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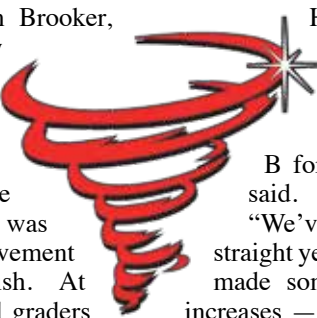
147th year, 52nd Issue — \$1

Bradford earns B grade for the first time

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County School District made history this week, earning a B for the first time since the school grading system was introduced. This best-ever grade for the district was the result of each individual school's performance, most of which improved at least grade themselves. Lawtey Elementary improved two grades to earn its first A since 2005. Bradford Elementary was the district's other A school. The school has risen one letter grade each year since 2022 for this achievement. Starke Elementary School and Bradford High School also improved a letter grade with both earning Bs. In terms of points earned, BHS was only 3 percentage points away from an A.

The charter school in Brooker, Brooker Community School, and Bradford Middle School were both C schools again this year. The high performance at the elementary schools was supported by high achievement in third grade English. At Lawtey, 79% of its third graders were proficient, 69% at Starke and 66% at Bradford. Not only are more students testing proficient in English and math, learning gains are charting high, including among the lowest quartile of students, which also adds to point totals. BHS also had a high achievement in science and a high graduation rate. Superintendent of Schools Will



Hartley said the district is extremely excited about this year's report card. The district has been aiming for this B for the past four years, he said. "We've talked about it for three straight years, and every year we've made some really good, gradual increases — growth that's what I say is sustainable," he said. The 4-point growth to 58% of total points earned this year is a level Hartley said the district can continue to push for. "It's exciting to see the direction that the district is heading. And in some of the areas, you know, things that will impact our district for years and years to come," he said, pointing to third grade English proficiency. Those

students — nearly three quarters of that cohort — will be progressing from year to year knowing how to read. "Things like that are going to make a major impact on the district for years to come, and so, of course, we want to continue to try to grow on those things, but it's areas like that that I really look at and think, wow, we've done some great things," he said. With the district ranking high among other districts in areas like third grade reading and sixth grade math, Hartley said the future is really bright. "We've seen some good growth numbers in the past four years, but we've never seen proficiencies that high, and it comes from that continual growth," he said.



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WORTH NOTING

Free school meals continuing in Bradford

All schools in the Bradford County School District will continue to participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs option called the Community Eligibility Provision for the 2025-26 school year. Schools that participate in the CEP provide healthy breakfasts and lunches each day at no charge for all students. This includes all elementary and secondary public and charter schools. For further assistance, please contact the Department of Food and Nutrition Services at 904-966-6026, or email dicks.blake@mybradford.us.

Soil and Water board meeting

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District welcomes everyone to its next meeting Tuesday, July 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. (Highway 301) in Starke. Discussion will include proposed sampling sites for monitoring water quality and invasive species. Contact Amy Morie at 323-274-8858 or email a.morie.bswcd@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.

Lawtey food giveaway

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Saturday, July 12, from 9–11 a.m. at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey. Distributions will continue each Saturday through Aug. 9. Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

See BUDGET, page 3

Cool summer



After a hot afternoon “on the farm,” what could be better with some popsicle refreshments with your friends? These students from the Concerned Citizens Summer Day Camp were keeping cool with their favorite crew. See more from this library event inside.

Governor: Blanding could house 2,000 immigrants

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Starke could house as many as 2,000 illegal immigrants, making it one of the largest such facilities in the U.S. Now, the Adams County Detention Center in Natchez, Mississippi, holds approximately 2,000 detainees. However, Charlton County, Georgia, is in the process of expanding the Folkston ICE Processing Center with a projected capacity of 3,000. That facility is 75 miles north of Camp Blanding. In addition, Florida's newest immigrant detention center could equal the capacity of the Charlton County facility. Last week, DeSantis joined President Donald Trump for the opening of a detention center 50 miles west of Miami dubbed “Alligator Alcatraz.” Both Trump and DeSantis emphasized the facility's remoteness, situated in a swampy area surrounded by reptiles. The new center was built in eight days and features more than

200 security cameras, over 28,000 feet of barbed wire and 400 security personnel. Officials said the South Florida center could hold 3,000 detainees. The governor said the state is now selecting vendors for the Camp Blanding expansion. He added that because Florida is the only state that requires all law enforcement to participate in immigration enforcement, the Sunshine State accounts for between 15% and 20% of daily immigration arrests. The projected capacity of the Camp Blanding detention center would be lower than the combined capacities of Florida State Prison and Union Correctional Institution, which is 2,926. Blanding's history as a detention site reaches back to 1942, when the camp served as a German prisoner of war camp. One thousand POWs were housed within the post, and its leadership supervised an additional 3,000 German POWs in branch camps throughout Florida.

County facing higher costs and diminished reserves

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Rising costs and dwindling reserves are once again among the topics addressed during discussions of Bradford County's next budget. Finance Director Dana LaFollette presented a balanced but incomplete budget for 2025-26, one that will be impacted by spending and decisions made through the end of this fiscal year. The budget is based on anticipated revenues and expenditures, as well as fund balances through the end of the second quarter, although the reserve amounts were adjusted to reflect the purchase of the fairgrounds' debt in April.

Property tax revenue was based on the current 10-mill levy. Other revenue from state or local sources were based on the current year. Revenue from the fire assessment has not been added to the budget, but it will be following approval of the first implementing resolution the morning of the budget workshop. The budget includes a 12.7% increase in the cost of employee life and health insurance, although rates are still being negotiated. It also includes a 3% cost of living raise. All department and constitutional office budget requests were included. The budget totals \$86.9 million. Of that amount \$13.4 million is grant-funded spending, and \$29.9 million is transfers out from the general fund,

the fines and forfeiture fund, and the American Rescue Plan Act revenue, \$3.9 million of which is going to the city of Starke's utility extension project. More than \$11.8 million are reserve funds used to balance the budget, including the general fund's \$9.48 million fund balance. But of that \$9.48 million, around \$7 million should remain set aside as emergency operations funding. That leaves a general fund reserve balance of just \$2.4 million. “For comparison purposes, last budget year, there was around \$5.1 million in reserves after the \$7 million Emergency Fund was established,” LaFollette said. Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden said even with the projected \$1.6

million in new revenue from the fire assessment — assuming it reaches final approval — the fund balance from the general fund is still in decline. The new revenue slows the decline but does not eliminate it. She reminded the commission that the fund balance in solid waste is also nearly spent, meaning in 2026-27, the board will have to transfer a half million dollars from the general fund to balance the solid waste budget. One way to offset that and help the department break even would be to increase the garbage assessment again, according to County Manager Scott Kornegay. It previously went from \$75 to \$125 for households.



Bradford agrees to fund joint youth recreation program

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Bradford County commissioners came to a consensus to approve funding for a new youth sports recreation program last week.

The program will finally unite the county with the city of Starke as partners in recreation along with the Tourist Development Council. Each board is contributing \$150,000 to the rec budget.

County Chairman Danny Riddick began discussion during the county budget workshop asking for the same understanding shown to the fair board. A recreation program could become self-supporting, but it would take some upfront investment from the county. If

that doesn't happen within two years, they can eliminate the program, he said.

The city and TDC boards had already agreed on financial support, he said. Commissioners were looking for a way to commit funds that didn't require further spending from their reserves.

Riddick said he knows money is tight and if the state eliminates property taxes, drastic cuts would be needed.

"I'm not putting that off, but at the same time, I'm not going to live in fear and not doing something for our children just because of a what-if," he said. "The bottom line is, do we want to take a chance for two years to see if it will become self-sustaining and to help our children?"

Commissioner Chris Dougherty didn't want to compare recreation to the fairgrounds, which the county already invested \$1.7 million to acquire. That money was spent out of the general fund reserves to save the fairgrounds from foreclosure, and that is where their commitment should be, he said.

But Dougherty mentioned another way to raise tourism revenue. Seminole County has approved a Tourism Improvement District. Hotels with 60 or more rooms have added a \$1.75 charge to their bills to fund improvements that will increase tourism, which benefits the hotels. Like the TDC board, a TID board helps govern use of funding. In Seminole, they will

build an indoor sports complex.

Dougherty cautioned against spending money from reserves on recurring expenses, especially considering the discussions in Tallahassee over property taxes.

"I understand what you're saying about what-if, but this thing's growing legs really fast it is. I mean, it's coming hard. People like the narrative. People like to think that they wouldn't have to pay property taxes," he said.

There was discussion of using funding offered by the sheriff from his budget and combining that with the funds budgeted to support individual recreation groups. But there wasn't enough to avoid committing some of the general fund's reserves to match the other \$150,000 contributions.

Riddick predicted, based on conversations he's had with private donors, that the county's full commitment would result in donations rolling in.

"I don't think that next year you're going to have to ask for the 150. I'll just throw that out. I won't mention names of the people that have called me that have pretty much said this. They're going to make this happen," he said. "Everybody will see buy in. Is the county going to buy in with the city and really make this work? And I truly feel like, if we do again, within six months, you'll see people coming forward and putting money in and make the recreation go so that next year, I won't even have to ask for a 150 from the city or the county."

Dougherty had previously suggested commissioners each donate \$5,000 from their board salaries to support recreation, and he said he is still willing to do so.

"Commissioner, I understand what you're trying to do, and I fully support recreation, but I also support that we're watching the money that we're spending and where we're pulling that money from because we have so many other issues," he said.

If they continue to add new expenses, Dougherty said they will never be able to roll back the property tax rate.

The consensus was to move forward by funding recreation, with \$135,000 from reserves and the \$15,000 budgeted for outside recreation groups.

Fair management tackled in budget discussions

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Now that it owns the fairgrounds, Bradford County is adding up the cost of management and maintenance until the fairgrounds is paying for itself.

As of the county's budget workshop last week, money to insure the buildings — \$22,000 — was already added to the county's budget. Public works was still surveying the fairgrounds to develop a list of needed repairs or upgrades. They needed to be planned for as a part of the county's capital improvement plan.

"As of right now, Rick and Chris in our maintenance department have been down

there doing some inspection," Public Works Director Jason Dodds told the board. "There's been some HVAC issues that they've taken care of. That's the initial shock right now, but we still need to go through that a little closer to see exactly the age of everything down there, and I can give you all an update at the next meeting."

Clerk of Court Denny Thompson said a big unknown is the cost maintaining the fairgrounds. Brad Thomas, vice president of the Bradford County Agricultural Fair, said they are looking at costs such as insurance and utilities. They receive rental revenue from the church that meets there to help cover those costs, but events will be the real source of income for

management and maintenance. They are discussing several events, including the fair in March.

Answering Thompson, Thomas said the fair board intends to be self-sufficient.

"With that being said, it may take, it may take two years to get there," said Thomas. It may be next year before they can take over the insurance bill, and a little longer before the board can be contributing toward the salary of a fair manager.

Not knowing some of the figures such as the anticipated salary of the fair manager complicated predicting self-sufficiency. That person will be key to bringing in revenue.

"We have full-time jobs. It's going to take somebody beating

the bushes and dragging stuff in to get an income. That's not only what the fairgrounds needs, that's what the county needs. We need somebody to bring income in, so it pays for itself," Thomas said.

While his office is handling administration for now, County Manager Scott Kornegay said a full-time manager for the fair needs to be part of the discussion.

"Nothing's going to fall through the crack, but the point is, we don't have the capacity to go out and do what Brad's talking about, which is what needs to be done," he said.

Thomas suggested a salary range of \$75,000 to \$90,000 to attract the right person and motivate them to work hard. This was the consensus of the

county commission as well. The county manager and fair board executives will work together on drafting a job description and hiring the fair manager.

"Mr. Scott said it best. You're looking for a unicorn, and we know that, but with the right people on the board to hire, I believe, with the right salary, you're going to get somebody that wants to come in here and really work hard for it," Thomas said.

The fair board understands this is their burden, he added, not the county's burden.

"But we ask the county to help us get to the point where we can handle that burden on our own," he said. When that happens, they may even be able to pay back some of the county's

contribution, he said.

For now, funding from the county reserves will be used to pay the fair manager's salary.

Asked by Commissioner Diane Andrews, Kornegay said there was less than \$5,000 in the fair board account when the county acquired the fairgrounds. More money may be found pending the outcome of an ongoing state-level investigation into actions taken by the prior fair board.

One thing the fair board does have among its members is a lot of experience, Thomas said. They are also motivated to create income through fundraising. But without someone to manage operation of the fairgrounds, it will be difficult to fully understand its position or plan for its future.

