

# Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 4th Issue — \$1

## Starke postpones reappointing manager

Question over manager/ clerk duties

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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Starke city commissioners are ready to restore the title of city manager to Drew Mullins, but a revamped ordinance was tabled last week for clarification about separation of duties with the city clerk.

Commissioner Danny Nugent ask for more time to answer questions about finance duties. He later clarified he believes they belong with the city clerk's office, where they have been assigned historically.

The commission first assigned Mullins finance when Jimmy Crosby resigned the city clerk's position. Mullins' job changed to general manager when Crosby was appointed chief administrative officer. Mullins oversaw utilities, and authority over other departments, including finance, was given to Crosby.

Crosby retired during an investigation into his leadership, so the commission is restoring the full city manager position to Mullins, pending approval of the new ordinance. The ordinance clearly places the manager over the finance department and operations. This includes responsibility for all personnel matters.

At the same time, the city is electing

a new city clerk this week, and this will be the first time the city has had a clerk since 2024. The ordinance states the manger will oversee every department but the clerk's office.

Separation of duties between the clerk and manager an issue since the first city management ordinance in 2002, which had them sharing responsibilities — the clerk over finance and the manager over budget. Communication or the lack thereof was often the cause of conflict. Even commissioners found it difficult to get financial information. So much so that in 2018 Commissioner Janice Mortimer, then serving as mayor, called on the commission to switch things up and place finance under the city manager. She said running from one side of city hall to the other and still receiving no answers was frustrating.

John Cooper was city attorney then and examined the duties assigned to the clerk by the city charter. The clerk's primary duties are to keep minutes of all meetings and ordinances adopted by the commission. The charter also designates the clerk as treasurer and tax collector. That was important, he said, because it is from those positions that most of the clerk's financial duties arise, including receiving and keeping account of all monies and issuing checks.

The charter is silent on responsibility for preparing budgets, however. It was



## We have a winner!

A selfie with Starke's next city clerk, Chrissy Thompson (center), and her family, campaigning during the final hours of voting. Thompson received 258 votes while opponent Lisa Heeder received 189. The former city commissioner will be sworn into her new office along with new commissioner Dimple Overstreet and returning commissioner Janice Mortimer.

the 2002 ordinance that placed budget preparation under the city manager.

It wasn't until the clerk's office became vacant in 2024 that things changed. The ordinance amending the clerk's duties placed finance in the hands of the city manager. The clerk was still the city's treasurer and records keeper. All personnel matters, including the clerk's office, were placed in the manager's hands, with

supervision in finance provided by the manager and finance director.

Crosby came back briefly as CAO, assuming command of everything but utilities. The ordinance being considered now would restore Mullins as city manager over all departments, including financial operations. That includes duties that were once the

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## Union commissioners rank priorities

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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Led by County Coordinator Jimmy Williams, Union County Commissioners discussed their priorities for the year, with many issues involving land development regulations.

Williams produced a list of 13 board priorities and action items, which he handed out to commissioners during the August 18 meeting.

Numbers 1 and 13 were quickly addressed, as Number 1 dealt with the county's response to the state's Department of Government Efficiency information requests, and Number 13 recommended that commissioners consider a citizen-led planning and zoning board.

Commissioners acknowledged that Clerk Kelly Rhoades would continue to be the county's point person in responding to DOGE information requests. The clerk has, in past meetings, complained about the nature of those requests, stating that a state department organized to reduce

inefficiencies was creating more inefficiencies than it cut.

Both Chair Channing Dobbs and Commissioner Mac Johns dismissed the idea of a citizen-led planning and zoning board, stating that the current practice of commissioners acting as their own planning and zoning board works well.

Commissioners then dove into the land development issues, two of which centered around recreational vehicles. Commissioners have renewed their moratorium on new RV parks for several years while they developed rules for the facilities.

Several commissioners said now is the time to "stop kicking the can down the road," develop and implement RV park rules, and lift the moratorium.

The second RV issue concerns individual landowners allowing friends, family members, or renters to occupy an RV on private property, a practice currently prohibited under county codes.

Another proposal on the task list, to draft rules for accessory dwelling

units, is related to the issue of RVs on private property. Accessory dwelling units are additional, standalone, smaller housing units on the same parcel as a home.

The final land development issue on the list is developing regulations for small and large subdivisions.

County Attorney Russ Wade commented on two other items on the list, the codification of county ordinances and the establishment of a code enforcement regime.

Wade said codifying ordinances would organize county laws in an understandable manner. He stated that now, some of the county's earliest statutes have been lost, and recommended commissioners repeal all ordinances earlier than a certain date.

Wade added that organizing a magistrate-based code enforcement apparatus was well underway.

Four revenue-generating proposals are on the commissioners' task list. Two are for garbage and emergency medical services special

assessments. A third item would look at raising gasoline taxes for capital improvements. A fourth idea is an impact fee for new construction in the county that would fund future growth.

A final bullet point for commissioners addresses a complaint voiced by virtually every commissioner: trucks damaging roads.

In prior meetings, Donna Jackson has complained about logging trucks crushing culverts and damaging road shoulders in her area of the county. Mac Johns brought a petition from residents of Providence, who complained about trucks traveling to and from a local business on State Road 238, damaging the neighborhood roads.

During the August 18 meeting, Channing Dobbs distributed photographs of abandoned truck trailers parked in the middle of a dirt road intersection.

Williams said he hoped his list would help commissioners track the progress of the issues they stated were most important to them.

## Change in law puts airport grant in jeopardy

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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A change in funding requirements for Keystone Heights Airport projects could put large projects out of reach for the municipally owned airport.

Typically, state grants for airports require a 20% local match. However, since the Keystone Heights Airport has a Starke address, and half of the facility lies in Bradford County, it qualifies for the state's Rural Economic Development Initiative funding because Bradford County is classified as an economically distressed rural community, while Clay County is not.

The 20% match has been waived for REDI communities.

During the July and August meetings of the airport authority board, Airport Engineer Bill Prange informed board members that, due to a 2023 change in the law, only runway and taxiway capacity projects would now qualify for the 20% match waiver.

Therefore, only projects that

extend runways or expand taxiways would qualify for the waiver. Projects considered economic development projects would also qualify for the waiver.

### \$4.5 million runway rehabilitation could vanish

Runway rehabilitation projects, like one the airport has in place with a \$4.5 million price tag, would not qualify for the waiver, meaning the airport would have to find 20%, or \$900,000, to fund the project.

Prange told board members that he asked Florida's Department of Transportation to put the \$4.5 million project on hold while the airport considers its alternatives.

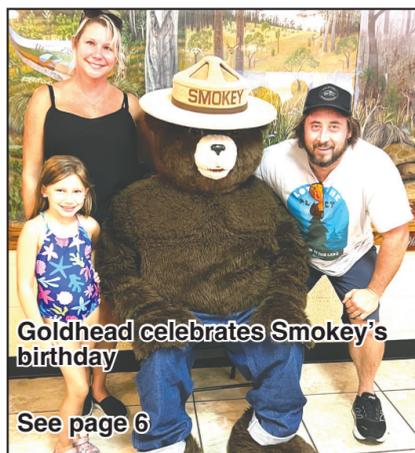
"The FDOT agreed to put the project on hold, Prange told board members. "The funding is still sitting there for at least a year. The funding will go nowhere. But if in the next year we don't figure out a way to either get

the legislation changed or come up with other creative ways to justify the project as a capacity project, again, worst case scenario, that project could die."

After Prange's analysis, board members speculated that without the rehabilitation, the airstrip could deteriorate over the next decade to make insurance coverage difficult to obtain and make passing the state safety inspection more onerous.

"And if a runway does not have a public funding source, an airport will struggle to maintain it," Prange explained. "And eventually the three-year inspections will give it such a low rating that it'll be down in the failed category. So many cracks, ruts, so much loose gravel, at some point down the road, the (Florida Department of Transportation), not the

FAA, the FDOT might come around and say that pavement is failed, and unless you do something, we're not going to license that runway for use under the state licensing program. Honestly...I think you're probably 10 years from that."



Goldhead celebrates Smokey's birthday

See page 6

## WORTH NOTING

### Join yard sale to benefit VFW

The Lake Butler Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10082 will hold a yard sale Aug. 23 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Funds raised will support community events including the Patriot's Luncheon, Halloween Trunk or Treat, Easter egg hunt and open houses. Tables are available for rent.

For more information, call Barbara Fischer at 904-263-0647. The public is encouraged to attend and support the local VFW.

### RJE Alumni Reunion scheduled for Aug. 29-31

The RJE Alumni Association will host its biannual school reunion beginning Friday, Aug. 29, with a Meet and Greet from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Tigers Place, 908 Florida St. in Starke.

Events continue Saturday, Aug. 30, with the Purple and Gold Banquet at the Camp Blanding Armory, 5629 State Road 16. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and must be purchased in advance to ensure entry at the Camp Blanding main gate.

The weekend concludes Sunday, Aug. 31, with a 1 p.m. church service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2 County Road 100A. The Rev. Ronald Strong will deliver the message. Lunch will follow at The Tigers Place for \$20 per person.

Attendees are also encouraged to pay the \$25 annual membership. Contributions of \$25 per nameplate for the RJE Memorial Plaque, which hangs at The Tigers Place, are also accepted.

Tickets can be purchased from Joann Jackson, Linda Hampton, Sylvia Patterson, Glory Jackson, Carnell Williams, Mary McGregor or Alicia McMillian.

### Friends and Family Day at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries will be celebrating Family and Friends Day on Sunday, Aug. 24, at 11 a.m. Dinner will be served after the service. The public is invited.

### Bradford Democrats to meet Aug. 25

The Bradford County Democratic Party will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25. All registered Democrats are welcome and encouraged to attend. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month in the conference room at Capital City Bank, 350 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. For more information, email bradfordcodecc@gmail.com.





Starke and Bradford Fire Rescue responded to a house fire on Clark Street across from Capital City Bank on Saturday. The home was a total loss, but there was no report of injuries. Firefighters also worked with Florida Forest Service to battle a woods fire last week off of Northwest 50th Avenue.

## Baker replaces Blanding for immigration detention

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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Gov. Ron DeSantis announced on Aug. 14 that Baker Correctional Institution will replace Camp Blanding as a future site for an immigration detention facility.

The governor stated that limited airport runway capacity at the Clay County National Guard training facility was one factor in relocating the detention facility to Baker County.

DeSantis noted that Lake City's Gateway Airport is 15 minutes from Baker Correctional. He said any immigration detention facility must be close to an airport capable of handling large planes departing for immigrants' home countries.

"The reality is," DeSantis said, "although Blanding does have some air access, we were not going to be able to run the big flights out of that airstrip."

Another factor was the excess capacity at Baker Correctional Institution. The Department of Corrections mixed-security-level facility near Sanderson was closed in 2021 due to staffing shortages. New River Correctional in Bradford County was closed at the same time.

"You talk about already-made infrastructure," DeSantis said. "This was something that was very appealing from that perspective, because it would require us to do a lot less in standing up than we would at Blanding and far less than we had to do at Alligator Alcatraz."

## MANAGER

Continued from page 1

clerk's like providing financial reports. As an elected official, the clerk would maintain independence over that office.

Nugent said voters chose to have an elected clerk during this year's referendum and that all finance duties should be restored to that office.

Nugent and Mullins haven't seen eye to eye over this, with Mullins saying this ordinance is the same ordinance the commission approved last year placing finance under his direction. Mullins said that he is ultimately going to do what a majority of commissioners want him to.

In the meantime, commissioners gave Nugent the "professional courtesy," as Mortimer put it, to get his questions answered before proceeding to a vote. But based on discussions, the other commissioners did not agree with his objections. The ordinance will be back before board on Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m.

## GOP Patriots Dinner welcomes Rep. Byron Donalds

Join the Bradford GOP on Friday, Aug. 29, for an evening with special

guest Congressman Byron Donalds at the Governor Charley E. Johns Conference Center beginning at 6 p.m. The location is 1610 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. Buffet and cash bar provided by the Downtown Grill.

Tickets are \$65 and a table of 8 is \$520, payable by personal check, business check, cashier's check or money order made out to BCREC and mailed to BCREC, P.O. Box 213, Starke, FL 32091. If you mail a check your tickets will be available for pick up at the door.

