

Bradford County Telegraph

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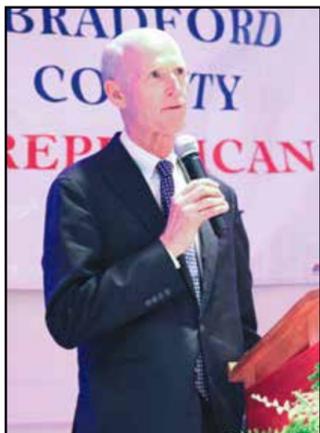
Republicans rail against their own party at dinner

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Senator Rick Scott and Congresswoman Kat Cammack held their fire against Democrats during the Bradford GOP Patriot Dinner and instead focused their criticism on members of their own party.

The two Washington lawmakers spoke at the Saturday, June 22 fundraiser at the Starke Woman's Club.

Scott unloaded on Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, recalling that he attempted to unseat the Kentucky lawmaker from his leadership post in 2022 and reaffirming that he is now running to succeed McConnell to lead Republican senators now that the minority leader is stepping down.



Senator Rick Scott: "Washington, D.C. is completely broken."



U.S. Rep. Kat Cammack declared that she had spent much of her time in Washington trying to dismantle the concentration of power in the House at a time when her own party was in control.



State Rep. Chuck Brannan summarized what he characterized as the legislature's successes in the 2024 term.

Two dictatorships

But before Scott gave the audience his analysis of what is wrong in Washington, he emphasized the importance of elections and crowded about the state's increase in registered Republicans.

"People forget how much this has changed," he said. "In 2010, when I ran for governor the first time, there were 568,000 more Democrats than Republicans, and now, thanks to (State GOP Chair Evan (Powers) and our counties' hard work, we have 950,000 more Rs than Ds, so that's a big deal."

After complimenting Cammack and Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith for their work, the senator then launched into a criticism of

Washington and its leadership. "Washington, D.C. is completely broken," he said.

Scott added that, in addition to hyperpartisanship, the concentration of power in a few hands has strangled policymaking in the nation's capital. He said a major tool for consolidating power in the nation's capital is money.

"You can give me, or you can give Kat a maximum of \$6,500," he said of federal campaign contribution limits. "That's a pittance to what Chuck Schumer or Mitch McConnell or Mike Johnson or whoever the minority leader in the House is can give, and here's why. They each have

\$400 million to \$500 million super PACs. In my race in 2018, Chuck Schumer spent \$65 million out of his PAC against me."

Scott added that Senate and House leaders use super PAC contributions as leverage over their members. He said the leaders' control over which bills make it to floor votes and their control over committee assignments concentrate their power even more.

"You could have 99 senators that want something, and if Chuck

Schumer, who's the majority leader today, doesn't want it, we don't have it. And then if you vote differently than your, in McConnell's case or Schumer's case, if you vote against how they want you to vote, they'll kick you off committees, and they won't give you any money for your campaign.

"So, it is two dictatorships," Scott continued, "and the House works the same way."

See REPS, page 4

Bradford answering assessment question before vote

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Some answers to "frequently asked questions" about a proposed fire assessment fee are being circulated in Bradford County.

County Manager Scott Kornegay shared the document with county commissioners at the June 20 meeting, and they urged him to get it online and out to the public.

The fact sheet discusses what the fee is and why it is necessary — to provide fire rescue the resources

necessary to "maintain public safety."

While it does address how the fee is calculated, it doesn't answer the biggest question, which is how much property owners will pay each year. There isn't a single answer to that question because residential and nonresidential properties are assessed differently. Also, commissioners haven't committed to an amount.

A study by consultants at Stantec set the fee at \$309 per residential unit and 20 cents per nonresidential square foot to raise the money necessary to fund the county fire department budget. At

the time, Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner said there's "no way" the commission would approve that amount. Commissioner Diane Andrews recently told Brooker officials the residential fee could be closer to \$200 a year (see related story).

Commissioners haven't voted on that, but they will vote on the first reading of the fire assessment ordinance at their July 2 meeting, which takes place at the courthouse at 9:30 a.m. A subsequent public hearing and vote will be necessary to enact the

ordinance.

The county commission can only impose the fee in unincorporated Bradford County. Each council or commission will decide if the fee will be collected within their city. The county provides fire rescue service for Lawtey, Hampton and Brooker. It has a mutual aid agreement with the city of Starke, which has its own fire department, although it has been downsized by budget cuts.

See FEE, page 2

School district addressing vaping addiction

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Bradford County schools are discussing a plan to keep students in school while addressing addiction to tobacco and vaping products.

During a workshop on proposed changes to the student code of conduct, Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke said student vaping on campus has become a big issue, although she was quick to point out that Bradford County schools are not alone in experiencing the problem. It's everywhere, she said.

"We wanted to implement some things that could help address that, because just sending kids home or sending kids to alternative placement doesn't solve the problem," Clarke said.

Superintendent Will Hartley what

they are looking at will call on parental responsibility.

"What we're seeing is if a student is addicted to a vape, they're addicted to a vape, and sending them to alternative schools doesn't fix that," he said. "We need to do some more education and get the parents more involved in what's going on."

School Board Chairwoman Candace Osteen, who works in youth tobacco/nicotine education, described the approach taken in other counties, including Clay and Baker counties.

"Data showed that supportive approach to enforcement gets the family involved in the educational practices of prevention and intervention," she said.

Based on her meetings with representatives in those counties, Osteen said a family education program would bring both student and

parents together to talk about coping skills, cessation tools and resources, better decision making and more. She said there is a wealth of information that would be beneficial to students and parents that addresses the bigger issue of addiction to vaping or tobacco products.

"It's something that we would like to do here to provide an extra layer of support for our families and our students, because at the end of the day, the student that's addicted is going to have a lot more of an issue leaving it at home than they are concerned about getting suspended or caught on campus, because obviously it's very difficult for them to address that addiction," she said.

Hartley said the program would be for middle and high school students, and they would attend a cessation course on campus to address their

addiction.

"If we can better educate them and get the parents more involved, hopefully we keep the students in the classroom, which is the end goal," he said.

Clarke called it an alternative to suspension, but if the student refused participation, the school would have to move on to the consequences for being caught using tobacco or vaping on campus.

Code of conduct

Rules on the use of mobile phones by students are being clarified to allow for use of the devices under the direction of the teacher for educational purposes. Use is otherwise strictly prohibited.

See CODE, page 3



WORTH NOTING

Early deadline

The office of the Bradford County Telegraph, Lake Region Monitor and Union County Times will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4 and 5, for the Independence Day holiday. Early deadline will be at 3 p.m. on Monday, July 1, to accommodate early publication. Newspapers will be in stores on Tuesday, July 2, and in the mail on Wednesday, July 3.

Church of God food distribution

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

Collection site closings

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed on Thursday and Friday, July 4 and 5, for the Independence Day holiday. They will reopen on Saturday, July 6, at 10 a.m.

Juneteenth celebration of young women

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

Lifeline hosts gospel concert

Lifeline Ministries will host a gospel concert with Chuck Day, co-writer of "The Midnight Cry," on Sunday, July 7, at 6 p.m. All are welcome. The church is located at 325 N. Christian St. in Starke.

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FEE

Continued from page 1

While much of the revenue for households would come from unincorporated Bradford County, most nonresidential property — especially commercial property — is concentrated within the city of Starke. Without the city's participation, the county won't have access to that revenue.

When asked, the consultant could not provide data breaking down residential and nonresidential properties by

municipality. They were able to clarify that multifamily housing such as apartments would be charged the residential assessment per unit, with the property owner (landlord) seeing the assessment on their tax bill, the same as the solid waste special assessment.

RV parks, however, are charged the noncommercial rate at 500 square feet per space. Again, this is paid by the property owner, although the charge could be passed on through the rental price.

Unlike property taxes,

households would pay the same fire assessment, regardless of property value. Similarly, vacant land would be charged per parcel, regardless of size. The consultant's study recommended \$73.

The county's fact sheet does address possible exemptions for faith-based organizations and nonprofits. It's up to the commission to decide. Finally, property owners are told that failure to pay the assessment could result in penalties, interest charges or a lien against their property.

on the fire assessment before adopting new impact fees.

By not collecting impact fees, Bradford is losing revenue from the construction taking place around the county, she said.

Impact fees are a one-time fee on new development paid during the permitting process. The revenue is used to offset the cost of growth in the county.

Impact fees were adopted in 2007 in anticipation of a growth spurt that never happened. At the time, the county was charging fees for firefighting, emergency medical services, law enforcement, roads, public buildings, parks and libraries.

The residential fee didn't provide much in the way of support — \$550 per single-family home (\$225 for "workforce housing"). Commercial fees varied by the type and size of business, but the infrequency of nonresidential construction in unincorporated Bradford County would not have provided much revenue for infrastructure projects. An impact fee moratorium in 2009 following the housing market

crash was never lifted.

Fifteen years later, housing construction has picked up, and while infrequent, projects like the Holiday Inn Express and RaceTrac could be worth many thousands of dollars in impact fees.

But an impact fee and special assessment fee are not the same. They cannot be used by the same purposes. One does not replace the other.

As County Manager Scott Kornegay pointed out, impact fee revenue can only be used for infrastructure — a new building or vehicle for the fire department, for example. It could not be used for operational costs, including the cost of personnel, and those costs represent most of department's multimillion dollar budget.

The consultant at Stantac is working on new impact fee analysis for the county. Since it has been so long since they were first adopted, a new look at what those impact fees should be is warranted.

For Kornegay, it's not a matter of choice. The choice to pursue

the fire assessment first was because "the intensity" of that discussion. For Andrews, it is hard to settle the amount of the fire assessment without also knowing how much revenue impact fees could provide.

There is no certainty to that prediction, however. As when impact fees were first adopted, there is no guarantee of growth, and no guarantee existing growth will continue. In that way, impact fees are a nonrecurring revenue source, available for targeted infrastructure projects until spent. They cannot sustain operations of the fire rescue department the way higher taxes or a special assessment would.

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).

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904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!

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FRIDAY 6/28 INSIDE OUT 2- 7:00 (Upstairs) A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE- 7:00 (Downstairs)	SATURDAY 6/29 INSIDE OUT 2- 4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs) A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE - 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs)	SUNDAY 6/30 INSIDE OUT 2- 4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs) A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE - 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs)	

Cart before the horse?

Is the county moving too soon on the fire assessment before considering another option to raise money for the fire department?

The question was raised during public comments and later by Commissioner Andrews during the June 20 meeting. She asked if the county was putting the cart before the horse by moving

Highly Rated Local Businesses!

<p>Phillip McDonald Plumbing 740 S Orange St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-3737</p> <p>"Needed our septic pumped asap and they pulled through and came out to us in less than 24 hours! Got the job done quickly and were super knowledgeable! Great crew awesome service! Definitely recommend!"</p>	<p>Bradford County Eye Center 292 Lafayette St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8076</p> <p>"We had a great experience here! They got us in the same day to remove some debris from my child's eye. Dr Mike was great...knows what he's doing and was friendly! Office staff was also courteous and pleasant. We will definitely go back for regular eye appointments."</p>	<p>Turners Automotive & Transmission 135 Commercial Cir, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-3404</p> <p>"Great service, courteous, and professional. Took truck in at 2pm and got it back the same day. Thanks guys. Will be back in future, highly recommend them. Thanks again, Donovan"</p>
<p>Teal Tile Carpet One 131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7423</p> <p>"Best place to get any kind of flooring.. professional, friendly and easy to work with! Highly recommend- cant say enough good things about service, installation and products!"</p>	<p>The Chiropractic & Injury Clinic of Starke 601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8018</p> <p>"They not only have some of the best staff, they always work to get you in! My entire family gets adjusted here- so glad we found them!!"</p>	<p>Keystone Plumbing Inc. 2473 State Rte 100, Starke, FL 32091 (352) 792-4426</p> <p>"We have used Keystone Plumbing for many years and highly recommend their services. Their staff is extremely knowledgeable and professional and will get the job done right!"</p>
<p>Bradford County Public Library 456 W Pratt St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 368-3911</p> <p>"I love the staff here. They are always kind & helpful to me & my 3 girls. We go in to just grab a few books & stay an hour just to chat with everyone & check out all the upcoming events they offer."</p>	<p>Jackson Building Supply Inc. 937 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-6078</p> <p>"Great hometown store. Excellent customer service. Great selection of products"</p>	<p>DLP Bank 811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7830</p> <p>"Great service! Fast and efficient place with very nice and knowledgeable people. Great place to bank and a trusted bank in the community for over 100 years!"</p>
<p>Andrews Site Prep (386) 867-0572 Services 20 different counties!</p> <p>"Your guys were very punctual in getting our well fixed. Within one day of the issue arising, someone came out. Day 2 it was fixed. The guys even worked in the rain and stayed late until it was done. Super professional company! 5 stars from me!"</p>	<p>Dr. Nancy Short, Chiropractor SE 28th St, Melrose, FL 32666 (904) 778-6859</p> <p>"Keystone Heights doesn't have much, but it does have a chiropractor who is certified in the activator method. If you can't physically handle the bending and twisting of a manual adjustment, there is still hope via this gentle yet effective method. Be good to your body and let Dr Short's healing hands help set you straight!"</p>	<p>Durrance Pump 864 N Temple Ave STE C, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7061</p> <p>"Great hometown people. They do excellent work and clean up behind themselves. Super friendly- it was great doing business with them and I have them on speed dial for any future needs I may have. Highly recommend them!"</p>
<p>CJ Appliances 442 W Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 452-1968</p> <p>"Great place, Starke needed an appliances store with good prices. I bought my mom a brand new dryer from them for 60% off of what it would cost at Lowes or Home Depot. Seriously check this place out!"</p>	<p>Hearing Aids Today 450 S Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 877-4471</p> <p>"This is my 2nd pair of hearing aids from this company. The people are wonderful, personable and professional. If there are any questions or concerns, they are addressed immediately. I love this place."</p>	<p>Duval Chevrolet 1018 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7500</p> <p>"My experience with Duval Chevrolet was great! Michael Beaver & Marshall took care of me. Michael got me the deal I needed & Marshall was there to help close it. The staff was friendly as well. If you're looking around I highly recommend Duval Chevrolet in Starke FL."</p>
<p>Bradford County Sheriffs Office 945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 966-6161</p> <p>"Officer Adam helped me with my flat tire. I was kinda awestruck. I've never had a police officer do something like that for me. I moved to this county from Jacksonville 5 months ago, and I'm really impressed! Officer Adam thank you!"</p>	<p>Big Teal Cleaning 12696 US HWY 301 South, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 903-6746</p> <p>"Took my car to Big Teal cleaning on 301 South Monday and they did a great job for a great price. My car was road trip filthy inside and out and when I left it was shining like a new toy! Nice place, great staff, clean and comfortable waiting room and rest room. I feel like I found a hidden treasure in Starke area. Give them a try and you won't be sorry!"</p>	<p>Sporting Chance 218 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7434</p> <p>"Great experience! Great communication! Very honest people and fair prices! I cannot recommend Beth enough and will NOT GO ANYWHERE else for custom shirts ever again!"</p>
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Splash Bash names parade's Grand Marshal

BY MICHAEL HEEDER
Starke Splash Bash

Starke Splash Bash is honored to announce the Grand Marshal for this year's Splash Bash Parade: American Legion Post 56 Commander Norman Dowdy.

