

# Bradford County Telegraph

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## Former commissioner pleads to theft charges

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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Former Bradford County Commissioner Eddie Lewis pleaded to theft charges associated with claims he stole harvested trees from a customer and sold the timber to a Lawtey-based sawmill.

In a Gainesville courtroom, Judge James M. Colaw withheld adjudication from the 70-year-old and sentenced him to three years' probation.

The defendant's restitution order was not available. However, the judge's probation order indicated Lewis would be required to pay restitution, and a complaint filed against Lewis said he received

\$41,020 for the stolen logs.

The sworn complaint filed by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office said a company owned by the former commissioner's son, Josh Lewis, was hired as a subcontractor to harvest 238 acres of timber in northeast Alachua County. The Josh Lewis Timber Company Inc. was to take some of the wood to the West Fraser sawmill in Lake Butler and some to the company's Maxville-Clay Hill operation. Wood products company West Fraser purchased the 238 acres in November 2023.

An Alachua Sheriff's investigator wrote that someone telephoned a West Fraser manager and reported that he

had seen five trailers of logs staged at Eddie Lewis's Bradford County home.

The landholder then started an investigation. As part of the inquiry, a company investigator installed surveillance cameras throughout the 238-acre tract, recording every load of timber leaving the property.

Investigators also followed several trucks leaving the Alachua County tract and discovered that Lewis transported some timber to a Lawtey sawmill not approved by West Fraser.

According to the scale records, Lewis told sawmill employees that the timber came from a woman's property.

"A recorded phone conversation with (the woman) revealed that the defendant and co-defendant are family members," wrote the sheriff's investigator, "(and they were) not harvesting any timber for her."

Prosecutors also charged Josh Lewis with grand theft, fraud, and dealing in stolen property. The sheriff's investigator said the commissioner's son knew or should have known about his father's activities.

Josh Lewis pleaded to the same charges as his father and received an identical sentence.

Both defendants are eligible for early termination of their probation sentences.

## Hartley counterpunches at first candidate forum

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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During the Republican Party's Saturday, July 20 candidate forum, Bradford County School Superintendent Will Hartley challenged the claims made in a mailer sent out by his opponent.

Headlining Tracey Kendrick's mailer was the claim that in 2019, Bradford County was rated 55th out of 67 Florida public school districts and that in 2023, the district had dropped to 62nd.

"But she failed to mention that in 2019, learning gains were a component of district grades, but in 2023, they were not," Hartley countered. "And she also won't mention that the 55th ranking was due to the inflated grades at the high school, literally pulling two data points and comparing apples to oranges."

The superintendent proclaimed that in 2019, the district could only point



Will Hartley



Tracey Kendrick



Alan Bhajan

to one B school and now boasts three, an achievement last notched in 2011.

Hartley then asked his challenger how he would lift Bradford elementary schools to an A grade when the school she now leads, Brookview Elementary in Duval County, has a B grade.

"If all of our elementary schools are going to be a B and your school is a

B, how is that better?" he asked. "And if you're going to do better, what are you going to do differently here that you aren't currently doing at your own school to make things better?"

Hartley then took another dig at the mailer, which called the superintendent a "former gym teacher and 'sometimes' realtor."

"Our educators continue to be disrespected throughout your campaign," he said, "but I'm extremely proud of our administrators, teachers, parents, all other support staff, and even PE teachers."

The incumbent also claimed that after taking office, his administration put the district on secure financial footing, allowing the system to raise teacher pay. He also pointed to the construction of Bradford Elementary School, which he said was the first new school within the district in 27 years.

Hartley also argued for continuity in the public school system, saying Bradford County had not re-elected a superintendent in 36 years.

"This school district has to have the consistency that our students and staff deserve," he said.

See FORUM, page 4

## Split vote moves forward assessment process forward

Decisions remain before final approval

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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Constituents and commissioners alike still had a lot of questions during the second public hearing on an ordinance establishing the process for enacting a fire assessment.

Commissioners came under fire for spending in other areas while proposing a new fee to pay for the county fire department. They heard pleas on behalf of those who would find it difficult to afford an additional assessment.

In the end, commissioners voted 3-2 on final approval of the ordinance, which does not establish the fee, but allows the commission to move forward with the process.

Jeff Rackley with consulting firm Stantec joined Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter from a remote office to answer some of the lingering questions and explain the commission's options.

Stantec updated a study from 2018 and 2019 which placed the 100% budget recovery cost per residential dwelling unit at more than \$300 a year (20 cents per square foot for nonresidential buildings). Unlikely to approve the full amount needed cover the fire department budget, county commissioners could approve a lower amount and look for other sources of revenue or budget cuts.

Among the misinformation right out of the gate was the charge that residents would be charged \$200 or \$300 a month. That is not the case. Like the special assessment paid for solid waste, a fire assessment would

be an annual fee added to property tax bills.

Much of the hearing was spent trying to reach an understanding of what was being considered and how each of the commission's choices could impact the county.

### Public comment

"We have retired elderly people on fixed incomes here in Bradford County, I just don't think people are going to be able to afford that," Anita Baker said of the assessment. In addition to questioning spending in other areas, she also advocated using volunteers to lower fire department costs.

"I just think we should be looking at other areas to make this work," she said.

Lloyd Donnelly said while residents do need a firefighting crew stationed

in Speedville, they do not need "these taxes that they're going to put on us."

"Taxes down there is outrageous as it is," he said. "Biggest people down that way live on a fixed income. They cannot afford no more taxes than we already have."

Donnelly asked commissioners to think hard before acting, and Paul Still also urged them to slow down. Still said the commission should delay action until next year so there is time to understand "what all the moving parts are and how to make it work."

Still also suggested capping the residential assessment at \$50 in recognition that those who live in mobile homes or older homes would not receive the same benefit as those living in more modern housing. The former residents would likely lose their homes before firefighters arrived.

See FIRE, page 3

## Santa Fe bringing EMT program to Andrews Center

HCA Starke ER, Bradford County Fire Rescue partner with college

In response to shortages of EMTs in the region, Santa Fe College has expanded its Emergency Medical Technical certificate program to Bradford County.

The 16-week industry certification course prepares students for a career caring for the sick or injured in emergency medical situations. EMTs provide on-scene life support, working with paramedics, firefighters and law enforcement officers, to stabilize and transport patients to hospitals.

Michael Anderson, who leads the college's Emergency Medical Services programs, said community partners came together to support expanding



Photo: Santa Fe College.

EMT training into Bradford County.

The lecture and skills labs will be offered at Santa Fe College's Andrews

Center in Starke. The hospital clinical experience will be completed at HCA Starke Emergency Department, and

the rescue clinical experience will be provided at Bradford County Fire Rescue.

"We are pleased all of the partners came together to help address the need," Anderson said. "Students will be fully prepared for current openings."

EMT shortages are occurring across the U.S. as qualified personnel retire or move to other employment. That also means that people who complete the program have a high probability of landing a job in the field quickly.

Santa Fe College's program consists of 320 hours of classroom, lab, hospital emergency department clinical, and ambulance rescue clinical components over a four-month period (one semester).

Classes begin Aug. 19. Learn more at [sfcollege.edu](http://sfcollege.edu).

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### WORTH NOTING

### Bradford HIPPY program seeks students

Enroll your preschool-age child in a free kindergarten readiness program. HIPPY is an evidence-based home visiting program that partners with the parents of children, ages two through five to help prepare parents and children for school success.

Each week HIPPY delivers free curriculum, books and materials to families. Through peer-to-peer mentoring, HIPPY provides parents and guardians with the confidence, tools and strategies for engaging their child in the HIPPY activities for that week.

HIPPY does not replace preschool, but is meant to work in collaboration with children's early childhood educational experiences, bridging the school and home.

For more information, please contact 904-966-6036.

### 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.

### Candidate forum in Union

The Union County Republican Party is hosting a candidate forum on Thursday, July 25, at the Lake Butler Community Center. Doors open to the public at 6 p.m. for a candidate meet-and-greet, and the program starts at 7 p.m. GOP candidates in all contested races will be presenting. Iced tea, coffee and cupcakes will be served. Learn more at [Facebook.com/UnionCountyGOP](http://Facebook.com/UnionCountyGOP).

### VBS in Raiford

First Baptist Church of Raiford will have vacation Bible school for ages 5 to 11 on Saturday, July 27, from noon to 3 p.m. Have fun with water, crafts, food and more while learning "all about Jesus." The church is located at 13175 N. CR 229 in Raiford.



### Back-to-School Splash

Looking for a fun event for the kids this summer? Want to walk away with free school supplies?

This is the event for you! Faith Presbyterian Church of Melrose (2738 S.R. 21) is hosting its sixth annual Back-to-School "Splash" event July 27 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Kids play all games for free and collect school supplies along

the way. Stay for lunch off the grill (hamburger/hot dog, french fries, watermelon and drink) for \$10. Cool off with a Kona Ice!

Help your local blood bank by stopping by the blood mobile.

Shop the weekly Midway Farmers Market. There is something fun for the whole family. Come prepared to get wet.

### Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith is distributing food on Thursday, Aug. 15, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the church, 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. This is a drive-thru giveaway.

### 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. The final program will take place Sunday, July 28, at 11 a.m. Please come out and help support Women's Day.



**THANK YOU**  
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Bradford County Commission District 3 for your continued support and encouragement over the past 8 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve not only the citizens of District 3, but also the entire county. I am humbled to not have an opponent this election cycle and I look forward to serving you again for the next 4 years. When I made the decision to run for County Commissioner in 2016, I made the decision to run for you. You have taken the time to reach out to share with me your ideas, concerns and solutions to issues we are faced with. I sincerely appreciate your willingness to share what really matters to you. That being said, I have to give credit where credit is due. All of this would not be possible without the hard work and dedication from all of the county employees. They make our work look easier and for that I am eternally grateful! I am also extremely thankful for my family and for their continued love and support. I will continue to be accessible and active in serving not only Bradford County, but also the Florida Association of Counties and the Small County Coalition. Both of these associations advocate for rural counties like ours across our great State of Florida. As always, please feel free to share your thoughts and concerns. I can be reached at 904-796-7095 or email me at chris\_dougherty@bradfordcountyfl.gov.  
Thank you and God Bless!  
- Chris Dougherty  
Paid Political Advertisement, Paid for by Chris Dougherty for County Commissioner District 3



**THANK YOU**  
to the voters of Starke for allowing me the privilege of running unopposed for the unexpired term in District 3. I will endeavor to always listen to you and represent you with integrity and honor even if we disagree on some issues. I look forward to working with my fellow commissioners to make the City of Starke an inviting place to live, work and play.  
- Bob Milner  
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FRIDAY 7/26 TWISTERS-7:00 & 9:45 (Upstairs) DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE-7:00 & 9:45 (Downstairs)	SATURDAY 7/27 TWISTERS-4:00, 7:00 & 9:45 (Upstairs) DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE-4:00, 7:00 & 9:45 (Downstairs)	SUNDAY 7/28 TWISTERS-4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs) DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE-4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs)	Visit us on-line at <a href="http://www.floridatwintheatre.com">www.floridatwintheatre.com</a>

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<p><b>Hearing Aids Today</b> 450 S Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 877-4471</p>  <p><b>"It is obvious that the Team at Hearing Aids Today is Compassionate and Dedicated to insure that your Hearing Health is well cared for."</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>"Dr. Lowry and the staff here a superb team. They are kind, professional and their experience showed with each visit. The therapy and adjustments were beneficial right from the start. I highly recommend their services."</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>
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SHOP Local

# FIRE

Continued from page 1

"I think that's the part that went wrong in the assessment process; you didn't look at all the options that you have available to actually set the assessment.," Still said. "If you want to do it this year, set people's mind at ease, so that they know that the most that they're going to have to pay is \$50 for a home and not this potential 300 and whatever it is."

"Anytime you start making the poor pay for the rich, you're asking for trouble," said Tommy Tatum, who said it was still unclear if the pole barns on his family company's property would be assessed the same as the sawmill itself. Assessments not based on the value of the property represent a "tax against the poor" in his opinion.

"We're in a poor county," Tatum said. "I can't hear no position to fight the fire department, because we need the fire department, but the fairer we get it, the more people are going to be satisfied with it."

Kate Ellison pointed out that people are still unsure of the method of assessment, and she too believed the amount paid should be based on the value of the building being protected.

"If you are going to assess commercial property on the basis of the square foot of the building, then it's not logical that you can't do that for personal houses, for personal property," she said. "You know, it just makes sense that those who can afford to live in a much bigger house would pay more for saving it."

Vyunda Strong said she would swap the fire assessment for what she pays for the solid waste assessment, saying she doesn't produce enough garbage to warrant paying that fee. She also wanted to see the cost burden for firefighting shifted to insurance companies and large timberland owners who won't pay an assessment on their unimproved agricultural properties regardless of the wildfire danger.

## Answering questions

Chief Carter was given the floor, and he and Rackley attempted to offer clarity and options in the face of questions from the public and commission.

"Emotions run high when we talk about money and people's livelihoods, and so I appreciate everybody coming here tonight to voice opinions. But, you know, taking some time to just, everybody, take a breath and let's work on this collectively as a group and try and find something that's acceptable to everybody," he said.

As to the methodology of the study and apportioning the cost of the assessment, Rackley said they used information from the county property appraiser to determine assessable properties and historic call data to determine from where most calls of service originate.

Most properties are residential dwelling units, and those



**Sheriff appoints new captain**  
Brad Witt, emergency management director, has been promoted to the rank of captain in the Bradford County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Gordon Smith said Witt, in addition to his work in emergency management, is responsible for much more. He heads the Honor Guard Team, Marine Team, Drone Team and is instrumental in moving the office toward accreditation. Pictured (l-r) are Capt. Josh Luke, Col. Brad Smith, Sheriff Smith, Capt. Witt, Maj. George Konkel and Lt. Michael Sweeney.

dwelling generate the most calls for service. Nonresidential properties and vacant properties are also assessed. For the commercial properties, the "primary buildings" only are assessed. If there is some question about what a primary building is, the county could have an appeals process for property owners.

