

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, July 27, 2023

144th year, 48th Issue — \$1

## Shots fired in Lawtey road rage incident

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — Bradford deputies arrested a 33-year-old Lake City man after a driver from South Carolina claimed the defendant shot at him from his vehicle.

Christopher Mark Nicklas was arrested for improperly exhibiting a firearm, discharging a firearm from a vehicle, aggravated assault, DUI and refusal to submit to a DUI test after a license suspension.

Deputy Lakiesha Lewis wrote in an arrest report that she met Lawtey Police Major Nathan R. Blom at the town's Shell gasoline station about an alleged assault.

"During the conversation, Ofc. Blom directed a subject who was in a gold truck to stay in his vehicle and advised me that the subject was the aggressor in the road rage incident that involved a firearm," wrote Lewis.



Nicklas

"I then ordered the subject, who was later identified as Christopher Nicklas,

to step out of the vehicle and get on the ground."

Lewis added that she saw two shell casings on the driver's seat when she reached the defendant's truck.

"According to Nicklas, the shell casings were on the seat because he fired his weapon last night while sitting in his vehicle at some deer on his property," the deputy wrote.

Lewis added that Nicklas smelled of alcohol.

"He also had bloodshot, glassy eyes. He was slow to speak and in and out of being coherent," Lewis wrote. "I asked him several times if he had been drinking or doing drugs. He continued to state no, even after an empty alcohol bottle was found on the driver's side of the vehicle."

Lewis reported that she then interviewed the victim, who told her the incident started in Clay County, near U.S. 301's intersection with Clay County Road 218.

"Nicklas started to drive aggressively by cutting in front of him, trying to turn into him, and changing his speed from fast to slow," Lewis wrote. "(The victim) admitted he was driving fast to try to get away from Nicklas due to his aggressive driving but not before Nicklas pulled out a black in color handgun and pointed at him."

The victim added that while viewing Nicklas in his rear-view mirror, he saw the weapon pointed in his direction and heard gunshots.

"He then floored his vehicle to try to get away," Lewis wrote. "As (the victim) was giving his statement, he was visibly shaken up and terrified, and verbally told me he was simply scared for his life."

The deputy recovered a black Taurus handgun, two 9mm shell casings, empty magazines, a pipe and an empty bottle of alcohol from the defendant's truck.

## Solar generation project coming to Bradford

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — County commissioners heard the first reading of an ordinance to add solar facilities as an accepted use on agriculturally classified land on July 20.

The move to amend the comprehensive plan comes as the Florida Municipal Power Agency has announced a major solar electric project spanning multiple counties, including Bradford.

Starke is part owner of FMPA along with dozens of other municipalities and will utilize power from the solar project. Bradford County will benefit from the tax revenue. Customers benefit when solar is added to the mix of electricity sources because they are not subsidizing the utility's cost for



A solar energy center commissioned by FPL in Putnam County is one of two in the area now complete. The other is in Clay County. The power company added 16 solar sites this year, bringing its total to 66. FMPA recently announced a solar project of its own, which includes a plan for Bradford County.

coal or natural gas.

This Florida Municipal Solar Project is one of the largest municipal-backed solar projects in the nation, according to FMPA. The project expansion will quadruple the amount of solar power currently generated by the project.

FMPA solar farms in Orange and Osceola counties generate nearly 150 megawatts of solar power — enough to power approximately 30,000 Florida homes, according to the agency.

FMPA and its municipal owners will be partnering with Origis Energy for the two-phase expansion. The first will see two more solar farms constructed — Rice Creek Solar in Putnam County and Whistling Duck Solar in Levy County. Rice Creek Solar should be complete the end of

See SOLAR, page 3

## ENGLAND BOUND

Four local young women will represent Team USA in Liverpool, England, the first week of August. The girls, along with their Allstars Twirling Academy, qualified last July to represent the USA in a world baton competition. They are excited to have this experience and would like to thank all the businesses, friends and their families for supporting them in this once in a lifetime opportunity.



Julie Casey is the daughter of Lee and Karen Casey of Starke. She is a fourth year sociology major at the University of Florida and is a fourth year member of the UF Gatorettes. She has been twirling with the Allstars Twirling Academy for 17 years.



Laura Park is the daughter of Tim and Lori Park of Lake Butler. She is a junior at the University of Florida studying Agricultural Communications. Laura is entering her second year as a UF Gatorette. She has been twirling with the Allstars Twirling Academy for 15 years.



Lyndee Griffis is the daughter of Darrell and Elizabeth Griffis of Lake Butler. Lyndee is a senior at Union County High School. Lyndee plans to attend the University of Florida after graduation. She has been twirling with the Allstars Twirling Academy for 7 years.



Karly Shatto is the daughter of Tim and Kim Shatto of Lake Butler. Karly is an incoming freshman at Florida Gateway College and will be pursuing a degree in business administration. Karly will be twirling with the Gatorettes this fall. She has been twirling with Allstars Twirling Academy for 12 years.



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# WORTH NOTING

## Backpack giveaway at BHS

Partnership for Strong Families will present a Back-to-School Giveaway at the Bradford High School bus loop on Saturday, July 29. This drive-thru event will begin at 9 a.m. and last until supplies run out.

The giveaway will include free backpacks, school supplies and information from community service agencies, including Bradford School District, Bradford Community Coalition, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and many more.

## Food pantry and health fair in Hampton

Community health and wellness organizations are joining with the city of Hampton to promote a food giveaway and health fair at Bobby Sheppard Memorial Park, 10238 Prospect Ave. in Hampton. The event will take place Saturday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to noon.

A mobile food pantry will be on site along with organizations offering giveaways, free health screenings and information about community resources. This is a walk-up event.

Partners include Feeding Northeast Florida, Bradford Food Pantry, Bradford Health Department, UF Health, Meridian, Elder Options, Suwannee River AHEC, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Center for Independent Living and Fantastic Fire Brigade.

For more information, please contact Mary Lou Hildreth at 352-468-1201 or Iana Patterson at 904-964-7732, ext. 1600.

## Union County Backpack Bash

Union County organizations are currently prepping for a back-to-school backpack giveaway on Saturday, July 29, at the Lake Butler Hospital. The event will provide community outreach to children to promote effective academic performance.

The first 600 kids accompanied by an adult will receive a backpack full of school supplies. The event is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 850 E. Main St. A cookout lunch, sno-cones and popcorn will be served. Sponsors for the event include LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, Lake Butler Rotary, Lake Butler Hospital, Lake Butler Women's Club and West Fraser.

There will also be a blood drive at the event to increase blood donations for the summer. For additional information, please contact Laura Bialeck at 352-359-0988 or lgbialeck@lifesouth.org.



# Commission proposes 10-mill property tax rate for 2023-24

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Seeing no other option, Bradford County commissioners have once again set the proposed property tax rate at 10 mills.

Alternative revenue sources such as franchise fees or special assessments have not been approved.

Property value assessments increased more than \$121 million to nearly \$1.3 billion. A 10-mill tax levy will generate \$12.9 million for the commission in Fiscal Year 2023-24, which is

\$1.2 million more than this year. That's a more than 10% increase in property tax revenue.

"We're still in a position where, unfortunately, we can't roll back the millage rate," Commissioner Chris Dougherty said. "We could, but without any other revenue sources coming in to the county, it's just going to put us further in the hole."

Dougherty said they will be stuck until the commission decides on additional revenue sources such as a fire assessment, impact fees or electric franchise fees.

"This is burden," Commission Chair Diane Andrews said. "I hate for this, but with franchise fees not being approved and the amounts we have to cover, right now there's just no way we can do it."

The 10-mill tax rate is what will appear on the TRIM notices mailed by the property appraiser in August. At the commission's first budget hearing on Sept. 5, it will set a tentative millage rate, which could be lower than 10 mills. That will depend on the tentative budget presented at that hearing.

At the commission's Aug. 1 meeting, Finance Director Dana LaFollette is expected to present an unbalanced budget to the board with options for how the board can arrive at a balanced budget.

LaFollette delivered a quarterly financial update for the board, looking at the fund balances for the general fund, the fire rescue department and the road department. Each department's fund balance was used to balance this year's budget with any unused funds set aside as in a reserve for contingency. Any unexpected costs could be covered from these

contingency funds with board approval. But once money from the fund balance is used, it is gone unless replenished.

Using those fund balances reduced the amount of money that needed to be transferred from the general fund to other departments. Revenue from the one-cent sales tax and fiscally constrained funds has also been directed to the general fund for this year only.

With those transfers and other revenue exceeding expenditures, the general fund had grown from \$8.56 million to \$13.7 million as of the end of the third quarter. If

that continues, The fund balance could grow to more than \$15 million by the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

Both fire rescue and the road department have used a portion of their fund balance to cover expenses that exceeded revenues. For fire rescue, the fund balance has dropped from \$1.22 million to just under \$777,000. The road department fund balance was \$1.62 million at the end of June, but that was down from nearly \$1.96 million at the beginning of the budget cycle.

# Both sides on mining asked to seek compromise

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — County commissioners hope both sides of the debate over amending the rules for mining will negotiate changes they can all live with.

So the second workshop held on July 20 wouldn't mirror the first, the rules for participation were laid out at the beginning. Zoning Director Randy Andrews made it clear that the workshop should focus on proposed changes to the comprehensive plan and not "past grievances or perceived violations."

Commenters still expressed suspicion about Chemours involvement while advocating for environmental protections and

industries based on Bradford's natural beauty. Chemours questioned requirements in comp plan amendments that could prohibit mining altogether in the county.

By the end, it was agreed representatives from both sides would meet with the board chairman and zoning director to agree upon language that would be brought back to the board for a vote.

Speakers were limited to three minutes, which wasn't long enough for most.

Having only received a copy of the proposed changes to the plan only two days before the workshop, Citizen Carol Mosley asked commissioners to consider their vision for Bradford

County, drawing a line between job creating industries that are "problematic" and those that are "benign" if properly managed.

"All industries need regulations," she said. "What we are designing here not only guides us; it drives us in a direction. We are architects of the future."

Mosley specifically compared mining and ecotourism, which includes camping, fishing, hunting, paddling, cycling, hiking, etc. When you compare the number of jobs created and economic impact, the difference justifies focusing on ecotourism, she said.

"If we are to weigh the requests of a particular industry to design our comprehensive plan in a way that accommodates their bottom line, then we need a clear evaluation of just how valuable that industry is to our bottom line in the county overall. How much income do we receive from the mining industry as opposed to possibilities if we focus on other industries?" she asked.

Joanne Tremblay also talked about the county's best interests versus those of Chemours.

"I'm here to say that when a mining company offers to rewrite the land protections offered by

the county, it is serving their stakeholders, not the individuals in this county, which you are sworn to protect," she said.

Beth Moore, the attorney who has been representing Chemours, denied the company was trying to control the process, but only provide input the same as any other citizen.

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council provided the same amendments that were adopted in Union County, but Moore questioned who was involved in that process and if it included the industry being regulated. Chemours is trying to provide that input now, she said.

Without going into all of Chemours ideas, Moore said better distinctions were needed for very different activities such as mining and excavation/filling. Without the distinction among these activities, it is difficult to know which rules apply.

Chemours Environmental Manager Connie Henderson said there are many types of mining, and while Chemours can meet the requirement to fill excavated land, others cannot. Having that rule in place would prevent some mining industries from working in Bradford County. It would

also require excavating dirt from one or more borrow pits to fill the mined area, leaving multiple holes behind.

Moore also said it sounds fine to prohibit mining in wetlands and surface waters, but it's not as simple as mining somewhere else. You mine where the resource is, she said.

"Sometimes you might have to impact wetlands or build a road through a wetland to access a resource. So, unfortunately, there might be a wetland impact, but it's no different from any other type of commercial activity or development that's allowed to impact wetlands. There is a robust regulatory system that's in place to handle those kinds of wetlands impacts," she said.

"We're not here to mine every wetland," Henderson said, "but to indicate that there are no wetland impacts, again, pretty much will prohibit any mining."

Henderson called for "realistic protections" for wetlands and mining operations.

Commissioner Danny Riddick defended the changes submitted by the planning council, saying it was the result of two and a half years of work when prepared for Union County.

"If the planning council that

we support — we pay them to provide us with all these regulations and help us — spent two and a half years working on it and have that many documents supporting it, and our neighboring Union County has already adopted it, it just makes sense to me that we adopt the exact same thing to protect our county and our neighboring county, too," he said.

Commission Chair Diane Andrews said they might do to that, but she doesn't want to "rubber stamp" the amendments. She wanted the board to take a closer and see if any changes are needed.

"It's not about being against them, it's not about being for them. It's about what I feel our job is to do, and that's make sure to look out for Bradford County," Andrews said.

If the amendments clear first reading, it will be sent to the state for review before returning to the commission for a final vote. Then the commission will begin the process of amending the land development regulations to further define the expectations of anyone seeing a mining permit in Bradford County.

**Florida Twin Theatre** Visit us online at [www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com](http://www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com)

**904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!**

<p><b>Wednesday Kid Show:</b> Sonic The Hedgehog 2 - 10:00AM &amp; 1:00PM (Downstairs)</p> <p><b>Wednesday:</b> Barbie - 7:00 (Downstairs) Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning - 6:45 (Upstairs)</p> <p><b>Thursday Kid Show:</b> Sonic The Hedgehog 2 - 10:00AM &amp; 1:00PM (Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>Thursday:</b> Barbie - 7:00 (Downstairs) Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning - 6:45 (Upstairs)</p> <p><b>Friday:</b> Sound of Freedom - 4:15 &amp; 7:15 (Downstairs) Barbie - 4:00 &amp; 7:00 (Upstairs)</p>	<p><b>Saturday:</b> Sound of Freedom - 1:00, 4:15 &amp; 7:15 (Downstairs) Barbie - 1:00, 4:00, &amp; 7:00 (Upstairs)</p> <p><b>Sunday:</b> Sound of Freedom - 4:15 &amp; 7:15 (Downstairs) Barbie - 4:00 &amp; 7:00 (Upstairs)</p>
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**Kid Show Tix only \$5 & include a Small Popcorn & Drink**

## 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 .....	\$ 7,313,165.00
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes	\$ (369,083.00)
C. Actual property tax levy.....	7,682,248.00
<b>This year's proposed tax levy.....</b>	<b>\$ 8,010,659.00</b>

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law in order for the school board to receive \$19,920,569 in state education grants.