The purchase of a ticket is a donation to the Bradford Republican Party and is not refundable. For tickets or more information, contact BCREC

Treasurer Donna Solze at 904-364-6076.

Contributions or gifts to the Bradford GOP are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. Congressman Byron Donalds is appearing as a special guest and is not soliciting any funds associated with this event. All solicitations of funds in connection with this event are by the Bradford GOP and not by Congressman Byron Donalds or any federal officeholder.

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Adult General Education, GED/Adult High School	Snyder	OPEN	August 12 - December 19, 2025	Mon. - Fri.	12:30PM to 3:30PM	Vary
Commercial Vehicle Driving A	Abercrombie	Apply Now	August 12 - October 10, 2025	Mon. -Thur.	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320
Commercial Vehicle Driving B	Cook	Apply Now	August 12 - October 10, 2025	Mon. -Thur.	7:30AM - 5:30PM	150
Commercial Vehicle Driving A	Abercrombie	Apply Now	October 16 - December 19, 2025	Mon. -Thur.	7:30AM - 5:30PM	320
Commercial Vehicle Driving B	Cook	Apply Now	October 16 - December 19, 2025	Mon. -Thur.	7:30AM - 5:30PM	150
Welding Technology	Hunt	Apply Now	August 12 - December 19, 2025	Mon. - Fri.	9AM - 3:30PM	1050
Welding Technology, Advanced	Hunt	Apply Now	August 12 - December 19, 2025	Mon. - Fri.	9AM - 3:30PM	750

### EVENING PROGRAMS

Nursing Assistant - Long Term Care (C.N.A.)	TBD	Apply Now	TBD	Mon. -Thur.	TBD	120
Adult General Education, GED	TBD	OPEN	August 12 - December 19, 2025	Mon., Tues., Thur.	5PM to 8PM	Vary

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Spinning (Indoor Cycling)	Bridgman/Riker	Open	August 12 - December 19, 2025	Tues. & Thur.	5PM - 7PM	Vary
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# Will creek project to protect lake worsen flooding in Starke?

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke is off the hook for maintaining the Edwards Bottomlands wetlands restoration project, but questions remain about the perpetual maintenance of the waterway to prevent increased flooding in the city.

The Edwards Bottomlands Project involves changes to the flow of Alligator Creek west of U.S. 301. It was proposed and developed by the Suwannee River Water Management District as a solution for the city's unpermitted excavation of the creek, which resulted in erosion and the buildup of sediment downstream. Florida Department of Transportation was brought in as a funding entity because it needed to mitigate the wetlands areas destroyed during construction of the Starke bypass.

Per a 2010 interlocal agreement with SRWMD, the city of Starke agreed to own the Edwards Bottomlands site and take on perpetual operation and maintenance, including the cost associated with doing so. This would have included cleanup and submission of annual reports to the water management district.

But attorney Danielle Adams explained to the commission Aug. 12 that a subsequent agreement freed the city from that obligation. SRWMD and the Florida Department of Transportation needed wetlands mitigation sites because of the wetlands that were going to be disturbed by the Starke Bypass project. Starke agreed to host wetlands mitigation on city-owned land in exchange for SRWMD discharging the city's prior obligations regarding Edwards Bottomlands.

Manager Drew Mullins has been in contact with the water management district about who would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance as concerns have been raised about additional flooding if sediment and debris captured by the project are not removed.

As of mid-July, SRWMD was engaged in a final study on the preconstruction and postconstruction conditions to determine compliance with permitted plans, recommend further action and determine if the project is impacting flooding. The water management district was still planning on turning the project over to the city.

As of Monday, following the city's most recent meeting, Mullins received word that SRWMD would cleanup debris in the waterway.

Paul Still of the Bradford Environmental Forum has previously warned Starke about the project and how restricting flow through Alligator Creek could backup floodwater into the city. With maps and photos



Paul Still's aerial depiction of the Edwards Bottomlands are before and after construction of the project. Photos courtesy of Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District.



A channel blockage with fallen trees, branches and a wooden pallet.



Trash and debris included a motorized children's vehicle, which Still said made its way west of U.S. 301 from Laura Street.



Sediment deposited in the Edwards Bottomlands from upstream must be removed.

of the site, he called it "an environmental nightmare."

Still also had aerial photos of sediment along the channel, as well as bank erosion, channel blockages and accumulated trash, including tires, furniture and a large, motorized children's vehicle, which he said made its way to the Edwards Bottomlands from the Laura Street Bridge.

"That just shows you how anything can move down Alligator Creek during the high flows. And so, you have this tremendous amount of stuff

coming down," he said.

That was last year. He returned in July to remind the commission the state had entered another hurricane season with no action regarding the needed cleanup. He shared water level comparisons from Alligator Creek and Sampson Lake from before and after the Edwards Bottomlands project was constructed. According to Still, the higher creek levels are proof the project is holding back water.

"The highwater level occurrences after the mitigation

project was finished clearly are an indication that there was and is a flaw in the design and now the management of the project by the SRWMD. While the design issues can take time to correct the management issues should be addressed now before we experience a significant rain event," Still said in his presentation.

The Edwards Bottomlands

Project is located south of the Edwards Road ballpark. The project removed a wetlands forest on the southside of the Alligator Creek drainage canal. Bends were added to the straight path of the canal, with the goal of trapping sediment and debris before it reached the lake system. Not only does this slow the flow of water, according to Still, it allows much more than sediment to be trapped, and that further inhibits drainage. This becomes worse with every heavy rain event, he said.

He also said the channel is overgrown with plants, including invasive plants that need to be removed.

"The Bradford Environmental Forum contends that the SRWMD needs to begin now the process of removing the excess vegetation, trash, debris and sediments that have accumulated in the secondary channel of the mitigation project to avoid property damage and loss of life from upstream flooding along Alligator Creek," he said.

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**L**et us look at two scriptures I shared last week: In 1 Peter 2:2, "as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby," and James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Many who claim to be Christians know very little when it comes to what the Bible actually teaches. Some rarely read the Bible, few seldom study it and even fewer meditate on and actually walk according to the truths found in God's Word. These same people plan and make a big deal out of their next meal, their eating is so very important when it comes to food for their physical body. Yet, most Christians feed their spirit a tiny snack a day (maybe) of God's Word. Some wait to eat their "spiritual" meal on Sunday... maybe, and the preacher feeds you. Even if he has waited on God and has received fresh "bread" from heaven most of the flock think that the Sunday meal is sufficient to carry them through the entire week, until next Sunday. It will not, but most Christians do not care, they are too busy with their personal ambitions, making a dollar and making others happy. They are not about to let feeding on God's Word get in the way much less spending some quality time praying and seeking God. Though saved, and many are not, they have no idea when it comes to the teachings of the New Covenant (testament) how to be true doers of the Word. After all, how can one "do" what they do not know the Word says is their part to do. Spiritual knowledge and growth is the result of consistently feeding on the Word of God and then doing or putting into practice the truth you find in God's Word. The majority of Christians, even if sincere, are weak spiritually. That is because they do not have a clue what Jesus bought and paid for in His death, burial and resurrection.

**M**ost Christians believe heaven is their eternal destiny but most never understand that God has a plan and destiny for them in their new life in Christ. Most Christians do not know what Christ accomplished for them, who they are in Christ, what they have in Him, and what He would and could do for them and through them now, in this life. They live their lives thinking whatever will be will be, and whatever happens to them is somehow God's plan or it would not have happened. There is NO scripture for that way of thinking. God's Word is a book of instruction for His people to find out who He is, what Jesus did, and why His people need the Holy Spirit. More specifically, mind renewal. It is quite remarkable what Christians do not know, i.e., they have an enemy (Satan and demons), and God receives the credit for everything that happens in their life either good or bad. The sad thing is, these teachings have been handed down through families for years or even more sad, taught by preachers. If people would study the Word of God, mainly the New Testament, they would get their thinking straightened out (mind renewal), and stop talking the way they talk and living the way they live. It seems that many know about the calamities of Job, especially that he had boils and lost everything he had, even his children. Or, they know a little about Paul's thorn in the flesh and think that whatever they are going through, if it is bad, it is either a "Job" experience or it is their "thorn" in the flesh. It would be funny if it was not so sad and pathetic. Most Christians talk defeat and live a defeated life. Paul calls them carnal, or babes in Christ. It is time for Christians to grow up. Until next week, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you. **-Pastor Rick**

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# Magnolia Home Center: Welcome to the neighborhood

BY MELISSA PYLE  
Special to the Telegraph

Lawtey will soon be welcoming a new neighbor, south of town, on U.S. 301. The Magnolia Homes Center is scheduled to open Aug. 23 and will showcase multiple model homes on its lot.

Owner Jacob Craig says he is pleased to offer a high-end style home center that will provide Bradford and the surrounding areas with a one-stop location for their home buying needs.

Craig and his business partner, Chris Bennett Sr., both former law enforcement, believe in quality, care and service and want that to be top priority when operating Magnolia Homes.

When asked about their mission statement Craig said he and Bennett's "25-year combined experience in the manufactured and site-built

construction field has afforded us the ability to cultivate the ultimate experience for helping people become homeowners. We strive for excellence to provide a well-rounded smooth process to ensure quality and time efficiency from start to finish. We are a true family-owned company who has the customers best interest in mind. We do manufactured housing the Magnolia way."

The Magnolia Home Center "way" will be a unique manufactured home shopping experience, with plans for ten, fully operational model homes on display. This will allow customers to tour each home in the comfort of air conditioning. The center will feature homes from various manufacturers such as Homes of Merit, Skyline and Champion. Craig said he wants buyers to feel a difference as soon as they step on the lot and believes customers should see

the same high quality in the manufactured home experience as they would when buying a site-built home.

The well-manicured property and friendly salespeople will be just some of the standout features of the home center. Craig said the center plans to be a "full turnkey service" by having an onsite construction manager, a licensed realtor and financing options available to help prospective home buyers easily navigate the home building and buying process.

Craig and his team are excited to offer their expertise on building and buying a new home in north Florida and want to kick it off by inviting everyone to their grand opening on Saturday, Aug. 23. There will be food, live music and a raffle to win \$500 along with other great prizes.



Jacob Craig stands outside of the Magnolia Homes Center's main office and first lot model, eager to welcome visitors to see the Magnolia Homes Center difference!

## Clock ticking for WWTP contractor Rack Up: Shopping with purpose

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

While Starke's wastewater treatment plant is online and operational, the project has yet to reach completion, so the city is pursuing liquidated damages from the contractor.

The plant is performing well, according to City Manager Drew Mullins, who commented on the clarity of the effluent following treatment. The city has been under and environmental consent order to improve the quality of the water released from the plant.

Mullins said there are still punch list items remaining many months following the contractual deadline. Lead times for parts and equipment made substantial completion by the original October 2024 deadline impossible, but they missed the final completion deadline in December as well. Coming up on a year past the original substation completion date, the contractor, Weiss Construction, has still not wrapped things up.

"There's no fault of our own," Mullins said. "We've been very diligent in keeping up with their orders and keeping track of the construction. It's at the point where the contractor is obviously not following the contract."

Attorney Danielle Adams said delayed delivery of an electrical switchboard and motor control center is responsible for much of the wait, but during that time the contractor was supposed to demobilize and not continue

"running the clock."

In addition to the equipment delays, Mullins described a pattern of excuse making over a year about correcting problems with the work performed. As delays continued, no change orders for extensions were requested.

Adams worked with the project engineer, Brian Martin with Woodward and Curran, to determine the city's options. The option Mullins recommended was to retroactively grant a 165-day extension from the December deadline and then assess liquidated damages on the remainder of the interval plus any additional time until final completion. Damages would be in the amount of \$2,000 a day.

Adams said the city could also pursue damages for the entire delay, but that would likely lead to litigation.

"I think that probably puts you in litigation for longer than I would like to think about being in litigation," she said, although she expressed confidence the city would prevail.

Commissioner Janice Mortimer wanted to know why the board was being briefed on this missed deadline 290 days after the fact. Even if a change order was never requested, the board should have known about the delays. Commissioner Scott Roberts said every progress report they've heard has been positive. Mullins said a report at the beginning of the year informed commissioners about

the deadline breach, but the contractor kept moving the substantial completion date.