Government-owned properties are exempt by law, as are agricultural properties, although residential dwelling units on agriculturally zoned land would pay the assessment.

"The methodology that we've used here is a methodology that's been around for 30-plus years. It's the most widely adopted fire assessment methodology in the state. It's been through the courts. It's been tested. It's generally the most straightforward methodology, the most easy to understand and maintain. But, with that being said, there are other approaches even within this particular methodology," Rackley said.

The commission has the option of creating additional exemptions for faith-based and other nonprofits, as well as for exemptions based on income, veteran status, etc.

As suggested, Rackley said residential properties could be assessed based on size (square footage) just like nonresidential properties. Doing so adds a layer of complexity, including the need to exempt ancillary structures on the residential property. The methodology is less common because of the administrative burden. It would, however, result in larger dwellings paying more money.

Rackley said there are also methodologies based on property value that would capture the value of exempt

agricultural properties, as well as a methodology that classifies properties based on hazard.

Along the way, specific scenarios were thrown out. What if there are multiple dwelling units on a property but some were uninhabitable? Would those be assessed? Not if the county employed an appeals process that would look at each case and make adjustments, just as there is a process to appeal a property's taxable value. The raw data from the property appraiser, however, don't show whether a dwelling is occupied or livable.

On the other hand, those unoccupied structures could still represent a significant risk that would require resources in case of a fire, Rackley said.

As discussions with the board continued along the lines of assessed versus exempt properties, Carter said the board's decision on which properties to assess — and how much to charge — is decided later. The ordinance before the commission for final reading July 18 only put that process in place.

Before the end of that process — which will need to take place prior to Sept. 15 if the assessment it to appear on this year's tax bill — the commission will need to decide what the assessment amounts will be and what exemptions will apply.

## Split vote

"Our community needs to know that we're not without compassion," said Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner, sharing a personal anecdote about her aunt living on a fixed income. "We sitting up here may be able to pay that fee, but there are people out in the community who can't. So, we have to look objectively, yes, but also we have

meeting in early September, and that's when you'll know exactly what the assessments are and if they're going to be implemented at all for this year," he said.

Carter said the commission could not move toward the final steps without adopting the procedural ordinance in front of them.

Spooner, however, said she was not aware the intention was to place the assessment on this year's tax bill. Commissioner Kenny Thompson agreed, saying neither the commission nor the public knows enough at this point to move forward.

Even though adopting the

procedural ordinance did not require the county to move forward with the assessment this year, Spooner and Thompson voted against it. The ordinance was still approved 3-2.

Rackley did caution that if the board did not move forward with the timeline for approving the assessment this year, it should make that decision before proceeding to the costly process of mailing each impacted property owner.

The commission's next opportunity to discuss the assessment is its Aug. 6 meeting at 9:30 a.m.

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# REVELATION CHURCH

## END TIMES

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

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

Pastor Rick Norman  
**REVELATION CHURCH**

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## New Master Gardener volunteers graduate

On July 16, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Bradford County Extension Office celebrated four volunteers who successfully completed the Master Gardener Volunteer Certification Program.

The program is a nine-week program that covers an array of gardening topics including soils and fertilizers; plant identification; pest insect, weed and disease management; fruit and vegetable management; and Florida-Friendly Landscaping

practices.

The members of the 2024 Master Gardener volunteer graduating class were Leslie Crosby, Rachel Hall, Charleen Stephens and Freddie Stephens. These new volunteers will join an already dedicated group of Master Gardener volunteers in Bradford County who support the extension office in educating and assisting residents in matters of horticulture, landscape and home food production.

For more information on the Master Gardener Volunteer Program or gardening and plant information, contact Luke Harlow, UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension horticulture and small farms agent, at 904-966-6224.



Pictured (l-r) are Charleen Stephens, Freddie Stephens and Rachel Hall. Not pictured: Leslie Crosby. (Photo by Sterling Westbrook.)

## RJE alumni plan 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.



## FORUM

Continued from page 1

### I'm a professional educator

When Kendrick took the podium, she emphasized her professional background.

"I personally have taught and led schools for three decades," she said. "I have the experience in education and...I have held positions ranging from fifth-grade teacher to principal at three different schools in two different districts."

She also pointed out that she pulled her current school's grade from a D to a B.

Kendrick then outlined the district and its leader's shortcomings, saying that four years ago, Bradford Middle School was rated a C, and "four years later, it is a D."

"The high school graduation rate was 88% in 2019, and with this superintendent, the graduation rate fell to 76% in 2022," she continued, "one of the lowest in the entire state."

Kendrick also claimed that after talking to ESE parents, teachers, and former teachers, she was shocked to discover that parents and students were misled about the degree the students would receive upon graduation.

"I have learned, ESE... students and parents thinking their child could graduate high school only to find out that they got a certificate of attendance," she said. "Students bullied, complaints swept under the rug, and concerns for safety in the class are ignored. Parents shouldn't have to hire an attorney to force the district to do the right thing for children."

A third candidate for superintendent also made his pitch to voters.

Alan Bhajan, who is running without party affiliation, briefed the crowd on his childhood in Guyana, his professional training in the U.S., and his return to his South American birthplace to lead a district with 18 high schools and 166 elementary schools with a budget of close to \$1.5 billion.

Bhajan added that he taught eighth-grade science at Bradford



Diane Andrews



Brian Outlaw



Shannon Smith



Candice Osteen



Dana Reddish Bell



Mitchell Gunter

Middle School for two years.

The candidate also expressed dissatisfaction with the status quo.

"The methods of doing things, the leadership, it's not working," he said. "Things have to be transformed."

### Bradford County Commission

Four candidates are vying for two seats on the Bradford County Commission. In District 1, Starke City Commissioner Shannon Smith is challenging incumbent Carolyn Spooner. In District 5, Brian Outlaw is seeking to unseat Diane Andrews.

The proposed county fire assessment took center stage in all four presentations, and moderator Richard Solze ensured that the topic was addressed.

Smith said the county needs a fire department that it can afford.

He added that commissioners should learn to spend within the taxpayers' means and stop

relying on what he claimed were bailouts.

"During my six years on the city commission board," he said, "we made tough decisions, secured tough decisions on budget cuts and department cuts."

Kate Ellison told the crowd that Carolyn Spooner could not make the forum because of a family event.

Ellison highlighted Spooner's certification as a county commissioner and praised Spooner's commitment to the county's adoption of mission and values statements.

"She held public town hall meetings in all local municipalities and gathered input from residents and stakeholders on what was most important to them and incorporated their input into the plan," Ellison said. "She encouraged the board to pursue economic development projects."

Ellison also reminded the crowd that Spooner always

and in the way that is best for the citizens."

Andrews also reminded the crowd that each county commissioner has only one vote in five.

She said that since she was first elected, the county had purchased a paving machine that she said "saved us a great deal of money."

Andrews also said that three homes have been lost to fire in her district and that firefighters now take 25 minutes to reach some areas of western Bradford County.

"It's easy to say that we don't need those fire (stations)," she said, "but when you're standing there watching people's homes burned down and their family's crying and they're losing everything they need, when you've got people laying on the floor, your wife that you think is dead because she doesn't have a heartbeat, and you need a rescue unit, it's very important."

Andrews' challenger, Brian Outlaw, conceded that he has much to learn if his campaign succeeds.

"I have no false expectations," he said. "There will be a learning curve, but I promise you I will give my all. No one tries harder than I do, and my results reflect my efforts."

"I have worked on county, state, and federal government projects and programs," he continued. "I'm no stranger to working hard for the taxpayers in Bradford County, and I will continue to do so if elected."

When Solze asked Outlaw about the fire assessment, candidate responded that his brother is a firefighter, and he was a state trooper for 10 years, so he is familiar with the issues facing first responders.

"I plan to learn as much as I can about the issues because, again, until you're on the inside, you really don't know what's going on," he said.

### School board

The three school board District 5 candidates fought for votes at the forum.

Dana Reddish Bell reminded audience members of her family's heritage in Bradford County education, with both parents serving in the district.

"I'm passionate," she said of the school district. "Let's talk about accountability and decision-making. If elected, I will do so with the understanding that my child may be affected just as your child may be affected. I'll not exempt my children from the policies."

The candidate also stressed fiscal responsibility, ensuring that every dollar goes into the classroom.

Mitchell Gunter started by pointing to his success in lobbying for local road improvements, like lowering the speed limit on the Starke Bypass from 65 to 55 at its two ends and putting in no-passing zones on State Road 100 near Southeast 109th Street, also known as Meng Dairy Road.

Gunter said that if elected, he would focus on improving the efficiency of the district's maintenance operations and developing a five-year plan for capital improvements.

He also said bullying in schools is a problem that must be addressed.

"A lot of parents are just concerned about the bullying," he said. "Some parents, they decided to move their kids to other schools, to Clay County, or even bus them all the way into Gainesville on their way to work. We have to stop the bullying because if we don't stop that, we'll lose more students as we go along. And when we do that, we lose funding for our school system, and we need all the funds that we could possibly get."

Incumbent Candice Osteen stressed her experience on the board, claiming she is one of only 95 school board members in the state to achieve certification. She said the achievement demonstrates her commitment to the students and parents.

"Dedication to the community and its organizations has been the cornerstone of my service," she said. "My number one priority is and always will be relationships with our students and teachers, whether through donations, volunteering, or rallying resources. I'm constantly working to support our programs and initiatives."

Osteen cataloged her involvement in Takes Stock in Children and other initiatives.

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## Possible golf course buy on back burner

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth said the municipality's proposed purchase of the area's golf course is on the back burner, and the city council will not seriously consider the transaction until 2025.

The owner of the course, Brad Harvey told the Friends of Keystone Heights during the group's June 20 meeting that because the nine-hole layout is currently zoned for single-family housing, the land may be more

valuable as homesites rather than its current use.

He added that he was trying to convince city leaders to purchase the course to preserve its original use and historic value. Legendary course architect Donald Ross designed the layout.

After the July 22 meeting of the Keystone Heights City Council, Rodenroth said she had researched the proposal and that the council might workshop the proposed purchase in early 2025.

"No decisions," the mayor said of the proposal. "We are really a

ways off from that. I think there's a lot of conversation yet. Number 1, Do we want it? We don't even know where we would get the money or how we would get the money if we decided to go that route. So, there are a lot of unknowns at this point."

Rodenroth added that the council now has its hands full with other projects, including rehabilitating the China Chef property at the city's most visible corner.



Volunteers giving away Bibles and devotional books seated (l-r): Carol Hileman and Sandy Magruder. Standing (l-r) Lois Semanison, Grace Taylor, Joy Walker, Nina Stancil and Ann Prevatt.

## Church holds 16<sup>th</sup> back-to-school giveaway

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Around 230 children filed through Community Church in Keystone Heights on Thursday and Friday, July 18 and 19, for the congregation's 16th annual back-to-school giveaway.

In addition to clothing, backpacks, shoes, school supplies, and personal hygiene products, the church also gave away Bibles and devotional books and offered prayer with participants as they went through the event.

Event organizer Jennifer Cumbus said that over the years, additional community groups

have supported the event with funds and volunteers, and the church has incorporated more local nonprofits, such as Lake Area Ministries, to reach out to and serve underprivileged families. She also said the items the event gives away change yearly.

"Some things we've added and have taken away just as we fluctuate with our funds or just what our need is," Cumbus said. "We've gone down to one building this year, just for the sake of flow, and honestly, a big reason is to keep our rummage sale up and running to where we can have a sale."

Cumbus explained that the church's weekend rummage sale has continued since the congregation was established in the 1920s. She said that when the back-to-school event spanned across several of the congregation's buildings, volunteers had to break down the rummage sale and store the clothing until after the annual giveaway.

Cumbus said the rummage sale continues to grow. It recently expanded from four times a year to six times a year, and Thursday was added as an additional shopping day for each sale.



Volunteer Laurel Ring, who works at Clay Electric, helps a student pick out items while serving as a personal shopper.



Volunteer and retired McRae Elementary Principal Marcus Dooley and Event Organizer Jennifer Cumbus.

## Centennial group selling shirts, calendars

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Friends of Keystone Heights, Florida, Inc., the nonprofit organizing the city's 2025 centennial celebration, is now selling calendars and T-shirts to raise awareness of the year-long event and funds for the group's other activities.

Director Deirdre Murphy told her colleagues that some area merchants are selling the calendars.

She added that after the group marketed their wares during the city's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, it has sold out of extra-large shirts and is reordering the size.

The group also discussed sponsorship opportunities for the centennial, proposing memberships ranging from \$100 to \$2,500.

Committee members also closed in on booking bands for the centennial's kick-off party, authorizing contract negotiations



The back of the shirt features the Keystone Beach Pavilion, one of the municipality's leading landmarks.

with the headliner: Duval County Band and Second Chance Band. Line. Two additional groups are slated to perform: The Ben Carter

## Starke lowering taxes to compensate for higher utility bills

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke commissioners have approved a lower proposed property tax rate for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Mayor Scott Roberts offered the suggestion during the city's budget workshop last week.

The lower tax rate, he said, could help offset the higher cost customers will be paying for water and sewer service.

The proposed tax rate of 4.3879 mills is 10% lower than the current rate. Even lower than adopting the rolled-back rate, the proposed rate would result in a tax cut.

The base and variable water and sewer rates are each going up 5% the commission confirmed with a final vote on July 16.

During the first reading of that ordinance on July 2, City Manager Drew Mullins explained the necessity for the continuing rate increases for water and sewer. The city committed to raise rates in exchange for the USDA funding needed to reconstruct the city's wastewater plant.

More than \$10 million of the funding was borrowed, so rates will continue increasing to repay the debt.