Dowdy, who served in the U.S. Army, retired out and enjoys his time with the American Legion Post 56 in Starke. When he is not tending to Post duties and activities, Dowdy enjoys hunting and fishing.

This year's parade, hosted by the city of Starke, will take a route passing by each larger nursing home in Starke so that seniors and veterans can make their way outside to watch the parade. The parade will begin on Colley Road at the former Southside Elementary School and pass by Riverwood Health and Rehab, then turn on Laura Street, passing Windsor Manor Nursing Center. The parade will continue on Church Street under the overpass, passing by Young Hearts (formerly Parkside Assisted Living) and Wainwright Park before ending



American Legion Post 56 Commander Norman Dowdy

at the Downtown Square by the Veteran's Memorial.

Everyone is invited to watch the parade along the route that takes it under the State Road 100 overpass so residents can watch the parade in the shade. The Bradford County Sheriff's



The route uses Colley Road and Laura and Church streets to take the parade past senior care facilities.

Office is handling the traffic assignment, and Sheriff Gordon Smith, alongside Lawtey Police Chief Jerry Feltner, will lead the third annual parade through downtown Starke.

Everyone who has an old,

tattered American flag looking to properly retire it can bring it with them to the parade, as the Bradford High School JROTC will be hosting a flag exchange at the Memorial after the parade, where a brand new flag will be

given to everyone who turns in an old flag, compliments of Bryan's Ace Hardware in Starke.

The parade steps off at 9 a.m. with a military flyover of vintage World War II aircraft like last year. Applications for the parade

are still being accepted and anyone who wishes to participate can call 904-290-1010 to register.

CODE Continued from page 1

The code requires cell phones, smart watches, music and other devices to be powered off and out of sight on school transportation and on campus unless attending an afterhours event. Violations will result in disciplinary action up to and including a "zero tolerance" consequence. Unauthorized audio and video recording or photographing of students or staff remains prohibited.

The proposed document goes on to amend the various categories of violations and potential consequences. These are based on alignment with the state's School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting requirements or existing school board policy.

Clarke said the definitions of the levels of offense (formerly tiers) as well as examples of violations that fall within the levels are clearer.

New classes for high schoolers

The Student Progression Plan went through a lot of cleanup last year, according to Clarke, so changes this year are minimal. They do, however, include new requirements for high school students.

If adopted, the new plan will require high school students to be enrolled in a career technical education course every year or until passing an industry certification exam unless they are enrolled in the school's Cambridge program or college dual enrollment. To facilitate this requirement, Clarke said some courses from North Florida Technical College would be moved to the high school campus.

The high school is also adding a college and career readiness course for all students. While this will include instruction on college entrance requirements and procedures, it will also include information beneficial to all students such as study habits,

applying for jobs and financial literacy.

Students with difficulty meeting either requirement could be exempted by the principal.

While 24 credits are required for a standard diploma, students can earn up to 28 credits prior to graduation. Earning more than 24 is not necessary to graduate if students complete all the required courses.

"That doesn't mean we're going to add credits on, but within those 24 credits, especially since our students have the opportunity to earn 28 credits, there are some courses and some programs that we as a district feel are important for our students as they move out into the real world," Clarke said.

Budget Inn in Lawtey sold

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

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

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

The buying entity's officers for the property's commercial

portion are Piyush Patel and Chaitalibahen Patel. The motel previously sold for \$375,000 in 2005.

Training offered in youth mental health first aid

Receive free training to recognize, understand and respond to signs of mental health challenges among youth. The free eight-hour training will include information about

adolescent development, youth mental health challenges and a five-step action plan for helping youth.

The training is for adults who interact with youth, including parents, youth leaders, educators, etc. It will take place Saturday, July 20, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Santa Fe Cultural Arts Building, 201 E. Call St. in Starke.

Participants will receive a \$25 gift card. To sign up, visit <https://education.ufl.edu/reach/events>. For more information, call Lana Patterson at 904-964-7732, ext. 1600.

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Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. Competitive Rates, non-profit, right here in your community A Tackman Energy Cooperative Keystone District Office 352-473-4917 • clayelectric.com	Powell's Dairy Freeze After Church on Sunday Come to "Home of the Foot Long Steak" Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night! US 301 NORTH • STARKE, FL	Come Worship with us STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St. • Starke, FL
DOUGLAS BATTERY OF STARKE We rebuild starters, alternators, generators. Auto • Marine • Cycle Batteries 407 N. Temple • 964-7911	REGIONAL OUTREACH HERE thousands weekly 904.964.6305 classads@bctelegraph.com	Morgan Road Baptist Church 3784 NW CR 233 Starke Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Evening Worship 6pm 964-4422 Wednesday Evening 7pm

REVELATION CHURCH

END TIMES

Today I would like to point out the most significant event that will happen in these last days, the event of all events that will bring this dispensation to a close. That event is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior and King! The Bible, God's Word, tells us that Jesus is going to return for His people, and this event is referred to by most Christians as the Rapture, or the catching away of the Church. However, some have and many others will pass form this life before the Rapture happens. Whether by the way of death or the return of our Savior one has to make personal preparation for life after we leave this earth. Many people think they are saved and ready for heaven but in reality, they are not. I had the privilege of leading a gentleman to the Lord several years ago and the question he asked me was, "Can you really know that you're going to heaven and be with Jesus when you die"? I took the scriptures and showed him the truth and that day he made Jesus the Lord of his life. It wasn't very long afterwards that he left this life and moved to Heaven. So, let me share a few truths that will get you ready to meet Jesus. First, you cannot make it to heaven on your name or good works. Secondly, you are never too bad or wicked for God to forgive and save you. Isaiah 64:6 tells us that "all of our righteousness are as filthy rags" and Romans 3:23 tells us that "we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." and Ephesians 2:8-9 says "it is by grace we are saved through faith and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest we should boast." Jesus died on the cross shedding His precious blood and then God raised Him from the dead for the redemption of mankind. John 3:16 tells us that God loved us so much He gave us Jesus so we wouldn't perish but through Him we could have eternal life. So, we cannot save ourselves but God can, and He made provision for every person in the world through Jesus Christ. Based on the truth of God's Word, being ready for the return of Jesus or being prepared to meet the Lord after we pass from this earthly life is based on one simple thing....

what did we do with Jesus? Did we make Him the Lord of our life? I may shock some of you with the following statements but you need to hear the truth. It is not enough to just "believe" in Jesus. It is not enough to believe that He died on the cross, shed His Blood and God raised Him from the dead. You must believe these Bible truths but just believing those truths are not enough to prepare you to meet Jesus. You can believe all of those wonderful truths and still miss heaven and end up in hell, you can believe those truths and miss the Rapture and end up in the Great Tribulation. The question is what have you done with Him? What have you done with Jesus? Have you made Him the Lord of your life? Salvation is not about just believing the wonderful things God accomplished for the human race through Jesus Christ but it is acting on the Word of God and making Him the Lord of your Life. The only way you can be ready for the next life according to Jesus, is to be "Born-Again." In John 3:3 Jesus told Nicodemus "except a man be born-again he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven." In verse 7 Jesus emphasized that truth by saying, "You must be born-again." When a person makes Jesus their Lord and Savior that persons spirit is "born-again." Paul says it like this in 2 Corinthians 5:17 "If any man/woman be in Christ that person is a new creature, or new creation, old things are passed away and behold all things have become new." If you have been born-again, made a new creature in Christ by the Holy Spirit, then you are ready to meet Jesus our Lord. If not, then you are not ready. Romans 10:9-10 says "If we confess with our mouth the LORD JESUS and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved." Notice the emphasis is placed on believing with the heart, confessing with the mouth His "Lordship" over your life. Remember, it's important what you believe about Jesus and even more importantly, what you do with Jesus. My friend, I pray you are ready.

Pastor Rick Norman
REVELATION CHURCH
22610 HWY 301 N, LAWTEY, FL 32058

Starke takes a step toward removing police chief from charter

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke city commissioners have voted to place a proposed charter amendment regarding the police department on the November ballot.

If the ordinance passes the final reading, Starke voters will be asked to vote yes or no on the following question:

Removing the police chief role from the charter

As the city of Starke's police department has been disbanded, shall the charter be amended to remove any reference to the

police department, chief of police and their respective powers?

Establishing the officers of the city, the charter states the city will have "a chief of police; a night police, and such other police as the city commissioners may employ and appoint." Like a commissioner or the city clerk, the chief is elected. The commission has the authority to appoint someone to fill a non-commission vacancy until the next election, but any chief elected or appointed must meet the state requirements for a police officer.

The charter designates the powers of the commission and chief as follows:

"Police: election of chief. To exercise full police powers and establish and maintain a division or department of police, under the control and supervision of the city commissioners, and for that purpose the city commissioners are empowered to employ and appoint an adequate police force, provided, however, that the chief of police shall be elected by the voters of the city of Starke, and to prescribe and regulate by ordinance the duties, term of

office and salary of all police officers."

Most city commissioners, however, have decided not to employ a police force — at least not directly. Instead, they cut law enforcement costs that were on track to hit \$2 million again to \$625,000. That's the amount paid to Sheriff Gordon Smith to take over law enforcement within the city limits.

If approved on second reading, the ordinance will place the question above on the ballot for the general election, taking place

Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Regardless of the outcome, the position of the police chief has been reduced to a ceremonial one. Without a department to run, the salary was reduced to \$1 a year.

Other than appointing City Manager Drew Mullins to act as interim clerk following the resignation of Jimmy Crosby, the commission hasn't made and decisions on the future of the city clerk's office. The commission could hold a special election to ask voters if the clerk should remain an elected position. If not, the office will be open to

candidates during the city's election next year.

In the meantime, the commission is moving the finance department under the manager's oversight, while the future clerk — elected or appointed — maintains responsibility for treasury and records.

The charter referendum could be the first of more changes to come as the founding document hasn't undergone a review in recent times. The commission may appoint a committee to review and suggest changes to modernize the charter.

Starke budget includes raises, investment income and no utility transfer

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke's budget for next year — still a work in progress — continues to show a shift in priorities and changes in the way the city does business.

In the first of three scheduled workshops, Operations Director Jimmy Crosby presented a draft of the general government budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

In preparing the budget presentation, Crosby said similar assumptions were made this year as last year, including a 5% cost of living adjustment for employees. Another 5% was added for performance and competitive pay increases for those who earn them and to keep the city competitive with other employers. Crosby said the commission's willingness

to allow management to do this within the budget has improved the quality of the city's workforce.

The budget for health insurance was increased by 10%, with 7% added for liability insurance. An additional 5% was included for retirement costs, with 3% added to cover increases in other areas.

Crosby said they have also included operational reserves and contingency reserves in the general fund. Contingency reserves will cover revenue shortfalls or unanticipated expenses. Operational reserves will cover the city in the case of unexpected events or emergencies such as a natural disaster or economic crisis. They have set aside enough to cover operations for three months.

More than \$900,000 in

contingency reserves, \$1.22 million in operational reserves and \$1.26 million in capital outlay are largely responsible for pushing the general fund costs for "other government services" from \$2.03 million to \$5.48 million. Included in that is a \$300,000 placeholder for code enforcement, as the city doesn't know what its costs will be for moving forward with cleaning up properties. The capital outlay could include projects such as CityWalk, the veterans park, other acquisitions and enhancements downtown, recreation park improvements or even funds for grant matching.

The city has also budgeted \$625,000 for the sheriff to provide law enforcement and \$1.2 million for the fire department, bringing the total

general fund expenses to \$7.3 million.

On the revenue side, the city anticipates receiving \$1.2 million in property taxes, \$1.28 million in local option taxes, \$250,000 in state revenue sharing, \$642,000 in utility taxes and \$741,000 in other revenue along with its \$3.19 million in budgeted reserves.

Crosby said the city hasn't budgeted all the money it has in the bank. If the commission needed access to additional funding, it could vote to spend more through a midyear budget amendment.

He also said the money isn't just sitting in the bank. At his suggestion, the city has been investing funds in CDs with local banks and using an interlocal government investment pool

known as FLCLASS, the Florida Cooperative Liquid Assets Security System. Since the first quarter of 2023, Crosby said the city has made more than \$460,000 in interest income.

This is more interest income that the city received in the previous 12 years combined, he said.

Noticeably absent from the revenue supporting the general fund was a large transfer of utility revenue. Typically, a transfer — sometimes as much as \$1 million — is required to balance the general fund, but not in the budget proposed for next year.

Crosby said as far as he knows — and he sat on the commission in the 1980s — this is the first time in many years a transfer from utilities was not used to balance the budget. This was

the goal when City Manager Drew Mullins approached the commission last year with a plan to prioritize utility infrastructure by using that revenue where it is most needed.

Based on this budget, the tax rate won't be adjusted next year. Unless the commission votes to adopt a rollback during a future meeting, this will result in an advertised tax increase based on increases in property values.

At the next budget workshop, Mullins will present the enterprise fund budget, which is the fund for the utility departments. It will take place at 4:30 p.m. prior to the city's meeting on July 2.

REPS

Continued from page 1

Scott added that he was sickened when he realized how far Washington had drifted from the intent of the Constitution's framers.

The senator said one example of how the system works is reflected in his attempt to get Florida its fair share of federal transportation funding, which he calculated should have been around six percent of the total, based on the nation's population.

"You know how the money's allocated?" he asked. "It's allocated based on the population 35 years ago. Why would that be? Well, Kentucky hasn't been growing a lot lately, and neither has New York."

Scott told the audience he forced a vote to reallocate the funding according to the current population, in which 34 states would have gotten more money.

"So, logically, two senators

at a state, I should have gotten 68 votes, right? I got 14."

Interest payments bigger than defense budget

"The reason why our federal government is screwed up is we've allowed people to have unbelievably concentrated power," he concluded. "Concentrated power corrupts."

Scott promised that if he is successful in getting the Republican leadership post, things will change.

"We have to change the way this place is run," he insisted. "We'll be at \$35 trillion in debt within a month. We're not adding full-time jobs. Don't believe any of the Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers. We're adding part-time jobs with workers going into retail. There are no full-time jobs being added. Our interest expense is bigger than our defense budget."

"Look at what we've done to our families," he continued. "Grocery prices are probably up at least 30%. Gas prices were up 50%. Housing is up 50%. Name anything that you have to buy. It's skyrocketed. We've had a 2% increase in our population and a 55% increase in (federal) spending in five years."

Scott said he is encouraged because many Americans are just as fed up with Washington as he is.

"People are mad," he said. "They're furious. Seventy-five percent of Americans say we're on the wrong track. Biden is a disaster."

'I take a lot of crap...'

U.S. Rep. Kat Cammack also griped about her party's leaders by criticizing the practice of earmarks and complaining about how House rules are written and passed.

The first-term House member and former chief of staff for Congressman Ted Yoho said she is only two of Florida's 20 Republican House members who refuse to request funds for specific projects within their districts. The other is Rep. Aaron Bean, who represents Clay and Nassau counties, in addition to western Duval.

