

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, June 22, 2023

144th year, 43rd Issue — \$1

Fire consolidation rejected; police headed to ballot

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Starke will not consolidate its fire department with the county, and the future of its police department could depend on a voter referendum.

The votes took place June 20 following presentations by County Manager Scott Kornegay and Sheriff Gordon Smith, a number of public comments and questions from commissioners.

Both officials were invited by the city commission to discuss consolidation of services. Smith's offer to absorb several Starke officers into vacant positions in exchange for \$345,000 annually (1.5 mills of the city's property tax levy) turned into a challenge from city commissioners for Police Chief Jeff Johnson to present a competitive number by cutting administrative positions and reducing his force to a few patrol officers.

Johnson had a request of his own, which included maintaining funding at \$1.596 million through March

of 2024, when a charter referendum on maintaining the police chief as an elected position could take place on the date of the presidential primary.

If the voters choose to eliminate his position, Johnson — whose current term doesn't end until Sept. 30, 2025 — said he would begin the process of transferring law enforcement services over to the sheriff. If they vote to keep an elected chief, however, Johnson said the city needs to listen to the people and adequately fund the police force.

The commission voted 3-2 in favor of the voter referendum. Commissioners Andy Redding and Shannon Smith cast the dissenting votes.

The vote was also 3-2 following the fire department discussion, but Redding and Smith were on the prevailing side with Commissioner Danny Nugent against consolidation. Mayor Scott Roberts and Commissioner Janice Mortimer cast the dissenting votes.

Smith also called for a workshop to readdress the fire budget in particular. Currently, proposed funding

would cut personnel to two firefighters per shift, which means they would be waiting for backup if they needed to enter a structure fire.

Kornegay's proposal would have absorbed six of Starke's fire personnel, and they would have remained at the Starke station with county personnel joining them to fill the shifts.

The manager's proposed cost to the city of nearly \$876,000 a year would have covered the six positions and operational costs. It would not have covered the cost of the fire chief's salary. He would have continued as a city employee. It did not include taking on the city's fire truck debt either.

Public comment was unanimously against a merger of either service, and emotions tested patience at times. Topics included budgets, coverage, response times, safety, and how much both police officers and firefighters contribute outside of their duties. A closer look at the proposals and the reactions will be presented in future article.



COMMUNITY STATE BANK
WHERE TODAY MEETS TOMORROW

Proud to Sponsor

WORTH NOTING

Food distribution at True Vine

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

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

Food distribution announced

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, June 28, at 9 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawley.

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.

Collection sites closed

Bradford County Solid Waste Collection sites will be closed Monday and Tuesday, July 3 and 4, for the Independence Day holiday. They will reopen at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5.

Bradford/Union Veteran Service Office schedules

The Union County Veteran Service Office has moved. It is now located at 665 SE Fourth St. in Lake Butler. Regular hours are Wednesdays from 8:30-11 a.m.

The Union County Veteran Service Office will be closed on June 28 and on July 3-4.

The Bradford County Veteran Service Office will be closed June 26-28 and July 3-4. Regular hours are Monday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday from 2-6 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday hours vary.

Regular hours will resume after these dates. Call Barbara Fischer at 904-966-6385 or 904-263-0647 for an appointment.

Youth basketball camp

In collaboration with BHS coaches Sampson Jackson and Michael McMillian, the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County are co-sponsoring a two-day youth skills basketball camp on June 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the BHS gymnasium.

For more information please call 386-266-3063, 904-769-1194 or 904-966-1100.

Wartime ministry

Christian Hickey, a 2000 Keystone Heights High School graduate, and two of his three sons pose for a picture on a tank in Ukraine, with Hickey holding the Ukrainian and U.S. flags. Hickey is serving as a missionary in Ukraine, going from trench to trench to deliver the Gospel to soldiers and to pray with them. See page 8 for the story.



Shooting sparked by fight between football players

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — A May 2022 sideline fight between the Bronson and Chiefland high school football teams was the catalyst for a June 3 shooting at Lake Butler's Lakeside Park that sent one person to the hospital.

According to a warrant affidavit for the arrest of Troy Carter Goodman II, 18, of Chiefland, the victim's mother initially identified Goodman as the man that shot her son during a popup party at the park.

Investigator Christopher M. Avery wrote in the affidavit that during the evening of June 3, he met with the victim and his mother in the UF Health Shands intensive care unit.

"I asked (the victim) to tell me what he remembered about the incident," the investigator wrote. "(The victim) told me that he believes the person who shot him is a 'white guy from Chiefland.' (The victim) did not know the name of the suspect. (The victim) said the suspect was white, about his



Goodman

own age, with a beard, wearing a black shirt with some white on it."

Avery added that the victim said he could identify the shooter if he saw the offender again.

The investigator wrote that the victim's mother followed him as he left the ICU.

"As I began to leave, (the mother) followed me out and told me that she knows who it was that shot her son," Avery wrote. "(The mother) said it began at a football game between Bronson and Chiefland where (the victim) and his brother got into a fight with other players."

The mother added that her son told her Goodman was the shooter. However, he did not want to reveal the name to law enforcement. The victim also identified two people who were with Goodman when he shot the victim. They both were football players with Chiefland High School last year.

Avery reported that on June 7, he returned to the hospital with a photo array of six photos, and the victim picked out Goodman from the photo lineup.

The May 19, 2022, Levy County Spring Football Jamboree was to

consist of three quarters between Bronson, Chiefland, and Williston high schools.

According to the Levy County Citizen, after Williston beat Bronson in the first period 16-0, Chiefland jumped out to a 30-0 lead in the second quarter when the fight broke out on the sideline.

Officials canceled the planned third quarter between Chiefland and Williston due to the melee.

Because of the fight, the Florida High School Athletic Association prohibited Bronson from playing its 2022 Kickoff Classic preseason game against Trenton.

Avery also reported that Goodman lost his phone during the popup party, and that before he was identified as the offender in the Lakeside Park shooting, he retrieved the device from the sheriff's office.

The defendant remains in jail with a \$500,000 bail amount. He has pleaded not guilty.

Lawmaker: Dept. of Corrections coming out of crisis

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

Sen. Jennifer Bradley said that although the Department of Corrections still needs to improve, the state's largest agency is coming out of its employment crisis that saw dangerous staffing levels last year.

Bradley made her comments during a legislative briefing sponsored by the Clay County Chamber of Commerce. State Representatives Sam Garrison

and Bobby Payne joined the Fleming Island Republican in the briefing for business and community leaders.

Payne represents southern Clay County, including the Lake Region.

Bradley, who chairs the Senate Civil and Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee, represents seven counties in the Senate, including Bradford, Union and Clay.

She said the corrections department now averages one-half of the 2,500

job vacancies it weathered last year.

"The Department of Corrections is an institution that for many, many years was really in a state of crisis," she said. "We were losing staff members at record rates. The institutions and the facilities were having people work double shifts, triple shifts, and we just kept losing them."

Last year, lawmakers approved hiring bonuses and pay increases to shore up staffing levels at state

prisons. Bradley said the legislation helped the agency recruit and retain officers.

"We still have work to do," she said, "but we are getting better. We're seeing that retention go up, and we're seeing our recruiting go up, which is really good news for the Department of Corrections."

The lawmaker added that the

See DOC, page 5



Franchise fee enactment postponed

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The final reading of an ordinance imposing a 6% franchise fee on Florida Power and Light electric customers was pulled from the county commission's June 15 agenda.

Concern was expressed at the first reading that the commission was moving forward with a fee that would impact FPL customers, but not Clay Electric customers. Commission Chair Diane Andrews voted against the fee, saying it wasn't fair to everyone.

FPL has been cooperative throughout the county's

consideration of franchise fees as an additional source of income to support county services. Clay Electric said it would take direction from its members and has not agreed to the fee.

Commissioner Carolyn Spooner said she was disappointed the final step to enacting the ordinance had been pulled from the agenda because of its impact on the county's budget and the community.

"It is my hope that Clay Electric would also be open and willing to do the same (as FPL). But we need to look at it, and we need to move forward. It impacts all of us,

all of our citizens," she said.

Andrews promised Spooner she is working on it.

"I am going to work diligently and very hard to get in touch with Clay Electric and try to set up meetings to get this done as quickly as possible," she said. "Let's keep it in prayer that they'll see how bad the need really is, and we can all get on board with that."

The franchise fee under consideration would affect unincorporated Bradford County. The municipalities already receive impact fees from the utilities.

There was no timeline for bringing the FPL ordinance back for final approval.



TEAL TILE

CARPET ONE

Local Flooring Specialists • Over 40 Years

Sales • Service • Installation

Free Estimates

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

THANK YOU

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

Call for DIY specials!

12 months interest free financing on approved credit.

We will beat all competitor pricing!

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



• Vinyl • Carpet • Hardwood & Laminate Floors

• Ceramic Tile • Laminate Floors

DISCOUNT PRICING POWER OF OVER 1,400 STORES!!

131 N. Cherry Street
Starke, FL 32091

904-964-7423

Florida Twin Theatre

904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!

<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">WEDNESDAY KIDS SHOW 6/21</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.7em;">Super Mario Bros. Movie- 10AM & 1PM (Downstairs)</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">WEDNESDAY 6/21</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.7em;">Transformers: Rise of the Beasts- 7:00 (Downstairs) The Flash- 6:45 (Upstairs)</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">THURSDAY 6/22</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.7em;">Super Mario Bros. Movie- 10AM & 1PM (Downstairs) Transformers- 7:00 (Downstairs) The Flash - 6:45 (Upstairs)</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">FRIDAY 6/23</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.7em;">Transformers: Rise of the Beasts- 7:00 (Downstairs) The Flash- 6:45 (Upstairs)</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">SATURDAY 6/24</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.7em;">Transformers: Rise of the Beasts- 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs) The Flash- 3:45 & 7:15 (Upstairs)</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">SUNDAY 6/25</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.7em;">Transformers: Rise of the Beasts- 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs) The Flash- 3:45 & 7:15 (Upstairs)</p>

All tickets are \$5 and include a small popcorn & drink.

Visit us on-line at www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com

LB VFW hosts bingo

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

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



(904) 964-3737

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



I ♥ UF Health.

Noah Jaradat, Gainesville

The heart. It's a symbol of caring and strength. It represents compassion and understanding. At UF Health, we put our hearts and expertise into everything we do. From developing new lifesaving procedures to providing routine health services, there is no heart condition too simple or complex for our dedicated doctors and staff. At UF Health, our teams of caring professionals work together to provide personalized treatment plans in one world-class medical center. We care for your heart with all of ours.

Visit Heart.UFHealth.org to learn more about Noah's story.



Two new assistant principals join Bradford schools

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Not much is changing in Bradford Schools' administrative lineup for 2023-24, but the district has hired two new assistant principals.

Crystal Williams will work alongside recently promoted Principal Chris Coffey at Bradford High School. Coffey told the board about Williams on June 19. She has been an assistant principal in Fleming Island for a few years after teaching and coaching in Marion County. She moved to Starke last year and was commuting to work with her 6-year-old, but when the principal she loved with decided to take a

job further south, Williams began to look for a new position closer to home.

Coffey said the hiring committee was "pretty unanimous" in the decision to offer Williams the job.

"We're really excited about having her on board," he said, adding Williams would be joining the high school later in the week at a Cambridge School conference.

Superintendent Will Hartley introduced Karen Brugh as the new assistant principal at Bradford Middle School. Hartley said she has been teaching with the district at the elementary and middle school level for a while now. She is now moving into administration.

"I can tell you, she's been a model teacher, and I think she's able to pass that along and create some more just like herself," he said, adding he was happy to fill both positions with people in Bradford County.

Coffey and Williams will lead the high school, and Brugh will join Principal Benjamin Hawkins at the middle school.

The only remaining vacant administrative position is for the director of information technology.

The remaining administrative slate is:

Starke Elementary School
Principal Raymond Schaefer
AP Shannon Rodriguez

Bradford Elementary School
Principal Cassie Melvin
AP Lauren Morgan

Lawtey Elementary School
Principal Terry O'Quinn

Daycare Supervisor
Jeannie O'Steen

Director of Career Technical Education
Brad Bishop

Coordinator, Vocational Prog.
Keith Kirby

Assistant Superintendent
Karen Clarke

Director of Operations & Safety
Jeff Edison

Chief Financial Officer
Brandon Esposito

Director of Special Ed. & Student Services
Barbara Johns

Director of Grants & Resources Development
Sherree Alvarez

Executive Director of Human Resources
Aimee Ferguson

Data Scientist Coordinator
K-12

Evelyn Chastain

Coordinator of Attendance, Compliance & Student Recovery
Rob Charles

Coordinator of Professional Development
Christina Cromwell

Supervisor of Transportation
Louette Smith

Director of Food Services
Blake Dicks

Athletic Director
Sampson Jackson

Praise for work on airport road

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County Public Works and Director Jason Dodds are receiving praise for salvaging a grant-funded road project at the airport.

Because of delays in other aspects of the project, the county was in danger of losing a \$2.3 million job growth grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The county approached DEO about performing a large portion of the planned project in house, and the county's road department proceeded to construct a road opening property for commercial and industrial development.

Two members of the Keystone Heights Airport Authority expressed their gratitude on June 15. Vice Chair Scott Fryar said he had only known Dodds about two months, and he'd had doubts about the ability to transform the densely wooded property. A few weeks later, through those woods is a striped road.

"So, Jason, I just want to make sure you got public accolades, for you and your staff have done a fantastic job," Fryar said. "We got a saying in aviation: 'A mile of highway will get you a mile of highway. A mile of runway will take you anywhere in the world.' Well, that road you built is going to get these people to that runway that will take them anywhere in the world."

Fryar said opening this additional land makes room for development, which will lead to job creation and an increased tax base. He said Dodds had "pulled off a miracle," and he went on to thank County Manager Scott Kornegay for picking up the project baton and running with it.

"Without your efforts, that money would have evaporated and there would still be woods there," he said, thanking county commissioners as well.

Airport Authority Chair David Kirkland recalled it has been about five years since the commission began working with DEO to obtain the grant for the road to further develop the airport. He said Kornegay with his connections in Tallahassee was able to get the project on track and with a deadline extension.

"I agree with Mr. Fryar," he said. "When Jason came out, and

we started hearing the schedule, and we knew the deadlines we had, it was like, 'Wow! This is going to be a miracle if it really happens.' And it happened folks."

Kirkland expressed his gratitude to Dodds, Kornegay and the commission, and he disagreed with a comment about the project being a "road to nowhere."

"While it does not connect to highway 100, we have appropriations requests out for that — for a turn lane and entrance there. But that road does connect to all of the inner roads that are within the airport and the airfield, which takes you all the way back to airport road and back to 100. So, it's going to be very, very helpful, and on behalf of the Airport Authority, we greatly appreciate all that you've done," Kirkland said.

According to Dodds, the road is just under a half-mile in length, 34 feet wide with 12-foot traveling lanes. They also installed two runs of 6-inch conduit and seven pull boxes. The grant covered environmental assessment, engineering, permitting and construction. Vendors provided supplies, and subcontractors assisted with asphalt, fill dirt and equipment.

