

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024

146th year, 3rd Issue — \$1

Deceased body identified, no apparent foul play

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith said a body discovered on July 28 near the intersection of County Road 225 and County Road 229 has been identified as 34-year-old Barry Joseph Warren.

Smith said a nearby resident discovered Warren,

whom the sheriff said had been deceased about a week.

"The medical examiner found no signs of foul play," Smith said, "no blood, no head trauma, no stab wounds, nothing. Now they are waiting for a toxicology report to determine the cause of death, which could take between six and 12 weeks."

The sheriff added that Warren had a flashlight and his phone with him in the wooded area.

"It looked like he just laid down," Smith said.

The sheriff added that no one reported Warren missing at the time of the discovery. However, after the body was found, the decedent's friends and family members looked for him.

Former library director sentenced to one year for theft

Pleads to stealing from library support fund

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The former director of the Bradford County Library was sentenced to one year in prison and five years' probation for stealing from a nonprofit that supports the library.

Robert Eugene Perone, 61, of Starke, pleaded to grand theft and fraudulent use of a credit card.

In April, Bradford detectives wrote in a sworn complaint that the former county employee stole over \$12,000 from a nonprofit organization that supports the library.

According to the complaint, members of the Friends of the Bradford Library, Inc., a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit,

reported that the organization's cash balances had dropped from \$17,000 in December 2022 to \$1,800 the following December. They added that Perone had the only ATM debit card issued by the nonprofit, and they suspected he had withdrawn the money for unauthorized uses.

"(A witness) had requested several times to obtain the bank statements of the Friends of the Library from Perone, but he did not fulfill the request," wrote Detective Joseph Shiller in the complaint. "(The witness) was able to get copies of the statements and



Perone

noticed several unauthorized ATM withdrawals from Capital City Bank between February 28, 2023, and March 3, 2024, of 48 transactions totaling \$10,630. There were also four unauthorized withdrawals from August 8, 2023, to August 27, 2023, for \$1,315.96 from VyStar Credit Union."

Video surveillance from Capital City Bank showed the 61-year-old making a cash withdrawal using the nonprofit's ATM debit card.

Detectives reported that County Manager Scott Kornegay allowed them to search the defendant's desk, where they found receipts from McHenry's Irish Pub and a cash withdrawal from Capital City, which matched transactions on the nonprofit's bank statements.

The officers wrote that they

interviewed Perone about the transactions, and he claimed he could not remember them. He admitted to accidentally paying a personal Comcast bill using a Friends of the Bradford Library, Inc. ATM debit card.

Detectives concluded that the defendant stole \$12,843.12 from the nonprofit, which accepts tax-deductible contributions and uses the funds to support the library's mission.

The plea petition that the prosecution, defense, and judge agreed to states that Perone would be adjudicated guilty, pay restitution to the Friends of the Library in the amount of \$12,843.12, reimburse the sheriff's office \$1,125 for the cost of the investigation, and have no contact with the employees of the library or county manager's office.

District balances report card with achievement numbers

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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While the Bradford School District has received a C grade for a decade now, administration is highlighting the numbers behind the grades to emphasize greater achievement.

Bradford Elementary School earned 58% of possible points to be the district's only B school this year. Sixty-two percent was the threshold to earn an A. Elementary schools are awarded points based on how students performed in English, math and science, third-grade achievement in English, learning gains in English and math, as well as learning gains among the lowest quartile of students.

Bradford Elementary earned 463 total points to go from a C to a B. Starke Elementary and Lawtey Elementary earned 420 and 419 points, respectively, and both received a C grade. This was a drop for Lawtey Elementary, which received a B in 2023. Starke earned 53% of total

points, and Lawtey earned 52%.

The threshold for a B was earning 54% of total possible points, so both schools were very close.

Brooker Community School in its first year as the district's only charter school and no learning gains to demonstrate was scored in just three categories, earning 150 points and a C grade. This was 50% of the total possible points.

Bradford Middle School and Bradford High School were also C schools, earning 50% and 53% of total points, respectively. Upper grades received even more points through categories such as accelerated coursework, dual enrollment, industry certifications earned and the graduation rate. Fifty-seven percent of total possible points were required for a B grade.

BHS Principal Chris Coffey pointed out that the 531 points earned

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Percentage of Possible Points by School

School	22-23	23-24	Percentage Increase
BES	43%	58%	15%
SES	42%	53%	11%
BHS	51%	53%	2%
BMS	39%	50%	11%

All Bradford schools were above 50% for the first time in a decade, according to the school district.

Union County candidates make their cases

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Union County Republican Executive Committee hosted a candidate forum at the Hal Y. Maines Community Center on Thursday, July 25.

Before the candidates spoke, Chairman Vince Brown updated the crowd on the local party, saying the county turned red in 2018 and there are now over 2,900 more Republicans than Democrats in Union County.

Committeeman Wayne Metz added that a local attorney recently told him a Maine resident recently bought property in the county because of its heavy Republican registration.

Clerk of the Court

Ryan Perez

Former County Commission Chair and Clerk of Court candidate Ryan Perez told the audience he had detailed plans for updating the county's budget process and technology but wanted to spend his time at the forum answering the question he had been asked the most while visiting nearly 800 Union County households.

"I'm sure many of you are curious as well," he said, "why I vacated my previous office to run for Clerk of the Court?"

Perez said that he always viewed himself as a fixer, a transformational leader who solves problems, and that was what he anticipated his role on the county commission would be.

"The whole transformational fixer part of my work ethic was met by a brick wall," he said. "I had no idea what was really going on in our local government until I had a seat at the table."

Perez did not detail the disfunction he alluded to and instead urged audience members to view prior county commission meeting minutes and audio recordings.

"It's frustrating to say that it took me 1,095 days in the office mediating, fielding angry phone calls, and even a threat on my own daughter's life to get my wake-up call," he said.

The former commissioner said he had to back up and decide where he could most effectively change local government, and he concluded it was in the clerk's office.

"We have to turn away from internal conflict and get back to what



Ryan Perez



Kellie Hendricks Rhoades

our government was built on," he said.

Perez added that while checks and balances within the government are essential, when personal disdain clouds officials' judgment, those checks and balances feel like jabs and punches.

"It doesn't have to be that way," he said. "My vision for our local government is unity, not division. It's time to reunite, reengage, and work together for our constituency."

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades

The current clerk, Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, declared herself a non-politician. She emphasized her background as a CPA and her years of experience in the clerk's office.

"If you don't know by now that I am a licensed CPA and worked for 12 years in public accounting before I was elected," she added, "I have not done my job as a politician very well."

Rhoades added that her training continued after she was first elected to

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WORTH NOTING

Bradford HIPPY program seeks students

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

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

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

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

Church of God food distribution

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

Rummage sale at First Church

First Church of Starke, 200 N. Walnut St., will hold a rummage sale on Friday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon in the fellowship hall across from Starke Fire Rescue.

Soil and water conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

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

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



Letters

Be honest about assessment

Dear Editor:

One thing the County 5 is certainly not afraid of is being voted out of office. Who else would impose new taxes during an election year, especially now with inflation and economic uncertainty. Rising costs of prescription drugs, groceries, and you name it, don't bother the 5 one bit. I recently talked

to a lady who had experienced a cardiac emergency while at work. It was early in the morning, and she was cooking at one of those convenience store delis. She is 70 years old. I asked why she was back there in that hot kitchen working away at her age. She said her medications cost \$1,500 a month and she is

on a fixed income and couldn't afford it without having to work. A lot of folks are in that situation. I'd be more empathetic to the county's situation, but when you can't tell us how much it will cost us and what you'll use it for and have the track record of not living within your means, it's a hard sell.

Why can't they study an MSTU, where it's done on a millage rate instead of a flat rate? With an assessment, someone in a 1,000 square-foot house will pay the same as the person that lives in a 3,600 square-foot house on Hampton Lake. Why should the lower income folks subsidize the wealthy? They tried this before. One commissioner stated that it was the cost of a pizza every month. Pretty arrogant. The cost of that pizza might be the equal of whether a child gets a birthday cake or a new pair of shoes or a doctor visit.

There are plenty of ways to bring the cost down. But you have to want to. And you have to try. For example, the county has a "fire marshal" on staff. Full-time, salary and retirement, but works a full-time career job with a fine salary and retirement in another county, so it's not really full-time. Why? Why should I have to supplement another retirement? Starke doesn't and they have most of the commercial buildings in the county. They contract it out. Maybe they can use the folks that are certified fire inspectors that are on shift to perform these duties? That's what Jefferson County does. That's efficiency. Maybe cut back on the at least 11 supervisory positions they have? Suwannee, Okeechobee, Wakulla, and Desoto...counties that are bigger in square miles, and equally or more populated, don't have huge administrative

staff. This isn't a knock on the brave men and women who do the work at all. The folks out in the field.

The county has to be honest. Honest about what you have and what you need, not what you want and what it costs.

Tell us what this \$4 million is going to get us. I'm a consumer. I want to have something tangible I can see when I'm paying for something.

Is it going to maintain the status quo or improve?

If it's not going to improve, then why should we pay it? How has it been paid for the last four years? Why do you need \$4 million? Can you do it for less? Have you tried?

Don't tell me you'll lower my insurance. That's been tried. Mine more than doubled last year.

Be honest. *Paul McDavid*



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<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">WEDNESDAY KID SHOW 7/31</p> <p style="margin: 0;">KUNG FU PANDA 4-10AM & 1PM</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 0.7em;">All tickets are \$5 and include a small popcorn & drink!</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">WEDNESDAY 7/31</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TWISTERS- 6:30 (Upstairs)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE- 6:30 (Downstairs)</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">THURSDAY 8/1</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TWISTERS- 6:30 (Upstairs)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE- 6:30 (Downstairs)</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">FRIDAY 8/2</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TWISTERS- 7:00 (Upstairs)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE- 7:00 (Downstairs)</p>
<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">SATURDAY 8/3</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TWISTERS- 4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE- 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs)</p>	<p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">SUNDAY 8/4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">TWISTERS- 4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE- 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs)</p>

Visit us on-line at www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com

RJE alumni plan social

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

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I will **rebuild trust & confidence** in our school district by listening to & learning from all stakeholders - students, parents, staff, & the community.

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My name is Tracey Kendrick & I am asking for your **VOTE!**

Family History with Bradford County Schools

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Early voting begins next week in Bradford County at courthouse

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Early voting for the Aug. 20 primary begins next week in Bradford County.

Early voting for the primary will be available from Aug. 5-18, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you're going to take advantage of early voting, you will go to the commission meeting room in the north wing of the Bradford County Courthouse.

To vote by mail, request a ballot by calling the elections office at 904-966-6266 or visiting the website at www.votebradfordfl.gov. The deadline to request a ballot by mail for the primary is Aug. 8.

There is a lot you can do at the elections website, including view a sample ballot, enter your address to determine your voting precinct or sign up to vote by mail.

Voting precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. the day of the primary. There have been some changes due to redistricting. Polling locations now include Lawtey Community Center, Heilbronn Springs Baptist Church, Starke Church of

God by Faith, Bayless Highway Baptist Church, Bradford Senior Center, Madison Street Baptist Church, Starke Golf and Country Club, Sampson City Church of God, Theressa Community Center, Hampton City Hall, Keystone United Methodist multi-ministry building and Brooker Community Center. Where you vote on election day is determined by where you live.

In addition to candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Bradford Republicans will be selecting their candidate for superintendent of schools — incumbent Will Hartley or his challenger, Tracy Kendrick. The winner of this race will continue running in November.

Democrats have Senate candidates to choose from.

All District 5 voters regardless of party will be voting for a county commissioner. Competing in the open primary are incumbent Diane Andrews and challenger Brian Outlaw.

The nonpartisan race on the ballot is for District 4 school board member. Incumbent Candace Osteen is running against Dana Bell and Mitchell

Gunter. You can find contact information to reach out to candidates at www.votebradfordfl.gov or attend one of the upcoming forums sponsored by the local Republican and Democratic executive committees.

Early voting in Union

In Union County, early voting takes place in the Supervisor of Elections Office at 175 W. Main St. in Lake Butler. The dates are Aug. 10-17 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Local races include clerk of court between Kellie Hendricks Rhoades and District 3 county commissioner between Chad Ali, Shelton Arnold Jr., Melissa McNeal, Ed Rainey, Daniel Tomlinson and Martie Touchstone. These will be open primaries. The clerk's race is countywide. The commission race is single district.

For more information, go to www.unionflvotes.com or call 386-496-2236.

Schools welcome families to campus

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County goes back to school on Aug. 12, but families will have an opportunity to visit campus and interact with teachers and administrators at multiple events beginning this weekend out in Brooker.