The required portion has increased by 1.17 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 to be held on July 31, 2023 at 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.

This tax is in addition to the school boards proposed tax of 3.9340 mill 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 AN ADJACENT NOTICE.

The capital outlay tax will generate approximately \$2,122,811 to be used for the following projects:

#### CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

Site work for new elementary school  
One (1) new elementary school

#### MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION AND REPAIR

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 Painting  
Countywide Paving  
Countywide Plumbing  
Countywide Rewiring  
Countywide Roofing  
Countywide Tree Removal  
Countywide Remodeling  
Countywide Fire Alarms  
Countywide Flooring  
Countywide Drainage  
Starke Elementary Maintenance & Mold Prevention

#### MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES

Purchase of 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

Starke Elementary Mold Treatment  
Removal of Hazardous Waste/Remediation - Various School and District Sites  
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 COSTS OF OPENING DAY COLLECTION FOR LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Opening of one New Elementary School

#### 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 OR LEASE OF PERMANENT OR RELOCATABLE 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 FOR GAINING ACCESS TO OR ENHANCING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT AND RESOURCES, AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCE SOFTWARE  
PAYMENTS OF COSTS OF OPENING DAY COLLECTION FOR LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to be held on July 31, 2023, at 5:01 p.m. 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.

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH • UNION COUNTY TIMES • LAKE REGION MONITOR

## Local News is Good for Business

Dean Ridings  
CEO, America's Newspapers

It's no secret that recent years have been tough on small businesses and on newspapers. A bipartisan bill, the Community News & Small Business Support Act, that has been introduced in Congress would offer relief to both newspapers and local businesses. For too many newspapers, help can't come soon enough. Economic challenges have resulted in too many communities seeing their local newspapers being forced to lay off staff, cut back on publication days or – worse yet – close. On average, two newspapers are closing each week. That hurts local businesses and residents in the long (and short) run. However, despite the challenges, what remains true is that local newspapers make a difference in their communities.

A recent national study of 5,000 Americans over the age of 18 was conducted by the independent research firm Coda Ventures for America's Newspapers, and provides compelling evidence of the importance, relevance and vitality of today's newspapers in the American media landscape.

Readers told us that their local newspaper makes a difference. The study shows that 79 percent of Americans read/use local news "to stay informed" about their cities, counties and communities. They also said they rely on their local paper to feel connected to their community, to decide where they stand on local issues, to find places and things to do, to talk with people about things happening in the community, because they find it enjoyable/entertaining and to be a better citizen.

And, contrary to popular belief, readers across all age groups turn to local newspapers and their digital products to stay informed about their communities.

All of that takes a committed, local staff – something the legislation introduced by Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-24) and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-1) will help to make happen.

So, what would this legislation mean to your local community?

Local businesses with fewer than 50 employees

would receive a five-year non-refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 in the first year and up to \$2,500 in the subsequent four years based on their spending level with local newspapers and local media. Our study showed that six out of 10 American adults use newspaper advertising to help them decide what brands, products and local services to buy. Newspaper readers also are almost twice as likely to purchase products from a number of important advertising categories than non-newspaper readers, including: automobiles, trucks and SUVs; home furnishings; home improvement products and services; and home services like pest control, plumbing, heating, etc.

With this legislation, we expect to see more businesses being able to afford to advertise to consumers, which – in turn – helps communities thrive.

For local newspapers, a five-year refundable tax credit would help them hire more journalists to bring you more news! It's a win-win for local communities. Newspapers would receive a tax credit to be used for the compensation of journalists. The credit would cover 50% of journalists' compensation in the first year and 30% of compensation (up to \$50,000) in the subsequent four years. This tax credit would only be available to local community papers with fewer than 750 employees and, if they don't invest in their newsroom, they don't get the credit.

And these tax credits are only available to local newspapers. National newspaper outlets are not eligible.

We need your support, as well, to encourage legislators to enact this legislation. Please contact the offices of your senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress and encourage them to add their support to this legislation. These tax credits aren't permanent; they will sunset in five years. But, these critical five years will allow the newspaper industry the time needed to address the challenges that it is facing from Big Tech, which often uses newspapers' content without compensation, as well as other technological and market challenges. Visit [www.usa.gov/elected-officials](http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials) for the contact information for your legislators.

More local reporting means more access for hometown news that citizens like you rely on. And stronger newspapers mean stronger advertising vehicles for local businesses.

## Schools plan open houses to welcome families

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Bradford public schools reopen Thursday, Aug. 10, and open houses are planned to get to know the schools and teachers.

Bradford Elementary School will hold an open house Tuesday, Aug. 8, from 4-5:30 p.m. This will be held at the Stansbury Street campus (formerly Southside Elementary), with a second open house before the

new campus opens later in the fall. Food vendors will include Limp Brizkit, Kona Ice and Heifer Stews.

Starke Elementary School and Lawtey Elementary School will have open houses going on at the same time. Look for information booths from local groups and agencies as well as refreshments such as popcorn and snow cones.

Bradford Middle School has planned a back-to-school event on Friday, Aug. 4, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Delicious Country Cooking, Heifer Stews and Kona Ice will be selling food, and classrooms will be open to meet teachers. A question-and-answer session with the principal and assistant principal will begin at 7 p.m.

Bradford High School has a freshman orientation scheduled for Thursday, July 27. Students can be dropped off at the auditorium at 9 a.m. Pick-up is at 11 a.m., but there will also be a session for parents with questions. Free lunch will be provided to students.

The high school's open house on Monday, Aug. 7, will give students the opportunity to purchase new school merchandise and parking passes. Hours are from 4 to 6 p.m., and a schedule can be found on the Focus app. Food vendors include Heifer Stews, Limp Brizkit and Strickland's Scoop.

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## SOLAR Continued from page 1

this year. Whistling Duck Solar is projected for completion next year. Together, they will generate 150 megawatts of solar energy.

Bradford County is included in the following phase as well as Columbia and Levy counties. This will double the size of the project from four to eight solar farms generating 600 megawatts of solar power. Those additions will be completed in 2025 and 2026.

By the end of 2026, FMPA will have more than 1.8 million solar panels installed on eight farms.

"By partnering with our municipal electric utilities members and Origis Energy, we are able to take advantage of a great opportunity to increase the volume of our low-cost, reliable solar generation at a time when solar costs have been escalating," said Jacob Williams, general manager and CEO of FMPA. "Expanding the Florida Municipal Solar Project will also enable us to serve several new communities that haven't had access to solar before."

Bradford's Building and Zoning Office doesn't know where the project will be constructed but amending the comprehensive plan for the development of solar projects in agriculturally zoned areas if a

first step.

The announcement of the expanded solar project comes right after FMPA announced it will acquire three natural gas-fired combined cycle electric plants in Orlando and Bartow.

JEA, the state's largest municipal electric utility, announced it was joining FMPA

in May, making it the 33rd member.

"JEA is committed to providing energy that balances reliability, affordability and sustainability to serve our Northeast Florida customers," said JEA Managing Director & CEO Jay Stowe. "We look forward to working with FMPA to achieve those goals."

### The Bradford Rookie All Star Team received a donation from the members of the C.H. Hatchcock 38 Chapter, Alachua Florida.

The \$500 Donation check is to support and further them as they compete for the State Championship this weekend in Ft. Caroline.



Back row left to right: Milton Sumpter, Dr. James Jones, Coach Cletis Brown

Middle row: James Taylor, Maddox Hilliard, Chance Reed, Hayden Padelford, Kingston Donley, Michael Hanson

Front row: Cruz Eaves, Trey Waldon, Wynnlis Lansford, Rylan Noegel, Jaxson Strickland, Ashton Brown

## BUDGET SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY  
IS 13.5% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

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

REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	3.1860
BASIC DISCRETIONARY OPERATING	0.7480
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (CAPITAL OUTLAY)	1.5000
DISCRETIONARY CAPITAL OUTLAY	0.0000
<b>TOTAL MILLAGE</b>	<b>5.4340</b>

### BUDGET ALL FUNDS

ESTIMATED REVENUES	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL
FEDERAL SOURCES	345,000	13,269,330		13,614,330
STATE SOURCES	22,411,115		14,199,226	36,610,341
LOCAL SOURCES	6,352,423		2,122,810	8,475,233
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>29,108,538</b>	<b>13,269,330</b>	<b>16,322,036</b>	<b>58,699,904</b>
TRANSFERS IN	500,000	-	-	500,000
FUND/NET ASSET BALANCES	4,859,373	1,507,350	3,975,374	10,342,097
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS AND BALANCES/NET POSITION</b>	<b>34,467,911</b>	<b>14,776,680</b>	<b>20,297,410</b>	<b>69,542,001</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
INSTRUCTION	14,464,698	5,311,898		19,776,596
PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES	1,087,857	794,875		1,882,733
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA SERVICES	208,527	122,308		330,835
INSTRUCTIONAL & CURRICULUM	516,677	648,764		1,165,442
INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAINING	180,714	832,170		1,012,885
INSTRUCTIONAL RELATED TECHNOLOGY	48,507	561,183		609,690
BOARD OF EDUCATION	583,058			583,058
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	368,314	614,039		982,353
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	1,998,251	61,817		2,060,068
FACILITIES ACQ. AND CONSTRUCTION	15,536	425,963	14,938,726	15,380,225
FISCAL SERVICES	478,830			478,830
FOOD SERVICES	-	2,449,957		2,449,957
CENTRAL SERVICES	359,924	20,294		380,218
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	1,992,392	267,754	360,000	2,620,147
OPERATION OF PLANT	3,625,294	962,571		4,587,865
MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	837,172	30,808		867,981
ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	932,034	54,610		986,644
COMMUNITY SERVICES	417,104	110,316		527,420
DEBT SERVICE				-
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>28,114,891</b>	<b>13,269,330</b>	<b>15,298,726</b>	<b>56,682,946</b>
TRANSFERS OUT	-	-	500,000	500,000
FUND/NET ASSET BALANCES	6,353,020	1,507,350	4,498,684	12,359,054
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS AND FUND BALANCES NET POSITION</b>	<b>34,467,911</b>	<b>14,776,680</b>	<b>20,297,410</b>	<b>69,542,000</b>

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

# Lake Region

## Our Country Day attendance doubled

*KH council holds budget workshop*

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — City Manager Lynn Rutkowski said attendance at the city's Fourth of July Celebration doubled in 2023 over the previous year.

The city manager made the announcement during a Monday, July 24 budget workshop.

She added that the numbers came from data brokers who are soliciting the city's business. The brokers used pings from cell phones to count people at city hall and the surrounding area.

"From the time that they began set up for the (Freedom 5K) race through the time that the fireworks ended, and we were doing cleanup, we had 10,000 to 12,000 individual pings," she said. "(The brokers) collect that data through apps or whatever you download on your cell phone. That was in the downtown area, so that was a huge event."

Rutkowski added that similar data collection from last year's Our Country Day indicated around 6,000 pings in the downtown area.

In other news from the July 24 budget workshop:

### Heatwave generating calls to city hall

Rutkowski said around a dozen people have called city hall over the last week, saying their air conditioning has been overwhelmed by record heat.

"A lot of individuals who

are new to the area, a lot of our elderly, they're not sure who to call," Rutkowski said. "They're asking for numbers who can service their AC units."

The city manager added that two of the municipality's staff members had air conditioning that went out.

"It's a matter of just making sure our community's safe and then being able to say, okay, this is where you look for somebody who can service your AC unit. This is also where you can look if you need materials or supplies."

### Preliminary budget shows a deficit

Rutkowski told council members that the first draft of the 2023-2024 city budget forecasts a deficit of \$53,000.

The city manager added that the projected deficit is due to her using last year's revenue numbers because the state has not yet issued 2023-2024 revenue estimates.

"That number will fluctuate as we continue through the budget process," she told council members. "This is just a skeleton (budget) that you can use to see where we fall at the moment."

### Splash Park, museum, new city hall lead wish list

As part of the budget workshop, Mayor Nina Rodenroth asked council members about their budget priorities for the coming year.

Councilman Steve Hart said he would like the city to look into a splash park.

"When we were up in

Wisconsin, there's this splash park directly across the street from my daughter's and son-in-law's house, and that place was packed," he said. "Always with kids from like 9:00 in the morning to 8:00 at night. Parents were there, grandparents."

Hart added that such a park in Keystone Heights has community support, and he wants the council to prioritize the facility.

Hart also said the council should further develop stormwater drainage plans within the municipality.

Rutkowski told Hart that as part of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization's smart cities study for Keystone Heights, consultants will evaluate the city's stormwater and drainage.

"And then from that study," she said, "which should be conducted and completed by the summer of this year, we'll be able to look and see if there's... any other technical studies that we need to apply to get a good conceptual."

Council member Tony Brown told his colleagues that he would like to look into moving the municipality's tennis courts from behind city hall to Sunrise Park. He added that with already existing pickleball courts, a dog park, picnic tables, and open spaces, Sunrise Park could be enhanced as a recreational destination.

Brown also said the city's growth will require replacing city hall.

"I know it's not going to happen overnight," he said, "but we need to work on building a new city hall. We might as well do a two-story one and offer services for the sheriff's department to be in here (and other) county offices to

be in here."

Brown added that the new municipal building could house a museum and community center.

Brown also said the county library on Oriole Street is overdue for replacement.

Councilwoman Chris Thompson and Rodenroth said their priorities were to complete projects already undertaken by the city, such as the South Lawrence Boulevard streetscape project.

Rodenroth added that she wants the council to change its ordinances to allow the consumption of alcohol downtown.

"I know that there's a lot of controversy about that subject," the mayor said, "but I'd like to see something where people can go to a nice restaurant downtown (that offers) beer and wine."

Heritage Commission member Deirdre Murphy asked the council to increase the commission's budget from last year's \$4,000 to \$5,000. She also requested a one-time 2023-2024 appropriation of \$9,000 to establish a Keystone Heights museum.

Murphy said the commission hopes to purchase a 12 by 24-foot shed from a local dealer, then modify the structure with windows, doors, drywall, flooring, electrical, and air conditioning.