"This is where we hold their feet to the fire," he said.

Adams compared the offer to Weiss Construction to a mediation in which the city gives a little to get a little, with the alternative being litigation. Even in that case, Weiss would be obligated to complete the project.

The commission voted unanimously to extend the offer, but not before Roberts said that the commission needs to fully informed.

"We're sitting up here, and when somebody comes in and says, 'Well, you know, they're doing pretty good, they're a little behind, they're getting it done,' and the next thing we know, we're talking litigation and fines," he said. "This is pretty serious stuff."

In other business:

—Mullins teased an upcoming development that will change the face of Starke. There have been meetings with the developers, but the project is still under wraps until paperwork has been submitted to the building department.

—Mullins and employee David Sparks discussed electric infrastructure upgrades that have improved system reliance and reduced power outages, even during the summer's extreme heat and the increased demand for power.

BY MELISSA PYLE  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Walk into the Rack Up Thrift Store on Madison Street and you will not only be pleasantly surprised by the boutique style shopping experience, but also by the purpose behind each purchase.

The Starke store is the third location of Rack Up. The original store is in Macclenny and the second in Steinhatchee, Florida.

Store manager Alexis McWhorter shared that the store's concept was born from an idea owner Michele Hodges had after hearing about a financial need some missionaries were facing. They had to feed children

in the poverty-stricken area they were serving, and Hodges realized a thrift store could easily raise enough funds to meet the need. The Macclenny location now creates enough revenue to fund veterans, schools and children.

McWhorter says the Starke store is currently using its proceeds to fund teacher's grants for Bradford County Schools. Eventually, the store hopes to generate enough money to fund other local programs. The Rack Up Thrift Store says it has a simple, yet powerful mission:

"To make a lasting, positive impact on our community." By shopping at the store, shoppers can feel confident that they are

participating in the good work Rack Up is doing.

The store resides in the old Sears building across from Winn-Dixie. There customers can "shop with a purpose" in a well-organized and friendly atmosphere.

Volunteers are also welcome and needed on a regular basis. If you'd like to see your gently used items recycled into life changing impact, the store accepts donations during business hours Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. You can also find more information about their mission and locations on their website, [www.rackupthrift.com](http://www.rackupthrift.com).



Volunteer Karen Farmer works with Rack Up Thrift Store Manager Alexis McWhorter, at the Starke location, four days a week. Their goal is to provide a boutique style shopping experience that helps raise funds for local teachers.

## Florida pesticide exam update and upcoming program

BY LIZZIE WHITEHEAD  
Livestock & Natural Resources

The method for administering Florida's pesticide license exams is undergoing a notable change. Beginning Oct. 1, UF/IFAS will be handing over all pesticide testing responsibilities to Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and will no longer be giving pesticides exams in UF/IFAS Extension Offices.

FDACS intends to implement a dual-format model: remote-proctored online exams (via Everblue) and in-person testing at licensed third-party testing centers similar to those used for GRE or SAT exams. Under this system, exam fees are expected to range from approximately \$32 for online tests to \$59 for in-

person sessions.

To assist license seekers before the transition, the UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Office is offering a one-time class on Sept. 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This class is designed to provide training for the Private Applicator and Agricultural Row Crop pesticide exams before the change takes effect. Continuing Education Units have been approved — two Core plus two Ag Row or Private Applicator categories — for licensed applicators who wish to attend for CEU credits.

Extension agents from Bradford and Alachua counties will cover herbicide chemistry and weed biology, application techniques and equipment, personal protective equipment, worker protection standards, pesticide labeling,

and calculations. Lunch will be provided. After lunch, anyone who wishes to take their pesticide license exam that day may do so in the afternoon.

If you are taking the exam after the class, please call our office at 904-966-6224 to reserve a computer or send me an email at [liz.whitehead@ufl.edu](mailto:liz.whitehead@ufl.edu).

Registration is available online via this link: <https://pesticidetraining25.eventbrite.com>.

Taking advantage of this event allows license-seekers to prepare, earn CEUs, and test before this change takes place.

Please note: No educational materials or notes are allowed during the pesticide exam. For exam questions requiring calculations, a formulation sheet will be provided.

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# UNION COUNTY

## Riding club members help with 4-H University

**SUBMITTED BY UNION COUNTY RIDING CLUB**  
Every summer, teenagers from all over the state of Florida gather for the Florida 4-H University. This event, held at the University of Florida, offers youth the opportunity to attend workshops and earn awards and scholarships.  
Three members of the Union County Riding Club attended and proudly represented their community. Cadence and Cuyler Collins, along with Celia Elixson, participated in the event.  
Cadence was on the planning committee, which involved arriving early to help set up, emceeing throughout the week, and leading other attendees to their respective workshops. Celia helped direct games on the first day and later showed people where to go for events. Cuyler helped relieve many students'

boredom by leading sit-down games as bedtime approached.  
Not only did these three participate in fun learning activities and games, but Cadence and Celia also represented Union County as delegates on the State Council.  
During that meeting, the two voted on the next year's State Council Delegates. By the end of this busy week, all our members had made a positive impact and returned



**Cadence and Cuyler Collins, along with Celia Elixson, participated in this year's Florida 4-H University, held at the University of Florida,**

home with many memories and plans to attend next year.

## How Melissa Hendrix cleaned up Lake Butler's financial mess

**BY DAN HILDEBRAN**  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Melissa Hendrix said one of the first red flags she noticed a month after taking office as a Lake Butler City Commissioner was that city checks only required one signature, not the two signatures that organizations of the municipality's size typically require.  
That observation and subsequent discoveries eventually led to the city firing City Manager Dale Walker and the discovery of around \$1 million of misspent city funds.



**Lake Butler Mayor Melissa Hendrix**

### This doesn't make sense

Hendrix recalled that after the check-signing revelation, commissioners immediately changed the policy; however, by that time, Walker had been the sole signer on the checks for two years.

Hendrix said after discovering the lack of control over Lake Butler disbursements, she started asking more questions, and didn't like the answers she was getting.

"There were vehicle logs that weren't being done for us to see that there was an issue with why we are spending so much on gas?" the now mayor remembered. "I started asking about people taking vehicles home, and they were trying to tell me it was correct."

Hendrix dug into research, asked more questions, and typically responded to the answers she received with a "This doesn't make sense."

Hendrix said when she took her complaints to City Attorney John E. Maines IV, Walker and his staff turned against her.

"They tried to get something done to me through the labor attorney," Hendrix said, "and she told him that I was an elected official, and I had every right to ask for all these records. He was trying to block me. So that went on for a few months."

Hendrix then began reviewing the paychecks of city employees. She discovered that the city was financing the cost of employees' cell phone purchases.

"We had employees using credit cards for personal use," she said.

"I have to tell you," she added, "I just started going down every rabbit hole I could. And then a big thing was that he spent our ARPA money. I wanted to know where the ARPA money went, the \$900,000. Well, he spent it. He kept saying that he didn't, and he didn't. He didn't. And then he filled out a memo telling us exactly how he spent it."

### She's not from here

Hendrix went through boxes of documents. She said she then got Walker on the hot seat during several city commission meetings.

Hendrix herself started taking heat for her persistence. "I took a lot of hits," she recalled. "They were like, 'Why is she doing this? She's not from here.'"

"I am from here," Hendrix said. "I was raised here. I moved away and came back. And the citizens didn't realize that."

"A lot of citizens were calling and saying, 'Don't get rid of Walker. Don't get rid of Walker.' Basically, they said I didn't know what I was talking about. They claimed he was a good person and he hadn't done these things."

However, what finally swayed her colleagues to terminate Walker was Hendrix's discovery that the city manager cashed out 600 hours of sick leave. A former mayor approved the transaction, but no other commissioner was aware of it.

Hendrix said Florida's Sunshine laws, which restricted her to only discussing the city's finances with other commissioners during public meetings, added more friction between her and other officials. Hendrix said that when she persuaded her colleagues to engage auditors for an expanded audit, that marked a turning point in getting the city back on its feet.

Hendrix said the biggest issue auditors reported on was the employees' personal use of city credit cards.

"It supposedly got kicked over to the State Attorney," Hendrix recalled, "and then they sent it to FDLE. But we've never gotten an outcome of any of it. We've never heard any findings."

"He was blending grant

money with operational money, and you don't do that," Hendrix said. "He was inflating the books. He had his own unique way of accounting, borrowing from one account to the next account, but there should be a memo at the city."

Hendrix said one of Walker's primary transgressions was his failure to keep commissioners informed about how city funds were being spent.

She claimed his budgets and financial statements contained generic descriptions and generalities.

She contrasted that with current City Finance Director Dave Mecusker's reports, which she said are detailed and transparent.

### Out of intensive care

Now, Walker is gone, and so are several other employees.

Hendrix said the city is out of intensive care, but it is still in the hospital.

She cited the hiring of City Manager Kim Hayes and of Mekusker as positive steps in the city's financial recovery.

The city renegotiated its sewer agreement with the Department of Corrections' Reception and Medical Center, doubling the rate the state pays the city.

Last month, the city's independent auditors noted progress in the municipality's financial position and accounting controls.

Hendrix said she does not have an accounting or finance background. She credited her success in turning the city's finances around to a curious mind, growing up poor, and developing an attitude of frugality.

"I think people forget it's the citizens' money," she said. "I just think some people get complacent. Just go with the flow. And you can't do that when you're in this position."

## Life-saving training at community center

**BY REID CARSWELL**  
Lake Butler Hospital

Union County EMS and UF Shands Trauma One staff members trained Union County residents on spotting the signs of stroke and how to administer first aid to heart attack victims during a free health training session at Lake Butler's Hal Y. Maines Community Center on Saturday, August 16.

The first responders

demonstrated how to use an automated external defibrillator and perform hands-only CPR, equipping participants with practical tools to respond in emergencies.

Organizers confirmed that this is the first in a recurring series of health and safety workshops. One organizer stated that these events will continue to enhance local readiness and give

residents the confidence to act when it matters most.

Lake Butler Hospital supported the program by providing audio and projection services, while the City of Lake Butler donated the Hal Y. Maines Community Center at Lakeside Park to host the training.



**(L-R) Carrie Ford, Rose Morton, Bobby Morton, unidentified person and Reid Carswell look on as Union County Paramedic Lindsey Hughes and EMT Justin Pilcher demonstrate CPR.**



**(Foreground) Participants Rose Morton and Bobby Morton practice CPR.**

## Register for Union County Master Gardener class

**BY JIM DEVALERIO**  
UF/IFAS Union County

Do you want answers to your landscape or gardening questions? Would you enjoy teaching others how to grow plants and solve plant problems? If you answered yes to these questions, consider becoming a Master Gardener.

Master Gardener is a title given to selected individuals who take this horticultural training and in return agree to give 75 hours of volunteer service helping their local county extension agent. Volunteering is rewarding! Learning new things, being active and helping others is

good for everyone.

Much of the course is formatted in a convenient, on-line format that can be attended at home. Live lectures and hands-on activities will be held on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Union County Extension office from Sept. 1 to Oct. 29. The cost to enroll in the course is \$120.

Training will include topics such as basic plant science, entomology (insects), plant pathology (diseases), nematology, vegetable gardening, fruit culture, annuals/perennials, woody ornamentals, turf management, plant propagation, animal pest control,

Florida Friendly Landscaping and irrigation design.

Applications can be emailed or can be picked up at the Union County Extension Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Lake Butler. Applications need to be submitted by Aug. 17. Candidates will be interviewed and selected on or before Wednesday, Aug. 20.

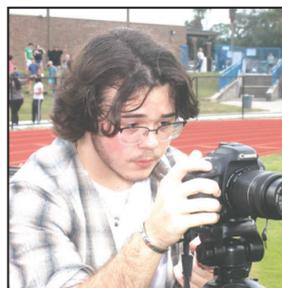
Call 386-496-2321, email jtd@ufl.edu or visit the Union County Extension office at 15120 SW 84th St. in Lake Butler to pick up an application.