Most local funding requests survive veto

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Of the millions of dollars allocated locally, only the Arc of Bradford County's request for funding was excluded the state's new budget.

Last week, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the 2025-26 state budget totaling \$117.4 billion after \$567 million in line-item vetoes. One of those vetoes was \$300,000 legislators had set aside for capital outlay and operations at the Arc.

Other local requests were funded at least in part, including the first year of funding for Lake Butler's new elementary school and Starke's water and wastewater expansion project.

Rep. Chuck Brannan released lists of all the funds budgeted for the area, many of which were personal member appropriation projects he supported in the House and Sen. Jennifer Bradley supported in the Senate. The projects reflect strong legislative support for critical community investments in areas such as infrastructure, education and public safety, he said.

In Bradford County, the funding included:

- Bradford County Sheriff's Office (salary increases for fiscally constrained counties) - \$858,176.
- RJE Building Modernization - \$900,119.
- SLERS Radio Equipment Replacement and Upgrade - \$907,000.
- Courthouse Renovation - \$500,000.
- Keystone Heights Airport - S.R. 100 Road Connectivity - \$744,588.
- Starke U.S. 301 Utility Extension - \$2,000,000.
- School Readiness Services - \$1,317,353.
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$582,878.
- Preliminary Engineering Consultants Transportation Work Program - \$1,012,279.
- Resurfacing Transportation Work Program - \$7,522,409.
- Small County Resurface Assistance Program - \$2,300,000.
- Prepping Institutions,

Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund Workforce Education - \$550,920.

—Public Schools Workforce Education Program Funds - \$1,223,046.

at the airport was funded, the county will finish design work and utilize the road department for construction. Similarly, the clerk's office and court will collaborate on the use of funds for the courthouse.

In Union County, the funding included:

- Union Lake Butler Elementary School Phase I - \$29,519,032. (Upon completion, in total, this will be an \$88,577,096 project.)

—Union County Sheriff's Office (salary increases for fiscally constrained counties) - \$454,552.

—Union County Public Safety Complex - Phase 4 - \$750,000.

—Union County Courthouse

Restoration - \$850,000.

—School Readiness Services - \$622,799.

—Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$290,201.

—Public Schools Workforce

Education Program Funds - \$114,402.

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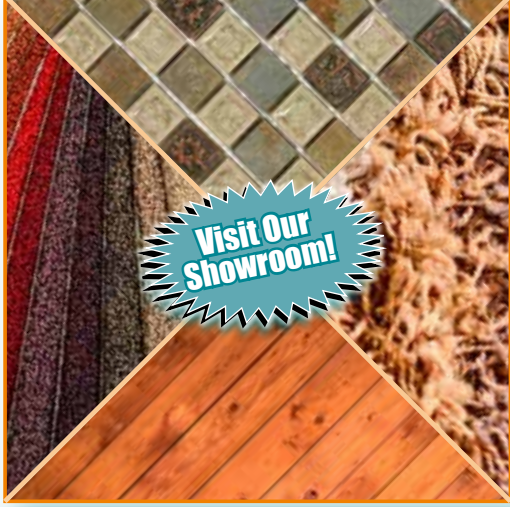
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RJE Summer Day Camp: Planting seeds for the future

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Concerned Citizens of Bradford County just wrapped up its final week of summer day camp at the R J E Campus. It's a milestone of 15 years for the successful program that provides a fun and nurturing environment for children from K-5 to 8th grade.

The program director is Concerned Citizens President Alica McMillian. McMillian serves as a volunteer, working tirelessly to make the program more than just a place to keep kids busy, but to do what the organization does best: invest in the future of Bradford County. The summer day camp program is a living, breathing example of part of the organization's mission statement, which states, "We are an outreach organization dedicated to the needy, deprived, seniors and especially to the proper rearing of our children in order for them to become model citizens."

During the month-long day camp children are taught lessons in math and reading through time at the computer lab, which is a fun-filled activity with interactive games. These games sharpen their skills from the previous school year without making the children feel like they are at school. Students are also taught



Amaria Blocker and Madison Almore were spending some time in the math lab. Day campers and parents are happy kids have in the math lab because it's computer games with a purpose — keeping their skills sharp during the summer break.

life skills such as cooking and character building.

McMillian says the character-building classes are provided by Meridian Health and are presented in a tangible way through the arts and crafts lessons. She said it's important to include these lessons, so children



Harmoni, Azariah and Zyra are youth volunteers who are giving back to the summer program. All three students attended while they were younger. Now they are investing in the generation just behind them, while also earning community service hours.

McMillian knows that many children don't pick up a book all summer. She says many children spend too much time in front of screens during their long break. The day camp gets them excited to learn, have social interactions, and even new adventures because the campers also take field trips. The biggest outing is going to the Jacksonville Zoo followed by lunch at the Golden Corral.

The program is already seeing some fruits from its labor in the youth volunteers who are now working alongside the adults to help train the new generation of campers. Once campers themselves, highschoolers Harmoni, Azariah, and Zyra all shared they'd learned skills to take with them in their own lives. They specifically mentioned learning integrity and how to treat others. This is at the heart of the Concerned Citizen's stated goals.

The four-week program is available each summer in June. The one-time fee is \$200 which covers all supplies and field trip costs. Breakfast and lunch are provided free through the school district. Fundraising helps keep fees low and provide scholarships to those that need them. McMillian said they set a goal to raise \$10,000 for the camp this year, they exceeded that goal by raising \$11,000.

If you are interested in this program or many of the others offered through the Concerned Citizens, you can find more information on their website at: www.concernedcitizensbradford.com or email ccbc_inc@yahoo.com.



Concerned Citizens of Bradford County's Secretary Sherry Williams and President Alica McMillian have a passion for the future of Bradford County and invest tirelessly in the next generation while serving at the month-long day camp.

become better citizens. She also believes the program shows them new things and keeps their beautiful minds sharpened.



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BUDGET

Continued from page 1

"Our reserves were growing and now, based on some major

expenses and based on some new recurring expenses, our reserves are now starting to look like it's declining. And I think that's just important for us to report that to you all, so you can be aware of what our trend is looking like as you're considering other budgetary matters," Rhoden said. These include decisions over management and maintenance of the fairgrounds and a new youth recreation program. (See related stories.)

Speaking to other matters, Rhoden also said when the new fiscal year dawns in October, the clerk's and manager's offices need to meet and have a "very serious conversation" on what the budget will look like if the state eliminates property taxes, which could cut millions from the county budget and lead to serious cuts to services.

Kornegay said there's a "glimmer of hope" that fiscally constrained counties like Bradford would be assisted. But "that's just being optimistic," he

said. Rhoden said commissioners should be prepared to have a conversation if the final fire assessment resolution is not approved next month. More than \$600,000 was added to cover additional personnel for the fire station being constructed in Brooker. Without the revenue, cuts may be needed, she said.

Given the rising cost of insurance, Commissioner Chris Dougherty also revisited the idea of having employees contribute to the cost of their medical coverage. Currently they only pay for family coverage. "I know I'm not the favorite person in the room for saying things like that, but I mean, we have to be real. I mean, because, again, some of these counties that even generate a lot of revenue. through their tourism or whatever else they have going on, they're not offering the same benefit that we are," he said. For years, the benefit was used to balance the lower salaries

paid when compared to other counties, Rhoden said. Now, with reserves being depleted and property taxes under attack, she said the county can't avoid such conversations about cuts, with internal cuts coming before cuts to services.

"I don't know how we can avoid it, even if it's just a maybe not the full amount, but a small amount," she said.

But Rhoden also said the insurance benefit does help reduce turnover. The clerk's office has a hard time keeping employees after they've been hired and trained. They leave for higher paying positions elsewhere in the circuit, she said. Kornegay said employee turnover is a problem in many departments. The fire department has recently filled 19 positions.

Commissioners Carolyn Spooner and Danny Riddick said it would be difficult to lose the incentive without making things worse.



RIVERS FLOWING CHURCH

THE NEW BIRTH – BEING BORN AGAIN

It's been over a month since our last lesson so I thought I would recap a few truths that we discussed. In 2nd Corinthians 5:17 the Bible tells us "that if any man (person) be in Christ, he is a New Creature (creation), old things have passed away and behold all things have become new. Paul is not talking about a person's body or mind but their spirit has become new the moment they are born-again and make Jesus the Lord of their lives. The New Birth does not take place gradually. It is a Grace gift from God that we receive when we believe and act. It is instantaneous! Reading from Ephesians 2:1, "And you has He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. . . ." Paul is talking here about spiritual death or separation from God. The Bible says He quickened or made us alive and Ch.2:8-9 tells us how it happened: "For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast." Notice, it is NOT of works! A person has to simply admit his/her helplessness and hopelessness. You humble yourself, admitting that you are a sinner and come and accept what Jesus Christ alone has wrought for you by salvation. The New Birth is a Grace gift from God.

It is right here I want to ask you the reader, have you passed from death to life spiritually? Is God your Father? God is the Creator of all but He is not the Father of everyone. Can you look up to heaven right now and say: "God you are my very own Father and I am your very own child?"

Do you have the witness in your spirit that you are a child of God? Romans 8:14-16 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (children) of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry Abba, Father." So, you might be reading this and saying to yourself, "I don't have this experience of the New Birth, I'm not sure I'm Born Again." Well, I can tell you how to be born again. Romans 3:23 says "for ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." First, recognize and admit that you are a sinner, lost, without God and without hope. Romans 10:8-10 says "The Word is near you, in your heart and in your mouth, that is the Word of Faith which we preach; that if you CONFESS with your mouth the LORD JESUS and believe in your heart that God RAISED HIM from the DEAD, you will be saved. For with the HEART one believes unto righteousness and with the MOUTH confession is made unto salvation. If you dare act on these scriptures you can be Born-Again, made a New Creature in Christ. I pray that you will make Jesus your Lord today. Now, if you have made Jesus the Lord of your life, this is not the end, this is the beginning of a new way of life. Stay tuned, and next week I will show you the next step in your new life.

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Backyard Summer Adventures at the library

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

A long line of eager Bradford library goers meandered through the bookshelves from the back door to the front entrance at the latest summer program: Petting Zoo and Pony Rides. The event is always eagerly anticipated by inquisitive children and parents alike. This event, along with all the other activities the library plans for the summer, helps fill the long summer days with meaningful learning opportunities and enriches imaginations as children read. This year, the library used a fenced area behind the building for the petting zoo. The space

offered some shade and created a “backyard barnyard” feel for young explorers. Library staffers Melanie Jackson and Tonya Mitchell were just two of the many devoted team members who were on hand to help children have quality time inside the petting zoo and to get their chance at a pony ride. The petting zoo animals were provided by The Barnyard Bunch and the pony rides by MNM’s Ponies. Stop by the library for the calendar of events. There are more exciting activities planned for July including crafting, sticker swaps, and an end of summer bash on the 31st.



Makalyan loved petting the soft bunny rabbits, just some of the small creatures along for the latest adventure at the library’s petting zoo, part of the summer program.



Friendly chickens and ducks were on hand to give children a taste of life on the farm at the Bradford County library’s petting zoo last Thursday afternoon.



Mckenna, like many children, came with her family to have some new experiences at the library. Riding the ponies was a highlight for most of those in attendance.



Student volunteers Ava from Santa Fe College and Cana from Bradford High offered cold popsicles for refreshment to all who visited the library’s backyard barnyard.



Aashna, president of Voice of the Library Teens program, was on the job providing fresh lemonade to children and parents enjoying the warm afternoon at the library.

Zombie makeup: The scary, beautiful story

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

Zombies typically invoke fear and disgust, but the story that unfolded at the Bradford County Library’s makeup and special effects class definitely had a surprise ending. The class was another featured event in the library’s summer series, taught by Jay Woodley, makeup artist from shows like “The Walking Dead”, “Stranger Things” and the film “Peter Rabbit.” Woodley, a Jacksonville native, says he loves having these demonstrations at local libraries because it’s his way to give back. Woodley knows what it’s like to be a kid with a big dream. What began as a \$20 box of ambition and makeup from Party City, has grown into a unique and storied career. At the young age of five, Woodley saw the old classic “Creature from the Black Lagoon,” and while it scared him, his uncle, who was also a makeup artist said, “It’s just a costume.” That quieted his fears but sparked his interest and desire to go into the special effects industry. During the class, attendees were not only informed about the history of special effects makeup, which dates to 3,000 BC, they were also taught some improv and zombie walking moves. Multiple volunteers were used for illustration of types of makeup. The crowd was asked for storyline ideas to go with the chosen



A full face zombie attack was the final presentation at the library’s zombie makeup course, taught by artist Jay Woodley.