"I take a lot of crap for not doing earmarks," she said. "I

think that was a really dumb thing that we, as Republicans, did in bringing earmarks back."

"I think that earmarks are abused," she continued. "I think that they're used to deepen the swamp in Washington D.C., and they're held over your head for political leverage."

She then criticized one Republican colleague who told her that while earmarks should be utilized when a Democrat is in the White House, they would not be necessary when a Republican occupies the nation's highest office.

"The problem is that it is always a matter of convenience," she said. "You're either a constitutional conservative or you're not. You don't get to pick and choose what you uphold from one day to the next. It's the flip-flopping and the hypocrisy that has everyone so mad, and rightfully so."

Cammack said she was appalled when, after a \$61 billion aid package to Ukraine was approved, a measure she voted against, House members broke out Ukraine flags and waved them on the House floor.

Cammack said she intends to prohibit displaying foreign flags on the House floor into the body's official rules package.

"The rules package is the most important, yet least understood or talked about piece of legislation in Congress," she explained.

"It dictates how we operate and effectively govern, but many people don't know about it. It dictates how many hours we get to read a bill, how many subjects can be included, whether earmarks are allowed, whether you can raise taxes, whether you can vote by proxy. It's a very important document, but no one wants to talk about it. It's the dirty little secret in Washington."

The third-generation commercial sandblaster then blasted the rules package itself.

"They want to be able to slip all this stuff into the rules package and make it so that you cannot be the best, most effective representative for your district," she said. "Why? Because they want to consolidate power."

Cammack declared that she had spent much of her time in Washington trying to dismantle the concentration of power in the House at a time when her own party was in control.

Like Scott, she pledged that things would be different in Washington if she got her way.

"We are going to make sure that no foreign nations flags will be flown in the United States Capitol," she said. "We will make sure that we have single-issue bills. We will make sure that you cannot increase taxes, and every bill that you have that spends money has to be offset."

The law-and-order state

State Rep. Chuck Brannan introduced Scott to the audience.

However, before bringing up the senator, Brannan spent a few minutes summarizing what he characterized as the legislature's successes in the 2024 term.

He called Florida a law-and-order state and pointed out House Bill 3, which prevents children under age 14 from becoming account holders on social media platforms. He declared that with the new law, he and his colleagues told Silicon Valley that Florida children do not belong to them; they belong to parents.

"We expanded mental health services here in Florida," Brannan added, summarizing the session, "we stood up for our ally Israel and, in a unified Florida voice, declared never again. We put aside historic reserves."

Brannan then reviewed his own bill, HB 453, which eliminated the requirement to carry a concealed weapons permit.

He also contrasted Florida's policies with those of other states, like California, Illinois, and New York, which he claimed robbed citizens of freedom and grew government to unsustainable levels.

"Florida, I think, has chosen the brighter path, and I'm honored to be a part of the Florida House of Representatives," he said.

Brannan then expanded the scope of what he said were his and his colleague's achievements, reaching back to last year's parental rights and education bill, what he called anti-riot legislation, voting and election reforms, and last year's pay raise for correctional officers.

The Macclenny lawmaker, who represents Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Union, and northern Alachua counties, then focused on state funding he helped direct to Bradford County, including money for public safety communications, funding for fire trucks and a fire station in Brooker, and water resources in Hampton and Starke.

Brannan also highlighted Tallahassee's response to the culture wars, emphasizing the state's bans on critical race theory, sanctuary cities, and diversity, equity, and inclusion policies.

"We even kicked men out of women's sports, if you can believe that one," he said.

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

LAKE BUTLER
145 SW 6th Ave.
496-3079

Peggy Line could provide economic boost for Starke

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A CSX manager told Bradford County's economic development group that the area could find new employers by marketing the community's proximity to the Peggy Line, which runs from Starke to Alachua.

Aubry Brown, a senior business development manager for the railroad, told Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation members that many manufacturers and distributors are looking for railroad access and that the Peggy Line gives the

Starke area an advantage over other communities.

He added that constructing an access point in his railroad's main line, which runs from Jacksonville through Baldwin, Starke, Ocala, Wildwood, and onto South Florida, costs nearly \$1 million. However, an access point on the Peggy Line, now owned by a short-line operator, would cost shippers a fraction of that cost. He also said scheduling pickup along the main line is problematic.

"Forty-five trains in a 24-hour period," he said of the rail traffic

passing through Starke. "That's hard to stop. We distribute about two-thirds of South Florida's automotive fleet by that railroad."

Brown gave the group several examples of new employers attracted by railroad access, including egg producer Cal-Main Foods in Dade City, the IKO roofing facility now under construction in Clay County, and two Home Depot distribution centers, one in Gibsonton near Tampa, and a second near Atlanta.



Aubry Brown, a senior business development manager for CSX Transportation, told Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation members that many manufacturers and distributors are looking for railroad access and that the Peggy Line gives the Starke area an advantage over other communities. Also pictured is the development corporation's strategic business partner, Amber Shepherd.

Civility policy outlined for school employees

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford School Board members are considering a new civility policy for employees that outlines behavioral expectations toward one another and the public.

Human Services Director Aimee Ferguson presented a first draft of the proposed policy during a workshop on June 17.

"We have a professional misconduct policy now, but we also thought the district would benefit from a basic policy on civility formalizing employee conduct and character," Ferguson said. "Just as we have student expectations, we have expectations for our employees."

According to the policy, meaningful communication is based on trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. These are "the foundation of the expectations the district holds for its employees." They are further expected to be responsive and provide quality customer service.

To meet those expectations, employees should:

- share information as appropriate and return calls within the expected time frame (48 hours).
- treat others with courtesy and respect, listen to other opinions, and never communicate with loud or offensive language, gestures or profanity.
- take responsibility for their actions and refrain from

displays of temper and disrupting classroom activities or other functions.

—treat everyone fairly without regard for their status or position.

—be kind and considerate by treating others as they would like to be treated.

—be good citizens and foster cooperation by obeying school and district rules, sharing information for the common good and provide a timely response when asked for assistance.

The policy states employees shall treat all members of the public with professionalism and courtesy, and they also have a reasonable expectation that they will be treated with civility by members of the public.

Insurance

Medical insurance costs will be up for the school district, which is helping absorb the increase for more than 200 district employees who use the plan.

Ferguson explained the renewal began by looking at the district's medical loss ratio, which compares how much of the premiums paid are covering claims versus the insurance company's administrative costs and profit.

The loss ratio was 99% at the end of May because of the high-cost claims. One claim was more than \$210,000.

At that rate, an increase was unavoidable, and the first quote from Florida Blue was 19% more

expensive for employer and employee, Ferguson said. That was an cost increase of more than \$1 million. They shopped around, but Aetna would not provide a quote, and the quote from United Healthcare would have raised costs 28%.

Ferguson then shared the good news that Florida Blue had offered a one-month premium holiday — so the district and employees would pay for 11 months instead of 12. That reduced the increase from 19% to 9.1%.

She said the insurance committee proposed passing along the total savings to the employees.

Florida Blue also offered to provide another \$50,000 in wellness money, which this year has gone to health screenings, gym memberships and other benefits. Next year, \$40,000 of that cost would be used to lower employee premiums as well.

The district would be contributing \$5,436 for the employee-only plan next year and \$10,020 for the family plan.

Dental insurance costs will remain the same, but the plan is changing to a network with hundreds of more providers, than includes dentists in Starke and Keystone Heights.

There is a 5% increase if an employee purchases additional life insurance, but the basic vision, life and visibility insurance costs are unchanged.

Brooker fire assessment depends on new station

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Special to the Telegraph

The town of Brooker has been anxiously awaiting the governor's signing of the budget in hopes that the proposed fire station would be funded. At the June meeting, Clerk Charlene Thomas noted that the county sent a proposed ordinance for the town to enact in order to have their residents participate in Bradford's possible upcoming fire assessment.

Mayor Gene Melvin said any meeting about imposing the fire assessment on the town's people is premature because Brooker has no fire station. He commented that it took 23 minutes plus five minutes set up for a recent fire response. County Commissioner Diane Andrews said she was not aware of the proposed ordinance sent to Brooker, but was anticipating Brooker getting the requested funding.

Since then, the governor made his vetoes to the legislature's budget, and Brooker was not on the chopping block. The funds actually go to Bradford County, which will operate the new station along with other county fire and EMS services.

Fire Chief Ben Carter submitted the funding request and described the need. "The town of Brooker has a goal to staff a full-time career paid fire station. The town is one of the most rural portions of Bradford County with fire and EMS response taking a minimum of 15 minutes from the closest station. Funds will be used for design, engineering, sitework and construction of a new fire station for the town, which will result in shorter response times, greatly expanding and improving the fire and EMS service to the community." The request was for \$1 million in funding at 100%, meaning no matching funds required by the county.

According to Chief Carter, 50% of the funding will come first with no match required. It will be strictly for construction of the fire station with the other 50% coming the following year to equip the facility. Andrews told the Brooker Town Council that the fire assessment being discussed by the county should come in at around \$200 per household.

There was a question on the form about whether ARPA funds were received and the response detailed how Brooker used their \$168,287 of pandemic related funds.

"The funds were used for various capital improvement projects around the town of Brooker to include repairs, upgrades and expansion of the town's parks, buildings and water system (meters and fire hydrants); to pay vendors for various work

associated with advertising and signage; mapping/GIS of water lines; installation of a new well, playground equipment, memorial markers, gutters and fire hydrants; maintenance of the town's sidewalks; website design; sitework at city hall; the purchase of radar signs; and the purchase and installation of new virtual meeting equipment; and to provide \$1,000 bonuses to two administrative staff for additional duties and \$10,000 was contributed to BCS Charter School, a nonprofit organization." In other business, the pickle ball court is a big hit. The community center building is being rented and upgrades are in the works. With this new fire station funding, the town council will have a lot to celebrate and also some serious considerations to discuss at the next meeting.

The Fourth of July in Melrose

BY KATE ELLISON
MBCA

The Melrose Business and Community Association sponsors a boat parade every year around Melrose Bay, then around all of Lake Santa Fe and Little Lake Santa Fe.

This year we are adding a picnic in the park. Thursday, July 4, starts with a boat tour of Melrose Bay at 10 a.m. (If needed, you can launch from the Jill McGuire - Alachua County Boat Ramp). Drive past the beach park in Melrose to have your boat's photo taken. The theme for your decorations, of course, is the stars and stripes of the U.S. flag.

Then at 10:45, boats will gather west of "the Latchstring" and begin to circumnavigate both lakes starting at 11 a.m. This takes about an hour and a half.

Meanwhile, MBCA will hold a picnic in Melrose Bay Park, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will serve a hotdog, chips and a soda for \$5. This is a fundraiser and membership drive, so MBCA is offering a \$10 Beach Park Membership with the purchase of two hotdog meals, and with \$20 you can purchase 4 hotdog meals and receive a voting membership in MBCA.

MBCA is the civic organization for all of Melrose. We intend to bring in new members and new

ideas to move Melrose forward. In addition to the boat parade, we host the Christmas parade and lights, and make sure the Melrose Beach Park is safe and fully maintained.

MBCA is working with the authorities on ways to make S.R. 26 through Melrose a safer road for pedestrians. It is our mission to support local businesses and our residents as issues come up.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 6 p.m. at the Dancing Fish Barn. For further info, contact Barbara at 352-218-4036 or franklin@keystoneheightsins.com.

Minesinger is grand marshal for Keystone July 4 parade

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Lake Region Kiwanis is honoring a retired optometrist as its grand marshal for the 2024 Keystone Heights Sounds of Freedom Independence Day parade.

Jim Minesinger, a 50-year Rotarian, practiced in Keystone Heights for 48 years.

The city's July 4th activities begin with the Freedom 5K at 8 a.m. The Sounds of Freedom Parade, presented by Lake Region Kiwanis, starts at 11 a.m. with vendors, food trucks, and other events around city hall at 9.

Fireworks begin at 9:30 p.m.

Centennial group selling calendars

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The group organizing the celebration of Keystone Heights's 100-year anniversary has completed a historical calendar of the city and plans to sell it during the town's July 4th celebration.

The Friends of Keystone Heights also continued planning events throughout 2025, discussed sponsorship levels for the celebration, and viewed designs for centennial outerwear during their June 20 meeting.

Chair Ginger Lee also began recruiting members to man a Friends of Keystone Heights booth during the city's Independence Day celebration near city hall.

Lee said the team's presence at the event will be to raise awareness about the upcoming centennial and recruit volunteers. In addition to selling the



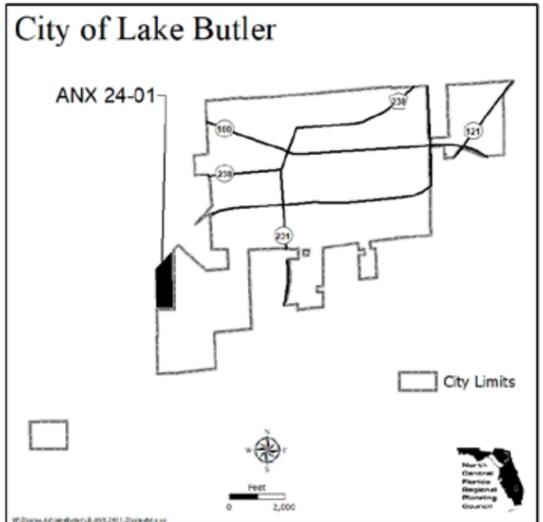
Friends of Keystone Heights member Harold Gilstrap shows off a possible design for the group's centennial T-shirt.

calendars, the group will be accepting donations.

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 171.044, Florida Statutes, as amended, that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on July 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall, located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida. At the aforementioned meeting all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The complete legal description of the area to be annexed, as well as a copy of the ordinance, can be obtained from the Office of the City Manager in the City Hall, at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

Ordinance No. 2024-04, Petition No. ANX 24-01, by the City Commission, provides for the voluntary annexation of a parcel of land contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, as shown on the location map below. The area to be annexed is located in Section 36 Township 5 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. The area to be annexed consists of 27.60 acre, more or less.



The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO PETITION NO. ANX 24-01, RELATING TO VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION; MAKING FINDINGS; ANNEXING TO AND INCLUDING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, WHICH IS REASONABLY COMPACT, AND CONTIGUOUS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the City Manager's Office at 386.496.3401 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

Lake Butler has new public works director

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The city of Lake Butler has a new public works director and, after about a month on the job, he says he likes his new position just fine but is quick to point out that he is still learning.

Sam Norris retired from the Department of Corrections after a 30-year career, much of which was spent not only in security work but also in teaching classes at the Corrections Academy, where new correctional officers learn what they need to know to become certified. Upon retiring from DOC he went to work for Sheffield Pest Control in what he thought would be his "retirement job," but Lake Butler City Manager Kimberly Hayes (who had worked with him at DOC and admired his work ethic and people skills) invited him to apply for the position with the city. He did and was selected from among several applicants. His first day was May 8, 2024.

