

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025

146th year, 5th Issue — \$1

Motorcycle crash victim honored by American Legion members

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

A 68-year-old Keystone Heights man killed in a Friday, Aug. 22, crash was remembered with fondness at a recent gathering at American Legion Post 202.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Theodore (Ted) Wilson McMillan was riding his motorcycle on County Road 352 near Monongahela Avenue when an SUV driven by an 18-year-old Keystone Heights man crossed a double yellow line and struck the bike while rounding a curve.

The collision occurred around 7:16 p.m. The occupants of the SUV received minor injuries.

According to American Legion members, McMillan was going home from the post at the time of the crash.

His friends said that before leaving Post 202 that night, he hugged everyone and said goodbye, marking the last time anyone would see him.

"It's a party now", were his final words, said Chip Nielsen, member of the Military, Police, and Cops Motorcycle Club at Post 202.

Nielsen described McMillan as a Phillies fan, a motorcycle lover, and a fantastic guy.

"He was the guy who would do anything for you," Nielsen added. "If you were sick, for some reason, he would always call you in the morning and ask how you were doing. He really lit up a room."

Another Post 202 member, Todd Falconer, said he and McMillan joined the motorcycle club at the same time.

"He was kind of like a father some days, and a brother most every day," Falconer recalled. "He was a lesson in how you should live your life and treat people."

In addition to his active participation in Post 202's Sons of the American Legion, McMillan was active in a New Jersey chapter for 18 years.

He also assisted with Raising K9 Line, which trains dogs, and Soldiers Freedom Outdoors, which focuses on veterans.

A celebration of the life of McMillan will be held on Saturday, August 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Stone's Irish Pub in Keystone Heights.

Another Post 202 member, Beth



(L-R) Naydeen Kline, Keith Kline, Ted McMillan, Chip Nielsen, Beth Falconer, Todd Falconer.

Falconer, emphasized McMillan's positive attitude and his talent for uplifting others.

"He was truly a light that would brighten somebody's day if he were

with them," she said. "It didn't matter who you were, he had something positive always to say to whoever he was talking to."

10% fire rescue cut discussed, not planned

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County Fire Rescue's budget is unlikely to suffer a large cut following the revelation it would cut the county down to just two stations.

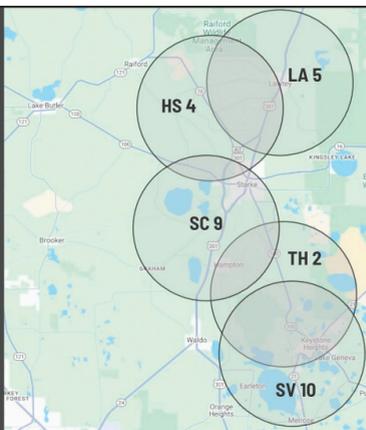
Fire Chief Ben Carter made the presentation at the request of Commissioner Chris Dougherty, who admitted he initially asked Carter what a 25% budget cut would look like. Upon seeing the impact of a 10% cut, he said he wanted the rest of the board to see how devastating it would be, Carter agreed.

"I want to be clear from the very beginning, I'm strongly opposed to any cuts to Bradford County Fire Rescue," Carter said. "Public safety is not a place for reductions. Every proposed cut directly impacts the protection we provide to our citizens, the safety of our personnel and the security of our community."

"When we talk about reducing units, eliminating supervisors or even closing stations, we're increasing response times, raising ISO ratings and insurance costs, and putting both our firefighters and our citizens in great danger. We've worked hard to build a stronger, more reliable fire rescue system through grants, state

CURRENT STAFFING

- LAWTEY (5)
- HEILBRONN (4)
- SAMPSON CITY (9)
- THERESSA (2)
- SPEEDVILLE (10)



These are Bradford's currently staffed fire stations (along with their new station numbers). Each circle is drawn with a five-mile radius around each station. According to Chief Carter, those within a circle have a lower ISO rating, which could reduce the cost of property insurance.

funding and careful planning. To undo that progress now by reducing resources will be a step backwards at the exact moment our community needs us."

Carter said cutting the required amount from this and next year's budget would amount losing more

than \$1.5 million. There isn't enough room in the fire department budget, so cuts from emergency medical services must be included he said.

Right away, Brooker would lose funding to staff its future station, more than \$677,000. They would also need to cut staffing at special events

such as football games, the fair and festivals unless they wanted to bill for the services or use on-duty employees who could be called away. Likewise, they could charge the sheriff for SWAT medic training and staffing or exit the partnership. Together that would reduce another \$78,000.

Eliminating patient choice transports would save nearly \$156,000 in fuel and maintenance costs. Patients would be transported to the "closest appropriate facility." But that would still leave more than \$600,000 to cut, making station closures unavoidable.

The stations in Lawtey, Sampson City and Speedville all have dedicated fire apparatus and staff. A supervising lieutenant is stationed at Heilbronn Springs and Theresa. Eliminating one of those positions and closing Heilbronn and Theresa would save \$334,000. The remaining supervisor would be centrally located in Starke.

With \$279,000 left to go, another station would need to go. Sampson City is centrally located and receives the most calls for service, saving it from consideration. Speedville has the fewest calls and there is mutual aid from nearby counties that could

See FIRE, page 4

Brannan recaps state appropriations for Union County

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

State Rep. Chuck Brannan briefed county commissioners on the amount of state money he and other lawmakers brought to Union County. The former Deputy U.S. Marshall and Chief Investigator for the Baker County Sheriff's Office also brought a ceremonial check symbolizing money flowing from Tallahassee to Lake Butler.

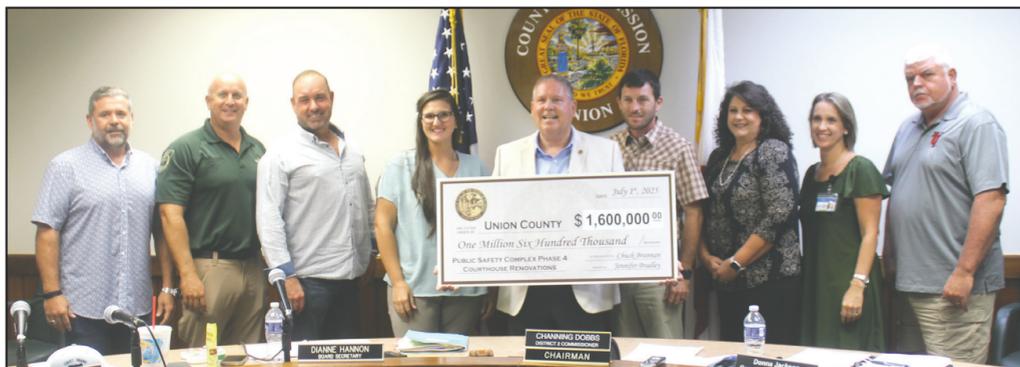
The two bookends of Union projects are the county's public safety complex, now in its final stages, and a new Lake Butler Elementary School, of which school district officials have yet to break ground.

Total funding for the combination 911 call center, emergency operations center and jail is now nearly \$10 million.

The lawmaker expressed astonishment at the cost of the school, explaining that schools recently built in Bradford and Baker counties cost between \$40 million and \$50 million. "Here y'all's is going to be 80 (million dollars)," he said. That's just crazy."