“injury” that Woodley was going to create. Multiple “victims” went from healthy to infected in just a few minutes in Woodley’s hands. Woodley’s creativity is not limited to applying makeup to create zombies; he also has invented his own unique blend of “magic blood powder” and makes his own molds, which he used in the demonstration. They range from nasty cuts to ripped off jaws, he then applies the makeup and “magic blood” splatter to make it look real, even in person. As Woodley applied makeup in the class, he inspired with his own story of perseverance. He said he was so determined to be

on “The Walking Dead” he auditioned 30 times. He became an extra, then moved from the makeup department to the stunt department. He said he got to be used in everything. He said his very first paid job was doing special effects makeup for a local boutique in Jacksonville’s zombie party. He laughed and said it’s some of the worst work he’s ever done, but he keeps the pictures to remind him where he came from and how much he’s accomplished. His business all started with that \$20 shoe box of cheap makeup he took to Zombie Walk in Jacksonville. He charged \$2 a piece the first year, \$5 the second year and his work began speaking for itself and he eventually charged \$75. He credits his success to “years of just not giving up and throwing his name out anywhere people would listen.” His experience even includes a childhood dream of being “friends with Indiana Jones” at Walt Disney World’s Hollywood Studios. He said during his first performance in the live action show, as the giant boulder rolled towards him, he was so excited and it all felt so surreal that he missed a mark and fell and busted his nose, but the show went on and he worked in that role for two years. He’s been working as a makeup and special effects artist since he was 17, but professionally for 15 years. He said some of

the best advice he received was from a mentor in the film special effects industry who told him, “Kid, never bet your bank on one project. Just go do your job, be the best you can be at it and maybe something cool will happen.” He said, “So far, a lot of cool stuff has happened.” As the class wrapped up, those who came were entertained, educated and some left a little bloodied, but the most beneficial lesson of the course was to work hard at something you love and maybe you will see your own dreams come to life.

For more photos, visit BCTelegraph.com.



Young Kairi Hobbs bravely volunteered to be the first victim of the library’s zombie apocalypse where she suffered a zombie werewolf bite to the hand. She kept her friend Eeyore with her for moral support.



One final zombie family photo with artist and instructor Jay Woodley (center). Woodley shared tips, behind the scenes secrets, and personal experience from his years as a makeup artist and actor on shows such as “The Walking Dead” and “Stranger Things.”

NOTICE OF ELECTION TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS

NOTICE is hereby given as provided by the Charter of the Town of Worthington Springs, Florida, that a municipal election will be held in the said Town of Worthington Springs on the third (3rd) Tuesday in July 2025 the same being July 15, 2025, for the purpose of electing the following officers of the said Town of Worthington Springs to serve for the term as hereinafter stated, to wit:

Seat One for a term of four (4) years
Pam Williams (Incumbent)
Danny Guyer

Seat Three for a term of four (4) years
Nita Elixson (Incumbent)
Leslie Sasser

Election will be held at the City Hall located at 11933 SW 36 DR and State Road 121 in Worthington Springs, Florida on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 and the polls will be open at 7:00 am and close at 7:00 pm.

To vote by mail contact Supervisor of Elections at 386-496-2236. Last day to request a Vote by mail is Thursday, July 3rd, 2025. Ballot must be returned to Supervisor of Elections office by July 15th.

Clerk of Election:	Ramona Dewees	Pat Harrell, Clerk
Asst. Clerk:	Patricia Lynch	Town Worthington Springs
Deputy:	Chick Dewees	

UNION COUNTY

Clint Wilson wins Rotary car show

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Clint Wilson of Providence took Best in Show and was the overall winner in the Lake Butler Rotary Club's car show at Lakeside Park on July 5.

Wilson said one of his entries, a 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle SS, was a rolling chassis when he bought it from a friend.

"Total rebuild," he said. "Paint, body, cameras, Detroit Speed suspension up under it, Brake Motor 502, with \$700 for an FTI transmission."

Wilson put vintage air conditioning in the Chevelle.

When asked how many other cars he owned, Wilson responded, "Am I being recorded?"

"Yes," I answered, while videotaping him with my phone. "I got about 25 cars."

John Holt won Best in Show, 8th place and the Best Truck award with a 1953 Ford F-150.

Holt said the Ford was painted when he acquired the truck.

"Bought it from an older gentleman," the Providence resident said. "He's dead now. I took it from there and did all the mechanical in it."

Holt said he is a member of Gainesville Street Rods and owns other cars. However, none are in finished condition. He added that he is a subscriber to the Union County Times.

Tom Jenkins won 6th place for Best in Show. He displayed a 1925 Oldsmobile Model S.

"A hundred years old," he said of the gold-colored classic. "The cab is all original, but the fenders and running boards are not original."

Jenkins said a friend discovered the car in a Lake City body shop.

"(The owner) had been working on it for 30-some years," he said, "and the body shop (owner) said I'm not working on it anymore."

Jenkins said he modified the 100-year-old car into a hot rod.

"You can ride it 80, 90 miles per hour down the interstate all day long."

Jenkins said he put in a 94 Z-28 drive train in it.

Jenkins described several other cars he restored. He said he was particularly proud of a 1959 station wagon formerly owned by Billy McGill.

"Billy bought it in Lake Butler," Jenkins said. "Langford Ford used to be up there on Main Street where the Dollar General is now."

When asked how he got



Clint Wilson with his 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle SS,



John Holt in 1953 Ford F-150, which won Best Truck.



Tom Jenkins with his 1925 Oldsmobile Model S.

involved in restoring cars, Jenkins replied, "One car at a time."

The complete list of winners is: Overall winner - Clint Wilson, Best in Show- Clint Wilson, Best in Show 2nd place- Carl Bullard, Best in Show 3rd place- John Mills.

Car Show organizer Jody Read noted that Mills travelled from Savannah, Georgia, to attend the event and was considering moving to Union County.

Best in Show 4th place- Tom Jenkins, Best in Show 5th place- Rick Pittman, Best in Show 6th Place- Tom Jenkins, Best in Show 7th Place- Tony Acyuro, Best in show 8th place- John Holt, Best in Show 9th place- Alex Fardales, Best in show 10th Place- Tom Riherd, Most patriotic- Lee LeDux, Best Truck- John Holt.

Pennsylvania mother and son take top places in Lake Butler 5K



The start of the Rotary 5K race, (l-r) Briana Carter (30), Chrystal Woodall (40), Megan Powell (50), Pam Giebeig (293), Henry Stewart (32), and Paige Stewart (31).

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

An incoming eighth grader at Pennsylvania's Waynesboro Middle School won the Lake Butler Rotary Club's Independence Day 5K race, Saturday Morning, July 5.

Henry Stewart crossed the finish line at Lakeside Park with a time of 28:05. Eight seconds later, the middle schooler's mother completed the course at 28:13. Paige Stewart said she grew up in Union County as Paige Mosley and is the daughter of Olivia Mosley.

"Jackie and Jessica's sister," she added.

The route took runners east and north along the shore of Butler Lake, on Northeast Third Street.

Chrystal Woodall placed third with a time of 31:17.



Top three finishers (l-r) Paige Stewart, second place, winner Henry Stewart, and Chrystal Woodall, third place.



Henry Stewart crosses the finish line at Lakeside Park first with a time of 28:05. At left are race officials and Rotary Club members Sheriff Brad Whitehead and Schools Superintendent Mike Ripplinger.

Race timer Mike Ripplinger said this year's turnout of six for the 5K race was about the same as last year. However, an additional six participants, who ran in last year's fun run, were missing from the 2025 edition.

Another parent-child team ran the race: Pam Giebeig and her daughter, Megan Powell.

Briana Carter rounded out the field of six runners.

Paige Stewart said she made her way to the Keystone State because her husband attended Penn State, and the family settled near the Pennsylvania-Maryland state line after he finished school.

She added that her family had just arrived in Union County late the previous day, and she was concerned they might miss the race.

Stewart said her son runs twice

a week with his school's summer running club.

"I'm pushing him to be better," she added, "so we run two or three days a week together."

Woodall said she started running with the encouragement of her nephew. She ran the Gate River Run in February, which was three times longer than the Lake Butler route.

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7-8, 9-10, 11-12.



Williams and Forsgren win fishing title

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

The team of Jesse Williams and L.J. Forsgren caught a 3.87-pound bass, and Brandon Griffis reeled in a 3.98-pound catfish to take honors in the Tommy Spires Memorial Bass Fishing Tournament on Butler Lake, July 5.

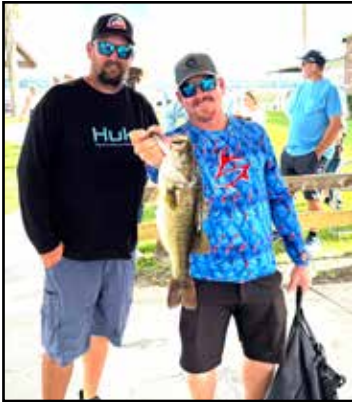


Ginger Thompson with the second-place bass.



Mike Spires (left) preps the scale to weigh a catfish held by Tyler Griffis.

tournament with bass catches were Ginger Thompson, 2.21



Jesse Williams (right) and L.J. Forsgren display their winning 3.87-pound bass.

pounds, Tyler Griffis, 1.22 pounds, Buddy Perry, 1.17 pounds, Dallen Cox, 0.93 pounds, and Kevin Weeks, 0.92 pounds.

Brandon Griffis's catfish was the only entry in the trash fish category.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

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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

Kevin Branson, 63, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 3 for failure to appear.

Fish-hooked partner during dispute

Andrew Devane, 39, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 4 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies she and her partner were arguing about their rent payment. At one point in the argument, the defendant gained possession of the woman’s purse, and during the ensuing struggle over the handbag, Devane hit his partner in the cheek.

“(The victim) advised that Andrew had hooked her cheek and pulled her face,” wrote Deputy Benjamin Norsworthy in the report. “(She) appeared to have swelling on the left cheek.”

Devane denied hitting the victim but admitted to hooking his finger in her mouth, in a fishhook fashion.

John Ginniann, 54, of Port Ritchie, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for a probation violation.

Bruce Gordon, 70, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and an out-of-county warrant.

Dwight Henry, 28, of Lugoff, South Carolina, was arrested by Lawtey police on June 30 for possession of drug equipment and possession of drugs.

Didn’t want wife to find out

Keith Jones, 60, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for possession of drugs and destroying evidence.

According to an arrest report, two Bradford Sheriff’s detectives, Frankin Ehrnreiter and Det. Flynn, saw Jones’s red Ford sedan fail to stop at a stop sign at Starke’s Oak Street and State Road 16.

When the driver stopped at a mobile home park and started for one of the trailers, Ehrnreiter instructed him to stop.

A search of Jones’s person yielded negative results. Ehrnreiter wrote that Jones then consented to a search of his vehicle.

“While at the driver’s side, I observed several small white square pieces on the ground near the driver’s door,” the detective reported. “Upon closer inspection, and based on my training and experience, I identified the substance as suspected crack cocaine.”

“When questioned about the suspected crack cocaine,” Ehrnreiter continued, “Keith inquired about its location and then attempted to step on the evidence. As he did so, I grabbed his left arm to prevent him from destroying the evidence.

The detective wrote that Jones then fell to the ground, “and I observed that some of the suspected crack cocaine had been destroyed.”

Ehrnreiter added that Jones later admitted to Detective Flynn he tried to destroy the crack because his wife was unaware of his use.

David McSpadden, 57, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 29 for possession of cocaine, possession

of drug equipment, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and out-of-county warrants.

Ran out of gas, stole car

Jonathan Norman, 31, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 29 for possession of drugs and vehicle theft.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies he was asleep when the defendant woke him up and told him he had run out of gas.

“(The victim) went back to sleep,” wrote Deputy Devin K. Jones in the report. “When he woke up thirty minutes later, his keys and vehicle were gone.”

The deputy added that while he was entering the stolen vehicle into crime databases, two deputies located the car at a beverage store on Starke’s Brownlee Street.

Deputy Tyler Oliver reported that as he was patting down the defendant, he discovered a heart-shaped pill in one of Norman’s pockets. The pill tested positive for MDMA.

Trespassed Dollar store while deputies were in parking lot

Jaedin Richardson, 28, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for trespassing and smuggling contraband into a correctional facility.