"The goal would be to have a small building surrounded maybe by a little white picket fence," she said of the proposed museum. "We want to keep the charm of Keystone. We don't want a two-story big structure that says we're Orange Park, or we are Middleburg, or we are Gainesville. We want to keep that charm."

## Melrose Fire Dept., Santa Fe College land \$15K grants

*Clay Electric Foundation awards \$106,500 in June*

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Clay Electric Foundation said it awarded \$106,500 in grants during June, with \$15,000 going to the Melrose Volunteer Fire Department, the Santa Fe College Foundation, the Early Learning Coalition of North Florida and Wheelchairs 4 Kids.

The foundation said the fire department will use the money for new engine airbags.

The college will use its grant to support Veterans Bridge Scholarships, which assist veterans transitioning from the military to college.

The Early Learning Coalition manages school readiness programs for preschoolers in Baker, Bradford, Clay, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties. Funds from the grant will be used to support the themed literacy program.

Wheelchairs 4 Kids provides wheelchairs, home and vehicle modifications, and other assistive equipment at no charge. Grant funds will support the Let's Roll program.

Other organizations receiving grants from the utility's foundation in June were:

Liz McGrath Circle, Inc. in Marion County: \$9,000. The Liz McGrath Circle is a volunteer group dedicated to helping the people and children of the rural

community of Hog Valley, within the Ocala National Forest. Grant funds will be applied to repairs to the group's thrift store building.

Veterans Helping Veterans, Inc.: \$10,000. Grant funds will support the mobile veteran outreach program.

Haisley Lynch American Legion Post 16 in Alachua County: \$5,000. Funds from the grant will support the Service Beyond Enlistment program.

Go Bags for Homeless Children in Columbia County: \$2,500. Go Bags for Homeless Children in Lake City is an all-volunteer organization that annually provides bags of basic personal items free of charge to homeless children. Grant funds will be used to supply the go bags.

Palatka Police Athletic League: \$10,500. Grant funds will support the league's summer camp program.

Palatka Band Alliance: \$7,000. The Palatka Band Alliance supports the arts education program at Palatka Junior-Senior High School. Funds from the grant will be applied to the purchase of instruments for the marching band.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Florida, Lake City Chapter: \$2,500. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Grant funds will be applied to the purchase of supplies and materials to provide twin beds for local children.

## Clay commissioners look to increase code enforcement

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County Commissioners discussed upgrading their code enforcement department, which handles complaints like overgrown vegetation, junk vehicles, trash, and non-permitted structures and signs on property within the county.

Commissioner Jim Renninger brought up the topic during a July 11 budget workshop in which he criticized the county's code enforcement efforts.

"When you look at our division of code enforcement, it's not robust at all," the former Orange Park mayor said. "In fact, in Orange Park, we probably have as many code enforcement officers as we do in Clay County."

County Manager Howard Wanamaker responded by telling Renninger that the department was cut back during the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that a new state law barring anonymous complaints has also affected the county's enforcement efforts.

"We do our best across the board from public works or those that are out in the right of way to remove snipe signs and things like that," Wanamaker told Renninger. "We do not proactively go out there unless we receive a complaint."

The county manager added that if the board wanted to be more aggressive in code enforcement, it would have to increase staffing levels in the department.

### Neighbors frustrated

Board Chair Betsy Condon cautioned against overzealous code enforcement. She cited complaints on social media criticizing the City of Green Cove Springs in which residents have been cited for using their garages as storage areas instead of for parking cars.

"But I share the frustrations of the neighbors," she said. "There's only so much that can be done." Chereese Stewart, the

county's economic and development services director, told commissioners that her staff keeps up with cases referred to the department.

She added that one area of improvement could be increased efforts to pull up illegal yard signs, also known as snipe signs, along roadways.

"We might could use a staff member to do nothing but pick up signs," she told commissioners, "but I can tell you that was tried before, and I'd have to go back and do some research. I don't think it was very successful, and I don't really know why."

Stewart said she reports the status of cases to the county manager every month, and last month, around 25 cases were opened, with around the same number closed.

### 'The neighbors had to live with that mess for 13 years.'

Now, after a complaint is filed with the county, a code enforcement officer investigates the alleged violation and issues a citation to the property owner if the complaint is valid.

The county sends a follow-up letter if the property owner does not respond within 30 days. If the property owner does not respond within 60 days, the case is referred to a special magistrate who can impose fines of up to \$250 a day for violations.

The county could foreclose on properties that have accrued fines. However, state law prohibits the county from foreclosing on homesteads.

Stewart said the county increased foreclosure activity about a year ago.

"One of them we closed successfully," she said. "We got the family to come into compliance."

"There's another case," she added. "We finally got the property owner's attention. He did sell it at the very end of the foreclosure process where it became ours, he sold it ahead of time, (and) we'll consider that

one a win at this point in time."

Condon said that while many property owners ignore citations, letters and special magistrate decisions from the county, a foreclosure notice gets their attention.

Renninger noted that one case coming before the commission later that day involved violations over a 13-year period.

"And so, the neighbors had to live with that mess for 13 years," he said, "and I can't disregard our constituents' concerns about this."

"I'm well pleased with the staff and what they're doing," Renninger added. "It's just policy and resources to clean up Clay County a little bit."

### Responsibility to maintain property

Condon added that, in some cases, people move into abandoned properties that have violations.

"I have one right now that is not livable," Condon told her colleagues. "The sheriff's office has made more than 50 visits there this calendar year alone. The daughter of the owner was living in the garage with her boyfriend. They finally broke enough laws that they had warrants out, and so the sheriff's office arrested both of them. They're not there anymore. It really should be condemned...but it's bank owned. It has a mortgage on it. The windows are all broken out. Meanwhile, it has a \$400,000 code enforcement lien on it. And so, if anybody buys it, they'll come to us for a lien reduction because they will never pay that money. (The property is) worth maybe \$20,000."

Stewart said the case Condon described is typical.

"And that's how a lot of them are, to be honest with you," she said. "Especially if we're looking at doing the foreclosures, they're not worth what it's going to cost us to clean it up and turn back around and hire somebody to sell

See CODES, page 5

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# Santa Fe Audubon helps researchers investigate vanishing bird

*Southeastern Kestrel population dropped by up to 90%*

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A member of Santa Fe Audubon told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club about a project Audubon hopes will help researchers restore the populations of a vanishing falcon species.

Bill Chitty told the civic group that over the last 40 years, the kestrel populations in North America have decreased by 40%, with up to a 90% population loss in the southeast.

"This guy used to be common throughout the southern states," he said of the Southeastern kestrel. "Seven states had them, and now they're only common or relatively common in Florida with a few little isolated areas in coastal Alabama and Georgia, and nobody really knows why."

Chitty said the Kestrel is America's smallest Falcon and also the nation's most widespread and numerous.

"Its favorite food is the grasshopper," Chitty said. "Its lifespan in Florida is less than three years in the wild. In fact, less than 30% survive the first year."

The retiree added that Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission lists the species as threatened, one level below endangered.

Kestrels are cavity nesters. However, they do not make their own cavities.

"They use old woodpecker holes or boxes," Chitty said. "We have both year-round residents that breed and raise young and migrants that come from up north."

Chitty added that, like their human counterparts, kestrel snowbirds balloon Florida's population in the winter months and then return north for the summer.

To help the birds, Chitty and other Audubon members built and installed nesting boxes for the kestrels in the Etoniah State Forest between Keystone Heights and Palatka.

He said he based the project on a similar one in Gold Head Branch State Park.

## Favorite food: grasshoppers

Chitty said the southeastern subspecies prefers open-area habitats with natural grasses, less than knee-high, "with grasshoppers," he stipulated, "because that's their favorite food."

Chitty showed the Rotarians a map of the project, in which Santa Fe Audubon installed nesting boxes for the birds in the state forest north of State Road 100 in Putnam County.

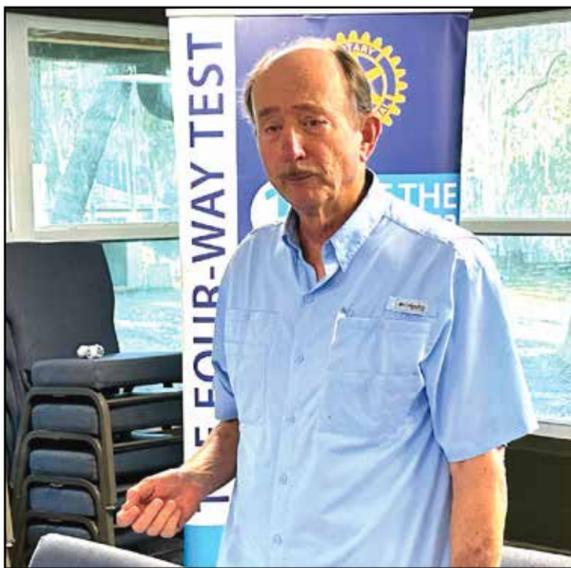
"This is about 7,000 acres, all together," he said, "and historically, we don't have reports of anybody seeing nesting kestrels in that area."

## Initial failure

Santa Fe Audubon launched the project in 2015, initially erecting 21 nesting boxes on trees. Chitty



Researchers mount a cell phone onto a kestrel. The unit has a solar panel to recharge the battery and an antenna. Photo provided by Bill Chitty, Santa Fe Audubon.



Santa Fe Audubon member Bill Chitty tells the Keystone Heights Rotary Club about the organization's kestrel nesting box project. Photo: Dan Hildebran, Telegraph Staff Writer.



Santa Fe Audubon member Richard Segall with a post-mounted nesting box. Photo: Santa Fe Audubon.

said he had to get approval from the Florida Forestry Service and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission before starting the project. He also had to sign a 14-page contract with Florida Power and Light to erect boxes within the utility's right of way.

Chitty added that transmission line corridors, with their lack of trees and abundant meadows, make ideal nesting areas for the grasshopper hunters.

The retired police officer said the project did not go as planned initially.

"The first two years of these boxes, we didn't have any success at all," he said. "One of the reasons was that we had lots of other things use our boxes like the eastern fly squirrel. They were a serious problem."

Chitty added that the flying squirrels squatted into 17 of the group's 21 boxes, wrecking the project's mission.

Audubon solved the problem by moving the boxes off trees and posting them on poles.

The change not only eliminated the problem of squirrels inhabiting the boxes but also allowed the group to place the nesting receptacles further into transmission lines right of way.

The change also increased safety because the hinge-mounted poles allowed volunteers to stay on the ground when inspecting the boxes rather than climbing a ladder to reach them in trees.

"We've only had two boxes on trees that have ever produced kestrels," Chitty said, "whereas 10 of our polls have. We've produced 84 baby kestrels that survived long enough to fledge."

## Kestrels with cell phones

Chitty said the project's success attracted the attention of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute, which banded young kestrels and attached cell phones to the birds.

Chitty said a federal license is required to handle the birds and that regulations restrict the payload on each bird to three percent of its body weight.

"So, the radio, the antenna, including the battery, it's all less than three grams," he said, adding that the devices are also equipped with solar cells that recharge the batteries.

Chitty said the cell phones help volunteers and researchers to locate birds by triangulating them between towers.

He joked that the biggest problem with having the birds fly with the devices was teaching them how to dial to make a call.

# Dougherty adds opioid abatement to his many hats

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County Commissioner Chris Dougherty has been appointed to a statewide council created in response to the opioid epidemic and its impact on Florida communities, large and small.

Created by the legislature and signed into law by the governor, The Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement is an advisory council within the Department of Children and Families. Its members will work to "enhance the development and coordination of state and local efforts to abate the opioid epidemic and to support the victims and families of the crisis."

Among those appointed to the council were commissioners selected by the Florida Association of Counties to represent local governments serving more and fewer than 200,000 residents. In addition to Dougherty, the association appointed Commissioner Lee Constantine of Seminole County. Commissioner Kathleen Peters of Pinellas County was chosen for an alternating appointment with the Florida Association of Cities. Each will serve a two-year term.

As part of a lawsuit settlement, Florida will receive \$3.2 billion over 18 years to combat the drug crisis, which is responsible for thousands of deaths every year. The money will be divided into state, regional and local funds.

The state fund will be used to expand opioid recovery programs to more counties. Large counties will receive money directly from the regional fund, and commissioners will decide how it is spent. Regional funding for smaller counties will be dispersed to entities dealing with substance abuse and mental health by the Department of Children and Families. Local funds will also



Commissioner Chris Dougherty

go directly to county and city commissioners.

The Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement will advise recipients on the best use of those funds and receive reports on how local governments plan on spending them. The Office of Opioid Recovery will track the use of these settlement funds.

In addition to this appointment, Dougherty ran unopposed and was elected Secretary of the Small County Coalition for 2023-34 and was appointed by the Florida Association of Counties to the Board of Directors for the Institute of County Government, which provides the continuing education for county commissioners.

"I look forward to serving in all of these capacities and hope to leverage the knowledge gained as I continue to serve the citizens of Bradford County," Dougherty said.

Dougherty was also awarded the 2023 Florida Association of Counties Presidential Advocacy award for serving on the association's Health Safety and Justice Committee and the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee.

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## CODES

Continued from page 4

it." Stewart added that although the county's list of code enforcement violations is long, its ability to foreclose on most of the parcels is limited because the properties are homesteads or a bank holds a mortgage on the parcels.

Renninger said one of his goals is to make the public aware of the county's code enforcement efforts and educate property owners about their responsibility to maintain their holdings.

"If you own the property, you have to maintain it, and it just seems like that's a foreign concept at times," he said. "I have one in Heritage Hills that is owned by an owner in

Oregon. He doesn't understand and somehow, we have to get that across to our constituents." that property, he's responsible for the maintenance of that property,

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# UNION COUNTY

## So long, summer!



Ally Mallard was one of about 300 attendees at the 2023 Union County Public Library's End of Summer Bash on July 13, 2023. Here, she is shown coming down the giant water slide.



Kids got to cool off thanks to the Union County Fire Department and their water hose.

## Rubio representative at Bradford senior center

On Friday, Aug. 4, a representative from Sen. Marco Rubio's office will be at the senior center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you are having issues with any government agencies, such as, Social Security, Medicare, veterans benefits, immigration, IRS, etc., a member of Sen. Rubio's staff will be available to meet with you. Plan to attend to meet your local staff and find out the services Sen. Rubio's office offers his constituents.



Eliza Martin and Blakelyn McNutt enjoying playing in the pools of water.

