

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, July 11, 2024

145th year, 52nd Issue — \$1

## Bradford

## Union

## Lake Region



You can't have a Starke Spangled Splash Bash without a splash, which Makye Williams prepares to enjoy at the bottom of this slide. The event, which moved from the Bradford High School football field to the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds, consisted of a variety of activities and entertainment.



Fireworks in Union County light up the night following a day of festive activities.



Paisley Tonione, pictured with Alicia and Kyle Tonione, won first place in Keystone with her Berry Almond Creme Pie.

## Celebrate the Fourth!



## WORTH NOTING

### Candidate forum July 20

The Bradford County Republican party is sponsoring a candidate forum on Saturday, July 20, starting at 6 p.m. at the ARC of Bradford County, 1351 S. Water St. (S.R. 100 near the radio station). All candidates for office are invited to attend. If candidates have a conflict with the date, they may send a surrogate to speak on their behalf.

In addition, WEAG 106.3 will broadcast the forum on the radio.

For more information contact BCREC secretary Donna Solze at 904-364-6076.

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

### Candidate forum July 25

Starke Commissioner Janice Mortimer and the Bradford County Democratic Executive Committee are sponsoring a nonpartisan community political forum on Thursday, July 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Church of God by Faith Community Learning Center, 721 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. All candidates and community members are welcome.

Come meet local candidates, ask questions, hear their platforms and network with neighbors who share your interests and concerns. Active participation is the key to a thriving democracy, so come influence conversation and gather the information needed to make educated decisions about the upcoming elections.

Light refreshments will be provided.

### Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, July 23, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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

## Starke opts out of fire assessment as county moves forward

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

The city of Starke has reportedly ruled out participation if the county commission approves a new special assessment for fire rescue funding.

The decision was revealed during discussion at the county commission's July 2 meeting, during which commissioners voted to advance an ordinance imposing the fee to a final reading.

The Starke City Commission has not voted on the assessment as other municipalities have, but city representatives were present as county commissioners and staff discussed the ordinance before them last week.

No decision has been made on the amount of the assessment, but Starke's refusal will raise the cost for

other property owners paying to fund fire rescue services.

Hampton and Lawtey have demonstrated support for the special assessment, although Lawtey's decision may hinge on the outcome of discussions about a renewed memorandum of understanding about the city's fire station and the costs of maintaining it. Brooker was on the fence as of its June meeting, with concerns about whether a new fire station there would be fully funded.

Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter expressed confidence Brooker would approve the assessment since it would pay for the personnel needed to staff a fire station there.

While she had questions about who was opting in or out of the assessment and what the amount of the assessment

would be, Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner did not question the need for a fire assessment.

"I know in spirit we must do something, have some kind of assessment for our fire rescue. That's a given. We have to. We can't continue funding it under the same conditions that we have, but what that number ends up being is important," she said.

Consultant Stantec reworked the numbers, which previously placed the assessment at \$309 a year per residential dwelling unit (or 20 cents per square foot in nonresidential buildings) to recover more than \$4 million for the fire department's \$4.85 million budget.

That was based on 10,656 dwelling units and nearly 5.86 million square feet of nonresidential building space.

Subtracting the residential and commercial square footage from the city of Starke leaves 8,729 residential units and just 2.8 million square feet of nonresidential space.

This results in a new residential fee of \$334 a year if the county commission went with 100% cost recovery — higher, but not significantly different without the city's participation. But Carter acknowledged that neither commissioners nor the public were comfortable with funding the total amount.

The residential fee drops to \$251 a year at 75% cost recovery, \$167 at 50% cost recovery and \$84 at 25% cost recovery.

See FEE, page 7

## Union EOC prepping for storms, constructing complex

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

Things are busy at the Union County Emergency Operations Center, not only because of the time of year but because of the ongoing construction of the new Public Safety Complex, which is now underway.

Emergency Management Director Tim Allen said that hurricane experts are expecting a highly active hurricane season this year due largely to higher-than-normal water temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and a greater influence from the La Nina weather phenomenon (also higher than normal). These conditions can lead to a greater likelihood of any low-pressure system over the ocean that may turn into a tropical depression, storm, or hurricane.

### Shelters available

Allen wanted to point out the single most important thing that families can do in case of a storm — all agree on a single place to meet as soon as

it is safe to get and stay there. This is especially important if the local cell towers go down, which is not an uncommon occurrence. He also wanted to mention the shelters in the county that will open if the need arises. The only shelter in Union County is at the Union County High School. This location will provide regular and special needs shelters, as well as a special area for people who feel they need to bring their pets.

The Special Needs Shelter is for people who are power dependent (as for medical equipment), rely on medications that require refrigeration or other special measures or those that require constant care. It is operated by the Union County Health Department. Persons with special needs are asked to pre-register for a spot in the shelter and may do so by signing up at the Florida Special Needs Registry online. Allen said that some medical practices will assist patients in getting registered as well.

The shelter area for pets has requirements for bringing on an animal. The animal must be caged or



The architectural drawing of what the Union County EOC will look like when it is completed.

confined, and the owner must bring the supplies needed for the pet, including food, water, supplies to keep the animal clean and any medications the animal may need. The shelter for pets is mainly designed for dogs and cats.

Residents should evacuate when recommended by county officials.

This usually happens in cases where residents live in mobile homes and low-lying areas. Even then, a recommendation is made for them to evacuate to more sturdy residences or buildings. Going to a shelter is

See EOC, page 5

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## Republicans meet Thursday

The Bradford Republican Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, July 11, in the Capital City Bank community room beginning at 7 p.m. The bank is located at 350 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

The committee meets on the second Thursday of each month.

All registered Republicans are welcome. If you are a local, state or national Republican candidate, you are invited to speak about your campaign.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering can find out how they can volunteer for the August primary and the November general election.

For more information about meetings or how to volunteer for the 2024 election cycle, contact

Chairman Richard Solze at 904-964-5803.

## Lifeline food giveaway

Lifeline Ministries and Gleaners Dispatch will hold a food giveaway on Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to noon at 325 N. Christian St. in Starke.

## Women's Day at Greater Bethlehem

The women of Greater Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church of Starke will be having their annual Women's Day this month. Two programs are scheduled for Friday, July 12 and July 19, each beginning at 7 p.m. The final program will take place Sunday, July 28, at 11 a.m. Guests have been invited to speak at each program. Please come out and help support Women's Day.

# Highly Rated Local Businesses!

<p><b>Phillip McDonald Plumbing</b>                  740 S Orange St,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-3737</p> <p><b>"Needed our septic pumped asap and they pulled through and came out to us in less than 24 hours! Got the job done quickly and were super knowledgeable! Great crew awesome service! Definitely recommend!"</b></p>	<p><b>DLP Bank</b>                  811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-7830</p> <p><b>"Great service! Fast and efficient place with very nice and knowledgeable people. Great place to bank and a trusted bank in the community for over 100 years!"</b></p>	<p><b>Big Teal Cleaning</b>                  12696 US HWY 301 South                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 903-6746</p> <p><b>"Took my car to Big Teal cleaning on 301 South Monday and they did a great job for a great price. My car was road trip filthy inside and out and when I left it was shining like a new toy! Nice place, great staff, clean and comfortable waiting room and rest room. I feel like I found a hidden treasure in Starke area. Give them a try and you won't be sorry!"</b></p>
<p><b>Dr. Nancy Short, Chiropractor</b>                  SE 28th St, Melrose, FL 32666                  (904) 778-6859</p> <p><b>"Dr Short is wonderful, if you don't like or want the snap, crackle pop adjustments... Dr Short is who you need to see! She practices Atlas Orthogonal, able to adjust your body usually without cracking stuff... I love her, you won't be disappointed!!"</b></p>	<p><b>Keystone Plumbing Inc.</b>                  2473 State Rte 100,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (352) 792-4426</p> <p><b>"Great local business! Fast and fair. Not many left like this jewel. I will always call and recommend them for all your plumbing needs. Very courteous and fast. Dealing local with a place like this is a refreshing and comforting feeling. Thank you guys!!"</b></p>	<p><b>Robert's Insurance</b>                  986 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 452-7784</p> <p><b>"The staff there is great. Up beat atmosphere"</b></p>
<p><b>CJ Appliances</b>                  442 W Call St, Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 452-1968</p> <p><b>"Great place, Starke needed an appliances store with good prices. I bought my mom a brand new dryer from them for 60% off of what it would cost at Lowes or Home Depot. Seriously check this place out!"</b></p>	<p><b>Durrance Pump</b>                  864 N Temple Ave STE C,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-7061</p> <p><b>"They did a great job at a fair price. They did exactly what was needed for the job and inspected the other equipment to make sure it was good. They are super busy and everyone recommends them for their good service."</b></p>	<p><b>Bradford County Public Library</b>                  456 W Pratt St,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 368-3911</p> <p><b>"The library not only has books that you can check out but they have movies and audio books. They also have an area that is for genealogy purposes. They have many programs for children, youth and adults. There is also free wifi as long as you follow the rules and they have computers for use and you can print from them."</b></p>
<p><b>Andrews Site Prep</b>                  (386) 867-0572                  Services 20 different counties!</p> <p><b>"I am really happy with their performance. They installed a new well and septic for me and they literally did it in a day. The team in the office is very friendly and professional."</b></p>	<p><b>Jackson Building Supply Inc.</b>                  937 S Walnut St,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-6078</p> <p><b>"Very friendly and knowledgeable staff. Always have what I need and at good prices."</b></p>	<p><b>Hearing Aids Today</b>                  450 S Lawrence Blvd,                  Keystone Heights, FL 32656                  (352) 877-4471</p> <p><b>"This is my 2nd pair of hearing aids from this company. The people are wonderful, personable and professional. If there are any questions or concerns, they are addressed immediately. I love this place."</b></p>
<p><b>Bradford County Eye Center</b>                  292 Lafayette St,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-8076</p> <p><b>"Very knowledgeable and friendly staff. They are the greatest. So great to go into a medical office and be treated as a person and not a number. I have found that this is true about Florida, since moving here two years ago I have had nothing but positive visits from all my doctors and staff. Thanks to all!"</b></p>	<p><b>Teal Tile Carpet One</b>                  131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-7423</p> <p><b>"Best place to get any kind of flooring.. professional, friendly and easy to work with! Highly recommend- can't say enough good things about service, installation and products!"</b></p>	<p><b>Sporting Chance</b>                  218 N Temple Ave,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-7434</p> <p><b>"Great experience! Great communication! Very honest people and fair prices! I cannot recommend Beth enough and will NOT GO ANYWHERE else for custom shirts ever again!"</b></p>
<p><b>Duval Chevrolet</b>                  1018 N Temple Ave,                  Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-7500</p> <p><b>"Haley was an amazing sales person. I love my new Chevy. Terry did an awesome job on my trade appraisal. 6/13/24 had my car in for service and Scott was great. Thank you for the great service!"</b></p>	<p><b>Bradford County Sheriffs Office</b>                  945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 966-6161</p> <p><b>"Officer Adam helped me with my flat tire. I was kinda awestruck. I've never had a police officer do something like that for me. I moved to this county from Jacksonville 5 months ago, and I'm really impressed! Officer Adam thank you!"</b></p>	<p><b>The Chiropractic &amp; Injury Clinic of Starke</b>                  601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091                  (904) 964-8018</p> <p><b>"They not only have some of the best staff, they always work to get you in! My entire family gets adjusted here- so glad we found them!!"</b></p>

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SHOP Local

# Starke water and sewer rate increasing to pay city debt

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke water and sewer customers will see their rates rise again pending final approval of the ordinance first presented on July 2.

The commission voted 4-1 to move the ordinance to final reading.

City Manager Drew Mullins reminded commissioners that increasing rates was a commitment made in exchange for the USDA funding needed to reconstruct the city's wastewater plant.