Brannan went on to say that the state only funded two schools this year, Lake Butler Elementary and a school in Desoto County.

"Only two projects," he said, so that's something to be grateful for



State Rep. Chuck Brannan holds a ceremonial check representing state funding coming to Union County. Also pictured (l-r) are County Coordinator Jimmy Williams, Sheriff Brad Whitehead, County Commissioners Willie Croft, Melissa McNeal, Channing Dobbs and Donna Jackson, Clerk of Court Kellie Rhoades, and County Commissioner Mac Johns.

and thankful for. That's hard-fought money. Not everybody on that list got funded; some people were skipped. But that's just politics."

Brannan said additional state funding landing in Union County during his term was

Transportation (2023): \$2.5 million for resurfacing State Road 121, Courthouse Restoration (2023): \$374,996 allocated for courthouse renovations,

City of Lake Butler (2023): \$49,740

for town building rehabilitation, Softball Fields (2023): \$190,000 to upgrade recreational facilities,

Fire and Rescue Equipment (2023): \$305,000 to enhance emergency response capabilities.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (2023-2025): A recurring \$300,000 annual payment from the Department of Corrections, totaling \$900,000 over three years, to offset costs for housing state inmates.

Small County Assistance (2024):

\$1.5 million through the Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program and \$1,551,303 via the Small County Outreach Program for additional road improvements.

New Fire Rescue Station (2024): \$2,250,000 to construct a modern fire rescue facility,

Sheriff's office salary increases (2023-2025): \$454,550 annually for three years to support law enforcement and correctional officer salaries.



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WORTH NOTING

Solid waste site closures

All Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day. They will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 10 a.m.

Soil and Water Conservation meeting

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District welcomes the community to a public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 4:30 p.m., held at the UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. Agenda topics include the Edwards Bottomlands, Sampson River/Lake Sampson, and public and volunteer education opportunities. Email a.morie.BSWCD@gmail.com or visit bradfordsoilandwater.org for more info and the agenda.

Democratic Women meet Thursday

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be Ryan Smart, director of the Florida Springs Council and an advocate for the state's springs in Tallahassee. All Democrats are welcome. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Melrose Center, 309 State Highway 26 in Melrose. For more information, call 352-235-4161.

Grief Share support group at Old Providence

Old Providence Baptist Church invites community members to attend Grief Share, a weekly support group for those walking through a season of grief.

The group meets Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the church. Each session offers comfort, hope and healing through Scripture and the support of others who understand loss.

All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation, said group host Darlene Crawford. "Whether your loss is recent or years past, you are welcome here."

The current session continues through Sept. 29, with a new session beginning three weeks later.

Union County food distribution

Food is distributed in Union County at the Hal Y. Maines Community Center on the third Thursday of each month from 9-10:30 a.m. or while supplies last. The center is located at 155 NW Third St. in Lake Butler. The giveaway is sponsored by Florida Gateway Foodbank and Catholic Charities.



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.

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.

Soil To Supper

The Bradford County Department of Health in partnership with the Healthy Communities of Florida, UF/IFAS Bradford County Extension Office and the Alligator Creek Garden Club will be hosting a weekly series of free educational classes for all residents to attend.

These workshops will help participants be able to grow their own vegetables from a third-story balcony or the backyard to help promote healthy eating, active living and lasting wellness. Participants will be able to take home and grow their own vegetables at no cost.

The first meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Bradford Senior Center at 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. All residents are welcome to join. For any questions, contact Luke Harlow at the Bradford County Extension office at 904-966-6299.

Class dates and topics

Thursday, Sept. 18 — Seeding veggies and take some home.

Thursday, Sept. 25 — Planning

See SUPPER, page 3



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SATURDAY 8/30 THE NAKED GUN- 4:00 & 7:00 WEAPONS- 4:00 & 7:00	SUNDAY 8/31 THE NAKED GUN- 4:00 & 7:00 WEAPONS- 4:00 & 7:00

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New Circle K denied sign variance

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

A new Circle K is coming to Hampton, but it will have to abide by the same sign rules as other businesses.

Applicant Karin Thomas requested a variance from a maximum sign height of 35 feet to 65 feet for a future Circle K at the northeast corner of U.S. 301 and County Road 18, across from Dollar General. Clayton Whitby of McNeill Signs addressed the county commission, saying the location would cater to long-haul truckers, so the sign needs to be seen at a distance for them to brake safely.

"With the terrain, the billboards that are in the area, everything else, we feel that the adjusted sign height is appropriate to 65 feet, which will allow ample time for commercial vehicles as well as residential vehicles to see the sign, slow down safely and pull in," he said.

Commissioner Kenny Thompson said the request was twice the county's maximum height. Commission Chairman Danny Riddick said RaceTrac, which opened further north on 301 at County Road 227, and many others abide by that maximum height. He said 65 feet is "huge."

"I just think it's out of place," he said. "Every sign in Bradford County is right around 35 feet, and then you're going down the highway, and there's 65 feet. It's not off the highway. It's not like you have a turn lane or nothing. You're coming down 301, same as RaceTrac, same with Wawa, same as all the other ones," he said.

Others agreed with keeping consistency with other signage, so the variance request was denied.

Mobile homes retroactively approved

Bradford Commissioners approved a zoning change in the Speedville area with neighbors taking sides for and against the applicant.

Tommy Lee Alexander requested a zoning change on several residential parcels to a category that allows mobile homes. The five lots are on Southeast Eighth Avenue (County Road 21B). With the application, Zoning Director Randy Andrews provided commissioners with a report from North Florida Professional Services recommending approval.

Alexander was not asking permission to install mobile homes: They were already there. He spoke up for the "small trailer park," saying he tries to keep tenants who keep the place clean in deference to his neighbors as well as tenants who are trying to do the right thing but only get complaints.

"As a Christian, you're supposed to step in and help out," he said.

Attorney Byron Flag representing neighbors Scott Belford and his wife, Mary, said it is not good enough for a planning report to conclude that the requested change is consistent with the county's comprehensive plan. And he argued it was not consistent since mobile home districts are required to be at least 10 acres.

"That is confusing to me, because it kind of doesn't make sense, because what's happened here is your county staff has allowed Mr. Alexander to go ahead and locate five mobile homes on half acre lots. We think that's wrong," he said. "I think your staff is erroneously

allowing him to use that land as if it has already been rezoned."

This has resulted in nuisance complaints, but he focused on the legality of the application.

Director Andrews explained the same dwelling density is allowed for single-family homes and mobile homes in the separate zoning categories: one unit per half acre.

"Everything north and south of this particular parcel is currently zoned residential, single family, mobile home, dash one (RSF/MH-1). This is basically the same acreage," Andrews said.

Neighbor Mary Belford said she and her husband, Scott, have lived in their home since 2010. She said when Alexander divided the land into five lots, it became a subdivision, but the required acreage was diminished by the road he had to create to access the properties. Based on her calculations, she said the only parcel which met the minimum half-acre requirement was the lot right next to hers, and she said it was a nuisance, with noise, fighting, screaming children and trespassing.

