a metal rod as Jay Mudge looks on.

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Lake Region Monitor

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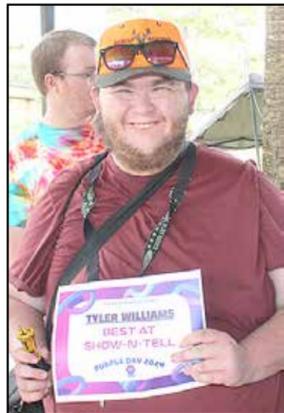
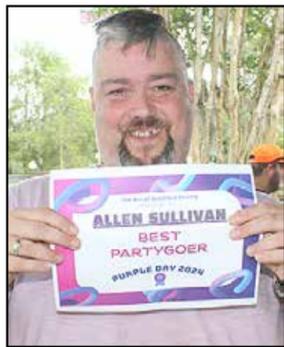
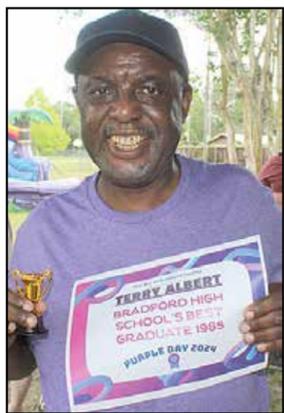
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# Purple Day celebrates Arc's 'royal' consumers



BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

If you're going to have a party, it makes sense to have the "Best Partygoer" in attendance.

The Arc of Bradford held its annual Purple Day event on June 14. Those who receive Arc services (known as consumers) were presented with certificates that recognized their unique traits. Allen Sullivan, for example, received a certificate for being "Best Partygoer."

What would a party be without music and dancing? Purple Day had that, giving consumer Chris Miller the chance to show off his moves before he received a certificate recognizing him as "Best Dance Machine."

T.J. Barker and Robbie Pickering are able to liven up a party as well. Barker was named "Biggest Joker," while Pickering was named "Biggest Kidder."

Certificates recognized all kinds of characteristics, such as "Prettiest Dress Fashionista," which went to Stacy Fulmer, and "Biggest Fingernail Glam Girl," which went to Kim Lee.

Though the Arc serves those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, the organization believes in highlighting an individual's

ability. Therefore, some consumers received certificates for such things as "Best Creative Designer," which was presented to Greg Smith, and "Best Note Taker," which was presented to Terri Smith.

Prior to the presentation of certificates, consumers enjoyed games, water activities and food.

What's the best part about Purple Day? As far as consumer Richard Miller is concerned, "everything." He said he enjoys "going in the water and sliding and eating watermelon and all kinds of stuff — hamburgers and hot dogs."

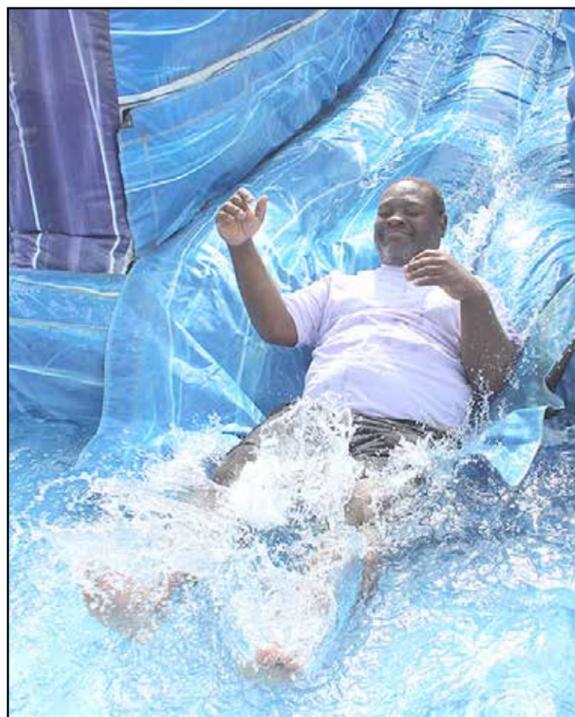
Consumer Terry Albert said the whole day is fun.

"That's what it's all about," Albert said.

Andy Martinez said he enjoys being around his fellow consumers.

"I'm down here with my guys," Martinez said.

Purple Day gets its name from the fact that the color purple signifies royalty. With that in mind, Arc staff members do their best to make consumers feel like kings and queens. All you had to do was look at Chris Ballance's face, which showed the "Best Smile" that he earned a certificate for.