Brooker Community School will have a Back-to-School Bash open to everyone on Saturday, Aug. 3, beginning at 10:30 a.m. In addition to the backpack and school supply giveaway, lunch will be provided, free haircuts offered and parents will have an opportunity to register their children in person.

Lawtey Elementary School's Open House is Thursday, Aug. 8, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Meet teachers and drop off school supplies. Snowie Gator will be selling snow cones, and t-shirts will be on sale for \$12.

Bradford Elementary School's Open House is Thursday, Aug. 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. Come meet the teachers and purchase dinner or a snack from Limp Brizkit or Trippie Hippie.

Starke Elementary School's Open House is Thursday, Aug. 8, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Meet teachers and enjoy something from Kona Ice and Big T's BBQ.

Bradford Middle School's Open House will be Monday, Aug. 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. beginning in the gymnasium. Schedules will be available through Focus. Vendors will have food for sale.

Bradford High School's Open House is Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Schedules will be available through Focus. Tornado gear and parking passes will be available to purchase. Limp Brizkit and Trippie Hippie will be selling food.

Staggered start for kindergarten will allow smaller groups to adapt to their new environment. Students with last names beginning with A-M will attend Monday, Aug. 12. Students with last names beginning with N-Z will attend Tuesday, Aug. 13. All kindergarteners will begin attending together Wednesday, Aug. 14. Parents will only be allowed to accompany their kindergartener to class on the 12th and 13th.

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Understanding non-ad valorem special assessments — Frequently asked questions

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County has just approved an ordinance to further the process of imposing a special assessment to fund its fire department.

Non-ad valorem special assessments are used by counties to fund specific services and infrastructure improvements. They differ from traditional property taxes. Here, we address some of the most frequently asked questions about non-ad valorem special assessments to

help you understand what they are and how they might affect you.

What are non-ad valorem special assessments?

Non-ad valorem special assessments are charges levied by local governments for specific services or improvements that benefit a particular property or group of properties. Unlike ad valorem taxes, which are based on the value of the property, these assessments are typically based on the benefit received by

the property from the service or improvement.

That is not the only methodology, but it is the most frequently employed.

How are these assessments determined?

The amount of a non-ad valorem special assessment is determined by the cost of the service or improvement and how it benefits the property. For example, if a county installs a new sewer system in a neighborhood, the cost of the project might be

divided among the properties that directly benefit from the new system. The assessment could be based on factors such as the size of the property, the frontage of the property along the improvement, or a flat rate per property.

Bradford's assessment study looked where calls for service were coming from — primarily residential dwellings. Therefore, those dwelling units share most of the cost burden. Nonresidential buildings — primarily

See FAQs, page 7

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2024 FALL COURSE SCHEDULE

DAY PROGRAMS						
PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR	REGISTRATION BEGINS	COURSE DATES	DAY	HOURS	PROGRAM HOURS
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics	Snyder	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	9AM to 12PM	Vary
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics	Snyder	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	12:30PM to 3:30PM	Vary
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	August 14 - October 9, 2024	M - R	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320 & 150
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Apply Now	October 16 - December 18, 2024	M - R	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320 & 150
Welding Technology	Geiger / Hunt	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	9AM - 3:30PM	1050
Welding Technology, Advanced	Geiger / Hunt	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M - F	9AM - 3:30PM	750
EVENING PROGRAMS						
Nursing Assistant - Long Term Care (C.N.A.)	TBD	Call School For Details				Vary
Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics	TBD	Apply Now	August 12 - December 20, 2024	M, T, R	5PM to 8PM	Vary
COMMUNITY EDUCATION						
Spinning (Indoor Cycling)	Bridgman/Riker	Open	August 12 - December 20, 2024	T & R	5PM - 6:20PM	Varies

Enroll Online:
www.bradfordschools.org/nftc
and call 904 - 966 - 6764

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FORUM

Continued from page 1

the office in 2012.

"I received certification by the Supreme Court as a certified court clerk," she said. "While I can't say I'm an expert on all of the 1,000-plus duties that have been charged to the clerk, I can tell you now I know a lot more than I did 12 years ago."

Rhoades also emphasized her hands-on approach to the job.

"Together, the ladies in the clerk's office and I are a great team, but I'm not just their leader. I work alongside," she said. "Many have said I should not be doing that. I should be out shaking hands, greeting people, but first, I believe the clerk is a job to be done, not a role."

The clerk added that if she did not immerse herself in the office operations, she would have to hire additional staff, "which costs you, the taxpayers, more money."

Rhoades said she is constantly looking to improve efficiencies in the office and cited her decision to pay jurors in cash instead of by check as one way she streamlined the office.

"It has proven to be so efficient and effective that I was asked to speak at a clerks' conference so that other counties could implement it in their offices," she said.

Rhoades said her decisions to replace the office's jury and official records software applications improved services to citizens.

She said the new jury system allows potential jurors to be notified via cell phone or email and will enable them to request to be excused from jury duty through the same channels. She said the new official records application could notify property owners if official records have been filed on their holdings, reducing the risk of fraudulent deeds going unchallenged.

Rhoades said the Florida Constitution prescribes a system of checks and balances in county government.

"The board sets the policy and budget," she said. "The clerk holds the checkbook and disburses funds in accordance with those policies. If an invoice comes across my desk and it's not proper, I won't pay it. This dynamic could result in disagreement and tension when there is a lack of consensus."

Rhoades said that even though such disagreements could cause strife, she took an oath to uphold the state's Constitution and Florida's laws, and she has prioritized those duties over maintaining harmony at the courthouse.



Chad Ali



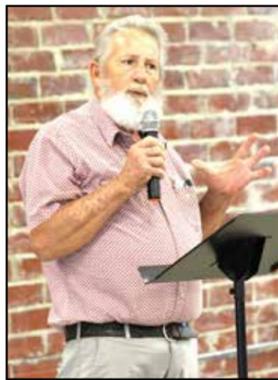
Shelton Arnold Jr.



Melissa McNeal



Daniel Tomlinson



Martie Touchstone

Commission District 3

With incumbent Jimmy Tallman not seeking reelection, six candidates are vying for his District 3 county commission seat. Brown said candidate Ed Rainey could not make it to the event.

Chad Ali

Chad Ali told the crowd of around 75 people that he has been a correctional officer for 20 years and is now vice president of the Police Benevolent Association Chapter, Region 2.

"I grew up in the Bronx, New York, and I've been living here for 16 years, and I'm proud to say that all my kids graduated right here in Union County," Ali said. "My son Adam just graduated from boot camp, and I'm very proud of that. My daughter Kara is going to be graduating in 2026, and that's going to be my last tiger."

The New York native said that the biggest complaints he has heard when visiting voters are about roads, ditches, and sidewalks.

Ali added that he has been riding with Union County EMS first responders for the last 18 years and that they have been requesting the same thing for nearly two decades: an additional ambulance.

Ali also said that Lake Butler needs more recreational infrastructure for children and families to have fun, recalling that Lake Butler used to have a roller-skating rink.

"Right now," he said, "anyone who lives in this county has to go to another county and spend their money in another county, so I think we could focus on something—a recreational facility for our children because our children are the future."

Ali concluded by reminding the crowd that Union County voters helped put a candidate from Queens in the White House in 2016. Therefore, it would not be surprising if they elected a former Bronx resident to the Union County Commission.

Shelton Arnold

Shelton Arnold told the crowd that he worked for 34 years in the county's road department, the final 22 of which were spent leading the operation.

The 1980 Union County High School graduate and lifelong local resident said he has a deep commitment to the community and experience in county government.

Arnold said that as a county commissioner, he would preserve agricultural land and natural resources. He added that he would honor the citizens of Union County by fulfilling their vision of what their home county should be.

"I'm committed to focusing on a business-friendly community that attracts investment and increases revenue without compromising the integrity of our land," he said.

Arnold said he would support infrastructure projects that enhance safety, accessibility, and economic opportunity for all.

"We can mobilize our infrastructure while maintaining our way of life," he said.

Melissa McNeal

Melissa McNeal told the crowd she was raised on a small farm in southwest Union County.

"I spent summers driving the tractor and picking peas," she said, "just like some of you."

The candidate added that she and her husband, Tim, continue to help her parents run the nearly 100-year-old farm.

"This experience has instilled in me a strong sense of entrepreneurship, a deep understanding of hard work, and the satisfaction of a job well done," she said.

McNeal said that through her farming and business experiences, she has come to appreciate the value of systems and order, which she said would help her as a county commissioner.

McNeal talked about her ancestor Jonathan Dukes, who she said migrated to Union County from Georgia in 1853.

"I believe...he was looking for a place where he could provide the life for his family that he

had envisioned," she said. "And almost 175 years later, people are still coming to Florida and to Union County for those same reasons."

She added that Jonathan Dukes faced a different set of challenges than today's residents, adding that today's residents are confronted with strained services like solid waste management, emergency services, roads, and schools.

"Providing living-wage jobs in our county is becoming increasingly difficult in today's economy," she said. "Recently, our integrity as a government body has been questioned, and many residents feel disconnected."

The candidate said that Union County's government is, at its core, a business with revenues and expenses.

McNeal outlined specific proposals, including supporting small businesses, collaborating with schools to enhance the workforce, keeping citizens informed, and ensuring that they are heard.

She described Union County as a small treasure in danger of encroachment from large metropolitan areas.

"Our task now is not necessarily to push newcomers away," she said, "but to develop systems, processes, and procedures that preserve the way of life we all cherish."

Danny Tomlinson

Danny Tomlinson introduced himself as a farmer, construction worker, and firefighter.

"I'm not your typical suit-and-tie candidate," he said.

The 1994 Union County High School graduate said he furthered his education at Lake City Community College and the Florida State Fire College, which laid the groundwork for his firefighting career.

"I built a strong background in building construction," he added, "running a successful crane business for many years, and now I focus on building homes."

Tomlinson said he also operates a small farm with hay production and about 40 head of cattle.

The firefighter added that the

small municipality for which he works has seen its budget multiply by 10 and that he has not limited his participation in the city to fighting fires.

"I tackled investigations and worked tirelessly to root out corruption, always prioritizing accountability and transparency," he said.

Tomlinson then cataloged what he said were the county's most pressing problems.

"Meetings have been fraught with disinformation and a lack of accountability," he said. "Personal lawyers occasionally present at special meetings (which) are convened for minor issues, yet responsibilities are vacant time and again."

Tomlinson also faulted lagging land development regulations, poor road conditions, and a fire station plagued by cost overruns.

"The building department operates sporadically," he continued, "with unanswered calls and unreliable communication channels. State-mandated online permitting has yet to materialize, hindering effectiveness and transparency."

The candidate said the county needs leadership that embodies humility and takes ownership of its mistakes.

"I will advocate for an EMS coordinator who is actively engaged in our community," he added, "ensuring effective first response even if there are no rescues available."

Martie Touchstone

Martie Touchstone told the audience that he was raised in the back woods near Worthington Springs and that if he were elected, he had no plans to change county government. He added that he is not yet convinced that changes need to be made.

"I think we can work together as people in the county," he said. "I think we have one of the best county commissions."

The candidate said he and his wife retired after around 40 years of service from the Department of Corrections.

"So, we are both Union County people," he said. "We raised our children in Union County, and we've got grandchildren going to school here."

Touchstone said the county's recreation department needs to build better relationships with children and parents.

U.S Congress

Hallie Mallard spoke for Congresswoman Kat Cammack. Mallard said Cammack had been working in Congress to expose and reign in the regulatory regime that has become the fourth branch of government. She added that Cammack sponsored the REINS Act to limit the ability of federal bureaucrats to make policy.

"We introduced it in the last session," said Mallard "It didn't really go anywhere because we were in the minority. But now that we are in the majority, we actually got it passed."

"It has everything to do with reigning in those basement bureaucrats that are now legislating our laws and bringing that power back to where it belongs in the Congress, with the actual lawmakers," she continued.

Mallard said Cammack has advocated for small business owners and farmers, highlighting excessive regulations and high tariffs that stifle them.

Mallard also pointed out that the congresswoman co-sponsored HR 2494, the Police Act of 2023, which makes the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense.

"The fact that it's not already in the law is disgusting," the surrogate speaker said. "Our constitution is the bedrock of our republic. It's not a living document to be changed at will, but a steadfast guide that has preserved our liberty for generations."

Mallard highlighted the congresswoman's defense of Second Amendment gun rights and, most importantly, she said, her commitment to protecting the rights of the unborn.

"We must defend the rights of the unborn and ensure every child has the opportunity to live and thrive," she said, adding that Cammack co-sponsored HR 619: The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

"And she's the co-chair of the Pro-Life Caucus," Mallard said.