"I hear all this from the inside of my home. I had to block off my patio because I was looking at bulldozers and rotted out trailers. And so, for that reason, my enjoyment of my property is no more," she said.

Neighbor Billy Jackson said he shared a property line with both Alexander and the Belfords. He said he has never had a problem with Alexander, describing him as a "great, standup neighbor." The Belfords, on the other hand, have been a problem since they moved in, he said. They opposed him when he purchased 53 acres and wanted to raise a few farm animals, and they tried to get the law involved when he was removing trees on his property.

Jackson also said there are other mobile homes bordering

Commissioners weigh in on fire fee before vote

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford Commission Chairman Danny Riddick made it clear he would vote in favor of the proposed fire assessment being added to tax bills this year. He announced at a meeting last week that he's not backing down.

Riddick has been ready to vote since last year when other commissioners put off the decision for more time to answer questions and educate themselves and the public.

Other commissioners, while supportive of raising the additional revenue for their fire departments, are open to additional information.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty, for example, is using his involvement with statewide agencies to learn more about how counties like Bradford would be impacted or protected if the state abolishes local property taxes as a primary revenue source.

"I really want to see what that looks like, what the plan is to

backfill the fiscally constrained counties. I'm really interested to see what their take is with regards to public safety in general," said Dougherty, who chairs the Small County Coalition. "I just want to make sure that the decision I make is going to be the right decision for not only the county but for the citizens as well."

Commissioner Diane Andrews said she supports having a fire assessment but also believes in everyone having an opportunity to speak.

"If there's something dramatically wrong with what we're doing, of course we're going to listen. But as of right now, we have worked on this, and we have begged the public to come in and be a part of this," she said. Some did share questions and concerns, leading to clarification about what buildings would be assessed a fire fee and exemptions for disabled veterans and those living below the poverty line. A great deal of effort went into educating

the public, she said, including workshops streamed online and Fire Chief Ben Carter speaking with local civic organizations and answering questions about the cost of running fire rescue.

"Some people say we only need two stations, and that's incredibly wrong because we could not handle his daily operations with just two units," she said. "What they do is huge for this county."

Andrews said with a fire assessment in place, the commission would hopefully be able to lower property taxes in the future.

The public hearing before the final vote was rescheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center, 1610 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

Note: Commissioner Kenny Thompson could not be reached due to illness, and a message was left for Commissioner Carolyn Spooner seeking comment.

SUPPER

Continued from page 2

a garden on a budget.

Thursday, Oct. 2 — Understand what you need to buy in the stores.

Wednesday, Oct. 8 — How do you keep your plants alive?

Wednesday, Oct. 15 — Successfully transplanting veggies.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 — Attracting pollinators and keeping away pests.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 — Edible weeds and plants: using what's around you.

Wednesday, Nov. 5 — Harvesting the fruits of your labors.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 — Cooking with homegrown foods.

September sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of September, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be

conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations: U.S. Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.

my butt," Siebert said.

Commissioners sitting as the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the

application and later approved the application during their regular board meeting.



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Christians Need to Think Right, Part I

The last few weeks, I have been sharing with you the importance of Christian growth. I've talked about feeding on God's Word to receive the spiritual nutrition we need in order to grow and develop into a mature Christian. The Word of God is food for the spirit of man just like natural food is for the physical body. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Because most Christians do not study the Bible, they really do not know what it says. A lot of things that people say and believe as a spiritual truth simply cannot be found in the Bible. Certain trains of thoughts and beliefs are handed down through families for generations. Many Christians are serious and sincere but that does not mean they are right. If what you believe cannot be found in God's Word then one is sincerely wrong. What you think about and how you think will affect your faith as well as your spiritual growth. If you think wrong, you will believe wrong. If you believe wrong then you will talk wrong. If you think, believe and talk wrong you will never develop properly and you will never accomplish all God has planned for you in this life. Now if this is hard for you to accept just stay with me in these lessons and you will get your thinking straightened out. See, all of our lives we have been programmed with wrong thinking, thinking that does not line up with the Bible. If our thinking is not in line with God's Word then it is wrong thinking. When a person is born-again their spirit is reborn but they have the same body and mind that they had before they were saved. If a Christian does not renew their mind with the Word of God, learn what the New Covenant

provides for them, and who they are in Christ, they will live a mediocre spiritual life. Let me give you a few examples of what I am talking about. In Hebrews 11:6, the Bible says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." You must have faith to please God. Doubt and unbelief does not please God. You can love God, yet doubt Him, and, you can be sincere but be filled with unbelief. How do we fix that? With God's Word. We read in Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word (rhema) of God." Faith comes by feeding, reading, and listening to God's Word. Doubt and unbelief come as well by what you feed, read, watch, and listen to everyday. These things affect the way we think and believe. The only way to get your thinking straightened out, or to put it scripturally, get your mind renewed is with the Word of God. The Bible, when meditated, confessed, and acted upon will cause your faith to grow, and it will cause you to think God's thoughts. You might say, "well I do not know so much about thinking God's thoughts." That is because you have not renewed your mind. The Word of God is not a religious book, it is God speaking to His people. You need to know what He said to you, the Christian, you, the child of God. God wants us to think, believe, talk and act like Him. 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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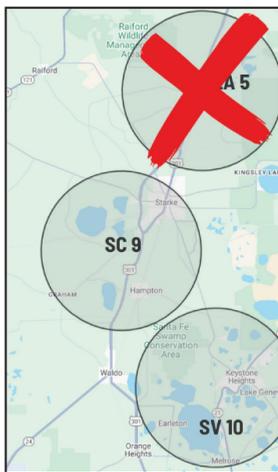
FIRE

Continued from page 1

respond to that area. It is the newest station, however, unlike the older Lawtey station, which the county does not own but must pay to maintain. Costly repairs are on the horizon, Carter said, making Lawtey the most likely recommendation for closure.

Carter also addressed higher insurance costs and increased response times resulting from station closures. This places the public at greater risk. He also said county employees would be at risk physically and mentally from the higher demand.

“Every dollar that we cut from fire rescue does not just reduce our budget; it’s reducing our community safety,” Carter said. “A 10% cut may sound manageable on paper, but in reality, it means fewer firefighters on the street, fewer supervisors to maintain a safe span of control



With the other fire stations closed, the remaining coverage area looks like this.

and longer response times when seconds truly mean the difference between life and death. Our personnel are already doing

more with less, and while they will always rise to the challenge, the danger of stretching them beyond safe limits is real. Asking them to cover more ground with fewer resources puts every citizen at risk.”

Public responds to rumored cuts

Aware in advance of the presentation, a handful of fire rescue personnel and their family members approached the board, saying among other things that budget cuts would make an already dangerous job much more so. Firefighter Joel Haas said the county has six firefighters per shift while National Fire Protection Association standards call for 15 for a residential fire and 27 to 40 for a large commercial fire. Bradford firefighters get the job done by filling multiple roles, he said.

“You can’t get people to

show up for \$15 an hour, much less for free to go fight fire,” the former volunteer firefighter said. If required to complete the firefighter one course, a person is going to follow up with the second course and become an EMT, then go to work for a paid department for \$50,000 a year. You aren’t going to volunteer, he said.