USDA provided \$27.1 million toward the project to improve the efficiency and enhance treatment to meet higher environmental standards. This was a combination of both grant and loan funding, the latter of which must be repaid. The city pledged future utility revenue to cover repayment.

Commissioner Danny Nugent presented his recollection of the city's repayment commitment, which was to raise rates by 5%

every other year. City Manager Drew Mullins said nothing was passed that effect. Instead, the commission was told that the total cost to customers would increase by \$45 over time to repay the loan. So far, the cost has increased by \$19, so there is a way to go. Mullins said the city was still eight or nine years away from meeting \$45 target, and limiting increases to every other year won't achieve it.

"This has to be done to establish our reserves just to pay for the loan. The loan itself is \$10.1 million," he said.

Nugent complained that delays and increased costs have negatively impacted the city's ability to set aside more reserve funding for repayment. If things had been better managed, he said, the citizens wouldn't be so burdened.

"We can't keep asking citizens for more and more money," he said.

Commissioner Janice Mortimer said because the city needed revenue for the improvements, it had no choice.

She asked the manager to explain what happens if the city continues to delay raising the money it will need for repayment.

"The city literally goes broke trying to repay this loan," he said. The annual payment is \$376,000.

Mullins also countered Nugent's claim about project cost increases being passed off to customers by saying the amount of the loan never increased. USDA provided additional grant funding instead.

In addition to repaying the loan, the rates must also provide operational funding for the water and wastewater departments. Commissioner Shannon Smith said the city had been losing money in the water and sewer business because of its prior rate structure. The departments need to make money, not subsidize water usage, he said.

Commissioners also countered Nugent's claim that the project has been mismanaged and "drug out."

"The project hasn't changed. The overrun came from the cost of everything going up over the

years," Mayor Scott Roberts said. "To come back and mention that it's a mismanagement of the department is so far off, I don't even know where to begin with that."

"It has nothing to do with delays," Roberts said of the cost increases, which were covered by grant funding. "This is the same project that we were under DEP sanctions to get stuff started and changed, and that was before my time, and the commission was wise enough to get this project started, and we're just finishing up."

The city hasn't spent money on the project above what was supposed to be spent, Roberts said. The city needs to raise the funds to repay its debt and overcome the funding deficit that Smith mentioned.

Roberts said he wanted it to be clear that there had been no mismanagement of the departments or project funding.

The first reading of the ordinance was approved 4-1, with Nugent dissenting. When finalized, the ordinance will raise

the base rate and consumption charge by 5% for both sewer and water service.

For most customers, the base rate will increase to \$21.88 for water and \$39.42 for wastewater inside the city limits, and \$32.82 for water and \$59.15 for wastewater outside the city limits. Consumption rates vary depending on usage.

## Duties ordinance finalized

The commission approved the second and final reading of an ordinance to shift oversight of the finance department from the city clerk to the city manager.

This will support the manager's role in preparing the city's budget while maintaining the clerk's role as city treasurer, overseeing collection and spending of revenue.

The vote was 3-2, with commissioners Danny Nugent and Shannon Smith opposing the change.

## Police referendum set

Commissioners also set a referendum for the Nov. 5 general election. Starke voters will be asked if the police chief should remain an elected officer. The police department has been disbanded, and the former police chief has resigned. The commission has redefined it as a ceremonial position with an annual salary of \$1.

If voters say yes, the city charter will be amended to remove reference to a police chief, police department and their respective powers from the charter.

Should a future commission fund a police department, the head of that department would be a city employee, not an elected official.

Commissioners unanimously approved the ordinance.

# Lawtey: Fire station costs should be shared burden

BY MELISSA PYLE  
Special to the Telegraph

Lawtey city councilmembers seem prepared to support the county commission's plan to help fund fire rescue services through a new special assessment.

Bradford County commissioners need the council's approval to collect the assessment within the city limits. Councilmembers approved the first reading of an ordinance granting that permission at their July 1 meeting.

The county has yet to set the amount of the assessment. (See related story.)

With this potential new revenue source for the county, Lawtey wants to make sure its costs for maintaining the local fire station are not borne solely by Lawtey taxpayers.

Bradford Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter attended to report the cost associated with the Lawtey Fire Station. Councilmembers Debra Norman and Virginia Warner had requested these costs before the city signed a new

memorandum of understanding from the county regarding the fire station.

Warner stated she was still not ready to vote last week because she would like a workshop to discuss these costs. The Lawtey station services all of northern Bradford County, and Warner had concerns the city budget would be shouldering all of these costs.

"We, the citizens of Lawtey, are bearing the costs of everything which benefits the whole north end of Bradford County," Warner said. "The whole north end is paying that \$300 a month assessment along with our citizens, and I think it's a burden that shouldn't be carried, a load on the taxpayers, the citizens of Lawtey." (See related story on the potential cost of the assessment.)

A workshop with Chief Carter was set for July 16.

A second reading and approval of Lawtey's ordinance is required to finalize collection of the assessment.

## Garbage service suspended

After some minor research, Councilwoman Amy Blom and attorney Dan Sikes discovered the establishment of an HOA for residents of Brandon Road. This HOA is responsible for costs associated with road maintenance and repairs.

Sikes explained that the city has easements on Brandon Road, but it is a private road and it would be a large financial cost to the city to take over and repair the road. Sikes went on to explain there are roads currently owned by the city that need maintenance first.

The city still had to make a decision on providing garbage pickup to Brandon Road residents. Current road conditions are causing damage to the city's dump truck. Councilwoman Emily Hoffman asked several questions in relation to the city's responsibility to provide utilities to residents. She asked Sikes if trash pickup was considered a required utility, he said in this instance it is not.

Currently, residents have the option to take their own trash to the dump. The city does provide water to the residents of Brandon Road, but water is a required utility and the meters are read just once a month. The meter readers access the road in a smaller vehicle that doesn't sustain as much damage as the city's dump truck does when it is driven on Brandon Road on a weekly basis.

As the meeting continued and more details were discussed, the council decided it was best to vote to suspend garbage pickup for residents of Brandon Road until the road is repaired. Residents will be sent a 45-day notice of this change.

In other business: —councilmembers approved spending \$8,000 in ARPA funds to replace street signs, polls and related hardware.

—City Clerk Lisa Harley scheduled multiple hearing dates and workshops to discuss and approve the budget.

—Norman thanked local residents, the Moores, for cleaning out the canals on Grove Street as a free service to the city.

—the next Community Health and Wellness Resource Hub is July 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lawtey Recreation Center.

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# Hampton agreeing to fire assessment

BY CAROL MOSLEY  
Special to the Telegraph

The Hampton City Council has addressed the proposed fire assessment that the county is seeking to implement, agreeing to allow collection within the city limits.

Agreement from the municipalities is required for the county to implement the assessment in those locales. City Clerk Mary Lou Hildreth advised that it was going to happen with the county in some form, so they might as well agree.

Hampton does not have a fire station of its own, but is situated where services can come from Starke, Sampson City and Theresa.

The proposed ordinance requires a second reading, which will take place at a future meeting.

## Arc news

The ARC of Bradford's Hampton campus will host the Health Resource Center on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month. The Arc has been hosting drive through food donations on a regular basis, and there will be a Blessings Box installed for people to drop off or take food if needed.

The Arc received bad news when Gov. Ron DeSantis cut their funding request which had been approved in the legislature's 2025 budget. The Arc requested \$500,000 to increase its workforce and purchase equipment and transportation.

## Hampton funding

Hampton got good news, more

or less, about their own funding requests. The appropriations request of \$1.1 million for upgrades to the water system was reduced to \$550,000 but was not cut by the governor.

Other grant proposals in the works include a grant for improvements to the town hall. There is an appeal for a new HVAC system and new roof. Meanwhile, the council approved new paving of the parking lot at a cost of about \$14,000.

The council agreed to celebrations of the city's 100th year since incorporation in 2025. Early ideas include announcement banners or flags down Navarre Street. Other ideas will be considered over time, but all agreed there should be a celebration.

# Letters

## Opposed to assessment in Starke

Dear Editor:

The recent article regarding a possible fire assessment was interesting in that the county commission never brings up the subject of providing for a county fire department without some mention of imposing the same fees on citizens and businesses in the city of Starke.

This time, the mention is that there would be different assessments on residences and commercial properties, and, since most commercial properties in the county are inside the city of Starke, they would not be able to assess them unless the city leaders agreed to impose such assessments to help the county.

The city commission should simply reject this idea as citizens and businesses in Starke already

pay heavy taxes to the county while paying to maintain our own city fire department, which gets called outside the city to practically all motor vehicle accidents

If fire department assessments are needed to provide for a county

department, it should only be imposed on county residents who choose to live outside the city of Starke.

Sincerely,  
James D. Powell

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**Bradford High Class of 1964**  
WILL MEET at Cedar River Restaurant (Starke) on Thursday, JULY 11, 2024 at 1 PM.  
All BHS grads & spouses are invited.  
Please let Jerome Kelly 352.538.0741 OR Eugenia Whitehead at 352.745.1828 know if you plan to attend.

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# Lake Region

## Ninety-six entries parade down Lawrence Boulevard

BY JENN SAMSEL  
Lake Region Kiwanis

Keystone Heights marked its 56th observance of Independence Day with the Freedom 5k race, followed by the Lake Region Kiwanis "The Sounds of Freedom" parade, vendors, music, and other activities.

The Lake Region Kiwanis parade had 96 participants, all showing their best talent. Overall, there were 12 winners.

Following the parade, a diverse range of festival events unfolded. Johnny's Barbecue sponsored the second annual hot dog eating contest, followed by the Keystone Heights Heritage Commission pie-making contest. The day continued with The Wild West Gunslingers & the Shadow Riders Wild West Show and concluded with a thrilling performance by the Gatorland Water Ski Show Team.

The Keystone Heights Heritage Commission's second annual pie-making contest was a fierce battle of culinary skills. The eight pies presented were all of exceptional quality, making it a tough decision for the judges to select the top three. Paisley Tonione, age 6, took first place in



Sounds of Freedom Parade Grand Marshal Dr. James Minesinger



Helen and Dewitt Hersey

her first pie-making competition. Keystone Heights was delighted to host two new guest performances. The Wild West Gunslingers & the Shadow Riders Wild West Show, hailing from Ocala, and the Gatorland Water Ski Team, from Melrose, put on a show to remember.

Their performances were filled with humor, comedy, and awe-inspiring stunts, leaving the audience thoroughly entertained and impressed.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all our volunteers for their invaluable assistance with the events and parade. Your dedication and

hard work were instrumental in making this celebration a success. We are truly grateful for your contribution and couldn't have done it without you.

### Parade winners:

1st place Best Business Entry - Gatorland Water Ski Show Team

1st place Most Original - Wild West Gunslingers & the Shadow Riders

1st place Best Youth Entry - RK Stables

1st place Judge's Choice - Amvets Post 86

1st place Closest to Theme - We Deer-ly Love the Sounds of Freedom

1st place Best Marching Unit - Keystone Heights High School Cheer

2nd place Best Business Entry - Moccasin Creek Jeep Club

2nd place Most Original - Hope Baptist Church

2nd place Best Youth Entry - Miss Keystone Heights High School Paige Harrington

2nd place Judge's Choice - Nigel's Crew

2nd place Closest to Theme - Classical Conversations of Keystone Heights

2nd place Best Marching Unit - AHG FL 7884 (American Heritage Girls)

### Pie-making contest winners:

1st Place - Paisley Tonione (Alicia & Kyle Tonione) - Berry Almond Cream Pie

2nd Place - Melinda McDonnell - Palmers Peachy Pie

2nd Place - Gregory J. Gay - Bake Well Cherry Pie

3rd Place - Hayley Murphy - Peach Pie.



Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth was joined by her favorite child Jake.



Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook



Miss Keystone Heights High School Paige Harrington



American Legion Post 202 Commander Cindy Lee



2nd place pie winners - Gregory J. Gay - Bake Well Cherry Pie and Melinda McDonnell - Palmers Peachy Pie



3rd place pie winner - Hayley Murphy - Peach Pie



Keystone Heights High School JROTC advisor Lt. Col. Richard Hall as Captain America

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Freedom 5K organizer Kerry Cooper Collins said 296 racers entered the 2024 Freedom 5K this year, up from 232 in 2023.

## Overcoming evil with good

Nearly 300 race in Freedom 5K

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Freedom 5K organizer Kerry Cooper Collins said 296 racers entered the 2024 Freedom 5K this year, up from 232 in 2023.

The event funds scholarships for Keystone Heights High School students through the Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Before the race began, Collins told the event participants that her sponsors pay for race expenses and that runners' entry fees go directly to scholarships.

She added that this year's question for scholarship applicants was whether they ever had to choose between doing what was morally right or doing what was easy.

"It takes courage, faith, and perseverance to take concerted action and to stand up for what's honest and true," she told the runners. "One person can make a difference, and that person is you. So, thank you all for showing up today and making a difference. You're making a difference in someone's life."

Once the race began, the 1987 Keystone Heights High School graduate said in an interview that she grew up running in an Independence Day run in her hometown until organizers abandoned the event due to a lack of volunteers.

She added that she saw an opportunity to revive the event a few years ago and took advantage of the opening.

Collins said that many of her 20-or-so volunteers are high school students, bolstered by encouragement from teachers and parents.

"Overall," she said, "I think volunteerism is something you teach and you model. If the parents are talking to them in the home and bringing them out, then they're going to do it."

The winner of the 2024 Freedom 5K was Julian Bautista. The Gainesville resident said that while running high school track and cross country at St. Francis Catholic Academy, his coach encouraged team members to compete in 5Ks, 10Ks, and even marathons around the area.

"I just keep it rolling," the third-year health science Santa Fe College student said of



The winner of the 2024 Freedom 5K was Julian Bautista. The Gainesville resident said that while running high school track and cross country at St. Francis Catholic Academy, his coach encouraged team members to compete in 5Ks, 10Ks, and even marathons around the area.



Kerry Cooper Collins addresses runners prior to the Freedom 5K



A 2012 KHHS graduate, Jordan, an ESE student, was passionate about Harry Potter, reading, the NCIS television series, and her dog, Dozer.

continuing the habit he started in high school.

The race's beneficiary, The Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund, gave Keystone Heights High School graduates seven scholarships last year. This year, the fund gave away 11. Collins said that as the number of participants in the race grows, so will the number of scholarships the fund supports.

The scholarship fund is named in honor of Collins's niece, Jordan Cooper, who was murdered by a neighbor in 2017.

A 2012 KHHS graduate,

Jordan, an ESE student, was passionate about Harry Potter, reading, the NCIS television series, and her dog, Dozer.

Collins said the scholarship fund is all about good triumphing over evil.

"We're taking something bad," Collins said, "and although we're not making it good, we're changing people's lives for the good while honoring her memory."

## Keystone Rotary installs new officers

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Rotary Club thanked its outgoing officers and welcomed its incoming leaders for the 2024-2025 year at the home of Scott and Diane Kornegay.

District Governor John Tabor led the ceremony. In his opening comments, the Orange Park Sunrise member emphasized the importance of the Rotary Foundation and its role in eradicating polio.

"As recently as 1988, there were 400,000 cases of wild poliovirus in the world in 135 countries," he told the group. "And last year in the entire world, there were 12 cases. This year so far there are 11 in Afghanistan and Pakistan. And it's not even like the whole country; it's just one area along the border."

Tabor recognized two Keystone club members' generous contributions to Rotary International's foundation.

The district governor said member Richard Segall had given generous amounts to the foundation during his Rotary career. He was awarded his sixth Paul Harris Fellow pin, named after Rotary International's founder. Tabor added that member Scott Kornegay had achieved membership in the organization's Paul Harris Society, a tier reserved for Rotary's top donors.

Tabor also thanked Kornegay for serving as one of District 6970's assistant governors. The district stretches from the Georgia line to Volusia and Marion Counties and includes 76 clubs with 3,300 members.

Tabor also presided over the installation of the club's incoming leadership: President Todd Bealls, Vice President Heather Davis, Treasurer Shelley Gibbs, Secretary Ginger Lee, Sergeant at Arms Jim Eifert, Membership Director Scott Kornegay, and Public Image Director John Raimer.

Davis, the group's outgoing president who will remain on the board and serve as VP, awarded Raimer the Rotarian of the Year Award. The outgoing president said Raimer, the Maintenance Director at the Montgomery Center, helps the club every week by preparing the group's meeting room at the conference center.

"Looking back over the years that I have known you, I can't remember a time that you turned down volunteering," Davis told Raimer. "Your spirit lights up the room, and it is contagious."

Incoming President Todd Bealls told the group that he wanted to expand the club's fundraising efforts and profile in the community.



Incoming President Todd Bealls gives outgoing President Heather Davis a plaque recognizing her year of leading the club.



Outgoing President Heather Davis awards John Raimer the Rotarian of the Year Award.



District Governor John Tabor (left) congratulates Scott Kornegay on his membership in the Paul Harris Society.



District Governor John Tabor (left) awards Richard Segall his Paul Harris Fellow +5 pin.

## EOC

Continued from page 1

simply a choice that is available. Emergency vehicles will not be on the roads when conditions are too dangerous for them to respond safely, so it is possible for calls to be refused due to conditions.

## New complex will house jail, EOC, and 911

Construction has begun on the new Union County Public Safety Complex, which will contain the Union County Detention Center, the EOC and the Union County 911 Center.

The project was half-funded last year by the Florida Legislature, and news has arrived that the second half of the funding has been approved for

this year. Securing these funds has been an ongoing endeavor by the Union County Sheriff's Office, the EOC, and County Coordinator Jimmy Williams. The total cost of the project is just under \$17 million.

Construction has already begun on the first phase of the project and is going smoothly. So far, the slab has been poured, and the foundation and most of the concrete block walls have been completed. The rafters will be installed soon. Allen said the EOC/911 portion of the facility is expected to be complete sometime between March and May of 2025.

The EOC will move in first, followed by the 911 staff once all the equipment is installed. Allen is currently applying for grants to purchase new radios and 911 equipment, as well as a large generator to supply the entire complex. All that will remain to be purchased will be some furniture for the complex,



The EOC as it is now, during construction.

although a large donation from the Union County Health Department of furniture not reused after their recent remodel has helped the county a great deal in this area. Allen said some furniture items will also not need to be purchased immediately and can be bought over time as funds become available.

Once the EOC and 911 are in and settled, construction on

## Church of God food distribution

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



# UNION COUNTY

## Lake Butler marks Nation's independence

TRACY LEE TATE AND  
LAWRENCE DUPREE  
Special to the Times

Independence Day 2024 in Lake Butler was celebrated on July 6 at Lakeside Park with patriotic flair and fun activities.

The day was hot but clear, with no hint of rain until just prior to dusk. The crowd was a little smaller than usual, and there seemed to be fewer vendors on hand, but all in attendance seemed to be enjoying themselves. The swimming area was open, and the splash park opened in the morning but had to be shut down around noon due to electrical issues. Kids were still able to keep cool, however, as there were several water slides located around the event area.

Deputies from the Union County Sheriff's Office and Union County Fire/EMS were on hand for the entire event to ensure the safety and welfare of everyone there.

The day began with the Tommy Spires Memorial Fishing Tournament, with fishermen signing in before dawn and heading out as the sun peaked over the horizon.

At the weigh-in, about five hours later, the winners were announced. The first-place bass was caught by Jessie Williams and weighed in at 5.97 pounds. The sponsor gift for this lucky fisherman was Pritchett Trucking, Inc. The second-place bass was caught by Cole Kite, with the sponsor gift provided by Ferreria Funeral Services of Lake Butler. Third in the tournament, with the largest trash fish (a gar) was Tyler Griffis, who was awarded a sponsor gift from the Lake Butler Rotary Club. Other contributing sponsors for the tournament included DLP Bank, Spires IGA Market, Candace Bratcher, and Lake Butler Farm Center.

The 5k run was also held early to beat the heat and keep the runners safe. The winner was Meghan Bishop, with Zoey Marshall taking second place and Callen Collins coming in third.

The car show was impressive, with cars from the 1960s and



Union County Fire/EMS was on hand to offer assistance to anyone needing it. Pictured are: Kelvin Tanner, Rob Koch, Mark Hamlin, Mickey Foster, Ken Owen and Buddy Broughton.

1970s in abundance. Car owner Alex Fardales was the judge's Overall Top Pick with his 1955 Chevy Bel Air, while John Holt took home Best Truck honors for his 1953 Ford F-100. Most Patriotic honors went to Robert Lukatz and his 1984 Chevy Silverado. Notables entered in the competition included Tom Jenkins' 1925 Olds and Ed Ripplinger's 1976 Checker.

The rest of the day was set for relaxing and family time – kids were swimming and sliding, adults were walking around catching up with friends, and some families gathered under the pavilions to eat or relax. Some people patronized the vendors on hand, while others visited the food trucks. There was an abundance of lemonade stands, all seeing heavy traffic. Many of the local political candidates were on hand, campaigning and handing out cold drinks. Everyone seemed to realize the need to stay hydrated and almost everyone was seen with a cold drink in their hand.

The crowd almost doubled near dusk in anticipation of the fireworks display. Thunder



Richard Kingsbury and his daughter, Lindsay, from Lake Butler, were on hand selling Richard's wooden creations of American flags with patriotic themes. All of his artwork is hand-cut and assembled and can be seen in the background.

rumbled and flashes of lightning flashed behind the dark clouds, but the rain held off and the fireworks program proceeded on time and without problems. As always, the display was

impressive, and the crowd seemed pleased. Traffic was well controlled and flowed well for the trip home for most of the attendees.



Jessie Williams caught with largest bass, weighing 5.97 lbs.



Mom Tammy Page and daughter Jessica Williams, from Lake Butler, were selling colorful dish gardens featuring both artificial and live succulents.



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

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

## FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR 700 UNION K-12 STUDENTS THIS SAT. JULY 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We hope that everyone who needs school supplies for their children will come out and take advantage of this event," Lloyd said. "Our aim is to assist the community and K-12 students to be ready for a very important day – the first day of school."



Memphis Rose seems not to understand why the ceramic alligator in the Splash Park has stopped spraying water, so he decided to whack it with a soda can to see if it make it behave.



The winners of the 5k race. Pictured are: Meghan Bishop, Callen Collins and Zoey Marshall.

## Homecoming at New River Baptist

New River Baptist Church, located at 16703 SW 144th Ave. in Brooker, will be having its 191st Homecoming Celebration service on Sunday, July 21, at 10:30 a.m.

New River Baptist Church is the second oldest existing Baptist church in the state of Florida

having been founded in 1833. Come be a guest for services on that exciting day.

Sunday School classes begin at 9:15 a.m. followed by the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. Come see what God has been doing and bring a dish to share at the fellowship. For more information please call 352-485-1246 or 904-796-2359.

## VBS at Heilbronn Baptist

Heilbronn Baptist Church will have vacation Bible school July 22-26 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The theme is Breaker Rock Beach based on Romans 12:2. Transportation is available by calling Jimmy Rhoden at 904-263-8953 or Norman Dowdy at 352-745-0761. The church is located at 21354 S.R. 16.

# 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

Christopher Daniel Ables, 27, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 29 for battery and burglary.

According to an arrest report, victims claimed the defendant kicked in their front door and attempted to grab a person from within the home. A resident fought with the intruder and forced him outside, sustaining injuries from the encounter. The defendant claimed he pushed the door open because it was locked, adding that he was attacked once inside the residence. A deputy found a four-inch knife in one of the defendant's pockets.

Brandon Lee Bailey, 39, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for failure to appear.

Timothy Delancie Bass, 39, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 4 for an out-of-county warrant.

Mikel Marvin Bright, 42, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 1 for a probation violation.