Norris said he is enjoying his



Sam Norris, new city of Lake Butler public works director.

new job and has had not problems with other department employees or members of the public. He said his approach is hands on, often working alongside other workers to get a job done. He said that in many ways it was like any other supervisory position.

"You see what they need,

make sure they have it and then we are ready to go," Norris said.

When asked to describe his position, Norris said it was a little bit of everything. City roads, mowing, water pipes and maintaining city buildings and the parks all fall under his job description. He works well with the county when it is a shared responsibility or when he needs their assistance. In the county he said he deals mainly with the solid waste and potable water departments.

Norris credits his father, J.T. Parrish, and his brother, Craig Falstreaux, with teaching him many of his job skills. Parrish was a contractor and a farmer, who also oversaw the maintenance yard for the Union County School District for several years, while Falstreaux is known in the region for his HVAC business, based in Starke.

Norris has been busy in his new role, saying he hit the ground running and is still going just about the same speed. He has

been looking after the Townsend Building (getting figures together for the needed re-roofing) and the Community Center, bringing the parks up to a higher standard and struggling with the Splash Park. He said he is trying to get the Splash Park ready for Independence Day weekend and has found someone to consult on the electrical problems that have plagued the operation of the site, almost from day one. He thanked Tru Blu Pools for their assistance in helping to monitor the water treatment.

"My philosophy is simple," Norris said. "I never see a glass as half empty. Never tell me something can't be done. I always try to find a shining light in adversity and look for a positive in every situation. I get that from my Dad."

Norris was born in Ocala but lived in Union and Bradford counties since the age of three. He has two children, a boy and a girl, both grown and already giving him grandchildren. He

says this makes him not only a father but also a "Pop-Pop." With two grandchildren already another expected in October he is happy to serve both rolls. He said family is very important to him and his favorite pastime is spent in family activities.

Like many residents of the county he said he loves to hunt and fish. He enjoys both fresh and saltwater fishing, but especially in freshwater going after speckled perch and crappie. He is a member of a family oriented hunt club in Georgia, where he goes after everything from squirrels to deer.

When not doing any of the above he said he enjoys fixing things.

"I come from a working family," Norris said. "We had chickens and hay. Most of my family doesn't know what to do with free time but to work."

When he decides to take a break he said he enjoys music of all kinds - "Mozart to Metallica," and is a dedicated Gator fan.

Norris said he is learning to work within a budget and said his highest priority is the safety of the people who come in contact with his departments work. He said he prefers to work behind the scenes, not making big changes but gradual, subtle improvements where needed. He also said that he is always open to listening and learning from other who may have solutions he had not thought of.

"I always try to do my best," Norris said. "As always I have hit the ground running, but some days it feels more like I am dog-paddling as fast as I can. That comes from being a student of life, I want to learn and experience everything I can."

Norris said he is also pleased with the many compliments he and his department have been getting about the improvement of the condition of the city parks and he said he thanks city residents for noticing and taking the time to comment.

Clay Electric's profit drops by a third Keystone grad thrives at Amazon

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Clay Electric Cooperative reported a 12% decrease in

revenue in 2023, which resulted in a 30% drop in the utility's margin for the same period.

The member-owned power provider said its 2023 energy

sales totaled \$404 million, down from \$457 million in 2022. The co-op's margin decreased to \$18.8 million in 2023, down from \$26.8 million the previous year.

Much of the revenue decrease was due to the cooperative lowering the power cost adjustment it bills members. CEO and General Manager Ricky Davis said the co-op lowered the cost of power to its members by 20% during the year due to the PCA decrease.

July sobriety checkpoints

During the month of July, 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.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A former softball standout at Keystone Heights High School told a Lake Region civic group that with her career at Amazon.com on the rise, she and her new husband are returning to her family's roots in beef cattle.

Kelsey Waters, a 2013 KHHS graduate, the 2012 Miss KHHS scholarship pageant winner, and all-state outfielder, updated the Keystone Heights Rotary Club on her career during the group's June 12 meeting.

The former Stetson University softball standout is the daughter of Jerry and Donna Waters. She said one of the highlights of her high school career was her membership in FFA. She led the club during her senior year as president but never participated in the cattle or swine shows in which ag students typically partake.

"I was too busy doing softball and everything else to go along with school," she told the group, adding that she planned to get into agriculture after college, but the Keystone FFA was as close as she got.

Sixth generation farmer

Waters said she recently returned to the family business after she and her new husband talked to her parents about buying some of their cattle and raising the animals on the family's Hawthorne property.

She added that she met her husband at Fleming Island's Church of the Eleven22 and that the Navy air-crewman had always wanted to be a farmer.

"Historically, my husband and I now are technically the sixth generation with my brother on the property that we have down in Hawthorne," she said.

Lost in athletics

Waters said that through college, her life centered around softball.

"My Dad probably had a softball in my crib, but I can't remember that far back," she said.

Her dedication to the sport paid off. She now ranks among Stetson's all-time statistical leaders in batting average: .317, slugging percentage: .513, on-base percentage: .412, home runs: 15, total bases: 220, walks: 67 and stolen bases: 49. Her 12 career triples rank second all-time in school history.

She recalled, however, that when she saw her life's passion winding down, she struggled with finding direction for the next stage in her life.

"When that ended or when it was coming to an end," she recalled, "I found myself pretty lost because in athletics, you're expected to put everything in. You sleep, and the way you eat is around your athletics. The way that you studied revolved around practice. Your weekends were

nothing but athletic events."

One option she considered was becoming a strength and conditioning coach.

However, a LinkedIn message from an Amazon.com recruiter changed her career trajectory.

The recruiter asked if she would be interested in an interview, and Waters initially rejected the idea.

"I said, no, I'm good," she remembered. "So, I turned it down, and then I talked with my Mom and said, Mom, I do not want to work in a warehouse."

She said her mother asked, "What's the worst that can happen? Just go to the interview, and if you get an offer you don't like, just turn it down."

Waters accepted what she described as a very generous offer for a recent college graduate from the company. However, she quickly tired of the overnight shifts at a Jacksonville warehouse.

One thing she did gain from her first year with the e-commerce giant was respect for night-time workers.

"Those are the most hardworking people I have ever met in my entire life," she told the Rotarians. "A lot of those folks, it's their second, their third job, and this is just to make some more income."

Screens and airports

The turning point in Waters' career came in 2018 with the opening of a new warehouse in the Atlanta area.

Typically, when the company opens a new sort center, experienced leaders from other warehouses come in to ensure the building gets up and running to a strong start.

Since her own sort center was short-staffed, the operations manager had yet to find an area manager to travel to Atlanta. Waters volunteered to drive to North Georgia to train the new warehouse staff on her days off.

The experience revealed to Waters what she wanted to do within the company, and she started working to land a permanent job on the launch team.

"I spent that next year within Amazon, and I tied weekly one-on-one meetings with the team that did those launches," she said. "I asked, what does my resume need to show for me to have a chance to get on this team?"

She took on more projects, participated in more launches, talked to more people, and, after a year, landed a spot on the team.

Waters exchanged night shifts in a warehouse on Jacksonville's westside for a virtual job with no office.

"After that move, I received a promotion every single year," she said. "I became the owner of what they call the sort center network within Amazon."

She attributed much of her rapid ascent to COVID.

Waters said that in her new role, she fell back on the



Kelsey Waters, a 2013 KHHS graduate, the 2012 Miss KHHS scholarship pageant winner, and all-state outfielder, updated the Keystone Heights Rotary Club on her career during the group's June 12 meeting.

communications skills she learned in Keystone's FFA program to navigate the virtual office world effectively.

"It's understanding how to verbally communicate and in writing," she said. "It's how you hold yourself on-site, the emotional intelligence as well. You have certain customers who might want very blunt feedback...You have other personalities who like to have the banter and the small talk, leading to more important discussions."

Waters and her team are responsible for launching 24 Amazon warehouses throughout North America this year and around the same number next year.

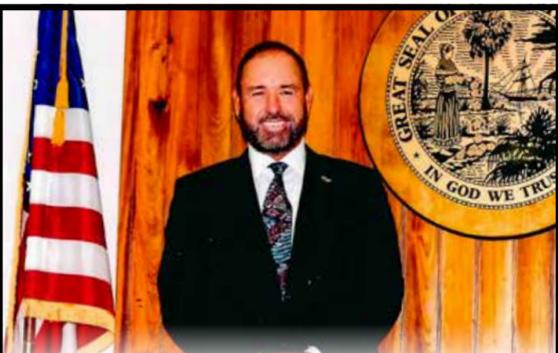
Direct-to-consumer beef

Two weeks after their wedding, Waters and her husband talked to her parents about the newlyweds breaking into the beef business.

"We do direct-to-consumer beef sales, mostly in Jacksonville right now, but once he gets out of the Navy, he is going to help drive that with the intent to kind of impact communities," Waters said, adding that the couple plans to make their business debut at the Our Country Day parade.

She added that the business will feature an educational component as well as sales.

"We are hoping to educate more students about agriculture, business, and how to get into this world in terms of both, where it's not just driving a tractor, you can also do something different in the agricultural community."



I would like to say thank you to the citizens of Union County for allowing me to continue serving as your county commissioner for District 5. It's truly an honor and privilege to serve our County. I value your support so very much.
-Willie Croft
District 5

Paid political advertisement, paid for by Willie Croft Republican for district 5 County Commissioner



Members of the organizational committee for the Community Wide Back to School Bash.

Pictured are (l-r): Demetrise Thomas, Lisa Huggins, Tina Lloyd, Mendy Whitaker and Ann Hendricks. Not pictured: Alexandra Pritchett, Amanda Fort, Carly Loznicka, Cathryn Reagan and Jill Walding.

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR 700 UNION CO. STUDENTS ON JULY 13

Union County School students start the new school year on Aug. 12, 2024 and local parents are already counting their funds and planning for what they will need to buy their children to be ready for the big day.

Like everything else, clothing and school supplies have gotten more expensive, making it difficult for many families to supply their children with everything they need to succeed in school.

But local parents can stop worrying about those pricey school supplies because the **Community Wide Back to School Bash** is back, for its second year, and all the Union County students can come and get their school supplies in one place.

The event has changed locations from last year and made the move to the Union County High School bus ramp, located in front of the gymnasium. The event starts at 8 a.m. and runs through 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 13, 2024. This year promises to be an even bigger event as the last, with more supplies, socks, underwear and hygiene products available for all students free of charge. The organizers have acquired necessary supply lists from all three Union County schools and will have them available. In addition to school supplies, there will be backpacks, food, sno-cones, popcorn and more.

At the beginning of the day there will be breakfast items on hand as well. There will be drawings for five chrome books and nine gift cards during the event. There will also be vendors and information tables on site to provide information about the services available for students and their families.

Event organizers are very excited about the upcoming event. These organizers include: Tina Lloyd, Ann Hendricks, Lisa Huggins, Mendy Whitaker, Alexandra Pritchett, Amanda Fort, Carly Loznicka, Cathryn Reagan, Demetrise Thomas and Jill Walding. Organizers began planning the project in March. The committee stated that they were very appreciative of the amount of support and funding they have received for the event.

"There has been a tremendous increase in funding and community involvement from last year," Lloyd said. "People like to see so many community leaders and members working together on one event to benefit our young people."

Sponsors for the event have donated \$14,500 in cash to be used for the purchase of school supplies, as well as 700 backpacks and gym bags. These sponsors include: Andrews Site Prep, Pritchett Trucking, Nextran Trucking Centers, Life-South, Lake Butler Hospital,

"We hope that everyone who needs school supplies for their children will come out and take advantage of this event"

West Fraser, Lake Butler Rotary, Lake Butler Womens Club, Shadd Trucking, Liberty Trucking, Woodmen Life, Spires IGA, North Florida Equipment Rentals, Acorn Clinic, Culture House Church, Victory Christian, Union Beverage, Body of Christ Assembly, 20 Strong, Laredos, Union County Housing Authority, Union Power, White Crane Karate & Kubudo, Nutrition Hideaway, Freestate Realty, DLP Bank, PepsiCo, CTC Delicious BBQ and Union County Education Foundation.

Thanks to these generous sponsors the event will be ready to serve 700 students with their school supply needs.

Any supplies remaining from the event will be given to the three Union County Schools so that they can find their way into the hands of students in need of them, just as was done last year.

"We hope that everyone who needs school supplies for their children will come out and take advantage of this event," Lloyd said. "Our aim is to assist the community and their youngsters to be ready for very important day - the first day of school."

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

Tyler Henry Beers, 32, of Hawthorne, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 17 for a probation violation.

Shelley Cain Byrne, 61, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 17 for failure to appear, possession of drugs, destroying evidence, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Cayla Nicole Carter, 33, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 21 for resisting an officer and harming a public servant.

Darrell Michael Dyal, 48, of Orange Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 15 for DUI, resisting an officer, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jah'mya Shaquail Denise Henderson, 24, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 21 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and fraud-impersonation.

James Disean Hires, 38, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for failure to appear.

Cori Leann Hudson, 43, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 17 for larceny and burglary.

Printis Lynn Jefferson, 44, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 19 for withholding support.

Earl Johnson, 31, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for possession of cocaine, driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, and possession of drugs.

Leslie Gordon Johnson, 62, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 21 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and a weapons offense.

Frank Leamon Kern, 34, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 21 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Thomas Lee Macey, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford

deputies on June 16 for lewd and lascivious behavior and sexual assault.

Luis Eder Martinez Lopez, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 15 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jennifer Lynatte Maschman, 33, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for an out-of-county warrant.

James Michael Massey, 40, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 17 for withholding support.

Shakira Rashana Mobley, 32, of Jacksonville, was arrested by FHP troopers on June 21 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Shane Christopher Newton, 22, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for possession of drugs, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug equipment.

Caleb Robert Nugent, 20, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 17 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and possession of marijuana.

Gari Alaina Perry, 34, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for a probation violation.

Jaulicia Marie Pope, 30, of Atlantic Beach, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 18 for failure to appear.

Alexis Marie Privalle, 25, of Gainesville, was arrested by Lawtey police on June 17 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, driving with an expired tag, and fraud.

Carolyn Sanders, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for battery and aggravated battery.

Allen David Schmidt, 34, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Curtis Lee Simmons, 36, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 19 for an out-of-county warrant.

Teddrick Maurice Thomas, 34, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 16 for resisting an officer, driving with a suspended or revoked license, hit and run, and a conditional release violation.

Kenneth Elton Varnes, 45, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 18 for a probation violation.

Carrie Lee Wheeler, 37, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 16 for child neglect and DUI.

Commanieakil Isiah Williams, 26, of Chattanooga,

Tennessee, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for trafficking in drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Reginald Bruce Wilson, 41, of Lauderdale Lakes, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 20 for failure to appear.

Union

Caden Michael Barrett, 21, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 17 for failure to appear.

Leroy L Clark III, 49, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on June 23 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Vontavis Tyrea Meyers, 31, of Cocoa, was arrested by Union deputies on June 20 for failure to appear.

Kevin Webster Sayler, 37, of Gainesville, was arrested by Union deputies on June 17 for possession of drug equipment.

Sylvester Warren Jr., 47, of Gainesville, was arrested by Union deputies on June 17 for disorderly intoxication.