## 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 ..... \$ 2,007,829
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes ..... \$ 2,393
- C. Actual property tax levy ..... \$ 2,005,437

**This year's proposed tax levy ..... \$2,133,594**

A portion of the tax levy is required under state law for the school board to receive **\$ 2,048,251** in state education grants. The required portion has **increased by 1.47** 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 **August 1, 2023 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 3.9190 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 \$566,964 to be used for the following projects:

#### CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

- Re-roofing Districtwide
- 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 six (6) School Buses
- Purchase of one (1) School Bus
- Purchase of Multi-Function School Activity Bus (MFSAB) (1)
- Purchase of District Vehicle (2)
- Purchase of Maintenance Vehicle (2)
- Purchase of Vocational 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
- Infrastructure Hardware - Digital Classroom Plan Implementation
- 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 SALARIES AND BENEFITS

- Salaries and benefits of school bus drivers

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing to be held on **August 1, 2023 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.

# Some new, some same in new school year in UC

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — A new school year is getting ready to begin and all of the administrators, teachers and other school personnel are busy getting ready to make sure things run smoothly from the first day of school on Aug. 10.

According to Union County Superintendent of School Mike Ripplinger, this year is seeing fewer changes than has been usual in the past. The administration at all three schools will be the same, with only one exception — Owen Beatty will be taking over the dean's position at Union County High School. The position was formerly held by Shari Odom. The schools are fully staffed with teachers (with only a few non-instructional positions not yet filled) and ready to begin.

This year, the district has reduced teacher turnover by 24%, a shift from the previous two school years. Ripplinger said he attributes this largely

to the recent pay increase for teachers and the revamping of the mentoring program for new teachers last year, where teachers new to the district are mentored by teachers who have been already working in the district. The result is that, this year, there are only 22 new instructional personnel out of a total of about 165 — a much lower number than in recent years.

"I think this is a really positive sign of the return of stability in our schools," Ripplinger said.

There is new news in the district's Career Technical Education programs at Union County High School. A second instructor has been hired to work with students in the Law Enforcement Program and that program has added a third year of class offerings. The new face in the program is George Green Jr. who brings Department of Corrections, Union County Sheriff's Office and Inspector General's Office experience to the classroom. The third-year program will allow students to

learn in a simulated 911 Call Center and the completion of the training will allow them to earn industry certification — allowing them to go to work as a dispatcher right after graduation. A third year of classes has been added to the Culinary Arts program, allowing students to graduate with their ServSafe certification in hand.

There are no new programs in the elementary or middle schools this year, but several programs are continuing. This past summer's Summer Learning Camp, which offers STEM oriented learning, will return next summer. The program is designed to keep students current on what they have learned during the previous school year and provide new learning experiences as well. Also, in a serious effort to help students stay current, the district has received a grant for \$394,000 that will be used to revamp and improve the after-school tutoring program. The money will allow pay for the program teachers (whose

number has been doubled) and administrators, snacks for the students and transportation from school to home after the tutoring. The program will run from after Labor Day through the month of April. The grant is only for the 2023-24 school year, but the district hopes it will be offered again in the future.

Several major projects have been completed, are in the works or planned for the near future, made possible by federal funds through the ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds) and other post-COVID programs. Funds have and will be used for repairing leaky roofs, making other needed repairs/improvements and hiring additional personnel to provide more services. These funds are designed to assist school systems, as well as students, teachers, administrators and parents, in getting back to normal after the restrictions and stresses made necessary by COVID protocols in the last three years. The

student mental health program has also been augmented to ensure that all students in need of assistance get it.

"This includes about \$3 million in roofing work at the high school and middle school that without the funds the district would never have been able to do," Ripplinger said. "We are looking at new flooring where it is needed, a larger air conditioning unit and chiller. Even if the district could have managed this work it would have been a tremendous financial burden. The ESSER dollars have made it all possible."

Ripplinger said he is very excited about the coming year and feels that it will be a banner year for the schools.

"I have learned a great deal over the past few years, as have the members of the school board, who have been active participants throughout all the problems and changes," Ripplinger said. "We are ready for a smooth and productive year, not just in the classrooms but also on the playing field, where I believe

will have a wonderful season."

One new thing in the coming year may be a little difficult to get used to but is necessary for the safety of all. There will be a new traffic pattern at Lake Butler Elementary School. The new pattern will require all student drop-offs and pickups, morning and afternoon, to enter school grounds from C.R. 231 and exit on S.R. 121. The change has been made as, during peak traffic hours, vehicles entering the campus to drop off and pick up students were sometimes backed up on S.R. 121, presenting a safety hazard. Pickups and drop offs at times other than the beginning and end of the school day are allowed to enter from S.R. 121 and proceed to the school office as in the past. District and school administrators hope that the new pattern will improve the traffic flow and increase safety for all by avoiding backups.

## New LB commission officers and lean preliminary budget

### Water rate increase proposed

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

STARKE — Lake Butler has a new mayor and vice mayor for the coming year. Since the resignation of Mayor Jack Schenck, Annette Redman has been serving as the commissions interim mayor. The board had decided to wait for a special election to fill the vacant seat left by the resignation and then to give new Commissioner Rondall Huggins a chance to settle in before making a decision (the mayor's position is voted on by board members in the city). Now that the dust has settled, the board decided to make their decision.

Commissioner David Stegal had been serving as vice mayor during Redman's tenure and the board decided to promote him to the top spot at its July meeting. Commissioner

Melissa Hendrix was selected by the board to fill the position of vice-mayor. Both will serve through the coming fiscal year.

As has become routine, the main topic of discussion at the July meeting was city finances. City Finance Director John Sapp generated a report for the board, giving them an idea where the city stands as of June 30. The General Fund is currently running at a \$75,120 loss, as is the Water Fund (\$24,308 loss), the Street Reserve Fund (\$40,510 loss) and the Wastewater Fund (\$93,754 operating loss). Some funds, however, show a gain in their balances. These include: the Solid Waste Fund (\$15,121 gain), and the Redevelopment Fund (\$13,733 gain).

Sapp and Interim City Manager Richard Tillis have been working for the past three months on a budget for the city's coming fiscal year, but much of this work has been held up while they waited for the auditor's report presented

to the commission in June.

With the figures of where the city stands financially, they were able to complete a proposed budget for review by the commissioners. They will take the time to consider the proposed document and then hold a discussion on the matter on Aug. 3 at 6 p.m. in a budget workshop.

Then, once any changes have been agreed upon, the budget will become tentative and be the subject of two public hearing (at the end of August and in September) where members of the community can make their wishes and opinions known.

Once citizen input has been considered by the board, and any changes made to the tentative budget have been made, the board will vote to approve the final budget that the city will live by for the coming new fiscal year.

In a letter to the board in the tentative budget, Tillis stated that "the audit painted a picture of (the city) having reached a

critical turning point — a time to decide to take the necessary action in order to head off calamity and/or catastrophe."

He went on to state that there were few options in how this could be done, but that it was possible, but would be neither quick nor easy and that the coming year's budget will be extremely conservative.

In the area of city employees, Tillis recommends making no cuts, citing the time delay in work that any cuts would cause. The report showed that the city employs 14 full-time employees with one part-timer, five school crossing guards and a code enforcement officer. He stated that the city needed to stay on track with the current policy for elevating those receiving the lowest pay to the federal mandated \$15 per hour by the 2024-25 fiscal year.

In discussing the various funds, Tillis stated that for the first time in his entire career he has never produced a budget with zero capital outlay

planned for. According to the report, this means there will be no purchases of vehicles, trailers, pumps or replacement lawn mowers. He advised that the board will have to make any of these purchase only if there was more than the projected income in a department.

The report states that the General Fund is starting out the new fiscal year at a deficit (before ad valorem and state funds are received). The General Fund pays for all of the expenses for local government, including finance and legal expenses, code enforcement, law enforcement, planning and zoning, crossing guards, cemetery, public works and parks and recreation.

Tillis stated that, while the Splash Park was a much loved feature of the Lakeside Park, that is was a "money pit" frequently needed repairs. He said he had planned in the budget to move the pump and electrical for the park from its current underground location to one above ground to try and abate the need for so much work to repair and replace components damaged by water and clogged with sand.

The report states that the water fund is in "very serious condition." Over the past

two years the fund has not maintained a reserve balance of 25%, as is usual to cover city operations for three months in the case of an emergency. At present there is only enough in reserve to cover regular expenses for about 1.75 months. It is noted that the reserve water fund balance has dropped between \$400,000-500,000 in the past two years. To remedy this serious problem, Tillis said he is proposing a 9% increase in both the water and wastewater funds. However, he is also proposing to go back to the previous city base water billing method, where the minimum bill covers service and the first 2,000 gallons used.

This means that the base water bill will increase from \$15.56 (with no allowed gallons) to \$23.06 (with the first 2,000 gallons included). He said the changes will ensure that the water department can "stand alone," which is not doing currently and allow the department to recoup its losses.

Tillis said that thus budget was particularly difficult to create due to the lack of a "legitimate history to compare to," requiring him and Sapp to have to research every line item (more than 100) to develop it.

SCHOOL BOARD OF UNION COUNTY BUDGET SUMMARY FY 2023-2024					
PROPOSED MILLAGE LEVY					
REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT	3.171				
BASIC DISCRETIONARY OPERATING	0.748				
DEBT SERVICE	0.000				
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.500				
TOTAL	5.419				
SPECIAL REVENUE - CARES, ESSER & ARP					
REVENUES	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	ARP	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Federal Sources	70,000	3,106,889	4,174,300		7,351,189
State Sources	18,629,353	0	0	42,000	18,671,353
Local Sources	1,760,000	17,500	0	566,964	2,344,464
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>20,459,353</b>	<b>3,124,389</b>	<b>4,174,300</b>	<b>608,964</b>	<b>28,367,006</b>
Transfers In	373,835	0	0	0	373,835
<b>FUND BALANCES - 7/1/23</b>	<b>3,523,500</b>	<b>1,115,460</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>553,100</b>	<b>5,192,060</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>24,356,688</b>	<b>4,239,849</b>	<b>4,174,300</b>	<b>1,162,064</b>	<b>33,932,901</b>
EXPENDITURES					
Instruction	13,104,000	1,343,065	1,374,550		15,821,615
Pupil Personnel Services	1,510,000	57,500	65,000		1,632,500
Instructional Media Services	150,000				150,000
Instructional & Curriculum Development	265,000				265,000
Instructional Staff Training	225,000	130,857	150,000		505,857
Instructional Related Technology	115,000				115,000
Board of Education	270,000				270,000
General Administration	505,235	25,467	30,000		560,702
School Administration	1,125,000				1,125,000
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	0			250,000	250,000
Fiscal Services	602,500				602,500
Food Service	0	1,695,000			1,695,000
Central Services	165,000				165,000
Pupil Transportation Services	1,025,000		31,000	122,832	1,178,832
Operation of Plant	2,150,500				2,150,500
Maintenance of Plant	869,000		2,523,750	42,000	3,434,750
Admin. Technology Services	370,000				370,000
Community Services	398,500				398,500
Debt Service	0				0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>22,849,735</b>	<b>3,251,889</b>	<b>4,174,300</b>	<b>414,832</b>	<b>30,690,756</b>
Transfers Out	0	0	0	373,835	373,835
<b>FUND BALANCES - 6/30/24</b>	<b>1,506,953</b>	<b>987,960</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>373,397</b>	<b>2,868,310</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS, AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>24,356,688</b>	<b>4,239,849</b>	<b>4,174,300</b>	<b>1,162,064</b>	<b>33,932,901</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.

## SCHOOLS

Continued from page 3

### Staggered start

August 10 is the first day of school for most students, but the first day for kindergarteners will be spread across two days.

Students with last names beginning with letters A-M will begin on Aug. 10, and those beginning with letters

N-Z will begin Aug. 11. All kindergarteners will attend together beginning Monday, Aug. 14.

Staggered start gives smaller groups more time to build relationships with their teachers.

Parents are only allowed to walk their kindergarten students directly to class on their first day — but they must check in with the front office first. Parents must have a photo ID to receive a pass.

These passes may be obtained in advance when attending your school's open house.

**Does Your Business Sell School Supplies, Clothing, Shoes Apparel, Computers & Related Items for Students?**



Promote your products in next week's special section before the Florida Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday ends on August 6.

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(904) 964-6305 ofc

# 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

Calbren Leon Bennett, 50, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 16 for battery.

Stacie Roxann Bentley, 48, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 16 for a probation violation.

William Arvin Bryant, 72, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on July 20 for disorderly intoxication.

Thomas Daniel Clarke, 41, of Lake Butler was arrested by Starke Police on July 19 for out-of-county warrants and a probation violation.

Travis Dekon King Covington, 37, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 20 for possession of drugs, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, and resisting an officer.

Justin Dubuy Crawford, 35, was arrested on July 15 for DUI.

Walter Jarrod Davis, 53, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 19 for battery.

James Mannon Goff, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 20 for withholding support.

Wendell Lamar Grover, 25, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for probation violations.

Fernando Hernandez, 44, of Brooker was arrested on July 18 for an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Lee Jennings, 59, of Floral City was arrested on July 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Randy Paul Kilby, 45, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 21 for possession of drugs.

Johnny Raymond Kimble, 47, of Lake Butler was arrested on July 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Megan Elizabeth Lambert, 37, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 21 for possession of drugs and resisting an officer.

Joshua Allen Matthews, 39, of Lawtey was arrested on July 21 for possession of drugs.

Carlos Molina Valencia, 39, of Starke was arrested on July 15 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and DUI.

Christopher Mark Nicklas, 33, of Lake City was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 17 for a weapons offense, firing a weapon, aggravated assault and DUI.

Michael David Patrick, 46, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 20 for probation violations.

Clem David Prescott, 70, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and maintaining a public nuisance.

David Bridges Prescott, 45, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, maintaining a public nuisance and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Roddy Devyn Reynolds, 23, of Starke was arrested on July 15 for DUI.

Christopher Scott Rhoden, 30, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for failure to appear.

Tatiana Latrice Shannon, 25, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on July 21 for a probation violation.

Lilliana Alexis Stephens, 27, of Starke was arrested on July 21 for battery.