Cody Arthur Carpenter, 31, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 30 for contempt of court, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and possession of drug equipment.

According to an arrest report, witnesses reported a suspicious person near a Hampton residence.

Deputies found the defendant standing several yards away from the home of the victim, who had previously obtained a domestic violence injunction prohibiting the defendant from going near the house.

While arresting Carpenter, deputies found a small capsule in one of his shorts pockets containing methamphetamine.

The victim wrote a statement claiming the defendant had been on her property, looking through windows, knocking on doors, and calling her.

Tony Antony Garcia Francy, 40, of Sarasota, was arrested by Lawtey police and Bradford deputies for out-of-county warrants.

Arthur Leonard Lang, 45, of Starke, was arrested by FHP troopers on July 4 for dealing in stolen property, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and attaching a tag not assigned.

According to an arrest report, troopers stopped the defendant's black Hyundai at a Lawtey Shell station after running the vehicle's tag and receiving a report that the tag was stolen.

The defendant allegedly told troopers he took the tag off his mother's vehicle and that his driver's license was suspended.

Troopers confirmed that the man's license had been suspended for failure to complete substance abuse treatment, fleeing and eluding, DUI, habitual traffic offenses, and failure to pay fines.

Julien De Paul Webster Lyons, 33, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 1 for vehicle theft and possession of drugs.

According to an arrest report, a witness reported a suspicious vehicle at the Circle K at State Road 100 and County Road 100-A, also known as Griffis Loop.

Deputies said the vehicle's occupant had several warrants from Ontario, Canada, and that the vehicle had been reported stolen from the Canadian province.

The defendant told officers he had rented the car and had extended the rental, and therefore the car was not stolen.

Deputies also found suspected methamphetamine in the vehicle. Lyons allegedly told the officers the stimulant was for his "personal use."

Jeremy Blake McCollum, 29, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Carlos Martin Murillo Ruiz, 52, of Bradenton, was arrested by Lawtey police on June 29 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Destiny Kelly Padgett, 40, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 3 for criminal mischief with property damage and larceny.

According to an arrest report, deputies responded to reports the defendant had broken the windows and windshields of two parked trucks.

On scene, officers verified the damage to the vehicles and found notes from the defendant claiming responsibility for the vandalism.

The victim told officers Padgett had sent him text messages and photos verifying she damaged the trucks. The victim added that Padgett had also stolen a seat from his golf cart and tore the fuel lines from the vehicle.

While inspecting the trucks, deputies found two Bibles. One had a photo and a knife attached. The second copy had a note written on the edge of the Bible's pages, which stated, "This is how I fight."

Jennifer Lynn Pelham, 36, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 4 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies she had allowed the defendant and her boyfriend to stay at the victim's home for a weekly payment and that Pelham had failed to pay for three weeks.

The victim added that as Pelham was packing her belongings, she began yelling at the victim and the victim's two minor children. An argument between the victim and the defendant led to Pelham slapping the victim in the face.

Pelham denied striking the woman. However, after deputies noted redness on the left side of the victim's face, they arrested Pelham for battery.

Dallas Dalton Robinson, 21, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for an out-of-county warrant.

Anthony Wayne Terri, 44, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 3 for a probation violation.

Vernon Scott Thompson, 57, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for an out-of-county warrant, possession of drugs, and possession of drug equipment.

April Lynn Vindl, 57, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 2 for possession of drugs.

Raymond Wiles, 44, of Oakland Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 1 for battery.

According to a March 23, 2023, Department of Corrections Inspector General probable cause affidavit, the defendant was an inmate at Florida State Prison. A correctional officer claimed that on June 12, 2022, Wiles threw a brown liquid on the officer while the state employee and a nurse were dispensing medications.

Daniel Pressley Woods, 28, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 1 for DUI.

### Union

Jessie Lee Dover, 29, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 2 for a probation violation.

Jesus Elijo Garcia, 25, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 4 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim, who is the defendant's sister, claimed Garcia struck her in the face while the two were arguing about their father. Although there were no marks on the victim, a witness

corroborated the sister's claim, and the defendant told Deputy Austin C. Kazmierski that he hit his sister because she made him mad during an argument.

James Manon Goff, 37, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 1 for probation violations.

Joshua Paul Thompson, 40, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 4 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Deputy Sheriff Eli C. Rogers wrote in an arrest report that he stopped the defendant's vehicle after Thompson ran a stop sign.

The officer added that dispatch told him Thompson had a prior history of drug charges. After the defendant consented to a search, the deputy discovered three crystals within a plastic bag between the driver and passenger seats. The crystals tested positive for methamphetamine.

### Clay

Dakota Neil Griffin, 21, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 5 for child abuse.

According to an arrest report, a deputy concluded that the victim and another person were involved in a fight, and when the defendant was told to break up the brawl, he instead struck the victim in the back of the head with a closed fist.

Derek Kurt Ploe, 30, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 4 for DUI.

According to an arrest report, a witness called 911 after seeing the defendant's F-150 swerve on the road and nearly hit a guard rail.

Officers contacted the defendant in the parking lot of the BP gas station at the intersection of State Road 100 and County Road 214 in Lake Geneva. When a deputy asked to see the defendant's driver's license, Ploe instead handed him a debit card. The defendant failed a series of field sobriety tests and blew 0.237 and 0.235 in a breathalyzer at the jail. Florida's legal limit for adults aged 21 and older is 0.08.

Shaqueta Antoinette Searcy, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 1 for resisting an officer without violence.

According to an arrest report, a motorcycle deputy was conducting traffic surveillance on State Road 16 near the main gate of Camp Blanding when he saw the defendant's vehicle approaching at a high rate of speed. The officer clocked the defendant driving 85 in a 65 and caught up with her near the installation's Gate D while the defendant was putting air in her tire.

According to the deputy, he attempted to arrest Searcy after the defendant refused to provide her driver's license and insurance information. The officer added that he was able to place one handcuff on the defendant's left hand but needed the assistance of another deputy to complete the arrest due to Searcy's resistance.

After the deputy obtained the license, dispatch reported that Searcy's driving privileges had been suspended because of unpaid traffic fines and criminal failure to appear. The officer wrote that he issued citations to Searcy for speeding, loud music, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

## RJE alumni plan August social

The RJE alumni will host a Denim and Pearls Social on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 6-10 p.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club, 15501 NE 14th St. near Starke. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from any alumni member, or contact President Joann Jackson at 904-769-6963 or Linda Hampton at 904-964-8156.

## Kidnapping defendant pleas to lesser charge

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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The third of three defendants facing kidnapping and aggravated battery charges in the case of a 16-year-old abducted off a Starke street was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading to a lesser charge.

Leroi Lamont Luzunaris, 47, of Jacksonville, Tiescha Latrese Mitchell, 35, of Starke, and Donnie Risby, 64, of Starke, were arrested for kidnapping and aggravated battery after a boy told deputies he was abducted on January 8 and beaten with a tire iron by the trio.

On July 3, Luzunaris pleaded to false imprisonment and was sentenced to prison for 60 months. Earlier, charges against Risby were dropped, and Mitchell was sentenced to 64 days in jail and three years'



Luzunaris

probation after pleading to the same false imprisonment charge to which her co-defendant pleaded.

According to court papers, the victim told deputies he was walking on Estelle Street near

Dell Street when a gray vehicle approached him, and Mitchell and Luzunaris, forced him into the vehicle at gunpoint. According to the victim, the couple took him to a home on Lamar Street where they, along with Risby, beat him with a tire iron, fists, feet, and possibly a handgun.

A Bradford sheriff's detective wrote in a sworn complaint that surveillance footage provided to investigators show Luzunaris and Mitchell in a gray vehicle, talking about finding a car they believed the victim stole.

"In another clip," wrote the detective, "you can see the vehicle on Estelle Street and see several individuals get out of the vehicle and then can see what appears to be those same individuals forcing another individual into the vehicle."

## Two-year sentence for selling cocaine

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 30-year-old Starke woman was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading to selling cocaine and then being in possession of the drug the following month.

Richardlyn Bobbie Jamison pleaded to selling cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and use or possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to arrest reports, Bradford Sheriff's detectives supervised a controlled purchase of 0.49 grams of cocaine from the defendant to a confidential



Jamison

source on April 22. During the 5:07 p.m. purchase on Starke's

Grove Street, Jamison shuttled between a residence and the source's car, carrying \$10 from the source to the home and returning to the vehicle with the drug.

On May 8, a deputy spotted Jamison in a pickup on U.S. 301 between Starke and Lawtey. The lawman stopped Jamison, who told the deputy she had no valid license. After the officer asked the defendant if she had anything illegal in the truck, Jamison pulled a glass pipe from her breast-bra area. The residue on the pipe tested positive for cocaine.

The defendant's prior convictions include felony petit theft, grand theft, and burglary.

## Caught driving after license suspended 18 times

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 38-year-old man was sentenced to 22 months in prison after pleading to driving after his license had been suspended 18 times. James Disean Hires also pleaded to possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

According to an arrest report, a deputy stopped Hires's vehicle on December 17, 2023, after noticing the passenger side

headlight was out near the north end of the Starke Bypass.

A dispatch records check revealed the suspensions, mostly for unpaid traffic fines and failure to pay child support.

While arresting the Jacksonville resident, deputies found a 9mm round in one of his pants pockets and a Taurus 9mm handgun inside his Dodge SUV. The defendant had at least two prior felony convictions at the time of the traffic stop.



Hires

## FEE Continued from page 1

Commissioner Diane Andrews asked about whether an assessment is fair for everyone. Attorney Rob Bradley explained there are different philosophies, and people can disagree about fairness. Ad valorem taxes, or property taxes, are assessed based on the value of a property minus any applicable exemptions. Those with higher value properties pay more.

A special assessment is determined based on the amount of money the government is trying to raise, and the cost is assessed equally within a property class, so everyone is paying the same amount for the same benefit. Regardless of whether someone lives in a \$200,000 home or a \$500,000 home, it costs the same amount to send a fire truck to either home.

Based on the Stantec study, which used county statistics, the assessment cost is weighted based on demand, and residential addresses are responsible for 68% of the calls for service.

Bradley explained that even after approving the first reading of the ordinance, all the

commission's options remain. It could decide against imposing the fee this year. It could also move forward, imposing a fee at any of the cost recovery percentages.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty talked about looking for a balance between raising the money necessary to fund fire protection, but also looking at what that budget should be and whether it should include fewer stations and personnel.

He used the state appropriation to place a fire station in Brooker as an example. Those type of appropriations ultimately wind up costing the county money because after the station is built, the county must continue paying for personnel, equipment and maintenance.

The county wants to provide a more responsive service, but commissioners must also consider how much the county can afford, he said.

Spooner said the assessment is needed, but determining the number will take further discussion.

There is time for discussion, but there is also a deadline. The board must finalize the assessment details in September if it is tie appear on tax bills this

## Soil and water conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

The discussion of the potential impacts the Suwannee River Water Management District's Edwards Bottomlands Project could have on flooding along Alligator Creek in Starke and the impacts of aquatic plants at the entrance to the Sampson River Canal on flooding around Lakes Crosby and Sampson will be continued.

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



# RUSS WADE

## Attorney at Law

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# A splash of a bash on July 4 (and July 5-6) in Starke



Garrett Force experiences a fun way to cool off during one of three days of activities at Starke Spangled Splash Bash. The event, which was in its third year, was held at the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds July 4-6.



Approximately 5,000 people turned out to watch the fireworks concluded the first night of the Starke Spangled Splash Bash.



ABOVE: Alliyah Simmons enjoys one of the water slides provided by Space Walk of Gainesville.



ABOVE: Children's watermelon-eating contest winner Elaina Sparks (left) stands up with arms raised in victory. Daniel Troutman (right) works on eating his way to second place among the older youth/adult participants.



ABOVE: Michael Lizell peels the foil away from his apple pie as he eats his way to second place in the adult division of the contest.