Clay

Carl Wayne Chatman, 60, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 20 for battery.

Christopher Trent James Gilstrap, 24, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 17 for petit theft.

2 retired correctional officers arrested

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said it arrested Benjamin Gerard Smith, 57, of Live Oak, and Donald Howard, 57, of Starke, on felony charges for possessing and transmitting child sexual abuse material on July 18.

The state agency said Smith and Howard are retired correctional officers.

"After retiring from his corrections position, Smith was terminated from his job at an elementary school following allegations of inappropriate contact with children," FDLE said in a news release.

The inquiry of the Live Oak man began on June 3 when FDLE agents received a National Center for Missing and Exploited Children cyber tip that an account holder was sharing files depicting the sexual abuse of children.

The investigation identified Smith as the account holder residing in Suwanee County. Agents also located records showing Smith's account sharing child sexual abuse material with another account holder, whom agents identified to be Howard, living in Bradford County.

On June 18, agents served separate warrants on Smith and Howard's residences. The Bradford County Sheriff's Office assisted in serving Howard's warrant. Electronic devices were seized at both locations, and preliminary forensic exams of each of the suspects' devices located multiple files of children being sexually abused.

Smith was arrested and booked into the Suwanee County Jail. Howard was arrested and booked into the Bradford County Jail. Additional charges are possible pending further forensic analysis.

Jail time for ex-employee

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A former convenience store clerk was sentenced to 120 days in jail and three years' probation after she pleaded to stealing from her former employer.

Talissa Sharay Davis, 31, of Starke, was arrested in 2023 for burglary and larceny. She pleaded to both charges on June 5.

According to a sworn complaint dated July 10, 2023, the store manager told deputies Davis resigned as a clerk on July 2. On that same day, her deposit from store sales was \$220 short.

According to the report, on July 9, a store surveillance video shows a person identified as Davis entering the store at 11:30 p.m., shortly after the business closed. The intruder attempted to disarm the store's alarm. However, Davis's access code had been deactivated when she quit. Starke Police Sgt. Frank Krol wrote that the ex-worker had refused to turn in her key to the business.

Krol reported that Davis is seen on the video taking a bank bag from under the cash register, removing \$230.82, and placing it in the safe before leaving.

The defendant was also ordered to pay a Sunoco on South Walnut Street \$450.82 in restitution.

Arsonist sentenced to 5 years

A 40-year-old Starke man was sentenced to five years behind bars after he pleaded to burning down his parents' home.

Jeffery Paul Gaudette pleaded to arson of an occupied dwelling. After being accused of the felony in September 2021, the defendant was ruled incompetent to proceed twice before a judge said he could stand trial.

Because Gaudette was in Florida Department of Children and Families confinement for the

1,008 days he was undergoing psychological evaluation, he faces less than 2.25 years remaining on his sentence.

Judge James Colaw also ordered Gaudette to pay over \$57,000 to the victims' homeowners insurance company.

Poured gasoline on living room floor

According to a sworn complaint, the defendant and his wife went next door to his parents' home shortly after midnight on September 2, 2021, to calm Gaudette down after he became agitated during an argument.

The defendant's wife told deputies that Gaudette demanded that everyone place their phones on the floor because he thought they were using the devices to record him or call law enforcement.

"Jeffery continued to tell his mother and stepfather to hand over their phones, to which they did not comply, and Jeffery became more angry," wrote Detective James Crews of the sheriff's office.

"Jeffery then grabbed a knife from the kitchen, went into the front yard, and slashed the tires on multiple cars."

The defendant then returned inside, grabbed his stepfather's phone, and smashed it on the floor before attacking the 72-year-old. The two men wrestled on the floor.

"(The wife) was terrified Jeffery was going to seriously injure his stepfather," Crews wrote.

The defendant then went to the front porch, grabbed a gasoline can, and poured the fluid on the living room floor. After his wife and mother again refused to give up their phones, Gaudette grabbed a lighter and ignited a fire.

After starting the blaze, the defendant panicked and tried to put out the flames, running to his house and returning with a bucket of water. While he was attempting to extinguish the flames, law enforcement arrived.

Deputies first extinguished the 12-foot diameter fire and then began a search for Gaudette, who had fled.

Officers and tracking dogs searched for four hours in an area east of the Bradford County Fairgrounds, near a county solid waste collection site, but could not locate the defendant. Gaudette was found and arrested later the same day.

5 more years for battery, violating probation

A 36-year-old Starke man first sentenced to two years in prison for hit-and-run was sent back to state custody for five more years after violating his probation.

In September 2021, Bjee Martin Fisher pleaded no contest to the April 26, 2021, offense of failing to remain at a crash site involving serious bodily injury.

Hit kids on bikes, caught with drugs

According to a Lawtey police report, Fisher was driving a 1994 Chevrolet Blazer north on Grove Street around 6:30 p.m., approaching the corner of Grove and Martin.

"Fisher veered into the southbound lane while still traveling north," wrote arresting officer Michael Gillick.

Also traveling north on Grove were two juveniles on bicycles.

"Due to the fact that Fisher was now traveling in the wrong direction, he struck the rear tire of the bicycle of (one of the victims)," wrote Gillick. "As a result, both of the children were thrown from their bikes, landing on the edge of the roadway and ditch."

According to the report, Fisher stopped his vehicle and said to one of the victims, "You will be ok. You guys are fine."

He then drove away, stopping briefly to check for damage on his vehicle and fleeing the scene.

Witnesses identified the driver and vehicle.

Both children were transported to an area hospital for treatment.

Also included in Fisher's two-year sentence were pleas of no contest to the April 29 offenses of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

According to an arrest report, Bradford Deputy Archie Crews pulled over Fisher's Blazer after he saw the defendant leave the Circle K at the corner of Southeast 144th Street (Griffis Loop) and SR 100 not wearing a seat belt.

During the traffic stop, "Bjee was asked if he had any illegal narcotics, to which he admitted to having pills in his pocket," wrote Crews.

The pills were identified as alprazolam and subutex. Fisher claimed that he found the pills in the convenience store.

Crews added that a search of the Blazer yielded additional illegal contraband.

Embarrassed at gym

After serving his two-year sentence, Fisher was on probation when, on May 18, 2024, he was arrested for domestic battery, resisting an officer without violence, and disorderly intoxication.

According to an arrest report, Martin became upset after the daughter of his girlfriend embarrassed him at the gym and locked him out of the residence.

The defendant responded by kicking in a side garage door, yelling at his girlfriend, pushing her, and fleeing the scene on a bicycle.

The report further indicates that Martin resisted officers and showed signs of intoxication once they detained him on the two-wheeler. Deputies also reported that the defendant beat against cell walls and doors at the Bradford County Jail until deputies subdued him.



The BHS Class of 1964. Pictured are (front) Linda Crews Smith, Linda Zacheck Rozbora, Suzanne Judd Stringer, Lorraine Priest Morris, Wanda Williams Bishop, Linda Sanders Lee, Wayne Hersey, Chase Hardy and Robert Ward, (back) Linda Whitehead Johns, Marcia Griffis Lee, Vicki Frees Powell, Eugenia Ekard Whitehead, Jerome Kelley, Joyce Conklin Thompson, Don Thompson and Lamar Williams.

Class of 1964 reunites, will meet again

The Bradford High School Class of 1964 met on April 11, 2024, at the Cedar River Restaurant in Starke to celebrate its 60th reunion.

The members present decided to keep meeting quarterly. The next gathering will be on Thursday, July 11, at the Cedar River Restaurant in Starke at

1 p.m. For more information, contact Jerome Kelley at 352-538-0741 or Eugenia Whitehead at 352-745-1828.

Soil and water conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2, at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in

Starke.

The board will discuss the potential flooding impacts of the Suwannee River Water Management District's Edwards Bottomlands Project located on the south side of Alligator Creek, between the Edwards Road ballpark and the National Guard Armory.

These meetings are open to the public. Contact Paul Still at 904-368-0291 or stillpe@aol.com for more information.



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BHS offers summer volleyball league

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Creating a foundation. That's what Bradford High School Head Volleyball Coach Chelsea LeMire and assistant coaches Robbie Best and Belinda Phillips are hoping to do. That led to the creation of this year's youth summer league for those going into grades 4-8.

"We wanted to grow the youth program here," Phillips said. "There aren't any volleyball programs here to get them introduced (to the sport) before middle school."

"We're trying to get these girls introduced to volleyball earlier so we can build a program."

The two-week league consisted of enough youth to create two teams. They participated in multiple practices before playing matches against each other at the end of each week.

BHS has already been offering an annual youth camp, which serves to teach the basic skills and fundamentals of volleyball. Phillips said the ideal situation in future years will be for youth to take part in both the camp and the league.

"Volleyball's hard," Phillips said. "It's hard to play a game if you don't know how to pass or serve. There's a lot to playing the game."

Bradford's coaches are present to supervise the league and offer guidance when needed, but for the most part, the coaching is done by BHS players. Phillips said she, Best and LeMire basically ran the first day of league practice. On the second day, Phillips said she and the coaches told the BHS players, "We're passing this on to you. You all figure out what drills you're going to do."

"They did well," Phillips said,

adding, "Our girls have loved it. They've said that they love coaching and that it's fun."

LeMire likes the idea of letting the youth be coached by high school players, saying, "I feel like the kids look up to older players more so than they would to us three (coaches). They see the high school girls, and they want to be them one day."

That's what LeMire hopes the

summer camp and league will do — inspire youth to want to follow in the footsteps of BHS Tornado volleyball players.

"I want for them to come back and keep doing it (every summer)," LeMire said, adding, "Hopefully, they'll come and watch (the Tornadoes) this season and that'll make them want to continue."



Taelynn Brazell makes a play as teammates (background, l-r) Sawyer Shuford and Piper Denmark look on.



LEFT: Paelyn Hinds prepares to serve. Sawyer Shuford watches in the background. BELOW LEFT: Aubrey Hewett receives a serve. BELOW RIGHT: Piper Denmark serves.



LEFT: BHS players Kingslee Phillips (left) and Autumn DeKorver celebrate an ace by the team they were coaching. ABOVE: Sawyer Shuford serves.



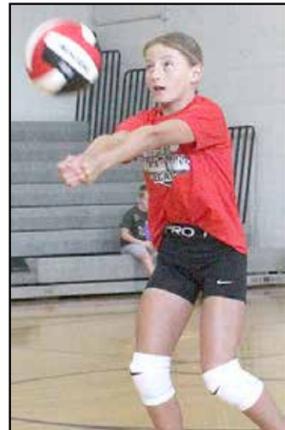
Ella Outlaw gets into position as Brylen Wilson looks on.



Brylen Wilson sets up to pass.



BHS players Kaylah Vargas (far right) and Victoria Hudgens (second from right) coach up their team during a time out. Team members are (clockwise from foreground left) Annabelle Crawford, Ella Outlaw, Dempsey Bradley, Brylen Wilson and Emersyn Brooks.



ABOVE LEFT: Dempsey Bradley sets up to pass. ABOVE RIGHT: BHS player Katherine Brugh served as the referee for the morning matches on June 22. LEFT: Annabelle Crawford attempts to keep the ball in play.



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Carolyn Spooner (far right) presents Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarships to (l-r) Destiny Crum, Maya Farmer and Brett Redding.

5 receive this year's Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarships

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Destiny Crum, Kennedy Davis, Carmen Eiland, Maya Farmer and Brett Redding are this year's recipients of Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarships, which were presented to them by Carolyn Spooner.

Each scholarship is worth \$1,000.

Spooner, the director of the Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Foundation, established the scholarship in honor of her deceased sister. Livingstone, a registered nurse, died as the result of breast cancer at the age of 55 in 2004. The cancer went into remission several times, but the final time it returned, it had metastasized.

Livingstone, who worked at Mountain Side Hospital in Montclair, New Jersey, worked until a week before her death.

"It means so much to be able to give something back to the community and to our students going into the medical fields," said Spooner, who's a breast-cancer survivor. "It's my dream and hope that we will find a cure for breast cancer. Maybe through some of (the scholarship recipients') work, they will help that process along."

Crum, who plans to become a



Carmen Eiland (left) and Kennedy Davis also received Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarships, which are presented in Livingstone's memory. The Starke native was a nurse who died from breast cancer.

registered nurse, said receiving the scholarship means a lot.

"It's going to make sure I don't have to worry about anything in college," she said.

Davis currently attends Southern University and plans to enroll in the university's nursing program.

"To further my education, I want to get my master's and become a nurse practitioner. Receiving this scholarship means that I can further my nursing experience and become an RN and do more things to help take care of people and help the community."

Eiland, who is already an RN,

said, "I just recently got accepted into the bachelor's program at Santa Fe," Eiland said. "This opens up more doors for me to give back to my community. I enjoy being a nurse, so this just helps me to do more of what I love to do."

Farmer is on track to graduate as an RN in the spring of 2025.

"I'm very grateful for this scholarship," Farmer said. "It's going to go toward my next semester and clinicals. I really appreciate it."

Redding is currently finishing up a college degree in health sciences. He said the scholarship will help him reach his ultimate

goal.

"I'm going to be transferring over to UF in the fall," Redding said, adding, "I'm looking to become a doctor — specifically a doctor in emergency medicine."

Spooner has awarded 27 Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarships total, including this year's five recipients.

"Being able to give back to our students means a lot," Spooner said. "It's continuing their education and helping them become productive citizens."

Books about 'Peggy' the train to help fund scholarship fund

Spooner wrote a children's book called "Peggy the Slow Poke Train: Peggy Meets Jessica," which was published in 2020. All monies from book sales go toward the Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Fund.

The book is the first of a planned series, which, as the title of the first book suggests, incorporates the old train that locals called "Peggy." The train

See SCHOLARS, page 11



Cunningham is first Clay student to receive DAPAA scholarship

Recent Keystone Heights High School graduate Amber Cunningham became the first Clay County student to receive the Defense Acquisition Professional Alumni Association, Jacksonville Chapter, CTE Scholarship, which was presented through a partnership with the Clay County Sheriff's Office. The scholarship is valued at \$2,000. It was another first for Cunningham, who'll attend the American Academy of Cosmetology. Prior to graduating from KHHS, she became the first recipient of the \$2,500 Cliff Avril Family Foundation Trade School Bound Scholarship. Cunningham (center) is pictured with Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook (far left) and Duane Mallicoat, the DAPAA Jacksonville Chapter president and scholarship coordinator.

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Yulee's dream of Atlantic-to-Gulf railroad boosted Starke's growth

Editor's note: The following was originally published on July 26, 1979, as part of the Bradford County Telegraph's 100th-anniversary special.

David L. Yulee had a dream, and it because of that dream, Starke is, perhaps, the thriving town it is today. Without Yulee's dream, Starke might still be just a crossroads settlement or might even have disappeared from the map as many a struggling, young town has done in the past.

Yulee, the son of a Moroccan Jew named Moses, was Florida's first U.S. senator and was considered a man of great vision in the days before the Civil War. He was known as David Levy for the first 30 years of his life, for his father had assumed the name of Levy when his family was forced to seek refuge in Gibraltar during a palace revolution in Morocco, where his father had been grand vizier to the emperor.