*The University of Florida/Union County Extension is an equal opportunity institution.*

## Game Day – sights from Keystone Heights's kickoff classic



**New Keystone Heights mascot Xana Briley poses with Principal Laurie Burke and Assistant Principal Melanie Rodriguez. Briley, a junior, is also active in FFA, where she shows a pig, participates in livestock judging, and is running for an officer's post this year.**



**Yearbook editor Trace Keen prepares to shoot some photos before the game. Keen said this is his first year participating in the yearbook. Asked why he volunteered, the senior said he started drawing as his artistic expression, but switched to photography, starting with his phone. "Then my friend's mom let me play around with one of her cameras and I took her son's prom photos," Keen recalled. "They came out really well, and she hadn't used her camera in 10 years, so I just started using it and taking pictures wherever I could.**



**Assistant Principal Spencer Johnson brought his 1-year-old daughter C.J. to the game.**

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# Lake Region

## Goldhead celebrates Smokey the Bear's birthday



Christian Garcia and Julian Priest of the Florida Forest Service



Bryan and Madilynn Welborn with Smokey the Bear.

"We've got boundaries of control lines around this so that the fire is not going to move across the road here, it's not going to move across any of the trails and we know the weather conditions, we know where the fire wants to move to and we establish those breaks, so we know exactly our little box that it's going to burn in," he said.

According to Forestry, lightning strikes are the number one fire starter in Florida forests.

"We appreciate everybody coming out and hope you got to learn a little bit about what Smokey the Bear is about and the safe use of fire," said Charles Brown, Park Manager, Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park.



Robert and Makya Watts with Smokey the Bear.



Tommy, Daphne and Madison White with Smokey the Bear.

**BY JENN SAMSEL**  
*Special to the Monitor*

Smokey the Bear celebrated his 81st birthday, discussing the

importance of prescribed burns and teaching guests about their vital role in maintaining forest health at the Mike Roess Gold Head State Park near Keystone Heights.

The event took place on Saturday, August 9, and featured food trucks, various fire apparatus, a variety of educational vendors, and Smokey the Bear educating families about the dangers of wildfires.

The forestry department ignited a small, one-acre forest fire to demonstrate how quickly fires can start and spread, as well as to teach attendees how to respond in such situations.

The event aimed to educate residents and children on the importance of forest fires and their ecological benefits.

Smokey the Bear made an

exciting appearance. Participants took photos during story time and enjoyed cupcakes to celebrate his birthday.

John T. McUmb, Land Manager, Ordway-Swisher Biological Station, said, "We're conducting a controlled burn today for ecological benefit, wildfire risk reduction, and for educating the public. We can burn in a manner that suits our needs and manipulate the fire in a way that benefits the ecosystem."

He said one way forestry controls the spread of wildfires is by conducting controlled prescribed burns each year.



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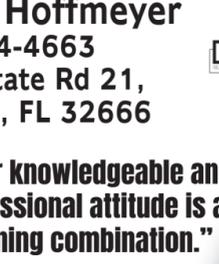
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# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

The following individuals were arrested recently by local law enforcement officers in Bradford, Union, or Clay (Keystone Heights-area) counties. All defendants are considered innocent until convicted in a court or until pleading guilty or no contest. Information in this report is from law enforcement agencies and court documents, which are public records.

### Bradford

Shirone Bonnett, 45, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 15 for an out-of-county warrant.

Sarah Bradley-Holman, 45, of Hilliard, was arrested on August 11 for a probation violation.

Shannon Butler, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 15 for failure to appear.

Honestee Carter, 39, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 9 for an out-of-county warrant.

David Curran, 27, of Tampa, was arrested by FHP troopers on August 10 for an out-of-county warrant and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Charles Griffis, 69, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 10 for an out-of-county warrant.

Chasity Hannah, 41, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Adam Higginbotham, 34, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 12 for an out-of-county warrant.

Shi'kira Jones, 21, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 15 for failure to appear.

Quentin Lang, 28, of Warwick, New York, was arrested by Lawtey police on August 11 for possession of cocaine, possession of drug equipment, and possession of

## Probation for stealing potato chips, possession of drugs

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Alyssa Barr, 25, of Starke, was sentenced to two years' probation with drug offender conditions after she pleaded to petit theft, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.



Alyssa Barr

According to an arrest report, a Starke Wawa employee reported an alleged theft of potato chips from the store, and Deputy T. Lovell reviewed store video of the incident with a manager.

"The camera footage showed the female later identified as Alyssa Barr taking chips and exiting the business without paying," wrote the officer.

Another deputy located Barr, along with a male companion at the 301 Plaza. A third officer located a rock-like substance on the defendant.

"The substance was field tested and yielded a presumptive positive for cocaine," reported Lovell. "Alyssa was also in possession of a glass pipe with a white residue. Through my training and experience, the glass pipe is commonly used for ingesting illegal narcotics."

marijuana.

Casey Mims, 34, of Callahan, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 14 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Antonio Morgan, 45, of High Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 11 for probation violations.

Brenda Perez, 32, of Lake City, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 11 for failure to appear.

Jeffrey Starling, 41, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 15 for a probation violation.

Nielsen Torres Vasquez, 25, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 15 for DUI.

Kenneth Varnes, 46, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 11 for a probation violation.

Amanda Wall, 39, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 15 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and child neglect.

### Union

Tanisha Barnwell, 21, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 11 for out-of-county warrants.

## Set fire to paperwork inside cell

Kevin Blake, 32, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on August 12 for arson.

According to a Florida Department of Financial Services, Bureau of Fire Arson and Explosives complaint, officers at Union Correctional Institution saw smoke coming from Blake's cell on June 20.

Officers then discovered the inmate's personal paperwork on fire and extinguished the blaze with water-filled fire extinguisher cans.

## Stabbed another inmate

Demetrius Brookins, 42, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on August 12 for attempted first-degree murder and smuggling contraband into a correctional facility.

According to a Department of Corrections Inspector General probable cause

## Burglar caught by camera

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 25-year-old Homestead man was sentenced to 70 days in jail and three years' probation after he pleaded to breaking into a surveyor's work truck and stealing tools.

Noah Alexander Shores pleaded to burglary and petit theft. Prosecutors dropped one additional charge of trespassing.

According to an arrest report, the owner of a surveying business in the area of the Bradford County Courthouse reported the break-in on June 4.



Noah Alexander Shores

affidavit, while Brookins was an inmate at the Reception and Medical Center in Lake Butler, he attacked another inmate with a homemade knife on December 4, 2024, stabbing the victim repeatedly in the upper torso.

Tracy Davis, 50, of Archer, was arrested by Union deputies on August 12 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, attaching a tag not assigned, possession of drug equipment, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Christopher Edinfield, 36, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 15 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Christopher Lariscy, 47, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 16 for a probation violation.

Alexander Lukatz, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 12 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment, possession of marijuana and child neglect.

Carlisa Ogle, 49, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 16 for an out-of-county warrant.

Kyle Oltmer, 36, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 14 for a probation violation and an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Ring, Jr., 20, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 13 for failure to appear.

Harriet Waldron, 41, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on August 14 for a probation violation.

### Clay

Jesse Harwell, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 12 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Jamie McMall, 29, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 9 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and trespassing.

Karen Spence, 49, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 11 for domestic violence.

"(The owner) advised that between (5 p.m.) on June 3rd and (7 a.m.) on June 4th, an unknown individual broke into their fenced-in work yard where the business's tools and work trucks are kept," wrote a Bradford deputy. "(The owner) advised that he noticed a black and blue tool bag equipped with miscellaneous surveying tools to be missing from one of the trucks."

The value of the tools was approximately \$300.

A detective viewing video from America's Best Value Motel identified a suspect walking in the area of the theft and then returning to a room in the motel. Detectives interviewed the occupant of the room who identified Shores as the offender.

"Contact was made with Shores," wrote a deputy. "Post Miranda, Shores admitted to entering the property and stealing a tool bag from the bed of a truck. Shores described the bag to be black and blue, containing multiple tools."

## 14 months for shoplifting clothes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A woman who tried to avoid arrest by hiding behind a dumpster was sentenced to 14 months with the Department of Corrections after pleading to stealing clothes from Starke's Walmart.

Amanda Fyffe, 45, of Ocala, pleaded to felony petit theft.

According to an April 12 arrest report, a store loss prevention officer told deputies she witnessed the 45-year-old



Amanda Fyffe

take the outerwear, later valued at \$302.98, from store shelves and leave the building without paying for the merchandise.

"(The store employee) advised that after the individual loaded the stolen goods in the car, she noticed she was being watched and then started walking East, away from the car," wrote a deputy in the arrest report. "I drove in the direction the suspect walked towards and was able to locate an individual matching the description hiding near the dumpster behind the Jackson Hewitt building."

The officer reported that Fyffe admitted to leaving the store with the clothing.

"Amanda stated she walked

out with the items because she thought the person she was with was paying for them for her," the deputy wrote. "I asked if Amanda scanned the items for purchase, and she advised that she did not. Amanda advised she was with a Hispanic male and was unsure exactly what his name was."

The defendant's prior convictions include giving false identification to law enforcement, driving with a suspended or revoked license, use or possession of drug paraphernalia, prostitution, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis, felony petit theft, and sale of cocaine.

## Jail and probation for throwing TV

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Lake City woman who attacked her victim while the man was on the phone with a 911 dispatcher was sentenced to 49 days in jail and three years' probation.

Audrena Mallard, 35, of Lake City, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 26 for aggravated assault and battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies he and Mallard got into an argument at a residence in the Woodland Acres neighborhood.

The victim added that while he was on the phone with a dispatcher, Mallard threw a television at him but missed.

The dispute then moved outside the home, where Mallard continued chasing and hitting the victim while he was on the phone with 911.

The victim claimed Mallard was "very intoxicated," and Deputy Mark Juen wrote in the arrest report that he agreed with that assessment.



Audrena Mallard

## Six years for mail theft, pimping from jail

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 44-year-old Starke man was sentenced to six years with the Department of Corrections after pleading to living off the earnings of a prostitute and stealing U.S. mail from a Hampton resident.

Michael Brandon Morris was sentenced to six years for the prostitution charge and five years for three counts of felony petit theft. The sentences will run concurrently.

Morris was arrested on April 10 following a March 18 complaint in which a Hampton area man said the 44-year-old stole mail from his mailbox.

Deputies identified Morris using security camera footage, which revealed the tag of the car he was using and tattoos on his arms.

In May, Assistant State Attorney Ryan King asked a judge to restrict the defendant's use of communications from inside the Bradford County Jail after telephone call recordings revealed Morris was directing a female to engage in prostitution to raise money for his legal defense.



Michael Brandon Morris

"On recorded phone conversations from the Bradford County Jail..." wrote King in a motion, "Defendant directs (the woman) how to solicit herself, what sexual acts to engage in, how much to charge for the various sexual acts, and then debates her as to the prices she is charging for her various customers."

King said that since May 8, 2025, Morris had made 1,871 calls from the Starke lockup.

"Defendant's calls are not only abhorrent," King added, "but also evidence of Defendant's conspiring (to) violate Florida law."

King highlighted one May 23, 11:45 a.m. phone call in which Morris listened in while the female negotiated a deal for sexual services for \$130.

"In a subsequent call at 11:53 a.m.," wrote King, "Defendant becomes outraged that she accepted...\$130 for services discussed."

King also pointed out another May 23 phone call in which Morris complained to the woman that he had given her a month and a half to raise money for his legal defense and that she was not working hard enough.

"Defendant goes on to discuss how he plans on accepting an offer involving the Department of Corrections since (the woman) is not selling herself sufficiently at his request," King wrote.

## Tried to steal boat motor

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Thomas Cole Smith, 27, of Starke, was sentenced to four years with the Department of Corrections after pleading to burglary, attempted grand theft, possession of

a controlled substance without a prescription, a probation violation and grand theft.

According to an arrest report, one witness told deputies she observed Smith and a co-defendant attempting to remove a motor from a boat parked in the backyard of a Southeast 21st Avenue home, between Starke and Theressa.

The co-defendant told the witness that he obtained permission from a family member of the boat's owner to take the outboard.

The witness said she went home to get her cell phone, call the police, and notify family members about the



Thomas Cole Smith

## Used fake license to get loan

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 42-year-old Interlachen man was sentenced to two years with the Florida Department of Corrections after pleading to using a fraudulent driver's license to obtain a loan for a Ford F-150.