The tax cut would benefit property owners, most of whom are also utility customers. Some customers pay little or no property taxes, however. The tax relief would not benefit them.

The tax cut amounts to

around \$135,000, according to Operations Director Jimmy Crosby. The utility rate hikes are projected to raise an additional \$175,000.

Commissioners agreed with Mayor Roberts about the tax cut. Roberts said the city's approach to the budget — which has included budget cuts and reducing the reliance on utility revenue to fund general government — allowed the commission to support a lower the millage rate.

"I think, with the decisions that we made up here on everything, I think that we put ourselves in a position to do that and cut some slack to taxpayers," he said.

Later at their scheduled meeting, commissioners voted 5-0 to lower the tax rate.

### Budget for utilities and streets

Mullins presented the proposed enterprise and transportation fund budgets during the July 16 workshop. The former grew from \$20.9 million to \$34.4 million. This is primarily due to ongoing infrastructure projects. An increase from \$5.4 million to \$16.1 million represents state and federal revenue paying for those projects.

Debt payments have grown from \$150,344 to \$708,150. The budget is also showing an increase in reserves from \$1.1 million to more than \$5 million, and the city's contract with

Woodward and Curran to run the wastewater plant has increased service costs from \$249,155 to more than \$1.1 million.

At the same time, the city is spending less on electricity due, with purchases projected to drop from \$7.1 to \$5.7 million. The city is not selling less power, Mullins explained. Lower natural gas prices have reduced generation costs.

As for transportation, reserves have grown from \$1 million to \$1.14 million. Mullins budgeted \$200,000 for street projects. He said they plan on doing more roadwork next year. Maintenance, materials, insurance and salaries bring the total transportation budget to almost \$1.58 million.

The budget does not rely on a transfer of utility revenue to balance government spending in the general fund. Commissioner Shannon Smith did, however, eye more than \$90,000 in projected revenue in late payment fees paid by customers and suggested it be used as a "donation" to fund improvements in the city's parks.

The order in which the parks' needs will be addressed was up for discussion, with Thomas Street Park noted by Commissioner Janice Mortimer as the most lacking. Securing restrooms against vandalism was also mentioned, but Mortimer pointed out Thomas Street lacks any restrooms.

Starke's public budget hearings have been set for Sept. 5 and 17 at 5:30 p.m.

## County sticks with tax rate for 2024-25

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County has set the proposed property tax rate for next year at 10 mills once again, raising an additional \$1.13 million in revenue.

The decision followed the recommendation of County Clerk Denny Thompson and a long discussion about funding fire protection through a new fire assessment.

"It is not advisable that the board lower its existing millage rate of 10 mills unless it is willing to cut budget spending by the reduced revenue," Thompson said. "In short, if you cut your revenue, you need to cut your actual spending positions, operational sites, hours of operation, equipment, vehicles on the roads, benefits, etc."

The 10-mill levy to cover spending is directly responsible for growing the county reserves for the first time in years, Thompson said.

"In the event the county adopts additional revenue sources, such as a fire assessment, the funds will not come online immediately in fiscal 24-25, therefore it would be fair to consider lowering the millage rate next fiscal year, 25-26, once the funds are available from the new revenue source," he said.

The commission should also keep its capital improvement plan in mind while setting the tax rate now and in the future, he said. That plan was adopted in 2020 and needs to be reviewed and updated.

Thompson thanked commissioners for individually taking time to meet with staff and discuss financial matters.

Hearing his recommendation, the proposed tax rate of 10

mills was set. It can be lowered if the board reconsiders during the budget hearings, the first of which will take place Sept. 3.

Finance will present a tentative budget to review on Aug. 6.

Taxable value has grown in the county to more than \$1.4 billion, an increase of more than \$113.4 million since last year. That will result in a tax increase — an additional \$1.13 million in additional tax revenue, for a projected total of \$14 million.

Proposing the rolled-back rate would have lowered the tax rate to 9.5178 mills, cutting new revenue to \$457,000.

Finance Director Dana LaFollette provided a third quarterly update on spending for general government, fire rescue and the road department.

As of June 30, expenditures had exceeded revenues in the general fund by more than \$1 million. That lowered the fund balance in the general fund,

which was nearly \$17.4 million at the beginning of the year, to \$16.3 million. If that continues, the general fund's fund balance is projected to be \$15.9 million by the end of the fiscal year.

Bradford County Fire Rescue has added to its fund balance, taking in an additional \$379,000 over what it has spent so far this year. (This included revenue transferred from the general fund.) If that continues, the department is expected to end the year with a fund balance of \$1.3 million, up from \$806,000 at the beginning of the year.

The road department has spent more than \$431,000 from its \$1.66 million fund balance to keep up with expenses. Revenue, including budgeted transfers from the general fund were \$1.9 million compared to \$2.34 million in spending. The projected fund balance at the end of the year is down to \$1.09 million.

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# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

The following individuals were arrested recently by local law enforcement officers in Bradford, Union or Clay (Keystone Heights-area) counties. All defendants are considered innocent until convicted in a

court or until pleading guilty or no contest. Information in this report is from law enforcement agencies and court documents, which are public records.

### Bradford

Franly Leonel Arevalo Cruz, 28, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 15 for hit and run and driving without a license.

Jailen Stephan Bass, 24, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 14 for battery and resisting an officer.

According to an arrest report, an argument with family members turned physical, and the defendant bit one family member on the leg during the fight.

The defendant denied all allegations claimed by the victims.

Johnnie Daryle Bellflower, 43, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 19 for possession of drugs.

Tiffany Anne Braddock, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for an out-of-county warrant.

Cynthia Strickland Carlton, 57, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 17 for DUI.

Christopher Kyle Dowdy, 49, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 19 for failure to appear.

Shatamra Lee Autrey Gillyard, 26, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and resisting an officer.

Terrell Eugene Gilmore, 41, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 17 for a probation violation.

Ryan Olen Kitchens, 44, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 17 for a probation violation.

Kirk Alan Mabbitt, 44, of High Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 15 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jorge Luis Mendoza Artola, 31, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 19 for failure to appear.

Clifford Vinson Phillips, 36, of Steinhatchee, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 19 for possession of drug equipment and possession of drugs.

Renard Jermaine Sanders, 43, of Jacksonville, was arrested by FHP troopers on July 19 for vehicle theft, possession

of marijuana, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and an out-of-county warrant.

Robert Freeman Starling, 57, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for an out-of-county warrant.

Herbert Ernest Thompson, 46, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 16 for trafficking in amphetamine.

Anthony Lamar Tyson, 32, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 19 for aggravated battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim claimed Tyson hit him in the back of the head with a brick at a Starke liquor store.

Corey Jeron Williams, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 16 for failure to appear.

### Union

Dakota A. Causey, 24, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on July 19 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Jessica Renee Collins, 36, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 18 for animal cruelty.

According to a news release by the Union County Sheriff's Office, approximately 120 mistreated dogs and puppies were rescued from a breeding operation in Providence operated by the defendant and her co-defendant, Zachary Bucanan Collins.

Zachary Bucanan Collins, 37, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 18 for animal cruelty.

Quentin Lanier Johnson, 30, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 15 for failure to appear.

Marcus Donell Jackson, 20, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on July 16 for robbery with a firearm.

According to a sworn complaint, the victims told deputies that the defendant knocked on their front door and threatened to shoot them if they did not pay them money for a drug deal. The defendants handed over \$120 in cash and then reported the incident to law enforcement.

### Clay

Andrew Alan Ables, 25, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 15 for aggravated assault.

Destiny Chanell Brown, 48, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 15 for trespassing.

Richard Benjamin Carpenter, 44, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 17 for domestic battery and vandalism.

Jeanelle Rhea Dunn, 60, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 15 for selling methamphetamine.

Randall Jordan Fincher, 64, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 14 for violating an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

Brian Paul Nelson, 48, of Starke, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 15 for aggravated assault.

Jo Ann Oneal, 71, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 17 for domestic battery.



Thursday, July 25th • 6:00 PM • Lake Butler Community Center

The **Union County Republican Party** is hosting a **Candidates Forum** for GOP candidates in all contested races, offering a venue for campaigns to introduce themselves to voters and present their respective platforms before the Primary Election on Tuesday, August 20th.

Candidates will present for the following races:

- U.S. Senate • U.S. Congress, FL-03
- Union County Board of County Commissioners, District 3
- Union County Clerk of Court

Here is the schedule:

- 5:30 PM – Candidates set up campaign tables
- 6:00 PM – Doors open to public for candidate meet-and-greet
- 7:00 PM – Program begins

Iced tea, hot coffee, and scrumptious cupcakes will be provided for all. So grab dinner at home and then come join us for dessert while you get to know the candidates vying for your vote in 2024!

Learn more and connect at [Facebook.com/UnionCountyGOP](https://www.facebook.com/UnionCountyGOP).

PAID FOR BY THE UNION COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Union County School District will soon consider a measure to increase its property tax levy.

### Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy ..... \$ 2,133,593

B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board

and other assessment changes..... -\$ 51,816

C. Actual property tax levy..... \$ 2,185,409

**This year's proposed tax levy ..... \$2,357,508**

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law for the school board to receive \$ **16,535,290** in state education grants. The required portion has **increased by 5.49** percent, and represents approximately **six tenths** of the total proposed taxes.

The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on **July 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at The Union County School Board Meeting Room located at 55 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Lake Butler, Florida.**

A **DECISION** on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

## NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The School Board of Union County will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a 1.500 mill property tax for the capital outlay projects listed herein.

This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed tax of 3.921 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

**\*\*THE PROPOSED COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOWN IN THE ADJACENT NOTICE**

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$626,234 to be used for the following projects:

### CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

- Remodeling Classroom Space Districtwide
- Remodeling/Repair of District Owned Buildings Districtwide

### MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIR

- Districtwide Roof Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Plumbing Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Electrical Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide HVAC Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Flooring Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Structural Maintenance, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Walkway Covering Replacements, Repairs or Renovations
- Districtwide Sidewalk Repairs
- Districtwide Repaving
- Reimbursement of the maintenance, renovation, and repairs paid through the General Fund as permitted by Florida Statute

### MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

- Lease Purchase of eleven (11) School Buses
- Purchase of Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB) (1)
- Purchase of District Vehicle
- Purchase of Maintenance Vehicle

### NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER AND DEVICE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE NECESSARY FOR GAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE

- School Furniture and Equipment
- Fire Alarm Systems – Districtwide
- Intercom Systems – Districtwide
- Purchase of New Computers
- Purchase of New Tablets
- Software
- Digital Instructional Content
- Enterprise Technology

### PAYMENT OF COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

- Removal of hazardous waste

### PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Insurance premiums on district facilities

### PAYMENT OF COSTS OF LEASING RELOCATABLE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

- Leasing of Portable Classrooms

### PAYMENT OF COSTS OF SALARIES AND BENEFITS

- Salaries and benefits of school bus drivers

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing to be held on **July 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union County School Board Meeting Room, 55 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Lake Butler, Florida.**

A **DECISION** on the proposed **CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES** will be made at this hearing.

*(This ad must be ¼ page, be adjacent to the Budget Summary and the Notice of Proposed Tax Increase ad and the headline must be in at least 18 point type and cannot be located in the legal notices or classified sections.)*

# Lake Butler struggles with funding new wastewater plant

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

The city of Lake Butler is once again tightening its belt and trying to make the best of a bad financial situation.

The city is facing a major budget shortfall in the funds that had originally been reserved for the new state-of-the-art water treatment plant – a plan that has been in the works for several years – the problem is two-fold: the cost of labor and materials has increased drastically in the years since the plans were drawn up and, some of the money that was reserved for the project was spent on other city expenses by a former city manager.

## Construction costs quadrupled

Mittauer Engineering is the company that produced the plans for the project and is to oversee it. Representatives of the company came to the regular July meeting of the Lake Butler Board of Commissioners on July 16, 2024, to report their findings as to the increased construction costs and possible cuts that

will help reduce costs. John Pitrohovich and Greg Lang, both engineers from Mittauer, told the board that materials and labor costs have multiplied about four times what they were at the time the project was planned. First, they gave an update about the grant deadlines and then went on to report on where the city stands as to funding the project.

Lang reported that the city would need to apply for an extension on a grant that comes due in December (when the project was originally planned to be completed). Lang said his company would take care of the request and that it should be no problem. As to the change in funds needed to complete the project, he said the city was facing a large shortfall.

## Capacity and costs cut

As to cuts in the original plans there were several recommended. The commission had already voted to omit the solar array originally planned to power the plant, with the engineers' approval. Other

recommendations for cuts included replacing the manifold and force main system and going back to the use of pump stations updated and with all new equipment. Also, they pointed out that the original plans called for a 1-million-gallon-per-day capacity, more than the city needs at present. The engineers recommended cutting the capacity back to where it is now with the old facility – 700,000 gallons per day. Cutting the capacity will reduce the size of the tank needing to be built and will also make the refurbishment and expansion of the spray field unnecessary at this time. Construction specs will be modified to make the plant expandable should future growth require it, although it will require an expansion of the spray field as well. The commission was advised to begin any future expansion plans as soon as they became aware that it would be needed.

“With basically the same capacity as you have now, the plant will be able to handle the load and will also be able to handle “shock loads” of runoff water in the case of severe

storms.”

The city has a long-standing agreement with FDOC to provide wastewater handling and there are still about 12 years on the contract. City Attorney John Maines told the board that now would be a good time to put a cap on how much input of wastewater the prison would be allowed to send to the plant and asked the engineers if they had any means of determining the amount.

The board approved all of the suggested cuts, with the changes contingent on grant, permit and state regulations. Lang told them that, hopefully, the cuts would be enough to make the project feasible.

City Commissioner Joe Stephenson asked about the operating costs for the new plant and how they would compare to current costs.

Lang said that the big items were energy and the cost of workers, requiring three full-time operators. He was told that worker hours would increase from 6 to 16 hours per day, requiring three full-time operators. The city already has two, and a third is now working

towards his certification. Lang noted that operators were usually paid between \$60,000 and \$80,000 per year, with benefits.