Maranda Ann Stewart, 26, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Chelsea Ciara Zavalza, 32, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 18 for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

### Union

Deondre Skykur Clayton, 28, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on July 18 for probation violations.

Deborah Marie Karr, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on July 22 for a probation violation.

### Clay

Christopher Carl Fuller, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 15 for uttering a forged or counterfeit instrument, resisting an officer with violence, battery on a law enforcement officer and giving a false name or identification.

Duane Carl Damon, 50, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 16 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug equipment.

Joshua Isiah Dockery, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 17 for failure of a felon to report at the county of residence.

Kenneth Paul Blair, 78, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 18 for a probation violation.

Shaun Dauquez Railey, 23, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 20, for kidnapping to facilitate a felony, aggravated assault and felony battery.

Javier Castillo, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on July 21 for failure to appear.

## Biker dead after striking mailbox

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— The Florida Highway Patrol said a 39-year-old motorcyclist was killed after he left a county road and struck a mailbox.

The agency said the crash occurred around 2:49 a.m. Saturday, July 15.

The biker was traveling south on Southeast County Road 21B in Bradford County, approaching the intersection with Southeast Eighth Avenue between Speedville and the Keystone Heights RV Resort.

FHP said the bike left the roadway and continued on the grass shoulder, striking a mailbox and overturning. The Keystone Heights man was thrown from the motorcycle and found not far from the vehicle.

First responders pronounced the man dead at the scene, and FHP reported that he was wearing a helmet.

## Take precautions during hot weather

The Florida Department of Health is urging residents to take necessary precautions and follow safety measures during hot weather. With temperatures soaring and heat indexes reaching dangerous levels, it is important to prioritize the well-being of individuals and communities.

**Stay hydrated.** Drink plenty of water and avoid excessive consumption of caffeine or alcohol, as they can lead to dehydration.

**Stay cool.** Avoid direct sunlight and long exposure to the sun. Spend time in air-conditioned environments. If you do not have access to air conditioning, consider visiting public buildings or public spaces with shade.

Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing to help your body regulate its temperature. Protect your head and face with a wide-brimmed hat and use sunscreen to prevent

sunburn.

Minimize outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day. If you must be outside, take frequent breaks in shaded areas and avoid strenuous physical exertion.

**Check on vulnerable individuals.** Keep an eye on elderly neighbors, young children and individuals with preexisting health conditions as they are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Ensure they have access to a cool environment and sufficient hydration.

**Never leave children, vulnerable individuals, or pets unattended in vehicle.** Temperatures inside a parked car can rise rapidly, even with the windows slightly open, and can be life-threatening.

DOH urges everyone to remain vigilant and look out for one another during a heat advisory. By following these safety measures, we can collectively reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses and emergencies.

Stay informed about the heat advisory by following the National Weather Service or your local news.

## Tried to buy ice cream with fake bill

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A Keystone Heights man released from prison last December and arrested for passing counterfeit bills soon after his release was arrested on July 15 after he attempted to buy ice cream sandwiches from a Green Cove Springs Dollar General with a counterfeit five-dollar bill.

Christopher Carl Fuller, 31, was arrested by Clay deputies for uttering a forged or counterfeit instrument, resisting an officer with violence, battery on a law enforcement officer, and giving a false name or identification.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, the manager of the Dollar General told a Green Cove Springs police officer that after laying the merchandise on the sales counter, the defendant handed him a five-dollar bill.

“(The manager) said he immediately noticed the 5-dollar bill was fake as it had ‘replica’ typed on the bottom right-hand corner,” Officer Cora Milliken wrote in the affidavit. “(The manager) told the man he couldn’t take the bill because it was fake. The man denied the bill being fake as he had ‘just got paid.’”

When the manager called police, Fuller grabbed a backpack and ran out the door.

Police searched the wooded area around the store and found the defendant’s backpack.



Fuller

“On the inside of the backpack in the second compartment by the zipper, the name ‘Christopher Fuller’ was written,” the officer reported.

Fuller was released from Department of Corrections custody in December 2022 after serving a year for larceny and escape offenses in Bradford County.

Soon after his release, Fuller attempted to purchase a trimmer and a gas can from a Keystone Heights merchant on Dec. 7, 2022, using two counterfeit \$100 bills.

In an arrest warrant affidavit, Clay Sheriff’s Detective David Schloffman wrote that the cashier noted that the words: “This is a Replica” were printed

in tiny print on the front and back of the two Benjamins. She kept the money and merchandise and called 911. The defendant fled the scene.

Schloffman added that he later interviewed the defendant, who told him he obtained the fake money off an internet website to prank a friend.

“After pranking his friend, the defendant realized it was easy to use,” wrote the detective. “The defendant admitted to knowingly passing the fake money at several businesses in Clay County.”

Fuller was sentenced to 365 days in jail with credit for 303 days already served for the December 2022 offenses.

Milliken wrote that the bills Fuller used in the Dec. 7 incident were similar to the counterfeit five with which the defendant attempted to pay for the ice cream sandwiches.

After a judge issued an arrest warrant for the Green Cove Springs counterfeit incident, Clay deputies spotted Fuller near Colgate Road and Yale Street east of Keystone Heights.

After giving a false name, Fuller tried to walk away from the two deputies and fought the two lawmen.

According to an arrest report, one deputy “delivered a closed fist distraction strike to the right side of the defendant’s head with his right hand.” The same deputy was later treated for small lacerations on both hands.

## Defendant’s story crumbles after deputy spots spaghetti stain

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE— Bradford deputies arrested a 50-year-old Starke man after a spaghetti stain on his shorts contradicted his claim that he was not at the scene of a domestic battery.

Calbren Leon Bennett was arrested on July 16 for felony battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies Bennett came to her front porch claiming the two needed to talk about an event that occurred two days prior.

“I have been drinking, and you have been drinking. I don’t want you here,” replied the victim, wrote Deputy Wyatt Konkel in the report.

Konkel added that the victim said Bennett followed her back into the home, stopping at a doorway and repeating, “We need to talk.”

When the woman refused, Bennett grabbed a plate of spaghetti from the victim’s lap and hurled it against a wall.

He then pinned the woman



Bennett

against a bed using both of his hands.

“(The victim) tucked her legs underneath herself and pushed Calbren down on the ground using her legs,” wrote Konkel. “(She) got up and got in Calbren’s face and told him to leave multiple more times.”

The defendant then left. Konkel wrote that he questioned Bennett at his home

off County Road 100A near the Clay County line.

Bennett initially claimed he had been at his house all day. When Konkel asked him about a bruise on his arm, the defendant replied that he fell off a ladder.

“I asked Calbren if he dropped food on him due to him having what looked like spaghetti sauce on his shorts,” Konkel reported, “but Calbren didn’t answer the question.”

The defendant then confessed to being at the woman’s home.

“Calbren stated that it was just ‘two drunk people being stupid,’” Konkel wrote. “Calbren stated that (the victim) gets violent sometimes, and that’s how he got the mark on his elbow.”

When the deputy asked Bennett if he went inside the woman’s home, the defendant initially said no, but later said yes.

“When he was asked about the plate being thrown inside the residence,” the deputy wrote, “Calbren stated that (the victim) is the one that threw the plate, not him.”

## Father and son arrested in drug raid

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE— Bradford deputies arrested a father and son after executing a search warrant on the pair’s Brooker home.

Clem David Prescott, 70, and David Bridges Prescott, 45, were arrested on various drug charges.

According to arrest reports, when officers arrived at the Ward Street mobile home around 10:20 a.m. on Tuesday, July 18, Clem Prescott exited the house and surrendered.

Deputies found methamphetamine in the living room and in two bedrooms.

Clem Prescott told detectives that one of the bedrooms is his while his son sleeps in the other.

Later in the afternoon, deputies received an anonymous tip that



Clem David Prescott



David Bridges Prescott

David Prescott was at a Melvin Street home in Brooker. There, they found the

defendant in the backyard and took him into custody.



**Russ WADE**  
Attorney at Law

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

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Bradford deputies arrested a father and son after executing a search warrant on the pair’s Brooker home. Photo: Bradford County Sheriff’s Office.

# Bradford County Telegraph enters its 145th year

2 families key to the newspaper's birth and longevity

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Moore and Matthews.

Those are important names in the history of the Bradford County Telegraph, which began publishing 144 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



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. He bought the Telegraph in 1893.

change approximately a year 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."

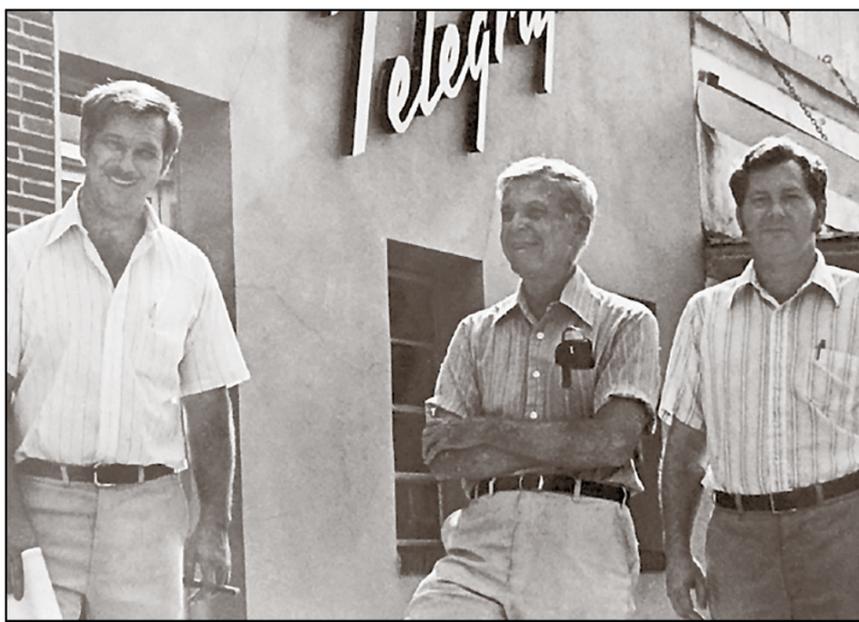
The office moved farther west on Call Street, finding a new home in the second story of a brick building built by N.J. Jones. Jones operated a store on the ground floor.

Webb continued operating 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



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. Miller continues to serve as owner/publisher.

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 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

See BCT, page 16

## Discover origins at July 29 North Florida Family History Fair

Who am I? Where did I come from? Every individual asks these questions at some point in their life.

If you're asking these questions and want to know more about your genealogy, take advantage of the North Florida Family History Fair on Saturday, July 29, hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at its stake center in Lake City (909 S.E. Country Club Road). The free event is scheduled from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for free as well.

You are encouraged to bring information if available — birth dates, names of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents or whatever you have.

"This event is about family, specifically, family genealogy," Lake City Florida Stake President Scott Hinson said. "Genealogical records of families are important to all individuals and to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and we want to help families and people in our communities gain more knowledge of their ancestors, whether they are members of our faith or of any other belief."

During the event, you can discover your own family tree, and individuals will have access to FamilySearch, the largest genealogical database in the world. Trained individuals will be available to offer one-on-one assistance on how to conduct a family search and introduce interested individuals to FamilySearch.

"We have a lot of information to share, and we want to make this work as easy for others as we can," Hinson said. Genealogics.com and GenealogyInTime Magazine point out genealogy work has several benefits, including family folklore, community history, passing on family legacies, tracing family inheritance,

knowledge of medical histories, preservation of family traditions and culture, igniting a desire and appreciation for history, answering questions about property disputes and discovering birth parents or proof of paternity.

Perhaps the most interesting benefit is the effect genealogical knowledge has on young people. According to a CNN article by Kelly Wallace, one research study at Emory University showed children with a deeper knowledge about their past and their ancestors proved to be better adjusted and better equipped to deal with the many challenges life brings.

An article by Rachel Coleman on familysearch.org explores how family history and genealogical research contributes to valuable personal development of our core identities, connection and relationships with others, compassion for others, resilience and selflessness. This same article points out how one study (summarized in an article by Bruce Feiler for the New York Times) on the resilience of children showed that "the best single predictor of children's emotional health and happiness" is tied to their knowledge of their family history.

Whether you consider genealogy a hobby, you have a specific goal in mind or question you want answered, or you are just curious about your roots, the North Florida Family History Fair is the perfect event to help you learn more about yourself, who you are and where you came from.

"This event is designed for anyone with ancestors," Family History Fair Chairman Stephen Thomas said. "Of course, that should include everyone. No matter what race, religion or background you might have, everyone has a family; we all have ancestors that we might be curious about. This event is designed to give you some tools to find those people and learn a little about them. There really is a little something for every age and every level of experience at the Family History Fair."

For more information about the North Florida Family History Fair, please send email to Thomas at stevelulu5565@gmail.com.

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Adult General Education GED, and Applied Academics	Snyder	Apply Now	August 10-December 20, 2023	M - F	12:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Vary
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	August 14-December 20, 2023	M - R	7:30 am to 5:30 pm	320 & 150
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	October 18 - December 19, 2023	M - R	7:30 am to 5:30 pm	320 & 150
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Welding Technology, Advanced	Geiger / Hunt	Apply Now	August 10 - December 20, 2023	M - F	9 am to 3:30pm	750
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Adult General Education GED, and Applied Academics	TBD	Apply Now	August 10 - December 20, 2023	M - F	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Vary
COMMUNITY EDUCATION						
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Spinning (Indoor Cycling)	Bridgman/Riker	Open	August 10 - December 20, 2023	T-R	5 pm to 6:20 pm	Varies

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*Tricia Clark, APRN*  
 New River Community Health  
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# Obituaries

## Murrice Ebling

Murrice Earl Ebling, 85, of Melrose passed away at Roberts Care Center on Sunday, June 25, 2023. He was born Jan. 3, 1938, in Menomonie, Wisconsin to the late Erwin and Jenny (Gear) Ebling. He proudly served in the United States Army. He was an entertainment gaming and equipment business owner, along with owning Lee's Bar with his wife, Barbara, in Melrose. He was an active member of AMVETS Post 86 and American Legion Post 202; he enjoyed life, having fun, and joking around with everyone.

Survivors are his wife, Barbara Deschamps; two children, Shawn Ebling of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Colleen Burrow of Keystone Heights; along with Barbara's two sons, Frank Battista of Coloma, Michigan, and Robert Battista of Ft. Lauderdale. Also left behind are granddaughters, Carol, Catherine, Hailey; and grandsons Conner, Ethan, Matthew, and Frank.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, July 30, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at AMVETS Post 86. Private interment was at Eliam Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com.