Eric Miller splashes down at the bottom of the slide.

See page 13 for more Purple Day photos



A snow cone on a hot day brings a smile to the face of Chris Ballance. Ballance would have something else to smile about when he was presented with the certificate for having the "Best Smile."



Stacy Fulmer (left) and Greg Smith enjoy each other's company, which is the biggest appeal of Purple Day — having the chance to have fun with friends.



Tyler Williams works on making a colorful tie-dye shirt.



Chris Miller shows off a cross with the word "Mama" that he got painted on his arm.

One of the highlights of Purple Day is when consumers are presented with certificates that recognize their abilities or unique traits. Pictured (left to right, top to bottom) are Terry Albert — Bradford High School's Best Graduate 1985; Jessica Genosa — Most Caring; Kim Lee — Biggest Fingernail Glam Girl; Andy Martinez — Biggest Movie Fan; Michael Smith — Biggest Clemson Fanatic; Allen Sullivan — Best Partygoer; Alfred Thomas — Biggest Ladies Man; and Tyler Williams — Best at Show 'n' Tell.

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47

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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 904-966-6243.

THE UNION County Board of County Commissioners is hiring a Code Enforcement/ Planning and Zoning Director position. This position is an exempt full-time position, with an expected work schedule of 40hrs/week, Monday - Friday. Starting annual salary between \$65,000 - \$72,000. Must be 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or GED, and possess a valid Florida Driver's License. Must have a

minimum of 2 years of experience directly related to Comprehensive Plans/Land Development Regulations, and Code Enforcement, including zoning codes. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen and FDLE background check. Please apply in person at the Union County Board of County Commissioners' office, located at 15 NE 1st St., Lake Butler Fl, 32054. Deadline to apply is July 18, 2024. Union County is an equal opportunity and ADA compliant employer who gives veterans preference.

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**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	

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# Obituaries

## Sherry Barnett

Sherry Beatrice Ogden Barnett was born April 17, 1956, and spent most of her life in Union County, except for one college semester at BYU in Utah, where the snow sent her running back to Florida. She was the first high school and college graduate in her family, given the love of reading and education from her father, Woody. Together, with her husband of 46 years, Douglas Barnett Sr., they created a life and family based on faith in Jesus Christ, faith in each other, joy, laughter, commitment, forgiveness, and as many beach vacations as possible. As an educator for over 30 years in the Union County School System, she was a friend and mentor to generations. Once, when asked what she was most proud of in her life, she answered, "That anyone can sit next to me anywhere and be themselves, knowing I will not judge them." Her life was devoted to Christ as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, where she served in various volunteer positions for over 40 years. Her life of service was instilled by her mother, Jeraline, and extended to all. She would quietly find someone in need, anonymously pay a stranger's dental bill, or purchase a local family's Christmas gifts; living the scripture Matthew 6:2. She lived her life by the motto, "Life is to be enjoyed, not just endured," which, to her, included eating dessert first and laughing as much as possible. She passed away peacefully at home, a home she designed as her "dream home" 30 years ago. Her last days were spent laughing, surrounded by family, friends and her three cats. The family is comforted in the promised blessings of the Atonement of Jesus Christ that she is now standing in full health with her loved ones who preceded her in death, her parents; husband of 46 years, Doug Barnett Sr.; and her siblings, Buddy Ogden and Kristin Akers, all together again in a vision of wholeness with no more disease, addiction, or ailments in a most perfect form of glory for time and all eternity.

Until they meet again, she will be missed and celebrated by her children, Doug (Michele) Barnett Jr. of Fort Worth, Ashley (Javier) Campanini of Alachua, and Ryan Barnett of Lake Butler; her grandchildren, Brendan and Morgan Barnett of Fort Worth; and her siblings, Susan Akers of Lake City, Russel (Dorinda) Akers of Lake Butler, Stewart Akers of Homosassa, and Ane-Elise Worthington (Shawn Henderson) of Lake Butler; along with numerous friends and family.

The family received friends for a visitation on Wednesday, June 19, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, at Oak Grove Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

## Johnny Ghent Jr.

Johnny Ghent Jr., 85, of Lawtey passed away on Friday, June 14, 2024, at Haven Hospice Center in Gainesville. He attended the local schools of Bradford County and retired from Lawtey Correctional Institution. He served in the United States Army.