According to an arrest report, workers at a Brooker Dollar General called deputies after Richardson, who had been previously arrested for shoplifting at the store, had returned.

Deputy A. Escobar wrote that he issued a two-year trespass warning to the defendant, and Deputy Chris Gardiner explained to Richardson that he could not enter the property for the next 24 months.

“While at the Dollar General parking lot,” reported Escobar, “Deputy Gardiner and I observed Jaedin actively walking toward the Dollar General front door, trespassing on site; in view of Law Enforcement. Jaedin was subsequently placed under arrest for trespass after warning without further incident.”

The officer added that at the jail, a detention deputy recovered marijuana from a search of the defendant, after Richardson said he had no drugs on him.

Richard Rodriguez, 27, of St. Petersburg, was arrested by Lawtey police on July 2 for possession of drug equipment and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Clara Shellman, 58, of Tampa, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 3 for failure to appear.

Accused of stealing from 3 Walmarts

Justin Taylor, 42, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 1 for larceny and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, a loss prevention officer at Starke’s Walmart observed an unidentified male on video putting store merchandise into various shopping carts and leaving the baskets in odd places throughout the store.

“In addition,” wrote Deputy Lakiesha Lewis, “the subject left the store several times and even placed a blue shirt over his white shirt as he was entering back into the store.”

Lewis added that as the defendant approached an exit with a shopping cart, the loss prevention officer stopped him, and Taylor ran out a door.

Palatka police later identified the man as Taylor, adding that officers in Palatka stopped Taylor while he was attempting to steal from a Walmart there.

Lewis added that when she first arrived at the retailer, she saw Taylor and a woman together in the parking lot. The woman was later seen on video attempting to get a refund on merchandise for which she could not prove she had purchased.

“(The Starke loss prevention

officer) also stated that this is not the first time Taylor and the unknown female came into Walmart together, taken items or returned a large number of items together,” Lewis reported. “Both individuals were not able to be caught in previous incidents.”

The 42-year-old was arrested in Starke after Clay deputies transferred the defendant from the Green Cove Springs jail.

According to an arrest report, Clay deputies booked Taylor on March 9 after a loss prevention officer at an Orange Park Walmart observed the defendant on video, taking two Invicta watches out of their boxes and slipping the timepieces into his pockets.



Andrew Devane



Adam Henslee



Keith Jones



Jonathan Norman



Jaedin Richardson



Alexia Staffieri



Justin Taylor



Randall Wininger

Edwin Vickery, 40, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 3 for withholding support.

D’endra Wallace, 32, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 28 for possession of marijuana, possession of dangerous drugs, and a weapons offense.

Arrested for avoiding sex offender laws

Randall Wininger, 65, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 3 for sex offender violations.

According to a sworn complaint, a deputy investigating claims that the defendant was not living at his registered address, discovered Wininger’s vehicle parked at a Sapp Street address in Starke for an extended period.

Deputy Antonio Velazquez wrote that he requested Putnam County deputies check the defendant’s registered address in the Hawthorne area.

“In response,” Valazquez reported, “PCSO deputies attempted an in-person contact at Randall Winniger’s registered address...Deputies observed that Wininger was not present at the residence.”

Two days later, Putnam deputies returned to the Hawthorne address and were unable to locate the defendant.

“This request was made due to the continued presence of Wininger’s vehicle at...W. Sapp Street, Starke, which is not a registered address and where he has previously been explicitly instructed not to reside.”

The deputy noted that Wininger’s past actions demonstrate a pattern of

exploiting the state’s sexual offender tracking system.

“It should be noted,” wrote Velazquez in the complaint, “that Randall Wininger is known for attempting to manipulate the registration system, and multiple investigations have previously been conducted regarding his failure to provide accurate registration information. His actions demonstrate an ongoing and deliberate effort to circumvent Florida’s sexual offender registration laws.”

Union

Slapped household member

Alexia Staffieri, 18, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 30 for battery.

According to an arrest report, a witness told deputies Staffieri and a household member were involved in a verbal disagreement when the defendant slapped the victim on the left side of the victim’s face.

“I made contact with Alexia, who also corroborated (the witness’s) story,” wrote Deputy Eli C. Rogers in the arrest report. “(The witness) was also advised that this incident would be reported to DCF.”

Mikah Wilson, 20, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Union deputies on July 2 for possession of child pornography, promoting the sexual performance of a child, and lewd and lascivious battery committed on a child under 16 years of age.

Lori Waters, 62, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 5 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Brandon Croft, 41, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on July 6 for vehicle theft.

Clay

Interfered with investigation

Andrew Ables, 26, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 30 for resisting

an officer without violence.

Deputy Brandon Draughon-Miller wrote in an arrest report that while investigating a battery case, he asked a female witness in the McRae area if she would talk to him about an incident that occurred earlier that night.

Although the woman agreed to speak with the deputy, Ables, who was nearby, interrupted the interview and screamed at the officer, stating the woman had the right not to incriminate herself.

“(The woman) spoke up that she would be willing to speak to CCSO,” the deputy reported. “Andrew spoke over (her) stating that nothing happened and they weren’t involved. Andrew then placed his arms out to his side, preventing (the woman) from stepping forward when she attempted to do so.”

Draughon-Miller wrote that both he and the woman tried to calm Ables down, with the woman telling him, “Let me talk to them, it’s okay”.

However, the defendant refused to back down, and he placed his hands on the woman’s shoulders to escort her back inside a nearby house.

“I then ordered Andrew to stop interfering with my investigation multiple times as (the woman) had declared that she is willing and wanting to speak with us despite his protests,” wrote the officer. “Andrew then opened the door to the residence, moved (the woman) inside, slammed the door shut, and declared that she will not be allowed to incriminate herself and he will not let her outside the residence to speak with CCSO.”

Draughon-Miller wrote that he then patted down Ables for weapons and placed him in the back of a patrol vehicle.

The deputy added that once he completed his investigation, he drove Ables to the Clay County Jail for booking.

Face down in a ditch

Scott Ballou, 37, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 3 for possession of drug equipment, disorderly intoxication, and resisting an officer without violence.

Deputy William A. Stockling wrote in an arrest report that the defendant was observed at a Lake Geneva BP station, walking back

and forth inside the store, arguing with shoppers, and attempting to enter vehicles in the parking lot by pulling on their door handles.

“Dispatch later reported that the defendant was laying face down in a ditch next to the business,” Stockling wrote.

The deputy reported that when he met with Ballou, the defendant was slurring his words, unable to maintain his balance, had dilated pupils, and emitted a strong odor of alcohol.

The officer added that when searching Ballou, he discovered four glass pipes in the defendant’s pockets, and he zeroed in on one.

“Based on my training and experience,” he wrote, “I immediately recognized this item as drug paraphernalia, as the burnt ends and presence of Brillo are consistent with the illicit use of narcotics. I also located two additional clear glass pipes, both containing burnt residue. The fourth pipe was a clear glass pipe with a bulb-shaped end, but it did not contain any visible burnt residue.”

Tackled child in thrift store

Adam Henslee, 40, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 3 for child abuse without great bodily harm.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies the defendant grabbed him by his torso and tackled him to the ground in a Keystone Heights thrift store.

Deputy Brian Bolena wrote in the report that he observed lacerations on the victim’s right knee, forehead, and right shoulder, in addition to light scratches on his right shoulder. First responders evaluated the victim’s lacerations but did not transport him to a hospital.

Bolena reported that when he interviewed Henslee, the 40-year-old appeared intoxicated.

“During the interview, it was apparent the defendant was under the influence of alcohol,” the deputy wrote. “He exhibited slurred speech, had difficulty maintaining his balance, and appeared disheveled and unkempt, with a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his person.”

Fire and police departments honored



Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth with Clay County firefighters Matthew Breeland, Bob Wilfong, David Seymour, Andrew Sass, Connor Green and Matthew Batton.

BY JENN SAMSEL Special to the Monitor

This year, during the Fourth of July ceremonies, the Keystone Heights Heritage Commission proudly unveiled a special tribute in celebration of the city’s centennial milestone.

The event honored the dedicated men and women of the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire and Police Departments, showcasing beautifully crafted shadow boxes that memorialize the brave firefighters and police officers who have served the community throughout its history.

These displays serve as a poignant reminder of their unwavering commitment and sacrifice, allowing residents to reflect on their vital contributions to the safety and well-being of the town.

The ceremony not only marked 100 years of our city’s existence but also renewed gratitude for those who have selflessly protected and served the community of Keystone Heights.

The shadow boxes created by the Heritage Commission were intended to showcase the history

of the departments. Unfortunately, many photos and artifacts from the police department were lost.

Clay County Fire Rescue firefighters were on the scene, actively participating in a significant moment in history while being honored for their dedicated service.

Established in 1925, the Keystone Heights Volunteer

Fire Department, incorporating it as a paid fire station.

“We are thrilled to have all of you out here today to celebrate our very special day in honoring the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire and Police Departments. My continued thanks to our Clay County Firefighters and Deputies who are working in our community. Thank you so



Clay County Firefighters with shadowboxes commemorating the Keystone Heights fire and police departments.

Fire Department has been a monumental success, shaping its fire services into what they are today.

In 2017, Clay County Fire Rescue acquired the Keystone

much! We are forever grateful for all of your service,” said Nina Rodenroth, Keystone Heights Mayor.

Keystone student wins Freedom 5K

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A rising junior at Keystone Heights High School won the Freedom 5K in Keystone Heights on July 4.

Lawtey resident Noah Yara finished the 5K with a time of 17:36.

The member of the high school cross country team said he got

his start in competitive racing three years ago after doing well at the 2022 Freedom 5K.

"I actually ran the race here three years ago, and I did pretty well, and people were telling me I could join the cross-country team, so I did," he said.

Race director Kerry Cooper Collins said 448 people participated in the event, up from 299 the previous year.

"I think it's the whole day," Collins said of the surprising turnout. "It's the arts and crafts. It's the parade. It's the ski shows, the Wild West show, the hot dog eating contest, the band, and the fireworks. "I think Keystone is becoming a destination for the Fourth of July."

Collins said the 2025 edition of the event included a wheelchair division for the first time.



Race director Kerry Cooper Collins said 448 people participated in the event, up from 299 the previous year.



Race director Kerry Cooper Collins said 448 people participated in the event, up from 299 the previous year.



Lawtey resident Noah Yara finished the 5K with a time of 17:36.

Independence Day in Keystone Heights



Captain America, portrayed by Col. Richard Hall of the Keystone Heights High School JROTC, hands out candy.



In addition to marching in the parade, the Shadow Riders put on several Wild West shows throughout the afternoon.



Patrick Smith and Daniel Christner of the Moccasin Creek Jeep Club.



Leading the Keystone Heights High School cheerleaders are (front row, l-r) Ashlyn Brown, Victoria Bonnett, and Dom Rodgers.



Riding for the Keystone Heights Woman's Club are (l-r) Maria Walker, Sally Linton, Darlene Harper, and John Walker.



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FOR SALE

Melrose 14U All-Stars capture state championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A two-run homer by Chase Kirk and an RBI double by Hunter Thomas helped the Melrose 14U All-Stars baseball team defeat Fort Caroline 4-2 and win the state championship on June 29 in New Smyrna Beach.

Melrose, which went 3-0 in the tournament, advances to the Southeast Region Tournament, which will be played July 15-20 in Tallahassee.

The run to the state title began with Cason Burton and Jackson Broome each driving in three runs in an 18-1 win over Sanford

on June 26.

Melrose batters had three extra-base hits and seven overall as part of a 12-run first inning. Burton walked, stole second and moved to third on a balk before scoring on a Kirk single. Brayden Martin then hit an RBI double, followed by an RBI groundout by Thomas. A Kase Sanders single, an Aden Tyre walk and a Gavin Eubanks single loaded the bases. Collin Phillips walked to force a run in before Broome and Burton each drove in two runs — Broome off a single and Burton off a double.

The inning continued with Burton scoring on a wild pitch.

After Kirk walked, Martin hit an RBI double. Thomas then ended the inning's scoring with an RBI off a sacrifice fly.

Melrose extended its lead to 16-0 in the second. Eubanks hit a single, while Phillips was hit by a pitch. Broome drove in one run on a ground out, followed by Burton driving in the second on a double. After Burton scored on a wild pitch, Kirk singled, oved to second on a wild pitch and stole third before scoring on a passed ball.

The team's final two runs occurred in the third. Tyre and Eubanks both singled and scored on passed balls.