Other changes to be made will be in how the operating costs are paid. According to figures made when the original agreement was signed, the prisons provide about 2/3 of the wastewater handled by the plant. Another agreement, now ending, prevented increases in the fee for services, but the new agreement can reflect 2/3 of the new operating costs.

## Timeline

The engineers said that, with all approvals in hand, the project could be put out for bids in early 2025. The grant deadline for those monies is Oct. 21, 2026, when the Federal portion of the grant funds will be disbursed (\$15 million).

As to the planned new holding tank, the engineers recommend that the planned size be reduced, with the resulting cost being reduced 2.5%. The tanks are made of steel with a coating of glass fused to the inner surface. Mayor Melissa Hendrix said she would like to see the item put

out for bids as well to see the actual cost of purchasing and installing the originally planned size of 150,000 gallons. Any or all bids can be rejected if they come in too high, and then a reduction in size may have to be considered. The cost of the tank will be paid with funds from a special legislative appropriation. Lang said it would take 60-90 days for the permitting of the tank project and then it can be put out for bids. It will take about six months to build, requiring the above-mentioned extension of the grant deadline.

Also in the works is the securing of a \$11.25 million “forgiveness loan” from Florida’s Department of Environmental Protection. This loan has already been preapproved, pending the city’s documentation that they are financially able to repay the required \$1.3 million portion of the “loan.” The term of the loan will be set at 20 years. Hendrix said she thought that the anticipated new payment agreement with FDOC should be sufficient to prove the city’s solvency.

# Union County Back-to-School Bash

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

The second annual Community-Wide Back to School Bash, held July 13, 2024, was a big success. The event brought together community members and groups with young people in need of school supplies to help them succeed in the new school year.

When the event began, the day had not yet heated up. It was held on the bus ramp at Union County High School to allow room for the tables and people. Table upon table of notebooks, pencils, pens, composition books, and other necessities were laid out for the students to select and pick out. Supplies available were on the lists provided by each of Union County’s three schools.

Sponsors and (many) of the participants at the event were: Andrews Site Prep, Pritchett Trucking, Nextran Truck Centers, LifeSouth, Lake Butler Hospital, West Fraser, Lake Butler Rotary, Lake Butler Womans



Debra Mott and Dana Britt, from the ACORN Clinic, handed out personal grooming supplies to students.

Club, Shadd Trucking, Liberty Trucking, Woodmen Life, Spire 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, PepsiCo, CTC Delicious BBQ, Lake

Butler VFW and Union County Education Foundation.

The organizers also thank all the people who came out and volunteered their time to help handle and distribute school supplies.

School supplies that were not given out at the event have already been delivered to the three county schools to be given to children who were unable to attend.



The happy people from Culture House Church. Pictured are Ashley Lynch, Robby Jarvis, Terry Jarvis and Dolly Gonzalez.

Sarah Donnini with her children Tilly (left) and Nora (right) taking a break after dealing with the seemingly endless line.



Shadd and Liberty Trucking had a pile of notebooks ready for the young people. Pictured are: Mendy Whitaker and First Christian Church Pastor Shane Collins.



Jennie Reed and Jill Walding (from Lake Butler Hospital) handed out notebooks at the DLP Bank table.

## SCHOOL BOARD OF UNION COUNTY BUDGET SUMMARY FY 2024-2025

PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVY	
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	3.173
BASIC DISCRETIONARY OPERATING	0.748
DEBT SERVICE	0.000
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.500
TOTAL	5.421

REVENUES	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Federal Sources	105,000	3,641,262		3,746,262
State Sources	19,904,901	0	0	19,904,901
Local Sources	2,133,708	948,250	626,234	3,708,192
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>22,143,609</b>	<b>4,589,512</b>	<b>626,234</b>	<b>27,359,355</b>
Transfers In	475,000	0	0	475,000
<b>FUND BALANCES - 7/1/24</b>	<b>925,500</b>	<b>855,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>1,930,500</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>23,544,109</b>	<b>5,444,512</b>	<b>776,234</b>	<b>29,764,855</b>
EXPENDITURES				
Instruction	12,767,599	2,877,263		15,644,862
Pupil Personnel Services	1,490,264			1,490,264
Instructional Media Services	178,617			178,617
Instructional & Curriculum Development	313,194			313,194
Instructional Staff Training	229,822	103,999		333,821
Instructional Related Technology	24,000			24,000
Board of Education	287,505			287,505
General Administration	492,957	20,000		512,957
School Administration	1,151,283			1,151,283
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	0			0
Fiscal Services	643,643			643,643
Food Service	0	1,819,368		1,819,368
Central Services	302,012			302,012
Pupil Transportation Services	992,512		217,452	1,209,964
Operation of Plant	2,288,932			2,288,932
Maintenance of Plant	764,403			764,403
Admin. Technology Services	323,767			323,767
Community Services	372,870			372,870
Debt Service	0			0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>22,623,380</b>	<b>4,820,630</b>	<b>217,452</b>	<b>27,661,462</b>
Transfers Out	0	0	475,000	475,000
<b>FUND BALANCES - 6/30/25</b>	<b>920,729</b>	<b>623,882</b>	<b>83,782</b>	<b>1,628,393</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS, AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>23,544,109</b>	<b>5,444,512</b>	<b>776,234</b>	<b>29,764,855</b>

THE TENTATIVE ADOPTED BUDGET AND OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

# Obituaries

## Kathleen Douglas

Kathleen Michele Douglas, a beloved daughter, sister, aunt, and friend passed away on Monday, July 8, 2024, in Gainesville. She was born on May 29, 1965, in Gainesville to Walter and Elizabeth Ruth Douglas. She was known for her outgoing and social nature. She had a lovable personality that endeared her to all who had the pleasure of knowing her. Her passions in life included shopping, going out to eat, and being pampered by getting her hair and nails done. She was preceded in death by her father, Walter H. Douglas Sr.



She will be deeply missed by her surviving family members, her mother, Elizabeth Ruth Douglas of Lake Butler; stepdad, James Ash; sister, Charlotte (Jerry) Johns of Macclenny; brother, Walter "Bo" (Kathy) Douglas Jr. of Fort White; nephews, Kelvin (Amber) Johns of Glen St. Mary and Kamron Johns of Macclenny; as well as several great nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her best friends and caregivers, Melissa Williams, Theresa Gaither, and Liyah Liyah; and her entire Stages of Gainesville family.

Services to honor and celebrate her life were held on Friday, July 12, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home located at 55 N. Lake Ave. in Lake Butler. A visitation preceded the funeral service. She was laid to rest immediately following the service at Dedan Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

## Wanda Griffis

Wanda Jean Griffis, 78, passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at her home in Lake Butler, with her family by her side. She was born on May 10, 1946, in Mayo to the late Riley and Opal Driver. She led a fulfilling career spanning 30 years as a patient specialist with Northeast Florida State Hospital. Her dedication and compassion toward her work left a lasting impact on all those she served. Described as a simple woman with a heart of gold, she found joy in life's simple pleasures. She enjoyed fishing, cherished being outdoors, loved cheering on the Florida Gators, and adored her chihuahuas. Above all else, it was her children and grandchildren who brought her immense happiness. Those who had the privilege of knowing her will remember her kind spirit and unwavering generosity. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Billy Griffis; and several brothers and sisters.



She is survived by her children, Kim (Tim) Shatto, Pam (Karl) Williams, and Chris (Heather) Griffis; grandchildren, Daniel Rengering, Jordan Williams, Austin Griffis, Teigan Rengering, Carissa Griffis, Christopher Griffis, Skyler Shatto, Brooklyn Williams, Karly Shatto, and Brandi Shatto; 12 great-grandchildren; siblings, Howard Driver and Glenda Crawford; her dogs, Lily and Molly Bea; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The services to honor and celebrate her life were held on Saturday, July 20. A visitation preceded the funeral service at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. She was laid to rest beside her husband immediately following the service at Dekle Cemetery. Pastor Paul O'Steen officiated the services.

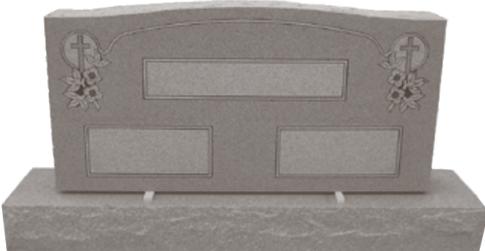
Archer-Milton Funeral Home was honored to serve the family of Mrs. Wanda Jean Griffis. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

Photo

## Charles Custom Memorials

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Monument Builders of North America  
Florida Monument Builders  
FL Lic. # F037700

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To help celebrate a life...to help say goodbye.

Whether your loved one wanted a traditional funeral or a more casual way to bring family and friends together, we'll help your remembrance be something special. Let us ease the burden and help you celebrate a life in a wonderful way.

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P. Steven Futch  
Funeral Director

Austin Gaver  
Funeral Director

620 East Nona Street  
(corner of SR 100)  
Starke  
904.964.6200

Joe Gallagher  
Owner/Funeral Director



**JONES-GALLAGHER**  
FUNERAL HOME  
jonesgallagherfh.com

Kelli Parks Moreland  
Funeral Director

Laura Crews  
Office Manager

340 E. Walker Drive  
(SR 100)  
Keystone Heights  
352.473.3176

Only on-site crematory in Bradford, Union & Lake Region area

## Richard Hood

Richard Frederick Hood, 76, of Starke, and formerly of Neenah/Green Bay, Wisconsin, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Gainesville on Wednesday, July 3, 2024. He was born Sept. 8, 1947, in Savannah, Georgia, the son of Virginia Quail Baggs and William Wells Hood Sr. He graduated from Bradford County High School in Starke in 1965. He began attending North Carolina State University before joining the Navy. He was stationed in both Norfolk, Virginia, and Charleston, South Carolina from 1967-1971. He worked aboard the fleet oiler, USS Canisteo. He married Evelyn Clare McMahon on May 2, 1970, in Mecklenburg, North Carolina. Their marriage later ended in divorce. Upon his discharge, he returned to North Carolina State University, where he graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pulp and Paper Technology. While at NC State, he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He spent his career in the paper industry. He began his career with Hammermill Paper in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1973 before settling his family in Neenah, Wisconsin, where he worked for the Menasha Corporation. After leaving Menasha Corp., he continued to work in sales until his retirement in 2005. Around 2015, he returned to Florida, where he was able to reconnect with his beloved friends and relive cherished memories. He loved Florida dearly, and this return to his happy place allowed him to embrace the warmth and familiarity of his past. He was also passionate about his family, friends, photography, painting and Green Bay Packer football. He was predeceased by his father in 1978 and his mother in 1983. His brother, William Wells Jr.; and his nephew, Stephen Hood, also predeceased him.



He is survived by three children, Kimberly Hood of Centerville, Minnesota, Melissa (Scott) White of New Delhi, India, and Ryan (Krista) Hood of Madison, Wisconsin; four granddaughters, Emma White and Ellen White of Boston, Massachusetts, Elizabeth White of New Delhi, India, and Parker Hood of Madison, Wisconsin; a niece, Lauren Hood Neese of Florida; and a nephew, Will Hood of Colorado.

Services will be private, with arrangements coordinated by the Williams-Thomas Funeral Home, Gainesville. Interment will be at Kingsley Lake Cemetery, Starke.

PAID OBITUARY

## Barbara Luke

Barbara Faye Luke, known affectionately as "Faye," peacefully passed away at Haven Hospice, Lake City on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, after a brief illness. She was born Dec. 18, 1950, in Lake City to the late Ervin and Pauline Taylor. She dedicated 18 years of life to the Lake Butler Apparel factory, where she was a skilled seamstress and supervisor. Beyond her professional career, she enjoyed sewing at home as well. She put her heart into creating outfits and decor for herself and her family. Cooking was another talent she possessed, and she took pride in preparing delicious meals for her loved ones. Her skills weren't limited to the kitchen and the sewing machine; she also enjoyed farming and nurturing her garden. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ervin and Pauline Taylor; her son, Tony Luke; and siblings, Jerry Taylor, Patricia Parrish, and Gail Poole.



She will be missed by her loving husband of 54 years, Gary Luke; cherished daughter, Sherry (Robert) Shoup; adored grandchildren, Brandon (Kassie) Shoup and Cody Luke; great-grandchildren, Kennady Castleberry and Gunner Shoup; daughter-in-law, Debbie Luke; her siblings, Katie Feagle, Gary (Rosemary) Taylor, Greg Taylor, Yvonne (Keith) Osborne, Ronald (Maryann) Taylor, and Teresa Tomlinson; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Services to honor her life were held at Johnstown Baptist Church on Saturday, July 20. A visitation preceded the funeral service. She was laid to rest immediately following the service at Mt. Zion/Swift Creek Cemetery.

Archer-Milton Funeral home was honored to serve the family of Barbara Faye Luke. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Trista Holder

Trista Ann Holder, a dedicated wife, mother, sister, and friend, was called home on Friday, July 19, 2024. She touched many lives throughout her life and her unexpected passing has left a void in the hearts of all who knew her. She was born on Nov. 5, 1977, in Gainesville, to Edwin Lee and Sherry Joiner. She worked as a receptionist at the Acorn Clinic, where her warm smile and welcoming nature brightened the days of all who crossed her path. Outgoing, bubbly, and witty, she had a way of making even the most ordinary moments extraordinary. Her legacy of kindness, joy, and compassion continue to inspire us all to live our lives with the same vibrancy that she exemplified. She found joy in various hobbies, such as gardening flowers and vegetables, caring for her beloved animals, and orchestrating memorable parties that brought friends and family together. She was preceded in death by her mother, Sherry Joiner; paternal grandparents, Edwin Lee Sr. and Laverne Lee Ramos; and her maternal grandparents, Billy Joiner and Ann Nobles.