PAID OBITUARY

## Marjorie Gilliam

Marjorie Grace Jackson Gilliam, 83, of Starke passed away Monday, July 24, 2023, at PruittHealth of Fleming Island. She was born on Nov. 20, 1939, in Bedford, Pennsylvania to the late Ralph Boyd and Estha (Price) Jackson and was a longtime area resident. Prior to retirement, she was the owner-operator of Gilliam's Office Associates, doing tax preparation and bookkeeping. She enjoyed flower gardening and was known for the beautiful roses she grew. She loved to play with her dogs and watch the birds. Her greatest joy was her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Until her health declined, she attended Kingsley Lake Baptist Church and had a strong and profound faith in Jesus. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry Clinton Gilliam Sr.; and siblings, Joanne Foor, and Ralph Jackson.

Survivors are her children, Yvonne Gilliam (Lu Cretia), Lorene (Lori) (Richard) Hall, Jerry Gilliam Jr., and Harlie Gilliam; and grandchildren, Danielle (Brennaen) Beckham, Stephanie (Robert) Reed, Tiffany (Preston) Rhoden, Michael (Rachael) Turner, Treavor Gilliam, Amanda Gilliam, Tabitha Gilliam, Nicole Weber, Lindsey Weber. Great-grandchildren include, Curtis Reed, Nora Reed, Adalynn Rhoden, Blake Beckham, Rylee Beckham, Vanessa Weber, Oakley Turner, and Cleo Turner. Also left are sisters, Jacqueline Schroer, Darlene Stephen, Dorothy Alderson, Sandra White; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Monday, July 31, at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. with funeral services beginning at 2 p.m. Interment will follow at Hope Cemetery. Pastor Jonathan Rodriguez will officiate with Jamie Pitts, Christopher Hall, Stephanie Reed, and Tiffany Rhoden providing music.

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



PAID OBITUARY

## Jacob Houdershelt

Jacob Jordan Houdershelt, 39, of Keystone Heights, died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident early Saturday morning, July 15, 2023. He was born in Gainesville on Sept. 2, 1983, to Neva Janiece (Altman) and Bobby Lee Houdershelt. He attended Keystone Heights High School, where he played the flute in the Indian Marching Band. He loved music and learned to play several instruments. He was an avid wood worker and loved to make gifts for family and friends. He worked with his dear friend, Jason Kraemer, in Jason's business enterprise, creating metal art. His most recent employment was with Lake Area Landscaping, where he was a supervisor. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, William Harvey and Irene Burnsed Houdershelt; and James William Altman and Neva Belle (Altman) (Pete) Bondi.

He is survived by one grandmother, Pearl Altman; parents, Bobby Lee (Debbie) Houdershelt, Neva Janiece (Randy) Manning; two brothers, Jeremy Jason Houdershelt and Joshua Justin Houdershelt; three stepbrothers, Michael Devon Fingulin, Thomas Joseph Fingulin, and Jonathan Kenneth Kwaak; and one stepsister, Victoria Marie Fingulin. He leaves behind seven cousins, Kimberly Altman, James Kenneth Altman, Cyan Michele Altman, Janelle Victoria Altman, Miranda Courtney (Altman) Boman, Heather Suzanne (Hany) Nagggar, and Catherine Janeva (Ryan) Reeves. He also leaves behind a dear lifelong friend, Heather Wilson.

He did not have insurance of any kind. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, and will be greatly appreciated, to help defer end-of-life expenses. The Venmo link is venmo.com/u/dhoudershelt. Share a memory or condolences at www.jonesgallagherfh.com. Interment will be at Oak Grove Cemetery in Macclenny at a later date.

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



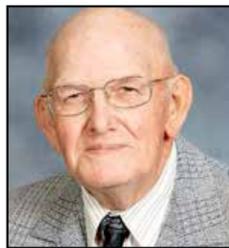
## Charles Kelley

Charles Bentley Kelley, 86, passed away peacefully at home and transitioned to his heavenly home on Saturday, July 22, 2023. He was born on Oct. 12, 1936, in Brooker to Otis Clyde Kelley and Doris Sowell Kelley. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1954. Soon after graduating, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he would proudly serve and retire after 20 years of active service. Following his time in the military, he returned close to home and settled near Waldo. He then began to pursue another passion - farming. By early 1983, he would meet and marry his wife, Edwina. Together they became members of First Baptist Church of Waldo and began a small family farm. As their farm began to grow, he ran the Kelly U-Pick for many years, providing fresh vegetables to friends and family in the Waldo area. In his later years, he continued his passion for farming and enjoyed spending time with his immediate and extended family. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Edwina (Wynn) Kelley; sister, Carolyn (Kelley) Dyal; and brothers, Roswell Kelley and Winston Kelley.

He is survived by his son, Shawn (Rachel) Kelley; his siblings, Lenox Kelley of Ormand Beach, Jerome Kelley of Brooker, Dottie Kelley (Terry) Cranford of Branford; two grandchildren, Sarah Kelley, and Nathan Kelley; and a host of family located both near and far.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 28, at 11 a.m. with viewing an hour prior from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Waldo with Rev. Jim Dubois officiating. Interment will follow at Dedan Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor him may make donations in his name to First Baptist Church of Waldo or Haven Hospice.

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



PAID OBITUARY

## Kyle McDonald

Kyle William McDonald, 43, of Jacksonville passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 17, 2023. He was born in Jacksonville, and he moved and lived in various cities around the state of Florida with his father and mom. He was a graduate of Glades Day School in Belle Glade where he lettered in football. He was very athletic and loved sports. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and he subsequently served at Parris Island; Iwakuni, Japan; and Cherry Point, North Carolina. He received honors during boot camp. He worked as a service writer and manager for diesel and truck repair companies in Wyoming and worked the parts counter at Lazenby Equipment in Hampton. In his spare time, he enjoyed water skiing, being on the water, and cheering on his favorite sports teams at Florida State University. He dearly loved his children, Erin, and Carter. He brought his unique and quick sense of humor to every gathering. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents; Eugene and Geraldine McDonald; maternal grandmother; Susie Eiland; and his grandfather and mentor, Loren Carter.

He is survived by his children; Erin Marie McDonald and Carter James McDonald; his father, Jim; his mom, Cindy McDonald; his mother; Toi Eiland; sisters; Morgan (Chuck) McDonald and Krystal McCauley; a brother, Ray (Amanda) McCauley; his paternal grandfather, Carl T. (CT) Eiland; his grandmother, Dorothy Carter; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, July 27, at 11 a.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel in Starke with Rev. Alton C. Thornton officiating. The family will receive friends an hour prior at the funeral home. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project in his honor.

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



PAID OBITUARY

## Riley Rivera

Riley Rene Rivera, 2 weeks old, born Thursday, July 6, 2023, of Starke passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, July 22, 2023. She was born in Gainesville and resided in Starke with her mom, dad and three brothers. Little Riley was only with us for two short weeks, but she touched so many people hearts, even people who hadn't gotten to meet her yet. She was happy, loved and a bright star to our life. Her three brothers were over the moon to have a little sister. She was preceded in death by her maternal great-grandfather, Robert Thornton; and her maternal great-great-grandfather, George Griffis.

She is survived by her mom and dad, Cassandra (Cassie) Rene Garber and Jacob (Jake) Rivera; three brothers, Anthony Lucas Rivera, Andre Jace Rivera, Robert Jackson Rivera all of Starke; her maternal grandmother, Lisa Thornton of Starke; maternal great-grandmother, Audrey Thornton of Starke; maternal great-grandmother, Tina (Dennis) Garber of Starke; great-great-grandmother, Sandra Griffis of Lawtey; maternal grandfather Chris (Courtney) Garber of Inverness; paternal grandmother, Jamie Lucas; paternal grandfather, Leonardo Rivera; paternal uncle, Justus Harper; paternal aunt, Jayden Harper; aunt, Macy Thornton (Cody Lovett) of Starke; uncle, Eric Thornton (Skylar Murwin) of Starke; and many great aunts, uncles, cousins, loved ones and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, July 26, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler Florida with Rev. Johnny Frampton officiating. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the GoFundMe for a headstone and other arrangement costs.

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



## Joseph Shuler

Joseph "Joe" A. Shuler went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, July 16, 2023, at his residence in Brooker surrounded by his cherished family. Born on April 26, 1959, in Gainesville to Audie and Shirley Shuler, he possessed an indomitable spirit that resonated with all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He dedicated a significant portion of his life in service to his country as a proud member of the United States Army. He served for four years, including a tour in Korea. Following his honorable military service, he attended the University of Florida, where he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He then embarked on a distinguished career spanning 35 remarkable years with the Department of Corrections. Beyond his professional achievements, he was known for his vivacious personality and endearing character. Outgoing by nature, he effortlessly gravitated towards creating meaningful connections wherever he went. Friends sought solace in the genuineness of his friendship while strangers became fast friends under his warmth and openness. He never turned down an opportunity to travel. Whether it was a cross-country or international trip, he enjoyed seeing new places and experiencing new adventures. He was a devoted family man and a long-time member of Sardis Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his father, Audie Shuler; and wife, Terri Fraser Shuler.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories his wife, Dana Dyal Shuler of Brooker; mother, Shirley Shuler of Gainesville; children, Jeremy (Brittney) Shuler of Seattle, Washington, Zeke (Sunshine) Scaff of Worthington Springs, Christopher (Terra Godwin) Shuler of Worthington Springs, and Hannah Scaff (Jonathan Taylor) of Brooker; his three beautiful grandchildren: Jayden, Carson, and Elliana; his siblings, Elizabeth Shuler and Richard (Dottie) Shuler; and a host of extended family and friends.

On Friday, July 21, a funeral service was held at Sardis Baptist Church, after which he will be laid to rest at Elzey Chapel Cemetery with military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to one of the following, Moffitt Cancer Center for pancreatic cancer research at give.moffitt.org; Haven Hospice at beourhaven.org; or Autism Speaks autismspeaks.org.

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



PAID OBITUARY

## Xander Vanzant

Xander Dwayne Vanzant, 20, of Lawtey passed away Friday, July 21, 2023, in Kentucky from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident. He was born Jan. 28, 2003, in Gainesville to Donald Vanzant and Shondee (Lewis) Vanzant. He graduated from Bradford High School with the Class of 2021. He moved to Louisville, Kentucky and began his apprentice with Norfolk Southern Railroad as a switchman. He loved Jeeps, fast cars and playing in the mud, riding side-by-side ATVs and 4-wheelers. He also enjoyed fishing and hanging out with his family and friends.

He leaves behind parents Donnie (Renee) Vanzant of Lawtey and Shondee (Lewis) Vanzant of Lake Butler; siblings, Ashtyn (Kendallynn) Lewis and Breianna (Dean) Vanzant all of Starke, Todd Stenner III and Ryan Potter of Hampton, along with Lauryn Potter of Keystone Heights. Also left behind are his grandparents, Rosemary (Dwayne) Vanzant, Eddie Lewis, and Glenda Lewis all of Starke and Christy (Ronnie) Harper of Keystone Heights. Also



left behind are a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members and friends that will not only miss him but will miss his beautiful and contagious smile.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 25, at the First Baptist Church with Pastor Michael Conner officiating. Interment will follow at Lawtey Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

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Here, we'll show you how to teach kids to create a plan for spending and saving so they can reach their goals and stay on financial track throughout their life.

### Key Takeaways

- Budgeting teaches critical savings and spending skills that kids can use to achieve financial health in adulthood.
- Help kids learn how to identify financial goals and develop a specific plan for achieving them.
- You can use real-life examples to teach kids about budgeting so they can relate to the lessons.

### Why Teaching Budgeting Matters

The lessons one learns within their home as a child are a key source to financial education. According to recent research, the financial knowledge and principles children retain as they transition into teenage years and adulthood originate primarily from their parents.<sup>1</sup>

And what's more, according to a study from the Journal of Consumer Affairs, children are developmentally capable of saving by 5 or 6 years old. But the sooner they start learning the basics of concepts like saving and budgeting, the better.

One of the most common causes of financial issues as an adult is overspending.

### Note

By teaching kids the basics of money and how to control money through a budget, you'll be preparing them for the financial realities of adulthood.

### How To Start the Conversation About Budgeting

You can explain budgeting to kids as creating a plan that helps people make the best use of their money. Omar Ruiz, a marriage and family therapist with 10-plus years of

counseling experience, suggests using food to help introduce and demonstrate the importance of budgeting to young children. Food is a good example because it's a product they consume every day and you need money to buy it.

"You can explain that budgeting allows you to know how much food you can purchase," Ruiz told The Balance in an email. "State that if you already have a certain type of food at home, budgeting can allow you to use the extra money towards something else you need or want."

To get your child comfortable with the idea of budgeting, you might want to try using the bucket system, certified financial education instructor Kari Lorz told The Balance in an email. With this system, you get three mugs or mason jars to the child and dedicate one for spending, one for saving, and one for giving.

As they earn their own money, perhaps through an allowance system or even from the tooth fairy, they can place their money into one of these buckets. "They'll be able to see their money grow and still understand that money is for three distinct things," Lorz said.

### Note

Keep in mind that each child (and family) is different and has its own financial situation. So the methods of teaching that work for one family may not be the best for another.

### Define Wants vs. Needs

Help your child understand the difference between what they want and what they need so that they can prioritize how they spend their money.

"It's essential your child knows that wants are least important, compared to needs," said Courtney Hale, founder of Super Money Kids. "That's why they should put their money toward their needs first and then their wants."

### Note

Consider using the example of comparing clothes as needs versus toys as wants, Ruiz suggests. You can explain that your child needs to wear clothes to stay warm and protected from

the weather. Even though they don't need toys to survive, they want toys for fun.

### Detail the Budget Progress

To create a budget with your child, the first step is to focus on explaining income.

Since younger kids typically don't have a regular income, you can use your own income or a hypothetical example of income to show them how income works. You can walk them through your expenses, and show them how you subtract necessary expenses from your income to figure out how much you have for other things like unnecessary expenses and saving.

Depending on their age, they may have income from their allowance, part-time job earnings, gifts from relatives, or money from the Tooth Fairy. You can also use fake money to illustrate income.