Jerome Douglas Chavers Jr. pleaded to scheming to defraud to obtain property. The State dropped additional charges of grand theft auto, making a false statement to obtain a loan, and possession of a forged



Jerome Douglas Chavers Jr.

driver's license as part of a plea agreement.

According to a complaint, on October 25, 2024, a Community First Credit Union employee told Bradford detectives that the defendant had used a fraudulent license to obtain a \$59,958.19 loan for the 2022 pickup from Murray Ford.

"(The employee) stated that Jerome fraudulently used the wrong name, date of birth, and social security number to obtain the loan under false pretenses," a detective wrote in the complaint.

The investigator noted in the complaint that Chavers used similar methods to fraudulently obtain a camper loan in St. Johns County.

encounter. When she returned to the scene, she saw another family member and deputies looking for Smith, who had run into the woods after being confronted.

Deputies later located the co-defendant at a County Road 225 residence and Smith on a County Road 100A property. Smith told deputies it was the co-defendant's idea to steal the motor.

Smith's prior convictions include petit theft, molesting a vending machine, driving with a suspended or revoked license, disorderly conduct, grand theft of a firearm, pawnbroker transaction fraud, possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

# Russ WADE

## Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054  
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Shane Parmenter Agent, Shane.Parmenter@FFBIC.com

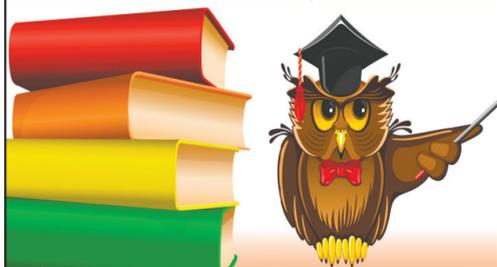
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Bradford High School & Bradford Middle School



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NOT PICTURED: SGT RUTH HOLMES JROTC (BHS), KERSTIN SAPP MATH (BHS)



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Starke Elementary



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NOT PICTURED: ALEXA MENZ-5TH GRADE

Lawtey Elementary



BRIANNA SMYTHE 1ST GRADE LAWTEY ELEM., MEGAN SURRENCY PROVISIONAL CLASSROOM LAWTEY ELEM., SIMONE HUDSON MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST LAWTEY ELEM., KAITLYNN ROBERTS 3RD GRADE LAWTEY ELEM.

NOT PICTURED: VINCENT GREGONIS - 4TH GRADE, DARYLL KOZEE - 4TH GRADE

Bradford Elementary

NOT PICTURED: SUSIE COUEY - CRT, MEGAN HARRELL - 3RD GRADE, JEWEL JOHNSON - KINDERGARTEN, FREDERICK SMITH - ESE TEACHER



ANDRIA FRAMPTON PROVISIONAL CLASSROOM BRADFORD ELEM., SHAYLA HARRIS 2ND GRADE BRADFORD ELEM., LYNITRA JEFFERS PROVISIONAL CLASSROOM BRADFORD ELEM., MAKAYLA McDONALD KINDERGARTEN BRADFORD ELEM., SAMANTHA STONE 1ST GRADE BRADFORD ELEM., KIMBERLY UNDERWOOD 2ND GRADE BRADFORD ELEM., ALYSSA FONTENOT CAREER SPECIALIST BRADFORD ELEM.

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**ALISON WATERS  
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**ELIZABETH YARBROUGH  
 LBMS**



**NICOLE WEBB  
 LBMS**

**NOT PICTURED:  
 KIMBERLY MUNSON  
 PHILLIP GAINEY**

## Lake Butler Elementary



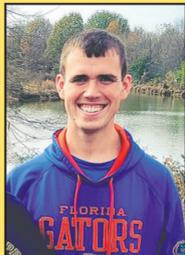
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# Tornadoes lose 16-7 to Cocoa in preseason kickoff classic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Each team got into the end zone once, with kicker Keelan Gonzalez proving to be the difference as he made three field goals in host Cocoa's 16-7 win over the Bradford High School football team in an Aug. 15 preseason kickoff classic.

The three-time defending Class 2A/2S state-champion Tigers have scored an average of 43.9 points per game against fellow 2A/2S teams over the last three seasons. Only one 2A/2S school has held Cocoa to 20 points or less during that span — Bradford, which has now done it twice when you include the kickoff classic.

Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said it was a "super-

gritty" performance by his defense, which forced Cocoa to settle for field goals on two possessions inside the 10-yard line.

The defense also created two turnovers.

"We weren't able to sustain a whole lot of drives (on offense) tonight," Rodgers said. "Our defense was out there a lot. I'm really proud of them."

Bradford has now played Cocoa three times in the last four seasons. The offense scored just one touchdown in each game, with special teams accounting for two of the Tornadoes' three touchdowns in the 31-21 state-semifinal loss in 2022.

That's no easy task against a program that has allowed more than seven points in just seven



Jordan Cason runs after making a catch. He had one of the defense's two turnovers on an interception.

of 24 games against Class 2A/2S teams over the last three years.

"We didn't get enough rolling on offense," Rodgers said, "but I mean, all four of those DBs are college-bound, Power-Four guys. It's tough to get it going (against them)."

That was certainly the case early. Bradford went three-and-out on its first two possessions, losing yardage on two plays on their first drive and being put in a hole on their second with a holding penalty.

Cocoa fumbled the ball away on its first series and began its second inside its own 5-yard line when a 43-yard Cy Cubbedge punt bounced at the 9 and rolled out of bounds at the 4. The Tigers needed just two plays to get out of the shadow of their own end

zone, with Tank White catching a Champ Smith pass for a 70-yard gain to the Bradford 25.

An offside penalty against Bradford helped Cocoa move to the 13, while three consecutive run plays resulted in a first-and-goal at the 3. After a 2-yard run by Jamal Smith, Cannon McCarthy eluded a tackle in the backfield and got into the end zone. An illegal-procedure penalty nullified the score and backed the Tigers up to the 6. The Tornadoes' Jy'Quez Cason then broke up a pass at the goal line on the ensuing second-down play, while a Cocoa receiver dropped a pass in the end zone on third down. Gonzalez kicked a 23-yard field goal to put Cocoa

See BHS page 14

## Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Aug. 21, 2025

### BRADFORD

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public sale on September 16, 2025. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on September 09, 2025 and end at 10AM on September 16, 2025. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com.

**KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837**  
Time: 10:00AM CST  
A71, Rice, Linda, A78, Henke, John, B31, Denman, Ashley, B79, Brown, Pamela  
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837.

8/21 2tchg 8/28-BCT

**NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY TO PARENTS**  
Light Christian Academy, 475 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the organization. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships, and loan programs, and other organization administered programs.

8/21 1tchg-BCT

**Bid Notice/Advertisement for Bids - City of Starke**  
Bid #: 2025-LBP-ASBES  
CDBG Grant #: 22CV-S47  
Notice is hereby given that the City of Starke, Florida, will accept sealed bids until **2:00 p.m. (local time), September 18, 2025** for the following project:  
**Project Description:** The City of Starke requests bids for lead-based paint and asbestos abatement services to be provided at the RJE Renaissance Center Building which is located at 1080 Pine Street in Starke, Florida 32091. Note that the City is seeking one bidder to provide both services. The bidder that submits the lowest responsive and responsible bid (for the total cost of both services combined) will be awarded the service contract. **At 2:00 p.m. (local time), September 18, 2025**, the bids will be opened and read aloud at the City of Starke City

Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Please submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of your bid in a sealed envelope reflecting on the outside thereof the bidder's name and "Sealed Bid for the City of Starke RJE Center Lead-Based Paint & Asbestos Abatement Services, Bid #: 2025-LBP-ASBES". The City will consider all bids properly submitted at its scheduled Bid Opening. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the **RJE Center, 1080 Pine Street, Starke, FL 32091**.  
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: **September 3, 2025**  
Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **10:00 AM**  
Copies of the bid package may be requested at no cost from Becky May at [bmay@cityofstarke.org](mailto:bmay@cityofstarke.org).

The City of Starke shall be the sole judge of the bid and the resulting agreement that is in its best interest and its decision shall be final. All bidding and award procedures undertaken by the City in regard to this project shall be consistent with the City's adopted procurement procedures and with the rules and regulations of the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. Bid prices shall remain in effect for 90 days after bid opening. All bids should be addressed as follows:  
City of Starke  
Becky May, Grants Coordinator  
209 North Thompson Street  
Starke, Florida 32091  
Sealed Bid for the City of Starke RJE Center  
Lead-Based Paint & Asbestos Abatement Services

**Bid #: 2025-LBP-ASBES**  
8/21 1tchg-BCT

### UNION

Notice of Application for Tax Deed NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that J. R. DAVIS, TRUSTEE OF THE J. R. DAVIS TRUST, the holder(s) 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 the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
CERTIFICATE #: 216  
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2020  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 32-05-20-22-017-0020-0

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** The South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the West 140 feet of Block 17, J. W. Townsend's Addition, according to plat thereof recorded in the public records of Union County, Florida, Section 32, Township 5 South, Range 20 East, Union County, Florida.  
**NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED:** JUANITA BROWN, JESSIE BROWN & HENRY ALLEN.  
Said property being in the County of Union, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2025.  
Dated this 4th day of AUGUST, 2025.  
Leslie C. Snyder  
For KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Union County, Florida  
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.

8/14 4tchg 9/4-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 63-2025-CP-000019  
Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF THOMAS GREGG HOLLOWAY  
Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
The administration of the estate of THOMAS GREGG HOLLOWAY, deceased, whose date of death was November 8, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.221, Florida Statutes.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 14, 2025.  
Personal Representative: LAUREN ASHLEY BOALS  
511 Hadley Drive  
Huger, South Carolina 29450  
Attorney for Personal Representative: ROBERT J. PERRY, JR., ESQUIRE  
E-mail Address: [robertperrylawfirm.com](mailto:robertperrylawfirm.com)  
Florida Bar No. 958580  
The Law Offices of Robert J. Perry, Jr., PLLC  
12627 San Jose Blvd., Suite 103  
Jacksonville, Florida 32223  
Telephone: (904) 240-4815

8/14 2tchg 8/21-UCT

to submit a bid to install generators at the Union County High School for sheltering operations.  
**Bids Due:** Sealed bids will be received until **September 16, 2025, at 1:00 PM EST**, at the Union County EOC, 58 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054.  
**Bid Package:** Generator(s) for Union County High School  
**Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting:** September 4, 2025, 2:00 PM EST, at 55 SW 6<sup>th</sup> St, Lake Butler, FL 32054  
**Bid Documents:** Bid Documents are available by emailing [allentc@unionsheriff.us](mailto:allentc@unionsheriff.us), or by downloading the package from [unioncounty-fl.gov](http://unioncounty-fl.gov). All submitted bids must include copies of Insurance, all relevant licenses, and other required forms included in the bid specifications.  
Union County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids received and to waive any and all minor irregularities or informalities in any bid.  
Union County Board of County Commissioners encourages Minority Business Enterprises to respond to this Bid Invitation.

8/7 & 8/21 2tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY  
CASE NO. 63-2024-DP-000021  
IN THE INTEREST OF:  
Z.J.M. DOB: 8/4/2013,  
MINOR CHILD  
**NOTICE OF ACTION  
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**

TO: Jason Mach, address unknown  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights and permanently commit the following child for adoption: Z.J.M. born on 8/4/2013. You are hereby commanded to appear on October 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM before General Magistrate Bridget Baker at the Union Courthouse, 55 West Main Street Lake Butler, FL 32054, for an ADVISORY HEARING.  
FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THIS NOTICE.  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, 201 E. University Avenue, Room 414A, Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.  
WITNESS, my hand as Clerk of said Court and the Seal thereof, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.  
Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Court  
By: TAMMY DUKES  
As Deputy Clerk

8/21 4tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NUMBER: 63-2025-CA-0060  
OLUSTEE CREEK, LLC,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST LESLIE L. BUBLITZ, deceased, and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST SUSAN C. BUBLITZ, a/k/a SUSAN SAMS, a/k/a SUSAN BREWER, deceased.  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
TO ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF the filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following property in Union County, Florida:  
LOT 37, SADDLE-BROOK ESTATES, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, page 32-33, public records of Union County, Florida.  
Union County Parcel Identification Number: 13-06-18-53-000-0370-0  
You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukes, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 18th day of September, 2025, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiff's attorney

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
The Union County Board of County Commissioners will have a Special Meeting concerning the budget on Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Board Meeting Room of the Union County Courthouse.