Kornegay said Dodds and his team spent an incredible number of hours working hard to complete the project by the end of the month. They've been complimented at the state level for getting the job done.

"I just want to publicly thank them for their hard work. Salvaging a \$2.3 million job growth grant is no small thing," Kornegay said.

"I just want to say thank you to my staff and all of our vendors that stepped up and helped, because it's been a big project in a short time, and we definitely have kicked butt on it," Dodds said.

In other business:

—Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter awarded letters of commendation to two grant writing committee members — Brian Dean and Amanda Reeder. Their efforts helped obtain a nearly \$65,000 grant for two power load stretcher systems for the remaining ambulances without them.

—the commission approved an updated grant agreement



Brian Dean



Amanda Reeder

giving the county until June 2024 to complete the Cypress Run boat ramp project. Construction is now expected to begin next spring.

—the commission accepted the funds, property and obligations of the Bradford County Development Authority, which will be dissolved as of June 30 because of state action regarding special districts.



The access road is expected to help the airport grow with new commercial and industrial tenants.

Letters

Don't give up police and fire

Dear Editor:

It is disturbing to read that our city commissioners are more interested in just giving our City of Starke Police and Fire Department to the county. Allegedly this would save money, but no one has yet commented on the amount of money the sheriff and Bradford County would want from the city to provide those services to us. And it will not be cheap.

The county has been trying for years to somehow gain our facilities, with the city expected to pay them big bucks for doing so. The combined dispatch center is proof of this as the costs for the city's participation have taken drastic leaps yearly. And you cannot depend on what current county officials tell you because they could all change in the future and any agreements would be kicked aside.

In recent years the City of Live Oak and Suwannee County entered into such an agreement

and the city gave up its police department. Shortly afterward the county got a new sheriff who refused to provide the service at the cost the previous sheriff had negotiated. Live Oak had to reestablish its police department.

The City of Starke charter provides for an elected police chief and this has worked well and cannot be just indiscriminately ignored whether or not the current commissioners are pleased with the current chief. We have a good police department and a good fire department and are not interested in changing.

If you are a city commissioner, you were elected to look out for Starke, not for the county. We can and should maintain our city, which many of us enjoy being a part of with its facilities. If our commissioners toss our city aside so far as police and fire are concerned, then how long will it be before we just turn the water and sewer system over to someone else? Then we could get rid of the city manager, city commissioners, city clerk and all employees and cease to exist as a city.

I hope we have at least a majority of the city commission that are proud to be citizens of the city and want us to continue as a city.

James D. Powell

COUNTRY ESSENTIALS

Wholesale Prices

- Brand Name SHOES
- Perfume / Cologne
- Karaoke Speakers

WE HAVE HOOKAHS!

- Bamboo Sheets
- Purses • Jewelry
- Clothes & MORE!

bit.ly/CountryEssentials

Tues-Sat: 11 am to 6 pm
CR 225 & 301 • Lawtey
(behind Subway)
904-752-8373

THE ORIGINAL BRADFORD • UNION • CLAY COUNTIES

REGIONAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

<p>JBS JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY</p> <p><i>"I am the way, the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father but through me" John 14:6</i></p> <p>Starke 904-964-6078 Lake Butler 386-496-3079</p>	<p>R ROBERTS INSURANCE</p> <p>EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES</p> <p>Starke Keystone Heights Middleburg Lake Butler 904-964-7826 352-473-7297 904-282-7666 386-456-3411 www.georgerobertsins.com</p>	<p>Bryan's ACE Hardware</p> <p>Starke 904-964-4642 Melrose 352-475-2400 Keystone Hts 352-473-4006</p>
<p>Southland Surveying & Mapping, Inc.</p> <p>Professional land surveying and mapping services since 1975</p> <p>www.SouthlandSurvey.com</p> <p>386-496-3107 Licensed AL, FL, GA</p>	<p>COMMUNITY STATE BANK</p> <p>WHERE TODAY MEETS TOMORROW</p> <p>www.communitystatebank-fl.com Starke • Lake Butler • Interlachen</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church</p> <p>200 N. Walnut St. • Starke</p> <p>(904) 964-6864</p> <p>FirstUMC.cc</p>
<p>JONES-GALLAGHER FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>Distinguished Caring Service for Over 50 Years</p> <p>Joe Gallagher - Owner Starke 904-964-6200 Keystone Heights 352-473-3176</p>	<p>"Fear is the mind killer."</p> <p>~ Frank Herbert</p>	<p>Rev. Diane M. Wilson Pastor</p> <p>First Presbyterian Church of Starke 821 E. Call Street Starke, FL 32081</p> <p>Email: dyl@firstpres.org Phone: (904) 964-7327 Fax: (904) 964-1228</p>
<p>Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.</p> <p>Competitive Rates, non-profit, right here in your community</p> <p>A Teachers' Emp' Cooperative</p> <p>Keystone District Office 352-473-4917 • clayelectric.com</p>	<p>After Church on Sunday Come to Powell's Dairy Freeze</p> <p>"Home of the Foot Long Steak"</p> <p>Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night!</p> <p>US 301 NORTH • STARKE FL</p>	<p>Come Worship with us</p> <p>STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St • Starke, FL</p>
<p>DOUGLAS BATTERY OF STARKE</p> <p>We rebuild starters, alternators, generators.</p> <p>Auto • Marine • Cycle Batteries</p> <p>407 N. Temple • 964-7911</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran LCMS</p> <p>Sunday Worship • 10:00AM</p> <p>4900 NW 182ND Way • Starke</p> <p>GoodShepherdLCMSStarke.org</p>	<p>Morgan Road Baptist Church</p> <p>3784 NW CR 233 Starke</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Evening Worship 6pm 964-4422 Wednesday Evening 7pm</p>

Terry McCarthy

Complete

TREE SERVICE & STUMP GRINDING

Free Estimates Provided!

We do tree removal, tree trimming, and skid steer mulching. We have a lift for those hard-to-reach heights and places! WE DO IT ALL!

904-364-7065

Fully Insured

Lake Region

County gets public input on strategic plan

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County officials led a town hall-like discussion on the county's emerging strategic plan in Keystone Heights.

The gathering at the beach pavilion on Wednesday, June 14, was the final of six meetings officials held throughout the area.

County Commission Chair Betsy Condon said she started pushing for a county strategic plan after being elected.

"When I ran in 2020," she recalled, "I kept hearing a theme from voters: Where's the county going? What is the county's plan? You guys act like you don't have a plan, and things get built with no infrastructure."

"(The complaints) were some of the things we've heard here tonight," she continued, "so when I became chairman, the county manager asked me what my priority was for my year as chair. He knew I had been talking about a strategic plan, so I just said to him, we need a strategic plan. Our citizens deserve to know."

Condon added that the land use regulations and zoning for some of the county's high-growth areas, like Lake Asbury and northern Middleburg, were implemented in 2005 and 2006.

"Well, we all know the world has changed completely since then," she said.

Condon added that she and her colleagues on the board of county commissioners wanted public input while drafting the strategic plan, and that was the purpose of the meeting.

Assistant County Manager Troy Nagle said that after officials confirm with stakeholders and the county's largest landowners, it will draft a preliminary report for another round of public comment.

Nagle said that although the county has always maintained a



County Commission Chair Betsy Condon and Assistant County Manager Troy Nagle talked about the need for a county strategic plan. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.

five-year capital budget plan, the strategic plan seeks to visualize the county in a 10-to-20-year horizon.

He added that the plan's final version will not only describe goals but also include measurements to determine how fast county officials are reaching desired outcomes.

"What we want to do is set strategic goals and inside of that to actually have measurables on a five-year increment that we can say: Here are all the great things we want to do. Now let's measure ourselves and see how successful we are in actually doing those things."

What you like about Clay County

Peyton Beattie and Annie A. Wallau from the University of Florida's extension office in

Green Cove Springs facilitated the discussion. The pair asked the crowd two questions. They first asked participants to name their favorite aspects of living in Clay County.

The rapid-fire responses included water resources, parks and trails, and the Main Street USA atmosphere of its towns.

Keystone Heights City Manager Lynn Rutkowski said she appreciated the county's diverse quality of life.

"You can go all the way up to Orange Park, where it's an urbanized area and where it's not very far from a grocery store or any convenience," she said. "You can come down south the Keystone Heights where it's more a rural atmosphere."

Rick Bebout seconded Rutkowski's observation. "Down here," he said, "we have our own culture."

City Council member Chris



Lake Region residents (l-r) Tony Brown, Chris Thompson, and Brandon Ludwig prioritize what they think would improve the quality of life for Clay County families. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.

Thompson said her favorite part of Clay County was the friendliness of its residents.

Improving quality of life

Wallau and Beattie then moved on to what they said was the weightier question of the evening: How can county officials improve the quality of life for Clay County residents?

Lake Region resident Brandon Ludwig said increasing local employment opportunities is his priority.

He said Clay County has one of the highest percentages of residents that commute out of the county for work.

"Whether it's economic incentives to attract companies to maybe bring a headquarters here or corporate office to the county, things of that nature would bring more jobs for residents," he said. "So instead of having to commute, there are those opportunities here."

City Council member Tony Brown said the county could help develop the economic opportunities at the Keystone Heights Airport, which he called a jewel.

He added that the City of Palatka has successfully attracted aviation and industrial enterprises to its municipal-owned airport, and Clay County and Keystone Heights could do the same.

Brown echoed Ludwig's point that increasing local job opportunities would increase the quality of life for Lake Region residents.

"I think everybody here has had to drive somewhere to go to work," he said. "Economic development in this area would help tremendously in keeping families together and getting them home at a decent hour."

He added that some commuters leave for work at 5:30 in the morning and get home at 8:00 at night.

Brown also recommended that county officials address the lack of emergency or urgent care facilities in the southern part of the county.

Another resident said the county should improve the roads throughout the area. He added that the county's current upgrades to county roads in the Lake Asbury area came too late.

Thompson said her top priority is already being addressed: raising water levels in the area's

lakes to their former levels.

"They used to be fantastic," she said. "Keystone was a vacation destination. We used to have bass tournaments here, ski shows; I mean, it used to be a playground. That's one thing I am so excited to get on the road."

Several residents recommended paving County Road 315 between State Road 21, near Belmore State Forest, and State Road 16, near the Clay County Fairgrounds. The roadway, also known as Sharron Road, is now partially asphalt and partially sand and clay. Participants said the dirt sections of the road could become impassable during rain.

One speaker said that her GPS routed her onto Sharron Road after a traffic crash on State Road 21.

"Luckily, I drive a truck, the participant said, "but there were several cars that were just stuck on the sides with their flashers on. They couldn't get through the sand."

"It doubled my commute," she continued, "But if it had been paved, it would have been the perfect alternative."

Freedom 5K leads Our Country Day

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Freedom 5K Run will kick off the 55th annual Our Country Day in Keystone Heights on July 4th. The run benefits the Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to Keystone Heights High School seniors.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the

city will host vendors and food trucks around city hall.

The Kiwanis Our Country Day Parade starts at 11 a.m.

Live music starts at Keystone Beach at 5 p.m., with the fireworks show beginning at 9:30.

Other events include:
12:15 p.m.: Johnny's BBQ Hot Dog Eating Contest;
12:45 p.m.: Pie and Cobbler Contest presented by the

Keystone Heights Heritage Commission;

12:30-3:30 p.m.: Dunk Tank;

12-4 p.m.: Classic Car Show presented by Hoodz of Gainesville.

Entry into Keystone Beach Park will require each spectator to have an armband. The cost is \$1 and can be bought at city hall before the 4th of July or \$2 at the gate.

Sheriff's plan for school shootings

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

Sheriff Michelle Cook described three different scenarios under which her agency and the school district would reunify students with their parents in cases of shootings or other catastrophic incidents at Clay County public schools.

Cook made her comments on her podcast: Never Off Duty, hosted by Judson Sapp with guest Chief Kenneth Wagner of the Clay County Schools Police

Department.

Chaos clock

The sheriff said that Florida law requires each school to have an active shooter plan, and while most school districts have a single plan that applies to all schools, Clay County officials drafted specific plans for each campus.

"Some of our schools have medically fragile children," she said. "Some of our schools are smaller and have one driveway

in and one driveway out. Some of our schools are neighborhood schools and have multiple access points."

She added that first responders to an active shooter scene are fighting not only the offender but also the clock.

"In Parkland, injured kids sat on the third floor for 45 minutes before somebody got to them for medical treatment," she said. "That can't happen."

She then described the chaos clock.

"From the moment the first shot goes off until the last injured person is triaged and transported out, that's the chaos clock," she said, "and our goal is to shorten it."

"Every school has a very short plan that can be pulled out," she continued. "It's just a few pages with detailed information on it that we need to know."

Ex-husband shoots teacher

Cook then addressed the three plans for reunifying students and parents. She referred to the three responses as Levels 1, 2, and 3.

"Level 1 would be something if there's an incident that occurs on campus, and we can keep it isolated and do normal dismissal," she said. "We would use the typical parent pickup that we use."

Cook said a Level 1 response might be ordered in the case of an ex-husband of a teacher who walks into a classroom, shoots the teacher, then takes his own life.

"It's very isolated within the school," she said. "It's contained; it's over. That would be an all-hands-on-deck response, but that would typically be a Level 1 reunification, which means we would tell the parents to get in the normal parent pickup line,

See PLAN, page 5

SUWANNEE RIVER
AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
COVERING FLORIDA
(877) 813-9115 WWW.COVERINGFLORIDA.ORG

Certain life changes make you eligible for an affordable Health Insurance plan NOW!

SOME QUALIFYING LIFE CHANGES:

- Loss of employer health coverage
- Marriage/Divorce
- Released from incarceration
- Had or adopted a baby
-and more

SCAN ME



Call 386-230-9400 or scan the QR code for **FREE** assistance.



DOC

Continued from page 1

legislature appropriated additional funding for inmate education and training this year. "These folks are coming back to our communities, and the average reading level and the average education level for our inmates is sixth grade, and that number is actually going down," she said. "We have a responsibility as a state that when we return these citizens, they are in a position to be productive where they're not going to recidivate. We will be safe, and they will be productive, and that is a win-win."

Bradley also said her committee spearheaded other budget increases for state law enforcement agencies.

"Our budget this year was \$6.4 billion," she said. "It includes a host of agencies like the (Florida Department of Law Enforcement)."

Bradley said the committee raised pay for law enforcement officers around the state and increased the governor's protective services budget.

"We have a governor with a young family, which is new in the state of Florida," she said. "We haven't seen that in a while, and quite honestly, with the state of affairs, we needed to bump up protective services for his family to make sure as he travels around the state and Casey DeSantis and the kids are either in Tallahassee or traveling with him that they were safe."

Most bills non-controversial

Bradley said Gov. Ron DeSantis's 19-point win in the 2022 governor's race set the stage for putting Florida at the center of the country's conservative movement.