### Note

Help them add up their income for a certain period of time, like a week or a month. Then, ask them to write down and calculate all of their expenses, which should include needs and wants, for that time.

Next, have your child subtract their expenses from their income. If the number is positive, congratulate your child and explain they have enough money to meet their needs and wants. If it's negative, explain that they will need to earn more income to meet their goals, or that they need to cut expenses.

### Setting (and Adjusting) Budget Goals

Encourage your child to identify a goal that costs money like buying a new video game or going to an amusement park. Then, help them create a chart that keeps track of the money your child earns.

Every time they make money, allow them to physically deposit it, say, into a piggy bank. Ask your child to help you update the chart to keep track of how much money the piggy bank contains. Work with them to design a plan on how much they need to earn each day or week to achieve their goal.

Explain to your child that their income and goals will change as they get

older. They might have different needs, wants, and priorities and they will need to keep track of them. For example, they may get extra money from family members for their birthday or lose their piggy bank.

"Good goals must have reasonable deadlines and consider the age of the child. For an elementary-aged student, the goal should be accomplished in less than one month," said Hale.

### Note

Try to align the financial goals you're using for budgeting lessons with the child's passions. For example, if a child is interested in art, a good goal may be to save \$20 in two weeks for a 100-piece art set.

### The Bottom Line

While teaching children about budgeting takes time, effort, and creativity, it's definitely worthwhile. If your child is well-versed in how to create a budget and stick to it, they'll be able to foster other healthy financial habits and avoid common issues like overspending and debt. This can set them up for a successful future.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is a good age for kids to learn about budgeting?

You can start teaching children basic budgeting skills at an early age. Each child will have a different ideal age for when they're most receptive. While kids should learn about money at an early age, Kari Lorz, certified financial educator, recommends about 8 years old as an ideal age to go into more detail about the concept of budgeting.

### What should a kid's budget look like?

A kid's budget can be a simple three-column sheet with the words "goal, savings, and cost." On this sheet, your child may list their goal, when they would like to achieve it, the amount of money they earn in that time, the amount they will save, and the cost of the goal. This way, they can determine if they are on track to reach their goal or what changes they can make to achieve it.

### Budget Saving Tips From Your Financial Experts at Community State Bank

When budgeting, Community State Bank suggests applying any extra money towards the bills or debts with the shortest remaining term. If the remaining terms are comparable, apply the extra funds towards the obligation with the higher interest rate first. As an obligation is retired, take the payment that was previously applied towards the recently retired obligation to the obligation with next shortest remaining term and repeat. This will allow you to pay off debt dramatically faster than the scheduled rate without altering your existing budget.

When deciding whether to invest or prepay debt, compare the rate on the investment to the rate on your debt. If you can earn a higher return on the investment then it makes sense to invest. However, if the rate on the debt is higher than what you can earn on an investment it makes more sense to prepay the debt.

One more tip we encourage people to use is our **bill pay option** to pay their bills automatically on the day they get paid. And if you get paid weekly or bi-weekly paying splitting a monthly payment into weekly or bi-weekly increments can save you more money in the long run!

It's a good way to budget and it keeps the bill off your mind so you have room to think about other things!

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## Business Section

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### Starke Branch

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

### Lake Butler Branch

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

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of July 27, 2023

## BRADFORD

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that NAR SOLUTIONS INC 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: 777  
Year of Issuance: 2021  
Parcel Number: 04440-0-00000  
Case Number, 04-2023-TD-0010  
Description of Property: Commence at the NW corner of the SW 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 6 South, Range 22 East and run thence South 364 feet to iron stob for point of beginning and thence continue South 142 feet along State Highway, thence run East 616 feet, S.A.L. ry right of way line and thence run North along S.A.L. ry Right of Way line 182 feet, thence run West along old fence 611 feet to iron spike, thence run Southwesterly 90 feet to point of beginning.

Name in Which Assessed: ROBERT J BLAINE  
Name on last tax roll, if different: ROBERT J BLAINE ET AL

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/16/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida  
BY: Kanetra Jenkins  
Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: June 30, 2023  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 6, 2023; JULY 13, 2023; JULY 20, 2023; JULY 27, 2023

7/6 4tchg 7/27-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that REDDING REAL ESTATE, 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: 720  
Year of Issuance: 2016  
Parcel Number: 02701-0-00000  
Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0011  
Description of Property: BEGIN AT THE NW CORNER OF SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST AND RUN EAST 520 FEET TO NE CORNER OF MARY TATE LOT AND THENCE SOUTH ALONG EAST LINE OF MARY TATE LOT 100 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE WEST 50 FEET ALONG SOUTH LINE OF MARY TATE LOT, THENCE SOUTH ALONG EAST LINE OF ROSE COX LOT 100 FEET, THENCE EAST AND PARALLEL WITH QUARTER SECTION LINE 50 FEET, THENCE NORTH 100 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING IN SW 1/4 OF SW 1/4 OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST.

Name in Which Assessed: STEPHEN SINGLETON JR  
Name on last tax roll, if different: STEPHEN SINGLETON JR (DEC) %RUTH HOLLAND (HEIR)

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 09/13/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida  
BY: Kanetra Jenkins  
Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: June 30, 2023  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 6, 2023; JULY 13, 2023; JULY 20, 2023; JULY 27, 2023

7/6 4tchg 7/27-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: 732  
Year of Issuance: 2021  
Parcel Number: 04189-0-00000  
Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0012  
Description of Property: (Per Warranty Deed - ORB 100, P 258) Begin at the NE Corner of SW1/4 of SE1/4 Section 30 Township 6 South, Range 22 East, run South 670.6 feet to Iron Post, Thence Run

West 401.9 feet to Iron Post, thence run North 670.6 feet to Iron Post, thence run East 405.8 feet to Place of beginning in SW1/4 of SE1/4 Section 30 Township 6 South, Range 22 East. Cont.7 Acres, more or less. (Per Quit-Claim Deed - ORB 140, P 63)

Begin at Southeast Corner of East half of Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter (E 1/2 of NW 1/4 of SE 1/4), Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, run North 79.5 feet to South right of way line of county graded road, thence in a Northwesterly direction along said South right of way line of county graded road 155 feet for point of beginning; thence continue Northwesterly along South right of way line 75 feet, thence run Southerly parallel to East line of Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter (NW 1/4 of SE 1/4) 90 feet, thence run Southeasterly parallel to road right of way line 75 feet, thence run Northerly 90 feet to the point of beginning, lying and being in East half of Northwest quarter of Southeast quarter (E 1/2 of NW 1/4 of SE 1/4) of Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East. (Less and Except: Stipulated Order of Taking and Order of Distribution ORB 1554, P 48)

A Part Of The Southeast 1/4 Of Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, Being More Particularly Described As Follows:

Commence At A Found Railroad Rail (Set Vertical) Marking The Southeast Corner Of Section 30, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; Thence South 88°41'46" West, Along The South Line Of Said Section 30, A Distance Of 1,087.65 Feet To A Point On The Baseline Of Survey Of State Road No. 223, (A Variable Width Right Of Way, As Per Florida Department Of Transportation Right Of Way Map, Section 28125, F.P. No. 2080014). Said Point Also Being On A Curve To The Left, Having A Radius Of 5,000.00 Feet; Thence From A Tangent Bearing Of North 06°48'41" West, Northerly, Departing Said South Line, Along Said Baseline Of Survey And The Arc Of Said Curve, Through An Angle Of 06°02'34", An Arc Length Of 527.34 Feet To The Point Of Tangency; Thence North 12°51'16" West, Along Said Baseline Of Survey, A Distance Of 160.72 Feet To The Point Of Beginning; Thence South 89°47'05" West, Departing Said Baseline Of Survey, A Distance Of 217.93 Feet; Thence North 11°47'05" West, A Distance Of 775.95 Feet To The Beginning Of A Non-Tangent Curve To The Left, Having A Radius Of 10,906.00 Feet, A Chord Bearing And Distance Of North 17°39'21" West, 282.11 Feet; Thence Northerly Along The Arc Of Said Curve, Through An Angle Of 01°28'56", An Arc Length Of 282.11 Feet To A Point On The Southwesterly Existing Right Of Way Line Of County Road S.W. 155th Street (A.K.A. Butter Road); Said Point Being On A Curve To The Left, Having A Radius Of 1,925.00 Feet, A Chord Bearing And Distance Of South 58°11'50" East, 559.53 Feet; Thence Southeasterly, Along Said Southwesterly Existing Right Of Way Line And The Arc Of Said Curve, Through An Angle Of 16°42'47", An Arc Length Of 561.52 Feet; Thence South 00°21'38" East, A Distance Of 416.14 Feet; Thence South 01°59'54" East, A Distance Of 316.69 Feet; Thence South 89°47'05" West, A Distance Of 27.22 Feet To The Point Of Beginning. Containing 6.370 Acres, More Or Less.

Together With All Right Of Ingress, Egress, Light, Air And View Between The Grantor's Remaining Property And Any Facility Constructed On The Above Described Property.

Name in Which Assessed: DAVID GUNTER & EUNICE GUNTER  
Name on last tax roll, if different: EUNICE GUNTER (DEC) % DEBORAH PATTERSON

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 09/13/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida  
BY: Kanetra Jenkins  
Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: June 30, 2023  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 6, 2023; JULY 13, 2023; JULY 20, 2023; JULY 27, 2023

7/6 4tchg 7/27-BCT

### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A WRIT OF EXECUTION hereby issued out of the Circuit Court, Clay County, Florida, Case No. 04-2003-CC-0543 on 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023 in the matter of a Personal Property Levy, I Gordon Smith, As Sheriff of Bradford County, Florida, have levied upon all the right, and interest of the defendant(s) Eric T. Smith to wit:  
2009 DODGE RAM 1500 VIN# 1D3HB18T79S740557, SILVER

And on Friday August 25, 2023 at 11:00 AM., (at T & M Towing 3687 Ambient Rd., Starke, FL 32091) or as soon thereafter as circumstances permit, I will offer the above described property for sale at public outcry and sell the same, subject to ALL prior liens, if any, to the highest and best bidder for CASH IN HAND, plus Florida Sales Tax, if applicable, the proceeds to be applied as far as may be to payment of cost and satisfaction of the above described execution. The above-described property may be viewed up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled sale time. In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall contact the individual or agency sending notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on notice. Telephone: (904) 966-6380

7/20 4tchg 8/10-BCT

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

CASE NO. 04-2022-DP-83  
IN THE INTEREST OF:  
F-H., S. (F) DOB:  
7/15/2022  
Minor child

NOTICE OF ACTION  
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS  
STATE OF FLORIDA

TO: ANTHONY DALE FARINEAU  
ADDRESS UNKNOWN  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights and permanently commit the following child(ren) for adoption: S. F-H., born on 7/15/2022. A copy of the Petition is on file with the Clerk of the Court. You are hereby commanded to appear on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 9:00 AM, before Honorable George M. Wright, at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091, for a CONTINUED ADVISORY HEARING. \*\*\*\*\*FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS CHILD IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE PETITION ATTACHED HERETO.\*\*\*\*\*

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court at Starke, Bradford County, Florida, on this 13th day of July 2023.  
Denny Thompson  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
By: Ramona Jefferson  
Deputy Clerk

Special Accommodations. Under the American with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at [interpreter@court8.org](mailto:interpreter@court8.org).

7/20 4tchg 8/10-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 04-23-CP-56  
IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES LUTHER SANDERS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The administration of the estate of JAMES LUTHER SANDERS, deceased, whose date of death was March 1, 2023; 1File Number 04-2023-CP-56, is pending in the Circuit Court for BRADFORD County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is: July 20, 2023.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is: July 20, 2023.

Signed on July 12, 2023.  
Sean F. Bogle, Esq.  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
Email: sean@boglelawfirm.com  
Florida Bar No. 0106313  
BOGLE LAW FIRM  
101 S. New York Ave., Suite 205  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
Telephone: 407-834-3311  
Fax: 407-834-3302  
SANDRA SANDERS  
Personal Representative

7/20 2tchg 7/27-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION  
CASE NO.: 04-2023-CP-000067  
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBERT SHELLEY BLOUNT, III, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The administration of the Estate of ROBERT SHELLEY BLOUNT, III, deceased, whose date of death was May 26, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is July 20, 2023.

Personal Representative  
Andrea Hardy Blount  
126 NW 76<sup>th</sup> Drive, Suite B  
Gainesville, Florida 32607  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
HOME TOWN LAW, P.A.  
/s/ Sabina Tomshinsky  
Sabina Tomshinsky  
sabina@hometownlawfirm.com  
Florida Bar No.: 0012188  
126 NW 76<sup>th</sup> Drive, Suite B  
Gainesville, Florida 32607  
Voice: 352/505-5878  
Facsimile: 352/505-5713

7/20 2tchg 7/27-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on August 23, 2023. 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 16, 2023 and end at 10AM on August 23, 2023. The public sale will take place on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). KO Storage of Starke, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121 Time: 10:00AM CST A18, Filosi, Thomas, A74, Acta, Wilton, B80, Cantu, Timothy, C02, Caines, John D. Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://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.

7/27 2tchg 8/3-BCT

CORRECTION TO AD PUBLISHED ON 7-20-2023:

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will hold its board meeting on August 1, 2023, at 9:30 AM, inside the County Commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL and not at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center, as previously published. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: [www.bradfordcountyfl.gov](http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov). Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.

7/27 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION  
TAKEN BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Notice is given that the following permit was issued on July 12, 2023: (Name and address of applicant) Tom's High on the Hog Real Pit BBO,

1177 SE Keystone Ave., Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Permit# ERP-007-231354-3. The project is located in Bradford County, Section 11 & 14, Township 8 South, Range 22 East. The permit authorizes a surface water management system on 154.8 acres for Tom's High on the Hog Real Pit BBO known as Keystone RV Driving Range. The receiving water body is Santa Fe River.

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the Suwannee River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40BB-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the Resource Management Business Resource Specialist at District Headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak FL 32060 or by e-mail to [tjm@srwmd.org](mailto:tjm@srwmd.org), within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of intended District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., is not available.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Live Oak, FL during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the next regular District business day. The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40B-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.). If you wish to do so, you may request the Notice of Rights for this permit by contacting the Business Resource Specialist in the Division of Resource Management (RM), 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060, or by phone at 386.362.1001.