He is survived by his wife, Ruby D. Ghent; his children, Kimberly Ghent and Lillian T. Heizer; grandson, Christopher J. Heizer; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and sorrowing friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 22, at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Lawtey. Interment will take place at Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-7905. Visitation for friends will be held Friday, June 21, at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Lawtey from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. The cortege will form at the residence of Mrs. Ruby Ghent, 21211 NE 17th Ave., Lawtey, Florida 32058 at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 22.

PAID OBITUARY

## Michael A. Green

Michael Andreu Green, 78, passed away from natural causes on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Born July 5, 1945, he was the fourth child of former Congressman Robert Alexis (Lex) and Lucile Harris Green. Brain trauma from a premature birth left Michael unable to verbally communicate; however, he was highly gifted in other ways, such as having an extraordinary ability to do mathematics, computer games, and puzzles. He had resided at Tacachale Center in Gainesville since the early 1960s, where he was treated like "family" and was well taken care of by its dedicated staff. He was predeceased by his parents; and his elder brother, retired Judge R.A. (Buzzy) Green Jr.

He is survived by his sister, Sandra (Lu) Green Sanders of Starke; and his brother, William (Bill) Green of Tallahassee.

Funeral services will be held at New River Baptist Church at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26. Interment will follow at New River Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

## JB Jackson

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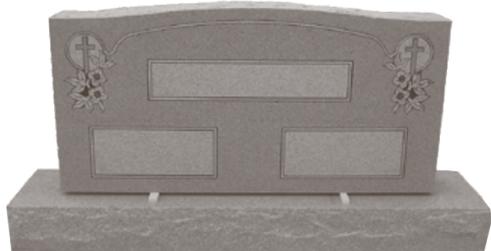
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## William Redding

William Henry Redding, 78, known affectionately as "Billy" or "Bill," of San Mateo passed away Saturday, June 15, 2024, at HCA Florida Putnam Hospital in Palatka. He was born in Palatka to proud parents, Lonnie and Minnie Redding Sr. He attended Bradford County schools and was a graduate of Bradford High School. He was a self-employed telecommunications contractor for the majority of his adult life. In his spare time, he loved boating and fishing. He loved the Lord and his family and was one of the most generous men you'd meet. If Bill was your friend, you had a friend for life. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his loving wife, Brenda (Aycock) Redding in 2016.

He is survived by his son, Eric (Megan) Redding of Jacksonville; stepchildren, Starla (Cory) Hershey of Hastings and Rhonda (Van) Norris; granddaughter, Emma; step-grandchildren, Skyla, Cort, Ashely, and Amy; step-great-grandchildren, Lincoln and Lennox; siblings, Joy (Ronnie) Beck of Middleburg, Lonnie (Alethia) Redding Jr. of Starke, and Jerry (Carol) Redding and Roger (Karen) Redding, both of Lawtey; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Final memorialization will be by cremation.

Hawke M.T. Forbes and H.M. "Hank" Forbes Jr. of Forbes Funeral Home are honored to assist the family with the arrangements. 409 W. Macclenny Ave., Macclenny, Florida, 32063 "With Your Family in Mind". 904-259-4600. Please leave your condolences for the family in the online guestbook at www.forbesfuneralhome.net

PAID OBITUARY

## Esther Romero

Esther Sarria Romero, 92, went to her heavenly home on Thursday, June 13, 2024, under the care of Community Hospice at Ascension St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville. Born on April 28, 1932, in Pinar del Río, Cuba, she was loved by many. She was blessed with a wonderful spirit and a loving heart for all. Across her many years of employment in the Bradford County School System as a para-professional, teacher's assistant and pre-K worker, she was known for her love and compassion for children and her kind words for everyone. She was called "Mima" by so many of those who knew her and was a devoted wife to her husband, Epifanio, and a loving and dedicated mother to her daughter, Esther. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 58 years, Dr. Epifanio Romero; her parents, Manuel and Enriqueta Sarria; her sisters, Antonia Vergara, Lorenza Bobadilla, Basilia Vigil, and Nidia Machin; her brother, Leocadio Sarria; as well as her grandson, Adam Christopher Hardy; and great-grandson, Colby James Hardy.

She is survived by her daughter, Esther Romero (Don) Hardy; her grandson, Donald (Amy) Hardy Jr.; and two great-granddaughters, Abigail Hardy and Riley Hardy. She is also survived by her brothers, Alfredo, Manolo, and Jorge Sarria; and many nieces and nephews who mostly reside in south Florida.

If you were blessed to know and work with her, please join her family in celebrating her life. The family will receive friends at First Baptist Church on Friday, June 28, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. The Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 28, at First Baptist Church of Starke, with Pastor Matthew Page and Wailon Haston presiding. A short interment service will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

## LOWERY

### Continued from page 8

work and consistency in this sport," Reynolds said.