GRADES

Continued from page 1

was the school's highest point total in five years. Also, ninth-graders had the highest English proficiency demonstrated

since 2015. The learning gains among the lowest quartile in English and math were the highest in the school's history, he said. Students taking the geometry exam demonstrated the third highest growth in the state, and the algebra students

had the sixth highest growth in the state.

Finally, he pointed out the school's graduation rate jumped five percentage points to 83%.

Superintendent Will Hartley is also highlighting growth, saying Bradford was the

second highest in the state for proficiency growth in English and math. There were also 102 more Level 5 testing achievements this year. For further comparisons to the state, districtwide Bradford was at or above the state average in fourth- and sixth-grade English and in fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade math.

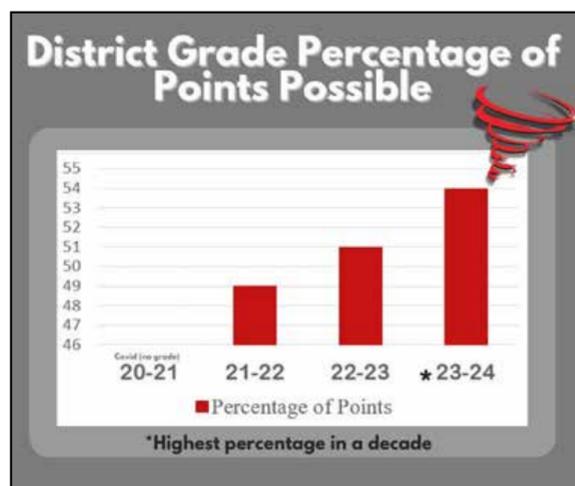
Lawtey Elementary was higher than the state average in fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade math, and third- and fourth-grade English.

Bradford Elementary was higher than the state average in fourth-grade English and sixth-grade English and math.

Starke Elementary was higher than the state average in third-grade English, fourth-grade English and math, and sixth-grade math.

Hartley also touted proficiency growth between the first and third administration of the FAST exam. Bradford was seventh in the state in English proficiency growth between the two tests and 14th in the state in math proficiency growth.

"On that list you will find a lot of the top districts in the state: Lafayette, St. Johns, Clay, Gilchrist, Nassau, etc. I think that speaks volumes about our teachers and the quality



instruction that our students are getting," Hartley said.

In neighboring Union County, Lake Butler Elementary School earned 53% of the total possible points, falling just shy of a B and dropping to a C. Lake Butler Middle School and Union County High School both earned 59% of the total possible points which was good enough to receive a B. This was an improvement for LBMS, which earned a C last year.

The only A schools in the Telegraph-Times-Monitor coverage area were in the Lake Region. McRae Elementary earned 66% of total possible points and Melrose Elementary

earned 64%.

Keystone Heights Elementary School earned 58% of total possible points to maintain its B grade, but Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High fell to a B with just 60% of the 64% of points in needed for another A.

Statewide, the highest number of schools are now A schools. At 1,290 schools, this was a 6% improvement over 2023. C schools, formerly the highest number in the state, are now the second highest at 1,097. There were also a greater number of B schools and fewer D and F schools.

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

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Churches open cafes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Over the past two years, a pair of Starke congregations have opened cafes that have now flourished into businesses that serve around 100 daily.

Fresh Start Cafe

Starke's First Baptist Church offers coffee and breakfast food to attendees of its morning services in the church's Fresh Start Café.

The coffee house seats around 20.

Pam Davis said she and fellow First Baptist member and Keystone Heights dentist Tracy Starling worked on the idea as new pastor Matthew Page arrived around Easter 2022.

"We had this building, and it wasn't being used for anything, so we were like, let's open it for coffee on Easter and do breakfast and try something new to get some young people into the church," recalled Davis. "And two years later, here we are running it every week."

Davis said church members rotate bringing in homemade breakfast items, lemonade, water, and ice weekly.

"We'll probably push through 100 people here on Sunday mornings," Davis said.

She added that residents of the nearby Magnolia Hotel sometimes come over for a beverage and snack.

"We're open to whoever wants

to come and sit down and enjoy," she said. "It's free."

The café is in the Ben P. Bryant Youth Building, undergoing renovations.

"It had just been neglected," Davis said of the structure. "When we had those last bands of hurricanes, they did a lot of damage to the roof, so we had tons of water damage."

Davis said the youth worship area has recently been overhauled, and the parking lot between the church and the Woman's Club, facing Jefferson Street, will eventually be converted into a recreation courtyard with basketball and volleyball courts.

The upstairs area of what used to be Florida National Bank houses breakout rooms.

Davis said that the building also hosts young adult and college outreach ministries in addition to the congregation's youth program.

Salt and Light Fusion

Around the same time First Baptist launched Fresh Start Cafe, another Starke congregation started using coffee as a fellowship and outreach ministry.

Mike and Debbie Smith joined Fusion Family Ministries almost six years ago. The Assemblies of God congregation hosted Providence Christian Academy for one year and is near the



Pam Davis prepares a drink for a First Baptist Church member in the congregation's Fresh Start Cafe.



Mike and Debbie Smith operate Salt and Light Fusion Coffee House at Fusion Family Fellowship.

Bradford County Fairgrounds.

Debbie said that around four years ago, she and her husband were reading the book "Circle Maker."

"It's basically a book telling you to dream big because we serve a big God," she recalled.

Debbie added that from that book, she and Mike developed a vision of creating a safe place where Christians of various denominations could fellowship.

"We prayed about it, and the church got on board with it," she said.

When the Christian school, needing more space, moved on to its own location, the vacant

square footage allowed the congregation to set up the café.

"We don't pay rent on this. We already had the building," Debbie continued. "God provided a lot of people to help us put it all together."

Mike said the church assembled the coffee house piecemeal, beginning in September 2021, with a \$600 espresso machine to test the concept's viability.

He added that the total investment in the operation is around \$25,000, including a bigger \$6,000 espresso machine.

The café is open to church members on Sundays. However, Mike said they never turn anyone

away.

The business is open to the public Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from eight to noon.

Mike said the operation sold around 20 drinks daily when it launched in April 2022. Now, the volume is five times that number.

The pastor added that his group's original vision of providing a gathering place for Christians of all stripes is starting to come together.

He said a group from Cross Church meets at Salt and Light and that homeschool groups also frequent the café.

Mike said the church's next

outreach will be a clothing ministry. He said the congregation has already reached out to residents of the nearby Bradford Motel and Campground to help meet clothing needs. He added that he wants to start the clothing ministry before school begins in August.

"I just know that when our kids were younger, it's like we always had trouble paying for stuff," he recalled. "Plus, we have people come through here all the time who are homeless or just traveling through, and we'll help them when we can."

Scratch-and-dent appliances have never been used

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The manager of a recently opened scratch-and-dent appliance store in Starke explained that he sells new appliances that may have slight imperfections but have never been used and come with a one-year warranty.

Julio Santana said his company has been operating a similar store in West Palm Beach for nearly 15 years.

CJ's Appliances operates from the former site of Denmark Furniture on West Call Street, joining other new retailers, No Limits and Zoo House Pet Store in the former furniture store.

Santana said the South Florida scratch-and-dent enterprise wanted to expand to North Florida, possibly Gainesville but settled on Starke because of low rent.

"We tried Ocala, but the rent was too expensive there," Santana said. "The landlord told us he just bought a building in Starke, and it would soon be available."

Santana said his landlord is a Fleming Island-based developer specializing in rehabilitating down-market retail space. The developer now has shopping centers in Gainesville, Ocala, Starke, and



Julio Santana said his company has been operating a similar store in West Palm Beach for nearly 15 years.

Palatka. Santana explained that when some customers see the phrase: scratch-and-dent, they mistakenly think "used." "We don't sell used

appliances," Santana insisted. "Everything here went out to the customer site, and the driver might've dropped it, or the customer didn't like it, so they took it back to the store. Once it leaves the store, they can't sell it as new. That's where we come in."

One additional incentive Santana offers customers is free delivery and set up of the new appliance and disposal of a customer's replaced equipment.

Family and Friends Day at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries will be celebrating Family and Friends Day on Sunday, Aug. 25, at 11 a.m. The Rev. Marrion S. Drye, pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, and congregation will be in charge of the service. The public is invited.

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Library hosts first event with Bradford Animal Rescue

BY MELISSA PYLE

Special to the Telegraph

What is sweeter than puppy dog eyes and the purr of a kitten? Quite possibly the voices of children reading books to these animals!

That is exactly what happened at the most recent summer library event at the Bradford County Public Library. The event is the first of its kind at the library, but definitely not the last. In cooperation with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office Animal Services, the library hosted what Melanie Jackson said was a dream becoming a reality.

Jackson has worked in the children's area of the library for eight years and said she has wanted to host a program like this for a long time.

Over a hundred guests lined up to get their turn to enter the room where some available shelter pets were awaiting a friendly interaction. Each person was asked to choose a children's book, sit in front of one of the cages and read to one of the shelter animals. On the walls, photos of multiple other cats and dogs still at the shelter were posted so visitors could see the faces of each needy animal.

The shelter has an average of 35 pets in its facility each month. Most of these are dogs. The animals can remain at the shelter for up to 30 days. Within that time frame, they



Assistant Library Director Kimberly Crawford was "pawsitively" smitten with this sweet kitten at the "Read to a Shelter Animal" event.

can be sent to other animal rescue shelters, adopted, or in many unfortunate instances, they are euthanized. This is why community involvement is so crucial to saving the lives of these animals.

The event also raised awareness for the need for shelter donations. The biggest need is food. Purina One is the preferred brand, but the shelter will gladly accept any pet food donations. Throw blankets and pet toys are also requested. The library is accepting donations for the shelter through Aug. 30, but donations are needed all year long and can be dropped off at Bradford County Animal Services.



Young Whittaker Weaver took his reading duties seriously as he read to the cats available for adoption at the most recent summer library program.



Tayden Hallam was bringing his most cheerful face and voice while reading a book to one of the sweet dogs up for adoption.

McNutt takes helm at Union County Library

BY TRACY LEE TATE

Special to the Times

There are two familiar faces at the newly named Mary C. Brown Public Library in Union County, but while the faces are the same, the functions these people serve have changed.

With the retirement of long-time library Director Mary Brown a few weeks ago, her assistant, Priti McNutt, has taken the helm, with the support of Brown, who had spent time preparing her for the position. Although Brown had brought her up to speed and recommended her to the county board of commissioners, the position was still advertised, and several applicants were interviewed. In the end, McNutt was selected to fill the position and hit the ground running.

From Jersey City to Lake Butler

McNutt, 43, has worked at the library since 2001 and was selected as assistant director in 2005. She is a second-generation East Indian immigrant – she said her parents came to the U.S. for a better life. She and her sister were both born in Jersey City, New Jersey. After a few years in the North, she said her parents wanted to move somewhere slower paced. They had family in Florida, so they decided to move here, landing in Lake Butler.

McNutt began third grade at Lake Butler Elementary School

and later graduated from Union County High School in 2000. She attended Santa Fe Community College and graduated with an associate's degree in general studies, then attended online Liberty University, earning a Bachelor of Religious Studies degree in 2015. With a gentle push from Brown, she enrolled at Florida State University, earning a master's in library and information science in 2020. Much of this later program was online and in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She met her husband, Brad, in 2007 and married him in 2009. He is originally from Orange Park. The couple has one daughter, who is still in elementary school.

McNutt officially became the library director on July 1, 2024, but she had been training under Brown for four years to prepare for the transition.

"I have some very big shoes to fill," McNutt said. "Mary was here at the library for 31 years. To many people around here, she was the library."

McNutt said she is not planning to make any drastic changes in her new position. She said what she really wants to do is "support the community." She intends to work hard to support the services that Brown established.

McNutt said she is appreciative of the position she has been given. Lake Butler is her home, and she loves it. She feels lucky to have the opportunity to serve



New Mary Brown Public Library Director Priti McNutt and new Asst. Director Tennille Brannen.

the people of the county.

When not helping others find books, McNutt likes to read when she can find the time. She is an eclectic reader, liking a little bit of everything, especially historical fiction and fantasy. She also enjoys family time.

"All it takes to make me happy is watching movies with my husband and daughter, helping her build Legos, going to theme parks, and spending time outside in nature," McNutt said. "As long as I am with my family, it is a good time."

Houseplant hobbyist

So, it doesn't take a degree in math to figure out that if the assistant director becomes the director, someone must take the assistant director position. That person, promoted earlier this month, is Tennille Brannen. She began working at the library in late 2021 after "retiring" as a stay-at-home Mom while her children were small. Although originally from Dade City, she has been in Union County since she was 10 and attended school with McNutt. Before her promotion, she worked as a circulation supervisor and young adult specialist. She is currently enrolled at Florida Gateway College, pursuing a degree in general studies. She married her husband, Adam (aka "The Captain") in 2002, and the couple has two nearly grown children, Ian (19) and Leah (17). Adam

works at Sandvik in Alachua but used to work painting boats.