She is survived by her loving husband, Joseph "Joe" Holder of Starke; her sons, Landon Boyd, Richard Holder, and Seth Holder; along with Landon Beville, who was like another son. She is also survived by her father, Edwin (Jane) Lee of Brooker; siblings, Tiffany (Randy) Brooks, Cassie (Jeremy) James, Josh (Tracy) Lee, Jake (Meghan) Lee, and Robert Massey; her nanny, Janice Joiner; aunts and uncles, Dawn Harper, Joy (Howard) Joiner-Starling, Jenny Lee, and Brad Lee; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on Sunday, July 28, at 3 p.m. at her church, Bayless Highway Baptist Church, Starke, with Pastor Mike Conner officiating. Trista's final memorialization will be by cremation.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Trista Ann Holder. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Former Telegraph owner/publisher Eugene L. Matthews shows off some of the papers that chronicled needed improvements in Starke. Those papers resulted in him receiving the Florida Press Association's Community Service Award in 1954.

## Bradford Telegraph celebrates 145th birthday on July 26

*Editor's note: Information for this story was taken from a centennial special the Telegraph published on July 26, 1979.*

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Moore and Matthews.

Those are important names in the history of the Bradford County Telegraph, which began publishing 140 years ago.

It began with William Moore, who supposedly visited Starke and witnessed the type of growth he felt would support a newspaper. A special centennial issue of the Telegraph described how Moore "observed how the huge, virgin pines were falling all around Starke to make room for fields and homes and saw the budding business activity along Call Street."

Moore, who had published and edited newspapers in Jacksonville, Lake City, Cedar Key and Pensacola, was just shy of 50 years old when he moved his family to Starke. On July 26, 1879, at a locale east of the railroad tracks on Call Street, the first issue of what was then known as the Florida Telegraph was published, with Moore acting as publisher and his son, Sterling, acting as editor.

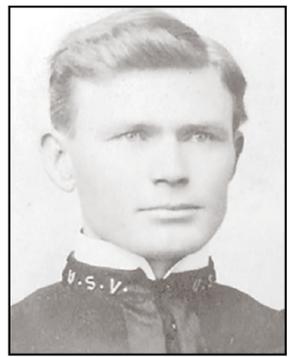
The newspaper, which was renamed the Starke Telegraph a few years later, proved to be successful. Its office was moved into the second story of a building owned by J.G. Alvarez at the southeast corner of Call and Walnut streets, which is where the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce is today.

Sterling Moore purchased the paper from his father in 1885 for \$500 in cash and a \$500 promissory note that was to be paid in one year's time. The younger Moore's time of ownership was brief, however. I.C. Webb, a former teacher, who had purchased property on Kingsley Lake, became a partner, with the masthead of the Jan. 8, 1887, issue bearing the names of Moore and Webb as publishers. In April of that same year, Webb bought out Moore's interest.

Webb made the final name change approximately a year



William Moore published the first issue of the Telegraph on July 26, 1879.



Eugene S. Matthews, pictured as member of Company M of the First Florida Volunteer Infantry, the first Florida unit to volunteer for service in the Spanish-American War. He bought the Telegraph in 1893.

later, announcing in the April 13, 1888, issue that the paper was now the Bradford County Telegraph, named after "the county which fostered it in its youth and supported it as it became older."

The office moved farther west on Call Street, finding a new home in the second story of a brick building built by N.J. Jones. Jones operated a store on the ground floor.

Webb continued operating

See BIRTHDAY, page 10

## Santa Fe expands its EMT program to Bradford

In response to shortages of emergency medical technicians in the region, Santa Fe College has expanded its EMT certificate program to Bradford County.

The 16-week industry certification course prepares students for a career caring for the sick or injured in emergency medical situations. EMTs provide on-scene life support, working with paramedics, firefighters

and law-enforcement officers to stabilize and transport patients to hospitals.

Michael Anderson, who leads the college's Emergency Medical Services programs, said community partners came together to support expanding EMT training into Bradford.

The lecture and skills labs will be offered at Santa Fe's Andrews Center in Starke. The hospital clinical experience will be completed at HCA Starke Emergency Department, while the rescue clinical experience will be provided at Bradford County Fire Rescue.

"We are pleased all of the partners came together to help address the need," Anderson said. "Students will be fully prepared for current openings."

EMT shortages are occurring across the U.S. as qualified personal retire or move to other employment. That also means that people who complete the program have a high probability of landing a job in the field quickly.

The EMT program consists of 320 hours of classroom, lab, hospital emergency department clinical and ambulance rescue clinical components over a four-month period (one semester).

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### New name, same fish: largemouth bass are now Florida bass

Genetics studies confirmed what many anglers and biologists have believed for a long time –

Florida bass are special. Florida's most popular freshwater game fish has a new name. The American Fisheries Society established the Florida bass as a separate species from the largemouth bass. This means that in most of Florida (except the western Panhandle), what was known as a largemouth bass is now called a Florida bass. This name change will affect how the fish is referred

to in regulations and other communications. However, it will not affect anglers fishing for this iconic freshwater sport fish. According to the recent research publication by Yale University, the study used advanced genetic analysis and determined Florida bass to be its own species. The research also identified the range of Florida bass to be larger than

once believed, including not only Florida, but also parts of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The scientific names of these two bass also changed. Largemouth bass, previously *Micropterus salmoides*, is now the scientific name for Florida bass. Largemouth bass are now *Micropterus nigricans*.

Understanding and conserving fish species is crucial for sustainable recreational fishing and biodiversity preservation. The classification of species plays a key role in these efforts. Black bass (*Micropterus* spp.) are well-known freshwater fish and highly popular for recreational fishing. This new understanding of black bass diversity, distribution and classification provides a

critical foundation for better managing and conserving these important and iconic fish. It will aid in ensuring their continued conservation and sustainable use for future generations. To learn more about the Florida bass name change go to [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com), click on "Freshwater Fishing," select "Black Bass Management" and click on "Florida Bass."



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**For Sale!**

**MLS #2027315**

**625 SW Cardinal Drive,  
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### 2024 FALL COURSE SCHEDULE

#### DAY PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR	REGISTRATION BEGINS	COURSE DATES	DAY	HOURS	PROGRAM HOURS
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics	Snyder	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	9AM to 12PM	Vary
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics	Snyder	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	12:30PM to 3:30PM	Vary
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	August 14 - October 9, 2024	M - R	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320 & 150
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	October 16 - December 18, 2024	M - R	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320 & 150
Welding Technology	Geiger / Hunt	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	9AM - 3:30PM	1050
Welding Technology, Advanced	Geiger / Hunt	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	9AM - 3:30PM	750

#### EVENING PROGRAMS

Nursing Assistant - Long Term Care (C.N.A.)	TBD	Call School For Details				Vary
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics	TBD	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M, T, R	5PM to 8PM	Vary

#### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Spinning (Indoor Cycling)	Bridgman/Riker	Open	August 12 - December 20, 2024	T & R	5PM - 6:20PM	Varies
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**Enroll Online:**  
[www.bradfordschools.org/nftc](http://www.bradfordschools.org/nftc)  
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# Remembering former Telegraph owner Bobby Ferguson

*Editor's note: Information and quotes were taken from a story written by David Eisenhauer in the Jan. 28, 1993, issue of the Telegraph.*

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Quiet. Passionate about his community and family. Dedicated to covering the news in as fair a way as possible and utilizing compassion when needed.

Those are just some of the qualities people remembered about the late Bobby Ferguson, who shared ownership of the Bradford County Telegraph with John Miller from 1973 until his death on Feb. 9, 1993, at the age of 54.

Ferguson, who was married to the former Mary Agnes Matthews (now Mary Agnes Goldwire), suffered from the

effects of Lou Gehrig's Disease in the two years leading up to his passing, but fellow journalist Bill Shields, who once worked as the Bradford County correspondent for the Gainesville Sun, said the illness never changed Ferguson in regard to how he approached day-to-day life.

"After visiting Bobby in 1992 and seeing the destruction of his illness, I was amazed that he hadn't lost his fire for the truth," Shields said. "While I was there, he told Mary Agnes what to type for an editorial on an important issue in Starke at the time.

"Bobby Ferguson's been an inspiration to me over the years, and now, more than ever, I respect his integrity and determination to live life to the fullest and make things better for those who follow behind us."

Ferguson graduated from Bradford High School in 1956. He excelled in athletics



**Bobby Ferguson as he appeared in the early 1960s.**

and helped BHS win a state championship in track and field in 1955.

"He was never an outgoing type, never one to go drinking with the boys, but he was always a good, loyal friend," said Randy

Johns, who went to BHS with Ferguson.

That loyal friendship must have outweighed the fact that was a quiet person, for his senior class voted him as "Best All-Around."

Former BHS student Jimmy Reddish described Ferguson as "a fine fellow."

"A very quiet fellow," Reddish said, "but a fine fellow and an excellent athlete."

Johns said he remembered Ferguson running a 10.9 100-yard dash at a time when he believed the world record was approximately 10.3.

Reddish said Ferguson ran the 440-yard dash as well and was a member of the sprint and 880 relay teams.

On Friday nights in the fall, Ferguson put his running skills to use as a halfback on the football team.

"Bobby was a great running

back and real gifted as far as quickness and speed were concerned," said Lennard Register, who was Bradford's head football coach from 1955 through 1961. "He was a likable, young man and got along with people very well."

Ferguson also had stints as class vice president and president at BHS and was a member of Future Farmers of America.

It was journalism where Ferguson would make his mark after high school. He earned a degree in that area of study in 1960 at the University of Florida. After marrying Mary Agnes, the daughter of then-Telegraph owner/publisher Eugene L. Matthews, Ferguson worked for a short time in Washington, D.C. He then returned to Bradford County, taking a part-time job as a writer at the Telegraph, while also teaching math and science at BHS.

Joyce Sutton, a former student of Ferguson's, talked about what he was like as a teacher, saying Ferguson would joke around with the students at times, but he was serious when it came to them doing the work that was expected of them. If a student needed help, Ferguson was there to give it.

"If you had a problem, he'd sit down and explain it to you, and he expected everyone to work to their full potential," Sutton said. "If you did the work, you got the grade you deserved."

Ferguson began working full-time at the Telegraph in 1967, covering city and county news as well as athletic events.

Several former officials praised Ferguson's ability, integrity and fairness.

"When he covered meetings, he was probably one of the fairest reporters I came in contact with,"

**See FERGUSON, page 14**

## BIRTHDAY Continued from page 8

the paper for the next six years, during which time he let it be known that he might be induced to sell it. Col. W.T. Weeks, a longtime clerk of the circuit court in Bradford County, wrote to an old friend to let him know the newspaper might be for sale. That friend was Eugene S. Matthews.

### Telegraph welcomes 2nd father-son duo

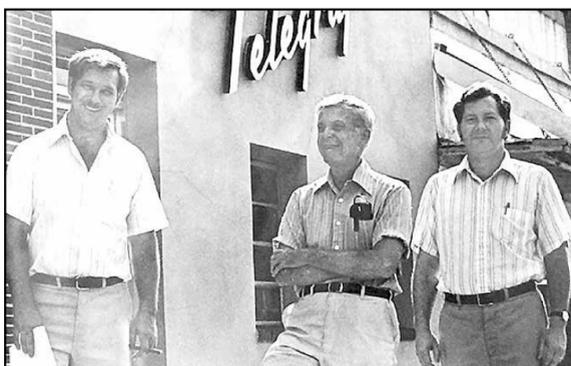
Matthews, who grew up in Providence when that area was still part of Bradford County, bought the Telegraph in 1893, serving as owner/publisher for 40 years. His newspaper experience began at the age of 10 when he was a printer's devil (an apprentice who performed various tasks) at the Gainesville Daily Bee, where he learned to set type by hand. He worked for other Gainesville papers until moving to Ocala, where he met and befriended Wallace

Stovall. Stovall, with his brother, published the Marion Free Press. Stovall, who eventually became publisher of the Tampa Tribune, persuaded the 16-year-old Matthews to become editor of the Foster Park Independent, a small paper printed in Lake Weir.

Matthews established the Dunnellon News in approximately 1880 after that town became a booming mining center after the discovery of phosphate. He wrote of his opposition to the state's convict-leasing system, but he rubbed many readers the wrong way in the process, including a wealthy citizen who leased prisoners and then sub-leased them to mine operators. The mining interests were powerful enough to hurt the newspaper's sales, so Matthews sold it and returned to Ocala.

When Weeks wrote to Matthews in regard to the Telegraph, Matthews went to Starke, which he had never visited before. Though he grew up in Providence, a trip to Starke at that time would be by horse-drawn transportation over poor roads. Plus, there were no bridges spanning New River at that time, so it was not a trip people often made.

Matthews arrived in Starke



**Eugene L. Matthews (center) is pictured in the 1970s with sons-in-law John Miller (left) and Bobby Ferguson. Miller and Ferguson bought the Telegraph from Matthews in 1973. Ferguson is now deceased, but Miller continues to serve as owner/publisher.**

in January 1893 and was surprised to find an old friend in Ben J. Farmer, who learned the newspaper trade alongside Matthews in Gainesville. Farmer, who was employed as a printer for Webb, begged Matthews to take him on as a partner in the purchase of the Telegraph. The two men struck a deal to buy the paper of \$1,050 — \$350 down, with the balance to be paid at the end of the year.

of Dr. J.L. Gaskins for \$800. That building still houses the Telegraph's printing press and archives today.

In 1933, Matthews' son, Eugene L. Matthews, a Columbia School of Journalism graduate, purchased the paper. It was not the best of times to operate a business. In the midst of the Great Depression, the new Telegraph owner bartered subscriptions in exchange for eggs, sweet potatoes and syrup. The younger Matthews was quoted in the Telegraph's centennial issue as saying, "But, of course, we were glad to accept these items because many people were going hungry in those days."