LEFT: LeeAnn Purvis was one of the musical acts. She's performed at all three Splash Bash events.



LEFT: Clark Mills plunges into his second piece, with six more to follow, in the watermelon-eating contest. He placed second in the youth category.

Roger Crews discovers if you're in a pie-eating contest, the pie gets everywhere. That's OK, though. He won the adult division and finished first out of all participants.



LEFT: Dannielle Voss was the top adult in the watermelon-eating contest. Participants had to consume two melons. ABOVE: Brothers Bryce Johnson (left) and Wyatt Johnson placed first and second, respectively, among children in the apple-pie eating contest.

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- Candidates running for local offices.
- Upcoming elections & election results; any local voting glitches.
- Local & regional government — taxes, decisions, spending, budgetary oversight.
- Business, service, government & school closures.
- Sports events, outdoor happenings, festivals.
- Events, help, resources sponsored by local schools, churches & community organizations.
- Sales, offers, coupons & special events at stores & local businesses.

Lake Region Monitor

Bradford County Telegraph

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# An Independence Day march through the city of Starke



Norman Dowdy, the commander of Starke's Jones-Langford-White American Legion Post 56, serves as the grand marshal of the July 4 parade in Starke that served as the prelude to the three-day Starke Spangled Splash Bash.



LEFT: Dakota Cedar and her horse, R.J., show off their patriotic colors.

ABOVE: Lexi Melton's face shows just how much fun she's having watching the parade.



ABOVE: Coby Coffey displays the U.S. flag while riding in a vehicle driven by his grandfather, Sheriff Gordon Smith.



LEFT: Some of the youth attending the I Am STEM camp in Starke, including Jaden Hendrieth (right) and Camryn Flintroyal, participated in the parade.



ABOVE: Bradford High School JROTC cadets Lysa McKenzie (second from left) and Melissa Harding (second from right) display the colors. They are flanked by Taylor Touchton (far left) and Ezra Green.

RIGHT: Cadets also participating include (l-r) Noah Stoehr, Sabrina Mikkelsen, Monique Burr and Sean Moya.



Samantha Espinoza (left) and Bentley Espinoza wave as the parade participants march by.



Carrie and Jeff Johnson show off their red-white-and-blue attire.



LEFT: Riding with the Bradford County Sheriff's Posse are (l-r) Kiarra Boyd, Ashlyn Boyd and Zoe Boyd.

RIGHT: Drum Major Gemma Rodriguez leads the Bradford High School band. Tuba player Darren Lewis is pictured in the background.



LEFT: Bradford High School majorettes Allyson McCoy (left) and Miranda Lindsey march in the parade.

RIGHT: Tyeley Durbin-Taylor (left) and Jaxon Rich wave as the parade goes past.



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# Obituaries

## Applean Brown

Applean Marion Reynolds Brown, 93, of Starke, passed away on Monday, July 1, 2024, at Diamond Assisted Living in Green Cove Springs. She was born in Moniac, Georgia on Nov. 10, 1930. After Millard returned from deployment in the Pacific in 1946, he returned to Baker County High School to complete his degree. There he met and was swept off by his feet by Applean. They were married before they graduated together in 1948. After high school graduation, they were off to Gainesville for Millard to attend the University of Florida and then to Jacksonville, where Millard taught and later served as Dean of Students at Ribault High School. In Jacksonville, Applean had her children Terry and twins Tina and Gina. In 1968, the family moved to Starke, where Millard served as an administrator at the Bradford-Union ocal school. Applean was a devoted housewife and mother, but also worked at a number of different jobs in retail and at the practice of local dentist, J. E. Denmark. Her devotion and care for her mother in her last years, and for Gina when she was very ill, set the loving example she was admired for among her friends and family. Applean was known as "Nana" to all the children and grandchildren. She loved her family and her Thanksgiving dinners, especially her combread dressing and pound cake, that were enjoyed by all. Her home was always immaculate, and she always had freshly made treats for any visitor who happened to be lucky enough to enter her home. She was devoted to her husband, Millard, for 71 years, and cared for him under difficult circumstances in his later years as his health declined while she was well into her 80s. She was a soft-spoken woman, always loving and kind. A recurring theme among those who knew her was that they could not remember a cross word to have ever come out of her in all of the years that they knew her. She was gifted in the ability to understand and influence people so that they would be more Christ-like in their actions. She always took special care of herself and her appearance. She rolled her hair every night before bed, and even in her later years, she was known in the assisted living home as always looking "perfect" and being the only patient to never complain about a thing. After retirement, she and Millard loved family cruising and travel in general. They were able to visit all of the continents of the world, except for Africa, during their "go" years. She also very much enjoyed ensuring her family was able to travel with her. She and Millard were also avid square dancers and often traveled and performed in conventions, one as far away as England! She and Millard raised a family of faith and were devoted members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Starke. They loved their church and their church family. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 71 years, Millard Brown; and her loving daughter, Gina Brown Frazee.

She leaves behind a son, Terence (Janis) Brown of Daytona Beach Shores; daughter, Tina (Bill) Brown McRae of Kingsley Lake; and seven grandchildren, Christina (Chris) Brown-Wujick of Tampa, Terence (Cassy) Brown Jr. of Orlando, Andrew McRae of Nashville, Michael (Heather) McRae of Columbia, South Carolina, Colton (Brooke) Frazee of St. Augustine, Morgann Frazee of St. Petersburg, and Christopher Brown of Starke. She also leaves behind five great-grandchildren, Kimberly McRae, Brianna and William Wujick, Sophia Brown, and Brighton Frazee; as well as many wonderful and loving cousins, nieces and nephews. This tribute was prepared by the family of Ms. Applean Marion Reynolds Brown.

A memorial service was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Starke on Saturday, July 6, 2024. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Gina's Blessings Mission Project at [GinasBlessings.org](http://GinasBlessings.org) (contact Bill McRae at 904-769-2738 or St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Starke, 212 N. Church St., Starke, 904-964-6126.

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

PAID OBITUARY



## John H. Hudson

Deacon John Henry Hudson, 88 of Starke, transitioned on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at his residence. He attended the local schools of Bunnell and Bradford County. He was of the Baptist faith. He was a member and served as a Deacon at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. He retired from Griffin Industries in Hampton.

He leaves precious memories to his children, Charles Edward Hudson, Eric Hudson, Charlene Hudson, Betty Jean Hudson, Erica Hudson Gibbs and Jessica Hudson; sisters, Corine Hudson Howard and Barbara Hudson Samuels; brothers, Willie Hudson, Matthew Hudson and Rudolph Hudson; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins and many friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 13, at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Starke. Interment will be held at Oddfellow Cemetery in Starke under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-7905. The repose will be held on Friday, July 12, at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church for friends from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. and one hour prior to the service on Saturday. The cortege will form at the home of Deacon Hudson on Saturday, July 13, at 10:30 a.m.

PAID OBITUARY

## Raymond Kerschner

Raymond Edward Kerschner, 59, of Graham died Friday, June 28, 2024, at Baptist Medical Center South. He was preceded in death by his wife, Tina (Morris) Kerschner; and mother, Twila (Fry) Kerschner.

Survivors are his son, Charles Albert Morris (Morgan) Kerschner; his father, Russell Roger Kerschner Jr.; two brothers; and six grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Friday, July 12, from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m., with funeral services beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery.

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

## Leaton Mathews Sr.

Mr. Leaton Aaron "Buddy" Mathews Sr., 81, of Starke died Thursday, July 4, 2024, at Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. He was a member of Highland First Baptist Church. Prior to retirement, he was a self-employed truck driver.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra (Haynes) Mathews; daughter, Terri Harrison; son, Leaton "Aaron" (Denise) Mathews Jr.; stepdaughters, Christina (James) Cole and Katie Chapman; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Sunday, July 21, at 1 p.m. at Highland First Baptist Church.

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

## Reginald Morris

Reginald L. Morris, 59, of Starke transitioned on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at the University of Florida Shands Hospital. He was born in Starke and attended the local schools of Bradford County. He was of the Methodist faith.

Memorial services were held Saturday, July 6, at St. Matthews Methodist Church in Starke with Rev. Alvin Green, eulogist. Interment followed at Oddfellow Cemetery under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke 32091. 904-964-7905. The cortege formed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jackie and Minnie Lee Edmond, 831 Florida St., Starke 32091.

PAID OBITUARY

## Wilbert D. Sewell

Wilbert D. Sewell, 60, of Starke transitioned this life on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at his residence. He was born in Jacksonville and attended the local schools of Bradford County. He worked various construction and road-maintenance jobs over the years. He enjoyed fishing and was a true "Gator Fan" of the University of Florida Gators.

He is survived by his son, Wilbert D. Sewell Jr.; brothers, Jimmie D. Sewell, John Bennett, Sammie Bennett, Mark Bennett and Tom Bennett; sisters, Charlotte Mendez, Christina Reed and Christine Dinot; bonus children, Nick and Shay; aunt, Jessie Mae Berry; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, July 6, at Antioch Baptist Church, 1220 Grand St., Starke, 32091. Interment was held at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Sampson City, under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke 32091. The repose was held on Friday, July 5, at the Carl and Elaine D. Haile Memorial Chapel/ Haile Funeral Home Inc. and one hour prior to the service on Saturday. The cortege formed at the home of Mrs. Jessie Mae Berry, 835 Reva St., Starke, on Saturday.

PAID OBITUARY



If you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks you'd like to publish, please email to [socials@bctelegraph.com](mailto:socials@bctelegraph.com) or call 904-964-6305.

Legals for the week of July 11, 2024

## BRADFORD

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on July 18, 2024, at 6:30 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: [www.bradfordcountyfl.gov](http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov). Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.

7/11 1tchg-BCT

Notice of Millage/Budget Workshop The City of Lawtey is having a workshop to discuss millage and budgets on July 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. at Lawtey City Hall. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

7/11 1tchg-BCT

Notice of MOU Workshop for Fire and Emergency Response Services The City of Lawtey will be conducting a workshop to discuss an MOU between the city and Bradford County for Provision of Fire Protection Services on July 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

7/11 1tchg-BCT

BUDGET WORKSHOP The City of Starke Commission will hold a Budget Workshop on July 16, 2024 at 4:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in the Commission Room. Public participation is welcomed.

7/11 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY

Case No. 2023-CA-000481  
BILLIE BLOOM,  
Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of William Wilson, Sr.

Plaintiff,

v. JOHN T. WILSON, individually, as the original Personal Representative of the Estate of WILLIAM WILSON and as the named Trustee of the WILLIAM WILSON REVOCABLE TRUST and WILLIAM WILSON, JR., individually and as acting Trustee of the WILLIAM WILSON REVOCABLE TRUST,  
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

To: JOHN T. WILSON, individually, as the original personal representative of the estate of WILLIAM WILSON and as the named trustee of the WILLIAM WILSON REVOCABLE TRUST YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action for breach of fiduciary duty, accounting, and removal of trustee has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Jennifer Cates Lester, Esq., Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 2814 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608, within 30 days after the first publication, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED on June 25, 2024.

Denny Thompson

As: Kanetra Jenkins

As Deputy Clerk

7/4 2tchg 7/11-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL DIVISION:

CASE NO.: 2023-CA-0356

U.S. BANK NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

vs.