Martin finished with two RBI, while Kirk and Phillips each had one.

Eubanks batted 3 for 3, while Kirk went 2 for 2.

Burton and Sanders each went 2 for 3.

Eubanks pitched three innings, giving up one run and one hit, while striking out five.

Phillips threw the final inning, allowing one hit and striking out two.

Before Melrose and Fort Caroline met in the championship round, the two teams played each other on June 28, with Melrose winning 8-2.

Melrose scored two runs in

the first. After Burton was hit by a pitch, a Kirk single and a Thomas walk loaded the bases. Sanders and Tyre both drew walks to force runs in.

Kirk made it a 3-0 game in the third when he doubled, advanced to third on a wild pitch and scored on an error.

A five-run fourth saw Melrose load the bases on an Evan Screen walk and singles by Phillips and Broome. Screen scored on a wild pitch. After Burton walked to load the bases again, Kirk and Martin hit back-to-back singles, with Kirk's hit scoring one run and Martin's hit scoring two. Kirk scored his team's final run

as Martin was being put out on a steal attempt.

Fort Caroline didn't score until the seventh inning.

Martin finished with two RBI, while Kirk, Sanders and Tyre each had one.

Kirk batted 3 for 3. Martin pitched 2.1 innings, giving up no runs and one hit, while striking out three.

Eubanks threw 3.2 innings, allowing no runs and no hits, while striking out five.

Phillips pitched the final inning, giving up two runs (one earned) and one hit.

See STATE, page 11

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Phillip McDonald Plumbing 740 S Orange St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-3737 “The work crew from Philip McDonald’s. Plumbing, along with the back office staff, were courteous, on time, and came in at the budget we agreed to. When we ran to any discrepancies or any hold ups, they worked diligently to get the job taken care of.” 	Sporting Chance 218 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7434 “The owner sat down with me and helped me find a logo for my husband’s company and then designed the shirt with logo and name. She also took time to explain the different shirt and ordering options. I also got a deal on the Gator items at 70% off.” 	DLP Bank 811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7830 “Very welcoming bank. They learn and know you by name and will not stop until they have helped with whatever your needs maybe. I love this bank.” 
Lake Area Heating and Air 7415 State Rd 21, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-9595 Formerly Mike Bertie Heating and Air, Serving Keystone Heights and surrounding areas since 2008. 	Andrews Site Prep (386) 867-0572 Services 20 different counties! “Very responsive and they were able to pull the permit and have the well done only within a couple weeks. They hands down have the best quote around no matter how far out you are.” 	Rivers Flowing Church 22610 Hwy 301 N Lawtey, FL 32054 Welcome to Rivers Flowing Church— where the river of God never runs dry! SUN: 10AM WED: 7PM 
Teal Tile Carpet One 131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7423 “High quality in every way!!!! Product was great. Workmanship was great. Pleasant staff. Just a pleasure to work with. Highly recommend!” 	JBS Jackson Building Supply “Serving Our Community For Over 60 Years” • LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS • HAND & POWER TOOLS • PAINT, LADDERS & SUPPLIES • HOME & FARM HARDWARE • ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLIES • BATHROOM VANITIES • METAL ROOFING & SHINGLES • HOT WATER HEATERS • DOORS & WINDOWS • LAWN & GARDEN STARKE US-301S Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 964-6078 LAKE BUTLER 145 SW 6th Ave. 496-3079	The Chiropractic & Injury Clinic of Starke 601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8018 “Amazing staff and doctor! Very satisfied. They were able to squeeze me in the same day and get me feeling almost back to normal in minutes.” 
Bradford County Eye Center 292 Lafayette St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8076 “My experience at Bradford County Eye Center was amazing. The staff was attentive and provided exceptional care. Would highly recommend!” 	Robert’s Insurance 986 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 452-7784 “The insurance agency helps keep the insurance prices down.” “Always a great place to visit and get help!” 	Clifford Z. Johnson Jr. Inc (863) 812-8198 20 years of experience! Screen Rooms, Patio Covers, Leak Repairs, Home Repairs
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Hometown Health & Wellness 260 S Lawrence Blvd, Suite 101 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 664-7702 “Very knowledgeable and responsive, would definitely recommend them” 	Durrance Pump 864 N Temple Ave STE C, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7061 “Great set of guys that came. Found my issue. Quick work. Started a second issue and came right back and made the changes...” 	Bradford County Sheriffs Office 945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 966-6161 “I need to take a minute to recognize my jail command team, the people I’m surrounded by. Each unique and strong in their own areas. There is nothing anyone asks of them they don’t do and almost always with a smile. They take care of business and take care of people at the same time.” 
SHOP LOCAL ALL 2025	RJ Corman Railroad Company 14550 Hayes Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-2100 “Real good people to work with, good place to unload!” 	SHOP LOCAL ALL 2025

Marching and making a splash: Celebrating the Fourth in Starke



Miss Bradford Fest royalty made it a red-white-and-beautiful holiday. Pictured (l-r) are Junior Miss Avery Rosario-Wilson, Miss Jolene Moore and Teen Miss Bralee-Kate Chester.



Windsor Manor resident Arlene Mason celebrates the Fourth by watching the parade and keeping cool with a red-white-and-blue popsicle.



Windsor Manor residents, including Carol Erby (left) and Mary Foster, enjoyed parade, which traveled past Starke's nursing-home/assisted-living facilities.



Tanner Hodges gets a drenching splash at the bottom of one of the seven water slides that were part of this year's Starke-Spangled Splash Bash — a free, two-day event at the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds.



ABOVE: Emma Gore accompanies her mother, Brittany Heeder, in one of several Jeeps that were part of the parade. RIGHT: Jeff Johnson shows off his patriotism with many images of the stars and stripes.



Marching as part of the Bradford High School band are trumpet players (l-r) Darren Lewis, Lily Barksdale, Kwasa Holland and Zach Wells.



Brynleigh Nettles enjoys one of the slides at the Starke-Spangled Splash Bash. The event, which also featured music, food vendors and (on the night of the Fourth) a Gold Star ceremony and fireworks display, was halted only once briefly on July 4 because of the weather.



Former Rep. Bobby Payne (left) was the parade grand marshal. He is pictured with Bradford Commissioner Carolyn Spooner.



Windsor Manor's Ella Baxter enjoys watching the parade underneath a tent, which was erected to keep the residents out of the sun.



Katelyn Gallaher shows off her patriotism, while giving Marshal and Huxlee some exercise.



The Bradford High School marching band was led by Drum Major Gemma Rodriguez.



Bradford High School JROTC cadets (l-r) Hunter Sanford, Malissa Harding and Rhylee Schaffer were ready to take on challengers at a Nerf-battle course, which was available on day two of the Starke-Spangled Splash Bash.



Windsor Manor's Margaret Kruse waves as the parade travels by.



Dick Blaudow carries a U.S. flag as he rides in the parade.



ABOVE: Motorized vehicles weren't the only means of transportation in the parade. Using real horsepower were Ashlyn Boyd and (background, l-r) Kierra Boyd and Leo Garrison. RIGHT: Bradford Superintendent of Schools Will and Amber Hartley are joined by Cora Massey in the parade.



Jason and Arin Baird of the Florida Chapter of the Christian Jeep Association are accompanied by a four-legged friend.

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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of July 10, 2025

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: 04-2025-CP-000037 re: DARLA FRANCES HOLLIFIELD, also known as DARLA F. HOLLIFIELD and DARLA HOLLIFIELD, Deceased.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: SHERRI WYRICK CLINE: YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Petition for Summary Administration has been filed in the above-referenced court, with the above-referenced case style and caption, and you are required to serve any objections on the undersigned, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, within 28 days of the first publication of this notice of action, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the undersigned or immediately thereafter; otherwise the Court in this action will consider and may grant the relief requested in the above-identified petition. Dated on June 12, 2025. DENNY THOMPSON Clerk of the Court BY: TASHER ALLEN Deputy Clerk

6/19 4tchg 7/10-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 24000225CAAXMX WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF ANGEL OAK MORTGAGE TRUST 2022-5, MORTGAGE-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2022-5, Plaintiff,

vs. LESTER DE JESUS ESTEVEZ AND CYNTHIA SILVA, et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 28, 2025, and entered in 24000225CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF ANGEL OAK MORTGAGE TRUST 2022-5, MORTGAGE-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2022-5 is the Plaintiff and LESTER DE JESUS ESTEVEZ; CYNTHIA SILVA; AQUA FINANCE, INC. are the Defendant(s). Denny Thompson as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Lobby 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091, at 11:00 AM, on July 24, 2025, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 28 AND 29, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST AND BEING PORTIONS OF WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 PAGE 17 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID SECTION 29 AND RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 29, FOR A DISTANCE OF 1317.98 FEET TO THE NE CORNER OF LOT 49 OF SAID WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 13 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 49, FOR A DISTANCE OF 661.52 FEET TO THE NW CORNER OF SAID LOT 49, ALSO BEING THE SW CORNER OF LOT 48 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 48, FOR A DISTANCE OF 336.32 FEET TO THE SE CORNER OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF LOT 47 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 14 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE THEREOF, FOR A

DISTANCE OF 676.11 FEET TO SW CORNER THEREOF; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 17 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE THEREOF, FOR A DISTANCE OF 332.51 FEET TO THE NW CORNER OF SAID LOT 47; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOTS 47 & 48, FOR A DISTANCE OF 1335.92 FEET TO THE NE CORNER OF SAID LOT 48, ALSO BEING THE NW CORNER OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 28; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 42 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE THEREOF, FOR A DISTANCE OF 666.70 FEET TO THE NE CORNER THEREOF; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EAST LINE THEREOF, FOR A DISTANCE OF 661.57 FEET TO THE SE CORNER THEREOF; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 28, FOR A DISTANCE OF 12.36 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 84 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 523.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 07 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 38.64 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 13 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 127.56 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF WAY OF A COUNTY GRADED ROAD KNOWN AS NW 41ST AVENUE. SUBJECT TO ANY PLATTED STREETS OF SAID WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION. TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS ALONG THE SOUTHERLY 30 FEET OF THE EASTERLY 560.66 FEET OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, LYING WEST OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTHWEST 41ST AVENUE (A COUNTY MAINTAINED ROAD), BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, (PRIOR FILE) Property Address: 4266 NW 217TH WAY, LAWTEY, FL 32058

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 24th day of June, 2025. ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Plaintiff 6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100 Boca Raton, FL 33487 Telephone: 561-241-6901 Facsimile: 561-997-6909 Service Email: flmail@raslg.com By: \S\Amanda Murphy Amanda Murphy, Esquire Florida Bar No. 81709 Communication Email: amanda.murphy@raslg.com

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. 23-135012 7/3 2tchg 7/10-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No.: 24000358CAAXMX Division: Civil Judge Katherine Floyd PNC Bank, National Association Plaintiff,

vs. Erica Hall, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE Notice is hereby given that on August 28, 2025 at 11:00AM, the below named Clerk of Court will offer by sale in the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 the following described real property: Real property located in the County

of Bradford, State of Florida, to-wit: The East half (50 feet) of Lot 2, Block B, in that certain subdivision known as Mount Pleasant on Silver Lake, as the same appears of record in Plat Book 2, Page 45, public records of Bradford County, Florida. Commonly known as: 5756 Southeast 55th Terrace, Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from this sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. The sale is being held pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure, entered on June 26, 2025, in Civil Case No. 24000358CAAXMX, pending in the Circuit Court in Bradford County, Florida. DENNY THOMPSON CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA Craig P. Rogers (FLBN: 352128) Michael E. Carleton (FLBN: 1007924) Jordan A. Zeppetello (FLBN: 1049568) Jasmin Hernandez (FLBN: 1044494) The Manley Law Firm LLC P. O. Box 165028 Columbus, OH 43216-5028 Telephone: 407-404-5266 Telecopier: 614-220-5613 Primary: statee-file@mdklegal.com Secondary: CPRogers@mdklegal.com Attorney for Plaintiff 7/3 2tchg 7/10-BCT