"There is no doubt that Florida is the epicenter of national politics right now," she said. "The State of Florida returned Ron DeSantis to the governor's mansion with a decisive victory, with a mandate, and also returned (Republican) super majorities to the House and the Senate. So, as the session opened, we really were in a position to be able to

move an agenda that I think a lot of the State of Florida really wanted to see."

Bradley added that even though controversial bills grabbed headlines, much of the work accomplished in Tallahassee received bipartisan support.

"There were more than 3,000 bills filed this session," she said. "About 300 were passed. The vast majority of those bills were bipartisan with unanimous or near unanimous support."

Payne said even the controversial laws the legislature passed dealt with issues that were not new.

"Many of the issues have been around for some time," he said, "whether they are parental rights in education, whether they are issues with choices for school choice, whether they're voucher programs, whether they're transgender athletes."

He added that the conservative position on social issues is balancing competing constituencies.

"We in Florida take a position that we think is a great conservative position: not to harm anyone, but to find balance," he said.

Sales tax cuts

The Palatka Republican said one major accomplishment of this year's session was a record \$2.7 billion in sales tax cuts. Those cuts included sales tax holidays for back-to-school items and disaster preparedness, in addition to a freedom summer sales tax holiday for recreational items and children's toys. The package also included a permanent sales tax exemption for baby and toddler necessities like strollers, cribs, diapers, and baby wipes.

"We felt like we should give the money back to those who earned their money and have the opportunity to spend their money the way they should feel like they should spend it," he said.

Water, highways, and agriculture

Payne also highlighted his role in leading a new committee in the lower chamber this year that focused on infrastructure

strategies. He said the committee sought to preserve the state's water, transportation, and agricultural resources with the challenge of around 1,000 people a day moving into Florida.

"We know that there have to be some areas that we conserve... and then we have to look at what the water issues will be (such as) nutrient loading over the upcoming years," he said. "At the same time, we have to have good transportation corridors so that we can move people around the state and effectively do business without affecting agriculture."

Payne added that subcommittees like resiliency, water supply, and water quality focused on components of natural infrastructure.

"Our Department of Transportation budget every year is about 12 to 12-and-a-half billion dollars," he said. "We bumped that this year to close to \$18 billion so that we can focus on the areas around the state where we have traffic congestion."

He said FDOT's work plan is fluid because "it's hard to pick out the areas of demographic growth that will be affected in the state."

"Our goal is to start focusing on it now," he continued, "so that in 20 years, 30 years, Florida will still be the Florida that we know and love with its pristine areas, protecting springs, protecting waterways, estuaries, rivers, lakes and at the same time have transportation corridors that work and have lands that are still productive for the State of Florida. (Agriculture) is our second leading revenue stream in the state behind tourism."

Money for Clay County

Garrison, who appeared by video, said lawmakers passed more legislation in one week during 2023 than they typically approve in a month during other years.

He highlighted what he said were pro-family Clay County budget appropriations approved by the legislature. That funding included \$3 million for a substance abuse treatment center, money for the Intercept Task Force: a multi-agency effort to



(L-R) Rep. Bobby Payne and Sen. Jennifer Bradley recapped the 2023 legislative session while former Sen. Rob Bradley moderated the discussion.

protect children from online predators, and record funding for Wolfson's Children's Hospital in Jacksonville.

"We really tried this year to put our money where our mouth is in the legislature," he said. "We say we want Florida to be the most pro-family state in the nation. This is part of that effort."

School choice

Bradley and Payne also discussed Florida's expansion of school choice, which Bradley said is the most significant expansion of school choice in Florida history.

Payne said the Parental Rights in Education Bill was a pushback against teachers' unions promoting inappropriate materials to young students.

"They were pushbacks maybe on some school teacher unions to make sure that they understood the curriculum that they should be teaching our children is a curriculum of primary learning skills and critical thinking and not social skills," he said. "Some of the social skill issues should be taught at home."

Bradley said the school choice expansion changed the state's revenue focus from funding the system to funding the students.

"For too long, we have been accepting of kids not being able

to be in the best school because of what zip code they lived in," she said. "And this year, we said parents know what's best for their kids, and parents should have the flexibility and have the choice to be able to send their child to whatever school they think their child will succeed in best, and I trust the parents to make that call."

Bradley added that Gov. DeSantis just signed her bill that enhances students' online privacy.

She said education technology companies routinely collect student data and exploit that information for profit.

"They were amassing profiles about (students)," she said. "They were selling it. They were using it to advertise to our kids and their families. So, I passed a student online protection bill, which tells these companies that they may not amass profiles; they can't sell, disclose, or share any of our kids' data. They can't collect more than they need, and they have to delete it when the child is through the system."

Digital Bill of Rights

Bradley noted that on June 6, Gov. DeSantis signed into law her Senate Bill 262, which outlines a digital bill of rights for Florida residents.

"This is the third year that I filed a data privacy bill for Floridians," she said. "The first year I filed it, there were only a few states, maybe two states in the country, who had successfully passed a digital privacy bill. It's a huge issue, and you hear about data privacy, and the word 'data' just sounds so sterile, but it's incredibly personal."

The lawmaker added that the first year she filed the bill, 350 lobbyists lined up against the proposal, and only two supported it.

"And the reason for that is clear," she said. "Your data and your information are incredibly valuable. Companies make you their product against your will and without your consent."

Bradley said the new law gives Florida residents the right to correct or delete the information that a company holds.

"It gives you the right to opt out of targeted advertising," she added. "If you don't want a company to use your personal information to reach you with ads, you have the ability to say no."

Bradley said the new law also requires algorithm transparency, forcing social media companies to disclose the information they amplify or suppress. The measure also includes safeguards to protect children.

PLAN

Continued from page 4

normal traffic flow."

Traffic crash in the pickup line

Cook said a Level 2 reunification would occur when the normal parent pickup area is unavailable, such as when emergency vehicles are blocking the pickup line or if there has been a traffic crash in the pickup area.

"If the normal parent pickup and the normal exchange of parent-student is impacted, we would go to a different location on a campus," she said.

Shooter takes hostages

Cook said Level 3

reunifications would be ordered in the worst cases, where parents could not access the campus.

"A guy goes in and shoots the ex-wife, okay? she said. "And then holds the other kids as hostages. We can't let any parents near that school, so we're going to have to block it off. What we would do is then evacuate those kids off the school, put them on school buses, and take them to a predetermined location."

Bad pudding scenario

Cook and Wagner said the same reunification plans would go into effect for other types of school hazards, like a fire or food poisoning.

"Imagine you have an elementary school where pudding is served, and an hour after lunch, you have 200 kids throwing up," Cook said. "That's a mass-casualty

incident, and we're going to be calling parents in for a Level 1 or Level 2 reunification. And if there's enough bad pudding everywhere, it may be a Level 3. So, the active shooter is the worst-case scenario. The great thing is the same plan, the same concepts can be used for the less extreme incidents that may occur in a school."

Messaging and miscommunication

Both law enforcement officers said communications during a crisis are paramount.

The sheriff said that school threats through social media present a particular problem for law enforcement.

"It's an interesting dynamic that exists with social media and school safety," she said, "and we always have to err on the side of caution. I mean, that's our job." Cook said that, like physical

alarms for homes, most school alarms that come through social media are false.

"False alarms to me," she said, "it reminds me of alarms on people's houses. Ninety-nine-point-nine percent of alarms are false. You've just got to be prepared for that 0.1%."

She added that law enforcement can see false threats appear on platforms like Snapchat in one part of the country and then spread across the nation.

"It's hard to explain to parents, though, because if my six-year-old is going to kindergarten and there's a social media threat, and there's any inkling of a chance that my six-year-old is going to be harmed, it's real to me," Cook said. "We have to balance not being callous, but also the reality of the investigative work that we do, and many times we can debunk these threats pretty quickly."

Cook said other sources of

misinformation are students reporting alleged incidents at their schools to their parents. She said parents should verify the information they get from their children before passing it along.

"And I'll give you an example of one," she said. "There was a fight, and a chair got knocked over, and somebody told their parents that somebody was shooting, and it went out as: there's an active shooter. It never happened. It was a fight, and a chair got knocked over. So yes, listen to your children, but also go to the source because we're going to be putting out the most accurate information that we have at that time."

Cook emphasized the importance of parents using the SaferWatch phone app to receive accurate information from law enforcement.

She said students and adults may use the app to report rumors or suspicious activity to law

enforcement and the school police.

"If a parent has a concern," she said, "and let's say it happens at one in the morning and they're not sure if they want to call somebody, they can send the SaferWatch tip in, and it'll go directly to (school police) as well."

Cook added that her agency would disseminate information to the community through the app, including the authenticity of school threats and information in reunifying parents with students.

"And if you're a parent," she added, "sign up for SaferWatch because, in the filters, you can select your child's school. So, if anything happens at your child's school, you'll get a push notification to your phone."

Cook said that in a school crisis, her agency would use SaferWatch and Twitter as its two primary communication channels.

Choose Fresh!

BUY LOCAL
SUPPORT FLORIDA FARMERS

Food tastes better when it's grown closer to home!



Fresh Florida

FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM

LOUD, CLEAR, FREE!

Easy to Qualify:

- Florida Resident
- Over the age of 3
- Have a Hearing Loss or Speech Disorder

XLCCgo Amplifies up to 50 dBs

Bluetooth

Amplify cell phone calls, at home & on the go!



Apply Online:
www.ftri.org/free

Or Call:
888-497-1410



Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

888-497-1410
www.ftri.org

UNION COUNTY

Commission votes for moratorium on travel trailer parks

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER – The Union County Board of County Commissioners has approved, on first reading, a moratorium on the acceptance of applications and processing for special exception applications for travel trailer parks and campgrounds in the county.

The board had decided at its May meeting to pursue the one-year moratorium to give the county time to address the problems such establishments can cause. There is currently no provisions for such land use in either the county's land use regulations or the comprehensive land development plan and, often, there are zoning issues as

well.

There are also questions concerning law enforcement, EMS and fire services, handling of solid waste and increased traffic. Should the establishments be allowed they would increase the demand for county services, which are paid for, largely, with tax dollars.

Under the current ad valorem tax system in the county the owner(s) of the property would be paying the standard tax, based on acreage and improvements, but not for the way the land was utilized. While, by definition, a campground hosts short-stay residents, an RV park might host a considerable number of semi-permanent or permanent residents. The tax paid by the

land owners would be based on single-family residential land usage, so while such a park might host 20 or more RVs used as residences the owners would only be paying tax and special assessments for a single residence while adding 20 or more families, per establishment, to the population for which solid waste, law enforcement, fire protection and emergency medical services a required to be provided by the county. Given this, providing these necessary services would cost the county a substantial amount of money, exceeding what a workable budget would allow.

The matter has been discussed by the board for the past several months and

it was decided that it would take time to formulate a workable plan that would not adversely affect the county or its traditional residents. There have been a number of inquiries and applications for such land use in recent months and the board has become increasingly concerned about the implications for the county.

The ordinance, which establishes the moratorium, was passed unanimously by the board at its June 19 meeting and will take effect should the commission approve the document on its second reading at the July meeting. If approved the moratorium will be in effect until May 14, 2024, giving the board time to research the

matter more thoroughly.

"These are essentially for-profit enterprises, with the land owners collecting money for the rental of parts of their properties," Commissioner Jimmy Tallman said at a recent meeting. "It is not fair to the county or its residents that they be allowed to make a profit at the expense of the county."

The board will be working with the North Florida Regional Planning Council to determine whether there is any way to allow such land use, but it will be a long road. If the developments were to be allowed there would, first, need to be changes made to the land development regulations and the county's comprehensive plan, followed

by changes in zoning. Following this there would need to be a determination of a fair ad valorem taxation of the properties, as well as the establishment of special assessments based on the number of families for which county services would need to be provided. Added difficulty will be encountered due to the transient nature of some of the residences in question and an existing county ordinance concerning the use of recreational vehicles as permanent residences. The board and county staff will be looking at these issues in the coming months.

Meridian discusses services in request for full funding

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER – Donald P. Savoie, President and Chief Executive Officer of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, spoke to the Union County Board of Commissioners at its regular June meeting in regard to the services his organization provides and requesting the annual payment the county pays for these services.

Meridian serves 14 Florida counties, providing outpatient mental health services in 12 and other services in two (residential and primary care in Alachua and Columbia counties, as well as having a receiving facility in Alachua).

Meridian receives both Federal and state funding, but are required to generate local matching funds for some of these funds. For their 2024 fiscal year they are required to get local matches totaling \$1,925,248.

In the past, Union County has paid a reduced amount for Meridian services due to tight budget constraints. For the current year, Union is paying \$15,000 in monthly payments of \$1,250. This is substantially less than the \$37,500, but is the amount the county can afford to pay. Each year Meridian continues to request full funding of the amount, but has agreed to continue services when

informed that the county cannot afford it. In addition to Meridian, Union County also pays \$10,000 a year to the Union County Health Department for mental health services.

According to information provided by Meridian, for the period from July 1, 2022, through May of 2023, it provides acute care (26 adults/23 children), a mobile response team (25 adults), family intervention services (9 children), forensics (15 adults), community action team services (4 children), psychiatric care (140 adults/64 children, medication assisted treatment (36 adults), targeted case management (7

children) and counseling (242 adults/168 children).

Union County patients are white (54%), Black (9%), Hispanic (2%) and unspecified or other (35%). They care for patients of all ages, but the majority fall between 18-64.

They provide Telehealth services, 1,110 for the previous year, and provide a tablet to those in need. Their main focus is in the areas of mental health, substance use disorders and supportive services. For the 2022 year they have served 532 Union County residents.

Meridian states that they only use local, public funds as the payer of last resort, but that 95% of the patients

seen in Union County are at or below the federal poverty guidelines and that none of them were eligible for any subsidy to address the costs of their care, with 26% paid for with indigent care funding from the state and county.

Medicaid covers the bill for 55% of the patients, while 20% have some form of insurance, but it only covers 11% of the services needed.

Savoie noted in his presentation that there is an upward trend in teen and young adult attempted suicides and suicides. He stated that Meridian's Mobile Response Teams have a three minute response time and all it takes for them to respond

is a request for help via text message. He also said that Meridian handles all of the Baker and Marchman Acts in Union County, but noted that the state only pays 75% for these services and the rest comes from local funds.

Commissioners thanked Savoie for his presentation, but said they would have to see what the budget would allow before committing to an amount for services. The 2023-24 county budget is in the works and a preliminary budget will be in the commission's hands in early July.

Emergency Supply Checklist

Emergencies can happen at any time. Whether it's a fire, hurricane, flood or some other disaster, if you take the time to prepare an emergency supply kit, you and your family will be better prepared. The supplies can be kept in a plastic container, suitcase, backpack or other container. For more information, visit www.ready.gov or www.floridadisaster.org.