8/21 1tchg-UCT

Request for Qualifications  
**General Contractor Services**  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Lake Butler, Florida, is hereby inviting Bid Proposals (BPs) and Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) until 2:00 pm on September 11, 2025.  
**Synopsis:** The City, in conformance with the Florida Department of State; Division of Historical Resources; Special Category Grant #24.h.sc.100.002, and the policies and procedures of the City of Lake Butler are soliciting BPs/SOQs from licensed, insured, and bonded General Contractors in the State of Florida, for the planned renovations of the Historic Townsend Building (HTB). Said services for the HTB are considered for the existing second-floor museum of local historic exhibits and the first floor for the continued use of public meetings by non-profit organizations. Budget priority shall favor re-roofing activities, new windows and new flooring, in that order.

**Submittal Requirements:** Ten (10) copies of the BPs/SOQs shall be submitted in one sealed package, clearly marked on the outside "Sealed SOQ for General Contractor Services for the Historic Townsend Building, (RFQ#2)," and addressed to: Kimberly Hayes  
City Manager  
City of Lake Butler  
200 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054  
Submittals will be publicly opened at the Lake Butler City Hall located at 200 Southwest 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Lake Butler, FL, 32054, scheduled at 2:00 pm on September 11, and presented to the Lake Butler City Commission on September 16, 2025, at the same location beginning at 6:00 pm or thereafter. Respondents are invited to be present at both. Project documents include the Project Manuel, the Project Drawings, and are available at no charge, solicited along with any questions to the City's Project Consultants, Andy Easton & Associates. The project contact person is Douglas K. Sanders  
[douglassanders1231@outlook.com](mailto:douglassanders1231@outlook.com)

The City reserves the right to reject any or all submittals, to waive any irregularity, and to take all submittals under advisement for a period of sixty (60) days.

8/21 1tchg-UCT

### LAKE REGION

Section 106 Public Notice

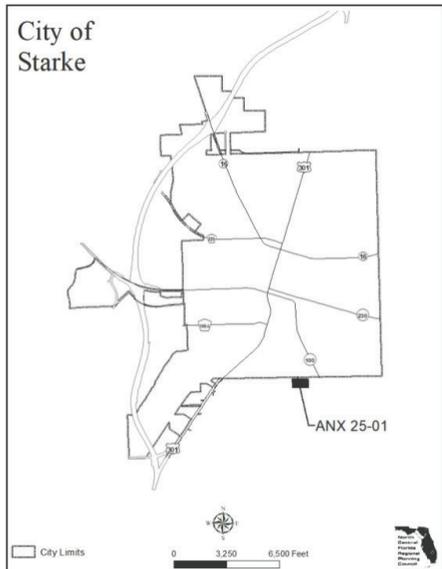
Gulfstream Towers, LLC proposes to construct a 255-foot-tall Self-Support tower located at County Road 214, Keystone Heights, Clay County, FL 32656. Parcel ID: 33-08-23-004923-006-01 at Latitude N29° 45' 34.88", Longitude W82° 0' 7.03". We seek comments from all interested persons on the impact of the tower on any resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Specific information about the project, including the historic preservation reviews that are being conducted pursuant to the rules of the FCC (47 C.F.R. Sections 1.1307(4) and the ACHP (36 C.F.R. Part 800) will be made available to interested persons who request the information from the contact below. All questions, comments, and correspondence should be directed to Julia Klima at Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc., 3850 Lake Street, Suite C, Macon, GA 31204, 877-968-4787, Sec106@DynamicEnvironmental.com within 30 days from the date of this publication. Re: 22312022

8/21 1tchg-LRM

## NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 171.044, Florida Statutes, as amended, that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, on September 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. At the aforementioned public hearing all interested parties may be heard with respect to the ordinance. The complete legal description of the areas to be annexed, as well as a copy of the petition for annexation and the ordinance, can be obtained from the City of Starke Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

Ordinance No. 2025-14, Petition No. ANX 25-01, by 144 Holdings, LLC, provides for the voluntary annexation of a parcel of land contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Starke, Florida, as shown on the location map below. The area to be annexed is located in Sections 33, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. The area to be annexed consists of 14.30 acres, more or less.



The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

### ORDINANCE NO. 2025-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO PETITION NO. ANX 25-01, BY 144 HOLDINGS, LLC, RELATING TO A VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION; MAKING FINDINGS; ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; 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 this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

## BMS and BHS sports schedules

### Aug. 21

- BMS volleyball at Lake City, 6 p.m.
- BHS golf, home vs. Lafayette, 4 p.m.
- BHS JV/varsity volleyball at Keystone, 6 p.m./7 p.m.
- BHS JV football at Baker County, 6 p.m.

### Aug. 22

- BHS varsity football, home vs. Baker County, 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 25
- BHS JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. Baker County, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

### Aug. 26

- BHS golf, home vs. Keystone, 4 p.m.

### Aug. 27

- BMS volleyball, home vs. Williston, 6 p.m.

## KHHS jr. high, JV, varsity sports

### Aug. 21

- Varsity boys golf at Palatka (Palatka Golf Club), 3:30 p.m.
- JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. Bradford, 6 p.m./7 p.m.
- JV football at Interlachen, 6 p.m.

### Aug. 22

- Varsity football, home vs. Interlachen, 7:30 p.m.

### Aug. 23

- Varsity volleyball at Newberry, 9 a.m.
- Varsity volleyball vs. Suwannee at Newberry, 11 a.m.

### Aug. 25

- Jr. high volleyball, home vs. Green Cove Springs, 5:30 p.m.

### Aug. 26

- Varsity boys and girls golf at Bradford, 4 p.m.
- JV/varsity volleyball at Columbia, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.
- Jr. high football at Green Cove Springs, 6 p.m.

### Aug. 27

- Jr. high volleyball, home vs. Orange Park, 5:30 p.m.

# Union and Port St. Joe play to 7-7 tie in preseason

BY LISA HOLTZENDORF  
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Union County High School got four interceptions from its defense, which held host Port St. Joe scoreless in the first half of an Aug. 15 preseason kickoff classic that ended in a 7-7 tie.

The four-hour drive led to a new start for the Tigers, who have a mostly new coaching staff, including Lamar Waters. Waters was named interim head coach after Andrew Thomas was relieved of his head-coaching duties on May 29.

Seniors Jeffrey Brugh, C.J. Ivey and Wyatt Elixson were the captains for the game, which showcased the talents of the teams' varsity and junior varsity players.

Port St. Joe won the toss and elected to receive the opening kickoff from Brugh. The Sharks, starting the game's first series at their own 25, got a quick introduction to the Union defense. Edward Durant made a tackle for a loss as the Tigers forced Port St. Joe to punt.

Union County's offense took the field with excellent field position on the Sharks' 36-yard line. Ivey had a good run of 8 yards on first down, but Port St. Joe recovered a fumble on second down.

Port St. Joe fumbled the ball on a second-down snap, but recovered the loose ball. Still, the Sharks eventually punted after being penalized twice.

The teams were pretty evenly matched through the next several series, with both coming up short of first downs and having to punt.

Union's defense began stepping up in the second quarter, with Alec McClellon getting an interception. That set up the Tigers' scoring drive, which saw Brugh connect on a pass to Drew Simmons for a touchdown. Brugh kicked the extra point as the Tigers led 7-0 with 9:50



Fullback C.J. Ivey (far left) looks for room to run after receiving a handoff from quarterback Jeffrey Brugh.

remaining in the second quarter.

Port St. Joe's quarterback was hounded all night by the Tigers' secondary. A pass deflected by J.J. Buie led to an interception by Jeremy Webb, giving Union the ball at its own 29-yard line. It was the first of two interceptions made by Webb.

The Tigers gave Cadenz Merriex a chance to lead the offense. A handoff to Simmons resulted in a 17-yard gain, but a bad snap and an incomplete pass eventually led to the Tigers punting.

Port St. Joe had a good drive going on the following series, picking up a first down on a run, but the Tigers got stops from Lane Jackson and Ramsey Schenck that forced the Sharks to punt.

Simmons picked up a first down for the Tigers, but the drive stalled, with Port St. Joe taking over on downs.

The Tigers' defense made sure the Sharks didn't capitalize before the end of the half, with Brugh coming up with Union's

third interception.

Union received the second-half kickoff, but the offense stalled after two incomplete passes and a holding penalty.

Port St. Joe began its first series of the half at the 50-yard line. A quarterback keeper on a third-and-1 play later gave the Sharks a first down at the Union 23. A pass resulted in another first down at the 9. Port St. Joe would go on to punch the ball into the end zone on a run from the 5-yard line with 7:05 remaining in the third quarter. The successful PAT tied the score at 7-7.

As the fourth quarter rolled around, varsity backups and JV players got much needed playing time. Cash Cox took his turn at quarterback, while Kendall Carter made some impressive tackles for the defense to help keep the game tied.

The Tigers finished with 168 total yards, including 117 rushing yards on 26 carries. Simmons, who rushed for 1,400-plus yards in 2024, averaged 9 yards per carry.

Union's defense held Port St. Joe to 68 rushing yards and 54 passing yards.

Waters had a lot of good things to say when addressing his team for the first time after a game.

"We had a job to do, and we got the job done," he told the players. "Proud of the fight and how hard you all played. We have come a long way in a short time."

Waters added that considering the team must replace 10 defensive players and six offensive players, the Tigers

show promise and have already shown growth.

The Tigers open the regular season with a home game against Yulee on Friday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m. The Class 3A Hornets defeated Englewood 54-0 in a preseason game.

It was a rough season for Yulee in 2024. The Hornets went 2-8, but their game against Union was a nail biter that went down to the wire, with the Tigers winning 14-13.

Tickets are available at gofan.co.

## LBMS and UCHS sports schedules

### Aug. 21

- LBMS volleyball, home vs. Suwannee 6 p.m.
- UCHS JV/varsity volleyball, at Suwannee, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.
- UCHS JV football, home vs. Trinity Catholic, 6 p.m.

### Aug. 22

- UCHS varsity football, home vs. Yulee, 7:30 p.m.

### Aug. 25

- UCHS girls golf vs.

Trenton at Quail Heights in Lake City, 4 p.m.

—LBMS volleyball, home vs. Baker County, 6 p.m.

—UCHS JV/varsity volleyball, home vs.

Williston, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

### Aug. 26

—UCHS boys and girls golf vs. Chiefland at the Country Club at Lake City, 4 p.m.

—LBMS volleyball at Fort

White, 5:30 p.m.

—UCHS JV/varsity volleyball at Baker County,

5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

—LBMS football at

Palatka, 6 p.m.

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**(904) 964-4111**

407 W. Georgia St. • Starke

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.

## Indians fall 42-0 in kickoff classic

BY MELANIE CRABTREE  
AND DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Ridgeview quarterback Jordan Mesa threw for two touchdowns, while running back Christian Felder scored on an 8-yard run and Christian Hanson added a 34-yard field goal to give the Panthers a 23-0 lead at halftime over the Keystone Heights High School football team in the Aug.

15 preseason kickoff classic.

That's all the visitors needed as they tacked on an additional 19 points in the second half, resulting in a 42-0 win over the Indians.

The injury and lightning-plagued affair featured varsity and junior varsity players from both squads, with Keystone quarterback Cole Crabtree making his starting debut on

varsity.

Keystone opens the varsity regular season when it hosts Interlachen on Friday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

One of the Indians' two wins in the 2024 season came against Interlachen by a score of 29-0.

The JV Indians open their campaign on the road against Interlachen on Thursday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m.

# Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



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Class Ads for week  
Aug 21 2025

40  
Notices

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

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

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**

**SPACE FOR LEASE- Starke, Close to downtown**

**1800+ sq.ft. Professional, general office, insurance, Realtor, attorney, etc. Two restrooms, space flexible for small business. Rent \$1500/mo. utilities not included. Call 904-964-7404.**

**LARGE APARTMENT 1 BR, near Starke City limits. Low utilities/FPL. Safe, quiet area. \$1000/mo. Senior discount or for one person. 904-613-5715.**

**2 HOMES-STARKE, 2BR/2BA. Keystone, Lake front. 2BR/1BA. Each \$1500/mo. Lawn care included. 904-613-5715.**

53 A  
Yard Sales

**Yard Sale: 17924 NW 59th Loop. 2.5 miles from North Florida Tech. Fri. & Sat. 8am-? Household items, tools, clothing,**

etc.

**Multi-family yard sale; Saturday 7:30am-3pm. 9609 SE CR 221, Hampton.**

53 C  
Lake Butler Yard Sales

**MOVING SALE: Friday & Saturday 10am-4pm. Furniture, tools, clothing, tv's, knickknacks, you name it, I have it! Please call 386-496-0016. 9941 SW 151st Place, Lake Butler.**

59  
Personal Services

**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"

**QUALIFIED TO TAKE care of elderly and handicapped. References available. Call me 904-710-6720 or 904-964-3704.**

**I AM LOOKING FOR homes to clean in the Keystone, Melrose, Starke and surrounding areas. If you would like to give me a call and set up a day and time,**

**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.  
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"Equal Housing Opportunity"

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

my name is Sandy and my number is 352-478-1175.

65  
Help Wanted

**FREE ROOM & BOARD plus \$400/wk. In exchange for light housekeeping and some care for a 91 year old woman. In Keystone Heights, CNA a plus. 808-938-1151.**

## Tri-County Classifieds



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# Obituaries

## Judy Alderman

E. Gypsy "Judy" Alderman passed away in the evening of Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025, peacefully in her sleep at home in Hampton. She was born April 26, 1936, in Meadow Bridge, West Virginia, to Eldon and Ruby Judy. She was an avid gardener, homemaker, wife and mother. She married the love of her life, William R "Bill" Alderman, on Aug. 25, 1960. She enjoyed reading, canning and fishing, especially in the beautiful mountains of West Virginia. She was always willing to lend a hand to those in need and was a friend to all. She was preceded in death by her parents, Eldon and Ruby Judy of Meadow Bridge, West Virginia; her loving husband of 64 years, William R "Bill" Alderman of Hampton; beloved daughter, Catherine Alderman Campbell of Clintonville, West Virginia; brother, Holbert Judy of Meadow Bridge, Paul Judy of Crescent City, California; and sister, Willetta Judy of Meadow Bridge, West Virginia.

She leaves behind son, Thomas Alderman of Hampton; daughter, Cynthia (Kevin) Gann of Hampton; grandson, Will Alderman of Hampton; Wade (Heather) Gann of Hampton; brothers, David Judy, Hubert Judy, Henry Judy; sisters, Caroline (Kaye) Tischer, Joan Jones and Eula Judy, all of Meadow Bridge, West Virginia; and numerous nieces and nephews. This tribute was prepared by the family of Ms. Alderman.

Judy was laid to rest in a private family graveside service on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Crosby Lake Cemetery, Starke. In lieu of flowers, she requested for each person to find kindness in their heart and pass it forward.

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



## Donald Parrish Sr.

Donald Edward Parrish Sr. was a quiet gentle giant who graced this earth from Aug. 29, 1952, until Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025. Born in Lake City, he spent his life as a lifelong resident of Union County, where he planted deep roots and crafted a legacy that many will fondly remember. He dedicated many years of his life working with Union County Solid Waste until he hung up his hat for retirement in 2017. The call of the land always pulled at his heartstrings, and he found joy in farming, where he nurtured both crops and cattle. He loved to hunt and the great outdoors, sharing those times with his sons and grandsons. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 50 years, Patricia Parrish; and his parents, G.W. Parrish and Mildred Croft Crawford.

He leaves behind a legacy through the love of family. He is survived by his children, Denise (Michael) Daniels, Andy (Melanie) Parrish, Donald (Morganne) Parrish, and Dustin Parrish. His grandchildren, Tyler (Abby) Parrish, Kirt (Sarah) Parrish, Lena (Breanna) Presnell, Wyatt Parrish, Tenli Parrish, Courtney Parrish, Brianna Parrish, Gracy Parrish, Lara Parrish, and Amara Parrish will cherish fond memories of the lessons he imparted and the warmth he offered. He was also blessed with great-grandchildren, Waylon, Paisley, Ensley, and Shiloh. His siblings also survive him, Linda Scott, Charlotte (Ray) Townsend, and Bud Parrish.

A visitation took place on Friday, Aug. 15, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler. Friends and family were invited to gather for a funeral service Saturday, Aug. 16, at Johnstown Baptist Church in Lake Butler. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to either UF Health Shands Cancer Center, [ufhealth.org/giving](http://ufhealth.org/giving) or St. Jude Children Hospital, [www.st.jude.org/donate](http://www.st.jude.org/donate).

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to once again serve the Parrish family. 386-496-2008 [www.archerfuneralhome.com](http://www.archerfuneralhome.com)  
PAID OBITUARY



Michelle Cino is the new assistant principal at Bradford Elementary School. She brings 25-plus years of experience as a teacher and administrator.

## Cino ready to help students, staff as Bradford Elementary AP

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
[cliff@bctelegraph.com](mailto:cliff@bctelegraph.com)

Michelle Cino likes to help others. Therefore, she loves what she sees at Bradford Elementary School, where she is the new assistant principal.

"One of the things I noticed right away was the support that everyone gives everybody else," Cino said. "There's no 'no' when somebody's asked to support another person."

That's a great thing for Cino to see — everyone working together to do what's best for students.

"I'm really excited to work with everybody here," she said. "I can already tell that we've got a great family atmosphere. Everybody's passionate about student success."

Cino, who has 25-plus years of experience as a teacher and administrator in Marion County, grew up in Gainesville as the oldest of five children.

"My youngest sibling was born when I was 14," Cino said. "I played the part of helping out with transportation, school — everything."

It was an experience that would inspire her to go into education, though she didn't choose to go to school to become a teacher at first. She took a job at the University of Florida.

"I realized that I was helping these grownups with things, but it wasn't nearly as exciting or fulfilling as it was on the adult side as it was with my siblings."

Cino made the decision to become a teacher, earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from St. Leo University while also working a full-time job. She admitted her first-time experience in the classroom left her feeling overwhelmed and in need of support, but then said she was "very blessed" to be hired as a third-grade teacher in Marion County. Cino said she found herself in a great environment for a new teacher, with her colleagues there to support her.

"I constantly went to professional learning," she said. "They gave me books I could read. They sat in on parent conferences. They helped me with grades and paperwork."

"The first year was very different from the second year, but then after that, I really had the confidence I could be a contributing member to the school community, not just the classroom."

### Helping teachers help students

She taught at Reddick-Collier, Sparr and Evergreen elementary schools, serving as a classroom teacher and reading coach.

One of the principals she worked for put her in a role of coaching new teachers. Though helping adults in a non-education job wasn't fulfilling, Cino came to find she wanted to help adults in the school setting, which inspired her to go into administration.

"I realized I really loved helping the adults feel successful in the classroom, and I wanted them to feel the way I felt when I was in the classroom," Cino said, adding, "I went into (administration) saying, 'If I can help the grownups feel confident and secure about what they're doing, then that's going to help more kids. It's always about what's best for kids.'"

Cino, who earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern

University, served as an assistant principal at Legacy, Anthony and Wyomina Park elementary schools. She was named Marion County's Assistant Principal of the Year while at Ocala's Wyomina Park. Cino didn't think the notification she received of the honor was legitimate.

"I thought it was a spam email," she said, adding, "I had to call the district office and be like, 'Is this a real email?'"

Cino would eventually become principal at Ocala Springs Elementary School, serving in that role for six years. While there, she earned a Principal of the Year award.

"It was very surprising both times," Cino said of the district-level honors she received. "I was very grateful and then wanted to live up to that honor."

### Going to Bradford

Cino took on a new role in Marion County as coordinator of professional learning, which she filled for a few months. She described it as a great experience, which had her working with one of her mentors. Though she loved everyone she worked with, the one thing the position couldn't satisfy was having that connection with the children.

"It definitely helped me focus on what support and what kind of professional learning would make a difference for teachers and staff — non-instructional and instructional — but it also did make me miss the kids," Cino said. "As much as I loved supporting the grownups, I always wanted to see students on campus during the day."

Now, she's back on a campus, but in a new district. Cino said she liked what was going on in Bradford County with Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley and Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke, whose career she had followed when Clarke worked in Alachua County.

"Just seeing how passionate they are about the kids and the teachers and just Bradford County as a whole was just inspirational," said Cino, who was looking to work somewhere with a "community feel."

She's also working at a school that has been on quite the upward trajectory regarding state-assigned grades. Going back to its days as Southside Elementary School, the school has improved a letter grade each year since earning a D in 2022, resulting in a 2025 grade of A.

"It's so exciting and inspirational. Every little piece has been put into place for student success and communicating with families and making sure they're involved," Cino said, adding, "You can talk about letter grades all the time, but really, the exciting part is that more students are growing and more students are working on grade level."

### Approach as an administrator

Cino said she's had positive and negative experiences with administrators, so when she became one herself, she knew what she wanted to be and what she didn't want to be.

"I knew that I always wanted to have an open-door policy and always have teachers, staff and anybody who worked on my campus to feel comfortable coming to me and telling me

See CINO, page 13

## Max Jackson

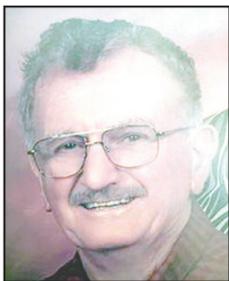
Max Anthony Jackson, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025, at HCA North Florida in Gainesville after an extended illness. He was 87 years old. Born June 8, 1938, in Greensburg, Indiana, he moved to Lakeland with his parents as a young adult. He later settled in Union County after marrying his devoted wife, Ethel Lanier Jackson, 38 years ago. Together, they built a life filled with love and dedication to their family and community.

He had a career in maintenance at the VA in Gainesville, where his quiet demeanor and strong work ethic earned him the respect of his peers. He dedicated six years of service to the United States Army, an experience that fostered a deep sense of duty and commitment that he carried throughout his life. In his personal life, he enjoyed traveling and working in his yards, taking great pride in his home and surroundings. He was a dedicated member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Raiford, where he found joy and fellowship among his church family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Virginia Brown Jackson.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Ethel; and their cherished children, son, Michael Jackson, along with his partner, Kevin Mulrennan, of Rome, Georgia; and daughter Melanie (Howard) Absher of Plant City. He also embraced many stepchildren into his heart, Mitchell Stewart, John (Melina) Stewart, Valerie (David) Chandler, and Vanessa Falstreux. His legacy continues through his adoring grandchildren, David, Justin, Jessy, Michelle, Jaime, Julie, Kandice, Erin, Ethan, and Elise; as well as 17 great-grandchildren, who brought immense joy to his life.

Family and friends were invited to pay their respects during the visitation on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, followed by the funeral service held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler, with Pastor Harold Hudson officiating. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Sapp Cemetery with military honors.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve Max's family during this time. 386-496-2008 [www.archerfuneralhome.com](http://www.archerfuneralhome.com)  
PAID OBITUARY



## Larry Parrish Sr.

Larry Parrish Sr. quietly left this world Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, much like he lived his life, without a lot of fuss. Born and raised in the small town of Brooker, he branched out after high school and joined the United States Coast Guard. He proudly served as a mechanic from 1969-1973. While stationed in Baltimore, Maryland, he met his wife, Nancy. Together they had two sons, Larry Jr. and Joey. He started his career as a mechanic for Florida Gas Transmission and after 40 years he retired as a consultant. He found joy in the simple things, a good day of hunting, a quiet morning fishing, and a campfire surrounded by friends swapping hunting stories. His faith was an integral part of his life. He gave his life to the Lord at the age of 13 during a service at New River Baptist Church and was later baptized in the Santa Fe River. He remained a dedicated member of New River Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his son, Joey Parrish; wife of 33 years, Nancy Parrish; brother, J.T. Parrish; parents, Herbert and Audrey Bell Parrish; brother-in-law, Dewey Bush; and sister-in-law, Linda Parrish.