LEGAL NOTICE: The Bradford County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Planning Committee/Workgroup will meet July 17th, 2025, at 3:00 pm in the Bradford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Bradford County Sheriff's Office at 945B North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. Bradford County Emergency Management encourages any interested citizens and business owners to attend and provide input. The Committee guides the preparation and contents of the Bradford County Local Mitigation Strategy which serves as the plan submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management to reduce the community's long-term risk for protecting people and property from the effects of natural disasters and to build a safer and stronger community. This public meeting is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person wanting to attend the meeting and requires assistance with accessibility and/or interpretation should contact the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division at (904) 966-6336 at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting date. Any person wishing to provide comments who cannot attend the meeting may do so by submitting written comments via email to bcem@bradfordsheriff.org at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting date. The meeting agenda may be obtained within 5 days of the meeting date via email request as well, or by visiting www.bradfordsheriff.org/emergency-management/lms/. Please contact the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division at (904) 966-6336 for more information. A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE JURISDICTION 7/3 2tchg 7/10-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 25000071CPAXMX IN RE: ESTATE OF RUDOLPH MCGREGOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of RUDOLPH MCGREGOR, deceased, whose date of death was November 24, 2024; File Number 25000071CPAXMX, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 340, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE

FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME 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: July 10, 2025. Derek B. Alvarez, Esquire - FBN: 114278 DBA@GendersAlvarez.com Anthony F. Diecidue, Esquire - FBN: 146528 AFD@GendersAlvarez.com Whitney C. Miranda, Esquire - FBN: 65928 WCM@GendersAlvarez.com GENDERS ALVAREZ DIECIDUE, P.A. 2307 West Cleveland Street Tampa, Florida 33609 Phone: (813) 254-4744 Fax: (813) 254-5222 Eservice for all attorneys listed above: GADeservice@GendersAlvarez.com APRIL TISDALE MCGREGOR Personal Representative 22335 SE 5th St. Lawtey, FL 32058 7/10 2tchg 7/17-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on July 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted. 7/10 1tchg-BCT

WORKSHOP THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a Workshop to discuss updating the Comprehensive Plan on July 17, 2025, at 5:30 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted. 7/10 1tchg-BCT

UNION

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on July 25, 2024 at 12:01 pm on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Unit #24 Anna M. Wise \$327.04 Unit #62 Mavis Mobley \$416.76 All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details. 7/3 2tchg 7/10-UCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE UNION COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, that, pursuant to the Union County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, serving as the Board of Adjustment of Union County, Florida, on July 21, 2025, at 5:45 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, County Courthouse, located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. SE 25-01 a petition by JR Davis Acquisitions, LLC, to request a special exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.6.5 of the Land Development Regulations, to permit a crematory within an RURAL, RESIDENTIAL (RR) zoning district, in accordance with a petition dated February 11, 2025 and a site plan dated February 11, 2025, revised on March 25, 2025, revised on April 25, 2025, revised on June 13, 2025, to be located on property described, as follows: A parcel of land lying in Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Being more

particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 28; thence South 89°14'30" East 223.27 feet, along the North line of said Section 28 to the Easterly right-of-way of the abandoned right-of-way of CSX Transportation, Inc.; thence continue South 89°14'30" East 1,403.87 feet, along the North line of said Section 28; thence South 01°04'30" West 420.00 feet; thence South 89°14'30" East 495.00 feet; thence South 01°04'30" West 177.77 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of Southwest 119th Loop, said point lying on the arc of a curve concave Northwesterly; thence Southwesterly, along said Westerly right-of-way line of Southwest 119th Loop, 284.57 feet as measured along the arc of a curve concave Northwesterly and having a radius of 2,875.75 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of South 49°57'38" West and a distance of 284.45 feet, to the point of tangency; thence South 52°47'47" West 96.64 feet, continuing along said Westerly right-of-way line of Southwest 119th Loop, to the point of curvature of a curve to the left; thence Southeasterly, continuing along said Westerly right of way line of Southwest 119th Loop, 218.09 feet as measured along the arc of a curve concave Southeasterly and having a radius of 801.87 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of South 45°00'17" West and a distance of 217.42 feet, to the point of tangency; thence South 37°12'47" West 1,194.51 feet, continuing along said Westerly right-of-way line of Southwest 119th Loop; thence North 89°32'31" West 340.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue North 89°32'31" West 209.00 feet; thence North 00°27'29" East 209.00 feet; thence South 89°32'31" East 209.00 feet; thence South 00°27'29" West 209.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 1.01 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may be heard with respect to the special exception. Copies of the special exception are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate the proceedings should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 or via email: at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771. 7/10 1tchg-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a REGULAR MEETING on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. 7/10 1tchg-UCT

Request for Qualifications General Contractor Services PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Lake Butler, Florida, is hereby inviting Bid Proposals (BPs) and Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) until 2:00 pm on August 11, 2025. Synopsis: The City, in conformance with the Florida Department of State; Division of Historical Resources; Special Category Grant #24.h.sc.100.002, and the policies and procedures of the City of Lake Butler are soliciting BPs/SOQs from licensed, insured, and bonded General Contractors in the State of Florida, for the planned renovations of the Historic Townsend Building (HTB). Said services for the HTB are considered for the existing second-floor museum of local historic exhibits and the first floor for the continued use of public meetings by non-profit organizations. Budget priority shall favor re-roofing activities, new windows and new flooring, in that order. Submittal Requirements: Ten (10) copies of the BPs/SOQs shall be submitted in one sealed package, clearly marked on the outside "Sealed SOQ for General Contractor Services for the Historic Townsend Building, (RFQ#1)," and addressed to: Kimberly Hayes City Manager City of Lake Butler 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054 Submittals will be publicly opened at the Lake Butler City Hall located at 200 Southwest 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL, 32054, scheduled at 2:00 pm on August 11, and presented to the Lake Butler City Commission on August 19, 2025, at the same location beginning at 6:00 pm or thereafter. Respondents are invited to be present at both. Project documents include the Project Manual, the Project Drawings, and are available at no charge, solicited along with any questions to the City's Project Consultants, Andy Easton & Associates. The project contact person is Douglas K. Sanders @ douglassanders1231@outlook.

com. The City reserves the right to reject any or all submittals, to waive any irregularity, and to take all submittals under advisement for a period of sixty (60) days. 7/10 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION

City of Keystone Heights Request for Proposal (RFP) Tennis Court Demo and Build Project

Issue Date: July 8, 2025 Response Due Date: July 28, 2025 Project Location: Keystone Heights, Florida Project Site: 555 S Lawrence Blvd. Keystone Heights, FL 32656 1. Project Overview - The City of Keystone Heights is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the demo existing battery of two tennis courts and rebuild, measuring 110 feet by 1200 feet (13,200 square feet).

2. Scope of Work - The awarded contractor shall provide all labor, materials, tools, and equipment necessary to complete the following scope: Mobilization - Transport and prepare all equipment, materials, and personnel to and from the job site. Demolition - Removal and disposal of existing courts (110'x120') asphalt tennis courts. Remove existing fence around perimeter Demo of existing light poles

Base Course - A base course of lime rock having an average thickness of 6" shall be placed on the subgrade and properly graded and compacted following a 1" in 10' slope. Base will rolled and laser graded Asphalt - A one and one-half (1 ½) inch thick surface course of S3 hot-mix asphalt (Type III) shall be placed over the base course. (The paved area will be several inches larger than the finished asphalt dimensions so that all sides of the courts can be sawed to straight and square edges with an asphalt saw) Saw Cut - Courts will be saw cut along perimeter to have clean cut edge. Equipment - Two (2) sets of standard, external wind 3" O.D. tennis post sleeves will be installed in concrete. Provide and install two (2) sets of tennis net posts and two (2) tennis nets installed. Prep - Scrape the court's surface of all dirt, debris, and loose material. Sanding - Machine sand the surface of court as necessary to smooth and repair any uneven areas Bird Baths - Apply outdoor court grade patching materials to all patch areas to bring each area flush with surrounding asphalt Patching - Using outdoor grade compounds: One application will be made to each "birdbath". This will reduce water depth for faster drying times but may not eliminate all water ponding. Cover and fill any rough areas of asphalt

The edges of all patches will be scraped or ground smooth so that patches are not visible through the finished surface Light sanding on edges to smooth down. Leveling Course - Apply two coats of sand-acrylic resurfacer mix over the entire surface of the courts with a broad squeegee according to manufacturer's recommended coverage rates. Texture and Finish Courses - Apply two successive coats of outdoor court grade filler coat (sand-filled acrylic color coating) to the entire area of the courts with a broad squeegee according to manufacturer's recommended coverage rates according to specifications. Finished colors-Owners choice of any two manufacturer's standard colors Lines- Paint two(2) sets of regulation two-inch white playing lines for tennis courts. Clean Up- Remove all excess materials and debris for job after completion. Restore any damage to lawn areas. Fencing - Reinstall existing fencing *Please provide alternate pricing for new fencing and lighting for the courts.

3. Proposal Requirements - Proposals must include the following: Company name, address, and contact information Proof of licensing and insurance Experience and qualifications with similar projects Project timeline and estimated start date Detailed cost breakdown for each of the above 15 line items Warranty information, if any 4. Evaluation Criteria - Proposals will be evaluated based on: Compliance with the scope of work Relevant experience Proposed cost Timeline References 5. Submission Instructions - Proposals must be received no later than July 28,2025. Submit proposals to: City of Keystone Heights Beau Wright (wright@keystoneheights.us) 555 S Lawrence Blvd Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered. 6. Questions - Direct all questions regarding this RFP in writing to: Beau Wright (wright@keystoneheights.us) 352-473-4807 Questions must be received by: July 21, 2025 7/10 2tchg 7/17- LRM



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

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders

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Former BHS players return to host a meet-and-greet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Two former Bradford High School football players participated in a meet-and-greet at Beef O’Brady’s in Starke on July 3 and are eagerly looking toward the 2025 college-football season — a season they hope sees them become contributors on the field as redshirt freshmen.

East Carolina University defensive lineman Torin Brazell and Purdue University defensive back Chail Cummings, who are both 2024 BHS graduates, were available to pose for photos and hand out autographed photos of themselves at the Beef O’Brady’s event. Both players have a partnership with Beef’s, with the local restaurant offering a signature meal named after each player.

The first year of college football was tough for Brazell and Cummings, with both battling through injuries and having to adjust to not being major players on the field. However, they both still have four years of eligibility remaining. Cummings did appear in five games last year at the University of Memphis, but one was a bowl game, so he didn’t exceed the four-game regular-season maximum that would’ve prevented him from having a redshirt year.

Regarding his decision to transfer from Memphis to Purdue, Cummings said, “I just felt it was the best decision for me to make — play in a bigger league and make bigger and



Donna Hartley (center) poses for a photo with Bradford High School graduates Chail Cummings (left) and Torin Brazell. Cummings plays football at Purdue after transferring from Memphis, while Brazell plays at East Carolina.



Torin Brazell (left) gets a hug from Sheila Cummings.

better plays. That was really it for me. Once I saw the opportunity, I just took it.”

Cummings said he also likes the level of competition Purdue plays. Purdue, which is a member of the Big 10 Conference (Memphis plays in the American Athletic Conference), is scheduled to play four teams that finished in the top 20 in the College Football Playoff Rankings and the AP poll. Defending national champion Ohio State and national runner-up Notre Dame are both on the schedule.

It’s not just a new start for Cummings. Purdue has a new head coach in Barry Odom.

Another new face on the Purdue staff is Defensive Backs Coach Charles Clark, who, like Cummings, was at Memphis.

In his year at Memphis,

See MEET, page 12

A look back: KHHS had a state title and a state runner-up finish in ‘95

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

With it being 2025, the Telegraph-Times-Monitor presents a look back at Keystone Heights High School sports highlights in years ending in “5.”

The following are teams/individuals who won state championships or finished as state runners-up at the state level. Please note that the years in question included numerous other state-level participants as well as highlights at the district and regional levels.

Any omission of a state champ/runner-up is inadvertent.

Indians repeat as girls hoops champs

Keystone won its second straight state championship in girls basketball, claiming the Class 3A championship trophy with a 12-point win over Tampa Academy of the Holy Names.

The Indians rolled to their fifth straight district title, defeating Clay 74-13. Tara Teague and Jessica Dykes had 15 and 14 points, respectively, with Teague adding five steals and Dykes adding seven assists.