In 1800, Moses Levy moved his family to the island of St. Thomas in the Caribbean, where his son David was born in 1810. When David was still a youngster and attending school in Norfolk, Virginia, his family moved again, this time to Cuba, where his father accumulated great wealth as a contractor of supplies to the Spanish Army. Because of his connections, the Spanish allowed the elder Levy to purchase large tracts of Florida land, including the Arredondo land grant near Gainesville.

David attended school in Norfolk for six years until his father felt he was old enough to support himself and cut off his allowance. He went to work on his father's plantations in Florida, but his ambition led him to an apprenticeship with a St. Augustine judge in which he read law and was later admitted to the Florida Bar. As he grew into manhood, he became the

Democratic candidate for the office of territorial delegate. He won the seat and helped write Florida's first constitution.

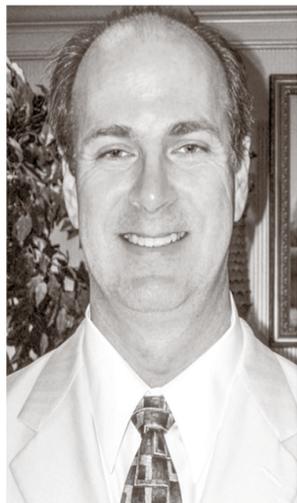
When Florida achieved statehood in 1845, young David became the state's first U.S. senator and changed his name back to Yulee by an act of the Florida Legislature.

Yulee was defeated in his bid for reelection to the Senate in 1851, but by then, he was a deeply obsessed by his dream of a cross-state railroad connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, so he wasn't disheartened by political defeat. In his ambitious dream, he foresaw steel rails stretching from Fernandina to Cedar Key to provide transportation by train through the interior of Florida, most of which was then an impenetrable wilderness.

He envisioned vessels from

See TRAIN, page 11

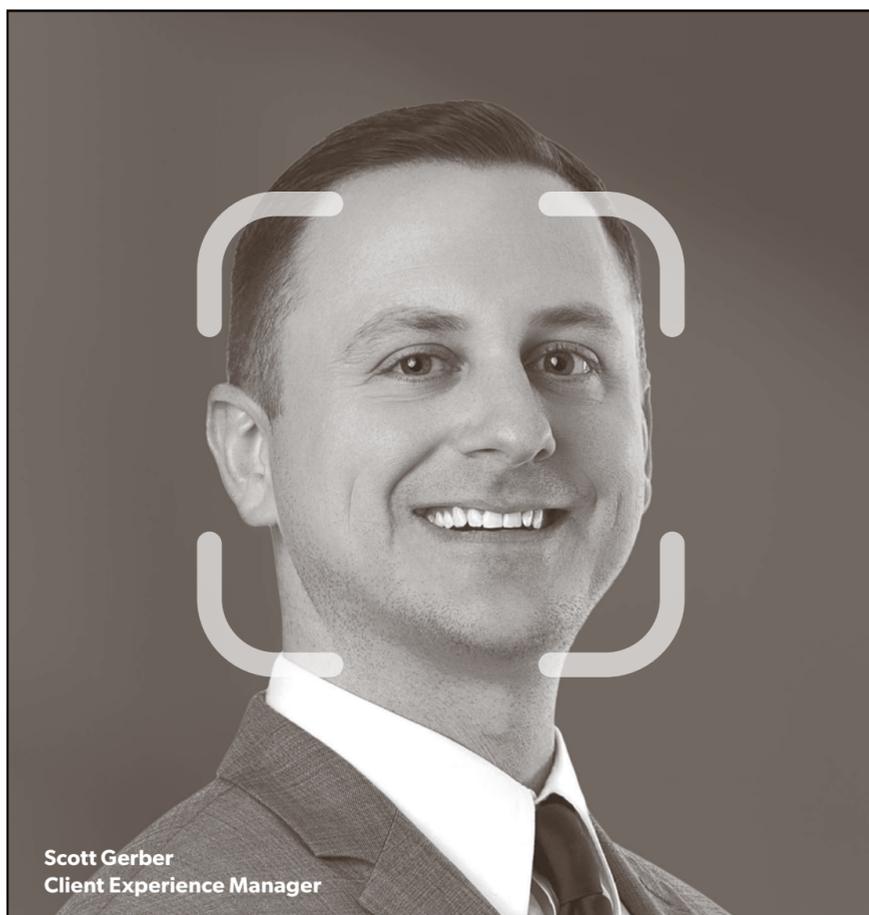
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Little Indians learn volleyball skills from Big Indians

Parker Balkcom (right) takes a swing during a drill led by Keystone Heights High School player McKinlee Kirkland (left) during the KHHS Little Indians Volleyball Camp. The three-day camp was held for children entering the third-fifth grades. Approximately 20 youth learned skills and fundamentals from KHHS players.



Emmalynn Black crawls through the legs of Haley Hutchins as she attempts to grab one of the balls in a game similar to musical chairs. KHHS Head Coach Kaitlyn Walker is also pictured.



KHHS varsity player Kiersten Shaw (left) works with Ella McLoughlin.



Morgan Lee prepares to swing.



Bethany Wahl leaps onto a pedestal during one of the camp's drills.



Harleigh Collard works on her form when it comes to an offensive attack.



Paisley Screen (right) gets help from KHHS player Kaylee Paschall.



ABOVE: KHHS player Mya Jennings (right) crawls through the legs of Anastyn Nilsen during a fun activity. Layla Norman is also pictured. LEFT: Emory Norman works on her attacking form by jumping onto a pedestal and throwing a tennis ball over the net.

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2. Can you tell me what benefits from the Florida Air National Guard have helped you the most?

The National Park Pass, as well as EDD, Education Dollars for Duty, are the programs I have utilized most since joining the Florida Air National Guard. The ability to employ EDD funds, which cover the full cost of tuition and fees for any public college in the state of Florida, gave me the opportunity to complete my Office Specialist Certificate as well as currently enroll in an AS Accounting program. Next fall semester I plan on transferring to a FL university complete a bachelor's degree, where EDD will continue to cover tuition and fees. While on TDY in Montana, we were allotted some time over the weekend and a group of us were able to visit Yellowstone National Park. It was breathtakingly beautiful, truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, which I would not have had if it weren't for joining the Florida Air National Guard.

3. Can you talk about some of the new skills you have learned in the Florida Air National Guard that have helped you in the civilian work force?

Working in the Florida Air National Guard, I have developed numerous skills in the areas of inventory tracking, cargo palletization, C-17 load configurations, and even k-span construction. However, by far the most beneficial capability that has been of service to me in the civilian work force has to be the leadership skills I have gained. I would say I was somewhat effective as a leader before joining, but the Guard has given me a fresh perspective and my mentors in the unit have been remarkable in demonstrating better ways to lead my fellow Airmen.



Respectfully,
DAKOTA A. PULS, A1C
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Peggy may be gone, but is not forgotten SCHOLARS

Continued from page 9

Editor's note: The following was originally published on July 26, 1979, as part of the Bradford County Telegraph's 100th-anniversary special.

Seldom has a railroad train been more celebrated in song and story, myth and legend than the Atlantic, Suwannee River and Gulf, built by local promoters in the early 1890s primarily to spur development of land around Sampson City, which they confidently predicted would outgrow Starke in a few years.

Their belief was based on the fact that the new Georgia, Southern and Florida line was being built through Sampson City, and a third railroad, the G&C, was being talked of. What the initials stood for is not known.

At any rate, while the GS&F was under construction, Col. Comer L. Peek, a far-sighted man and promotional leader in Starke,

persuaded Dr. J.L. Gaskins, an influential physician, investor and politician, to influence northern capitalists (for whom he was agent) to build a railroad from Starke to Alachua and on to the town of Waneec near the Suwannee River.

Gaskins was apparently successful, and in its issue of March 1, 1900, the Telegraph reported that work had started laying rail at the Starke end. The Sampson swamp was drained and the road built through it. Where it crossed the GS&F, Sampson City was laid out, and Ward City (now Brooker) came into being a little farther along the line. Great plans were made for growing rice in the drained swamp lands around Sampson Lake, and a rice mill was built at Sampson City, as well as a depot. A hotel and other buildings were planned.

Timber lands along the line were acquired by the Atlantic

Lumber Co., and the line was extended on to Bell, where phosphate mining had just started.

For several years, the road did a paying business hauling saw logs, phosphate, naval stores, cross-ties, cotton and produce to Starke for transfer onto the main line to Jacksonville. The phosphate mines later played out, Sampson City never developed as expected, and the line was sold around 1900 to the Florida, Central and Peninsular, the company then operating the Atlantic-to-Gulf line through Starke. Later, the FCP was merged into the Seaboard system, and the ASR&G became the Waneec Branch of the Seaboard Air Line.

Due to the rise in truck transportation in the last 40 years and the decline of farming activities, the line has been discontinued west of Brooker and the rail taken up. Its freight

service is still in use between Starke and Brooker, but passenger service on the line was discontinued about 1955.

One story has it that the Waneec Branch line became known as "Peggy" because at one time it had a peg-legged conductor. "He's too slow to catch Peggy" became standard description of anyone overly lazy.

One of the early conductors was an avid sportsman and always carried his two pointer dogs along on the train. When he felt like it, he would stop along the way and go shooting birds, while the other train men picked blackberries. Once, when the conductor was complimented on getting the train to Starke on time, he snorted, "On time? Hell! This is yesterday's train."

Now, Peggy, as such, is no more, but it will never be forgotten by anyone who ever rode it — or waited on it.

traveled between Starke and Alachua.

In a Nov. 19, 2020, Telegraph-Times-Monitor story, Spooner said she and other children made up sayings based upon the train's speed, such as, "You're as slow as Peggy," or, "Peggy is slower than Christmas."

"We looked forward to Peggy coming through every day," Spooner was quoted as saying in the Nov. 19, 2020, Telegraph-Times-Monitor story. "We knew she was going to be slow, but we would wait for her. That was part of our entertainment during the day."

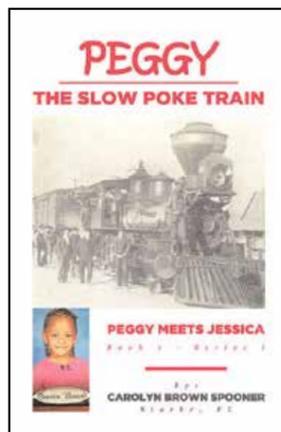
Through Peggy's interactions with Jessica, a child character modeled after Spooner's niece, Spooner hopes to teach children some of their community's history. For example, Peggy teaches Jessica about pulpwood and how it was a big part of this area back when the real Peggy existed. Jessica learns of how the wood was harvested and processed, making products like the paper that students use in school.

Spooner said the next book will include Arthur Hill (aka Mr. Big Boy), who rode Peggy to Sampson City so he could fish, and Spooner's uncle Sampson Brown, who was called "Doc" because he made medicine. He also grew sugarcane and made syrup from it.

Joe Brown, Spooner's grandfather, will make an appearance as well.

"My grandpa had a little shop (in Sampson City), so we'll talk about some of the things they had back in the day," Spooner was quoted as saying in the 1990 Telegraph-Times-Monitor story.

The 1990 Telegraph-Times-Monitor story also recounted how Spooner has other scenarios in mind for future books. She said in one, Peggy will travel through Hampton and Brooker, giving



Sales of Carolyn Spooner's book, "Peggy the Slow Poke Train: Peggy Meets Jessica," will help fund the Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship Fund. The book's cover features a photo of Spooner's niece, Jessica, who was the inspiration for the "Jessica" character in the book.

her the chance to write about the tobacco crops that were grown in those towns. Spooner said Peggy will travel to Lawtney in another book, which will feature Tatum Brothers Lumber Company as well as the families who were big-time strawberry producers.

"It's telling some of the things about each of the townships that (Peggy) would go through," Spooner was quoted as saying in the 1990 Telegraph-Times-Monitor story. "The kids will learn about their community."

"Peggy the Slow Poke Train: Peggy Meets Jessica" can be purchased from such retailers as Walmart, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, Booktopia, Waterstones, Secondsale and eBay as well as through its publisher, Covenant Books.

TRAIN

Continued from page 9

northern cities and ocean-going ships from European ports unloading their cargoes at Fernandina onto railroad cars for transport to Cedar Key, where the cargo would be transferred to ships bound for foreign ports.

But it was no easy undertaking, building a railroad through the dense jungles and marshes, over rivers and creeks, cutting through the high ridges of Florida's interior, with hostile Indians still lurking along the way. It might have been viewed impossible at the time, but that didn't deter Yulee from his vision or lessen his determination.

Yulee and his associates began buying land in the Fernandina area, a spot already secretly picked for the eastern terminus of the railroad. Yulee had earlier purchased land in Cedar Key. This, together with the Alachua tract owned by his father, gave him a large portion of the needed right-of-way.

In 1853, the Florida Railroad Company was incorporated with Yulee as president. Construction began in 1855 after state and federal land grants were received, but almost halted several months later when financial troubles developed. Yulee obtained a loan from a New York patent attorney and financier, and payrolls continued.

The story is told that the original route was planned to pass through Middleburg, but that it met so much opposition there that the line was re-routed several miles to the west through the area of present-day Starke.

The track reached Fiftone (south of Baldwin and 20 miles from Fernandina) on Aug. 1, 1857, and pushed on to Reynolds (the name of a railhead 1 mile

south of Starke) by March 1, 1858. For some reason, there was a delay of almost a year in construction, and the track did not reach Hampton (a distance of only 6 miles from Reynolds) until Jan. 1, 1859. During this period, Starke was the terminus of the line, and stage transportation was provided from there to Waldo, Gainesville and other nearby points.

Fernandina grew with the expansion of its transportation facilities, and everything looked promising for the new rail line in 1860, but Yulee had not foreseen the outbreak of the Civil War and Florida's secession from the Union in January 1861.

By March 1 of that year, the Atlantic Ocean was finally linked to the Gulf of Mexico. The crowds cheered as the first woodburning locomotive puffed out of Fernandina on its 35-hour journey to Cedar Key, but there would be no ships from the northern ports or from Europe to meet it and, thus, no cargo to be hauled across the state. The expected ships were either running the blockade at Cedar Key harbor or had already fallen into possession of Union forces.

The final blow then fell for Yulee and his cherished railroad. Union forces invaded Fernandina just two days after the anniversary of the opening of the cross-state line. As the last crowded refugee train raced from the oceanfront town across the Amelia River bridge, cannonballs ripped into the last car, killing two passengers. Soon after, the Union Army tore down the bridge and ripped up track as far west as Baldwin.

In 1864, after Jacksonville had been occupied by Union forces, raiding parties followed the line to Starke, where track was burned and other railroad property destroyed.

After the fall of Cedar Key,

Yulee and his family took refuge at his plantation on an island in the Homosassa River. In 1863, a Union raid up the Homosassa destroyed Yulee's plantation while the family was away. Three years later, Yulee was jailed at Fort Pulaski by federal authorities. His foes sought his execution, but he was finally freed by the intervention of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. The ambitious Yulee was unharmed, but the war had robbed him of his railroad.