Reynolds said Lowery also proved that one could adapt to new situations, alluding to the fact that Keystone won the state championship in the snatch event the first year it was implemented.

"You're never too experienced to try something new and get out of your comfort zone," Reynolds said.

Aside from athletic successes (Lowery also coached undefeated seasons in junior varsity football), what Lowery will remember the most about his time at KHHS are the relationships he established, whether they were with fellow coaches, teachers and administrators or, most importantly, the students.

"The kids are what have made this decision hard," Lowery said. "It's so much more than weightlifting or football. The relationships that you build with the young men, just teaching them how to become adults. They're going to be dads. They're going to be husbands one day. That takes hard work."

Dickinson said, "He has done



Lantz Lowery is pictured with the 2022-23 KHHS weightlifting team, which won the Class 1A traditional state championship — the Indians' third straight state title. Keystone was the state runner-up in the Olympic event. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Assistant Coach Doug Jones, Lowery, Landon Hovsepian, Bo Overton, Tyler Anthony-Rozier (with his brother, Chase, to his right), Colton Hollingsworth, Reid Begue, Assistant Coach Steve Reynolds, (back, l-r) Assistant Coach Nick Verschaeve, Davin Adams, Declan Shine, Jackson Herman, Bryar Schenck, Jed Tisdale, Brayden Wester (behind Tisdale), Trey Jeffries, Tyler Duncan, Jayden Goodman, Dakota Roper, Sam Ulsch, Bryson Wester, Wyatt Van Zant and Assistant Coach Jakob Alvarez.

more for these kids than just win state championships. He has taught them how to believe in themselves and that anything is possible through hard work and dedication. He taught them life skills and gave them memories that they will never forget. He taught them how to handle

disappointment with honor and how to move forward from that disappointment by outworking everybody else."

Lowery, who once worked for UPS, said he never expected to do what he wound up doing at KHHS, but it wound up being something he was obviously

good at. Leaving KHHS is bittersweet, but he's excited about the future.

"You turn the page," Lowery said. "Now, it's time to get after it all over again and see what Palatka has to offer."

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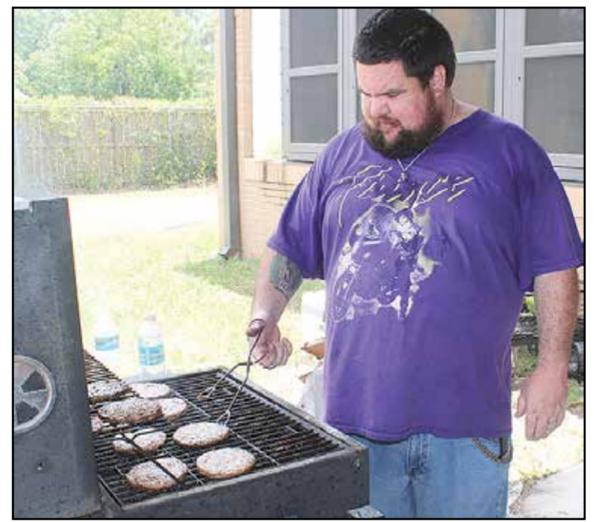
# Arc of Bradford Purple Day 2024



Eric Miller dances as he's feeling good after cooling off on the water slide.



Chris Miller (far right) enjoys dancing with Arc staff members Melinda Godwin (far left) and Savannah Godwin. It was fitting that Miller later received a certificate for being the "Best Dance Machine."



T.J. Barker was named "Biggest Jokester," but he proved he can be serious when it comes to grilling burgers.



Robbie Pickering (left) has some fun with Richard Miller — the kind of fun that resulted in Pickering earning a certificate for being the Biggest Kidder.



AyJay Pernell (left) helps consumer Terrance Holmes enjoy the mini waterpark.



James Spoon has hooked himself a prize in the fishing game.



Rodney Coar (left) and Terrance Holmes beat the heat with snow cones.



John Smith (left) and Richard Miller enjoy a cool plunge at the bottom of the slide.



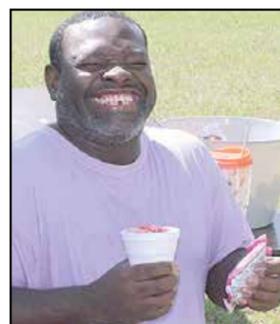
Jon Farrell participates in a game of cornhole.