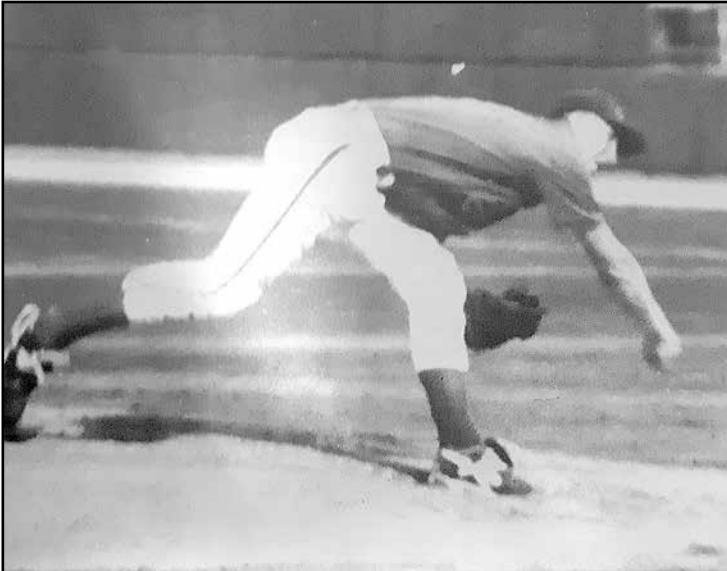
Monique Cardenas had 10 points, while the following just missed scoring in double digits: Jill Gnann and Elise Moore with nine each and Lori Glenn with eight.

It was another easy outing for Keystone at the sub-regional level as the Indians defeated Episcopal 72-40. The leading scorers were Teague with 21 points, Cardenas with 16 and Dykes with 14.

Keystone advanced to the Region 2 semifinals, getting 23



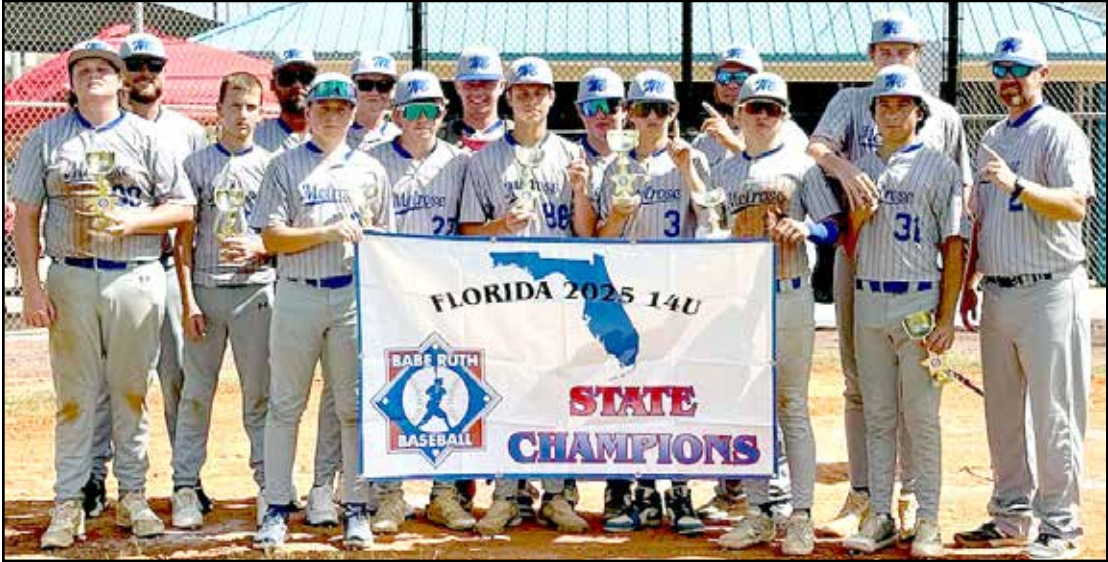
Keystone Heights High School won its second straight state title in girls basketball in 1995. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Kim Tuller, Jessica Dykes, Marieka Brokas, (back, l-r) Lori Glenn, Kali Sirmopoulos, Tara Teague, Jill Gnann, Elise Moore, Monique Cardenas and Kristen Wilkes.



Eric Potter was part of a pitchers' duel with North Florida Christian's John Bentley in the 1995 Class 3A championship game, which North Florida Christian won 2-0.

points and 14 rebounds from away from its third straight Cardenas in a 58-43 win over appearance in the Final Four. Newberry. Moore added 15 Keystone played Baldwin, points.

That put the Indians one game See HISTORY, page 14



The Melrose 14U All-Stars won the state championship, defeating Sanford and Fort Caroline by a combined score of 26-3 before defeating Fort Caroline again 4-2 in the title game. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Brayden Martin, Baylin Lott, Evan Screen, Jackson Broome, Collin Phillips, Kase Sanders, Cason Burton, Aden Tyre, Manager Aaron Broome, (back, l-r) coaches Eric Martin and Brian Lott, Wyatt Chapman, Chase Kirk, Hunter Thomas, Coach Dustin Spengler and Gavin Eubanks.

STATE Continued from page 8

Fort Caroline bounced back from the loss, defeating Sanford 15-5 and setting up the June 29 rematch with Melrose that ended with Melrose winning 4-2.

Each team scored two runs in the first. Fort Caroline took advantage of a walk and two

singles, while Melrose got a homer from Kirk that also scored Burton, who was hit by a pitch.

Melrose took the lead in the third. Kirk doubled, moved to third on an error and scored on another error. A Thomas double scored Martin, who walked.

Starting pitcher Eubanks, who went six innings, allowed only one base runner in the second, third and fourth innings. Fort Caroline did hit two singles in

the fifth, but Eubanks struck out two batters, while a ground out to third baseman Phillips ended the inning.

Fort Caroline never got anyone else on base.

Eubanks struck out nine batters, allowing five hits.

Martin pitched the final inning, giving up no hits.

Kirk and Thomas each batted 2 for 3.

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

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Obituaries

Gene Coble

Shirley Gene Coble, a long-time resident of Keystone Heights, died Friday, July 4, 2025, surrounded by family. He was born on Dec. 4, 1936, in Walnut Grove Missouri to Uba Coble and Rachel Coble Buff. After he graduated high school from Central Senior High School in 1955, he joined the U.S. Army. After leaving the service, he moved to Florida and started his family. He had a long career with grocery store chains as a warehouse foreman for over 30 years. He was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Marilyn; his mother, Rachel Buff; father, Uba Coble; and sister, Sue Blackaby.



He is survived by his three daughters, Sheila (Billy) Thigpin, Sonia Bowen, and Sherri Stancil; seven grandchildren, Windy (Michael) Skipper, Shannon (Jason) Bishop, Dana (David) Eatmon, Rebecca (Mac) Flanagan, Alan (Stephanie) Gill, Alexandra (Jon) Wright, and Matt (Allie) Stancil; 16 great-grandchildren; and 7.75 great-great-grandchildren.

Gene was strong-willed and stubborn at times, but he also had an enormous, kind heart. He will be remembered for all his willingness to help friends and family with any task.

A special thank you to Park of the Palms Assisted Living Facility in Keystone Heights and Haven’s Roberts Hospice Care Center in Palatka, whose incredible staffs went above and beyond to make sure his final months and days were full of compassionate and dignified care.

PAID OBITUARY

Keith Copeland III

Keith Bernard Copeland III, 74, of Keystone Heights died in Middleburg, Saturday, July 5, 2025, following a long illness. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Harold Copeland Jr.

Survivors are his wife, Judith (Cook) Copeland, and their children, Tina Lee (Steve) Kolito, Keith B. Copeland IV and Jason Todd (Jessica) Copeland; sister, Darlene Owens; brother, Wendell Copeland; and extended family members.

There are no scheduled services at this time.

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

Nettie Griffin

Nettie Ruth Griffin, born Jan. 13, 1930, died Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wesley Griffin: four sisters; and four brothers.

She leaves behind her daughter, Phyllis Griffin; grandsons, Rick (Heather) Henderson and Travis (Jennifer) Henderson; three great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren:

Memorial services will be held Saturday, July 12, at 11 a.m. at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Starke. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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

Willie McNeill

Mr. Willie B. “Sonny” McNeill, born on May 7, 1942, in Florida, died Saturday, June 29, 2025. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary McNeill.

Survivors are his son, Brian McNeill; daughter, Lori Green; sister, Patricia Smith; son-in-law, Jeremy Green; and two grandchildren.

Memorial service will be at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, July 12, at St. Mark Episcopal Church, 212 N. Church St., Starke, 32091. Inurnment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery, 6209 SR 100, Starke, 32091.

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

Minnie Norman

Minnie Alma Norman, 85, passed away Saturday, June 28, 2025, at UF Health Shands in Gainesville. Born April 28, 1940, in Jacksonville, Minnie was a vibrant individual known for her witty nature and dynamic personality. For over 30 years, she dedicated herself to Bradford County Schools as a secretary, where she left a lasting impression on all who had the pleasure of working alongside her. Minnie’s passion for traveling with her husband, Robert G. Norman, was a defining aspect of her life. Together, they explored nearly every state in the U.S., creating memories that they have cherished during their 65 years of marriage. She was preceded in death by her parents, Melson and Elnora Futch Privett; her daughter, Kimberly Ann Norman; and her brother, George Privett.

Minnie is survived by her loving husband, Robert G. Norman; her children, Rick (Denyse) Norman and Marla Roberts; her sister, Bernice Smith; and her 12 grandchildren; along with numerous great-grandchildren.

Minnie Alma Norman leaves behind a remarkable legacy and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Minnie’s final disposition will be by cremation under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

Cord of Thanks

Thank You!

Dear family and friends of Lake Butler, Union County and beyond, our sincere ‘Thank You’ to ALL of you for the love, support, food, visits, texts and flowers during this time of our loss of

Tyson Lane Woodland



To our pastor and Sardis Church, Sheriff’s Department, FHP, Archer Funeral Home, Pritchett Trucking and many others, please continue to PRAY for all of us.

Thank you!
The Lane, Woodland and Brown families

Clydia Reichert

With a profound sense of sorrow, we bid farewell to Clydia M. Reichert, who was called to eternal rest Friday, June 27, 2025. Born Feb. 4, 1938, in Gainesville, she was a beacon of light, a pillar of strength, and an embodiment of compassion. As the poet Maya Angelou once said, “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Clydia indeed made everyone around her feel cherished and valued with her warm, nurturing nature. Her life was marked by her dedication to her family and her profession as a nurse at the state prison. She gave tirelessly and selflessly, not only to her family, but also to those she cared for in her career. She was an exemplar of love and kindness, someone who found her purpose in making a difference in others’ lives. In the words of Florence Nightingale, “The most important practical lesson that can be given to nurses is to teach them what to observe.” Clydia not only observed but also acted, leaving a lasting impact on all those she encountered. She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Chesly and Macie Fowler; and her son, Charles Davis.



She is survived by her devoted husband, Joseph Reichert; sons, Alan Davis and Michael Davis; stepsons, Joseph (Tracy) III, David (Sandra) Reichert, and Jonathan (Kelly) Reichert; brother, sister, nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind in-laws, Sandra, Kelly, and Tracy Reichert, along with Robert (Dana) Davis. In the midst of our grief, we take solace in knowing that Clydia’s life was filled with love, joy, and service to others.

Services are under the care of Milam Funeral and Cremation Services at 311 S. Main St. We invite everyone who was touched by her life to share their memories and upload photos on her memorial page. Celebrate Clydia’s life by sharing your stories and pictures, keeping her spirit alive in all of us.

PAID OBITUARY

Harry Stallings

Harry C. Stallings of Gainesville was born Sept. 2, 1942, and passed away Friday, May 30, 2025, at the age of 82. He loved his family and his friends, and he adored food and fun! So, dear family and friends, mark your calendar and dress comfortably to join Margaret, Lissa, Tim, Lauri, Rick, Linc, Isla, Jarrod, Andi, Ashley and Evie for a celebration of Harry’s life on Friday, July 11, at Milam Funeral Home Chapel in Gainesville. Visitation will be held from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., memorial service at 5:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. socializing and dinner at The Thomas Center Spanish Court, 302 NE Sixth Ave., Gainesville. Inurnment will be at 11 a.m. at Crosby Lake Cemetery, Starke, Saturday, July 12. For those who wish, contributions may be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Blvd, Gainesville, 32606, or to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1212 N. Church St., Starke 32091.

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

PAID OBITUARY



John A. Wick

Mr. John Alvin Wick, 88, of Keystone Heights passed away Sunday, July 6, 2025, at his home following a long illness. He was born on Sept. 7, 1936, in Hialeah to Alvin and Marjorie (Baumgardner) Wick. He graduated from Miami Jackson High School in 1954 before continuing his education at Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, Missouri, where he obtained a Doctor of Chiropractic in 1959. After graduation, he began his chiropractic career in Dothan, Alabama, practicing from 1959 to 1961. He and his family returned to the Miami area where he worked in sales for two major Florida drug companies. In 1973 he became the owner/partner of Acme/Biscayne Merchandising Company, eventually moving to the Orange Park area to manage the Jacksonville division. In 1982 he purchased Mallards Variety Store in Keystone Heights which he operated along with his wife, Ardyce and daughter, Debbie, for many years. In 1989, he was employed by the University of Florida, where he held several positions in the Campus Shop and Bookstore until his retirement in 1999. Upon retirement, John obtained his real estate license and was a Florida realtor with Century 21, Keystone, and C.B. Isaac Realty in Melrose. He attended Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone. When he was not working, he enjoyed camping, traveling in his RV, and spending time with his family and friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Ardyce of 50 years.