- Water - one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation (3-day supply)
- Ready-to-eat food, canned juices, comfort/stress foods (3-day supply)
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA weather radio, and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Non-prescription drugs, such as pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid and/or laxative.
- Prescription medications, contact lenses and supplies, denture needs
- Whistle or mirror to signal for help
- Infant formula and diapers (if you have an infant)
- Water and pet food (if you have a pet)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask or cotton T-shirt to filter the air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to make a shelter
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food
- Aluminum foil
- A jacket or coat, hat and gloves
- A complete change of clothing including long pants, long-sleeve shirt and sturdy shoes (stored in a waterproof container)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Rain gear
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Paper towels
- Tent
- Compass
- Matches in water container
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil
- Personal hygiene items
- Soap
- Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach
- Important family documents, such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Passport, bank account numbers, credit card, account numbers and companies
- Books, games, puzzles, portable music device
- Have children create their own personal checklist with familiar things that will keep them comfortable during an emergency, such as a book, stuffed animal or blanket.

NOTE: It is recommended that you update the food in your kit every six months and rethink your needs once a year.

New area code will change dialing procedure

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

A new area code that will be assigned beginning next year will not affect existing numbers but will affect how those numbers are dialed.

According to a letter from CenturyLink, the area code 324 will be overlaid in the same northeast Florida region covered by the 904 area code, which includes all or part of Nassau, Duval, Baker, Bradford, Clay, St. Johns and Union counties.

Because two area codes will serve the same geographic area, a new 10-digit dialing procedure will be required. Dialing all 10 digits of the phone number will be necessary to complete a call.

The area code, once unnecessary when making a "local call," will now be essential.

Beginning July 31, CenturyLink said callers should begin using all 10 digits, although there will be a grace period during which calls will still be completed when dialing seven numbers.

However, beginning Jan. 29, 2024, callers must dial all 10 digits, even when making calls in the same area code. If you dial seven numbers, a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again using the area code.

This will all take place in advance of numbers being issued with the new 324 area code. New lines will be assigned that area code beginning Feb. 26, 2024.

Please note that the new dialing procedure may require some automatic dialing technology to be updated. Examples include life safety systems, security systems, call forwarding settings, voice mail services, etc., if they are currently programmed to dial a seven-digit telephone number.

Note:
—your telephone number, including your current area code, will not change.

—the price of a call will not change due to the overlay.

—a local call will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.

—you can still dial services like 911 using three digits.

Pastor anniversary at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries will be celebrating Pastor Jeffrey T. and Sister Daffany Jones' seventh anniversary on June 25, 2023 at 11 a.m. Minister Dwayne Bailey of Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church in Lake City will be the speaker. Dinner will be served. The public is invited.

Democrats meet on June 26

The Bradford County Democratic Party will hold its regular monthly meeting on Zoom on Monday, June 26, at 7 p.m. All Democrats are welcome! Meetings are held the fourth Monday evening of each month. For the electronic link to the meeting, contact bradfordcodec@gmail.com or 904-526-2257.

June sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of June, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations: U.S. Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.



DUKES LEGAL, P.A.

M. AARON DUKES, ESQ
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, Florida 32054
386-269-2394
Dukeslegal.com



Asset Protection | Bankruptcy | Debt Defense
Business Formation | Estate Planning | Probate | Litigation | Real Estate | Property

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

Paul Timothy Gaskins, 32, of St. Augustine was arrested on June 14 for out-of-county warrants.

Thomas Andrew Hollifield, 33, of Starke was arrested on June 12 for a probation violation.

Johnny Raymond Kimble, 46, of Lake Butler was arrested on June 13 for an out-of-county warrant.

Chase William Lamoree, 20, of Starke was arrested on June 16 for probation violations, vehicle theft, aggravated assault, criminal mischief with property damage and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Gregory Wayne Orlando Lee, 53, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for larceny.

Stefano L. Linnex, 38, of Starke was arrested on June 16 for failure to appear.

Michael Rodney McCarter, 45, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and a probation violation.

Kristin Michelle McVey, 30, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 11 for a conditional release violation.

Carlos Alexander Munguia Vazquez, 41, of Jacksonville was arrested on June 10 for DUI.

Brenda Hortencia Perez, 30, of Glen St. Mary was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 11 for child neglect.

Ronald Eugene Quade, 69, of Ocala was arrested on June 15 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Quinque Tarshette Robinson, 48, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 13 for larceny.

Nathan Isaac Rogers, 18, of Live Oak was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 14 for possession of drug equipment, reckless driving and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

William Lee Smith, 28, of Brooker was arrested on June 16 for an out-of-county warrant.

Troy Lee Sturgis, 54, was arrested on June 12 for trespassing.

Christopher Robert Lamar Veal, 38, of Starke was arrested by Lawtey police on June 11 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and an out-of-county warrant.

Union

Lauren Ashley Bradford, 33, of Live Oak was arrested by Union deputies on June 14 for dealing in stolen property and possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon.

Jason Buren Byrd, 43, was arrested by Union deputies on June 13 for vehicle theft.

Daryll Wynn Gatlin, 38, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on June 16 for vehicle theft.

Troy Carter Goodman II, 18, of Chiefland was arrested by Union deputies on June 12 for aggravated battery.

Stephen Louis Heslar, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on June 18 for disorderly intoxication.

Joshua G. Joyner, 33, was arrested by Union deputies on June 19 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Larry Bernard Pace, 52, was arrested by Union deputies on June 19 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Robert Stephen Poole, 69, was arrested by Union deputies on June 14 for battery.

Justin Michael Rossi, 37, was arrested by Union deputies on June 17 for disorderly intoxication.

Brantley Keith Taylor, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on June 14 for an out-of-county warrant.

Chelsea Brooke Whitehead, 32, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on June 13 for a probation violation.

Clay

Scott Edward Bowen, 55, of Keystone Heights was arrested on June 13 by Clay deputies for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Abigail Lynn King, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 10 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Austin Parker McCoy, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 10 for possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon.

Eric Lee Osborne, 45, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on June 14 for domestic battery.

Edward Allen Westberry, 37, of Melrose was arrested by Clay deputies on June 10 for possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon.

Jeffrey Scott Wilson, 57, of Melrose was arrested by Clay deputies on June 11 for domestic battery.

Three awarded for heroic actions

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Sheriff Gordon Smith presented three of his employees awards from the American Police Hall of Fame for their life saving roles at the jail and residential fire.

On March 28, a man arrested for what Smith said were severe felony charges attempted suicide by hanging in his holding cell. Civilian central control operator Megan Callahan called to him over intercom demanding he stop while simultaneously notifying Sgt. Jana Bennett of the emergency. Bennett responded immediately to cut the shirt and socks wrapped around the inmate's neck.

Smith reported that, his life saved, the inmate went to a crisis stabilization unit for extensive mental health counseling before returning to the jail, where he remained under observation for several days. He has made great progress, the sheriff said.

He had that chance because of Callahan's and Bennett's response.

"Without the quick response of staff, the inmate may have suffered life threatening injuries that could have resulted in death. I can't thank them enough for what they do each and every day," Smith said.

Maj. Dawn McKinley and her staff submitted their names to the American Police Hall of Fame, and both Callahan and Bennett were recognized with an award. Callahan received the Civilian Medal of Appreciation and Bennett the Live Saving Award.

Smith also recognized a former firefighter who now works for the sheriff's office for his life saving role in a February fire. Deputy Robert Malley was on patrol when he arrived on the scene of an Epperson Street Fire.



Deputy Robert Malley received the Silver Star of Bravery from the Police Hall of Fame, presented by Sheriff Gordon Smith.

Dispatch had indicated elderly people were inside the burning residential structure.

The two-story building was engulfed, with flames shooting from the roof, Smith said. An officer on scene informed Malley the front door was locked.

Malley forced entry by kicking the door open, and he and another officer entered to assist the residents. The sheriff said an elderly woman was quickly located and escorted to safety. Malley reentered and went upstairs, shouting "Police!" to anyone who could hear his voice.

The lights went out, but Malley could hear a voice faintly yelling

for help. The woman inside the apartment could not get out and could not force the door open.

Using the sound of his voice, the deputy guided the woman to the door, and she was able to unbolt it. Malley and other officers were able to rescue her from the smoke-filled apartment.

Malley received the Silver Star of Bravery from the American Police Hall of Fame.

The sheriff showed dramatic video from both incidents to the commission and public, and commissioners took turns expressing their gratitude.

Charges dropped against drag queen

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — The State Attorney's Office has dropped charges against a man accused of resisting an officer and threatening the lawman in May.

William James Ross IV of Starke was arrested by Starke police for assault on a law enforcement officer and resisting an officer.

Ross gained notoriety in 2010 by winning the RuPaul Drag Race in the reality competition's second season. He performed under the name of Tyra Sanchez.

In a May 17 arrest report, Officer Jay Raulerson wrote that the 35-year-old was involved in a minor traffic crash with no injuries on Southern Villas Drive.

The officer added that he approached Ross's vehicle after talking to the other party involved in the crash.

"James Ross was clearly upset," Raulerson wrote. "(He) jumped out of the car and began screaming and cursing at me. I attempted to calm him down by advising him I was here to help to no avail."

Raulerson added that after he ordered the defendant to put his hands behind his back, Ross threatened to shoot him.

"At this time, since he had not been pat searched for weapons and [sic], I became in fear of my life and advised him that he was under arrest."

Raulerson wrote that Ross reached into his car, and to prevent the defendant from obtaining a possible weapon, the officer bear-hugged



William James Ross, in costume as Tyra Sanchez protesting at a Starke intersection. Photo: William James Ross via Twitter.

the defendant, pinning him against the car. Raulerson then drive stunned Ross using a taser.

The officer wrote that after releasing the defendant, Ross continued to resist, so he pointed the Taser at the defendant.

"I had not checked James Ross for weapons and did not know if he indeed had a weapon or not," the officer reported, "I again became in fear that I may get shot, so I deployed my taser...at James Ross, striking him in the upper torso area."

Raulerson said the taser did not affect the man, who snatched the probes from

his body and ran. He was apprehended a short time later on Southern Villas Drive.

Two days after his arrest, Ross posted two \$5,000 bonds and was released.

Last week Ross, in costume as Tyra Sanchez, took his beef with Starke police to the streets, rotating between the corners of U.S. 301 and State Road 100, holding a sign reading "Middle Finger Starke PD Oink!"

After the State dropped the charges, he returned to the intersection with another sign proclaiming his innocence.



Megan Callahan with Maj. Dawn McKinley and Sheriff Gordon Smith. Callahan received a Civilian Medal of Appreciation.



Sgt. Jana Bennett with Maj. Dawn McKinley and Sheriff Gordon Smith. Bennett received a Life Saving Award.

Russ WADE

Attorney at Law

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

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate

Obituaries

Annie Ardley

Annie Lou Ardley, 84, of Lawtey died on Monday, June 12, 2023, at Haven Hospice of Gainesville. She was born in Tallahassee and later moved to Lawtey. She was of the Christian faith. She was a certified nurse assistant and employed with various hospitals and nursing facilities.

She is survived by her nephew, Keith Ardley; a brother, James Ardley Sr.; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, at the Church of Christ in Lawtey with Minister Curtis White conducting the services. The Cortège will form at 10:45 a.m. at the church on Saturday morning. Interment will be held at Peetsville Cemetery, Lawtey under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-7905.

PAID OBITUARY

Charles Bemby

Charles B. Bemby of Lake Butler died Wednesday, June 14, 2023, following a sudden illness.

Survivors are daughters, Jessica (Chuck) Crews and Angela (Jason) Bailey; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his mother, Ella Mae Bemby; brothers, Dan Bemby and Alvin (Sheila) Bemby; and extended family and friends.

A Celebration of Life with military honors was held Friday, June 16, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, 55 N. Lake Ave., Lake Butler, 32054. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com



Laura Ellis

Minister Laura Bright Ellis, 68, of Lawtey died Friday, June 16, 2023, at her residence in Lawtey. She was a member of Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church and served as the associate minister. She attended the local schools of Bradford County and graduated from college with an associate's degree.

She is survived by her sisters, Mary B. Palmer, Patricia B. Lovell, Ophelia B. Hines, Dephrin B. Jackson and Gwen B. Baker; one aunt, Marion Bright; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many sorrowing friends.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 23, at the True Vine Outreach Ministry Church, 422 St. Clair St., Starke, 32091 with Bishop Moses Long Jr. presiding and Bishop Kenneth R. Brown, eulogist. Interment will be held at Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091 904-964-7905. There will be NO VIEWING. You may sign the Register Book on Thursday, June 22, at Haile Funeral Home from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. The Cortège will form at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 23, at the residence of Minister Laura B. Ellis.

PAID OBITUARY

Donald Martin

Donald John Martin, 94, of Starke passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on Monday, June 12, 2023. He was born on May 23, 1929, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to the late Walter E. Martin and Esther Kelly Martin. He and his family relocated to Florida in 1939 and he has been a resident of Bradford County ever since. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1951, where he served as a mechanic at Camp Blanding and retired in 1984 after 33 years. He met and married the love of his life, Marilyn Martin, in 1990, and together the two shared 34 beautiful years. He was an active member of Sampson City Church of God, where he loved to fellowship and worship his lord and savior, Jesus Christ. In his spare time, he enjoyed farming and always grew beautiful rose bushes. Most of all he loved spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Terrence Walter Martin; brother, Kenneth Martin; and sister, Phyllis Ester Newell.

He is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn Martin of Starke; sons, Donald Walter (Ametta) Martin of Starke; David Larry Martin of Deland; Gregory Glenn (Ruby) Martin of Starke; William David (Karen) Rogers of Jacksonville; daughter, Mary Elizabeth (Morris) Mahoney of Starke; brothers, Clifford (Ellen) Martin of Starke; Ralph (Charlene) Martin of Athens, Tennessee; sister, Florence (Edmon) Stallings of Chattanooga, Tennessee; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 24, at 3 p.m. at Sampson City Church of God with Rev. Gene Bass officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Gainesville.

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

PAID OBITUARY

JBS Jackson Building Supply

"Serving Our Community For Over 60 Years"

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS • PAINT, LADDERS & SUPPLIES • ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES • METAL ROOFING & SHINGLES • DOORS & WINDOWS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAND & POWER TOOLS • HOME & FARM HARDWARE • BATHROOM VANITIES • HOT WATER HEATERS • LAWN & GARDEN
---	---

STARKE
US-301S
964-6078
LAKE BUTLER
145 SW 6th Ave.
496-3079

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Charles Custom Memorials

Serving Families in North Florida since 1973



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

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

Primary Location in Lake City at 561 NW Hilton Ave.

CharlesMonuments.com

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

FL Lic. # F037700

Dianne McFarland

Dianne McFarland, beloved hairdresser and owner of Sassy Scissors and Dianne's Cutting Edge, as well as a dedicated camp host at Camp Blanding, passed away peacefully at her Starke home on Thursday, June 8, 2023. She was born on May 7, 1949, in Miami to Jack and Virginia Bishop. She touched the lives of everyone she met with her friendly and outgoing personality. Her talents as a hairdresser were only matched by her unwavering generosity. She would give up her weekends and evenings to make sure her clients looked their best. Despite her busy schedule, she always had time for the people in her life. She enjoyed shopping for purses and being with her family, especially the grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Virginia Bishop; her husband of 30 years, Mike McFarland; and son, Jimmy Watkins.