In default of interest on its bonds, the Florida Railroad was put up for sale and reorganized in 1872 under the imposing title of Atlantic, Gulf and West India Transit Company, but the war years, followed by the lean days of Reconstruction, took their toll on Yulee's dream. Jacksonville had begun to emerge as the key port on the east coast, while Tampa was rapidly becoming the favored west coast shipping port. H.B. Plant was building his railroad down the west coast to Tampa, and competition was offered by other new lines. In 1885, the Atlantic-to-Gulf line went into receivership and was reorganized as the Florida, Central and Peninsular in 1888.

Yulee never lived to see the reorganization of his railroad. He died of a bronchial cold in New York City on Oct. 10, 1866.

As a final blow to Yulee's dream, Cedar Key was devastated by hurricane and fire, accompanied by a tidal wave in 1896. These disasters struck simultaneously and wiped out a major part of the island city, which at one time was the largest on the west coast. Another severe storm two years later destroyed most of Fernandina's railroad installations, docks, stores and houses as ocean waters lashed the island. After these disasters, remnants of the Fernandina-Cedar Key line were bought by a syndicate in 1900 and absorbed

into the Seaboard Air Line Railway system.

Yulee's dream had firmly established Starke, providing needed transportation for its timber and cotton, which had previously been hauled by ox teams over sandy trails to Middleburg for transportation up the St. Johns River.

The railroad soon became an institution, not only for its freight service, but also as a source of recreation for early residents, frequently offering "excursion rates" to nearby cities, beaches and other attractions. Newspapers of the 1880s and 1890s carried accounts of "moonlight excursions" and other outings, with the railroad providing the transportation needed in those horse-and-buggy days. The train even served farmers along the line by warning them of the approach of damaging frost. Radio and television news was lacking in those days, and growers depended on the train to warn them when frost was imminent. The accommodating engineer would do this by blowing three long blasts of the train whistle every mile or so, which could be heard as far away as Kingsley Lake. Farmers would then get up in the dark and go out to cover their strawberries and other perishable fruits and vegetables.

Thus, in many ways, the early railroad encouraged Starke's growth from a few scattered shanties to a thriving, young town made up of homes and businesses built by newcomers, who arrived there with the expectation of prosperity made possible by railroad transportation. By 1857, the once forlorn village had grown sufficiently to warrant having a post office. Starke was definitely here to stay, thanks to a young dreamer named David Yulee.

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	

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Obituaries

Marian L. Bright

Marian L. Bright, 81 of Lawtey, passed away on Monday, June 17, 2024, at the Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Middleburg. She was of the Baptist faith and a member of St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church in Lawtey. She retired from the Bradford County School District and the Gaskin County District. She served as president of the Activity Board at the Middleburg Rehabilitation and Nursing Home Facility.

She leaves cherished memories to her sons, Lyndell Bright, Rudolph Bright, Essau Bright and Don O. Bright; daughters, Janecia Bright Perry and Turosia Evette Bright; sisters, Millie Forehand and Florence Monroe; and a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins and sorrowing friends.

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, at Peetsville Cemetery with Pastor James Rackley, eulogist, conducting the services. Interment will be held at Peetsville Cemetery under the direction of Haille Funeral Home Inc., 802 Oak St., Starke, 32091 904-964-7905. Viewing for friends will be held on Friday, June 28, at St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church, Lawtey, from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., and one hour prior to the service on Saturday. The cortege will form Saturday, June 29 at Eagle Park, 21300 N.E. 14th Ave., Lawtey 32058 at 9:30 a.m. The repast will be held immediately following the services at Eagle Park.

PAID OBITUARY

Fredrick Graves

Fredrick Hughes Graves, age 82, passed away at his home in Lake City on Sunday, June 23, 2024. He was born on Dec. 18, 1941, in Miami to the late Clinton and Minnie Riner Graves. He grew up in Key West and, after graduation, joined the United States Air Force where he proudly served for four years. During his remarkable career, spanning 38 years in law enforcement, he served as a state investigator with the Department of Agriculture, a Florida Highway Patrol officer, and a Columbia County Ag Enforcement officer. His unwavering commitment to upholding justice and ensuring the safety of others left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Beyond his professional endeavors, he had a passion for the rodeo. His weekends were spent showcasing his talent for roping and being a cowboy. However, his greatest source of happiness came from spending quality time with his beloved grandchildren, creating cherished memories that will be cherished forever. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Catherine Carolyn Graves; son, Marc (Lynna) Graves; daughter, Catherine (James) McDaniel; stepson, Mac A. (Cindy) Douglas, Jr.; granddaughters, Tabitha Sutton, Shena Roberts, Chelsey (Lane) Whitehead, Tiffany Lee McDaniel, Jamie Lee McDaniel, and Ashley (Kenneth) Cox; grandsons, Richard (Nicole) Knight Jr., Erick Knight, and Cody (Chelsea) Douglas; as well as many great-grandchildren who were the light of his life.

A visitation will be held at Old Providence Baptist Church on Friday, June 28, beginning at 10 a.m. and followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. He will be laid to rest immediately following the service with military and law enforcement honors at Dekle Cemetery. Pallbearers will be members of Columbia County Sheriff's Office and Florida Highway Patrol. Pastor Tim Stout will officiate the services.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is proud to serve the family of Fred Graves. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

Gard of Thanks

The family of Harry Young Jr. would like to thank everyone for all the love and support shown to us after the loss of Harry Jr.

Thank You All!

Yvonne Young & Family

Ruth Mae Griffis

Ruth Mae Griffis, 83, of Starke, passed away on Sunday, June 16, 2024, at her home with her loving family by her side. She was born in Lawtey on Sept. 28, 1940, to the late Harry Wilkerson and Nolia Padgett Wilkerson. She was raised in Lawtey and attended Lawtey Church of God early in life. After completing school, Ruth began working in a garment factory until becoming a mother. Her most cherished role was being a mom and caregiver, dedicating several years to raising her daughters. Once her daughters were grown, she embarked on a new chapter, spending nearly 30 years as a manager at the Handiway, which later became the Kangaroo and then Circle K. In this role, she found joy and fulfillment in leading her team, assisting customers, and connecting with members of her community. Her warm smile and kind heart made a lasting impression on everyone she met. Her legacy of love, caring and giving nature are qualities that touched the lives of all who knew her. She was greatly loved and will be deeply missed. She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her loving daughters, Debra (Herman) Schoening of Lawtey and Janet Cunningham (Daniel Sadler) of Starke; sister, Mary (Gene) Taylor of Lawtey; grandchildren, Brittini (Jon) Holcomb, Kasey Sadler, Amanda Box, Thomas Box, Kristy Schoening, and Matt (Toni) Schoening; great-grandchildren, Haden, Violet, J.R., Silas, Chloe, Devyn, Jaryn, Ireland, Londyn, Peyton, Marley, Hugo, Hendrix, Kalyiah, and Kensley; along with many extended family members and friends.

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

Phillip Jones

On Thursday, June 20, 2024, the world lost a talented musician as Phillip Jones bid farewell after a sudden illness at the E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. Born on March 17, 1960, in Piedmont, Alabama he spent the majority of his life in Starke. After graduating from Bradford County High School, he dedicated 30 years of his life to serving honorably at the Department of Corrections until his retirement in 2010 with the rank of sergeant. His commitment to duty and unwavering dedication left an indelible mark on all who crossed paths with him during his esteemed career. However, it was music where his true talents shone brightly. An accomplished musician, Phil's mastery extended to various instruments such as the guitar, banjo, pedal-steel guitar, and piano. He also showcased his lyrical prowess as a songwriter and vocalist, leaving a musical footprint that resonated even in Nashville. Aside from music, he always made time to sit by the lake in the evening to cast out his line hoping for a bite and cheering on Alabama football - Roll Tide! He was preceded in death by his father, Robert "Bob" Jones; mother and stepfather, Faye and Hubert Cooper; and sister-in-law, Glenda Jones.

He leaves behind a grieving yet grateful family. He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Jones of Lake Butler; daughters, Tiffani Jones of Keystone Heights and Danielle Parker of Fayetteville, North Carolina; stepsons, Donny (Barbara) Clyatt and Garrett (Ashley) Williams, both of Lake Butler; cherished grandchildren, Taylor, Lane, Justin, Sophie, Mason, Cade, Holton, Cruz; and soon-to-arrive, Baby Williams; great-granddaughters, Penelope and Eloise; brother, Paul Jones of Starke; sister, Laura (Charles) Kemp of West Virginia; and a host of friends.

A visitation and funeral were held on Sunday, June 23, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, located at 55 N. Lake Ave. in Lake Butler. This was a time of celebration and music. The family requested that everyone dress casual and wear red, his favorite color.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home was honored to serve the family of Phillip Jones. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Susan C. Pickren

Susan Campbell Pickren, 60, of Starke, passed away on Friday, June 21, 2024, at BayCare Hospital Wesley Chapel after a short illness. She was born on June 27, 1963, in Jacksonville, to the late George and Shirley Abbett Campbell. She was a dedicated homemaker who found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She had a passion for trips to the mountains, where she found peace and serenity. In her kitchen, she created culinary delights that brought her family together. Her greatest happiness came from spending quality time with her loved ones. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Gary Pickren; her sister, Deborah Walden; and her grandparents, Carter and Mary Lou Abbett.

She is survived by her daughters, Carrie (Kyle) Robinson of Wesley Chapel and Dana (Alex) Lopez of Jacksonville; her grandchildren, Jennifer, Alexander, Dillon, and Logan Lopez, and Brennan and Colton Robinson. She is also survived by her sister, Sherry Elmer; and nieces and nephews, Kelly (Chance) Johnson, Nicole (Randy) Simmons, Chris (Danielle) Elmer, and Adam (Sandy) Elmer.

A graveside service to celebrate her life was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at Crosby Lake Cemetery in Starke.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Susan Pickren. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Donald Thornton Jr.

Donald "Don" Wayne Thornton Jr., 41, of Kingsley Lake passed away on Sunday, June 23, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was born Dec. 20, 1982, in Jacksonville. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Starke and, prior to his declining health, worked as a construction manager. He loved his family, Kingsley Lake, the Florida Gators, cooking, and listening to music.

He graduated from Bradford High School, Santa Fe College, and Colorado Tech University. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Frow and Beth Strickland; and his paternal grandparents, Ellis and Natalie Thornton.

He is survived by his daughter, Kingsley Marie Thornton; his son, Donald Wayne Thornton III; his parents, Donald Wayne Thornton Sr. and Elaine Thornton; sisters, Donna (Reid) Hix and Janna Thornton. Also left are his nephews, Jordan Hix and Kyle Hix; niece, Lauren Hix; along with numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, July 2, at 11 a.m. at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones Gallagher Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville 32257.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Irving Young

Irving Taylor Young, 88, of Starke died Thursday, June 13, 2024, at his residence. He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene (Miller) Young; sons, Irving and Randall Young; as well as siblings, Walter Young and George Young.

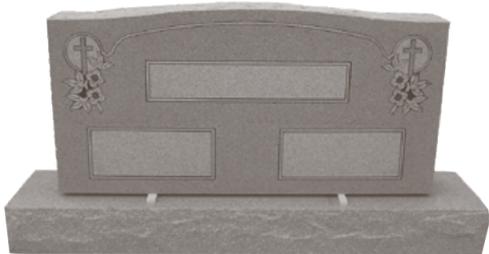
Survivors are his daughter, Rebecca Barber of Lawtey; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

There are no scheduled services at this time.

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

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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 27, 2024

BRADFORD

IN THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No. 2023 CA 421
21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs. BRIDGET RENEE HILL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRIDGET RENEE HILL; JUSTIN MICHAEL HILL; BRADFORD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER and UNKNOWN TENANT

Defendant.
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated April 25, 2024 entered in Case No. 2023 CA 000421, of the Circuit Court in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein BRIDGET RENEE HILL and JUSTIN MICHAEL HILL are the Defendants, that Denny Thompson, the Clerk at the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, at the Clerk of the Circuit Court, in

the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091 on August 15, 2024, beginning at 11:00 a.m., on the prescribed date, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment: Legal: SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TOGETHER WITH A 2020 LIVE OAK 52X32 MODEL MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL NO.'S: LOHGA31971145A and LOHGA31971145B

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

NOTICE If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Bradford County Clerk of the Court, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091 and whose telephone number is 904-966-6280, within two working days of your receipt of this notice. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8711.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing has been served on this 6th day of June, 2024

Bridget Renee Hill, 5418 NW 177th Street, Starke, FL 32091; Justin Michael Hill, 8501 Hampton Springs Road, Perry, FL 32348.

SEND MAIL TO:
Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth, P.A.
Attn: Leslie S. White
Post Office Box 2346
Orlando, FL 32802-2346
By: /s/ Leslie S. White
Leslie S. White, for the firm
Florida Bar No. 521078
Telephone 407-841-1200
Facsimile 407-423-1831
primary email: lwhite@deanmead.com
secondary email: bransom@deanmead.com

Exhibit A
A parcel of land lying in the West 1/2 of Northeast 1/4 of Southeast 1/4 of Section 18, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at an old axle found at the Northwest corner of said West 1/2 and run South 01°01'16" West, along the Westerly boundary thereof, 119.05 feet to an iron rod found on the Southerly boundary of the right-of-way of County Road NW 177th Street (80' R/W) for the Point of Beginning said Southerly boundary being on a curve concave to the North and having a radius of 17,230.45 feet; from Point of Beginning thus described run Easterly along said Southerly boundary and along the arc of said curve, 192.93 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 89°53'54" East, to an iron rod found at the Northwest corner of a parcel described in O.R. Book 737

Page 344, Public Records of said County; thence South 00°30'52" East, along the Westerly boundary of said parcel, 287.16 feet to an iron rod found at the Southwest corner thereof and the Northwest corner of a parcel described in O.R. Book 1135, Page 164, of said Public Records; thence South 00°31'08" East along the Westerly boundary of said parcel, 480.13 feet to an iron rod found at the Southwest corner thereof; thence South 89°55'22" East, along the Southerly boundary of said Parcel, 220.51 feet to an iron rod found at the Southeast corner thereof; thence South 00°05'52" East along the Westerly boundary of a parcel described in O.R. Book 256, Page 465, a distance of 254.01 feet to the Southwest corner of said parcel and the Northeast corner of a parcel described in O.R. Book 1194, Page 69; thence South 89°12'05" West, along the Northerly boundary of said parcel, 421.19 feet to an iron rod found at the Northwest corner thereof; thence South 00°07'10" East, along the Westerly boundary of said parcel, 210.00 feet to an iron rod at the Southwest corner thereof and on the Southerly boundary of said West 1/2; thence South 89°10'25" West, along said Southerly boundary, 22.17 feet to a concrete monument (3' X 3') Found at the Southwest corner of said West 1/2; thence North 01°01'16" seconds East, along the Westerly boundary of said West 1/2 a distance of 1238.50 feet to the Point of Beginning.