Brannen said she is grateful for the promotion. She said she started at the library part-time, but her first promotion was to full-time after a year and a half. She said she also likes to read historical romance and general fiction, but she has problems finding the time.

"I have been a houseplant hobbyist since 2021, and that is my main "fun" at home," Brannen said. "I read about plants, watch YouTube videos about plants, and love spending time taking care of them. Recently, I have been getting into Hostas – they are smaller than many of the plants that I grow, so they don't take up as much room."

Family fun is also on the menu for Brannen. She enjoys outings to any of the regional springs, tubing down the river with her family alongside. She said she also spends time with her younger "babies," two cats named Sox and Opal.

McNutt and Brannen are still getting used to their new positions but seem to be settling in just fine. They enjoy working together and collaborating on ideas to keep the library fresh and inviting to all who love to read. They also participate in the library's other programs. They both say they are happy where they are and have no plans to leave for a long time.

Lake Brooklyn drops by nearly a foot

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The St. Johns River Water Management District's water resource information bureau chief said Lake Brooklyn dropped by almost a foot in June but remained above average.

Tim Miller said June's rainfall throughout the district was 1.51 inches below the average.

Miller said that Invest 90L, which moved across the peninsula at the end of the month and caused flooding in South Florida, also dropped significant

amounts of precipitation in the southern part of the water management district. Without that rain, the precipitation shortage throughout the district would have been 3.17 inches instead of 1.51 inches.

"Overall, less rain was received in the northern and central portions of the district," Miller said. "Fourteen of our 18 counties received less than their monthly average."

June marked the third consecutive month Brooklyn lost water. The lake dropped 0.10 feet in April, followed by a 0.50-foot decrease in May.

At the end of June, the lake's level was 108.2 feet above sea level, down from its 25-year high of 109.57, reached on March 17.



Many families and children attended the first Read to a Shelter Animal event hosted at the library.



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HEALTH

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

Clarence Rudolph Coleman, 48, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for fraud – impersonation, possession of drug equipment, possession of cocaine, and withholding support.

Andrae Bernard Dommon, 48, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 25 for withholding support.

Dustin Lee Floyd, 19, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and a conditional release violation.

Gerald Lynn Jackson, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 25 for failure to appear.

Alana Nicole James, 33, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 20 for DUI.

Amari Deandre Lewis, 25,

of Riviera Beach, was arrested by FHP troopers on July 26 for fleeing and eluding, driving with a suspended or revoked license, attaching a tag not assigned, and resisting an officer.

Jugnior Norcius, 39, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 20 for DUI.

James Aaron Olin, 26, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 26 for larceny.

Joshua Francis Spaulding, 31, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Alexandra Rebecca Starling, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 23 for a conditional release violation.

Brandon Davon Williams, 24, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on July 20 for a probation violation and an out-of-county warrant.

Union

Natavis D. Baynard, 42, of Quitman, Georgia, was arrested by Union deputies on July 23 for bribery of a public servant, smuggling contraband into a prison, and use of a two-way communications device to facilitate a felony.

Michael Eugene Bunner, 29, of Mayo, was arrested by Union deputies on July 28 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Trina Lynn Croft, 51, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union

deputies on July 27 for failure to appear.

Kathleen Joanne Gunter, 60, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 22 for larceny.

Quentin Lanier Johnson, 30, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 23 for fraud-impersonation and larceny.

Nancy Trantillya Slocum, 29, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 24 for a probation violation.

Corey Joseph Sweat, 25, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on July 23 for smuggling contraband into a prison and bribery.

Roger Matthew Wiggins, 38, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 15 for an out-of-county warrant.

Randy Eugene Williams, 59, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on July 28 for failure to appear.

Clay

Mildred Nora Buzzard, 71, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 21 for simple assault.

Robert Lewis Day, 38, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 20 for domestic battery and resisting an officer without violence.

John Eric Jones, 50, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 25 for simple battery and child abuse without great bodily harm.

Robert Eston Jordan, 37, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 25 for DUI and refusing to submit to DUI testing.

Robert Charles Wahl, 22, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 20 for resisting an officer without violence and DUI with property damage or injury.

10 years for Lawtey burglary

A Silver Springs man was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading to a 2021 Lawtey burglary.

John Francis Thomas, 59, pleaded to burglary, grand theft, and criminal mischief with property damage.

According to a sworn complaint, on December 21, 2021, a couple arrived at their home north of Lawtey from a doctor's appointment to discover their back glass door shattered.

Deputies wrote in the complaint that the house appeared to have been plundered and that the intruder's focus appeared to be on the residence's master bedroom.

The victims reported \$2,350 worth of jewelry missing from the home, in addition to over \$1,000 in property damage incurred during the break-in.

A neighbor provided law enforcement with security camera footage showing two men arriving at the victim's property in a black Chevrolet HHR. The video revealed the

station wagon backing up to the residence's front door and a thin man wearing a green or yellow shirt exiting the home with an item that he put in the back of the vehicle. A heavyside man was seen driving the Chevrolet.

Deputies discovered blood in the vicinity of the broken back glass door, which they submitted to an FDLE crime lab for analysis. DNA in the blood matched that of the defendant.

A separate report from FDLE indicated that Thomas's blood was also discovered at the site of a burglary in Hernando County. The perpetrators of the Hernando County break-in used methods similar to those of the offenders of the Lawtey burglary.

Investigators also found that the defendant's brother, James, was the registered owner of a black Chevrolet HHR and that John had been accused of driving the vehicle during a similar burglary in Lake County.

Not guilty of beating pregnant woman

A Bradford County jury acquitted a 27-year-old Crawfordville man on charges that he beat a woman who was seven-and-a-half months pregnant.

On July 17, the six-member panel found Nicholas Dakota Spangler not guilty of aggravated battery on a pregnant female.

According to an arrest report, on November 11, 2023, motorists called 911, reporting that they had seen the defendant striking the victim on the roadside of

County Road 231, also known as Dedan Road, near the highway's intersection with Southwest County Road 18, between Graham and Brooker.

When a deputy found the defendant's vehicle, the alleged victim told the officer that she had been driving home and had a panic attack because she missed her turn. She added that after she pulled over and exited the silver Chevrolet Tahoe, the defendant, who was a passenger, tried to get her back into the SUV.

The woman told the officer Spangler "was gentle at first" but added that she fell down because her feet were swollen.

"While on scene, five independent witnesses: two married couples and one single individual, met with me and began to tell me what they saw," wrote Corporal Lekiesha Lewis in the report.

One couple said Spangler appeared to be out of control, cussing at and threatening the alleged victim while telling her to get into the car.

Another couple reported that they saw Spangler throw the victim into the vehicle and punch her.

The fifth witness said he saw the defendant forcefully put the alleged victim into the SUV and then strike her several times.

The pregnant woman told Lewis that her boyfriend had not become physical with her, and the witnesses could not possibly see what was happening on the roadside.

The defendant also denied striking the woman but admitted the two argued outside the vehicle.

Black Creek project 65% complete

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A division director for the St. Johns River Water Management District told the district's governing board that the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project is 65% complete and scheduled to go online in November.

The project is designed to recharge the Upper Floridan aquifer and raise water levels in

lakes Brooklyn and Geneva. It is part of the lakes' recovery plan to help the district comply with regulatory minimum flows and levels.

Dale Jenkins, who leads the District's Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources, said the project consists of three components: the intake and pump stations at the intersection of State Road 16 and the south fork of the creek, the 17.2-mile of pipeline along State Roads 21 and 16 and the treatment facility on Camp Blanding between Lake Magnolia and Lake Brooklyn.

Jenkins said the intake and pump station are almost

complete, with only paving and other minor work remaining.

The director added that the pipeline is 70% complete, with all the conduit buried along State Road 16 and about one-half of the 30-inch ductile iron pipe installed along State Road 21.

Jenkins said that workers have encountered gopher tortoise burrows along the pipeline route and that the district has relocated the reptiles after securing permitting. The species is listed as threatened by the state.

Jenkins said the project's third component, the water treatment system that will remove brown tannins from the Black Creek water before its discharge

into Alligator Creek and Lake Brooklyn, is 40% complete. He added that the treatment system's one-half million-gallon storage tank is finished. Workers are preparing the treatment media to fill the six two-acre treatment cells.

"The actual treatment media is at a Lake County facility, where they mix the media together and dry it out before it gets brought to the treatment site," he said.

The director added that workers are now installing liners into the six cells. He said that on top of the liners, workers will install a layer of bedding stone

with distribution pipes within the stone layer and then two feet of media above the stone.

"It's a nice passive treatment media that takes all the color out of the Black Creek water as well as any nutrients that are there," he said.

Jenkins said the treatment system is 40% complete and added that if flow conditions remain the same in Black Creek, the district can start pumping water to the treatment facility even though only three of the six cells are finished.

August sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of August, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations: U.S. Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.

FAQs

Continued from page 3

commercial structures — were assessed based on size (square footage). Nonagricultural vacant property would pay a flat fee.

Some have questioned the methodology and suggested evaluating all assessments by the size of the dwelling unit. That way, those with larger and generally more valuable property would pay more than owners of smaller and generally less valuable properties.

What types of services or improvements might be funded?

Non-ad valorem special assessments can be used to fund a variety of services and infrastructure projects. Common examples include:

- road improvements and maintenance.
- stormwater management systems.
- fire protection services.
- street lighting.
- sewer and water systems.
- solid waste collection and disposal.

Bradford only has one special assessment in place, and that is for solid waste collection and disposal.

How are property owners notified?

Property owners are typically notified of non-ad valorem special assessments through their annual property tax bill. The assessment will be listed separately from ad valorem taxes, allowing property owners to see the specific charge for the

special service or improvement.

Additionally, prior to finalization of a new assessment for fire rescue services, a public hearing will take place, and notices will be sent to property owners informing them of the date and time.

Who is exempt?

Government and agricultural properties are exempt, with the exception being housing units on land zoned for agricultures. Property owners would pay the assessment for those buildings.

The commission could choose to exempt other properties as well, including those owned by faith-based and other nonprofit organizations. It could also create exemptions for seniors, veterans, or low-income residents.

How much is the fee?

This is to be determined by how much of the fire department cost the commission chooses to recover from the special assessment. The consultant's study placed the 100% recovery at more than \$300 per dwelling unit and 20 cents per square foot for nonresidential buildings.

Discussion thus far points to the commission choosing an assessment amount below the maximum amount determined by the study.

Can property owners challenge an assessment?

Property owners have the right to challenge a non-ad valorem special assessment if they believe it is unfair or incorrect. The process was not outlined in the recently adopted ordinance.

This process usually involves submitting a written appeal to the local government or attending a

public hearing to present their case.

The commission has until mid-September to finalize the details and hold a public hearing to get the new special assessment on this year's tax bill.

Notices mailed to property owners should include contact information for those with additional questions prior to the public hearing.



Russ WADE

Attorney at Law

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PD BY CSTF

Bullock and late husband to join Clay Gators Hall of Fame

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

If her clothing and accessories don't tip you off, then perhaps her vehicle's Florida tag will as its letters spell out "UF OH MY." Take a visit to her home, and you'll find one room filled with items related to the Florida Gators, such as footballs signed by Emmitt Smith and the three Heisman Trophy winners (Steve Spurrier, Danny Wuerffel and Tim Tebow), basketballs signed by Billy Donovan and Al Horford and even a doll modeled after former UF women's basketball player Monique Cardenas, a graduate of Keystone Heights High School.

In other words, you don't need to be wearing Orange-and-Blue glasses to see that Keystone Heights' Tina Bullock is a Gator through and through. Her passion for University of Florida athletics carries over into her involvement with the Clay County Gator Club, which will honor her and her late husband, Chuck, by inducting them into

this year's club Hall of Fame. "It's so heartwarming because (Chuck would) be so thrilled," Bullock said.

Then, knowing how what her husband's feelings would've been to the current state of UF football, she added, "He'd wish we were doing better, I'm sure."

Bullock and her husband are charter members of the club, which will also be inducting Kristine Johnson, Cindy Roll and Janet Steffens into this year's Hall of Fame. The club, which is an affiliate of the UF Alumni Association, began in 1997.

"I've made some lifelong friends there," Bullock said. "One of them is one of the people I share my (football) tickets with now. She's a retired teacher from Duval County."