LEFT: Arc staff member La'Kia Radford (left) enjoys some time with William Vandervoort. BELOW LEFT: Chris Ballance gets wet from all directions. BELOW RIGHT: Terri Smith tosses a horseshoe.



Steven Garfield adds a bit of green to his tie-dye shirt.



Eric Miller shows off a smile as he enjoys a snow cone and a snack.



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- 2 Building strong community relationships for collaborative efforts.
- 3 Promoting healthy and nicotine free lifestyles.

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**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](mailto:info@tobaccofreeunioncounty.com)

**2024-2025 Meeting Dates**  
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November 20, 2024  
February 19, 2025  
April 16, 2025



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**JACKSON**  
Continued from page 8

Jackson, a front-row player, said she was considering some other schools such as Webber International University in Babson Park. Edward Waters, though, seems like a place she'll be comfortable at.

"When I went to try out, it just felt like home," Jackson said. "It felt like somewhere I wanted to be."

Jackson said she felt a connection with the Edward Waters players. That wouldn't surprise LeMire, who said Jackson is the type of person others want to be around.

"She has so much leadership and a great personality," LeMire said, adding, "I only coached her one year, but I could see how much people looked up to her."

The BHS coach said Jackson is the type of player who gets

along with coaches as well as teammates.

"Every time I would offer a new way of doing something, she was always open to it," LeMire said. "She always said, 'Yes, ma'am,' normally with a smile on her face. She always tried to do it. Whether it worked or didn't work, she always tried to do it for me."

"She was always willing to do whatever I needed her to do without me having to ask multiple times. She was ready to go. I was super thankful for that."

In preparing to play in college, Jackson said she has to improve her strength and endurance.

Being mentally tough is also something she's striving for.

"Got to get that mind strengthened," she said.

LeMire said every player, of course, goes through a process of adapting and improving in making the transition from high school to college. Other than

that, LeMire said Jackson has only "very small, little things" to improve upon.

What'll help Jackson the most is how she responds to coaching. "Every coach has their different ways, how they talk to you and communicate, what they do and where they put you even," LeMire said. "I think she is a player who will adapt easily and won't complain. She might not always like it, but I don't think she's a player who's ever going to show you that."

For now, though, there's nothing not to like. Jackson was excited on her signing day, saying she had registered for her classes that same day. She's officially a college student-athlete. Now, all she's waiting for is to take that first step onto the court as an Edward Waters Tiger.

"Of course, I'm going to be nervous. I'm nervous about most everything," Jackson said, "but I feel like it's going to be fun."



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**I want to personally thank you, the citizens,**

for allowing me to continue serving as your Sheriff of Bradford County. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the citizens and businesses who have shown their support and encouragement.

Serving my community, Bradford County has been an absolute honor and privilege for me. I have been serving since 1986 and have held the position of Sheriff since 2008. Throughout my tenure, I have consistently set the highest standards by leading by example, being responsive, promoting ethical behavior, and ensuring fairness within the Agency. I expect the same level of commitment from every employee, regardless of their rank or significance. With nearly 95 full-time and 40 part-time employees, as well as a budget of approximately 8 million dollars, it is impossible for me to be everywhere and have knowledge of everything. However, it is my responsibility to choose, mentor, and promote individuals who share my core values and dedication to our profession. As your Sheriff, I will continue to provide the necessary expertise and ensure the stability of a strong and effective Public Service Agency.

As the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for Bradford County, my responsibilities are outlined in Florida State Statutes. However, beyond these requirements, I work tirelessly to meet the needs of our communities. I have assembled a team of individuals who demonstrate excellent character, sound judgment, and unparalleled skills in maintaining law and order in Bradford County. These individuals are well-trained, well-equipped, skillfully managed, and properly deployed, and I am extremely proud of their competence and accountability.

I want to thank my wife and family for always being by my side and supporting me in the finest times as well as in some of my most difficult times. They have had to take some of the worst in our community in an attempt to demoralize me or the office of sheriff. Because of my family, I have always stood strong in my commitment to my community. To this, I love You!

I serve with the best women and men in the law enforcement profession. They work hard every day to keep our community safe and the best place to live, work, and raise a family, to that I will always be forever thankful.

To the community, which is my "heart of home", there is no place more amazing, supportive, and genuinely the best, thank you for trusting in me and allowing me to serve you.

Thank You for entrusting me for another four years, because nobody will Love Bradford County more than Your Sheriff!!!

Sincerely,  
**Gordon Smith**

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