The Telegraph earned numerous awards during the younger Matthews' ownership, but he was most proud of a community service award received in 1954, the result of the Telegraph's role in effecting changes for the better in Starke. The paper published photos of unsightly shacks and other eyesores and published stories on such topics as low teacher salaries and the scarcity of books in the public library.

Matthews created a questionnaire, "Do You Dare to Rate Your Town?" In a 1956 All Florida Weekly story, he said, "I took the questionnaire to a good cross-section of the community. My suspicions were confirmed by 86 men, women and alert, young people. In their opinion, Starke didn't make a passing grade. I ran the questionnaire and the opinions of this group right on our front page. The Telegraph started the ball rolling."

Some of the results included highway beautification projects by the local garden club, the renovation of the old USO building and a zoning ordinance to eliminate auto junkyards and other eyesores.

Community service awards "show the paper is fulfilling its reason for being," Matthews was quoted as saying in a 1958 Florida Press story.

Like his father, Matthews served as owner/publisher for 40 years. He sold the Telegraph to sons-in-law Bobby Ferguson and John Miller in 1973. Ferguson, who was married to Matthews' daughter Mary Agnes, passed away Feb. 9, 1993, at the age of 54. Miller, who is married to Matthews' daughter Anne, continues to serve as owner/publisher.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Bradford County School District will soon consider a measure to increase its property tax levy.

### Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy ..... \$ 8,010,659

B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board

and other assessment changes ..... \$ (106,447)

C. Actual property tax levy ..... \$ 8,117,106

**This year's proposed tax levy..... \$ 8,666,095**

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the school board to receive \$ 20,105,134 in state education grants.

The required portion has increased by **3.98** percent, and represents approximately six tenths of total proposed taxes.

The remainder of the taxes is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on **July 29, 2024, 5:01 PM in the Boardroom at the Bradford County School District Office, 501 West Washington Street, Starke, FL.**

A **DECISION** on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

## NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY

The School Board of Bradford County will soon consider a measure to continue to impose a 1.50 mill property tax for the capital outlay projects listed herein.

The tax is in addition to the school board's proposed tax of 3.878 mills for operating expenses and is proposed solely at the discretion of the school board.

**\*\*THE PROPOSED COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOWN IN THE ADJACENT NOTICE.**

The Capital Outlay tax will generate approximately \$2,417,096 to be used for the following projects:

### CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

Planning, Design and Construction of future educational facilities  
Remodeling Physical Facilities  
County Wide Covered Walkways and Paving

### MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, AND REPAIRS

Reimbursement of the maintenance, renovation, and repairs paid through the General Fund as permitted by Florida Statute  
Countywide Electrical  
Countywide Fencing  
Countywide HVAC  
Countywide Maintenance  
Countywide Paving  
Countywide Plumbing  
Countywide Roofing  
Countywide Tree Removal  
Countywide Remodeling  
Countywide Fire Alarms  
Countywide Flooring  
Countywide Drainage  
Starke Elementary Maintenance and Mold Prevention

### MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

Purchase up to three (3) school buses  
Purchase of Maintenance Vehicles and Other Operations Support Vehicles

### NEW AND REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT, COMPUTER AND DEVICE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE NECESSARY FOR GAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE

Purchase Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (School and District Sites)  
LCIF Technology Purchases (School and District Sites)  
Purchase Instructional Materials Hardware  
Purchase Enterprise Resource Software through License/Maintenance Fees  
Purchase Software Applications for District-wide Administration

### PAYMENT OF COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

Removal of Hazardous Waste  
Starke Elementary Mold Prevention  
Deficiency Remediation and/or unforeseen emergencies

### PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE EDUCATIONAL AND ANCILLARY PLANTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Insurance premiums on district facilities

### PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND BENEFITS

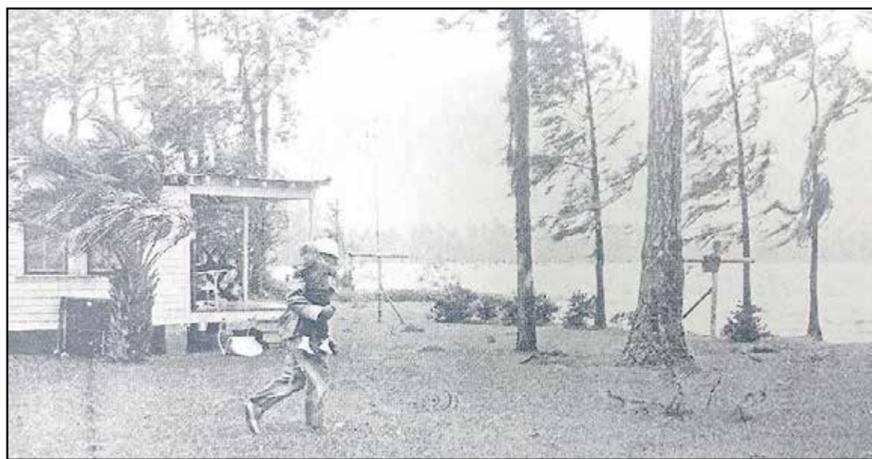
Salaries and benefits for School Bus Drivers

### CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS PURSUANT TO S.1013.62(4), F.S

PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY  
CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES  
PURCHASE OF VEHICLES TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS  
RENOVATION, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES  
PAYMENT OF THE COST OF PREMIUMS FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE NECESSARY TO INSURE SCHOOL FACILITIES  
PURCHASE OR LEASE OF DRIVER'S EDUCATION VEHICLES, MAINTENANCE VEHICLES, SECURITY VEHICLES, OR VEHICLES USED IN STORING OR DISTRIBUTING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT  
COMPUTER AND DEVICE HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEM SOFTWARE NECESSARY  
FORGAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE  
PAYMENTS OF OPENING DAY COLLECTION FOR LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on **Monday, July 29, 2024, 5:01 PM at the Bradford County School Board Meeting Room, 501 W. Washington Street, Starke, Florida.**

A **DECISION** on the proposed **CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES** will be made at this hearing.



Emergency personnel evacuated approximately 1,000 people to shelters.



A typical flooded-street scene following Hurricane Dora in September 1964.

# 60 years ago: Bradford gets double dose of Dora

In September 1964, Hurricane Dora dumped 15 inches of rain in Bradford County over a five-day period and caused damages valued at more than \$600,000. The hurricane impacted the county on a westerly route, but then reversed direction because of a cold front, which had the county experiencing more days of rain and winds as Dora then moved east.

The following stories were published in the Sept. 10 and Sept. 17 issues of the Telegraph.

## Sept. 10: Taking refuge from Dora

An estimated 1,000 refugees sought shelter from Hurricane Dora in Bradford County school buildings Wednesday night, but were advised to return to their homes at 11 a.m. Thursday, with the center of the storm having passed to the west.

As charted by the Bradford County Civil Defense office, the eye of the hurricane traveled almost due west from St. Augustine, passing over Penney Farms and Kingsley Lake on a path that took it between Starke and Lawtey and onto Lake City.

Winds that had been reported at 100 miles an hour around the center of Dora did not materialize here, with the highest estimated gusts ranging from 75 to 80 miles an hour about 2 a.m. Thursday. With the eye passing north of here, this area received winds on the southeast rim of Dora, which were not as severe

as those on the north side striking the Jacksonville area.

Louis Hill fire tower at Highland reported 10 inches of rain from 8 a.m. Wednesday to 8 a.m. Thursday, with rain still falling in that area. New River tower measured 5.8 inches in the same 24-hour period. Santa Fe tower had almost 6 inches, as did Kingsley Lake. Rainfall at Keystone Heights was estimated as 8 inches during the 24-hour period.

Most businesses in Starke, Keystone and other towns in the area taped or boarded up their windows early Wednesday and remained closed during the two-day period. All county schools were closed Wednesday and Thursday.

Property damage was surprisingly light in the area and was limited to fallen trees, streets littered with moss and limbs, several metal awnings and signs damaged, and a few windows shattered.

Starke had only minor interruptions of power, mostly in the Saratoga Heights section, but this had been restored before midnight by hard-working city crews. One city employee — William A. Andrews — dropped from exhaustion and received emergency treatment at Bradford County Hospital.

Clay Electric Co-op and Florida Power and Light, serving most small towns and outlying sections in the area, were swamped with troubles. Forest service headquarters on S.R. 100

had been without power since 6 p.m. Wednesday. Lawtey was also without power for several hours Wednesday night.

Starkeites had no means of communicating with the outside world Thursday, with no long-distance telephone service and Western Union telegraph service disrupted.

School buildings were open in Starke (BHS and RJE), Lawtey, Hampton and Brooker Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Few sought shelter Tuesday, but an estimated thousand came in Wednesday night. Children bedded down on blankets spread on the floor, while most adults sat up during the night. Sandwiches and coffee were provided by volunteer workers and financed by Red Cross funds.

One man — D.D. Johnson of Hampton — suffered an attack while at the Starke school shelter and was taken in an ambulance to the hospital, where he was reported Thursday morning to have had a "good night." No other casualties were reported in the area.

## Sept. 10: Eye passes Kingsley Lake

W.W. Hood, Camp Blanding forester, reported that winds in gusts reached hurricane force at Kingsley Lake about 2 a.m. Thursday. The calm (associated with the eye) set in shortly after 3 a.m. when the barometer reading dropped to 29.1. At 5

a.m., the barometer read a shade below 28.8. Dead center of a hurricane eye is said to be 28.5.

By 6:30 a.m., the eye had passed over Kingsley and winds resumed, this time out of the south-southeast, whereas the pre-eye winds had been from the northeast quadrant. Gusts of 50 to 60 mph were reported at this time.

The 11 a.m. weather advisory reported the center of Dora about 10 miles west of Starke, moving in a westerly course toward the gulf at 10 mph. Gusts up to hurricane force were reported near the center. People who had sought shelter in county school buildings were advised to return to their homes at that time.

## Sept. 17: Dora deals double dose

Dora did a double take, and she swept through Bradford County coming and going.

At 11 a.m. last Thursday, Bradfordites breathed a sigh of relief when the Miami Weather Bureau reported the eye of the storm had passed here traveling in a westerly direction. Winds died down from their 75-80 mph peak, and the rain slackened.

Then, about 6 p.m., business picked up again. Folks looked at one another as if to say, "What's going on?" The wind was coming out of the south this time at a sustained rate of 30-40 mph. Rain continued to fall in sheets.

Several hours later — over television — came the word that Dora, after passing through the Tallahassee area in a



Five of James Reddish's six children sleep in the hallway of one of the Bradford County schools that was serving as a shelter.

northwesterly direction, ran into a cold front and made a hairpin turn near Dothan, Alabama, heading back east in the direction of Savannah. This kept Bradford in the range of its winds and rain for another two days. Finally, it passed out to sea off the Carolina coast and blew itself out.

Bradford County and the rest of northeast Florida had been in the range of the storm for four days and nights.

## Sept. 17: Resorts damaged

After the backlash set in late Thursday afternoon, winds blew steadily from the south for almost 60 hours. During this period, large resorts on the north side of Kingsley Lake took a terrific beating, with damage estimated from \$15,000 to \$20,000 at Strickland's Landing and New Kingsley Beach.

Both resorts lost large sections of their wooden piers. A picnic shelter was flattened at Strickland's. Kingsley Beach lost at least 50 percent of its man-made, white-sand beach. Strickland's had about 25 feet of shoreline and fill washed away. Strickland's lost some 400 feet of dock, while Kingsley Beach lost its front pier, a structure about 75 by 50 feet.

It was the second costly disaster for both resorts, which were hit by a baby tornado in early August.

Kingsley Lake, already 6 inches above normal level, rose another foot during the storm period. Four-foot waves damaged many private docks and boats that had not been taken out of the water.

Other lakes in the county showed even greater rises. Hampton Lake, with no adequate outlet, was up over 2 feet and endangering cottages on the north shore. Crosby Lake rose an estimated 4 feet, augmented by water that backed up into it from Sampson Lake.

## Sept. 17: Creek functions admirably

Alligator Creek, key to Starke's drainage system, performed admirably in carrying water off from the city and dropped rapidly as soon as the rain slackened Saturday.

New River crested at approximately 16 feet Sunday morning, rising from an estimated 6 feet. At its crest, the river level was 99.3 feet above sea level.

Water Oak Creek, a New River tributary, which rises near the Camp Blanding reservation and flows through some of the richest farmland in the county, reached new flood heights, causing extensive crop damage.

Santa Fe River, which merges with New River at the southwest corner of the county, rose 4 to 5 feet higher than ever before.

## Sept. 17: 15 inches of rain over 5 days

An average of 15 inches of rain fell in the county during the five-day period (Tuesday-Saturday). Measured rainfall ranged from 11.29 inches at Kingsley Lake to a frog-choking 18.7 inches at Highland. Starke recorded 15.13, and New River fire tower 13 inches. Keystone Heights fire tower reported 12.6 inches, while Union County had an average of 14.45 inches.

Rain received during Dora's visit brought the total so far this year in Bradford to a whopping 72.53 inches — already more than 20 inches above the annual average, with three and a half months left in the year.

## Sept. 17: Damage valued at \$650,000

Bradford viewed sunny skies again Monday, set its losses at \$650,000 and thanked its stars that damage from Hurricane Dora wasn't any worse.

After days and nights of continuous wind and rain, the county was battered and soaked from stem to stern with 15 inches of water. Damage here failed to reach disaster proportions, however.

A state survey team, headed by Walter H. Murphey of Gainesville, civil defense supervisor for the northeast Florida area, met here at 11 a.m. Wednesday and was told the county's overall loss from Dora totaled \$650,000. At least \$500,000 of this amount was damage to the county's agriculture, including timber.

Most of the damage here, following the pattern of big flows in the past, was caused by water rather than by wind. Surprisingly, few trees were toppled, and none, apparently, fell on houses or other buildings. Bradford's \$650,000 loss was made up of a lot of little items, with no one phase of the economy suffering a staggering blow.