Bullock, who worked in education also, has served as the club's president — a role her husband also filled — but first, she served as its entertainment chair. Another person had been filling that role and asked Bullock to help her with an event.



Chuck and Tina Bullock (foreground) are pictured at a football game at the University of Kentucky.

Afterward, that entertainment chair said to Bullock, "Man, you're so good at this, why don't you take it over?"

"So, I did that for a lot of years," Bullock said. "I wrote a little skit called, 'The Farkles,' which was a little spoof of Tennessee."

Anytime Sam Kouvaris (who

was a longtime sportscaster and sports director at Jacksonville's WJXT-Channel 4) was the club's guest speaker, he had a role in "The Farkles."

"He loved all that," Bullock said.

Bullock has made such a mark on the Clay County Gator Club that one year she received a UF

Alumni Association Clubbie award, which usually goes to an entire Gator club rather than an individual member.

Becoming a Gator

Yet Bullock wasn't always a Gator. In fact, she didn't even go to school at UF.

Sports were a part of her life growing up, though, thanks to her father. When her brother became a UF student in 1961, the family began cheering on the Orange and Blue.

Then, Bullock met Chuck, who was a big sports fan. He loved the Gators, though some of his family members were FSU fans.

"We went on a lot of dates to games and things like that," Bullock said.

Chuck was such a big fan of the Gators that when the Bullocks' son, Chris, was deciding where to go to college, he told him, "Son, you can go anywhere you want, but we're only paying for the University of Florida."

"He made the right decision," Bullock said with a laugh. "He went to Florida."

It was after Chris graduated that Bullock and her husband began purchasing season tickets for football games.

"We got tickets in the north end zone when my husband was alive," Bullock said. "When he passed away, I thought, 'This is hot and far to climb.' So, we started looking around, and I found tickets in the south end zone in the shade."

Whether you're sitting in the shade or under that blazing sun that comes with watching games that kick off at 1 p.m., there's nothing quite like watching a game at The Swamp as far as Bullock is concerned. She remembered her first time attending a game, saying she couldn't believe how "electric" the atmosphere was.

"There's nothing like it," Bullock said. "Being at a game in person so much more exciting than watching on TV."

See GATORS, page 13

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SHOP
Local!

BHS alum Stafford is school's new AP

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Nichole Stafford began her education career as a kindergarten teacher and is now a high school administrator. As she likes to say, "I've been from one end to the other."

The new Bradford High School assistant principal never envisioned herself working at either end or at any point in between, but since going into education, it has proven to be a natural fit.

"To be honest, it wasn't a dream growing up to be in education, but once I got in it, it has been very rewarding," Stafford said.

Stafford, who is entering her 15th year in education, starts her journey as an administrator at a school that's familiar to her. She spent the last two years at BHS as the testing coordinator.

She's also a 2001 BHS graduate.

"Growing up here, going to school here and graduating from here, I never saw myself as an administrator here," Stafford said, "but I think it's pretty awesome. It's rewarding. I think it's a good opportunity. It's a great time for me to learn and grow professionally here."

Stafford had been thinking about a medical-related career coming out of high school. That changed when she and her husband, Matt, welcomed their son, Matthew, into the world.

"After I had my son, and I started really working with him on learning how to read letters and understand sounds, it really just sparked my interest (in teaching)," Stafford said.

Stafford earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary K-6 at Saint Leo's University. She taught for half a year at the former Brooker Elementary School, but her first full year was at Lawtey Elementary, where she began teaching kindergarten. She spent seven years at Lawtey before moving to Bradford Middle School.

"There was a lot of growth for me professionally moving from elementary to middle," said Stafford, who taught fourth and sixth grades besides kindergarten. "It was a great learning experience for me."

Stafford credited Teresa Patterson for being a mentor to her at BMS. She said Patterson helped her teach in accordance with state standards.

"I'm not sure I would've survived without her," Stafford said. "She was my saving grace my first year as a sixth-grade teacher."

During her four-year stint at



Nichole Stafford is the new assistant principal at Bradford High School after serving two years as the school's testing coordinator. The BHS alumnus has spent her entire career in Bradford schools.

BMS, Stafford would become a mentor for new teachers.

"I liked just being a support to them and being their go-to person for whatever they needed — giving advice and suggestions," Stafford said.

It was while at BMS that Stafford decided she wanted to go into administration. She saw that as an extension of what she was already doing at BMS as a teacher mentor. Administration would give her more opportunities to help fellow educators as well as students.

"I've always been goal-oriented," Stafford said. "I always feel like pushing forward."

While she was pushing forward and working toward her master's degree in Educational Leadership through the University of West Florida, she became testing coordinator at BHS.

"I got to learn the dynamics and the culture here at Bradford High," Stafford said. "That makes the transition (to assistant principal) a little easier. I've built relationships already with the teachers and the staff."

Stafford was surprised to get an opportunity so soon to be an assistant principal, especially at BHS, which had a new assistant principal last year in Crystal Williams. Williams, though, is now the new principal at BMS. Stafford said she learned a lot from Williams last year and knows she can reach out to her still, even though she's on a different campus.

"She has a lot of knowledge," Stafford said. "If I have questions, she will shoot me a text back. She's been very supportive of me. She has been a great asset for me, too."

Another asset, of course, is Chris Coffey, who's entering his second year as principal at BHS after six years as the school's assistant principal.

"I feel like he knows everything about this high school," Stafford said.

Stafford said things at the high school move at a fast pace, even for someone who considers herself a good multi-tasker. That's an area she believes Coffey excels in.

"There are so many tasks at the high school level — so many things going on — but he seems to manage it all very well," Stafford said, adding, "He gets the job done. I like that because I don't like keeping things undone. If I start something, it needs to be finished. If I tell you I'm going to do it, it needs to be done."

"He's like that. I admire that in him."

Besides having the two leaders to look up to last school year, Stafford had the chance to do such things as sit in on data and administrative meetings and participate in classroom visits as part of instructional walks.

"My first year as a testing coordinator, I felt like I didn't have a lot of time to do all of that because I came in and had to basically learn everything on my own," Stafford said. "I didn't have anyone to train me per se. I had to sink or swim."

"As I transitioned into my second year as testing coordinator, I had all of that under my belt. I was able to get into more of the administrative roles and be able to sit under (the administrators) and learn and grow."

Stafford jumped right into

the fire, so to speak, fulfilling administrative tasks this summer during times when Coffey was absent, as he and his wife, Hailey, celebrated the birth of twin boys earlier this month.

"With Chris out with the babies, I'm having to do all of the interviewing and things like that," Stafford said. "It's been great. It's been a learning opportunity."

This will be quite the exciting school year for Stafford. She will not only begin her journey as an administrator, but observe the senior year of so many students she taught her first year in kindergarten. Her son is also a senior.

Stafford became a little emotional when discussing how she would be on stage for students she taught in kindergarten and fourth and sixth grades.

"The saying is once you teach students and call them your kids, they're your kids forever," she said. "These are my kids."

As she prepares to gain an entire school's worth of kids as an assistant principal, Stafford said her goals include establishing new relationships and building upon those she's already created since she's been at BHS.

Another goal is to find that balance between her job and life outside of work. She knows that'll be tough her first year as assistant principal, but she believes that over time she can have that balance that she promised herself and her family she would maintain.

"Before I took this job, I wanted to pray and get peace about it, and I did," Stafford said, adding, "Anything new is time-consuming. I know that going into this, but I'm OK with that. I think it's going to be a challenge probably, but that's OK."

The life part of the balance will include tending to cattle and spending time on what she and her family call their "little slice of Heaven." They bought a 60-acre farm in Lawtey less than a mile from where they were previously living. Stafford said she didn't grow up on a farm, but her husband, who's also a BHS graduate, did. His family had a chicken farm in Brooker.

Stafford called it a "new adventure." It'll be one of two such adventures as she prepares for her first year as an administrator. She said she and Coffey are eager for the 2024-25 school year to arrive.

"We are both excited and ready to hit the ground running," she said.



McRae Elementary Art Teacher Julie Higby (left) and Principal Tammy Winkler display the school's weekend food program prize from the Reinhold Foundation's Celebrate Clay awards.

Food program at McRae Elementary helps 30 families

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

What started as a group of teachers concerned about the health of their students has grown into a program that supplies food to around 30 families.

McRae Elementary's weekend food program recently won the Reinhold Foundation's second-place prize for its Celebrate Clay awards earlier this year. The award came with a \$7,000 cash prize.

Principal Tammy Winkler said the program started with teachers.

"Teachers know their kids," she said, "and we had some concerns when some of the students went home on Fridays."

Winkler added that one instructor, Art Teacher Julie Higby, made the first move by asking the anti-hunger nonprofit Waste, Not, Want Not to donate food to the school's efforts to support its students on weekends.

The school went on to win the Reinhold Foundation's Celebrate Clay awards in prior years for \$1,000 twice and \$2,000 twice before landing the \$7,000 prize this year.

Winkler said the school's staff purchases items like SpaghettiOs, peanut butter and jelly, pop tarts, and other items Winkler described as "kid friendly."

Teachers then send the items home in a bag with students.

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UCHS grad Emily O'Neal releases her debut album

O'Neal will appear live at Starke's Downtown Grill on Saturday, Aug. 3

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Emily O'Neal, a 2019 Union County High School graduate, recently released her debut album: "Bird's Eye View."

The Nashville resident graduated from Middle Tennessee State in 2023 and is the daughter of Starke Realtor Susan O'Neal and former New River Solid Waste Executive Director Darrell O'Neal.

O'Neal's career reached two milestones recently, opening for pop singer Olivia O'Brien and playing to a sold-out crowd at Nashville's iconic Bluebird Café.

The UCHS grad was among four recipients of the BMI Foundation's 24th annual John Lennon Scholarships in 2021.

O'Neal said "Bird's Eye View" features 10 singles ranging from pop to rock.

"I really wanted it to be diverse and have something for everybody," she said. "There are a few songs about relationships — the ups and downs of those — but also about my background of growing up shy, kind of an introverted person, and that experience of coming out of your shell."

O'Neal said competition for attention in Music City is fierce, but the camaraderie among aspiring musicians is energizing.

"The beauty of being in Nashville is having a community of people who are all trying to do it like you, so you don't feel alone," she said. "The fun part is



Emily O'Neal has released her first album, "Bird's Eye View," and will perform at Starke's The Downtown Grill on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 7 p.m.

the community, but it obviously is difficult. There's a lot of competition in Nashville, and it is hard when you see so many talented people here, but overall, it's a pretty good experience because you're doing what you love."

O'Neal wrote nine songs on the album and collaborated with a co-writer on the 10th.

"Some songs I write in an hour, and they're completely done," she said of her creative process. "Others I'll revisit two months, three months or six months later and exchange melodies, so it really is different every time. Sometimes I use a guitar, sometimes I'm on piano, sometimes people will send me tracks, and I'll write to those, so that's what keeps it interesting. It's different every time."

O'Neal said she doesn't know what her next milestone will be.

She is focused on performing more shows, producing more music and expanding her network throughout the industry.

"I will say in my experience from whom I've talked to in the industry that social media is kind of the most important thing to have as an artist," she said, adding that labels and agents want to see performers who have grown a sustainable audience on their own.

"They definitely want someone who has that drive on their own," she said, "and someone who can put people in the seats."

O'Neal said her platform of choice now is Instagram, but she also has a presence on Facebook and TikTok.

She added that one interesting trend in the music business now is the re-emergence of vinyl records, adding that she will have copies of her new album in the resurrected format when she performs at Starke's The Downtown Grill on Saturday, Aug. 3.

"In the past few years, vinyl sales have actually gone up, and I think that for the first time in twenty years or something, vinyl sales outsold CD sales, which is crazy," she said. "It's super popular in Nashville."

O'Neal said the rising popularity of LPs may be due to the fact that people want to own their music and not remain dependent on streaming services like Apple Music or Spotify.

O'Neal said she will perform all 10 songs on her new album during the show at The Downtown Grill, which begins at 7 p.m. She added that the show would likely include a few covers and some of her older songs as well.

The Matthews Museum (Bradford County Museum) Needs Volunteers!