His wife, Morgan Haas, said having experienced what it’s like waiting for help when their own child experienced a medical emergency, she can imagine what it’s like for a woman watching her elderly husband have a stroke or a mother trapped in a car accident hearing her children in the back screaming for help. Those people will wait longer with fewer firefighter EMTs to respond.

“That is gut wrenching to think about. That is horrific to think about. So, when I hear about the proposed 10% budget cut, that’s what I think about,” she said. She and others also witnessed to the amount of time firefighters miss with their loved ones while serving the community.

Lawtey residents, including Councilwoman Amy Blom, believing their fire station was on the chopping block, spoke out. The city council recently signed a new agreement with the county and voted in favor of the county collecting a special assessment to fund firefighting services. They did so to avoid the possibility of the county closing that station but are now hearing it may happen anyway. Lawtey Citizen Robert Adelman said, “This doesn’t look like a broken promise; it feels like a betrayal.”

Councilman Chris Caldwell was concerned about the future

of Brooker, with its growing number of homes and charter school. They have the highest emergency response times in the county, and if plans for their fire station are canceled and other stations are closed, response times could just get worse, he said.

“At one of our city council meetings, we had citizens show up and express their concerns that we adopt the fire assessment, and we passed it, and I support it, because we want, as you know, to make sure we fund our fire department,” he said.

Not backing down

Commissioner Dougherty said he was “blown away” when Carter presented the information to him after he asked to see a much deeper cut.

“I wanted you all to see the same thing that I saw. And I think our sheriff says it best when he says you never gamble on your safety. And a 10% cut would be a gamble on the safety of the people of Bradford County,” he said.

The other commissioners agreed, but Commission Chairman Danny Riddick wanted to make it clear he had no part in requesting information about cutting the fire rescue budget.

“I already knew what a 10% cut would do,” he said. “Excellent presentation. I didn’t need to sit through it.”

Furthermore, he said he is 100% behind the fire assessment at the proposed levels, which includes \$167 per household or 11 cents per square foot for nonresidential properties.

“So that’s for sure. I’m not backing down,” he said.

Sampson City parking lot

The commission revisited the paving of the parking lot at the Sampson City fire station. The record was corrected about the Aug. 5 approval. The motion was actually to approve the consent agenda except for the \$33,110 paving cost, although almost no one heard it that way. Therefore, the expenditure was not approved until Aug. 21.

“I went around to every fire station that we have in Bradford County, and I did not find one fire station that that didn’t have their parking lot paved,” Commissioner Diane Andrews said. “But now, when Sampson City gets finished, now we’re going to leave it halfway done. This is it’s just something that I’m not sure why we’re discussing, but since we are, I strongly support doing this.”

Commissioner Kenny Thompson said it was not a necessity. The parking lot is covered with asphalt milling.

“Number one, it’s a want, it ain’t a got-to-have, and if we keep spending money, spending money, spending money, hey, we’re going to be broke one day,” he said.

Dougherty, who had also opposed the additional expense, said the cost should have been included in the project budget from the beginning. “This was my shout out to the rest of the board as we move forward and as we do projects, we make sure that the project’s complete in the bid package that we send out,” he said, adding the cost will actually be higher than \$33,000 because that amount doesn’t include the county employees’ time to complete the project.

The paving project was approved over their objections.

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2025 FALL COURSE SCHEDULE

PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR	REGISTRATION BEGINS	COURSE DATES	DAY	HOURS	PROGRAM HOURS
Adult General Education, GED/Adult High School	Snyder	OPEN	August 12 - December 19, 2025	Mon. - Fri.	9AM to 12PM	Vary
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

PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR	REGISTRATION BEGINS	COURSE DATES	DAY	HOURS	PROGRAM HOURS
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

PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR	REGISTRATION BEGINS	COURSE DATES	DAY	HOURS	PROGRAM HOURS
Spinning (Indoor Cycling)	Bridgman/Riker	Open	August 12 - December 19, 2025	Tues. & Thur.	5PM - 7PM	Vary

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Lake Region

Clay County has had seven drownings so far this year

Agencies emphasize boater safety

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

Lake Region law enforcement agencies said boating accidents and fatalities are more common than most people think.

Clay County Fire Rescue and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said they have responded to numerous water rescue incidents this year.

On July 28, two vessels collided, resulting in one fatality. Additionally, on August 17, a jet skier crashed into a bridge, as reported by the FWC.

According to Clay County Fire Rescue, there have been a total of nine water rescue calls, which include four boating accidents, one vehicle that ended up in the water, seven drownings, and nine water rescues.

The Melrose Fire Department averages approximately ten calls per year, while Bradford County reports around two calls annually.

FWC has been actively ensuring that everyone enjoys their time on the water while emphasizing the importance of water safety. According to the agency, these water skills could save your own life or that of someone else until rescue arrives.

Panic leads to drowning

One of the leading causes of drownings is panic. One FWC officer said remaining calm and confident is crucial to survival.

"Being confident, if for some reason you find yourself without a life jacket on the water, being a competent swimmer, being confident in your abilities to survive, which is why it's always a good idea to wear a life jacket," said Robert Lentz, Master Officer, North Central Region Public



The Bradford County boat ramp on Lake Santa Fe can get busy at times.

Information Officer, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. "Also, you would want to resort back to a survival stroke, whether it is treading water, trying to remain calm, taking deep breaths, or floating on your back to preserve some energy. Be sure to flail your arms to try to wave down any type of rescuer."

Other tips include reducing speed and watching out for other boaters or watercraft in the area.

Having a plan, knowing the launching destination, and being aware of factors like weather, which can change minute by minute, are essential.

Utilize GPS or tracking software to display your location on your phone and mark your entrance point.

You are the captain, so you are responsible

For tubers, it is essential to maintain a 360-degree awareness of their surroundings. Boats and water skiers move quickly, so knowing what is happening

around you at all times is crucial.

"If you're towing, it's your job as the captain; you're in charge of the person on the tube," Lentz said.

"Therefore, keeping them out of harm's way is ultimately your responsibility, and maintaining a 360-degree awareness as the operator. Keep an eye out for hazards in the water, such as stumps, dock pilings, or broken off pieces of dock."

Familiarize yourself with public ramps and signage. Pay attention to boat ramp signs, speed zones, areas populated by manatees and wildlife, and any special regulations regarding specific types of fish.

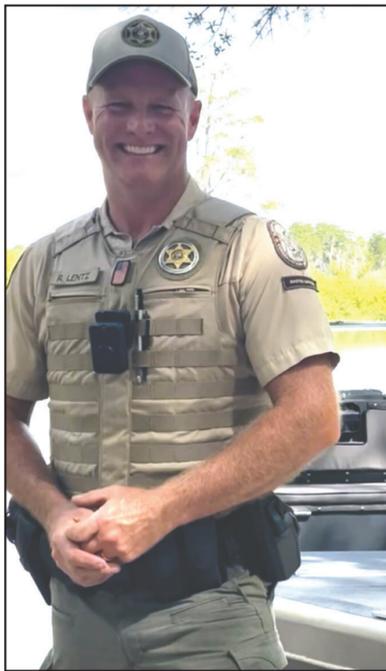
Stay hydrated during the hot months.