One ominous effect of the storm will be a probable scarcity of strawberry plants with the setting-out season just weeks away. Jennings Starling, a large grower of plants at Graham, estimated loss on Starling Brothers' 11 acres of new plants at 50 to 60 percent. Wilt set in after water stood on the roots during weekend floods that covered the fields. The extent of damage to runners on old plants is not yet known, Starling said.

Plants down state were not hurt, Starling said, but prices will doubtless be high (from \$10 to \$12 a thousand) due to demand.

### BUDGET SUMMARY

#### SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF BRADFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ARE 30.0 PERCENT LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

##### PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVIES SUBJECT TO 10-MILL CAP:

Required Local Effort	3.1300
Basic Discretionary Operating	0.7480
Local Capital Improvement (Capital Outlay)	1.5000
Discretionary Capital Outlay	0.0000
<b>Total Millage</b>	<b>5.3780</b>

ESTIMATED REVENUES:	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL
FEDERAL SOURCES	365,000	5,701,102		6,066,102
STATE SOURCES	22,535,549			22,535,549
LOCAL SOURCES	6,691,902		2,417,096	9,108,998
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>29,592,451</b>	<b>5,701,102</b>	<b>2,417,096</b>	<b>37,710,649</b>
TRANSFERS IN	500,000			500,000
FUND/NET ASSET BALANCES	5,364,242	1,155,157	3,937,728	10,457,127
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS AND FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION</b>	<b>35,456,693</b>	<b>6,856,259</b>	<b>6,354,824</b>	<b>48,667,776</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
INSTRUCTIONAL	15,128,149.61	2,431,936		17,560,086
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES	890,051.55	108,567		998,619
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	208,335.70	91,996		300,332
INSTRUCTION & CURRICULUM	700,463.91	264,230		964,694
STAFF TRAINING	280,302.36	80,016		360,318
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY	250,731.22			250,731
BOARD OF EDUCATION	589,331.89			589,332
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	430,673.81	129,056		559,730
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	2,125,646.01	30,595		2,156,241
FACILITIES ACQ. AND CONSTRUCTION	15,535.96		100,000	115,536
FISCAL SERVICES	560,224.98			560,225
FOOD SERVICE	2,458.17	2,561,800		2,564,258
CENTRAL SERVICES	391,290.59	2,905		394,196
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	2,084,652.38		400,000	2,484,652
OPERATION OF PLANT	3,841,194.70			3,841,195
MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	608,507.63		750,000	1,358,508
ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	956,213.46			956,213
COMMUNITY SERVICES	528,687.08			528,687
DEBT SERVICE				0
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>29,592,451</b>	<b>5,701,102</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>36,543,553</b>
TRANSFERS OUT			500,000	500,000
FUND/NET ASSET BALANCES	5,864,242	1,155,157	4,604,824	11,624,223
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS AND FUND BALANCES NET POSITION</b>	<b>35,456,693</b>	<b>6,856,259</b>	<b>6,354,824</b>	<b>48,667,776</b>

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of July 25, 2024

## BRADFORD

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on August 21, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on August 14, 2024 and end at 2PM on August 21, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com, KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121  
Time: 02:00PM CST  
A02, Hovestadt, Mark, A08, cruger, gerica, A16, Maddox, Carolyn, A41, James, Jeanette, B06, Morgan, Tina, B08, Brunson, Teresa, B16, Morgan, Tina, B37, Thomas, Shantel, B56, Bowen, Dustin  
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card. We do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.

7/18 2tchg 7/25-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION  
CASE NO.: 24000072CPAXMX  
DIVISION: Probate  
IN RE: ESTATE OF JUANITA FORTNER ROPER A/K/A JUANITA F. ROPER A/K/A JUANITA ROPER, Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
The administration of JUANITA FORTNER ROPER A/K/A JUANITA F. ROPER A/K/A JUANITA ROPER, ("Decedent") deceased, whose date of death was April 2, 2024, and whose Social Security Number is XXX-XX-3979, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioner and the Petitioner's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR CURATOR HAS NO DUTY TO DISCOVER WHETHER ANY PROPERTY HELD AT THE TIME OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH BY THE DECEDENT OR THE DECEDENT'S SURVIVING SPOUSE IS PROPERTY TO WHICH THE FLORIDA UNIFORM DISPOSITION OF COMMUNITY PROPERTY RIGHTS AT DEATH ACT AS DESCRIBED IN FLORIDA STATUTE 732.216-732.228, APPLIES, OR MAY APPLY UNLESS A WRITTEN DEMAND IS MADE BY A CREDITOR AS SPECIFIED UNDER SECTION 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is July 18, 2024.  
DAKOTA T. BOND A/K/A DAKOTA TYLER BOND, Petitioner  
39 Wainwright Way,  
Avon Park, Florida, 33825  
LAW OFFICES OF AL NICOLETTI  
/s/ Alfred V. Nicoletti  
ALFRED V. NICOLETTI, ESQ.  
Florida Bar No.: 125446  
Suite D. Phillips Blvd.  
7512 SW 50-647  
Orlando, Florida 32819

7/18 2tchg 7/25-BCT

**NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA**  
The City of Starke Florida will hold a City Commission Meeting on August 6, 2024 at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091 during which the second reading and a vote will occur for the following ordinance:  
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-18  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE 2024-2028 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL UPDATE; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSION FROM CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE

DATE.  
This ordinance is available for public inspection at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Interested parties may appear and have an opportunity to be heard at the meeting with respect to the proposed ordinance.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE**  
Two (2) wheelchair equipped transit vehicles. Envelopes marked "Sealed Bids" must be mailed or delivered to Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. P.O. Box 70, Live Oak, FL 32064 by Monday, August 5, 2024. Please make sure the VIN is clearly marked on bids submitted. Vehicles may be inspected by appointment only. For appointments to inspect vehicles contact Sheryl Hartzog, Operations Manager, at shartzog@suwanneec.net or 386-496-0624. For additional information or questions contact Stephanie Barrington, Director of Transportation, at sbarrington@suwanneec.net. Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. reserves the right to refuse or reject any bid.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**  
Notice is hereby given that DAVID J COGNATA the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 222  
Year of Issuance: 2017  
Parcel Number: 00868-0-00132  
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-008  
Description of Property:  
TDA NUMBER: 602TDA  
Parcel NUMBER: R 00868-0-00132  
The South 132.00 feet of the North 264.00 feet of the West 330.00 feet of the NW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 11, Township 7 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida, containing 1.00 acre, more or less. Reserving therefrom an easement for ingress, egress and utilities over the Easterly 15 feet thereof. Above described parcel being conveyed with a 30.00 foot easement for ingress, egress and utilities over the following described parcel: The Northerly 30.00 feet of the Westerly 1040.00 feet and the Easterly 30.00 feet of the Westerly 345.00 feet of the Northerly 1238.00 feet of said NW1/4 of SW1/4. Above described parcel also being conveyed with a right of ingress and egress over the following described parcel: Commence at a concrete monument located at the Northwest corner of the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 10, Township 7 South, Range 21 East and run South 00 degrees, 07 minutes and 19 seconds East, along the Westerly boundary thereof, 157.72 feet to the Southerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225 (formerly State Road S-225); thence South 77 degrees, 14 minutes and 19 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary, 405.77 feet to the centerline of an existing road for the Point of Beginning (said road being 60 feet in width and lying 30 feet on each side of a centerline described as follows). From Point of Beginning thus described run South 00 degrees, 07 minutes and 19 seconds East, parallel with the Westerly boundary of said NE1/4 of NE1/4, a distance of 378.18 feet; thence South 15 degrees, 15 minutes and 41 seconds West, 374.65 feet; thence South 20 degrees, 44 minutes and 49 seconds East, 333.96 feet to the end of said 60 foot road and the beginning of a road 20 feet in width and lying 10 feet on each side of said centerline; thence continue South 20 degrees, 44 minutes and 49 seconds East, along said centerline, 30.88 feet; thence South 21 degrees, 12 minutes and 57 seconds East, 438.28 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 21 degrees, 22 minutes and 11 seconds East, 330.29 feet to an intersection with the centerline of a road 30 feet in width and lying 15 feet on each side of the following described centerline; thence South 42 degrees, 52 minutes and 49 seconds West, 274.13 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 17 degrees, 50 minutes and 25 seconds East, 418.91 feet to a set iron rod (last said iron rod being 15.00 feet Northerly of the Southerly boundary of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of said Section 10 when measured at right angles therefrom); thence South 89 degrees, 53 minutes and 43 seconds East, parallel with last said Southerly boundary, 686.05 feet to an iron rod set on the Easterly boundary of said SE1/4 and NE1/4 and the end of said centerline (last said iron rod being located 15.00 feet Northerly of the Southeast corner of said SE1/4 and NE1/4).

7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**  
Notice is hereby given that DAVID J COGNATA the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 222  
Year of Issuance: 2017  
Parcel Number: 00868-0-00132  
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-008  
Description of Property:  
TDA NUMBER: 602TDA  
Parcel NUMBER: R 00868-0-00132  
The South 132.00 feet of the North 264.00 feet of the West 330.00 feet of the NW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 11, Township 7 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida, containing 1.00 acre, more or less. Reserving therefrom an easement for ingress, egress and utilities over the Easterly 15 feet thereof. Above described parcel being conveyed with a 30.00 foot easement for ingress, egress and utilities over the following described parcel: The Northerly 30.00 feet of the Westerly 1040.00 feet and the Easterly 30.00 feet of the Westerly 345.00 feet of the Northerly 1238.00 feet of said NW1/4 of SW1/4. Above described parcel also being conveyed with a right of ingress and egress over the following described parcel: Commence at a concrete monument located at the Northwest corner of the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 10, Township 7 South, Range 21 East and run South 00 degrees, 07 minutes and 19 seconds East, along the Westerly boundary thereof, 157.72 feet to the Southerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225 (formerly State Road S-225); thence South 77 degrees, 14 minutes and 19 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary, 405.77 feet to the centerline of an existing road for the Point of Beginning (said road being 60 feet in width and lying 30 feet on each side of a centerline described as follows). From Point of Beginning thus described run South 00 degrees, 07 minutes and 19 seconds East, parallel with the Westerly boundary of said NE1/4 of NE1/4, a distance of 378.18 feet; thence South 15 degrees, 15 minutes and 41 seconds West, 374.65 feet; thence South 20 degrees, 44 minutes and 49 seconds East, 333.96 feet to the end of said 60 foot road and the beginning of a road 20 feet in width and lying 10 feet on each side of said centerline; thence continue South 20 degrees, 44 minutes and 49 seconds East, along said centerline, 30.88 feet; thence South 21 degrees, 12 minutes and 57 seconds East, 438.28 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 21 degrees, 22 minutes and 11 seconds East, 330.29 feet to an intersection with the centerline of a road 30 feet in width and lying 15 feet on each side of the following described centerline; thence South 42 degrees, 52 minutes and 49 seconds West, 274.13 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 17 degrees, 50 minutes and 25 seconds East, 418.91 feet to a set iron rod (last said iron rod being 15.00 feet Northerly of the Southerly boundary of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of said Section 10 when measured at right angles therefrom); thence South 89 degrees, 53 minutes and 43 seconds East, parallel with last said Southerly boundary, 686.05 feet to an iron rod set on the Easterly boundary of said SE1/4 and NE1/4 and the end of said centerline (last said iron rod being located 15.00 feet Northerly of the Southeast corner of said SE1/4 and NE1/4).

7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**  
Notice is hereby given that FIG 20, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 398  
Year of Issuance: 2022  
Parcel Number: 01744-0-00102  
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-009  
Description of Property:  
TDA NUMBER: 600TDA  
PARCEL NUMBER: R 01744-0-00102  
Legal Description:  
West 1/2 of East 1/2 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, Section 26, Township 5 South, Range 22 East. Reserving unto the general public an easement for ingress and egress over and above the Easterly 15 feet of the above described property.  
Name in Which Assessed: KELLY H TUCKER; QUEEN ESTHER HUCKER

Name on last tax roll, if different: KELLY TUCKER (DEC) & QUEEN TUCKER (DEC) %MARGARET COOPER  
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/09/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida  
BY: Kanetra Jenkins KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: July 19, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 25, 2024; AUGUST 1, 2024; AUGUST 8, 2024; AUGUST 15, 2024  
7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on Aug. 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.  
2017 KIA Vin# KNDPM3AC4H7142738  
7/25 2tchg 8/1-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.**

V 24-07 an application by Mark Wilson to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.5 "A" Agricultural, 4.5.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 25' to a requested 5' along the Westerly line of the property being described as follows;  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

DATED: July 19, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 25, 2024; AUGUST 1, 2024; AUGUST 8, 2024; AUGUST 15, 2024  
7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 744  
Year of Issuance: 2022  
Parcel Number: 03611-0-00100  
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-10  
Description of Property:  
TDA NUMBER: 604TDA  
PARCEL NUMBER: R 03611-0-00100  
Legal Description Lots 3 and 4, Block 11, TEMPLE'S ADDITION to the TOWN OF STARKE, Florida, according to plat thereof recorded in Plat Book G, Page 304, of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.  
Name in Which Assessed: TNT 314, LLC  
Name on last tax roll, if different:  
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/09/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida  
BY: Kanetra Jenkins KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: July 19, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 25, 2024; AUGUST 1, 2024; AUGUST 8, 2024; AUGUST 15, 2024  
7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.**

V 24-06 an application by Justin Padgett & Kelsie Ponder to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.5 "A" Agricultural, 4.5.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 25' to a requested 14' along the Northerly line of the property being described as follows;  
p/o the N1/2 of Section 11, Tt. 5 S., Rg. 22 E., lying North of NW 251<sup>st</sup>, Street, Lawtey, Fla. and being Bradford County Parcel Number 01131-0-00302.  
The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. All interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal.  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

Notice is hereby given that FIG 20, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 398  
Year of Issuance: 2022  
Parcel Number: 01744-0-00102  
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-009  
Description of Property:  
TDA NUMBER: 600TDA  
PARCEL NUMBER: R 01744-0-00102  
Legal Description:  
West 1/2 of East 1/2 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, Section 26, Township 5 South, Range 22 East. Reserving unto the general public an easement for ingress and egress over and above the Easterly 15 feet of the above described property.  
Name in Which Assessed: KELLY H TUCKER; QUEEN ESTHER HUCKER

Name on last tax roll, if different: KELLY TUCKER (DEC) & QUEEN TUCKER (DEC) %MARGARET COOPER  
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/09/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida  
BY: Kanetra Jenkins KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: July 19, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 25, 2024; AUGUST 1, 2024; AUGUST 8, 2024; AUGUST 15, 2024  
7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.**

V 24-07 an application by Mark Wilson to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.5 "A" Agricultural, 4.5.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 25' to a requested 5' along the Westerly line of the property being described as follows;  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.**

V 24-07 an application by Mark Wilson to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.5 "A" Agricultural, 4.5.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 25' to a requested 5' along the Westerly line of the property being described as follows;  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.