HEATHER RENEE SCRIMSHAW

A/K/A HEATHER SCRIMSHAW;

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE

CORPORATION; JEDIDIAH JAMES

SCRIMSHAW A/K/A JEDIDIAH

SCRIMSHAW; UNKNOWN TENANT

IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT

PROPERTY,  
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

(Please publish in BRADFORD

COUNTY TELEGRAPH)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

pursuant to an Order or Final

Judgment entered in the above styled

cause now pending in said court

and as required by Florida Statute

45.031(2), DENNY THOMPSON as

the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall

sell to the highest and best bidder

for cash at the, east front door of the

Bradford County courthouse, 945

North Temple Ave, Starke, FL., 11:00

AM on the 22 day of August, 2024 the

following described property as set

forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED

IN THE SOUTHEAST ONE

QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST

ONE QUARTER OF SECTION

24 TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH,

RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD

COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL

BEING MORE PARTICULARLY

DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE

MONUMENT AT THE MOST

WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 20

OF KEYSTONE CLUB ESTATES

UNIT ONE REPLAT, AS RECORDED

IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51 OF THE

PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD

COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN

SOUTH 29 DEGREES 16 MINUTES

AND 20 SECONDS EAST, ALONG

THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID

KEYSTONE CLUB ESTATES UNIT

ONE REPLAT, 325.00 FEET TO AN

45.031(2), DENNY THOMPSON as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the, east front door of the Bradford County courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave, Starke, FL., 11:00 AM on the 15 day of August, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

THE EAST 100 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANCH 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2647 NW

210 STREET, LAWTEY, FL 32058

IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING

A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING

AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST

FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK

NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT

THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS

AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO

FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE

ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING

FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE

REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY

THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF

THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS

MY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

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.

Dated this 21 day of June 2024.

By: /s/ Lindsay Maisonet

Lindsay Maisonet, Esq.

Bar Number: 93156

Submitted by:

De Cubas & Lewis, P.A.

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7/11 2tchg 7/18-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE

8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND

FOR BRADFORD COUNTY,

FLORIDA

CIVIL DIVISION:

CASE NO.: 24000057CAAXMX

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WELLS FARGO HOME

MORTGAGE, INC.; UNKNOWN

HEIRTS, BENEFICIARIES,

DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND

ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM

AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF

JACOB J. HOUDERSHETT A/K/A

JACOB HOUDERSHETT; UNKNOWN

TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE

SUBJECT PROPERTY,  
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

(Please publish in BRADFORD

COUNTY TELEGRAPH)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

pursuant to an Order or Final

Judgment entered in the above styled

cause now pending in said court

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BEING MORE PARTICULARLY

DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE

MONUMENT AT THE MOST

WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 20

OF KEYSTONE CLUB ESTAT

# Legal Notices

## LEGALS

Continued from page 10

IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 60 DEGREES 43 MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS WEST, 530.55 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, 458.43 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE ON THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A COUNTY GRADED ROAD; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE 280.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST, ALONG EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 46.09 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AND THE POINT OF CURVE; THENCE RUN NORTHERLY ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE WITH A CURVE CONCAVE, SAID CURVE HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 24 SECONDS, A RADIUS OF 4276.00 FEET, AN ARC LENGTH OF 68.91 FEET, AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 37 SECONDS WEST, 68.91 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST, 220.56 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST, 115.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES, 45 MINUTES 55 SECONDS WEST, 220.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND BEING LOT 4 OF INDIAN LAKE WOODS AS SURVEYED BY JOSEPH G. KNAPP, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR AND SHOWN ON A MAP OF SAID INDIAN LAKE WOODS DATED MARCH 23, 1984 AND REVISED APRIL 25, 1984. SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITIES OVER, UNDER AND ACROSS THE EASTERLY 7.5 FEET THEREOF. SUBJECT TO THE FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY RIGHT OF WAY LINE AS DESCRIBED IN MISC. BOOK 8, PAGE 593 AND MISC. BOOK 9, PAGE 45, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 4193 SE 8TH AVENUE, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656. IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS. 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. Dated this 27 day of June 2024. By: /s/ Lindsay Maisonet Lindsay Maisonet, Esq. Bar Number: 93156 Submitted by: De Cubas & Lewis, P.A. PO Box 5026 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438 DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516 eservice@decubaslewis.com 7/11 2tchg 7/18-BCT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULES THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE BELOW BOARD POLICIES' RULES WILL BE HELD ON July 15, 2024, at 5:01 P.M. following the Board Policy Hearing, will be a Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 Code of Conduct and 2024-2025 Student Progression Plan Bradford County School District Office 501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091 POLICY NUMBER: 5.140 POLICY TITLE: Use of Bathrooms and Changing Facilities PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Each multiple-occupancy bathroom or changing facility owned or operated by the District shall be designated for and used only by persons based on the person's biological sex. SUMMARY: NEW: To implement a law POLICY NUMBER: 5.250\* POLICY TITLE: Student Use of Cellular Telephones and Other Communication Devices PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Revisions to Devices on school property SUMMARY: REVISIONS: revisions to the language of Devices and the use of them on school property & discipline clarification POLICY NUMBER: 6.216 POLICY TITLE: Deferred Retirement

Option Program (DROP) PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Revision to the time of DROP and effective 07/02/22 DROP participant will be accrued sick leave SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Clarify the number of months in DROP and accrued sick time POLICY NUMBER: 6.241 POLICY TITLE: ILLNESS-OR-IN-JURY-IN-LINE-OF-DUTY LEAVE PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Clarification on sick leave time or unpaid leave SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Information if the employee is unable to return to work after 10 days regarding use of accrued sick time or unpaid leave if no sick time. POLICY NUMBER: 6.320 POLICY TITLE: TERMINAL SICK LEAVE PAY PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Clarification on hire dates: hired after June 30, 2024 based on current continuous service or prior to July 1, 2024 based on total years of service in Bradford County SUMMARY: REVISIONS: To clarify dates of hire POLICY NUMBER: 6.350\* POLICY TITLE: USE OF SICK LEAVE BY FAMILY MEMBERS OR EMPLOYEES PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Clarify information on documentation from the treating physician of their illness or injury SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Require medical documentation POLICY NUMBER: 6.351 POLICY TITLE: WORKPLACE INJURIES TO PERSONNEL PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Clarification in the First Aid log and report to the H.R. Dept. & after 10 days employee must use accrued sick leave or unpaid leave SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Clarification of leave and reporting POLICY NUMBER: 6.920 POLICY TITLE: Restrooms and Changing Facilities PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To implement a new policy for the Safety in Private Spaces Act SUMMARY: NEW: To adopt and enforce new policy POLICY NUMBER: 7.070\*+ POLICY TITLE: Accounting and Control Procedures PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Maintain a capital asset accounting system SUMMARY: REVISIONS: F.A.C. 691-73.002 POLICY NUMBER: 7.080\* POLICY TITLE: Inventories and Property Records PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Effective property management requires an accurate inventory and records & shall comply to F.S. 2574, F.A.C. 691-73-002, and C.F.R. 200.313. SUMMARY: REVISIONS: LAW(S) 2 C.F.R. 200.313, RULE(S) F.A.C. 691-73.003 POLICY NUMBER: 8.140 POLICY TITLE: Automotive Equipment PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Clarify that school vehicles should not be used for personal use, implement information regarding the safe driver(s) committee, and other rules set in place regarding accidents. SUMMARY: REVISIONS: Clarification of newly added language POLICY NUMBER: 9.115 POLICY TITLE: Civility PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The School Board believes the characteristics of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship are the foundation for meaningful communication for District staff to follow in dealing with their fellow employees and members of the public. These characteristics form the foundation of the expectations the District holds for its employees as they conduct School District business. The School Board also expects District staff to be responsive and to provide quality customer service to all stakeholders. SUMMARY: NEW: STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.43 F.S. LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Const. Art. IX, Section 4; 1006.145 F.S. 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., 29 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 29 U.S.C. 749 et seq., 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq. Civil Rights Act, 41 U.S.C. 1983 SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION: The School Board has determined that this policy will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the policy. A statement of estimated regulatory costs ("SERC") has not been prepared by the School Board. The School Board has determined that the proposed policy is not expected to require legislative ratification based on no SERC being required at this time by F.S. 120.54 or F.S. 120.541. In the event a SERC becomes required, the School Board will promptly prepare one. Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower-cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S. THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: For information regarding the proposed rule, how to present evidence and argument as to the proposed rule, and how to obtain a copy (at no charge) of the proposed rule, please contact: Lila Sellars, sellars.lila@mybradford.us and 904-966-6018. Any request to present evidence and argument must be

received within twenty-one (21) days after the date of this notice. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT: May 13, and June 17, 2024 5:00 P.M. Bradford County School District Office 501 West Washington Street, Starke Florida 32091 All policies can be found on the Bradford County School District web page @ www.bradfordschools.org 7/11 1tchg-BCT

## UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO.: 22000014CA SOUTHWEST STAGE FUNDING, LLC DBA CASCADE FINANCIAL SERVICES Plaintiff(s),

vs. RANDALL A. GRIFFIS, JR.; et al., Defendant(s) RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale entered on June 21, 2024 in the above-captioned action, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door lobby of the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 1st day of August, 2024 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure or order, to wit: A parcel of land lying in Section 30, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Union County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a found 2 inch iron pipe located at the Northwest corner of said Section 30 and run North 84 degrees 29 minutes 06 seconds East, along the North line of said Section 30, for a distance of 1528.89 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron rod located on the Westerly right of way line of County Road 793 (80 feet right of way); thence run South 11 degrees 59 minutes 17 seconds East, along said Westerly right of way line, for a distance of 987.20 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described continue South 11 degrees 59 minutes 17 seconds East, along said Westerly right of way line, for a distance of 110.09 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron rod; thence run South 84 degrees 27 minutes 55 seconds West, for a distance of 409.74 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron rod located on the West line of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 30; thence run North 01 degrees 08 minutes 07 seconds West, along the West line of said Northeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4, for a distance of 109.51 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron rod; thence run North 84 degrees 26 minutes 06 seconds East for a distance of 388.97 feet to the Point of Beginning. Subject to any covenants, easements, and/or restrictions of record. Together with that certain 2018 mobile home bearing Serial Numbers: LOHGA21833204A and LOHGA21833204B. Property address: 11311 Northeast CR 793, Raiford, FL 32083 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 before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org. Kellie Hendricks-Rhoades CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court BY: C. Norman Deputy Clerk Publish in: The Union County Times P.O. Drawer A Starke, FL 32091 Padgett Law Group, Attorney for Plaintiff 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203 Tallahassee, FL 32312 attorney@padgettlawgroup.com 7/4 2tchg 7/11-UCT

ORDINANCE 2024-04 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LEVY OF AN AD VALOREM TAX NOT TO EXCEED ONE HALF (½) MILL TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF THE UNION COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT WHEREAS, the board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida has created a Union County Special Library District by Ordinance 88-3, and WHEREAS, it is necessary to fund the Union County Special Library District by levy of up to and not exceeding one half (½) mill of ad valorem taxes; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, as follows: SECTION 1. FUNDING A. The Board of County Commissioners herein directs the Union County Supervisor of Elections to place upon the First Primary Election Ballot, to be held August 20,

2024, the following: For the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District by taxation of up to (½) mill of ad valorem taxes. Against the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District of taxation of up to one half (½) mill ad valorem taxes. B. The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby directed to forward a certified true copy of this Ordinance to the Union County Supervisor of Elections upon its final adoption. C. If the majority of the qualified electors voting in the referendum election, called for and provided in Section 2(A) above, vote in favor of the funding of Union County Special District, then, in that event, the funding of the Union County Special Library District for fiscal years October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027, will be taxation of up to (½) mill of ad valorem taxes, and all property subject to assessment of ad valorem taxes shall be taxed accordingly. D. If the majority of qualified electors voting in the referendum election, provided for in Section 2 (A) above, vote against the funding of the Union County Special Library District, then, in that event, this Ordinance shall be automatically repealed. SECTION 2. DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS Those funds obtained from the levy of the ad valorem taxes on all real and tangible, taxable property within the boundaries of Union County Special Library District, shall be used solely for the purpose of construction, operating and maintaining the Library facilities to the citizens of Union County, Florida and for no other purpose. SECTION 3. COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE UNION COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT The herein provided for the ad valorem tax shall be levied and collected in the manner provided for the levy and collection of the County ad valorem taxes. The Union County Board of Commissioners shall certify annually to the Property Appraiser of Union County, Florida the millage to be levied for the Union County Special Library District. Taxes collected shall be remitted by the Union County Tax Collector to the Clerk of the Court in and for Union County, Florida who shall be the Ex-Officio Clerk and Treasurer for the Union County Special Library District. SECTION 4. REIMBURSEMENT FOR FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE BY COUNTY OFFICERS All cost and expenses incurred by a Constitutional Officer of Union County, Florida in performing any of the provisions of this ordinance may be reimbursed by the Union County Special Library District to said Constitutional Officer; said reimbursements however, shall not collectively exceed ten percent (10) of the revenues collected within the