Finally, when boating at night,

ensure there is proper lighting. It's advisable to avoid boating after dark, as the waters can be murky and visibility may be compromised.

Other Boater safety requirements:

- Everyone must have a life jacket on board the boat.
- Four throwable items, such as throw rings - in case somebody's in the water, you can throw it out to them for them to grab onto the float
- Fire extinguisher
- Sound-producing device - a whistle or a horn
- Online boat or safety course is mandatory for all born after January 1988.
- Have a radio.
- Manatee safety



FWC's Robert Lentz

P&Z learns about O'Reilly site plan

Chair questions Pledge of Allegiance and invocation

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Planning and Zoning Board welcomed its newest member on August 11, learned about a new site plan for an O'Reilly Auto Parts store, and listened to City Attorney Rich Komando explain the requirements of the state's Sunshine Law.

New board member

The board welcomed Geraldine Robbins as its newest member. Appointed by the city council on August 8, Robbins is a Tallahassee native and has lived on Nelson's Point for four-and-a-half years.

She holds a PhD in public policy evaluation and analytical methods from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Concerns about Section 8 housing

Board member Gregory Gay asked whether the proposed development, Sunrise Estates, would include any Section 8 housing.

Komando responded that as far as he knew, developer

Joe Wiggins's subdivision of houses and townhomes behind Hitchcock's grocery store did not include the U.S. Housing Department's subsidy. Komando cautioned board members about drawing outdated conclusions about the subsidized housing program.

"I think because many of us, at least I think of the New York projects or when I lived in New Orleans, I think of the projects there as...Section 8 housing," he said. "However, the world has changed. There are many single-family homes where a landlord has to pass certain requirements, like the house can't be dilapidated, condemned, and falling down. And if the landlord passes certain requirements, they're allowed to rent and get a Section 8 subsidy for

renting that property. So, you most

likely have Section 8 properties within the city and within the county that you don't think of as the traditional 'projects.'"

Pledge, invocation questioned

Toward the end of the meeting, Chair John Zieser asked Komando if the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were required as part of the planning and zoning meeting.

The city attorney replied that neither was required but has

See P&Z, page 7

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES CORRECTION

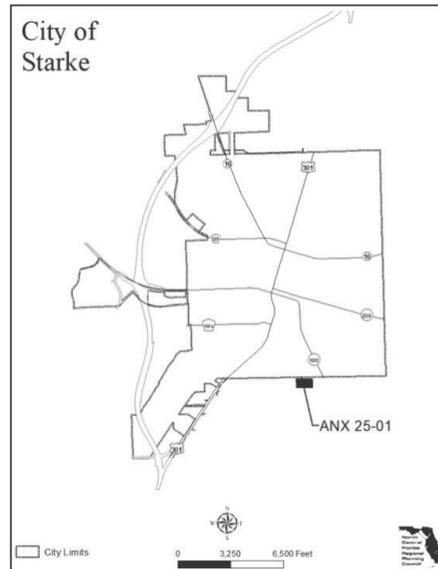
The Notice of Proposed Taxes (TRIM Notice) for BRADFORD COUNTY indicated an incorrect hearing date of September 9th, 2025. A public hearing on the proposed taxes and budget will be held on:

September 10, 2025
5:30PM
at
945 N Temple Ave.,
Starke FL

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.

UNION COUNTY

FTE audit says Union got \$16k too much

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Florida Auditor General report stated that the state overpaid the Union County School District by \$16,332 because the district incorrectly reported student full-time equivalents to the Department of Education.

Auditors stated that the district underreported FTE in basic education but overreported in ESE and adult education students.

The state paid school districts around \$5,140 for each full-time equivalent in 2024, so the net overreporting of 3,177 FTEs resulted in \$16,332 in adjustments. Auditors stated that it is the responsibility of the Department of Education to recoup or charge the district for any overpaid FTEs.

Issues with teachers

Auditors also reported:
—One high school ESE student was not in attendance at school during the February 2024 reporting survey period and should not have been reported for FTE funding.

—One high school teacher was properly approved to teach Math out of field but had earned none of the six hours of college credit toward certification in Math required by state rules.

—Two teachers taught a Digital Information Technology course at Union County High School as co-teachers and were properly approved to teach out of field in Web Development. However, both teachers had been approved to teach out of field in multiple areas, inclusive of the current courses in a prior year, but had earned none of the 6 hours of college credit toward

certification in any of those areas, as required by state rules.

—The course schedules for several students at Lake Butler Middle School were incorrectly reported.

Transportation funding

Auditors also tested the District's reporting for transportation funding and noted 47 exceptions of the 219-student sample. The state funded the transportation of 2,091 students in the fiscal year ending June 2024.

"Any student who is transported by the Union County District School Board must meet one or more of the following conditions to be eligible for State transportation funding," auditors said, "live two or more miles from school, be classified as a student with a disability under IDEA, or be a student with a parent enrolled in the Teenage Parent Program, be a Career Education 9-12 or an ESE student who is transported from one school center to another where appropriate programs are provided, or be on a route that meets the criteria for hazardous walking conditions."

Auditors reported:
—Sufficient documentation was not maintained to support the reporting of 25 students in the test in the Hazardous Walking ridership category. Specifically, auditors noted that the hazardous locations were not inspected jointly by representatives of the School District, the State, or local government with

jurisdiction over the road, and the Sheriff's Office, as required by the Department of Education.

—Three students in auditors' tests were incorrectly reported in the IDEA—PK through Grade 12, Weighted ridership category. The students' IEPs did not indicate that the students met at least one of the five criteria required for reporting in a weighted ridership category. Auditors determined that two of the students were otherwise eligible to be reported in other categories. The remaining student was not eligible for State transportation funding.

—Sixteen students in the test were incorrectly reported in the All Other FEFP Eligible Students ridership category. The students lived less than two miles from their assigned schools and were not otherwise eligible for State transportation funding.

Superintendent responds

Superintendent Mike Ripplinger wrote in a response to the report that the district agreed with most of the auditors' findings.

However, on the exception about hazardous walking conditions, the superintendent asked them to reconsider that exception.

"The district's transportation department had documentation from the sheriff's office but was not aware of the additional documentation needed from state or local governments with jurisdiction over the road," he wrote. "Since being

made aware of this issue, our transportation department has reached out to the corresponding agencies to bring our district into compliance. Additionally, due to the rural location of our District and the students' residential locations, the students would be walking, at times during the year, in the dark, along major roadways with no sidewalks. The district asks that, due to decreased funding already affecting our district, the AG consider the corrective action being taken and how the loss of these funds will adversely affect our district."

Ripplinger also disputed auditors' claims about the two-mile distance rule.

"The district agrees with some of the determination of ridership for these students, but not all," he wrote. "In determining the ridership of these students, consideration of distance was given to students who would have had to walk to the safest crossing point to get to school. While some online mapping tools may have applied a different route to determine less than two miles on these students, those tools would have the student crossing multiple busy highways at some points during the year, the route for these students would be in the dark, and along roads without sidewalks. The district asks for consideration as eight of these students were elementary age students who would be walking up to forty-two minutes."