7/27 1tchg-BCT

REQUEST FOR BIDS  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bradford County S.H.I.P. Program will receive sealed bids until 2:30 p.m. August 10, 2023 at the Bradford County Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 for the following:

Renovation/Demo/Replacement of residence located at: 1495 Covington Lane, Starke (Demo/Replacement) 4631 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Melrose (Renovation)

A mandatory walk through is a prerequisite to a valid bid. All interested bidders will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 3, 2023 at the Community Development Office located at 925-E North Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida. If you plan to submit a bid, a representative of your firm must attend the "walk through" of the unit to become familiar with the property and the scope of work to be completed.

No contractors shall visit the subject property for any reason without first making arrangements with the County and owner. All contractors must have proof of Residential or General Contractor's License, proof of Liability Insurance, proof of Workers' Compensation Insurance (or Exemption Card), a statement of non-discrimination, and at least two references from previously completed jobs. Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, August, 10 2023 or as soon thereafter as possible in the presence of the Clerk or his designee, Community Development staff, and all interested persons in the Bradford County Board of County Commission Meeting Room. The opened bids will be read into public record and preserved in the custody of the Community Development Department. Bids will not be valid unless received by the bid deadline and in a sealed envelope marked, "Sealed Bid, S.H.I.P." and received by 2:30 p.m., August 10, 2023.

Questions to be submitted in writing to the Community Development office at [kelly.canady@bradfordcountyfl.gov](mailto:kelly.canady@bradfordcountyfl.gov) or Fax (904) 966-6384 no later than 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 8, 2023

The County reserves the right to reject all bids when in its best judgment they are too high or when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County that the bids be re-advertised. Pursuant to Section 255.0991,

Florida Statutes, Bradford County WILL NOT offer a local preference for this project.

It is the policy of the County to promote equal opportunity to obtain adequate housing by all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap, or national origin.

7/27 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO. 19000389CAAXMX  
J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP., Plaintiff,

vs. SAMUEL LEE WILLIAMS A/K/A SAMUEL L. WILLIAMS; ANNETTE WILLIAMS; BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, Defendant(s).

RE-NOTICE OF SALE  
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Summary Final Judgment of foreclosure dated December 2, 2019 and an Order Resetting Sale dated July 6, 2023 and entered in Case No. 19000389CAAXMX of the Circuit Court in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. is Plaintiff and SAMUEL LEE WILLIAMS A/K/A SAMUEL L. WILLIAMS; ANNETTE WILLIAMS; BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants, RAY NORMAN, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, 11:00 a.m., on August 17, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to-wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BRADFORD AND STATE OF FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

A PORTION OF LAND IN THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 18, THENCE NORTH 89° 30 MINUTES 01 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 18, A DISTANCE OF 830.95 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 89° 30 MINUTES 01 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE A DISTANCE OF 177.82 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0° 11 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 234.77 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89° 30 MINUTES 01 SECONDS EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH LINE A DISTANCE OF 177.82 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0° 11 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 234.77 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.96 ACRE MORE OR LESS.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE, NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Court not later than five business days prior to the proceeding at the Bradford County Courthouse, Telephone 904-964-6280 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

DATED July 14, 2023.  
By: /s/ Gregg R. Dreilinger  
Gregg R. Dreilinger  
Florida Bar No.: 25615  
Roy Diaz, Attorney of Record  
Diaz Bar No. 76770  
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
499 NW 70th Ave., Suite 309  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33317  
Telephone: (954) 564-0071  
Facsimile: (954) 564-9252  
Service E-mail: [answers@dallegal.com](mailto:answers@dallegal.com)

7/27 2tchg 8/3-BCT

## Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
Bradford County Telegraph

131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091  
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Mark J. Crawford  
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley  
Advertising: John R. Tillman  
Typesetting: Mary Goodge  
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston  
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge  
Front office Asst:

Subscription Rate in Trade Area  
Area \$52.00 per year:  
\$26.00 six months  
Outside Trade Area:  
\$52.00 per year:  
\$26.00 six months

## Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
Lake Region Monitor

P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091  
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091  
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628

John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Dan Hildebran  
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley  
Advertising: John R. Tillman  
Typesetting: Mary Goodge  
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston  
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge  
Front office Asst:

Subscription Rate in Trade Area  
Area \$52.00 per year:  
\$26.00 six months  
Outside Trade Area:  
\$52.00 per year:  
\$26.00 six months

## UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
UNION COUNTY TIMES

131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091  
uctimeseditor@gmail.com  
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of July 27, 2023

## BRADFORD

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME**  
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: CLAY & LISA HARRIS, 16394 SW 144<sup>th</sup> Ave., Brookler, FL 32622, joint owners, doing business under the firm name of: HAPPY ACRES FARM, NEW RIVER, 16394 SW 144<sup>th</sup> Ave., Brookler, FL 32622 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 21st day of July A.D., 2023, in Bradford County.

Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main St. #103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is July 20, 2023, 2023.

Steven K. Schwartz  
Attorney for Pers. Rep.  
Florida Bar No. 187976  
7700 Congress Ave #1104  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
Telephone: 305-563-2739 Ext 101  
E-mail: steve@stevenkschwartzpa.com  
Gail Culp  
11621 Bridgeport Rd  
Taneytown, MD 21787  
Personal Representative

7/10 2tchg 7/27-UCT

Animal Science & Services, Culinary Arts, Food Science Applications, Agriculture Sales & Services, Digital Design, Nursing, Welding Technologies, Computer Science Principles, and Criminal Justice Operations.

The district prohibits discrimination in the terms and conditions of employment, and in access to educational programs and activities, and prohibits harassment of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or genetic information (and other protected classes included in the district's nondiscrimination policies). Lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation. The district may assess each student's ability to benefit from specific programs through placement tests and counseling, and, if necessary, will provide services or referrals to better prepare students for successful participation.

7/27 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO.: 18000047CAAXMX

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR TO BNY MIDWEST TRUST COMPANY, BNY MIDWEST TRUST COMPANY, AS SUCCESSOR HARRIS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK, AS TRUSTEE, OF BOMBARDIER CAPITAL MORTGAGE SECURITIZATION CORPORATION, SENIOR/SUBORDINATED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2001-A Plaintiff(s),  
vs.  
BARBARA L PROFFITT; DEBRA HALE HATCH; TOMMY HALE; SHAUN HALE; MELANIE HALE ROBERTS; LYNDLE HALE; DONALD E. HALE; JOHN P. HALE, JR., IF LIVING, BUT IF DECEASED, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES,

ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN P. HALE, JR., DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS: THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DAVID C PROFFITT; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN P. HALE AKA JOHN P. HALE, SR., DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS: THOMAS P. HALE; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF D. M. HALE AKA DONALD M. HALE, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF WILDA HAYES BRADHAM, DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS: JOHN P. HALE, JR., AS TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN P. HALE SR. TRUST DATED 4/26/1993; THOMAS P. HALE, AS TRUSTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN P. HALE, SR. TRUST DATED 4/26/1993; CAROLYN C. FAULKNER FKA CAROLYN C. HALE Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
TO: JOHN P. HALE, JR., IF LIVING, BUT IF DECEASED, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNS, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN P. HALE, JR., DECEASED, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE NAMED DEFENDANTS  
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: UNKNOWN  
CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKNOWN  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a

civil action has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of Union County, Florida, to foreclose certain real property described as follows:

Lot "C" of Pine Tree Estates according to an unrecorded plat, said lot being more particularly described as follows:  
Commence at the intersection of the East line of Section 3, Township 6 South, Range 20 East, and the Southwesterly Right-of-Way line of State Road 100, thence run North 61 degrees 40 minutes 53 seconds West along said Southwesterly Right of Way line a distance of 856.16 feet, thence run North 61 degrees 14 minutes 06 seconds West along said Southwesterly Right-of-Way line a distance of 1419.89 feet, thence run South 28 degrees 45 minutes 54 seconds West, a distance of 314.27 feet to the Point of Beginning; from the Point of Beginning, thence continue South 28 degrees 45 minutes 54 seconds West, a distance of 345.73 feet, thence run North 61 degrees 14 minutes 06 seconds West, a distance of 203.54 feet to the Easterly Right of Way line of State Road No. S-237, thence run North 01 degrees 30 minutes 51 seconds East along said Easterly Right of Way line of said State Road No. S-237 a distance of 22.35 feet, thence run North 06 degrees 00 minutes 51 seconds East, along said Easterly Right of Way line a distance of 353.35 feet, thence run Southeasterly 350.43 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Together with that certain 2000 Homes of Merit mobile home with Vehicle Identification No.s: FLHMLCY143322042A and FLHMLCY143322042B, Property address: 8976 Southeast County Road 237, Lake Butler, FL 32054

You are required to file a written response with the Court and serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Padgett Law Group, whose address is 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312, at least thirty (30) days from the date of first publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

DATED this the 21st day of July, 2023.  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
AS Clerk of the Court  
BY: CRYSTAL NORMAN  
Deputy Clerk

7/27 4tchg 8/17-UCT

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
RULE NAME:  
4.051+ Field Trips  
5.15+ Administration of Medication  
5.121+ Use of Time Out, Seclusion and Physical Restraint For Students with Disabilities  
5.28+ School Health Services  
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To update Board Policies  
SUMMARY: To update Board Policies  
AUTHORITY: Florida Statutes  
LAW IMPLEMENTED:  
ECONOMIC IMPACT: None  
Policies can be viewed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 55 SW Sixth Street, Lake Butler, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.  
IF A HEARING IS REQUESTED WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THE POLICY POSTING LOCATED AT UNION. K12.FL.US THIS PUBLICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 120.54 FLORIDA STATUTES, IT WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, IN THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ROOM. A COMPLETE TEXT OF THIS PROPOSED RULE MAY BE VIEWED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, 55 S.W. 6TH STREET, LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA.

7/27 1tchg-UCT

## LAKE REGION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 213, containing misc. household items.

7/27 2tchg 8/3-LRM

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 318, containing misc. household items.

7/27 2tchg 8/3-LRM

## UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 2300004CPAXMX

IN RE: ESTATE OF GILES ELWYN ORCUTT, Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
The administration of the estate of GILES ORCUTT, deceased, whose date of death was November 7, 2022, and whose Social Security Number is \*\*\*-\*\*-8135, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida,

Annual Notification of Nondiscrimination  
The Union County School District offers the following career and technical programs wherein students may earn industry certification:

## Free Trading Post

FOR SALE BY OWNER  
FREE ADS

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

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

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Class Ads  
7/27/23

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

OFFICE FOR RENT located downtown Starke next to title company. 4 separate office spaces, two bath rooms, break room. Located next to new parking lot behind Office Shop. Renter can choose flooring. \$1100 per mo. 904-364-9022.

**50 For Rent**  
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1323  
NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW Lake Butler, 3BR/2BA DW, Starke. 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

3BR/1BA STARKE 900/mo.  
2BR/1BA Hampton 750/mo.  
3BR/2BA Waldo 1000/mo.  
No pets in any. 904-263-9645.

**53 A Yard Sales**  
YARD SALE; Fri. & Sat. All day starting at 9am. 403 E. Market Rd. Tupperware & Home Interiors inventory

(new), clothes, shoes & other household items, Christmas decorations too (new). Prices negotiable.

**55 Wanted**  
LOOKING FOR reasonable priced automatic car. Also looking for rental. Please contact me at 904-977-9576.

**57 For Sale**  
FREE COUCH. Reclining couch from non-smoking home. 352-468-2895.  
LIFT CHAIR gently used, burgundy. \$400. Dixie Chopper rear tire,

good tread \$50 size 25x1200-9. 904-364-8376.

**65 Help Wanted**  
LPN/RN 2 PART-TIME positions needed for Lawtley home health client. Experience is a plus. Will take new grads. Call family at 904-964-2747 for details.

THE CITY of Lake Butler is currently accepting applications for Public Works Director. This position is a salary position with a range of \$50,000-\$61,000 based on experience. Access the job posting here: <https://www.cityoflakebutler.com/>

publicworks/page/public-works-director-position-now-accepting-applications  
Applications can be emailed to [hpage@cityoflakebutler.com](mailto:hpage@cityoflakebutler.com), at which point will be given to the City Manager for further review and

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

## OUT OF AREA CLASSIFIED ADS

**AUCTION**  
Real Estate Auction: 282+/- Acres offered in 13 Tracts located in Franklin, NC. Prime Smoky Mountain real estate overlooking Nantahala National Forest and Winding Stair Gap. Great building sites, spring fed streams, views and 2 old cabins. Recreational paradise, abundant wildlife a 5-minute drive to The Appalachian Trail and a 30-minute drive to Lake Chatuge. Auction held at Robert C. Carpenter Community Bldg. in Franklin, NC on August 17 at 11 AM. 5% Buyer's Premium. For details visit [woltz.com](http://woltz.com) or call Russell Seneff, Assoc. Broker (NCA# 4522) Woltz & Associates, Inc. Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers 800-551-3588. (NC #7560)

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**BCT**  
Continued from page 9

end of the year.

The Matthews-Farmer partnership continued until 1898, when Farmer sold out his interest and moved to find work farther south.

In the early 1900s, a hard-fought battle resulted in saloons being voted out of Starke. J.D. Crabb, proprietor of the Red Light Saloon on West Call Street, closed up and left town in disgust. Matthews bought the vacated building from the estate 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.

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

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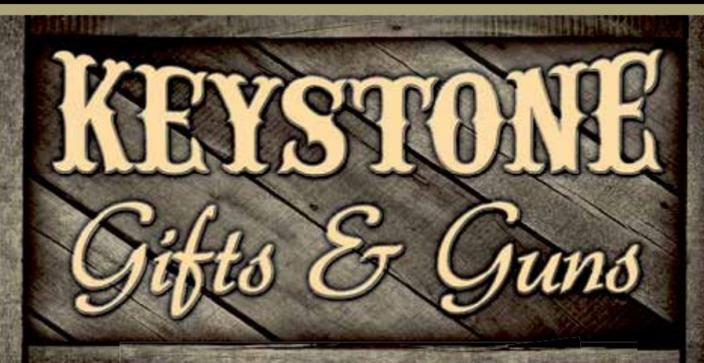
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