He leaves behind his son, Larry Parrish Jr., and daughter-in-law, Glenda; two grandchildren, Shelby Vatic and her husband, Devon, and Justin Parrish and his wife Sierra; his sister, Barbara Parrish Bush; and many nieces and nephews who will remember him fondly.

To family and friends, he was known as "Bud." He wasn't one for big crowds or fancy words, but if you were lucky enough to share a hunt, a fishing trip, or a seat by the fire with him, you knew exactly who he was—a good man who loved his family and the outdoors. He will be deeply missed, but his stories and his quiet strength will live on in those who knew and loved him.

A visitation for friends and family was held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler on Thursday, Aug. 14. A funeral service was held at his church, New River Baptist Church, on Friday, Aug. 15. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at New River Baptist Church Cemetery with military honors. Brother Terry Blakeslee and Brother Tim Duding officiated.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to once again serve the Parrish family. [www.archerfuneralhome.com](http://www.archerfuneralhome.com) 386-496-2008  
PAID OBITUARY



## Angela James

Mrs. Angela "Angie" Michelle James, 53, of Starke passed away suddenly Monday, Aug. 18, 2025, at HCA Hospital in Starke. She was born Feb. 3, 1972, in Bitburg, Germany to William T. and Maureen (Gaughan) Stickel Jr. Prior to becoming a full-time homemaker, she worked as a loading manager for a trucking company for several years. She was raised in the Catholic faith and enjoyed camping, fishing, and being with her children and grandchildren. Those who knew her knew she was very family oriented, and family always came first. Her mother, Maureen, had preceded her in death three years ago.

Her survivors are her husband of 31 years, Richard E. James of Starke; and their children, Michael James of Hampton and Marshall James of Keystone Heights; her father, William "Pop-pop" Thomas Stickel Jr. of Starke; and a brother, William Brian Stickel of New York. She was lovingly called "Nana" by grandchildren, Talan Hunter James, Brooklyn Jessie James, Dayton William James, and Maddison Kathleen Brown. Also left behind is a host of extended family members and friends who will miss her dearly.

There are no scheduled services at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke 32091. [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com) 904-964-6200.  
PAID OBITUARY



## William Suggs

William James "Sugarman" Suggs died recently. He attended the schools of Bradford County.

He is survived by a sister, Mary Helen Lett; and two aunts, Willeanne Griffin and Mae Bell Fletcher.

The viewing will be Thursday, Aug. 21, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke. The Cortège will from Friday, Aug. 22, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marcella and Mary Helen Lett, 1317 Charles Court, Starke. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, officiated by Rev. James Morris. Interment will follow at Oddfellow Cemetery, Starke.

Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke, 904-964-7905 is honored to provide services to the family of Mr. Suggs.  
PAID OBITUARY



## Sharon Twiford

Sharon L. Twiford, 82, of Starke died at her residence with her family by her side Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Audrey Twiford Sr.; sister, Jean Overbay; and brothers, Alvin and Gerald Orem.

Survivors are sons, Audrey Twiford Jr. and George (Kelly) Twiford; brothers, Dean (Juanita) Hooper and Frederick (Wanda) Hooper; and many extended family members and friends

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, Aug. 21, at 12 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel. The family will receive friends on Thursday, Aug. 21, an hour prior at the funeral home.

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



## Harriet Williams

Harriett Cynthia Williams died recently. She attended R.J.E. High School, Class of 1969.

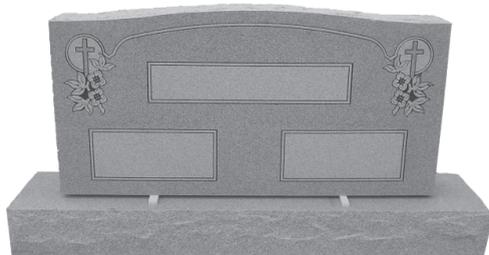
She is survived by a daughter, Chantel Davis.

The viewing will be Saturday, Aug. 23, at Mt. Moriah Community Church from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. with Rev. Alvin Green officiating. Interment will take place at Bob-Love Cemetery, Starke.

Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke, 904-964-7905, is honored to provide services to the Williams family.

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# CINO

Continued from page 12

things that they needed to and let me work out a gameplan with them.”

An open-door policy doesn't mean she's always in the office. For Cino, it's important to go into classrooms and talk to students and “finding out how they're feeling, listening to them be excited about school and helping them through any struggle they might have.”

“One of the things I've learned is I try to schedule times for classroom visits during the day and make sure I'm not only going in the morning, but I'm going in the afternoon, and not just every Tuesday or Thursday. Switch up

your days.”

Visiting classrooms and being visible on campus is also a way to assist teachers, whether they need a bathroom break, to go get something out of their mailbox or need her help in leading a group session because their paraprofessional is out that day.

“There's nothing I won't do to support them,” Cino said.

Cino has enjoyed meeting Bradford Elementary teachers as they've been “trickling back in.”

“They're wonderful,” Cino said. “They come right in and say hi and introduce themselves and ask questions, which I love because that shows me that they feel comfortable with me already if they're asking for things and sharing with me.”

She used to grapple with the difficult aspects of being an

administrator, but a mentor once told her, “Michelle, if you can lay your head down at night and know that you've done what's best for kids, then everything else will fall into place.”

“That's really helped me,” Cino said.

## Outside of school

One of the activities Cino enjoys when she's not on the job is reading. She enjoys mystery thrillers and works by authors such as Tom Clancy and John Grisham.

A book, though, can't contain certain things. Otherwise, she won't read it.

“I don't read books in which children get hurt,” Cino said. “I have rules. When I tell my friends to recommend books to

me, I'm like, ‘No kids can be hurt. No parents can be sick.’”

She enjoys reading some true crime, but again, she has to know ahead of time what that crime involves before deciding to read it.

Cino also enjoys cooking, baking and trying out new recipes. Bradford Elementary School's new teachers got a taste of her work as they were treated to cupcakes.

“It just gives me quiet time,” Cino said of cooking and baking, adding, “I just love it. I love to be in the kitchen.”

She and her husband have two children: a son, also named Jimmy, and a daughter, Bella. Jimmy has been a student coach for the UF football team and will soon graduate. Bella is set to begin her first year at Florida

State University.

“They are completely opposite in every way, so that only makes sense,” Cino said of her children attending the different schools.

As someone who grew up Gainesville, Cino is a Gator. Her husband went to UF as well.

Cino will, however, support her daughter.

“I'll wear garnet and gold for four years, but then I'm done,” she said, adding, “I will never do the chop, but I'll wear the colors.”

## School start

Prior to the start of school, Cino had so many things to look forward to,

“I'm just excited,” she said. “Excited to meet the students,

build relationships with our staff and our families, continue the vision and mission that (Principal Cassie) Melvin, Mr. Hartley and Mrs. Clarke have started here and making sure that they feel equipped to help the students feel successful.”

She also wants to become immersed in the community outside of school, getting to know people, whether they have children in the school system or not.

The one thing she was most excited about was the students' first day.

“I love greeting them in the morning,” Cino said. “I tell everybody my favorite part of the day is car line and being at the buses.”

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# BHS

Continued from page 10

up 3-0 with 2:22 to play in the first quarter.

The Tigers' Darious Phillips intercepted a pass on Bradford's third series, with a 43-yard return setting the Cocoa offense up at the Bradford 17. A 10-yard

reception by White two plays later set up first-and-goal at the 6. The Tornadoes' J.J. Hall dropped Javeon Scott for a 1-yard loss on the following play before two consecutive incomplete passes sent Gonzalez out onto the field again. The kicker was successful on his 24-yard field-goal attempt, making it 6-0 approximately one minute into the second quarter.

Bradford rolled the dice on

its following series, going for it on fourth-and-1 at its own 39-yard line. Cason picked up the first down with a 1-yard run, but two incomplete passes and just a 1-yard gain on a completed pass forced the Tornadoes to punt.

Cocoa crossed midfield on a 14-yard pass play, but then lost 3 yards on a run play when Jordan Cason and Danny Torres teamed up to tackle Cayman Varis. After

Smith was sacked by P.J. Lee for a 1-yard loss, the quarterback was picked off by Jordan Cason, setting the Bradford offense up at its own 36.

Jordan Cason also caused the fumble on Cocoa's first series.

Five consecutive carries by Iyen Addison, who finished with 48 yards on 14 attempts, helped Bradford move to the Cocoa 44. Bradford went for it on fourth-and-2 from there, but an incomplete pass forced a turnover on downs.

Smith completed two consecutive passes as the Tigers advanced to the Bradford 40. After a 2-yard run by McCarthy, Smith found White deep over the middle at about the 10-yard line. White eluded a tackle attempt and made his way into the end for a 38-yard touchdown with 2:13 remaining in the first half. Gonzalez added the extra point to make the score 13-0.

Bradford received a short, high kick, which had the Tornadoes begin their final drive of the half 5 yards shy of midfield. Keshawn Kennedy carried the ball for gains of 3 and 6 yards, giving Bradford a first down at the Cocoa 46. A third consecutive carry by Kennedy, picked up 4 more yards. Cubbedge then completed two consecutive passes to Jy'Quez Cason for gains of 12 and 9 yards, with Cason's second reception setting up second-and-1 at the 21. Kennedy, who finished with 32 yards on eight carries, picked up the first down on a 9-yard run to the 12.

An illegal-procedure penalty backed the Tornadoes up to the 17. With 10 seconds to play in the half, Kamontae Nixon scored

on a pass from Cubbedge. Tyler Sapp added the PAT to make it a 13-7 game.

Coca received the second-half kickoff and drove inside the Bradford 35, but a 13-yard sack by Nate Raymond eventually forced the Tigers to punt.

The Tornadoes had a promising drive going when their offense took to the field for the first time in the half. A 6-yard run by Addison and a 6-yard reception by Nixon resulted in one first down, while a 6-yard run by Addison and a 4-yard reception by Elijah Lawrence gave Bradford another. The Tornadoes faced a second-and-20 play after a holding penalty, but Nixon, who finished with four catches for 44 yards, had an 18-yard reception to set up third-and-2 at the Cocoa 45. Bradford was then penalized 5 yards for illegal procedure. Kennedy was held to a 1-yard gain on the resulting third-and-7 play, forcing the Tornadoes to punt.

Smith completed 4 of 6 passes for 26 yards to start Cocoa's ensuing drive, which also benefitted from a personal-foul penalty as the Tigers moved from their own 28 to the Bradford 31. Two incomplete passes and one pass completion for 4 yards left Cocoa facing fourth-and-6. Bradford jumped offside to make it fourth-and-1, but an illegal-procedure penalty backed the Tigers up. Cocoa sent Gonzalez out for a 44-yard field-goal attempt, which he missed with 41 seconds left in the third quarter.

After a three-and-out series by Bradford, Cocoa put the game's final score on the board.

Smith completed three passes for 28 yards, giving the Tigers a first down at the Bradford 22. Two plays later, on third-and-9, Bradford's Peyton Jones broke up a pass in the end zone. Gonzalez initially set up to kick a 38-yard field goal, but a penalty made it a 43-yard attempt. Gonzalez put it through the uprights for the 17-6 final with 9:41 to play.

A Bradford drive with backup quarterback Jackson Parmeter saw the Tornadoes advance from their own 45 to the Cocoa 24. Parmeter ran the ball three times for 19 yards, while Jarrell Harris carried six times for 12 yards. Sapp attempted a 41-yard field goal, which was wide left with 3:47 left in the game.

Bradford finished with 191 total yards to Cocoa's 303. The Tornadoes rushed for 124 yards, while Cubbedge completed 10 of 20 passes for 67 yards.

Rodgers, of course, saw things his team needs to improve in, but he was pleased overall with the effort against a Cocoa team that is 24-0 against Class 2A/2S teams the last three seasons, winning those games by an average of 43.9 points.

"We came down to a tough environment," Rodgers said. "They don't lose very many here. They don't play very many this close, either, down here."

The coach feels playing Cocoa is a positive heading into the season, which begins with the Tornadoes hosting Baker County on Friday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

"I don't know the next time we'll see somebody with their talent level," Rodgers said of Cocoa. "This has to get us more ready (for the season), right?"



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

To find out more

**Contact: Chuck Kramer**

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