Sheriff's Net attendees learn about human trafficking

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Clay County Sheriff's Net, a community outreach platform of Sheriff Michelle Cook, hosted Max McDaniel on July 25 at First Baptist Church in Keystone Heights, who spoke about human trafficking.

McDaniel, a distinguished advocate with a U.S. Presidential Flag of Excellence from President Reagan for her transformative educational work, began her talk with a personal story.

4-year-old daughter kidnapped

She said that 54 years ago, her four-year-old daughter was abducted, an experience that fueled her lifelong commitment to fighting human trafficking and domestic violence.

"My life would have been over, my marriage would have been over," she said, recounting the incident that was resolved through swift community and law enforcement action.

The presentation, supported by a detailed booklet from the Orange Park Woman's Club, covered critical aspects of human trafficking. McDaniel debunked myths through an interactive quiz, revealing that human trafficking occurs in the U.S., with Nevada, Mississippi, and Florida ranking among the top states due to factors like entertainment hubs, agricultural labor, and coastal access.

She clarified that victims span all social classes and that trafficking

See NET, page 7

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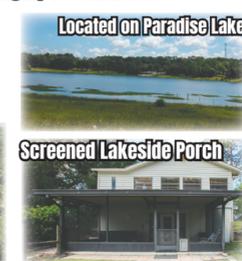


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Crime

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.



Kevin Eaves

Jonni Gainous

Ma-lena Griffis

Michael Teston

Drugs found during traffic stop

Kevin Eaves, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 22 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, destroying evidence, DUI, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

According to an arrest report, detectives responded to Edwards Grocery at 4105 SE State Road 100 to assist Lt. A. Johnson with a traffic stop involving Kevin Eaves, known to lack a valid driver's license. Eaves denied having narcotics and refused consent for a vehicle search. He was arrested for driving without a license. During a search of his person, a plastic baggie with a clear, rocky substance was found in his watch pocket. After being read his Miranda Rights, Eaves admitted the substance was methamphetamine.

A vehicle search revealed a cup in the center console containing ice, a clear liquid, and a gold pill cylinder. Eaves admitted the cylinder contained methamphetamine, Xanax, and Suboxone. Inside, detectives found a baggie with a crystal rocky substance, two wet, disintegrating, blue pills, and two and a half orange pills marked "NB." No other contraband was found. Deputy Callaway conducted a DUI investigation, and the vehicle was towed.

The rocky substance tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

Drugs hidden in vaginal area

Jessica Engle, 44, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 19 for DUI, smuggling contraband into a correctional facility, possession of marijuana, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Deputy A. Escobar wrote in an arrest report that Deputy Michael Gillick conducted a traffic stop on a green Ford F-150 with no taillights near the Florida Department of Health's Bradford County office on North Temple Avenue.

The driver, Engle, appeared hysterical and crying. She stated she was driving from Polk County to Clay County, had been driving for three days, and was lost.

Engle consented to a vehicle search, during which an orange prescription bottle with unknown white pills and powder was found. The powder tested negative for narcotics. Engle admitted to smoking marijuana earlier that day.

Sgt. Glen Ward conducted standardized field sobriety Exercises, and due to the defendant's poor performance, she was arrested for driving under the influence.

At the Bradford County Jail, a body scan revealed a tube hidden in her vaginal area containing methamphetamine, marijuana, and the opioid tramadol, which she admitted to possessing.

A breath test showed a blood alcohol level of 0.0, and a urine sample was collected.

Sex act with inmate

Jonni Gainous, 55, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Department of Corrections inspectors on August 20 for a sex offense.

According to court papers, the Vocational Food Service Coordinator at Florida State Prison reported witnessing Gainous performing oral sex on an inmate in the defendant's



Warren Ware

Timothy Tyson

office. In a sworn interview, the inmate confirmed the incident, stating that it lasted less than a minute before the coordinator interrupted the encounter, and noted that it was a one-time event, as Gainous was leaving for another job.

Video footage showed the inmate entering Gainous' office, followed by the coordinator's reaction upon entering, although the act itself was off-camera.

According to the affidavit, Gainous admitted to the consensual act of oral sex.

At the time of the incident, the defendant was employed by Aramark Food Service, a Department of Corrections contractor.

Dog as a deadly weapon

Ma-lena Griffis, 18, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 22 for battery and aggravated assault.

Deputy Michael Gillick wrote in an arrest report that at around 4:19 p.m., deputies responded to a disturbance in the Pleasant Grove area, where two suspects, Ma-lena Griffis and Ginger McDonald, fled north on Northwest 177th Street after a traffic stop.

At the complaint location, the victim reported that they were dating Ma-lena, who lived with them. A verbal altercation began over attending a high school football game, leading the victim to leave the home on foot. Ma-lena then argued with another resident and called her cousin for a ride.

When the cousin arrived, she exited her vehicle with a folding pocketknife, yelling racial slurs and accusing the victim and a witness of battering Ma-lena. Ma-lena picked up a hunting-style knife, approached the victim, and struck them on the right side of their face with her left hand. Malena then took the cousin's dog from the vehicle and attempted to incite it to attack the victim and the witness. The cousin retrieved the dog, and both cousins fled.

After being read her Miranda Rights, Ma-lena admitted to striking both the victim and the witness and possessing the knife, but denied using the dog as a weapon.

Christopher Henderson, 33, of Lawtey, was arrested by Lawtey Police on August 24 for withholding support.

Kevin Herrera, 35, of Silver Spring, Maryland, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 21 for failure to appear.

Ryan Hewett, 32, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 22 for resisting an officer and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Carlisa Ogle, 49, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 16 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Israel Stallings, 39, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 16 for out-of-county warrants.

Brothers fight in Arby's parking lot

Michael Teston, 61, of Lake

NET Continued from page 6

includes forced labor, organ harvesting, and sex trafficking, not just smuggling.

77% of victims are in forced labor

Attendees learned the "three C's" of human trafficking—cash, control, and coercion—and a simplified definition for human trafficking: "Coercion or control against one's will for forced labor, forced sex, or stealing of body parts."

McDaniel highlighted the role

of cartels, which involve not only criminals but also professionals like attorneys and bankers who facilitate trafficking operations.

She emphasized the vulnerability of children, teenagers, and adults, noting that 77% of victims are in forced labor, with 67% being men and boys.

The speaker provided practical tools for identifying victims, such as recognizing signs of physical or environmental control, and urged attendees to memorize the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888).

McDaniel taught attendees the international SOS signal—hand out, thumb tucked, fingers closed—and an audible SOS code (three short, three long, three short taps) for emergencies. A

real-life scenario illustrated the importance of discreet action, such as observing a child signaling for help at a gas station without alerting the trafficker.

Wayne McKinney, Sheriff Cook's director of patrol and community affairs, added to McDaniel's presentation by discussing the Intercept Task Force, a multi-county initiative funded partly by Operation Light Shine, a Tim Tebow Foundation program. The task force targets internet crimes against children, a growing trafficking avenue.

McKinney noted that grooming, often facilitated through online platforms such as TikTok or gaming apps, is a common tactic. He urged parents to monitor their children's internet use closely.

P&Z Continued from page 5

been traditionally recited during city meetings for many years.

Komando added that some governing boards have eliminated the invocation and that its practice depends on the culture of the local government.