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To find out more

Contact: **Chuck Kramer**
(904) 964-5001 or (904) 364-6977



Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Aug. 1, 2024

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Notice is hereby given that DAVID J COGNATA the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 222
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 00868-0-00132
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-008
Description of Property:
TDA NUMBER: 602TDA
Parcel NUMBER: R 00868-0-00132
The South 132.00 feet of the North 264.00 feet of the West 330.00 feet of the NW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 11, Township 7 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida, containing 1.00 acre, more or less. Reserving therefrom an easement for ingress, egress and utilities over the Easterly 15 feet thereof. Above described parcel being conveyed with a 30.00 foot easement for ingress, egress and utilities over the following

described parcel: The Northerly 30.00 feet of the Westerly 1040.00 feet and the Easterly 30.00 feet of the Westerly 345.00 feet of the Northerly 1238.00 feet of said NW1/4 of SW1/4. Above described parcel also being conveyed with a right of ingress and egress over the following described parcel: Commence at a concrete monument located at the Northwest corner of the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 10, Township 7 South, Range 21 East and run South 00 degrees, 07 minutes and 19 seconds East, along the Westerly boundary thereof, 157.72 feet to the Southerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225 (formerly State Road S-225); thence South 77 degrees, 14 minutes and 19 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary, 405.77 feet to the centerline of an existing road for the Point of Beginning (said road being 60 feet in width and lying 30 feet on each side of a centerline described as follows). From Point of Beginning thus described run South 00 degrees, 07 minutes and 19 seconds East, parallel with the Westerly boundary of said NE1/4 of NE1/4, a distance of 378.18 feet; thence South 15 degrees, 15 minutes and 41 seconds West, 374.65 feet; thence South 20 degrees, 44 minutes and 49 seconds East, 333.96 feet to the end of said 60 foot road and the

beginning of a road 20 feet in width and lying 10 feet on each side of said centerline; thence continue South 20 degrees, 44 minutes and 49 seconds East, along said centerline, 30.88 feet; thence South 21 degrees, 12 minutes and 57 seconds East, 438.28 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 21 degrees, 22 minutes and 11 seconds East, 330.29 feet to an intersection with the centerline of a road 30 feet in width and lying 15 feet on each side of the following described centerline; thence South 42 degrees, 52 minutes and 49 seconds West, 274.13 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 17 degrees, 50 minutes and 25 second East, 418.91 feet to a set iron rod (last said iron rod being 15.00 feet Northerly of the Southerly boundary of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of said Section 10 when measured at right angles therefrom); thence South 89 degrees, 53 minutes and 43 seconds East, parallel with last said Southerly boundary, 686.05 feet to an iron rod set on the Easterly boundary of said SE1/4 and NE1/4 and the end of said centerline (last said iron rod being located 15.00 feet Northerly of the Southeast corner of said SE1/4 and NE1/4).
Name in Which Assessed: ELLA III LLC
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the

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

Certificate Number: 744
Year of Issuance: 2022
Parcel Number: 03611-0-00100
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-10
Description of Property:
TDA NUMBER: 604TDA
PARCEL NUMBER: R 03611-0-00100
Legal Description Lots 3 and 4, Block 11, TEMPLE'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF STARKE, Florida, according to plat thereof recorded in Plat Book G, Page 304, of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.
Name in Which Assessed: TNT 314, LLC
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/09/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Bradford County, Florida
BY: Kanetra Jenkins, Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: July 19, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 25,

2024; AUGUST 1, 2024; AUGUST 8, 2024; AUGUST 15, 2024
7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT
Town of Brooker
A Public Meeting has been scheduled for the Sole Purpose of Discussing Proposed Improvements to Brooker Town Park to be funded by the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP). The Town of Brooker will conduct a public meeting for the sole purpose of discussing proposed recreation improvements to **Brooker Town Park** to be funded by the FRDAP. The Park is located in the Town of Brooker on Tetstone Avenue near the Town Hall. The FRDAP grant application amount is anticipated to be \$200,000 and will be submitted to the FDEP for the 2026-2027 program year. Proposed improvements include: a new pickleball court, fencing, lighting, and related recreation improvements. The public meeting will be held at the Town of Brooker Town Hall located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida, on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk at (352) 485-1022.
A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION
8/1 1tchg-BCT



MeLissa Pellerito
352-494-1829 call/text
mpelleritorealtor@gmail.com
275 S Lawrence Blvd • Ste 1
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Florida Homes Realty & Mortgage

"Absolutely amazing to work with MeLissa. Her professionalism, market knowledge, prompt attention to all matters makes her a true professional who cares about the service she provides. Thanks MeLissa!"



For Sale!
MLS #2014133



6612 Camelot Court, Keystone Heights, FL 32656



Ron Blake
(352) 235-1644
2518 State Rd 21,
Melrose, FL 32666

CB ISAAC REALTY



For Sale!
MLS #GC523978



"Their knowledgeable and professional attitude is a winning combination."
11306 SE 220th Terrace,
Hawthorne, FL 32640

Featured Listings From Your Local Realtors!

"Justis is the best! She will guide you every way possible. She's flexible, reliable and dependable!! Highly recommend in Clay County. Very honest and informative. She will help find you the best property possible! She deserves a raise! 5 stars and if I could, I would give her 10 stars!"



For Sale!
5675 Cherokee Street
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
MLS #2017970



SouthLand REALTY & MANAGEMENT CO
Justis Smith
352-258-4619
100 E Nightingale St.
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
justis@southland-realty.com





Marty & Lisa Shaw
904-964-9222
415 E Call St,
Starke, FL 32091

COLDWELL BANKER SMITH & SMITH REALTY

"I have worked with Marty, Lisa and Austin in a professional capacity numerous times and have never had an issue with any of them. I highly recommend them and Smith and Smith Realty if you are looking to buy or sell in Bradford or the surrounding counties."



For Sale!
Lisa Shaw
(904) 759-2216



For Sale!
MLS #2038368



3993 NW 233rd St, Lawtey, FL 32058

Classified Ads - 904-964-6305

Class Ads 8/1/24

40 Notices

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

50 For Rent

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

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

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

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

AVAILABLE SOON; Keystone 3BR/2BA on 1 acre, also near Starke 1BR/1BA with FPL utilities. Call/text for info 904-613-5715.

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

65 Help Wanted

WRITER POSITION OPEN- News & event coverage in Bradford, Union & Keystone Heights. Writing experience necessary, must have good transportation. Assignments are all office based and often require night meeting and activities. Not a part-time gig. Call for

appt. at 904-964-6305 or send resume to P.O. Drawer A, Starke, FL. 32091.

TEMPORARY FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN: The Bradford County Maintenance Department- Custodial is currently accepting applications for a temporary full-time custodial worker. The pay rate is \$15.00 per hour, 40 hours per week and Monday to Friday. Deadline for accepting applications is Thursday, July 19, 2024. Applications along with a detailed job description may be obtained from the Bradford County Road Department at 812 N. Grand St., Starke, FL or from the Bradford County website at www.bradford-countyfl.gov For inquiries, please contact the

Bradford County Road Department Office at (904) 966-6243

P/T JOB, house cleaning, errands, pet care, limited personal care. Must be able to lift 20lbs. Must have reliable transportation, cell phone w/data. Applications call 352-281-0260 between 10am-6pm.

MAINTENANCE Supervisor Position. The City of Lawtey is taking applications for a Maintenance Supervisor. Applicants must be able to pass and maintain a non-DOC supervisor class, drug test and background check, to get inmate labor. Application and full job description can be picked up at Lawtey City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawtey, FL. 32058, between the hours of 8

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

Vehicles for Sale

2006 JEEP WRANGLER, 2 door, 4 cylinder, 6 speed manual. Eaton Truetrac auto locking front & rear differentials, 3" lift, 31" mud AT tires. Many new parts. \$13,995. Call 904-263-2022.

Land for Sale

2.5 ACRES in Starke, 4 inch well. For sale

\$28,000. Call 904-207-5518.

9.4 ACRES, 320' w/f In Earleton. Various uses. For sale \$999K. Call 850-408-8734.

HERITAGE VILLAS
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts

607 Bradford Court
Starke, FL 32091
904-964-6216
TDD 771

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

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

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

WELL DRILLING

QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964

24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE

964-7061

STATE LICENSE #1305

DURRANCE PUMP

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Southern Villas of Starke

Ask about our 1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.

Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL
Call 904-964-7295
TDD/TTY 711
Equal Housing Opportunity

Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County Lake Region UNION COUNTY
Telegraph Monitor TIMES

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Classified Display Ad is \$10 per col. inch
Deadline for Classified ads - **Tuesday 12 noon**

904-964-6305
classads@bctelegraph.com

WE ACCEPT
VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Aug. 1, 2024

BRADFORD

Town of Brooker Meeting Notice
Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC)

The Town of Brooker will conduct an organizational/information meeting of its Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) at the Town of Brooker Town Hall located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida 32622 on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. The agenda will include RAC formation and discussion of the Town's recreation needs and FRDAP grant options for funding recreation improvements. If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Thomas, Acting Town Clerk at (352) 485-102

A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION
8/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Easterly 15 feet of the above described property.

Name in Which Assessed: KELLY H TUCKER; QUEEN ESTHER TUCKER
Name on last tax roll, if different: KELLY TUCKER (DEC) & QUEEN TUCKER (DEC) %MARGARET COOPER

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be

redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/09/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
BY: Kanetra Jenkins
KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: July 19, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JULY 25, 2024; AUGUST 1, 2024; AUGUST 8, 2024; AUGUST 15, 2024

7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that FIG 20, LLC the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 818
Year of Issuance: 2022
Parcel Number: 04470-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-07
Description of Property:
Legal Description: 04470-0-00000
COMMENCE AT NE CORNER OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 & Run S 964 Feet For a POB, Run W 299 Feet, S 167 Feet, E 299 Feet, N 128 Feet TO POB. SEC 34, T-6S, R-22-E. (Being that same real property described in Official Record Book 66, Page 385 et seq. of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.)

Name in Which Assessed: THOMAS SHANE GRIFFIS
Name on last tax roll, if different: All said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL, on the 09/18/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
BY: Kyrah Smith
KYRAH SMITH, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: July 19, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: July 25, 2024 August 1, 2024, August 8, 2024, August 15, 2024

7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

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Name in Which Assessed: THOMAS SHANE GRIFFIS
Name on last tax roll, if different: All said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL, on the 09/18/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
BY: Kyrah Smith
KYRAH SMITH, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: July 19, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: July 25, 2024 August 1, 2024, August 8, 2024, August 15, 2024

7/25 4tchg 8/15-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on Aug. 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

2017 KIA Vin# KN2P3M3AC4H7142738
7/25 2tchg 8/1-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: PAUL RENNIE, 1836 Creek Bank Drive, Middleburg, FL 32068, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: RENNIES, 416 East Brownlee St., Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 29th day of July A.D., 2024, in BRADFORD County.
8/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Town Council of Town of Brooker, Florida, at a public hearing on August 13, 2024 at 7:00p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the Town Council Meeting Room, Community Center, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, at same address as above, during regular office hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 2024-01
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING INCLUSION OF THE TOWN IN THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT ESTABLISHED BY BRADFORD COUNTY TO FUND THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES EACH YEAR; PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF SUCH AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of this public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notices regarding this matter will be published.
8/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER I NC. gives notice that on 08/16/2024 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 NORTH THOMPSON ST, STARKE, FL 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78. 3C3CFFCR1D5T91963 2013 FIAT
This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 08/01/2024.
8/1 1tchg-BCT

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

PROBATE DIVISION
File Number: 04-2024-CP-00091
Division: Probate
RE: THE ESTATE OF ANGIE MARIE O'STEEN,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Angie Marie O'Steen, deceased, whose date of death was October 12, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the 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 August 1, 2024.
THE HINSON LAW FIRM, P.A.
Matthew H. Hinson, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 94017
Kathryn E. Stanfill, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 1002636
300 West Adams St., Suite 500
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: 904-527-1700
Fax: 904-355-8088

8/1 1tchg-BCT

Matt@HinsonLawPA.com
Kathryn@HinsonLawPA.com
Attorney for Personal Representative James O'Steen
18427 NE 29th Ave.
Starke, FL 32091
Personal Representative
8/1 2tchg 8/8-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Governor Charley E. Johns Conference Center, located at 1610 N. Temple North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

S240724A, an application by Franklin M. Cox and Tiffany L. Cox, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the land use classification from COMMERCIAL TO AGRICULTURE-2 (less than or equal to dwelling 1 unit per 5 acre, except as provided for in Policy I.2.2) on property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 12; thence North 88°27'39" East 337.73 feet, along the North line of said Section 12 for the Point of Beginning; thence continue North 88°27'39" East 900.85 feet, along the North line of said Section 12 to the Westerly right-of-way boundary of U.S. Highway 301 (State Road 200), said Westerly boundary being on a curve concave to the Southeast and having a radius of 5848.56 feet; thence Southwesterly along said Westerly boundary and along the arc of said curve, 75.62 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 18°51'15" West; thence South 88°35'20" West 677.42 feet; thence South 01°49'46" East 208.72 feet; thence North 01°49'48" West 277.48 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 2.37 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).
8/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the in the Governor Charley E. Johns Conference Center located at 1610 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. A copy of the ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Courthouse North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF TEN OR LESS CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 24-06, BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT FROM COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) TO AGRICULTURAL (A-2) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).
8/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the in the Governor Charley E. Johns Conference Center located at 1610 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. A copy of the ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Courthouse North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, S240724A, BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR CHANGING THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

FROM COMMERCIAL TO AGRICULTURAL-2 (LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1 DWELLING UNIT PER 5 ACRES, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN POLICY I.2.2) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).
8/1 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on August 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Governor Charley E. Johns Conference Center located at 1610 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida.