Left behind to cherish his memory is his wife of 14 years, Elaine Teague-Wick; children, Debbie (Danny) Etheridge and Kevin (Darcell) Wick. all of Keystone Heights: and a brother, Charles Wick of Clermont. He was “Granddad” to Ceija (Josh) Johnson, Daniel (Laura) Arnot, and Rebeca (Steve) Bielejeski; along with seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. “Mr. John” will be missed by Elaine, children, and grands as well.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 11, at Trinity Baptist Church beginning at 10 a.m. The memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. with Pastor Brandon Denmark and Pastor Scott Standan officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Haven Hospice 6400 St. Johns Ave., Palatka, 32177, Operation Christmas Child as Trinity Baptist Church, or to a charity of your choice.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Chalil Cummings (left) and Torin Brazell autograph photos of themselves that were available at the event.

MEET

Continued from page 11

Cummings said he learned how to “grind through the week” and be ready to play on Saturday.

He also had to adjust to a higher level of play coming out of high school

“People are just stronger and faster (in college),” Cummings said.

Still, he didn’t view it as too big of an adjustment because he was simply continuing to play a sport that’s been a part of his life growing up.

“At the end of the day, it’s the game of football,” Cummings said.

Cummings said some of his goals for 2025 are to be named a Freshman All-American and to help Purdue win a championship. He added that the hurdles he faced in 2024 will only make him better moving forward.

“Minor setbacks lead to major comebacks,” Cummings said.

Brazell, who said his college career “started off a little bumpy” with an injury, found the college game to be 10 times faster than what he was used to in high school. However, a player has to adapt or get left behind. Brazell said it’s all about competing and being self-motivated.

“There’s no feeling sorry for yourself,” Brazell said. “It’s always on to the next play.”

At East Carolina, Brazell has been practicing against an offense that operates at a high tempo — a tempo he describes as two times faster than normal college speed.

“It’s helped me become better,” Brazell said. “Regular opponents won’t be as fast as what I face in practice every day.”

With a year of learning the playbook, working on his quickness and take-off from the line of scrimmage, and gaining weight and muscle, Brazell feels he’s put himself in good position to have an impact in 2025.



Roger Crews (right) shows Chalil Cummings something on his phone.

“I’m just trying to get on the field, get a couple of snaps in,” Brazell said.

One thing he’s ready to do is terrorize opposing quarterbacks. It’s something he hasn’t done since December 2023 as a BHS player.

“It’s been a minute,” Brazell said. “I miss hitting quarterbacks.”

Like Cummings, Brazell is also a part of something new, even though he hasn’t changed schools. East Carolina named former Defensive Coordinator Blake Harrell as its head coach. Harrell was the interim head coach after Mike Houston was fired after six games into the 2024 season. After a 3-3 start under Houston, the Pirates went 5-2 under Harrell, including a 26-21 Military Bowl win over N.C. State.

In his senior season at BHS, Brazell led the state in Class 2S in sacks with 17, which also ranked him 20th in the state regardless of classification. He had the fourth-most number of tackles for BHS with 62, which included 31 behind the line of scrimmage.

Cummings was Bradford’s third-leading tackler his senior season with 83. He had three interceptions and one fumble recovery.



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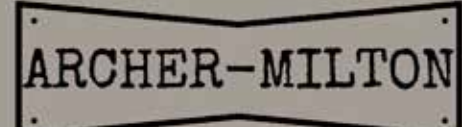
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STEM students learn life-saving skills, more

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Children may enjoy a wide variety of activities during their summers off from school, but a

group of more than 70 children packed many activities into one day during a July 3 event at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center in Starke. Edrick Hamilton, as part of his

12G mentoring program, offers an annual I Am STEM camp in Starke at the Starke Church of God by Faith Community Center. The camp, though, has always been about more than just science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Time is also devoted to children learning such skills as CPR and applying tourniquets from Bradford Fire Rescue and UF Health personnel. This year, Hamilton collaborated with Caring and Sharing Learning School in Gainesville, which is also hosting an I Am STEM camp.

That school brought some of its children to Starke for Hamilton's event, which he moved to the conference center to accommodate the larger group. It's all about reaching as many children as possible, Hamilton said, adding that he wants to reach out to other groups in the future so that the event can grow every year. Besides learning some life-saving skills, including how to use an automatic external defibrillator, children got up-close looks at fire and rescue vehicles and the equipment they contain.

The event also included a demonstration by Bradford County Sheriff's Office Deputy Hiram Gonzalez and his K-9 partner, Waldo, and a program presented by Bradford Family Dentistry hygienists Shawna Burkhalter and Traci Waters. "I'm just trying to provide them with as much knowledge as I can, especially during the summer," Hamilton said, adding, "You don't know what seed that's sown is going to grow."

Some of those seeds could grow and have a huge impact in the future. "A kid may not be strong enough to perform (CPR)," Hamilton said, "but they can teach an adult how to do it. That's how a life can be saved." This year's I Am STEM camp in Starke began with approximately 10 children, but Hamilton said five to six more were expected to start attending the camp the week of July 7. He noted that the financial requirement seemed to be a hindrance to some families, but donations toward the program have enabled some families to send their children. The camp, which is Monday-Friday for children in second-eighth grades, began June 16 and runs through July 25.



Bradford County Sheriff K-9 Officer Waldo, pictured with his partner, Deputy Hiram Gonzalez, loves attention, and he got plenty off it after his demonstration for the I Am STEM children. Aidan Rhodes takes his turn to pet Waldo.



Kai Gainey checks out equipment that is carried on Bradford County Fire and Rescue vehicles.



Arryanna Shaw (right) smiles as Bradford Family Dentistry hygienist Traci Waters praises her for demonstrating the proper way to brush teeth.



Avery Wulff- Vanderpuije gets some attention from BCSO K-9 Officer Waldo.



Bradford County EMT Colin Traylor (far left) talks to I Am STEM students (front to back) Natalia Jenkins, Idelle Lopes and Chasity Gilliard about some of the equipment and supplies found onboard and ambulance.



ABOVE: Rylee Keith (left) and Autumn Forest take turns practicing how to apply a tourniquet. RIGHT: Simaya Mitchel (left) gets some tips on how to apply a tourniquet from Emily Cannister, UF Health pediatric trauma/injury prevention coordinator.



ZsaZsa Ross learns how to apply a tourniquet.



Jahisrael Folds performs chest compressions.

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Starke Kiwanis poker tourney set for July 18

The Kiwanis Club of Starke’s next Patsy Welch Memorial Poker Tournament will be held Friday, July 18, at The Downtown Grill. Proceeds will benefit the Bradford Middle School boys basketball program.

Registration begins at 6 p.m., followed by play at 6:30 p.m.

Buy-in is \$60, which includes high hand and refreshments.

Cash prizes are awarded for first, second and third places.

Bradford Co. Cowboys now signing up as practices begin

The Bradford County Cowboys have begun practices for the fall season. Football players and cheerleaders can still sign up.

Practices are on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Ages of teams are 6U-14U.

The fee to participate as either a player or a cheerleader is \$150.

For more information, please call 904-861-4759, 352-256-0359 or 904-305-4674.

HISTORY

Continued from page 11

getting 20 points each from Dykes and Moore in claiming the Region 2 championship with an 87-54 win.

Also scoring in double figures were Teague with 17 points, Cardenas with 14 and Gnann with 11.

Moore added 12 rebounds to her totals.

In the state semifinals, the Indians clung to a 12-8 lead over Bishop Verot after the first quarter. They then outscored the Vikings 27-11 in the second quarter en route to a 70-53 win.

Moore scored 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, while Cardenas had 14 points and 13 rebounds.

Dykes had 10 points to go along with seven assists and five steals.

Glenn fell two points shy of scoring in double figures and had four assists.

It was a matchup of teams that alternated between number one and number two in the state throughout the season in the championship game, with Keystone coming out on top of Tampa Academy of the Holy Names by a score of 67-55.

Keystone led by seven points after the first quarter, but was

held to six points in the second, resulting in a lead of just 29-28 at halftime.

Dykes, who finished with 15 points and five assists, sank two three-pointers in the third quarter to help the Indians take a 51-38 lead.

Holy Names cut its deficit to eight points in the fourth quarter, but Keystone quickly increased the margin again, with points from Cardenas, Dykes and Glenn making the score 60-43.

Cardenas finished with 16 points, 13 rebounds and four assists, while Teague and Moore had 14 and 13 points, respectively. Teague also had six assists, while Moore added eight rebounds.

Kim Tuller added four points, while Glenn and Gnann had three and two, respectively.

It was the Indians’ 14th straight win and capped a 30-4 season.

KHHS is baseball runner-up in 1995

Keystone’s Eric Potter and North Florida Christian’s John Bentley put together outstanding efforts on the mound, but it was Bentley who threw a shutout as the Indians fell 2-0 in the 1995 Class 3A baseball state-championship game.

The Indians faced a tough task in the first round of that season’s

District 4 tournament, having to play University Christian — the top-ranked team in the state — but Keystone got a complete-game three-hitter from pitcher Brett Allen, who struck out five in a 2-0 win.

Keystone trailed Pierson Taylor 4-1 in its next district-tournament game, but scored five runs in the sixth to win 6-4.

The Indians entered the regional playoffs off a 7-5 loss to Trinity Christian in the district-championship game.

In the first round of regionals, the Indians scored a run on Andy Hall’s two-out single in the top of the seventh for a 7-6 win over P.K. Yonge.

Keystone scored the game’s first six runs, including three in the fifth. P.K. Yonge scored six in the bottom of the fifth to even it up at 6-6.

With two outs in the seventh, Justin Dean was hit by a pitch (the sixth Keystone batter overall to get hit). He scored on Hall’s single.

Hall and Bryan Sands went 2-for-4 and 2-for-3, respectively, with Hall driving in three total runs.

Keystone got a huge play from its defense late in the game when Matt Dykes caught a fly ball in right field and threw a runner out at home plate.

Keystone then won the Region

II championship with an 8-1 win over Trinity Christian.

Trinity tied the game with an unearned run in the third, but the Indians scored five in the fourth. Dean, the leadoff batter reached on a wild pitch on a third strike. Dykes was hit by a pitch one out later. Dean and Dykes then attempted a double steal. The Trinity catcher’s throw to third sailed into left field. The ball went through the left fielder’s legs, allowing Dean and Dykes to both score.

After the next two batters walked, Tony Stevens hit an RBI single, while Allen drove in a run on a ground out. A Potter single drove in the fifth run of the inning.

Potter was the winning pitcher, giving up six and striking out six in a complete game.

Keystone was the only public school to advance to the Final Four. The Indians got an RBI single from Stevens in the eighth inning to defeat John Carroll 2-1 in a state-semifinal game.

The Indians fell behind 1-0 before scoring two in the fourth. Bryan Sands singled and scored on an error, while Dean, who reached on an error, scored on Hall’s squeeze bunt.

Dykes led off the bottom of the eighth by reaching on an error. He moved to second on an Allen sacrifice before scoring on

Stevens’ single into center field.

In the championship game against North Florida Christian, Potter gave up six hits and one walk in a complete-game effort that ultimately resulted in his only loss of the season.

North Florida Christian’s Bently, who would go on to pitch for FSU, allowed three hits and struck out nine.

The Indians, with two outs in the sixth, had two runners in scoring position: Brian Gentry, who reached on a walk, and Potter, who reached on an error. Dean was batting and had taken a second strike to work the count full. He stepped back to take a breath, with the result being that the umpire called a third strike for him being out of the box. The Florida High School Athletic Association had instituted the rule — a batter earns a strike when stepping out of the box without calling timeout — that season.

Keystone finished the season with a 28-8 record.

The Indians would play for the state championship in 1996 as well. Keystone was again the only public school to advance to the Final Four in Class 3A. The Indians defeated Pope John Paul II 14-5 in the semifinals before losing 7-5 to Tampa Catholic in the championship game, bringing an end to another 28-8 season.

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