V 24-05 an application by Dave & Maria Kemp to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.7 "RE" Residential Estate Section 4.7.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 30' to a requested 10' along the Easterly line of the property being described as follows;  
Lot 28, Block A, Cypress Beach S/D, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 79 of the public records of Bradford County, Fla. and being Bradford County Parcel Number 06060-A-02800.  
The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. All interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal.  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME**  
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: RITA CARTER, 21018 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Lane, Lawtey, FL 32058, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: LARRY CARTER LLC, 21018 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Lane, Lawtey, FL 32058 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 15th day of July A.D., 2024, in BRADFORD County.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.**

V 24-06 an application by Justin Padgett & Kelsie Ponder to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.5 "A" Agricultural, 4.5.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 25' to a requested 14' along the Northerly line of the property being described as follows;  
p/o the N1/2 of Section 11, Tt. 5 S., Rg. 22 E., lying North of NW 251<sup>st</sup>, Street, Lawtey, Fla. and being Bradford County Parcel Number 01131-0-00302.  
The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. All interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal.  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**  
BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the amendments, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at public hearings on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

(1) S240502A, an application by Peter Scerbo, as agent for Timber Ranch FL, LLC, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the land use classification from AGRICULTURE-2 (less than or equal to dwelling 1 unit per 5 acre, except as provided for in Policy 1.2.2) to COMMERCIAL on property described, as follows:  
A parcel of land lying in Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southwest corner of said Section 12; thence North 88°20'29" East 63.18 feet, along the South line of said Section 12 to the Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200); thence North 01°54'57" West 296.75 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200) to the Point of Curvature of a curve to the right, and to the Point of Beginning; thence Northerly, continuing along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200), a distance of 1,043.68 feet as measured, along the arc of a curve concave Easterly and having a radius of 5674.58 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of North 03°21'12" East and a distance of 1,042.21 feet, to the Southerly right-of-way line of Northeast 247th Street; thence North 88°35'24" East 127.26 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said NE 247th Street; thence South 20°39'30" East 1,298.32 feet; thence North 75°09'18" West 668.54 feet to the Point of Beginning.  
Containing 10.01 acres, more or less.  
(2) S240502B, an application by Peter Scerbo, as agent for Timber Ranch FL, LLC, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the land use classification from AGRICULTURE-2 (less than or equal to dwelling 1 unit per 5 acre, except as provided for in Policy 1.2.2) to COMMERCIAL on property described, as follows:  
A parcel of land lying in Sections 12 and 13, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southwest corner of said Section 12; thence North 88°20'29" East 63.18 feet, along the South line of said Section 12 to the Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200) and the Point of Beginning; thence North 01°54'57" West 296.75 feet,

along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200); thence South 75°09'18" East 668.54 feet; thence South 44°48'49" East 607.57 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of CSX Transportation, Inc. Railroad right-of-way; thence South 88°21'17" West 1,053.72 feet to the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200); thence North 01°54'57" West 336.16 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200) to the Point of Beginning.  
Containing 10.01 acres, more or less.  
At the aforementioned public hearings, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the amendments.  
Copies of the amendments are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME**  
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: RITA CARTER, 21018 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Lane, Lawtey, FL 32058, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: LARRY CARTER LLC, 21018 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Lane, Lawtey, FL 32058 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 15th day of July A.D., 2024, in BRADFORD County.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.**

V 24-07 an application by Mark Wilson to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.5 "A" Agricultural, 4.5.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 25' to a requested 5' along the Westerly line of the property being described as follows;  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
7/25 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.**

V 24-07 an application by Mark Wilson to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.5 "A" Agricultural, 4.5.7 Minimum Yard setbacks from a required 25' to a requested 5' along the Westerly line of the property being described as follows;  
Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of July 25, 2024

## BRADFORD

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that FIG 20, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
 Certificate Number: 818  
 Year of Issuance: 2022  
 Parcel Number: 04470-0-0000  
 Case Number: 04-2024-TD-07  
 Description of Property:  
 Legal Description: 04470-0-0000  
**COMMENCE AT NE CORNER OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 & Run S 964 Feet For a POB, Run W 299 Feet, S 167 Feet, E 299 Feet, N 128 Feet To POB. SEC 34, T-6S, R-22-E. (Being that same real property described in Official Record Book 66, Page 385 et seq. of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.)**  
 Name in Which Assessed: THOMAS SHANE GRIFFIS  
 Name on last tax roll, if different:  
 All said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL, on the 09/18/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
 Denny Thompson,  
 Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
 Bradford County, Florida  
 BY: Kyrah Smith  
 KYRAH SMITH, Deputy Clerk  
 Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
 DATED: July 19, 2024  
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: July 25, 2024 August 1, 2024, August 8, 2024, August 15, 2024

7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the amendments, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at public hearings on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.**  
 (1) Z 24-04, an application by Peter Scerbo, as agent for Timber Ranch FL, LLC, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district from AGRICULTURAL-2 (A-2) to COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) on property described, as follows:  
 A parcel of land lying in Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Southwest corner of said Section 12; thence North 88°20'29" East 63.18 feet, along the South line of said Section 12 to the Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200); thence North 01°54'57" West 296.75 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200) to the Point of Curvature of a curve to the right, and to the Point of Beginning; thence Northerly, continuing along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200), a distance of 1,043.68 feet as measured, along the arc of a curve concave Easterly and having a radius of 5674.58 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord having a bearing of North 03°21'12" East and a distance of 1,042.21 feet, to the Southerly right-of-way line of Northeast 247th Street; thence North 88°35'24" East 127.26 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said NE 247th Street; thence South 20°39'30" East 1,298.32 feet; thence North 75°09'18" West 668.54 feet to the Point of Beginning.  
 Containing 10.01 acres, more or less.  
 (2) Z 24-05, an application by Peter Scerbo, as agent for Timber Ranch FL, LLC, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district from AGRICULTURAL-2 (A-2) and INDUSTRIAL (I) to COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) on property described, as follows:  
 A parcel of land lying in Sections 12 and 13, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows:  
 Commence at the Southwest corner of said Section 12; thence North 88°20'29" East 63.18 feet, along the South line of said Section 12 to the Easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200) and the Point of Beginning; thence North 01°54'57" West 296.75 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200); thence South 75°09'18" East 668.54 feet; thence South 44°48'49" East 607.57 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of CSX Transportation, Inc. Railroad right-of-way; thence South 88°21'17" West 1,053.72 feet to the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200); thence North 01°54'57" West 336.16 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200) to the Point of Beginning.  
 Containing 10.01 acres, more or less.  
 At the aforementioned public hearings, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the amendments.  
 Copies of the amendments are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
 All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearings they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

7/25 1tchg-BCT

At the above referenced public hearings, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the amendments.  
 Copies of the amendments are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.  
 All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearings they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

**NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinances, which titles hereinafter**

appear, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at public hearings on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, in the in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Copies of the ordinances may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Courthouse North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinances. The title of said ordinances read, as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF MORE THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 24-04, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-2) TO COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF MORE THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 24-05, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT FROM AGRICULTURAL (A-2) AND INDUSTRIAL (I) TO COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearings they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

7/25 1tchg-BCT

## UNION

**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

# 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



# Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



### Class Ads 07/25/24

### 40 Notices

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

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

### 47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

**TURN KEY BEAUTY SALON.** Located at 144 W. Call Street, next to Walgreens. \$700/mo. 1st, last & security. Call 904-964-6305.

### 50 For Rent

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

**NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW Lake Butler.** No pets. 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

**3BR/2BA \$1200/mo. & 2BR/2BA \$1000/mo., in Raiford. Lawn care included. No smokers, no pets. 1st/last & security deposit required. Leave message or send text if no answer. 904-662-3735.**

**1BR UPSTAIRS apt for rent. \$900/mo., first, last & security. Call Marty Shaw 904-964-9222.**

**AVAILABLE SOON; Keystone 3BR/2BA**

on 1 acre, also near Starke 1BR/1BA with FPL utilities. Call/text for info 904-613-5715.

**3BR/2BA DWMH.** CH/A, fireplace, garden tub, walk-in closet. Private property in Lawtey. First, last & dep. \$1500/mo. Call Tammy 386-675-9996.

### 65 Help Wanted

**WRITER POSITION OPEN-** News & event coverage in Bradford, Union & Keystone Heights. Writing experience necessary, must have good transportation. Assignments are all office based and often require night meeting and activities. Not a part-time gig. Call for appt. at 904-964-6305 or send resume to P.O. Drawer A, Starke, FL. 32091.

TEMPORARY FULL-

**TIME CUSTODIAN :** The Bradford County Maintenance Department-Custodial is currently accepting applications for a temporary full-time custodial worker. The pay rate is \$15.00 per hour, 40 hours per week and Monday to Friday. Deadline for accepting applications is Thursday, July 19, 2024. Applications along with a detailed job description may be obtained from the

**HERITAGE VILLAS**  
 Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts  
 607 Bradford Court  
 Starke, FL 32091  
 904-964-6216  
 TDD 771  
 This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

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

Applications call 352-281-0260 between 10am-6pm.

**MAINTENANCE** Supervisor Position. The City of Lawtey is taking applications for a Maintenance Supervisor. Applicants must be able to pass and

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

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Southern Villas of Starke**  
 Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.  
 Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL  
 Call 904-964-7295  
 TDD/TTY 711  
 "Equal Housing Opportunity"

maintain a non-DOC supervisor class, drug test and background check, to get inmate labor. Application and full job description can be picked up at Lawtey City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawtey, FL. 32058, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Applications are due by

Friday August 9, 2024, by 4 p.m. City of Lawtey is an Equal Opportunity employer and a drug free workplace.

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

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Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay

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

904-964-6305  
 classads@bctelegraph.com

WE ACCEPT

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## FERGUSON

Continued from page 10

said Neil Tucker, a former Starke commissioner and city clerk. "If he didn't understand what you were talking about, he'd come and get the facts. I always had a great respect for that."

Tom Casey, a former

superintendent of schools, said, "I always found him as an intelligent, capable person. He gave me more publicity than I wanted sometimes...but at the same time, I think he was fair in his appraisal of things."

Shields said Ferguson worked hard to convey to readers what was happening in their community.

"When Bob and I first worked together in the '70s, I was impressed by his persistence and determination to learn the truth and print it," Shields said. "He cared about the community and wanted people to understand what was going on in the community so they could make decisions."

Peggy O'Neal, who worked at

the Telegraph in the 1970s, also spoke of how much Ferguson cared about his community.

"Even when he had to cover bad news, he always tried to put it in the fairest light possible and to be as fair to everyone concerned as he could be," O'Neal said.

Ferguson won numerous awards for his journalism, including the 1987 Media Award from Florida School Board's Association for Excellence in Educational Reporting.

He also served on the board of directors for the Florida Press Association.

Though serious about his

work, Ferguson was "pretty easygoing" as a person, O'Neal said.

Shields said Ferguson would always take the time to visit with others before getting down to work.

"He enjoyed working late at night after the streets were quiet," Shields said. "Most of the time that was because he had stopped writing during the day to listen to someone's problem or have a cup of coffee with a friend. He usually wanted to eat breakfast at midnight to energize himself to finish a story."

Shields said he and Ferguson

talked together about many things, but the one constant topic was Ferguson's family: Mary Agnes and children Julie, Aimee, Jonathan and Jacob.

"We'd talk about the latest political scandal, high school football and the national news," Shields said, "but the evening wouldn't pass without an update on the kids. He was very proud of each of his children and the things they were doing. He obviously loved his wife and kids and wanted to maintain a community atmosphere for them."



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**Kim Bailey**  
Director

Hi, my name is Kim Bailey. I am the vice principal of Rainbow Learning Academy. I have been the owner and director of Little Rainbows Learning Center for 22 years. I graduated from Santa Fe College with a degree in Early Childhood. I am excited to where God is going to lead me and this school in the coming years.

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**Chloe Bailey**  
Principal & Kindergarten Teacher

Hi, my name is Chloe Bailey. I am the principal and kindergarten teacher for Rainbow Learning Academy. I am so excited about this upcoming school year and the plans God has in store for us! I am a graduate from the University of Florida and former UF and Penn State cheerleader. This will be my third year teaching. I love interacting with the kids and helping them explore all the gifts God has given us.

**Tiffany Miller**  
1st Grade Teacher

Hello, my name is Tiffany Miller. I am a passionate teacher, wife, and loving Momma to three wonderful boys and two bonus daughters! I'm a graduate of Saint Leo University, entering my 11th year of teaching. Molding young minds and opening their eyes to the amazing world God created for us is a calling I take very seriously! I am already praying for the eager minds that will come into my first grade classroom and know God has big things in store as we embark on this journey together!