Z 24-06, an application by Franklin M. Cox and Tiffany L. Cox, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district from COMMERCIAL, INTENSIVE (CI) to

AGRICULTURAL-2 (A-2) on property described, as follows: A parcel of land lying in Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 12; thence North 88°27'39" East 337.73 feet, along the North line of said Section 12 for the Point of Beginning; thence continue North 88°27'39" East 900.85 feet, along the North line of said Section 12 to the Westerly right-of-way boundary of U.S. Highway 301 (state Road 200), said Westerly boundary being on a curve concave to the Southeast and having a radius of 5848.56 feet; thence Southwesterly along said Westerly boundary and along the arc of said curve, 75.62 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 18°51'15" West; thence South 88°35'20" West 677.42 feet; thence South 01°49'46" East 208.72 feet; thence North 01°49'48" West 277.48 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 2.37 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

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

Lee Anderson

On Thursday July 25, 2024, surrounded by his loving family and friends, Mr. Lee Anderson slipped peacefully into the arms of the Lord. He was born Nov. 19, 1949 in Jacksonville to the late George Leroy Anderson and Welcome (Reese) Anderson. He loved life and was always willing to lend a helping hand to his neighbors and friends who were in need. But above all, he loved the Lord and his sweetie, Cathy. He greeted everyone, friend or stranger, with a joke and smile that would light up a room. He loved to be outdoors, and you would often find him sitting quietly spending time with the Lord or tinkering in his shop. He was an active member of Gadara Baptist Church. The Lord had placed a calling on his heart to serve the seniors by leading the senior ministries and teaching the Senior Adult Sunday School class. He was truly a man who exemplified the love of God.

He is survived by the second love of his life, his wife of 29 years, Cathy, of Melrose; four daughters, Tracy L. Anderson (Blake) Nelson of Live Oak, Kristy Ireland of Green Cove Springs, Terry (Russ) Lund of Lake City; Jennifer E. (Bill) Elrod of Green Cove Springs; two siblings, William Anderson of Kingston, Arkansas and Melinda Harris of San Angelo, Texas; four cherished grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Thursday, Aug. 1, at 11 a.m. at Gadara Baptist Church with Pastor Justin Brown and Pastor Shawn House officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Gadara Baptist Church Building Fund, 6779 C.R. 315C, Keystone Heights 32656.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights 352-473-3176 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.



PAID OBITUARY

Howard Baggett

Howard David Baggett, 76, of Gainesville, died Saturday, July 27, 2024, at Plaza Health and Rehabilitation Center in Gainesville. He was born in Jacksonville, on Nov. 6, 1947, to the late Howard Lafayette Baggett Jr. and Leila Taylor Baggett. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his brother, Richard "Rick" (Shirley) Baggett of Keystone Heights; and many nieces, nephews and extended family members. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757.

Sandra L. Bennett

Sandra Laing Bennett, 83, of Lake Butler, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children at Plantation Oaks in High Springs under the care of Haven Hospice after an extended illness on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. She was born to William and Mildred Laing of Havana. She grew up in Orlando, where she met the love of her life, Bobby R. Bennett. After a brief courtship, they were married on July 26, 1962. The couple finally settled in Lake Butler in the early 1970s, where Sandra went to work at the Northeast Florida State Hospital before finally going to work at the VA Hospital in both Lake City and Gainesville. She retired from the Gainesville VA in early 2000. She loved her family. She was a caretaker by nature. She cared for her parents, in-laws, siblings and husband in their last days. She was an active member of Fellowship Baptist Church for the last 30-plus years. She served many positions throughout her attendance: choir member, custodian and treasurer. She also supported Bobby in his love of antique engines and tractors. She served those organizations as well in true Sandra fashion...giving it her all! Anyone who knew her fell in love with her almost immediately. She had a heart for Christ and her family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings; and her beloved husband of 56 years, Bobby.

She is survived by her children, Rell (Sherry) Bennett, Tim (Nicole) Bennett and Barbara Cribbs; her grandchildren, Sarah (Joe) Pennell, Becca (Jeremy) Thompson, Anna (Jacob) Vail, Tori Rickard, Mitchell Cribbs, Courtney Bennett, Mikeala (Jacob) Levinger, and Myles Cribbs; great-grandchildren, Tristan, Kinnsley, James, Nora, Ollie, Bennett and Charlotte; and a nephew, nieces, cousins and many adopted sons, daughters and grandchildren.

Services to celebrate her life were held Saturday, July 27, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. She was laid to rest next to her husband immediately following the service at Swift Creek/Mt. Zion Cemetery. Pastor Emery Eunice officiated.

The staff of Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to once again be chosen to serve the Bennett family. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com



PAID OBITUARY

Tommie Frith

On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, Tommie Edward Frith, 86, of Lake Butler passed away peacefully at his home. He was born on Dec. 15, 1937, in Lake Geneva to his parents, Joseph and Hester Deal Frith. Tommie's journey through life was marked by duty and service. His exemplary dedication to others shone brightly as he served his country with honor and valor. Enlisting as a Sergeant in the United States Marines from 1955-1960, he later became a Sergeant First Class in the US Army in 1960, until his retirement in 1975. His exemplary service during the Vietnam War earned him two Bronze Stars and the prestigious Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. His roles as a military police officer and marine security guard showcased his unwavering commitment to protecting and serving his nation. After his remarkable military career, he transitioned into civilian life, where he continued to serve others. For nearly four decades, from 1976 to 2014, he dedicated himself to the Union County Sheriff's Office, steadily rising through the ranks to retire as a respected Lieutenant. His colleagues remember him as a beacon of integrity and leadership. Tommie was also a proud member of the Raiford Masonic Lodge #82 since 1998. Aside from his professional accomplishments, he also found joy in simpler pleasures. In his leisure time, he could often be found playing cards with his closest friends, fishing, collecting coins, or enjoying episodes of "Gunsmoke." He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Joseph Elijah Frith; and sisters, Mildred, Annie Mae, and Ruth.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews who will forever cherish his memory. Additionally, his best friend, Gary Seay, holds dear the moments shared and lessons learned with Tommie over the years.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Archer Milton Funeral Home. Immediately following, there will be a procession to the graveside service at Hope Baptist Church Cemetery with military honors.

Archer Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Tommie Frith. 386-496-2008 www.ArcherFuneralHome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Bobby Hampton

Bobby Louis Hampton was born at his family's home on Wednesday, March 23, 1949, to the late Gary and Catherine (Frye) Hampton in Lawtey, where he was raised. He graduated from Robinson Jenkins Ellerson High School in Starke in 1968. Upon completing high school, he joined the United States Army and served in Vietnam. After returning home, he briefly attended Santa Fe College. On Aug. 21, 1971, he married Linda Yvonne Tyson. Their union expanded almost 53 years. They were blessed with four children, Kim (Aaron) Paige, Katina Hampton, Keisha (Enoch) Epps, and Rashay Miller-Hampton. His family grew when he and his wife were blessed with four grandchildren, Simone Hudson, Shayne Davis, Sierra Paige, and Malachi Epps. He accepted Christ and was baptized at an early age and immediately began serving at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. He served as a Deacon for over 30 years and took pride in taking care of the physical building and grounds. It was his pleasure to serve all those who attended or visited. His favorite hymn was Hymn 454, A Charge to Keep I Have. He worked at the University of Florida for 34 years. After retirement, to stay busy, he worked for the Bradford County School System for 17 years. He was a jack of all trades, and you could often find him doing odd jobs for various people in Bradford and Alachua County. For many years, he enjoyed gardening and selling vegetables. In his later years, he enjoyed relaxing in his recliner and his daily adventure was riding the lawn mower. He always enjoyed a good home-cooked meal, grilling for his family, capturing special moments with his disposable cameras, watching sports (Go Gators! Go Tornados!) and listening to country music. Anyone who visited *The Hampton Inn* could hear his radio playing Eagle Country 106.3. If you could not find him around the house, he was likely walking, singing, and praying. Bobby Louis Hampton, 75, peacefully entered into his rest at home on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Issac, Gary Jr., Larry; and sister, Gloria Cleveland.

He is survived by his wife; children; grandchildren; adopted grandson, Dominique Jones; like a grandson, Omarkeon Dixon; siblings, Lenoard (Violet) Heath, Odessa (Irie) Hamilton, Emma (Eddie deceased) Davis, Legertha Hampton; brothers-in-law, Eddie (Bessie) Tyson, Albert Tyson Jr., Leroy (Dorothy) Tyson Sr., Marvin Tyson; sisters-in-law: Carolyn Hampton, Terry Hampton, Mary (Charles) Walker, JoAnn Hamilton; uncles, Norman (Cheryl) McCall, Hyrom (Eloise) McCall; aunts, Sherry (James deceased) McCall and Geraldine (Rosco deceased) McCall; godchildren, Joy Smith Robinson, Jermaine Ford, Jerry Cummings Jr., Danielle Smith, Charlzey Mackey Jr.; special friends, Bill Aldridge, Walter Brown, Otto Ingram, and Eddie Johnson; loving neighbor, Bernadette Tyson; and a tribe of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

A viewing will be held Friday, Aug. 2, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 21670 NE CR 200B, Lawtey, 32058. There will be a final visitation on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Cross Church, 2300 N. Temple Ave., Building 2, Starke, 32091. A Celebration of Life will immediately follow at 12 p.m. He will be buried at Peetsville Cemetery, 21156 CR 200B, Lawtey, 32058 and the repast will immediately follow at the Bradford County Fairgrounds, 2300 N. Temple Ave., Building 3, Starke, 32091. The family requests that donations be made to the Bradford County Special Olympics as an alternative to flowers. Please see the details for donations on social media or contact a member of the family.

Professional services entrusted to Phillip and Sons, The Funeral Directors, Inc., 310 S.R. 26, Melrose 32666.

PAID OBITUARY



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Card of Thanks

The family of Natashie Cohens Kennedy would like to sincerely thank everyone for their acts of kindness, prayers, food and services during our loss.

Your kind acts were greatly appreciated.

Thank you, again!

Mary Cohens and the Kennedy family

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders
 Attorney at Law

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- Real Estate
- Traffic/DUI
- Wills, Trusts, Probate
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(904) 964-4111
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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you information about our qualifications and experience.

Carl Hanlon

Carl "Todd" Hanlon, 49, peacefully submitted to the Will of God on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. He was born Nov. 11, 1974, in Miami. He retired from the Union County Sheriff's Office. As he was an avid animal lover, in Todd's memory, please donate to your local animal shelter.

He is survived by his father, Reginald W. Hanlon III; sister, Elizabeth A. Hanlon-Masters; two sons, Samuel and Cohen Hanlon; stepdaughter, McKenzie Santos; niece, Hope Masters; nephew, Collin Masters; and one uncle and one aunt, Rodney and Alicia Hanlon; and two cousins, Mathew and Jennifer Hanlon.

He was predeceased by his mother, Deborah E. Wilkes-Hanlon; brother, Reginald W. Hanlon IV; and stepdaughter, Savannah C. Santos.

Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler is handling the arrangements. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com



PAID OBITUARY

Betty Lou Lunn

Betty Lou Lunn, 94, passed away peacefully to be with the Lord on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at her home in Highland. She was born in Payne, Ohio, on April 10, 1930, to the late Frank and Edith A. (Boyer) Overton. She was the youngest of three daughters. Betty loved her family and the Lord.

She married her loving husband, William "Bill" Lunn, on Sept. 8, 1951. He was a Marine for 33 years. Therefore, we would joke that she also served for 33 years, since the military dictated where she would live and if Bill could come home when the children were born. They had four beautiful children together, Kathleen Mitchell, Linda Lee, Karen Lunn, and William "Billy" Lunn. They lived in many cities before settling down in Highland.

She was a resilient woman tasked with raising four children alone most of the time, since Bill was called to serve on many tours. Her children were all born in different states due to different assignments. This did not discourage her from continuing to march on and focus on the children. She would tell stories of working for the phone company and calling home to make sure the kids made it home from school, but she would disconnect the call quickly to ensure she did not get in trouble. She was a very resourceful woman and a great mother. Her kids repaid her when she needed them; they stepped in and cared for her and Bill without question—especially Linda, who moved in to care for them when the time came. She was a hard worker, and she never slowed down. Some may remember her from the Highland Zoo, Strickland's market, or the Florida Souvenir store in Lawtey. She was an incredibly loving person. She loved with her whole heart and did not judge.