She is survived by her children, Michelle (Randy Faile) Lovell, Deena (Rod) Crawford, Renee (Leroy) Griffis, Karen Parker, Chris (Christy) McFarland, Jennifer (Roy) Highland, Hunter Smith; grandchildren, Kristen Furneaux, Paul Crawford, Hailee Crawford, Logan Crawford, Rod Crawford, Kyleigh Crawford, Harley Smith, Emma Griffis, Easton Griffis, Sean Parker; Madison Highland, Marisa Highland; Hannah McFarland; Allie McFarland; sister, Patricia (Matt) DiVittorio; and her brother, Rick Bishop.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, June 24, from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Kingsley Lake Civic Center., 6109 Kingsley Lake Drive, Starke, 32091.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008.



PAID OBITUARY

Wallace Parrish

Wallace Edwin Parrish, 84, died Friday, June 16, 2023, at Haven Hospice in Lake City. He was born Sept. 26, 1939, at Lake Shore Hospital, Lake City to Eldred and Catherine Parrish (deceased) of Union County. He worked for Brasington Cadillac-Oldsmobile of Gainesville for many years as their service manager until he moved to Largo to work with his father in the construction business. After his father passed, he worked for George Hunt Construction. He eventually started his own construction company in Largo, which Eddie became a part of. Due to a tragic automobile accident, Wallace spent several years in recovery and rehab and he was never able to return to full-time work. He and Laverne moved to Union County in 1997 following the accident. They were followed by Eddie and Anita and their three daughters. Wallace enjoyed spending time fishing and going to yard sales. The entire family were members of the Union County Riding Club in Lake Butler, where they spent many years of fun and quality time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will always be remembered as a very loving, giving and soft-spoken husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Laverne Metceter of Clearwater. He and Laverne were married for 64 years. He is survived by his son, Eddie (Anita); three grandchildren, Mellissa Parrish, Amanda Parrish and Jennifer Parrish, all of Union County; six great-grandchildren, Jaiden Parrish, Trinite McCall, Madison Parker, Aliyah McCall, Dvante McCall and Jaycee Farmer, all of Union County.

A visitation time will be held from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. The funeral service will begin at 4 p.m. He will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Oak Grove Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

JoAnn Stewart

JoAnn Stewart was born April 13, 1935, to Lester Newton Stewart and Sara Ester Stratton Stewart in Okeechobee. She was predeceased by her parents; and husband, Harold Glisson.

Survivors are daughters, Lyn Long, Debra Wales, Pam Glisson, Lindsey Glisson; sons, Victor (Pati) Glisson, B.D. Glisson, Josh Glisson; nine grandchildren; and numerous extended family.

A graveside service was held Friday, June 16, at Dedan Cemetery in Brookier.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler.



Margaret Wadsworth

Margaret Ann Wadsworth, 82, of Starke passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at her home with her loving family by her side. She was born in Gainesville on Jan. 1, 1941, to the late Joe Sullivan and Madge Louise Sullivan. She attended and graduated from Gainesville High School. She met the love of her life, Jerry Johnson Wadsworth, in 1960 and together the two shared 56 beautiful years. She was very passionate about her career in education and worked as a paraprofessional at Hampton Elementary, retiring after 36 years. Following her retirement, she volunteered for FWC at Camp Blanding with her husband. She loved being outdoors and, as she would say, "piddling around." She enjoyed going to the beach, lake, and being in the water. More than anything she enjoyed spending time with her family. She was the epitome of a loving and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was preceded in death by her loving husband; her parents; son, Jerry Wadsworth Jr.; brother, Bobby Joe Sullivan; sister, Hazel Griffis.

She is survived by her children, Justin Wadsworth of Starke, Robbin (Glen) Witt of Starke, Jody (Tammy) Wadsworth of Earleton; sister, Eva Lou Wiesner of Gainesville; grandchildren, Kasey Sheffer, Kimberly Goeck Brad Witt, and Jimmy Orcutt; seven great-grandchildren and one on the way; and loving caregiver, Sandra King.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, June 20, at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Waldo with Pastor Don Thompson Jr. officiating.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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

(904) 964-4111

407 W. Georgia St. • Starke

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



Christian Hickey and his wife, Ashley, hold a Ukrainian flag. They are pictured with their children: Landyn, Christian and Kelson.

Delivering God's peace during war

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Peace in the midst of war sounds like a contradiction, but for Christian Hickey, the two go hand in hand when they're part of God's will.

Hickey, a 2000 Keystone Heights High School graduate, is currently living in Ukraine with his wife, Ashley, and their three children: Christian, 6, Landyn, 4, and Kelson, 2. There, he helps provide humanitarian aid and training (especially life-saving techniques) to soldiers, hands out Bibles and delivers the gospel as part of the Triple A Authority ministry he founded.

He and his family don't live close to the front lines, but they sometimes hear machine-gun fire, missiles, etc., as was the case on a night shortly before Hickey was interviewed by the Telegraph-Times-Monitor on May 15.

"We fell asleep listening to that," Hickey said. "That's how much peace we have living there."

Hickey said he spent 30 years of his life walking away from opportunities God placed before him. Now, he's put his complete faith in God and is willing to do whatever He asks, including leaving a comfortable life behind in the U.S. and going to Ukraine. Though he said his family is not put in harm's way, Hickey is out among the soldiers in the midst of the war. He's been shot in the legs and once asked God, "Why do you have me here?"

"I understand now I have to be in that same predicament to understand what these soldiers are going through, to be able to relate to them even more," Hickey said.

His source of inspiration is Matthew 28:19: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

In over a year's time, Hickey has led more than 1,000 soldiers to Christ.

"This is basically going from unit to unit, trench to trench, area to area," he said.

Hickey, during his interview with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor (which took place during a brief return to the U.S.), teased up several times. It's a common occurrence. He's shed plenty of tears while in Ukraine.

"You see 100 men. All of them want Jesus," Hickey said. "They want a change in their life."

Walking by faith, saving souls

Hickey made a change in his life that would be hard for many to make, waking away from a career he loved (working with the Gainesville Police Department). He also had 15 years of active-duty military service under his belt.

Such a life change wasn't on his radar, but he said he realized his experiences in the military, in law enforcement and in a seminary are all serving him now in Ukraine. That's not by accident.

"I just left with my rucksack and a plane ticket and made my journey into Ukraine...I had no clue I was going to be a missionary a year ago," Hickey said.

He and his family had a house in Middleburg. They sold it, along with most of their possessions.



Christian Hickey, pictured in prayer, created the Triple A Authority ministry to seek an access and placement in hostile countries to Advise, Assist and Accompany victims of violence/natural disasters.

"How are we able to do this? Financially, God provides," Hickey said. "It's not my mission. It's His mission."

Hickey's a missionary in a dangerous place. He said he and his team members go from trench to trench, delivering Bibles to soldiers and reading to them from the Book of Psalms. This takes place while being under fire.

His strength to overcome his fears comes from David's writings about total reliance upon God in the Book of Psalms. Referencing chapters 23 and 91, specifically, Hickey said, "You don't need to fear the arrows that fly by day or have to worry about all these things your adversary is trying to do to you. You're going to lie down in green pastures and sleep next to still waters."

The danger makes the work that much more important. Hickey said probably 99 out of every 100 soldiers he talks to say they want to hear more about Jesus and to have a relationship with Him.

"Many of the soldiers I've led to Christ have died and gone on to be with the Lord," Hickey said, adding, "I get peace in that they had the opportunity to have that relationship with Christ before they died."

The mission is more than winning just soldiers to Christ. Hickey said the whole of Ukraine is in the midst of a revival.

"It's really cool to see, especially when you're in these front-line villages, and there is artillery and rocket fire, and you see these people who are walking with Jesus and singing and praising and worshipping God during these episodes of just uncertainty."

Seeing how God works in the midst of chaos is rewarding. Hickey said he has forgotten more miracles than he can remember witnessing in the past year.

"I tell people all the time that I understand why in the gospels it says they never wrote all the miracles Jesus did because it would just take up too much space," Hickey said.

Hickey has learned that when a door closes on an opportunity, it closes for a reason. It's part of God's plan.

"A closed door is a redirection," Hickey said.

He recalled one incident in which he and his team members were invited to a village they had been to in the past in Kherson. This time, however, they arrived to find that they were denied access.

See HICKEY, page 12

'Good shepherd' Moore honored at retirement event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Mike Moore was the shepherd, who cared for his flock for 16 years at First United Methodist Church of Starke. Now, it's time for the roles to reverse.

A celebration in honor of Moore's retirement as the church's pastor was held June 15 at the Woman's Club of Starke. Josh Reinken, the associate pastor and director of student

ministry who will become the new lead pastor, told Moore and his wife, Debbie, "You have been there for many, many years, in our best days and in our hardest days. You have made sacrifices that all of us could never begin to understand. "So, now, anything you guys need, it's our turn to be there for you."

Emcee Terry Vaughan, a former Starke resident who attended the church and now lives in Thomasville, Georgia, opened the event with a story about a man he met in Thomasville named George Mathes. Mathes once lived in Greece, where he spent the day tending to goats, naming each one and able to recognize each one by sound only.

"He took care of his flock. That was his passion, and he did it well," Vaughan said.

Mathes moved to Thomasville, where his father,



Mike Moore (right) and his wife, Debbie, are pictured at an event celebrating Moore's retirement as pastor at First United Methodist Church of Starke, where he served for 16 years. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

Tom, and uncle Louie were running The Plaza Restaurant, which they had purchased. Mathes, who eventually became a joint owner, went from caring for goats to caring for diners. Like he did with his goats, Mathes came to personally know each of his customers, greeting them by name when they entered the restaurant.

"I think it's a wonderful analogy for what Mike Moore has done in his life," Vaughan said. "He is a fellow who cared for his flock deeply. He knew

each one of you by name. He knew what made you tick. He took care of you.

"Now that it's time for him to embark on a different chapter of life...he will never stop being a minister. I can tell you that for this community — not just our church — and, I think, for everyone here, he has been the good shepherd."

Bill McRae, who is the head of the church's staff-parish relations committee, said he is still amazed by Moore's "incredible energy and his genuine love for each of

us."

"He loves us all," McRae said. "He works so hard to do what he can to demonstrate this love by visits, calls, emails and texts."

McRae paused slightly before saying "texts" in a tone of voice that clued you in that something humorous was coming.

"Texts that often come at all times day and night," McRae said. "Texts that are sometimes done by dictation that don't always come out the way they're supposed to."

As laughter filled the room, McRae said, "I'm guessing that some other folks here have experienced that."

When Vaughan took his turn to speak again, he quipped, "I had to hire an interpreter to know what Mike was saying in the texts he sent me. It cost me a fortune."

McRae, in all seriousness, spoke of how Moore worked himself to the point of exhaustion in order to care for the church and its members, which proved to be no surprise to McRae. He said he could tell what kind of pastor Moore would be when he first met him.

"He had a fire in his eyes and a spirit for ministry," McRae said. "He truly made a great first impression. Over time, I had the



Josh Reinken, the associate pastor and director of student ministry who will step in as the lead pastor at First United Methodist of Starke, said it was now the church members' turn to be there for Mike Moore and his family after all the times Moore had been there for them.

privilege of seeing that fire and spirit from close proximity.

"Being a pastor is demanding. It's often difficult. To say it can be challenging is a big understatement. We saw this amazing man tackle every challenge with the spirit of kindness, love and grace. At the same time, in an understated way, Mike demonstrated a strength and commitment to his ministry

See MOORE, page 13



ABOVE: Debbie Moore receives a hug from Esther Hardy.



RIGHT: Mike Moore greets Sonia and William Douglas upon their arrival at Moore's retirement celebration.

Tri-County Classifieds
Bradford County Telegraph, Lake Region Monitor, UNION COUNTY TIMES

INDEX

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

Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay

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

904-964-6305
classads@bctelegraph.com

WE ACCEPT
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, AMERICAN EXPRESS

Free Trading Post

FOR SALE BY OWNER
FREE ADS

Starting April 6th, the Bradford County Telegraph will run your for sale by owner ad for free.

★ ★ ★ If interested, email up to 20 words to classads@bctelegraph.com by 12PM every Monday.



Get rid of unwanted:

- CARS
- MOWERS
- DISHES
- RVS
- TRUCKS
- BOATS
- FURNITURE
- LAND
- TRACTORS
- ENGINES
- APPLIANCES
- HOMES

★ use SUBJECT LINE: TRADING POST fsbo

Your ad will run for 2 weeks only.
AVAILABLE TO REGIONAL RESIDENTS ONLY
you must include your contact info, name, phone, location.
To re-run your ad, you must email again.



For more information, contact us at (904)-964-6305.

Users/responders release liability toward this paper, publisher, its agents or representatives who are not liable for any mistakes, errors, misrepresentations.

CLASSIFIEDS

Don't Miss the DEADLINE! TUESDAY by 12 pm

CALL 904-964-6305 OR EMAIL CLASSADS@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

40 Notices

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

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

47 For Sale

RENTAL SPACE on Walnut Street near Post Office. \$675/mo. 1st, last & security. Call 904-364-9022 for appt to see.

50 For Rent

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

NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW. 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

51 Lost/Found

STOLEN GUNS. If you purchased a Marlin 30-30 or M & P 380 shield EZ. I would give you your money back for my guns. 904-364-6996.

53 A Yard Sales

YARD & GARAGE sale; Fri. & Sat. 403 E Market Rd. 352-745-1106, 8am-4pm. Furniture, women's clothes & shoes, housewares, wall hangings, Christmas decorations, kitchen appliances, other knick knacks.

57 For Sale

FREE WOOD master woodworking multi tool 5 in 1. Needs some work, must pick up. Call 386-496-1299 leave a message.

HOME FOR SALE. Built in 2005. 2BR/1BA, close to city park. 734 Epperson St. Starke. \$160,000. 904-796-7906.

65 Help Wanted

PART-TIME position of Town Clerk for the Town of Brooker. Hours are three (3) mornings per week (Mon, Wed, & Fri, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm) and one (1) monthly night meeting. Qualified candidates would have the following qualifications: office experience required, ability to multi-task and be organized, works well with others, mature professional attitude, ability to get work done without supervision, have reliable transportation, proficient in Microsoft Office Suite as well as Zoom/virtual meetings, possess typing skills,

possess problem solving skills, be drug free, and have the ability to pass a background check. Five (5) days of paid leave allowed annually; paid federal holidays observed. Salaried position averaging \$16.00 per hour. Please email resumes to brookerclerk1022@windstream.net or

HERITAGE VILLAS
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts

607 Bradford Court
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-6216
TDD 771

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

by USPS to Town of Brooker, PO Box 127, Brooker, FL 32622

PART-TIME house-keeping, cleaning.

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

Small house & shopping. \$15/hr., no laundry or cooking required. Apply by phone. 352-281-0260.

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

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Southern Villas of Starke

Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.

Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL
Call 904-964-7295
TDD/TTY 711
"Equal Housing Opportunity"

Set Right Mobile Homes
Specializing In Relocations, Re-Levels, Set-Ups & Disposal

Rodney A. Carmichael, Owner
Email: set_right_homes@yahoo.com 904-364-6383

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Lic# 1H/1025656

WELL DRILLING
QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964

24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE

964-7061

STATE LICENSE #1305

DURRANCE PUMP

OUT OF AREA CLASSIFIED ADS

MEDICAL
Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drug store prices! 50 Pill Special-Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 866-259-6816

HOME IMPROVEMENT/SERVICE
UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional installation. Top quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 866-636-1910. Ask about our specials!

HOME IMPROVEMENT/SERVICE
NEED NEW FLOORING? Call Empire Today! to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 855-919-2509

OTHER

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576

HOME IMPROVEMENT/SERVICE
Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! American Residential Warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE! \$100 OFF POPULAR PLANS. 877-351-2364

MEDICAL
ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 844-958-2473.

HOME IMPROVEMENT/SERVICE
BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 888-460-2264

TRAVEL/MISC
DISCOUNT AIR TRAVEL Call Flight Services for best pricing on domestic & international flights inside and from the US. Serving United, Delta, American & Southwest and many more airlines. Call for a free quote now! Have travel dates ready! 866-245-7709

HOME IMPROVEMENT/SERVICE
BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 888-460-2264



COMMUNITY STATE BANK
WHERE TODAY MEETS TOMORROW



Business Section

Helping Small Business Dreams Become Reality Since 1957

Business Section Spotlight On: AFFORDABLE VACATIONS & GETAWAYS Right in Your Own Backyard! Updated June, 2023

Vacation Getaways & Rentals in the Tri-County Area

BY JOHN RYAN TILLMAN
Director of Marketing & Operations

With gas prices and inflation receding but still pinching wallets, some staff at the Monitor, Telegraph, and Times thought it would be neat to explore vacation options in the Tri-County area.

The Tri-County area has many beautiful natural assets that are budget friendly. In doing a bit of research, I found that there are a plethora of vacation rentals that fit almost any budget. I have made a partial list of vacation rentals in the Lake Region Tri-County area that caught my eye.

Best Bang For Your \$\$

Mike Roess Gold Head State Park located in Keystone Heights is a perfect vacation spot for outdoor enthusiasts or families on a budget whether day tripping, camping out or renting a cabin.

The Gold Head State Park has neat bike and hiking trails (which go from low impact to challenging), canoes you can rent for \$4 an hour or \$20 for 8 hours, and fishing options if you bring your own gear.

Primitive camping starts at \$5 a night, and cabin rentals range from \$65 to \$100 per night. To find out more information about vacationing at Gold Head State Park, go to bit.ly/3QUkFEo online or visit FloridaStateParks.org and search for it.

Cabins, homes, cottages, abodes in no particular order

Keystone Lake Front Cabin on Bedford Lake – Rating – 4.84 stars – Price \$61 per night – Host – Steve – Number of guests 4 – Number of Bedrooms – 2 – Amenities for guests to use stand-up paddle board, kayak, bikes, and fishing poles.

Entire Home – Hampton Lake Cabin – Rating 4.56 stars – Price \$60 per night – Host Romulous – Number of guests 2 – Number of Bedrooms 1 – Amenities – Kyack & Stand up Paddleboard.

The Tofu House at Moonrise Farm – 4.79 Stars – Price \$80 per night – Host Maureen – Number of guests 6 – Number of Bedrooms 2 – Amenities – none mentioned.

Entire Cottage – Keystone Heights Lake Front Cottage – Rating – 4.70 stars – Price \$78 per night – Host – Steve – Number of guests 4 – Number of Bedrooms – 2 – canoe, bicycles, and internet.

Cottage in Keystone Heights (Love Shack) – Rating 4.87 stars – Price \$78 per night – Host – Jayson – Number of guests 3 – Number of bedrooms 3 – Amenities – kayak, hotspot wifi, radio, satellite TV.

Swan Lake Lodge – Rating 4.59 stars – Price \$82 per night – Host-Marcus – Number of guests 4 – Number of bedrooms 1 – Amenities – none mentioned.

Lakefront Retreat Apartment Remodeled – Rating – 4.97 stars – Price-\$80 per night – Host-Cathy – Number of guests 4 – 1 bedroom with 3 beds – Amenities – Google T.V.

Newly renovated lake house – Rating 4.95 stars – price \$135 per night – Host – Dawn – Number of guests 7 – Number of bedrooms – 2.

Lake Hutchinson Home – 4.59 stars – Price \$140 per night – Host Evolve – Number of guests 8 – Number of bedrooms-3 – Amenities include BBQ & Firepit – free wifi, flat screen smart tv’s, dvd player.

Keystone Heights Adult Only RV Park Covered Wagon Getaway – Price \$Varies – Host Keystone Heights RV Park – Number of beds – 2 Queen Size or 1 King Size, Amenities – Swimming, Pickleball, Mini-Golf, Hot Tub; special offers sometimes available; see their newsletter and www.keystoneheightsrv.com online. Children are welcome at the mini-golf.

I found information for these vacation rentals at AirBNB.com and there were many more rentals available there and at other sites. There are also Kingsley Lake Rentals on VRBO.com. And you can find several services online, including the two above, that rent RVs as vacation rentals — many in Florida — including RVShare.com and RVEzy.com. You can make reservations and payments online for the most part.

This article is not meant to be an endorsement of any of the commercial sites mentioned here (although we do endorse enjoying the park and our local communities), but is an example of how many local resources there are for vacations, whether long-term, a few days, a week or two, a weekend getaway — and you can save gas dollars by not driving very far at all.



A small footbridge spans a portion of the Gold Head Branch, named for its clear run over yellow sand.



Beautiful sunsets can be observed across the lakes and bodies of water to be found at the park in addition to many types of wildlife.

The prices in this article were shown on the sites at the time the research occurred this week but we can not guarantee they won't change.

And there may be additional fees or taxes included in such rentals or at the parks. Be sure to read the fine print. Let us hear from you about your local vacation and getaway visits! Email JohnRyan@bctelegraph.com.



RIGHT: One of the Gold Head Park bridges viewed from a different angle. Walkers and hikers will find varying levels of challenge to choose from, from relaxing to strenuous.

Activities & Experiences Available at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park

according to the website

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bicycling | Fishing | Picnicking | Weddings, Events, |
| Birding | Geo-Seeking | Reunions and Gatherings | Birthdays |
| Camping | Hiking | Star Gazing | Wildlife Viewing |
| Camping Primitive | Horseback Riding | Swimming | |
| Camping, Primitive Group | Paddling | Walking and Running | |

Allergies Got You WHEEZING & SNEEZING?

- Identify if it's really allergies.
- Use over-the-counter medication.
- Try a saline nasal rinse.
- Stay indoors on windy days.
- Keep windows closed and use air conditioning.
- Keep an eye on the pollen count.
- Remove pollen particles from your clothes, skin, and hair.

North Florida Pharmacy
of Keystone Heights 405 S. Lawrence Blvd.
Keystone Heights (352) 478-2057

Serving Bradford and Union Counties Since 1998

NORTH CENTRAL TITLE, INC.

**ONE GOAL IN MIND:
QUALITY SERVICE**

*Call Us If You Are Buying,
Selling Or Refinancing.*

*Let Your Neighborhood Specialist
Handle This Important
Transaction From Contract To Closing.*

904-964-4150

858 McMahan Street, Starke Florida 32091



Business Section

SPONSORED BY



COMMUNITY STATE BANK
WHERE TODAY MEETS TOMORROW



Interlachen

1120 State Road 20
Interlachen, FL 32148
Phone: (386) 684-6154
Fax: (386) 684-1561

Starke Branch

811 South Walnut Street
Starke, FL 32091
Phone: (904) 964-7830
Fax: (904) 964-4432

Lake Butler Branch

255 South East 6th Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
Phone: (386) 496-3333
Fax: (386) 496-1616

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 22, 2023

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY
 CASE NO.: 2022-CP-000015
 PROBATE DIVISION
 IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
 FREDERICK R. PHILLIPS,
 DECEASED.

FORMAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of FREDERICK R. PHILLIPS deceased, whose date of death was August 20, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court For Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4779 SE 109th Street, Starke, FL 32091 to-wit:

A parcel of land containing 1.08 acres, more or less, and lying in the SE1/4 of Section 20, Township South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, said parcel being more particularly described in Exhibit A attached. Parcel Indication Number: 04943-0-00405.

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 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 TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is April 27, 2023.

CHARLES DANIEL SIKES
 817 W. MacMahon Street
 Starke, Florida 32091
 Email: dan.sikes30@gmail.com
 (904) 964-2020
 Florida Bar No: 0886858
 Attorney for Petitioner
 Tina Phillips
 Personal Representative
 4/27 12tchg 7/13-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that FIG 20, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 156
 Year of Issuance: 2021
 Parcel Number: 00832-0-00207
 Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0009
 Description of Property: Legal Description: Lot 7 Deerfoot Trail A parcel of land situated in Fractional Section 3, Township 7-South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being Lot 7 of an unrecorded map of Deerfoot Trail as surveyed by Joseph G. Knapp, Registered Land Surveyor and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument at the intersection of the Northerly right of way line of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad right of way, with the West line of said Section 3 and run N 00 deg 27 min 29 sec W, along the West line of said Section 3 a distance of 281.57 feet to the North right of way line of Edmonds Drive; thence run S 71 deg 18 min 56 sec E, along said North right of way line 555.68 feet to the point of curve; thence run Southeasterly along said Northerly right of way line with a curve concave Southwesterly, said curve having a central angle of 41 deg 11 min 31 sec, a radius of 437.05 feet and an arc length of 314.21 feet to the point of reverse curve; thence run Southeasterly along said North right of way line with a curve concave Northeasterly, said curve having a central angle of .41 deg 11 min 31 sec, a radius of 371.05 feet and an arc length of 266.76 feet to the point of tangency; thence run S 71 deg 18 min 56 sec E, along said Northerly right of way line 727.64 feet to the point of curve; thence run Easterly along said Northerly right of way line with a curve concave Northerly, said curve having a central angle of 22 deg 40 min 00 sec, a radius of 1147.09 feet, an arc length of 453.80 feet and a chord bearing and distance of S 82 deg 38 min 56 sec E, 450.84 feet; thence run N 86 deg 01 min 04 sec E, along said Northerly right of way line 94.36 feet to an iron pipe; thence run S 00 deg 13 min 40 sec W, along said Northerly right of way line 16.04 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 86 deg 01 min 04 sec E, along said Northerly right of way line, 963.92 feet to an iron pipe and the point of beginning; thence continue N 86 deg 01 min 04 sec E along said Northerly right of way line, 115.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence run N 03 deg 58 min 56 sec W, 195.13 to the waters of Lake Sampson; thence run S 82 deg 59 min 17 sec W, along said waters,

115.16 feet to a point bearing N 03 deg 58 min 56 sec W, from the point of beginning; thence run S 03 deg 53 min 56 sec E, 189.04 feet to the point of beginning

Also any lands lying between the above described Lot and the waters of Lake Sampson/
 Together with all riparian and littoral rights thereunto appertaining.
 Name in Which Assessed: WILLIAM L. SUMMERLIN & YVONNE I. SUMMERLIN
 Name on last tax roll, if different: YVONNE I. SUMMERLIN

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 07/12/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
 BY: Kanetra Jenkins
 Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk
 Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
 DATED: May 31, 2023
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 8, 2023; JUNE 15, 2023; JUNE 22, 2023, June 29, 2023

6/8 4tchg 6/29-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that ATCF II FLORIDA - A LLC the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 11
 Year of Issuance: 2019
 Parcel Number: 00084-0-00000
 Case Number: 04-2023-TD-008
 Description of Property: That portion of the following described property which lies South of State Road No. 100:

A strip of land on the West Side of the East half of Southeast Quarter Eight Hundred Ten Feet wide at North end and Three Hundred Twenty Five feet wide at the South end, the Eastern boundary line of which strip of land runs from the half section line running East and West of said Section Two in a Southwestern direction to the South boundary line of said section, all of said land lying and being in Section Two, Township Six South, Range Twenty East.

Name in Which Assessed: CREIGHTON STANLEY PADGETT AS LIFE ESTATE & SUSAN RAY
 Name on last tax roll, if different: RAY SUSAN (DEC) ET AL

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/02/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
 BY: LISA BRANNON,
 DATED: June 8, 2023
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: June 15, 2023, June 22, 2023, June 29, 2023, and July 6, 2023.

6/15 4tchg 7/6-BCT

MEETING CANCELED
 THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the regular meeting of the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners, scheduled to be held Tuesday, July 4, 2023 at 9:30 AM at the Bradford County Courthouse, inside the County Commission Chamber, 945 N. Temple Ave. has been CANCELED in observation of Independence Day.
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

LEGAL NOTICE BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited.
 DATE AND TIME: July 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located in the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, Florida
 DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008
 CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272
 GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 6th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200.
 Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the business meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 6th Place,

Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org.
 Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).
 If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF BROOKER

This notice is to inform anyone that may not receive a monthly water bill from the Town of Brooker, but consumes water from the system. The Annual 2022 Drinking Water Quality Report is available to anyone who may have need for a copy. A copy may be picked up at the City Hall/Community Center during regular office hours. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The report will be available for pickup on/after Monday, June 26th.
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 04-2023-CP-00045
 IN RE: Estate of
 DOYCE ALBERT GRIFFIS,
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 The administration of the estate of Doyce Albert Griffis, deceased, whose date of death was March 25, 2023, 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 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 22, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Nicolas B. Harvey, Esq.
 Florida Bar Number: 58975
 WITHERS HARVEY, P.A.
 1120 NW 8th Ave
 Gainesville, FL 32601
 Telephone: (352) 727-4404
 E-Mail: nick@withersh Harvey.com
 Secondary: rebecca@withersh Harvey.com
 Personal Representative: Tyffany Suezette Wishart
 4920 SE 73rd St
 Hampton, FL 32044
 6/22 2tchg 6/29-BCT

Tillman Infrastructure, LLC is proposing to build a 250-foot Self Support Tower (265-ft w/ appurtenances) located at 13813 US- 301, Starke, FL 32091. Structure coordinates are: (N29-54-41.39/W82-08-02.33). The tower is anticipated to have FAA Style E (dual medium intensity) lighting. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR Form 854) file number is A1243701. Interested persons may review the application at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the file number. The FCC requires interested parties to file requests for Environmental Review online. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website.
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

BRADFORD ZONING

The Bradford County Building, Zoning, & Fire Prevention Department hereby gives notice of the County's intent to revise the flood hazard information, generally located between the area 2,900 ft north of CR 277 and 2,650 south of CR 277. The flood hazard revisions are being proposed as part of Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) Case No. 23-04-1518R for a proposed project along an unnamed tributary to Prevatt Creek. RaceTrac Corp. is proposing to upslope the culvert crossing under

County Road No. 227 from (3) 36" RCPs to (4) 48" RCPs in order to reduce road overtopping and improve drainage conditions at County Road No. 227.