Union County Special Library District in any budget year. SECTION 5. CONSTRUCTION This Ordinance shall be liberally construed in order to effectuate the legislative intent of the Board of County Commissioners, Union County, Florida. SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY It is declared to be the intent of the Board of County Commissioners, Union County, Florida, that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or provision of the Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional such invalidity unconstitutional shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE This Ordinance shall become effective by law. ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of County Commissioners, Union County, Florida this 20th day of May, 2024. APPROVED: ATTEST: Channing Dobbs, Union County Board of County Commission, Chairman Kellie H. Rhoades, Union County Clerk of Courts 7/11 & 7/25 2tchg-UCT

29, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 330, containing misc. household items. 7/11 2tchg 7/18-LRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 239, containing misc. household items. 7/11 2tchg 7/18-LRM

BUDGET WORKSHOP The City of Starke Commission will hold a Budget Workshop on July 16, 2024 at 4:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in the Commission Room. Public participation is welcomed. 7/11 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: JACKIE SHEETS, 6614 Woodland Drive, Keystone Heights, FL 32656, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: FAT MAMA'S TALLOW, 6614 Woodland Drive, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 2nd day of July A.D., 2024, in CLAY County. 7/11 1tchg-LRM

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a REGULAR MEETING on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located at City Hall located at 200 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. 7/11 1tchg-UCT

## LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 230, containing misc. household items. 7/11 2tchg 7/18-LRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 201, containing misc. household items. 7/11 2tchg 7/18-LRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 201, containing misc. household items. 7/11 2tchg 7/18-LRM

# The Matthews Museum

## (Bradford County Museum)

# Needs Volunteers!

- \* Show visitors around the museum.
- \* Share interesting facts about Bradford County.
- \* All of this in a climate controlled location.
- \* Students can earn Community Service Points.

To find out more

## Contact: Chuck Kramer

(904) 964-5001 or (904) 364-6977



### Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
**Bradford County Telegraph**  
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091  
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

**John Miller, Publisher**

Editor: Mark J. Crawford Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley Advertising: John R. Tillman Typesetting: Mary Goodge Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge Front office Asst:	Subscription Rate in Trade Area Area: \$52.00 per year; \$26.00 six months Outside Trade Area: \$52.00 per year; \$26.00 six months
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### Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
**Lake Region Monitor**  
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091  
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091  
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628

**John Miller, Publisher**

Editor: Dan Hildebran Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley Advertising: John R. Tillman Typesetting: Mary Goodge Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge Front office Asst:	Subscription Rate in Trade Area Area: \$52.00 per year; \$26.00 six months Outside Trade Area: \$52.00 per year; \$26.00 six months
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### UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
**UNION COUNTY TIMES**  
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091  
uctimeseditor@gmail.com  
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628

**John Miller, Publisher**

Subscription Rate in Trade Area Area: \$52.00 per year; \$26.00 six months Outside Trade Area: \$52.00 per year; \$26.00 six months	Editor: Mark J. Crawford Advertising: John R. Tillman Typesetting: Mary Goodge Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge Front office Asst:
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# Tinsler receives kidney from high school friend

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Imagine that child who wants a pony for Christmas and gets just that from Santa.

Now, you've got an idea of what Julee Tinsler felt like in late 2023. Instead of a pony, though, she was hoping for a kidney.

"I had been saying all along, 'I hope I get my Christmas wish,'" said Tinsler, a Starke resident, had been put on the transplant list at Tampa General Hospital in May 2023. "I did indeed get my Christmas wish."

Her Christmas wish come true turned out to be quite a surprise, though, with the donor being Camilla Evans, a friend from high school.

It was like Santa brought not only a pony, but a pony with wings.

"I was just completely blown away," Tinsler said, adding, "The last time we saw each other was literally in high school."

In other words, more than 40 years ago.

"I'm a couple of years older, so I graduated and moved away," said Evans, who now lives back in Starke. "I lost touch, but I missed Julee."

Evans became aware of her long-ago friend's plight when she read a June 8, 2023, Telegraph-Times-Monitor story. Her reaction was, "OK, I'll get tested."

It was the desire to help a friend, but it was also paying it forward. Evans' husband, John, received a kidney transplant in 2005.

"A transplant wasn't really outrageous for me," Evans said, adding, "The thought of it wasn't really scary because I've been with (John)."

A Dec. 22 call from Evans, after testing, informed Tinsler that she had been approved for the surgery. All that had to be done was to select a date.

Why wait any longer than she



Julee Tinsler (left) and Camilla Evans were friends when they were Bradford High School students. Now, they have a bond, with Evans having donated a kidney to Tinsler.

already had been? Tinsler said, "Let's go ahead and get the first (date)."

The surgery was performed on Feb. 6. Evans and Tinsler

approached that date having faith that all would go well.

"I wasn't worried because I think God put us in this position," Evans said. "I was like, 'God's in

charge.' He put a lot of things in place to get us to that position."

Tinsler, thinking of the fact that her donor was a long-ago friend, said, "It's very much a God thing."

Evans was discharged from the hospital two days after the surgery. Tinsler left five days later, though she and Evans had to remain near the hospital — Evans for two weeks and Tinsler for three months. Tinsler and her husband rented an Airbnb property, which Evans and her husband shared for the time they were there.

"We just kind of lived together," Tinsler said.

It wasn't just Evans, Tinsler and their husbands living together. Karl and Kyle were also present. Those are the names Evans gave to her kidneys.

"I had to have 'K' names," Evans said, alluding to the fact that "kidney" begins with "K."

Evans kept Karl. Tinsler received Kyle.

"Kyle is doing well," Tinsler said. "All the bloodwork is by and large doing well."

Tinsler said her time since the surgery has consisted of "lots of doctors' appointments and lots of labs." She's back home in Starke, but said she still travels to Tampa about once a month for follow-up care and evaluation.

Though her new kidney is functioning as it's supposed to, Tinsler is experiencing some side effects due to the medication she's taken. She had neuropathy prior to surgery that affected one of her feet. Its effects have now spread up to her knee. Medication has prevented the shooting pain that came with it, but now both of her feet are numb.

"It's caused some balance and gait issues," said Tinsler, who participates in therapy at Lake Area Physical Therapy.

She had mild tremors in one of her hands prior to surgery. The

See KIDNEY, page 13

# UCHS grad Spiller to join Clemson's Ring of Honor

Union County High School and Clemson University football great C.J. Spiller, a running back, will be inducted into Clemson's Ring of Honor this fall.

Kim Graham-Miller, a track standout (1990-93), will also be inducted.

Spiller, a 2006 UCHS graduate who is entering his fourth season as Clemson's running-backs coach, was a two-time All-ACC selection during his four years (2006-09) at Clemson and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2021 (his second year of eligibility). He set the NCAA record for career kickoff returns for touchdowns with seven, and his 7,588 career all-purpose yards still rank third in NCAA history. That total remains an ACC record and ranks first all-time among Power Conference players.

As a senior in 2009, Spiller earned unanimous first-team All-

America honors, including a first-team selection as a kick returner and second-team selection as a running back according to the Walter Camp Football Foundation (WCFF), the sport's oldest All-America team. Spiller became the first player in history to be named as an All-American at two different positions in the same year by the WCFF.

That year, Spiller was named the ACC Player of the Year, becoming the first player in conference history to record more than 1,000 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving. He set an ACC record for all-purpose yards with 2,680, a mark that still stands today. He finished sixth in the voting for the 2009 Heisman Trophy.

Spiller was also an All-American in track in 2008-09 and was a member of the 4x100 relay team that finished third in the nation in 2009.

Following his collegiate career, Spiller was a first-round draft choice (No. 9 overall) by the Buffalo Bills in 2010 and went on to an eight-year NFL career. He was named to the Pro Bowl in 2012 in recognition of his more than 1,200 rushing yards that season.

Spiller, a 2008 All-ACC Academic Team selection, earned his degree from Clemson in December 2009.

In addition to his selection into the College Football Hall of Fame, he was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame in 2020 and into the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame in 2021.

Spiller will be the eighth football player inducted into the Clemson Ring of Honor, joining Banks McFadden, Steve Fuller, Jeff Davis, Fred Cone, Jerry Butler, Terry Kinard and Levon Kirkland.

The 1981 national-champion football team and football coaches Frank Howard and Danny Ford are also in the Ring of Honor.

Before becoming a standout Tiger at Clemson, Spiller was a standout Tiger at UCHS, rushing for 5,511 yards and 85 touchdowns on 541 carries and scoring 93 touchdowns in all. He helped UCHS finish as the Class 2B state runner-up in 2003 and advance to the state semifinals in 2004.

During his senior season at UCHS, Spiller rushed for 1,840 yards and scored 31 touchdowns. He was named the Class 2B Player of the Year and was runner up for the state's Mr. Football award, which went to Tim Tebow.

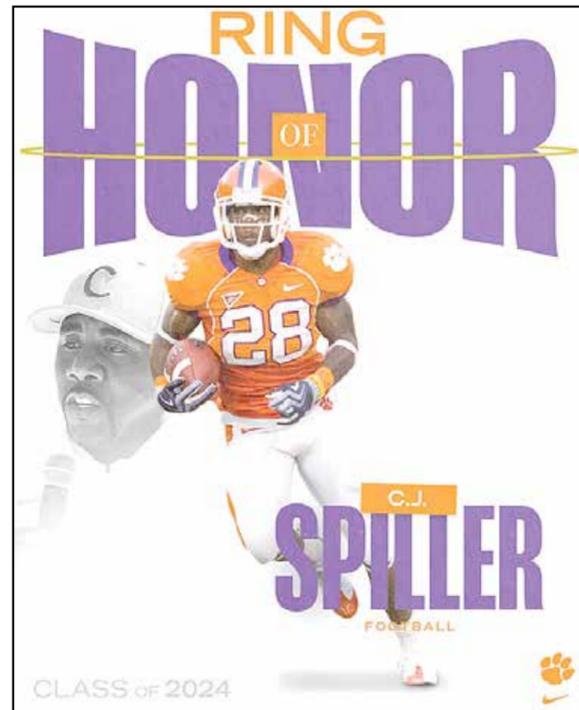
Spiller's jersey has been retired at both UCHS and Clemson.

During his rookie year in the NFL, Spiller had 1,014 yards in kickoff returns. He was a Pro Bowl selection his third season, in which he rushed for 1,244 yards and six touchdowns as well as catching 43 passes for 459 yards and two touchdowns.

From 2015 through 2017, Spiller had stints with New Orleans, the New York Jets, Seattle and Kansas City.

In his eight NFL seasons, he rushed for 3,451 yards and 12 touchdowns, while adding 1,484 yards and nine touchdowns receiving.

Spiller's first year as Clemson's running-backs coach in 2021 saw Kobe Pace and Will Shipley each rush for more than 500 yards — the sixth time in a seven-year span for a Clemson



C.J. Spiller, a 2006 Union County High School graduate, is being inducted into Clemson's Ring of Honor. Spiller was a standout running back and return specialist for Clemson (2006-09).

running-back duo.

In 2022, Shipley became the first player in ACC history to earn first-team all-conference honors at three positions (running back, all-purpose and specialist). Shipley was a finalist for the Paul Hornung Award, which goes to the nation's most-versatile player.