She was a member of Highland Baptist Church. She enjoyed sewing, crafts, and sitting on the porch. She especially enjoyed working in her yard; she took great pride in caring for her flowers. Her grandchildren had a special place in her heart. She would light up when they came over. Betty had many reasons to be proud of her grandchildren; one served in the Marines, some went to college, and she even had bragging rights that Camron was on the news. Her grandchildren loved her and would come to help when asked, and Kelly even agreed to dress up as a clown and volunteer with her during her clown days.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Karen Lunn; husband of 72 years, William "Bill" Lunn; and two sisters, Virginia Meisner and Isabelle M. Litzenberg.

She is survived by two daughters, Kathleen (Michael) Mitchell of Sebastian and Linda Lee of Highland, and her son, William "Bill" (Allison) Lunn of Starke. She was a wonderful "Granny" to her grandchildren, Darlene (Kevin) Rinehardt of Conneaut, Ohio, Richard (Natalie) Ziegler of Ashtabula, Ohio, Kelly (Nathan) Babay of Cleveland, Ohio, Justin (Tammy) Lee of Keystone Heights, Timothy (Jolee) Lee of Starke, Camron Lunn of Gainesville, and Christopher (Candice) Lunn of Middleburg; great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn Brunson, Hailey Ziegler, Cory (Jasmine) Cox, Dalton Lee, Kirsten Lee, Kayden Lee, Koleson Lee, Colton Lunn, Sutton Lunn; her great-great-grandchildren, Mailona and Rowan; brother-in-law, Keith Carter; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10, at 11 a.m. at Highland Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Haven Hospice.

PAID OBITUARY

Dolores Pickett

Dolores "Dee Dee" Pickett, 80, of Palatka, died on Sunday, July 14, 2024, at HCA Hospital in Palatka. She was born on May 9, 1944, in Hartford, Connecticut to Peter and Pia Carcio. She married David C. Pickett on Feb. 28, 1997, in Florida. "Dee Dee," as she liked to be called, lived a very full life, having been a hard-working, strong-willed, confident woman, who lived life as she saw fit, regardless of the opinions of others. She was a self-starter who always strove for perfection in anything she put her mind to. She and her husband spent many years in several different churches, bringing young people to the Lord and always would be there to help someone in need. She battled Alzheimer's Dementia as she did with everything in her life, with determination and grit. Although she may not have known the positive effect she had on those people whose lives she touched, those who remember her do so with fond memories of her quick wit, dry humor and her sense of fashion. She will be missed more than she ever would have thought she would be. The family would like to thank Carolyn and family in Illinois for all the love that they showed her and David. She never forgot them through everything. She always remembered her "Kemosabe" Jeanie Faber, who I know was waiting for her in the next life. She always loved her sister, Donna, even through the most difficult of times.

She is survived by her son, Chris (Mary) Johnson and family; and her sister, Donna (John) Stoddard and family. She had three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

The family's wishes are to have private services at a later time. If you wish to make a donation in her name, her favorite charity was St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Arrangements were completed by Jones-Gallagher funeral home and Crematory in Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY

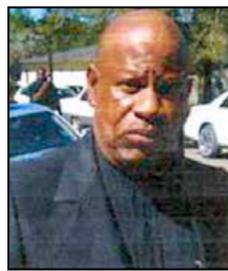
Thurman Thomas

Thurman Winston Thomas, better known as "Red," of Lake Butler passed away Tuesday, July 23, 2024, after a brief illness. He was born in Worthington Springs on Dec. 15, 1959. He was the son of the late Frances Thomas and the late Theodore Roosevelt Lee. He attended Union County High School and completed his GED in the U.S. Army. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, then moved to Tampa to work.

He leaves to cherish his memories six brothers, Marcell (Mary) Lett, Roosevelt Thomas, Joe Thomas, James Lee, Herman Thomas, and Curtis (Candace) Thomas; five sisters, Paulette Strong, Alma Thomas, Juanita Thomas, Regina (Gregory) Merricks, Patricia Goodman; and his devoted ex-wife and best friend, Eunice Thomas.

Memorial services were held at Herman's house on Saturday, July 27.

PAID OBITUARY



GATORS

Continued from page 8

Memories

Bullock and her husband got to attend some great games, of course, including all three that resulted in national championships. She especially remembers the 2006 title game, which was played in Glendale, Arizona. It was a challenge to get game and flight tickets as well as lodging, Bullock said, noting that Ohio State had wrapped up its berth in the championship game before Florida. The Buckeyes were the preseason number-one team and earned the number-one ranking in the Bowl Championship Series after going undefeated in the regular season and winning the Big Ten championship.

"There were so many Ohio State fans there," she said.

It took a USC loss to UCLA and Florida's SEC-Championship win over Arkansas to propel the Gators over Michigan in the BCS rankings and earn the right to play Ohio State.

Ohio State scored first in the BCS National Championship when Ted Ginn Jr. returned the opening kickoff 93 yards, but the Gators outscored the Buckeyes 34-7 the rest of the first half in building a 20-point lead.

"That was a great game," Bullock said.

One of her memories had nothing to do with the game itself. The jumbotron displayed an image of UF and NFL standout Emmitt Smith, the running back who is a member of both the College Football halls of fame. A young Ohio State fan asked, "Who's that?" Bullock mentioned that Smith played for the Gators and the Dallas Cowboys, but the fan still had no clue. Bullock then mentioned he was on "Dancing with the Stars," which resulted in the fan saying, "Oh! Emmitt Smith!"

"He would just die if that's what he was known for," Bullock said.

Some of the losses are even memorable. The Bullocks were able to obtain tickets to the 1996 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, which pitted the Gators against Nebraska. The tickets had them sitting with the families of the Florida coaches. They were warned beforehand to not say anything negative or be critical of the Gators in any way. Bullock said that was hard for Chuck since Nebraska routed Florida 62-24.

"I think he did a lot of biting his tongue that day," Bullock said.

Watching games creates memories, but so, too, do positive experiences. Bullock said her husband, who passed away in 2014, wanted to make the trip to College Station, Texas, to watch Florida play Texas A&M in 2012 — Texas A&M's inaugural year in the SEC. The personnel at the Aggies' Kyle Field helped Chuck, who was ill and on dialysis.

"They were so nice," Bullock said. "Where our seats were, they were very hard to get to. They actually let him walk across the field to get to our seats because it was a closer walk."

It was a great experience overall as the Gators won 20-17. Plus, Bullock said she "learned more about boots that day than I ever had in my life."

"I didn't know there were all these types of boots," said Bullock, who received an education from some of the Texas A&M students.

Bullock said Kentucky fans were some of the nicest she encountered, but added that was during a time when Kentucky wasn't very good in football. She remembered going to a game and being impressed with the student turnout. She said as much to a stadium security member, who replied, "Well, we have a little secret. They don't get their basketball tickets unless they come to this game."

Favorite Gators

When it comes to her favorite UF football coach, Bullock said it's Steve Spurrier. She admired his quick wit and quips.

"I have a whole book of quotes from Steve Spurrier," she said.

Bullock once wrote a letter to her favorite coach, but not because she was a fan. She did so on behalf of Jimmy Brumbaugh,



Tina Bullock, with University of Florida/Gators items adorning her wall in the background, holds the UF Alumni Association Clubbie Award she received for her involvement in the Clay County Gator Club.



Clay County Gator Club members are pictured tailgating behind the Hilton UF Conference Center Hotel in Gainesville. Included in the group are this year's club Hall of Fame inductees: Tina and Chuck Bullock (front row, third from right and far right), Kristine Johnson (front, second from right) and Janet Steffens (back, far left).

who played defensive line for the Keystone Heights High School football team. Bullock was the KHHS principal at the time and knew that Brumbaugh really wanted to be a Gator, but he told her no one from the school would even attend a game to give him a look.

Imagining Brumbaugh going to another SEC school and helping that team beat the Gators served as inspiration. Bullock told her husband she was going to write a letter to Spurrier. Chuck's response was, "Have you lost your mind? You think he's going to look at a letter sent by you?"

Bullock has a number of Spurrier playing cards, representing the different teams he played for and coached. She made copies of those cards and covered the outside of her letter's envelope with them.

Spurrier himself didn't respond, but Bullock did receive a call from a UF coach, who told her, "We just don't need Jimmy's position."

Still, her effort did result in a UF coach attending a KHHS game.

"At least he got a look," Bullock said of Brumbaugh, who played for Auburn and now coaches at Coastal Carolina University.

As for her favorite UF football player, Bullock said it's probably Tim Tebow, explaining that it's more about who Tebow is as a person.

"That's what people should aspire to — not just to be a great player, but a great person as well," she said. "He has high morals."

Bullock said her husband's favorite player was probably a different UF quarterback.

"He loved Danny Wuerffel," she said, though added that Chuck, who grew up on Gators football, liked a lot of the old-school players as well.

Club fun

The Clay County Gator Club has had UF football coaches as guest speakers. Bullock said she remembered when Ron Zook spoke after he was hired to replace Spurrier. Zook said he had spent so much time traveling that he called his wife and asked, "How do I get home?"

When it comes to the Gators, it's not about just the sport of football for Bullock. The same, of course, can be said about the Clay County Gator Club. Bullock said she enjoyed having Kelly

Finley, the women's basketball coach, as a guest speaker. Finley shared a story in which a player complained to her about playing time. The coach's response? "Look, if we don't win, I get fired. If you don't win, you're still playing."

Guest speakers have also included sports journalists, such as the aforementioned Kouvaris, the late David Lamm and Dan Hicken, who is an Action Sports Jax (CBS 47/Fox30) anchor.

Spurrier's parents, Graham and Marjorie, who are deceased, were members of the club. Ron Coleman, a current member and a member of the club's Hall of Fame, was a track-and-field athlete at UF. He was the school's first Black scholarship athlete.

"It spans all walks of life," Bullock said of the club's

membership. "We've got people who are very wealthy in there to regular people like myself in there. We all have one common goal: to talk about Gator sports."

Actually, the club has two common goals, as another is to help young people get through college.

"We usually give about 10 to 13 (\$1,000) scholarships every year," Bullock said. "The nice thing about our scholarships is they're renewable. We've had

Soon-to-be Hall-of-Fame

kids who got it start their first year as a freshman and go all the way through their master's program." Presenting scholarships, listening to guest speakers, participating in watch parties and traveling to games — that's what the Clay County Gator Club is all about. If you'd like to know more, please visit claygators.com or "Clay County Gators" on Facebook.

member Bullock can't think of a better way to enjoy UF athletics than in the presence of so many others who bleed Orange and Blue. She jokes about driving from Keystone in the opposite direction of Gainesville to board a bus in Fleming Island that then takes her to Gainesville for a game.

"It's all about the camaraderie," Bullock said.

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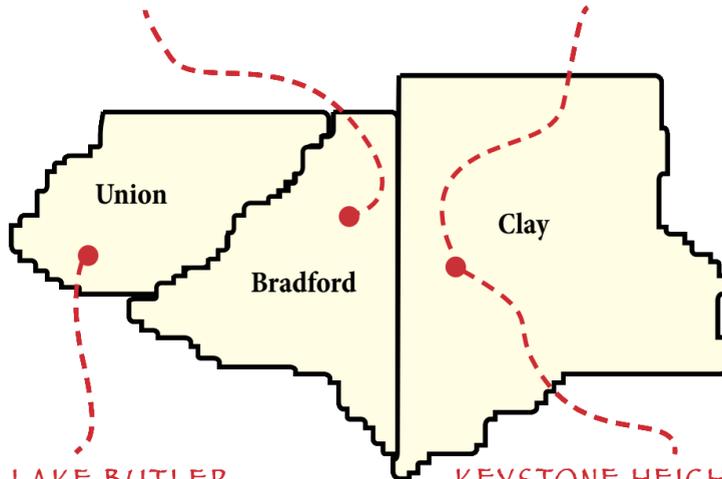
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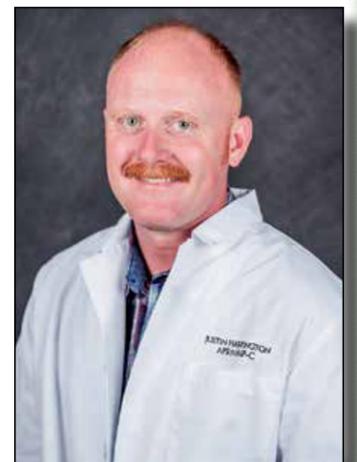
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