Once the project has been completed, a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) request should be submitted that will, in part, revise the following flood hazards along the unnamed tributary to Prevatt Creek.
 Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) will be established along the unnamed tributary to Prevatt Creek.
 The SFHA will increase, decrease, and be established along the unnamed tributary to Prevatt Creek. Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at the Thomas & Hutton office located at 50 Park of Commerce Way, Savannah, GA 31405. Interested persons may call Randal Andrews of Bradford County Zoning at (904) 966-6223 EX. 3 for additional information from 7/01/2023 to 7/30/2023.
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

INVITATION TO BID

SEALED BIDS will be received and accepted by the Town of Brooker, Florida, until 1:00 pm on Monday, July 10, 2023 for the following moving and cleaning of all City property.

The bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the regular Town Council meeting.

All Bidders are encouraged to attend a pre-bid tour to be held on Saturday, June 24th at 9:00 a.m. at the Brooker City Hall/Community Center, 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, FL. No other tour will be provided.

All Bidders are encouraged to submit references.

Monthly bid amount should be different for Number 1 and Number 2, due to less mowing in Number 2.

Bid #1 is for the following:
 1. Months of August 2023 through October 2023 and the month of April, May, June, July 2024, (7 months):
 A. Mowing and maintaining twice a month (within 2 days before 15th of month and within 2 days before end of month) the following property:
 Fire Station, Old City Hall office, F.D. Training Facility property, Water department, Community Center property, Park, baseball field, and tennis court area.

B. Mow and weed eat once a week on Wednesday or Thursday the town property around City Hall/Community Center.

C. Mow and maintain twice a month (within 2 days before 15th of month and within 2 days before end of month) the areas within 12 (twelve) feet of the paved roads on all State, County, and Town Streets within the limits of the Town, unless not possible due to ditches or fencing or private planting, in these cases mow to fence line. All debris should be blown towards the highway.

D. On Highway 18/Charlotte Avenue and Tetstone Avenue mow up to railroad tracks from old City Hall office to the Flashing stop sign twice a month (within 2 days before 15th of month and within 2 days before end of month).

E. Weed-eating particularly the areas around the Fire Station, F.D. Training Facility property, Water Department, Park, and Old City Hall Office and those other areas mentioned above that have sign posts, light poles, decorative trees, and all fire hydrants/stand pipes at least once a month.

F. Provide weed-control in the milled area of the parking lot at City Hall/Community Center.

G. If bidder intends to spray any chemicals, then Commercial license are needed. The Town will provide the Round-Up and can be applied twice a year.

H. Once a month remove garbage from cans at park, tennis court and baseball field.

Bid #2 same as above except once a month:
 2. Bid for the month of November 2023 through March 2024 (5 months) will be the same as specified above in sections (a) through (g) with the frequency listed as once a week and twice a month being changed to once a month starting from the date of the last activity in October 2023.

Bid will be for a two year period. The Brooker Town Council reserves the right to cancel with or without cause after one year. Payment will be rendered at the end of the month.

***Required with Bid - A copy of current Insurance Declaration page showing \$250,000 or more Liability coverage and Worker's Compensation coverage certificate or exemption certificate. BIDS NOT CONTAINING THESE REQUIRED DECLARATION PAGES WILL BE REJECTED.

The identity of the bidding entity must match the certificate of insurance coverage.

***All Equipment including mower is to be furnished by the Contractor.
 ***Grass is not to be cut too short as to damage the root systems.
 ***No mowing is allowed on Sunday.
 ***There may be times when extra storm debris pickup will be necessary. A price will be determined on each occurrence
 *** Awarded bidder will be required to add the Town of Brooker as additional insured after receiving the bid.

The Town reserves the right to check references and to accept or reject any and all bids.
 If Bidder has previously worked under contract with the Town of Brooker the award of the bid shall be contingent on satisfactory performance and review on contract previously awarded.

You can contact the Brooker city hall office at 352-485-1022 if you have

any questions.
 Equal Opportunity Employer,
 Fair Housing, Handicap Access
 Jurisdiction
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

CONCURRENT NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Publication: June 22, 2023
 Name of Responsible Entity: City of Hampton
 Address: 5784 Navarre Avenue (P.O. Box 250), Hampton, Florida 32044
 Phone: 352-468-1201

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Hampton, Florida.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 6, 2023 the City of Hampton, FL will submit a request to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a public infrastructure improvements project within the City of Hampton.

The proposed activity includes the construction of a replacement potable water well to be located in the vicinity of the existing water plant that is located at 10106 Prospect Avenue, Hampton, Florida. Improvements will include drilling a replacement well, well casing replacement, pump replacement, electrical system replacement, emergency generator, piping replacement and related water well improvements. The project will also include grant administration, engineering design, construction administration, project observation, additional engineering, and preliminary engineering. As currently anticipated in the preliminary design, the proposed activities will affect 0.0 acres of the mapped 100-yr floodplain.

The anticipated funding sources for the proposed improvements include the following:

- \$600,000 from the FFY 2021-2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the Neighborhood Revitalization category.
- \$25,000 from the City of Hampton, American Rescue Plan Funding FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Hampton has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Hampton City Hall, 5784 Navarre Avenue, Hampton, Florida 32044, and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and by appointment during normal business hours.
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

City of Starke, FL
 Notice is hereby given, the Starke City Commission will hold a Public Meeting located at City Hall in the Commission Chambers at 209 North Thompson Street Starke, FL 32091 on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. for the purpose of considering the approval of the City of Starke drinking water improvements facility planning documents. This meeting will include a discussion of the proposed drinking water improvements. The meeting is intended to afford the opportunity to individuals to be heard on the economic and social effects of the location, design, and environmental impact of the proposed drinking water improvements.

A portion of the funding for this project is anticipated to come from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program. Financial impacts on utility users will be presented at the hearing. Reports, documents, and data relevant to the discussion, "Drinking Water Facility Plan", are available for public review at Starke City Hall. These reports present infrastructure needs, alternative analyses, and cost comparisons over a 20-year planning period to support the development of drinking water improvements and the City's goals. These documents were prepared to meet the planning requirements for the FDEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs for the purpose of obtaining funding for new facilities in the City of Starke. Other business which may properly come before the Commission will also be addressed. All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: If you require special aid or services as addressed in the American Disabilities Act, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (904) 964-5027, no less than five (5) days prior to the above stated meeting date.
 City of Starke, Florida
 Drew Mullins, City Manager
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 22-000107-CP
 Division

IN RE. ESTATE OF ALMA KELLEY
 Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Alma Kelley, deceased, whose date of death was April 23, 2022,

is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North Temple Ave, Starke, FL 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 22, 2023.

LAUREN RICHARDSON LAW, PLLC
 Lauren N. Richardson, for the Firm
 Attorney
 Florida Bar Number: 0083119
 3620 NW 43rd Street, Suite B
 Gainesville, FL 32606
 Telephone: (352) 204-2224
 E-Mail: lauren@laurenrichardsonlaw.com
 Secondary E-Mail: riley@laurenrichardsonlaw.com
 Nancy Kelley Hundley, Personal Representative
 149 Oak Hills Dr.
 Morganton, Georgia 30560
 6/22 1tchg 6/29-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TOWING gives notice that on 07/07/2023 at 12:00 PM the following vehicles(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N THOMPSON ST, STARKE, FL 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78. 1B3LC46K08N586932 2008 DODG This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 06/22/2023.
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Brad E. Hunter
 Last known address of:
 786 NW 265th St
 Lawtey FL 32058
 You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.
 Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
 Amanda Seyfang
 Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
 P. O. Box 58
 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
 Starke, FL 32091
 Date: June 19, 2023
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

John K. Turknott
 Last known address of :
 3739 NW County Road 233
 Starke FL 32091
 You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are, required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.
 Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
 Amanda Seyfang
 Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
 P. O. Box 58
 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
 Starke, FL 32091
 Date: June 20, 2023
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Treyonice M. Robinson
 Last known address of:
 201 Harutha St
 Starke FL 32091
 You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.
 Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
 Amanda Seyfang
 Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
 P. O. Box 58
 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
 Starke, FL 32091
 Date: June 20, 2023
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Treyonice M. Robinson
 Last known address of:
 201 Harutha St
 Starke FL 32091
 You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.
 Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
 Amanda Seyfang
 Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
 P. O. Box 58
 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
 Starke, FL 32091
 Date: June 20, 2023
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Treyonice M. Robinson
 Last known address of:
 201 Harutha St
 Starke FL 32091
 You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.
 Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph
 Amanda Seyfang
 Bradford County Supervisor of Elections
 P. O. Box 58
 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C
 Starke, FL 32091
 Date: June 20, 2023
 6/22 1tchg-BCT

UCHS' Thompson receives opportunity at Mississippi St.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Dayviontae Thompson knew what he wanted, and he held out until he got it.

Thompson will be joining the Mississippi State University football program as a preferred walk-on, making it official almost a month after he graduated from Union County High School.

"Honestly, I'm just grateful and humbled and blessed by God with this opportunity," Thompson said.

The 6-3, 240-pound linebacker/defensive end had several offers from smaller schools, but he wanted the chance to compete at college football's highest level.

"I was just being patient," Thompson said. "I knew wherever God wanted me to go, it would happen sooner or later. Whenever the moment felt right, He would let me know. I felt like this was the right decision."

Thompson, who played two seasons for Union after two seasons at Bradford High School, said Mississippi State is the right program for him because of its environment.

"They treat you like a family," he said. "They don't look at anybody differently. Everybody on the team is treated the same.



Starke's Dayviontae "Bubba" Thompson, a recent Union County High School graduate, is getting a chance to play football at Mississippi State.

They show you love and really care about their athletes. I like that."

Another selling point is the city of Starkeville, where Mississippi State is located.

"It's a nice small town," Thompson said. "It reminds me of my hometown of Starke. That's another thing I love about it."

Thompson, who goes by the nickname of "Bubba," led Union in tackles last season with 58 (eight for loss) and had six sacks.

In his junior season, he made 58 tackles (22 for loss) and 10 sacks.

Union Head Coach Andrew Thomas said Thompson is a player who really should've gotten more attention from Division I schools.

"He's kind of a prime example of how the transfer portal and everything is kind of hurting high school football," Thomas said. "He's a Division I football player who kind of just slipped through the cracks."

Thomas said Mississippi State is getting a player who's athletic and versatile.

See MISS ST, page 13

HICKEY

Continued from page 8

As it turned out, the place they were denied access to came under heavy attack and was "completely bombed out," Hickey said.

"That's why we were denied access," he said. "It wasn't meant for us to be there during that time."

Triple A Authority

Before leaving for Ukraine, Hickey said he wanted to create a vehicle for his ministry. The result was Triple A Authority, a nonprofit that, according to its mission statement, "seeks access and placement in hostile countries to advise, assist and accompany victims of violence/natural disasters. Its vision statement reads: "Our vision is to bring light into dark places of the world through the authority of Jesus Christ. For we are called into this mission; Christ acts through us. Therefore, the obstacles we encounter become testaments to our ministry as we see miracles go before us."

The name comes from the triple "A"s of the mission statement: advise, assist and accompany.

"The logo, if you look at it, looks like a military reticle," Hickey said, "but if you look at it even more closely, it's the cross on Calvary, with blood on the



Christian Hickey (center) has been involved in providing humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine while also leading people to accept Jesus as their personal savior.

cross."

Hickey said Triple A Authority is in partnership with A Jesus Mission after six months of the organizations working alongside each other in Ukraine.

"A Jesus Mission pretty much runs all of our humanitarian aid," Hickey said. "We're taking over 700 tons of food into Ukraine."

With his military background, Hickey can get the two organizations into areas "where the most need is." He also uses his background to help train Ukrainian soldiers.

Whatever else the two organizations provide (including medical evacuations), Hickey said their main role is to deliver the Gospel. Boxes of food contain Bibles and tracts for people to read. Gospel-themed

coloring books are provided for children.

"We're not a food-delivery company. We're not a training company. We're not a medical-evacuation company. We're a Jesus-delivering company," Hickey said.

How long will he be in Ukraine? That remains to be seen. What Hickey does know is that he's now a full-time missionary after officially turning in his Gainesville Police Department badge and uniforms the week he was interviewed for this story.

He also knows that his walk of faith, though it takes him through a country filled with strife, is a blessing.

"It's rewarding," Hickey said. "It's peaceful."

Legal Notices

CONTINUED FROM PG 11

Legals for the week of June 22, 2023

BRADFORD

Notice is hereby given: Jackie R. Daugherty Last known address of: 19850 NW State Road 16 Starke FL 32091-5128

You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter

registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph Amanda Seyfang Bradford County Supervisor of Elections P. O. Box 58 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C Starke, FL 32091 Date: June 20, 2023 6/22 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION CASE NO.: 04-2023-CA-000242 DIVISION: MCLP ASSET COMPANY, INC., Plaintiff,

vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, CONSTANCE M. ERDMAN A/K/A CONSTANCE MAY ERDMAN, DECEASED, et al, Defendant(s) NOTICE OF ACTION To: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, CONSTANCE M. ERDMAN A/K/A CONSTANCE MAY ERDMAN,

DECEASED Last Known Address: UNKNOWN Current Address: Unknown YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: LOT FIVE (5) KNIGHT'S REPLAT, A RESUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF KNIGHT'S SUBDIVISION, PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 54 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. A/K/A 1002 NORTH THOMPSON STREET STARKE FL 32091 has been filed against you and you are required to file written defenses with the clerk of court and to serve a copy within 30 days after the first publication of the Notice of Action, on Albertelli Law, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 23028, Tampa, FL 33623; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition. This notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in the Bradford County Telegraph. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 12 day of June, 2023. Clerk of the Circuit Court By: L. Brannen Deputy Clerk *See 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 the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352)337-6237 within two (2) working days of receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, please call 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, please call 1-800-955-8770. 6/22 2tchg 6/29-BCT