6/20 2tchg 6/27-BCT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF LAWTEY

Notice is hereby given that proposed Ordinance 24-01 whose title appears below, will be considered for enactment by the City Council of Lawtey, Florida. The first reading will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024 at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter at City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawtey, Florida at the regularly scheduled council meeting. A copy of the proposed ordinance may be inspected at City Hall, Lawtey, Florida. All interested parties are invited to attend.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAWTEY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING INCLUSION OF THE CITY IN THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT ESTABLISHED BY BRADFORD COUNTY TO FUND THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES EACH YEAR; PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF SUCH AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

6/27 1tchg-BCT

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Funeral Director

Austin Gaver
Funeral Director

620 East Nona Street
(corner of SR 100)

Starke

904.964.6200

Joe Gallagher
Owner/Funeral Director



JONES-GALLAGHER
FUNERAL HOME

jonesgallagherfh.com

Kelli Parks Moreland
Funeral Director

Laura Crews
Office Manager

340 E. Walker Drive
(SR 100)

Keystone Heights

352.473.3176

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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 27, 2024

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on July 17, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on July 10, 2024 and end at 2PM on July 17, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121
Time: 02:00PM CST
A19, Crapp, Shaunte, A21, Wilson, Kelley, A23, Crapp, Shaunte, A57, George, Charlene, B07, McKinney, Susan, B13, Soffield, Ashley, B79, Dewesse, Rachel, C03, George, Charlene
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.
6/20 2tchg 6/27-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF SHI ANNE SHIMER
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Shi Anne Shimer, deceased, whose date of death was January 9, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32901. 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 may claim an interest in the estate of SUZANNE BUONO, DECEASED, et al. Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 25, 2024, and entered in 23000052CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING is the Plaintiff and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF SUZANNE BUONO, DECEASED; MICHAEL H. ROACH; PAUL PASTUSZEK; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE BANK, FSB are the Defendant(s). Kellie Hendricks Rhoades as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Lobby, Union County Courthouse 55 W. Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, at 11:00 AM, on July 18, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: THE EAST 1320.00 FEET OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, NORTH AND EAST OF SANT FE RIVER, AND THE WEST 104.75 FEET OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, NORTH AND EAST OF SANTA FE RIVER, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN BOOK 216, PAGE 189, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Property Address: 9947 SW 37TH ST, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031. Dated this 19th day of June, 2024.
Kellie Hendricks Rhoades
As Clerk of the Court
By: C Norman
As Deputy Clerk
IMPORTANT
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.
Publish In: THE UNION COUNTY

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is June 20th, 2024
Attorney for Pethronal Representative:
Diane A. Vidal
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 1008324
CHIUMENTO LAW
145 City Place, Suite 301
Palm Coast, FL 32164
Telephone: (386) 445-8900
Fax: (386) 445-6702
E-Mail: D.Vidal@legaltteamforlife.com
Secondary E-Mail: Proserv@legaltteamforlife.com
Personal Representative:
Preston Leon Shimer
7114 SW 90th Street
Hampton, Florida 32044
6/20 2tchg 6/27-BCT

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of JUANITA FORTNER ROPER A/K/A JUANITA F. ROPER A/K/A JUANITA ROPER, ("Decedent") deceased, whose date of death was April 2, 2024, and whose Social Security Number is XXX-XX-3979, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 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 SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is June 20th, 2024.
DAKOTA T. BOND A/K/A DAKOTA TYLER BOND, Petitioner
39 Wainwright Way,
Avon Park, Florida, 33825
LAW OFFICES OF AL NICOLETTI
/s/ Alfred V. Nicoletti
ALFRED V. NICOLETTI, ESQ.
Florida Bar No.: 125446
7512 Dr. Phillips Blvd.
Suite 50-647
Orlando, Florida 32819
6/20 2tchg 6/27- BCT

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 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Bradford County Emergency Operations Center Board Room located at 945 N Temple Ave # B, 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 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 business meeting to Lynn Franson, 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 includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.
6/27 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: RIVERWOOD NURSING SNF, LLC, 1335 Rockaway Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11236, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: RIVERWOOD HEALTHCARE & REHABILITATION CENTER, 808 S. Colley Rd, Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 6 day of May A.D., 2024, in BRADFORD County.
6/27 1tchg-BCT

CITY OF STARKE BUDGET WORKSHOP
The City of Starke Commission will hold a Budget Workshop on July 2, 2024 at 4:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in the Commission Room. Public participation is welcomed.
6/27 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to FS 101.5612 a public pre-election test of tabulation equipment to be used in the August 20, 2024 Primary Election will be held July 17 at 10 am at the Supervisor of Elections office at 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091. Any interested person may attend. Call 904-966-6266 for more information.
In accordance with FS 101.591 and 1S-5.026 the Bradford County Canvassing Board shall convene on July 26 at 10 am for the initial canvass of Vote-By-Mail ballots, August 20 at 7:30 pm for election oversight and canvassing, August 23 at 10 am for canvass of Unofficial Results and August 27 at 3 pm for canvass of Official Results. A Post-Election Manual Audit of results and the tabulation system is scheduled for August 29 at 10 am. All scheduled meetings to be held at Elections Office. For the full schedule, visit www.votebradfordfl.gov
6/27 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 2023 Drinking Water Quality Report is available to anyone who may have a need for a copy. A copy may be picked up at the Town Hall during regular office hours. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00a.m. until 1:00p.m. The report will be available for pickup on/after Friday, June 28th.
6/27 1tchg-BCT

REQUEST FOR BIDS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bradford County S.H.I.P. Program will receive sealed bids until **2:30 p.m., July 19, 2024** at the Bradford County Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 for the following: Renovation of residence located at: 415 N. Polk Street, Starke, FL 32091 A mandatory walk through is a prerequisite to a valid bid. All interested bidders will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at the Community Development Office

located at 925-E North Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida. If you plan to submit a bid, a representative of your firm must attend the "walk through" of the unit to become familiar with the property and the scope of work to be completed.
No contractor shall visit the subject property for any reason without first making arrangements with the County and owner.
All contractors must have proof of Residential, Builder, or General Contractor's License, proof of Liability Insurance, proof of Workers' Compensation Insurance (or Exemption Card), a statement of non-discrimination, and at least two references from previously completed jobs.
Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on July 19, 2024 or as soon thereafter as possible in the presence of the Clerk or his designee, Community Development staff, and all interested persons in the County Commissioners meeting room.
The opened bids will be read into public record and preserved in the custody of the Community Development Department.
Bids will not be valid unless received by the bid deadline and in a sealed envelope marked, "Sealed Bid, S.H.I.P." and received by 2:30 p.m., July 19, 2024.
Questions to be submitted in writing to the Community Development office at kelly.canady@bradfordcountyfl.gov or Fax (904) 966-6384 no later than 3:00 p.m. July 15, 2024.
The County reserves the right to reject all bids when in its best judgment they are too high or when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County that the bids be re-advertised.
Pursuant to Section 255.0991, Florida Statutes, Bradford County WILL NOT offer a local preference for this project.
It is the policy of the County to promote equal opportunity to obtain adequate housing by all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap, or national origin.
6/27 1tchg-BCT

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF STEPHEN LEE MURPHY,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Stephen Lee Murphy, deceased, whose date of death was March 14, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W. Main Street, #103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate may claim an interest in the estate of SUZANNE BUONO, DECEASED, et al. Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 25, 2024, and entered in 23000052CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING is the Plaintiff and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF SUZANNE BUONO, DECEASED; MICHAEL H. ROACH; PAUL PASTUSZEK; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE BANK, FSB are the Defendant(s). Kellie Hendricks Rhoades as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Lobby, Union County Courthouse 55 W. Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, at 11:00 AM, on July 18, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: THE EAST 1320.00 FEET OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, NORTH AND EAST OF SANT FE RIVER, AND THE WEST 104.75 FEET OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, NORTH AND EAST OF SANTA FE RIVER, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN BOOK 216, PAGE 189, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
Property Address: 9947 SW 37TH ST, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031. Dated this 19th day of June, 2024.
Kellie Hendricks Rhoades
As Clerk of the Court
By: C Norman
As Deputy Clerk
IMPORTANT
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.
Publish In: THE UNION COUNTY

PUBLIC MEETING AND VOTE:
7/2/2024 7:00 PM
LOCATION: WORTHINGTON SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER 11933 SW 36th Drive Worthington Springs, Florida 32697
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS, FLORIDA TO FORMALLY ABANDON RIGHTS OF WAY IN UNION COUNTY TAX PARCELS 28-0-6-19-2-3-0-36-0-010-0 and 32-06-19-00-000-0022-0.
Pat Harrell, Clerk
Town Worthington Springs
386-496-1006 352-316-6776
6/20 2tchg 6/27-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

South line of the Southeast. 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence run South 88 degrees 54 minutes 46 seconds West, along said South line of the Southeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 17, a distance of 346.59 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO A County Maintained Limerock Road over, across and along the Southerly boundary thereof, a/k/a 13135 NE 235TH CT, RAIFORD, FLORIDA 32083
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Kahane & Associates, P.A., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220, Sunrise, FLORIDA 33323 on or before July 11, 2024, a date which is within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the THE UNION COUNTY TIMES and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
This notice is provided pursuant to Administrative Order No.2.065. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provisions of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator at 55 West Main Street, Rm. 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054, Phone No. (352)374-3648 within 2 working days of your receipt of this notice or pleading; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771 (TDD); if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 (V) (Via Florida Relay Services).
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 10th day of June, 2024.
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
As Clerk of the Court
BY: C. NORMAN
As Deputy Clerk
Publish: (Please publish in THE UNION COUNTY TIMES)
Submitted by:
Kahane & Associates, P.A.
1619 NW 136th Avenue, Suite D-220
Sunrise, Florida 33323
Telephone: (954) 382-3486
Telefacsimile: (954) 382-5380
Designated service email: notice@kahaneandassociates.com
6/13 2tchg 6/20-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
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IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ARLENE HARRIS MCMURRAIN,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ARLENE HARRIS MCMURRAIN, deceased, whose date of death was July 10, 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 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 27th, 2024.
Attorney for Personal Representative:
A. Leigh Cangelosi, Esq.
Florida Bar Number: 425494
Bogin Munns & Munns
2700 NW 43rd Street, Suite C
Gainesville, FL 32606
Telephone: (352) 332-7688
Fax: (352) 332-7692
E-Mail: lcangelosi@boginmunns.com
Secondary: lcangelosi@boginmunns.com
Personal Representative:
MARGARITA MCMURRAIN
34140 Brown Byu
Wesley Chapel, FL 3354

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1. Offer can be canceled at any time. Free membership is open to anyone within Florida Credit Union's 48 county field of membership. Offer exclude anyone who has held an FCU checking account in the past 24 months. Must be 18 years old or older to qualify. One per household. Credit approval and initial \$5 open deposit required. \$500 cumulative direct deposit amount must be made to this account within the first 60 days of account opening. Your direct deposit needs to be an electronic deposit of your paycheck, pension or government benefit (such as SSI) from your employer or the government. Person-to-person payments (such as Cash App, Venmo, or PayPal) are not considered a direct deposit. If the requirements are met and the account remains open and in good standing for 90 days, the \$300 will be credited to account. \$300 is considered interest and will be reported on IRS form 1099-INT. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 05/16/24. Subject to change; see certificate agreement for current rates, terms and requirements. 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 fcu.org at that time. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawals which may reduce earnings. Fees may reduce earnings.

Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.

Bradford Rookie baseball team plays in state tourney, now preps for World Series

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
 cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford Youth Athletics' Rookie All-Star baseball team just competed in the Babe Ruth state tournament and is now preparing to play in the Cal Ripken World Series, which will take place Aug. 1-11 in Ocala.

The cost for each player to participate in the World Series is approximately \$250, so the team is collectively trying to raise approximately \$3,000.

If you'd like to make a donation, you may do so via Cash App (\$rookieallstars24).

Funds remaining after participation costs are paid will go toward travel and food expenses.

This year's Rookie team won its district championship and then claimed the Small League Invitational Tournament championship trophy by going 4-0, scoring a total of 53 runs and allowing four.

Bradford participated in the June 20-23 Babe Ruth State Tournament in Jacksonville and was one of four teams out of 12 to make it to the tournament's final day.

The team's first tournament game was a 16-8 win over Oakleaf on June 20. Liam Hobbs drove in four runs, while the team as a whole had 32 hits.

Oakleaf led 3-0 until Bradford scored four runs in the second inning. Trey Waldon singled and scored on an Easton Wiseman

triple. After Wiseman scored on a Hobbs ground out, Braxton Lee tripled and scored on a Cash Collins single. With two outs, Bryson McCollum, Rylan Noegel and Wynnlin Lansford all singled, with Collins scoring on Lansford's hit to put Bradford up 4-3.

It was 8-5 in favor of Oakleaf when Bradford scored five runs in the fourth. With one on and two outs, Ashton Brown doubled to score McCollum. Chance Reed followed with a double as well before he and Brown both scored on a Waldon triple. Wiseman then hit an RBI triple, followed by Hobbs' RBI single.

Bradford closed the game out with a five-run sixth. After a Reed leadoff double, Hobbs and Lee hit back-to-back RBI doubles with two outs. Mason Poole hit an RBI single, while McCollum drove in the final two runs on a triple.

McCollum went 4 for 4 with two RBI, while Brown, Hobbs, Lansford, Lee, Noegel, Waldon and Wiseman each went 3 for 4. Lansford, Waldon and Wiseman each had two RBI, while Brown and Lee each had one.

Poole went 2 for 2 with an RBI, while Reed and Sebastian Almanzar each went 2 for 4.

Collins finished with one RBI. The team suffered a 20-1 loss to Julington Creek Baseball Diamond Kings on June 21. Reed, who went 2 for 2, drove in the lone run on one of his two doubles.

Noegel also went 2 for 2 against the team that would eventually win the championship.

Bradford needed a win on June 22 to advance to the June 23 semifinals. Brown and Hobbs combined to drive in five runs to help the team get that win by a score of 8-3 over Levy Park.

Brown put Bradford on the board first with a two-run homer in the top of the first.

Waldon hit an RBI single in the third, while Almanzar hit an RBI triple in the fourth, giving Bradford a 4-1 lead.

Bradford went up by seven runs with a four-run fifth. Noegel hit a leadoff double, followed by Lansford hitting a single. Brown hit a double to score Noegel. After a Waldon single, Wiseman drove in a run on a sacrifice fly. Hobbs then hit a two-run double to make the score 8-1.

Hobbs finished with two RBI, while Brown, who was 3 for 3, had three.

Noegel and Waldon went 4 for 4 and 3 for 3, respectively, with Waldon driving in one run.

Almanzar and Reed each went 2 for 3, with Almanzar driving in one run.

Wiseman finished with one RBI.

Bradford's tournament came to an end with an 11-4 loss to Ponte Vedra.

McCollum went 2 for 2 with an RBI double.

Hobbs and Wiseman each drove in a run on a ground out.

BHS to host youth football camp

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

The camp, which will run from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. will feature players Dontae Balfour, Torin

Brazell, Chason Clark, Manny Covey, Chalil Cummings, Amari Jones, Malakai Murphy, Dae'Jon Shanks and Jontez Williams.

Current BHS student-athletes

will work the camp as well.

The cost is \$40.

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



Scott Roberts
 Agent/Owner

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