Shipley and Phil Mafah each rushed for 827 and 965 yards, respectively, in 2023 — the ninth

time since 1948 that Clemson has had multiple 750-yard rushers and the first time since 2006 when Spiller and James Davis accomplished it.

Clemson was one of six schools in 2023 with multiple 800-yard rushers and one of four schools in which the feat was accomplished by a pair of running backs as opposed to a running back and a quarterback.

## A look at Spiller's UCHS numbers

In honor of C.J. Spiller's upcoming induction into Clemson University's Ring of Honor, the Telegraph-Times-Monitor takes a look back at his career at Union County High School, which spanned 2002-05. His numbers in each game he played for the Tigers are presented, though his complete stats for some games weren't reported.

Spiller was a big-play threat in most games, with 52 of his touchdown runs covering 20 yards or more. He broke free for 50 yards or more on 28 of his scoring runs.

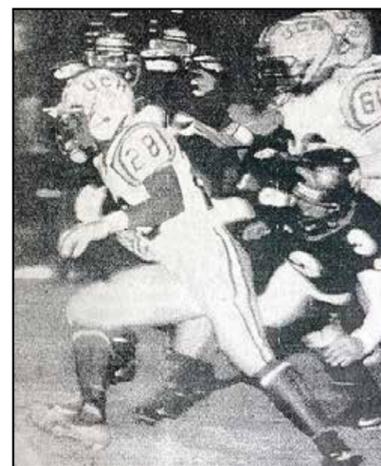
The elusive speedster was a force to be reckoned with on special teams, too. He had five kickoff returns of 90 yards or more, while also scoring on two punt returns of more than 60 yards.

Union won a total of 28 games in Spiller's sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

During his sophomore year, the Tigers played for the Class 2B state championship, settling for runner-up after a 21-6 loss to Pahoek.

Union went 12-0 before losing 23-22 to Pensacola Catholic in the state semifinals during Spiller's junior season.

The Tigers won one playoff game in Spiller's senior year



C.J. Spiller (left) carries the ball in a 27-7 playoff win over Trinity Christian during his senior season (2005) at UCHS. He scored nine touchdowns (offensively and special teams) that season that covered more than 50 yards.

before bowing out with a 31-20 regional-final loss to Trinity Catholic.

### 2002

Spiller was mentioned in six game stories his freshmen year.

—49-37 loss to Fort White. Spiller scored on a 100-yard kickoff return.

—59-29 win over Newberry. Spiller scored on touchdown runs of 5 and 65 yards.

—41-37 loss to Keystone Heights. Spiller rushed for 150 yards and scored on a 31-yard reception.

—40-22 loss to Taylor County. Spiller rushed for 170 yards

on nine carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 1, 57 and 70 yards.

—38-34 win over Interlachen. Spiller had touchdown runs of 12 and 45 yards and also scored on two pass receptions. His 78-yard interception return in the fourth quarter set up what would prove to be his team's game-winning score.

—30-14 loss to West Nassau. Spiller scored on a 23-yard run.

### 2003

—47-6 win over Paxon. Spiller rushed for 74 yards on eight

See SPILLER, page 14

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,  
DAKOTA A. PULS, A1C  
Air Transportation Logistics Specialist  
202d RED HORSE | Camp Blanding, FL  
Cell: 352-215-560



# KIDNEY

Continued from page 12

tremors have gotten worse and now affect both hands.

"Evidently, there is some type of medicine that can possibly help the tremors," Tinsler said. "The neurologist said he would put me on it, but until it gets to the point where I just can't tolerate it anymore, I do not want to take any more medicine. We're just living with it."

John Evans, who went through what Tinsler is going through now, said it takes time for doctors to find the medication regimen that works the best.

"It's basically just a big balancing act," he said.

Tinsler currently takes three anti-rejection medicines, with the dosage of two having already decreased over time.

She's most thankful that she no longer has to take one medicine,

which came in the form of a yellow liquid, though "liquid" might be a generous term.

"It was so thick and viscous it was sticking to the cup," John Tinsler said. "I don't know what it was doing to her innards."

Julee Tinsler said, "I'm incredibly happy to off that nasty stuff. It was thick. It had a bad taste. It was just icky all the way around."

After listening to the conversation around this medicine, John Evans remarked that he was glad it was something he never had to take.

The only restrictions Tinsler has placed on her is that she can't take medication with any drinks that contain juice from grapefruits or pomegranates.

She also can't drink herbal teas and must avoid taking vitamins and supplements.

"Evidently, the vitamins are secreted through your kidneys," Tinsler said. "They don't want to

upset Kyle."

The post-surgery life has been a little frustrating for Tinsler, but as doctors and nurses have reminded her, she just had a major, life-changing procedure. She said one nurse told her, "I know you thought you were going to be able to get up and run a marathon, but that's not the way it works. It takes a while for your body to get stabilized."

Recovering from a transplant has her thankful for one of modern life's conveniences.

"The greatest thing through this whole thing has been Walmart delivery, although I do miss walking around and looking at stuff," Tinsler said.

She's also thankful for the support of her community, saying she was "overwhelmed" by the number of cards and gifts she's received.

"You don't realize how much people in this community

care until something like this happens," Tinsler said. "We bind together."

John Tinsler's ESE students at Bradford High School were responsible for a lot of cards that John, Julee and Camilla Evans received.

"That was so heartwarming," said Evans, who in turn presented the students with goody bags and monogrammed water bottles as her way of saying thank you.

By receiving a kidney from a living donor as opposed to receiving one from a cadaver, Tinsler avoided a potentially longer wait (receiving a cadaver kidney can take up to five years) and could have five to 10 more years of use out of her donor organ. A living-donor kidney also tends to have less chance of being rejected by the recipient's body.

All in all, it made for a very good Christmas 2023.



Julee Tinsler (left) and Camilla Evans wait to be called back for surgery on Feb. 6 at Tampa General Hospital.

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# SPILLER

Continued from page 12

carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 1 and 22 yards.  
 —41-20 win over Eastside. Spiller rushed for 124 yards on 11 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 16 and 39 yards.  
 —18-10 loss to Dixie County. No stats for Spiller were included in the Telegraph-Times-Monitor story.  
 —21-20 loss to Chiefland. Spiller rushed for 113 yards on 11 carries, scoring on a 76-yard touchdown run and a 95-yard kickoff return. The kickoff return put the Tigers ahead 20-14 in the first half. The second half remained scoreless until Chiefland scored in the fourth quarter.  
 —41-0 win over Newberry. Spiller rushed for 114 yards on four carries, scoring on

touchdown runs of 45 and 67 yards.  
 —23-21 loss to Baker County. Spiller had a 4-yard touchdown run and finished with 93 yards rushing.  
 —38-14 loss to P.K. Yonge. Spiller rushed for 140 yards on 11 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 13 and 81 yards.  
 —41-13 win over Williston. Spiller rushed for 104 yards on 11 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 13 and 21 yards.  
 —46-26 win over Fort White. Spiller rushed for 289 yards on 11 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 2, 34, 50, 56 and 58 yards. Spiller had two scoring runs in the first half as the Tigers took a 13-0 lead into halftime. His third touchdown run made it 19-0 in the third quarter. Fort White rallied and took a 20-19 lead in the third quarter, but Spiller's 58-yard run was the first of four consecutive touchdowns

for the Tigers.  
 —15-14 win over University Christian. Spiller scored on a 95-yard kickoff return.  
 —23-12 win over Lake Highland Prep in the first round of the Class 2B playoffs. Spiller rushed for 183 yards on 11 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 34 and 82 yards. Lake Highland Prep led 12-7 before Spiller's 82-yard scoring run with 6:13 remaining.  
 —20-14 win over Dixie County in the regional finals. Spiller rushed for 124 yards, scoring on touchdown runs of 46 and 76 yards. The Tigers trailed 14-7 at the half, but Spiller's 46-yard scoring run was one of two touchdowns the Tigers scored in the third quarter.  
 —47-40 win over Florida High in the state semifinals. Spiller, who rushed for 86 yards on 13 carries, made his biggest play on defense, returning an interception for a 40-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. It was the difference in the game, which ended with Florida High's Lionel Singleton getting tackled on the Tigers' 1-yard line as time expired.  
 —21-6 loss to Pahokee in the state-final game. Spiller rushed for 56 yards on 14 carries.

## 2004

—57-6 win over Paxon. Spiller rushed for 88 yards on eight carries, scoring on touchdown

runs of 1, 20 and 30 yards.  
 —22-13 win over Eastside. Spiller rushed for 267 yards on 10 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 76 and 83 yards. Both scores occurred in the first quarter as Union built a 16-13 lead.  
 —20-8 win over Dixie County. Spiller rushed for 171 yards, scoring on a 46-yard touchdown run.  
 —50-20 win over Chiefland. Spiller scored on touchdown runs of 11, 48 and 60 yards.  
 —23-14 win over Newberry. Spiller scored on touchdown runs of 58 and 70 yards. Union trailed 14-6 at the half, but tied the game in the third quarter on Spiller's 58-yard run.  
 —42-13 win over Baker County. Spiller rushed for 150 yards on 13 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 8, 47 and 51 yards.  
 —37-13 win over P.K. Yonge. Spiller rushed for 147 yards on five carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 55 and 68 yards and on a kickoff return of 93 yards.  
 —29-14 win over Williston. Spiller scored on a 5-yard touchdown run.  
 —48-10 win over Fort White. Spiller scored on a 25-yard pass reception and a 70-yard punt return.  
 —36-16 win over University Christian. Spiller scored on touchdown runs of 7 and 40

yards.  
 —44-13 win over Wildwood in the first round of the Class 2B playoffs. Spiller scored on touchdown runs of 4 and 17 yards.  
 —33-22 win over Dixie County in the regional finals. Spiller scored on a 5-yard reception.  
 —23-22 loss to Pensacola Catholic in the state semifinals. Spiller scored on a 66-yard punt return that put the Tigers ahead 13-0 in the third quarter. Union eventually had a 22-7 third-quarter lead before the host team rallied.

## 2005

—49-26 loss to South Sumter. Spiller scored on a 25-yard touchdown run.  
 —34-27 win over Wakulla. Spiller had three touchdown runs, including one of 58 yards. He had a fourth-quarter scoring run that proved to be the difference.  
 —28-0 win over Chiefland. Spiller scored all of the game's touchdowns on runs of 24, 31, 80 and 89 yards. He finished with 316 yards on 18 carries.  
 —13-12 loss to Eastside. Spiller rushed for 120 yards.  
 —40-0 win over Newberry. Spiller rushed for 165 yards on 14 carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 2 and 30 yards.  
 —41-21 win over Baker County. Spiller rushed for 172

yards on 14 carries. He had two touchdown runs of 65 yards each and another two that covered 8 and 13 yards.  
 —34-26 win over P.K. Yonge. Spiller had a 46-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter that proved to be the difference. He had an additional touchdown run of 2 yards and also scored on a 99-yard kickoff return.  
 —23-21 loss to Trinity Catholic. Spiller rushed for 67 yards, scoring on touchdown runs of 1, 9 and 16 yards. His 9-yard run sent Union into the half leading 21-20.  
 —50-34 win over Rutherford. Spiller rushed for 352 yards on nine carries, scoring on touchdown runs of 40, 64, 67, 77 and 85 yards. His 64-yard run put Union ahead 21-14 in the first half. His 40-yarder in the third quarter gave the Tigers a two-touchdown lead.  
 —27-7 win over Trinity Christian in the first round of the Class 2B playoffs. Spiller rushed for 172 yards on 19 carries. He had touchdown runs of 36 and 44 yards as well as another two of 2 yards each.  
 —31-20 loss to Trinity Catholic in the regional finals. Union trailed 17-0 at halftime, but rallied in the third quarter, with Spiller's 30-yard touchdown run making it a 17-14 game. Trinity then scored twice in the third quarter to increase its lead to 17 points.

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