Board member Steve Hart asked Zieser if he objected to the two traditions.

"I haven't formed an opinion one way or the other," Zieser replied. "I am of the mind that if it is not necessary, then why do

we have it? Why do we do it?"

"But you're not making a motion," Hart said.

"No, I'm just asking a question," replied the chair.

Robbins then interjected her view.

"I would suggest they're both necessary," she said.

O'Reilly applies for site permit

Deputy City Manager Beau Wright informed board members that O'Reilly Auto Parts had applied for a site plan permit earlier in the day, which he had

approved.

He said the parcel at the corner of State Road 21 and Commercial Circle is already zoned General Commercial and that no zoning change would be required for the store.

"I reviewed that with (City Planner) Janice Fleet, and we went through the site development and

their egress and ingress, and everything under their site development plan matched what we had. So, essentially, I just approved the site permit today for them," he said.

Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 19 for battery.

According to an arrest report, deputies responded to a disturbance and a traffic crash at Starke's Arby's around 4:19 p.m.

There they found two brothers in a vehicle. Both men said that while the victim was driving the pair on U.S. 301, they got into an argument.

"Due to the defendant's aggressive behavior," wrote Deputy Zachary Jones in the report, "(the victim) pulled the vehicle into

Arby's parking lot, where the defendant...placed (his brother) in a headlock and began to strike him with a closed fist, causing injury. This resulted in his vehicle colliding with another stationary vehicle."

Deputies observed injuries on the victim's face, marks on the defendant's knuckles, and vehicle damage consistent with the account given by both men.

Sabba Tortu, 60, of Naples, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 18 for an out-of-county warrant.

Tip catches sexual predator

Timothy Tyson, 41, of Orlando, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 22 for sex offender violations.

According to a sworn complaint, on August 14, a deputy from the Sex Offender and Predator Unit responded to an anonymous tip at Whispering Oaks Apartments regarding Tyson, a designated sexual predator, unlawfully residing there without registering with the sheriff's office.

The tipster reported Tyson's daily presence over several weeks, noting he frequented the apartment leased by his wife, and had caused several disturbances with residents and staff members.

"I conducted a check through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Sexual Offender/Predator Registry," wrote Deputy Antonio Vasquez, "and confirmed that Timothy Tyson is a designated sexual predator pursuant to a 2003 conviction in Bradford County (for) sexual battery on a physically helpless person. Tyson is required to register in person and report any change in residence or location, temporary or permanent, to the

sheriff's office in the county of his residence."

Vasquez reported that Tyson most recently registered as a resident in Orlando.

"I made contact with...the leaseholder of (the apartment) who confirmed that Tyson is her husband," added the deputy. "She

stated that he had been staying at her residence and had left the property on August 13. "(The wife) admitted that Tyson had been visiting frequently to assist her but ceased answering questions thereafter."

Threatened wife with chair

Warren Ware, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 21 for assault.

According to an August 20 arrest report, the defendant's wife told Deputy Paul King that Ware threatened to hit her with a chair.

The couple has been together for about 10 years.

"Warren has been verbally and physically abusive for the past few years," wrote King in the report. "According to (the victim), Warren

has choked her and pinned her against the wall in the past."

King reported that according to the wife, Ware had been yelling at her lately and had threatened to punch her in the stomach.

"This evening (the victim) told Warren she was going to a friend's house when she got off work to remove her nails," King reported. "Warren became upset and asked (the victim) why she couldn't make time for him. While (she) was attempting to answer, Warren stood up and picked up the chair he was sitting in. Warren lifted the chair above his shoulders, stepped towards (the victim) like he was going to hit her with the chair. Warren called (her) a 'bitch' as she stepped back thinking he was going to hit her with the chair. Warren sat back down and told (the victim) this is not going to end well."

According to the victim, Ware added that he was going to end up in jail or that she would end up dead.

King wrote that he then questioned Ware about the incident, and the defendant admitted to arguing over time spent together and suspecting

infidelity, but denied threatening to hit her with the chair, claiming he threw it across the yard instead.

Eric Williams, 49, of Ocala, was arrested by Lawtey police on August 16 for a weapons offense and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Union

James Seay, 51, of Bell, was arrested by Union deputies on August 19 for a probation violation.

Veronica Seymour, 39, of Melrose, was arrested by Union deputies on August 22 for larceny.

Clay

Andres Beniquez, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 18 for domestic battery.

Father-daughter dispute results in arrest

Rocco Mastroserio, 66, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 18 for domestic battery.

According to an arrest report, at approximately 7:56 PM, deputies responded to a disturbance on Hallman Road. The victim reported that her father, Rocco Mastroserio, became irate after she dismissed his concerns about her son's medication.

The victim claimed her father yelled at her to leave, chest-bumped her, and pushed her through the front door, causing her to fall and scrape her knee.

The victim denied striking Mastroserio. A minor laceration was observed on her knee, and photos were taken, though she refused medical evaluation and a written statement.

The victim's boyfriend said he witnessed Mastroserio grab and throw the victim to the ground and intervened to stop the altercation.

Mastroserio admitted to grabbing his daughter by the shoulders and pushing her to make her leave, but claimed she swung at him, without contact, and that her fall on the porch steps was unrelated to his actions.



Russ WADE

Attorney at Law



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Bradford boys defeat UCHS in golf, Union's Seay is top girl

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford and Union County high schools played each other in golf at the Starke Golf and Country Club on Aug. 19, with the Tornados topping the Tigers on the boys side and the Tigers' Katelyn Seay earning medalist honors for the girls.

The Bradford boys team had a score of 169 to Union's 235. Bradford Head Coach David Duncan said it was the team's best score in his five years.

The Tornados' Avery Burgin and Steven Carter tied for medalist honors. Each had one birdie and made par on four holes for a final score of 41.

Bradford took the third-fifth individual slots as well, with Tucker Griffis placing third with a score of 42, followed by Charlie Zink at 45 and Patrick Pendarvis at 47. Griffis and Pendarvis each made par on three holes, while Zink had a birdie and made par on two holes.

The rest of the field belonged to Union golfers, who were led by Gavin Kuhn's sixth-place score of 54. He had a birdie and made par on one hole.

Ayden Tomlinson, who made par on one hole, and Brysen Tomlinson finished with scores of 57 and 60, respectively, while

Emery Muse and Fenix Norman shot 64 and 75, respectively.

The girls match involved a total of six players, with Bradford not fielding a full girls team. Union's Seay led the field with a 65, while the Tigers' Kerissa Seay was second at 68.

Bradford's Sarah Rantz and Alexis Fuhrman were third and fourth, respectively, with scores of 69 and 71.

Union's Sierra Bell and Sophia Elixson each shot a fifth-place score of 80.

The Bradford boys team, which played Branford, Keystone Heights and Lafayette this past Tuesday, will host Palatka on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 4 p.m.

See related story for upcoming Union matches.

UCHS girls golf team gets win over Trenton

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Katelyn Seay earned medalist honors for the second straight match as the Union County High School girls golf team defeated Trenton on Aug. 25 at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club.

The Tigers had a team score of 237 to Trenton's 265.

Seay finished with a score of 52, while Kerissa Seay was second at 61.