A copy of the COMPLAINT is located in the Court file. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses/ response, if any, to it on VERONICA R. OWENS, ESQ., attorney for the PLAINTIFF, whose address is 189 S Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656, on or before July 8, 2023 (30 days from the date of first publication), and file the original with the Clerk this Court, 55 W. Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, before service on the PLAINTIFF or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. Dated: June 9, 2023 Kellie H. Rhoades CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT By: C. Norman Deputy Clerk 6/15 4tchg 7/6-UCT

includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued. 6/22 1tchg-UCT

2022-2023 Union County School Board - Regular Board Meeting Amended (6/19/23) June 27, 2023 Board Workshop 5:00 p.m. July 18, 2023 Board Workshop 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. August 1, 2023 Executive Session 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. August 8, 2023 - CANCELED - School Board Meeting CANCELED due to TRIM Meeting on August 1, 2023 August 22, 2023 Board Workshop 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. September 11, 2023 Board Workshop 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. 6/22 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE RULE NAME: 7.40 - Online Educational Services Agreements/Contracts PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To update Board Policies SUMMARY: To update Board Policies AUTHORITY: Florida Statutes LAW IMPLEMENTED: ECONOMIC IMPACT: None Policies can be viewed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 55 SW Sixth Street, Lake Butler, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. IF A HEARING IS REQUESTED WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 120.54 FLORIDA STATUTES, IT WILL BE HELD ON July 20, 2023, IN THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ROOM. A COMPLETE TEXT OF THIS PROPOSED RULE MAY BE VIEWED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, 55 S.W. 6TH STREET, LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA. 6/22 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2023-CP-000015-CPAXMX Division: Probate IN RE: ESTATE OF SHIRLEY ELIZABETH THOMAS, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Shirley Elizabeth Thomas, deceased, who died on March 11th, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the co-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 22, 2023. Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Dan W. Armstrong Dan W. Armstrong Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives Florida Bar No. 506613 Law Offices of Dan W. Armstrong, P.A. P.O. Box 1535 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004-1535 Telephone: (904) 280-0058 Fax: (904) 280-0109 Personal Representative: Donna Crutchfield Deborah Bittner 6/22 2tchg 6/29-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2023-CA-51 ARTHUR WAYNE ROBERTS, PLAINTIFF, VS. GEORGE SPIRES, ZONA SPIRES, ETTYE ANDREWS, ANNIE CROFT ROBERTS, S. R. ROBERTS, D. R. ROBERTS, INA C. ROBERTS, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING ANY ESTATE, RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST BY, THROUGH, OR AGAINST GEORGE SPIRES, ZONA SPIRES, ETTYE ANDREWS, ANNIE CROFT ROBERTS, S. R. ROBERTS, D. R. ROBERTS, INA C. ROBERTS, OR IN THE REAL PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: GEORGE SPIRES, ZONA SPIRES, ETTYE ANDREWS, ANNIE CROFT ROBERTS, S. R. ROBERTS, D. R. ROBERTS, INA C. ROBERTS, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING ANY ESTATE, RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST BY, THROUGH, OR AGAINST GEORGE SPIRES, ZONA SPIRES, ETTYE ANDREWS, ANNIE CROFT ROBERTS, S. R. ROBERTS, D. R. ROBERTS, INA C. ROBERTS, OR IN THE REAL PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED. YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title to real property has been filed for the real property specifically described as: Part of the SE1/4 of NE1/4 of section 32, Tp.5 S.R.19 E., Bradford County, Florida, beginning at the SW corner of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4, of said section thence N. 0 degrees 30' W. 423 ft. to post #3, thence N. 89 degrees 45' E. 777 ft. to post #2 thence S. 0 degrees 30' E. 423 ft. to post #1, thence S. 89 degrees 45' W. 777 ft. to beginning, containing 7.5 acres more or less.

LEGAL NOTICE UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD BUSINESS MEETING The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited. DATE AND TIME: July 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. PLACE: Union County Transportation Facility located at 255 SW 9th Avenue, Lake Butler, Florida DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008 CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272 GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org or 352.955.2200. Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrpc.org. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800.955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800.955.8770 (Voice). If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record

Home Equity Line of Credit from Capital City Bank

Goodbye, COUCH OFFICE.

Hello, NEW ADDITION.

Say Hello to opportunity when you unlock the equity in your home.

With a **Home Equity Line of Credit from Capital City Bank**, say hello to a better way to fund your home improvements, education expenses, dream vacations, debt consolidation and more.

Apply for a credit line just like a loan, and once you're approved you can access this cash – up to your full available credit limit – whenever you'd like, for whatever you'd like. Go online or stop by today to apply.*

No Closing Costs

On Lines Up to \$250,000

APR/6 MONTH INTRODUCTORY RATE	APR/CURRENT VARIABLE RATE AS LOW AS
5.99%*	8.75%*

Apply now at: ccbq.com/equity

*All loans subject to credit and property approval. The introductory rate will be in effect for the first six (6) months after account is opened. Upon expiration of the introductory rate, all balances will accrue interest at the variable standard Annual Percentage Rate (APR) that can range from Prime + 0.5% (currently 8.75% APR) to Prime + 6.5% (currently 14.75% APR), using the JPMorgan Chase Prime (JPMCP) rate, not to exceed 18% at any time. Information accurate as of 5/4/2023. After the promotional period, the variable standard APR will be based on the borrower's line amount, combined loan-to-value ratio, and credit rating. Hazard insurance required and flood insurance, if applicable. Bank will pay customary closing costs on lines up to \$250,000, which may include flood determination fee, credit reporting fees, title search fees, recording fees, tax service fee, and documentary stamp and intangible tax fees. If required, borrower pays appraisal and survey related charges. An annual fee of \$50 is charged on the first year anniversary after closing and each year thereafter. A prepayment penalty of 2% of the original credit line amount, not to exceed \$1,500, will be assessed if the credit line is closed within three (3) years of the origination date. The borrower may pay the credit line down to zero without closing the line of credit or without incurring a prepayment penalty. Consult a tax advisor about possible tax benefits. Minimum line of \$10,000 required. Exclusions, limitations and funding requirements apply. Additional Limitations and conditions apply for existing HELOC clients. Refer to product disclosure or ask a banker for complete details. Offer available for limited time.



Mike Moore reads a framed proclamation by the Starke city commission designating June 15 as Pastor Mike Moore Day.

MOORE
Continued from page 9

that absolutely would not take one single step back.”

McRae said Moore’s “rare and wonderful gift” has made First United Methodist Church of Starke what it is today, “a church that is known for its kind and welcoming spirit to all who come and a church that stands firm for what God is calling us to be.”

The type of pastor every church needs

Jay Therrell, the president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and an elder in the Global Methodist Church, said his first introduction to Moore was at a local pastoring licensing school, which provided a “crash course on how to be a pastor.” Moore’s work as the pastor at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church of Jacksonville — the first church Moore pastored at. Therrell said at Good Shepherd, Moore “basically brought a church that was on the brink of closure and brought it back to a thriving, vital church that was making disciples for Jesus Christ.”

“It was then and there, that I knew there was something

different about this man,” Therrell said.

Therrell later served with Moore on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

“It became very apparent to me then that Mike was not just an exceptional leader and out-of-the-box leader, but that he was passionate and that he was principled,” Therrell said. “On top of all of that, what was so very apparent was his deep love for Jesus Christ.”

Therrell eventually became the superintendent of the Florida United Methodist Church’s North East District, which includes First United Methodist of Starke. Therrell said he looked forward to the “privilege” of working alongside of Moore again. One of the first calls he made in assembling a leadership team was to Moore.

“Mike Moore is the kind of pastor that every district superintendent wishes they could clone and have 30 of,” Therrell said. “I could appoint him to every declining church, and within two years, that church would have a new purpose and new life, and it would be growing new disciples for Jesus Christ.”

3 words

LaTonya McBride, the office administrator at First United Methodist of Starke, has worked with Moore for 14 years. She said she chose three words to describe him “because you don’t have all night for me to tell you all the stories about Michael Moore.”

McBride said the first word was “timeless,” explaining that if Moore tells you he’ll be there in 10 minutes, he’ll be there in two hours.

Once the laughter subsided, McBride said that Moore was always late because he was busy meeting someone else’s needs.

“It wasn’t because he was just lazy or insensitive to the time of other people, but because his heart is so big,” McBride said. “He sees the guy riding down the road on a bicycle, and it’s hot outside, he’s got to stop at the store and get him a bottle of

water and tell him about Jesus.”

McBride added, “That’s just who he is. Time does not really matter when it comes to evangelizing souls. He is anointed by God to do what he does, and he does it well.”

The second word McBride said described Moore was “clueless.” She said she often heard Moore say he had no idea something was going on, despite being told multiple times ahead of time by McBride.

Again, there was a serious point, with McBride explaining that Moore has the confidence to admit he doesn’t know everything and doesn’t remember everything. However, he has people around him he can turn to in those moments.

“It’s OK not to know everything,” McBride said. “It’s OK not to be good at everything, but you’ve got to have the wisdom to surround yourself with professional people who do know what you don’t know. Then, you learn how to extract that information from them and use it to your advantage.”

“Whatever your situation is, call Mike Moore. He knows somebody who knows what to do.”

McBride said the third word to describe Moore is “priceless.” The relationship between McBride and Moore went from employee-employer to partners in ministry to friends.

“Our families are so close,” McBride said. “My family is like his family. His family is like my family.”

With that said, McBride mentioned the names of all of her family members, telling Moore that they all loved him.

A quiet, beautiful and faithful life

Reinken said Christians who make the greatest impact in other Christians’ lives aren’t the ones writing books, recording podcasts or seeking any kind of status. They are the ones who “simply live a quiet, beautiful, faithful life.” They are the ones



Event attendees lay their hands on Mike and Debbie Moore during a prayer that closed the event. The prayer was given by Jay Therrell, the president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, an elder in the Global Methodist Church. Therrell, who was once the North East District superintendent, said Moore Moore “is the kind of pastor every district superintendent wishes they could clone and have 30 of.”

where “God’s work and activity are so clearly evident.”

“What I’m trying to say is that when it comes to so much of the good parts of who I am as a husband, as a father — so much of that I’ve learned from you,” Reinken told Moore, adding, “For me personally, Pastor Mike, I just want to say thank you. Thank you for welcoming me into your life. I thank you for all the hours upon hours in your office, just talking about theology. Thank you for being patient with my brashness at times. Thank you for never stopping your encouragement for me to answer a calling to ministry — that for so long you could see it clearly when I could not see it.”

“Thank you for being the greatest mentor pastor and friend I have ever known.”

Reinken quoted 1 Timothy 5:17: “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well

are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.”

“I have yet to meet a man more worthy of the truth of this scripture than you, Pastor Mike,” Reinken said.

Family time

Moore and his wife were presented with a pair of Adirondack chairs as a gift from the church, as well as a love offering. Reinken also read a proclamation by the city of Starke declaring that the date of June 15 would forever be known as Pastor Mike Moore Day.

It was then time for the night’s honoree to say a few words. Referencing all the kind things he had heard said about him, Moore said, “It’s so easy to pastor people like you. It’s been such a great joy.”

Moore said his family paid

a price for the amount of time he devoted to the ministry. His main focus upon retirement will be his wife, his children and his grandchildren.

“I’m going to put my ministry on pause for a little bit and absorb some real-life experiences with my wonderful family,” Moore said, adding, “God has given me this beautiful family. I would not be the man I am today if it wasn’t for them.”

In closing, Moore stressed to those gathered that “Christ is the only way,” saying that in tough times, don’t react until asking yourself how Jesus would react.

“If you stick to that, you’ll get the answer, and things will work out,” Moore said. “He is the way, the truth and the life in all things. I give all glory to God for the great things He has done, especially putting you in my life. May the Lord bless you. Amen.”

MISS ST
Continued from page 12

“We were able to do a lot of stuff with him,” Thomas said. “We were able to move him around. We brought him off the edge. He played middle linebacker for us last year, but the year before, he was a D end.”

Thompson said his goal is to work hard and improve his overall game so that Mississippi State can utilize him in multiple ways.

“I just want to be better at everything,” Thompson said. “I don’t want to be good at just one thing. I want to be a hybrid player and be able to do everything.”

Thomas is eager to see the transformation Thompson’s body goes through, saying, “When he gets up there and gets on a nutrition plan and an all-around weight-room program at that level, there’s no telling what his body is going to turn into. He’s got a high ceiling.”

His physical development will complement Thompson’s desire

to play the game.

“He plays with such great passion and effort,” Thomas said. “That’s what’s easy to watch on film. He’s an easy sell to someone when you see how hard he plays. You never have to worry about if this kid is going to give you effort, which is why I think he’s got a very good chance to succeed.”

Thompson put in hard work off the field as well to give himself this opportunity, which is what really impressed Thomas, who said Thompson did more than just meet Mississippi State’s minimum academic requirements.

“He busted his butt and stayed with it off the field to be able to put himself in this position,” Thomas said, adding, “That’s what makes you proud of him, that he was able to not give up and do what he needed to do.”

Thompson admitted his grades weren’t where they needed to be to play at the type of school he wanted. He gave thanks to his “great teachers” and others as part of a support cast that kept

his spirits up as he did what he needed to do.

Now, he’s one of three members of UCHS’ Class of 2023 who are getting the opportunity to play football at the Division I level. Daylyn Diston and Markus Strong are going to East Carolina and Oklahoma, respectively.

“It’s really special,” Thompson said. “We all talked about being great one day. Just seeing it happen is amazing. It’s a blessing.”

When asked what it would feel like stepping onto the field for the first time as a Mississippi State Bulldog, Thompson said, “It might feel unreal and a little nerve-racking, but I’m going to be very excited.”

Thomas believes Mississippi State coaches will be excited, too, when they see what kind of player they have in Thompson.

“He’s really a steal for Mississippi State,” Thomas said. “I can just see him as one of those stories where he goes in as a walk-on and ends up being a big-time player. He’s got that potential.”

Certificate of Deposit (CD) Special

FUNDS ARE INSURED BY NCUA

4.90% APY¹

7-month CD Special | \$1,000 min. balance



now through
06/30/2023

Florida Credit Union®

904-964-1427 | ficu.org/CD

1. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 06/16/23. Expires 06/30/23. Terms, restrictions and conditions apply. See share certificate agreement for current rates, terms and requirements. Must be funded with money currently not on deposit at Florida Credit Union. Minimum balance to open share certificate varies per certificate with a maximum of \$5,000,000. After maturity, if you choose to roll over your CD, you will earn dividends according to the CD agreement or at the then current APY as stated on ficu.org at that time. Limited time offer subject to change at any time without notice. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawals which may reduce earnings. Fees may reduce earnings. Visit ficu.org for membership eligibility requirements. Florida Credit Union — P.O. Box 5549, Gainesville, FL 32627. FCUMKNP0539-0623



Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.

V.B.S.
Morgan Road Baptist Church
3784 NW County Road 233 Starke
904-964-4422

Give us THIS DAY our Daily Bread
Matthew 6:11

Saturday
June 24, 2023
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

FOOD TRUCK PARTY
ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

Wishing You the Best at State!



BRADFORD 8U ROOKIES

- Ashton Brown
- Kingston Donley
- Cruz Eaves
- Michael Hanson
- Maddox Hilliard
- Wynnlin Lansford
- Rylan Noegel
- Hayden Padelford
- Chance Reed
- Jaxson Strickland
- James Taylor
- Donelle Waldon
- Trey Waldon



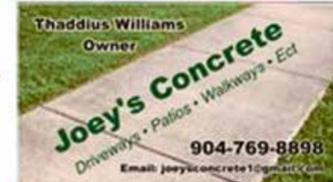
A BRADFORD PLUS INSURANCE 904-964-2800

Wishing you the best at STATE!



BRADFORD 12U ALL-STARS

- Paige Tolley
- Addaleigh Lansford
- Amelia Clem
- Harmony Reed
- Tamaya Mccloud
- Anistyn Griffis
- Jordan Padelford
- Savanna Combs
- Saniya Aaron
- Addyson Griffis



A BRADFORD PLUS INSURANCE 904-964-2800