The Tigers' Sierra Bell and Sophia Elixson each shot a third-place score of 62. Bell made par

on one hole.

Summer Shaw also participated for Union, finishing with a score of 77.

The Union boys team dropped a match against Taylor County on Aug. 18 at the Country Club at Lake City. The Tigers, who shot a team score of 242 to Taylor's 207, were led by Gavin Kuhn, who placed second with a score of 53.

Brysen Tomlinson, who made par on one hole, had a sixth-place score of 60 for the Tigers, while Ayden Tomlinson and Emery Muse were seventh and eighth, respectively, with scores of 63 and 66.

Union also got a 79 from Fenix Norman.

Both boys and girls teams played Chieffland this past

Tuesday and will play Bronson and Chieffland on Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Chieffland Golf and Country Club at 3:30 p.m.

The girls team will play Branford on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club at 3:30 p.m.

KHHS boys fall by 20 strokes to host Palatka

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights High School boys golf team, which had its season opener against

See GOLF, page 10

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Bradford County Telegraph
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TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR
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ENTER one TEAM Winner in space for each of GAMES OF THE WEEK:
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DROP BY OR EMAIL US YOUR ENTRY see rules below***

Biz 1 _____ Biz 11 _____
Biz 2 _____ Biz 12 _____
Biz 3 _____ Biz 13 _____
Biz 4 _____ Biz 14 _____
Biz 5 _____ Biz 15 _____
Biz 6 _____ Biz 16 _____
Biz 7 _____ Biz 17 _____
Biz 8 _____ Biz 18 _____
Biz 9 _____ Biz 19 _____
Biz 10 _____ Biz 20 _____

**Tiebreaker Score: _____
Total points scored by both teams in the **GATORS game**

WINNER'S PHOTO GOES HERE!

ENTRANT INFO:
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12 *Montana State Bobcats vs. Oregon Ducks*

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17 *Virginia Tech Hokies vs. South Carolina Gamecocks*

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18 *Western Illinois Leathernecks vs. Illinois Fighting Illini*

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19 *Northern Arizona Lumberjacks vs. Arizona State Sun Devils*

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* CONTEST RULES 1. Anyone (except Telegraph/Times/Monitor employees and their immediate family members) is welcome to enter. One entry per person per week please. Persons winning one week are not eligible to win again for at least three weeks. 2. When picking up winnings, the winner will have their photograph taken for the paper. 3. Entry must be on an official form from the BCT/UCL/LRM and submitted to one of our drop off locations: BC Telegraph, 131 W. Call St., Starke; Spires Market in Lake Butler; Capital City Bank in Keystone Heights OR *** email a photo/scan of your official entry form to CONTEST@BCTELEGRAPH.COM — ALL entries due before 5 p.m. on Fridays. Entrants consent to be added to our email list and having photo taken for paper. Fill in all the blanks with the name of the team you think will win, matching the biz & card numbers. The person who picks the most games correctly will win \$50 cash from the pool of BCT/UCL/LRM entries. 4. **In case of a tie, the total points scored in the GATORS' game this week is the tie breaker. Please fill in the points you think will be scored by the GATORS and their opponent, combined, in the tie breaker blank. (For instance, if the score of the game was GATORS 19, opponent 7, the correct tie-breaker score is 26 points). 5. Decision of the judges is final. A second, follow up tie-breaker will be used if necessary. Results will be tabulated on Monday and winners notified by telephone. Don't forget to list a phone number where you can be reached. INFO: 904-964-6305. [GATORS WILL BE USED FOR TIEBREAKER.]

12G Mentoring now signing up 4th-8th graders

Parents have until Friday, Aug. 29, to sign children (fourth-eighth grades) up for the 12 Guys in Bow-Ties and 12 Girls in Pearls (aka 12G Mentoring) program, which is entering its 10th year of positively influencing and changing lives of youth.

The program is open to public-school students in Bradford and surrounding counties, private-school students and home-school students.

This is not a Bible study group, but members will learn some of the same core values to improve character traits, such as self-esteem, self-

motivation, self-discipline, respect, responsibility, honesty, faith, love, confidence, servant, citizenship and leadership.

The mentoring program was founded as a student mentoring/community outreach program. The vision is to foster confidence and character in students from all backgrounds in Bradford County, helping them reach their potential and become community minded leaders of tomorrow. Children in the program will learn about such things as etiquette, social and emotional development, health and wellness, financial literacy, citizenship, real-life situations, networking and advocating for yourself and others.

This year's program will start in October and end in May.

If you are interested in signing up or want more information

about the program, please reach out to Edrick Hamilton at 904-364-0868 or 12gibt.12gip@gmail.com.

Help youth succeed as Take Stock mentor

Bradford Community for School's Take Stock in Children program is looking for volunteers who are willing to mentor middle school or high school students.

You can change a child's life by offering support, guidance and encouragement.

If you're interested in learning more, please email Cindy DeValerio at cdevalerio@

bradfordcommunityforschools.com or Linda Bennett at lbennett@bradfordcommunityforschools.com.

KHHS girls golfers fall to Columbia

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School lost a girls golf match to Columbia on Aug. 19, with Aubrey Brooks leading the Indians with a fourth-place finish.

The Indians had a team score of 226, while Columbia won with a 175 score.

Brooks made par on two holes and had a score of 48.

Rebecca Binet and Amber

Wagner placed sixth and eighth, respectively, for Keystone with scores of 52 and 58. Binet made par on one hole.

The Indians also got scores of 68 from Zoey Gill, 72 from Emily Cunningham and 72 from Jasmine Walls.

GOLF Continued from page 8

Bradford on Aug. 19 rained out, traveled to play Palatka on Aug. 21, with the Panthers having the top three individuals and shooting a team score of 160 to defeat the Indians.

Keystone, which had a team score of 180, was led by Jackson McDaniel, who was fourth with a score of 42. He had one birdie and made par on four holes.

The Indians' Sammy Wachamade par on five holes and

finished with a sixth-place score of 44, while Will Begue and Baylor Ford each shot a 47 to tie for seventh. Ford had a birdie and made par on three holes, while Begue made par on one hole.

Keystone's Jacob Beach and Landon Spence shot 60 and 67th, respectively, with Beach making par on two holes.

The Indians played Bradford, Branford and Lafayette this past Tuesday and will travel to Gainesville's Hawkstone Country Club to play Oak Hall on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 4 p.m.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Aug. 28, 2025

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien 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 ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at a public hearing 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. A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. 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 decisions 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.

8/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN OF BROOKER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BROOKER, FLORIDA AND SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE TOWN

OF BROOKER, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Section 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Town of Brooker Land Development Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, comments, objections and recommendations concerning the amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Town Council of the Town of Brooker, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of the Town of Brooker, Florida, and also serving as the Local Planning Agency of the Town of Brooker, Florida, at a public hearing on September 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Community Center, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida.

ICPA 25-01, an application by the Town Council, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the land use classification from RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (less than or equal to 2 dwelling units per acre) to PUBLIC on property described, as follows:
A parcel of land lying in Section 8, Township 7 South, Range 20 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20 and 21 of Block 8 of the Town of Ward City (now known as the Town of Brooker), as recorded in the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.

Containing 0.97 acre, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk, located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida, during regular business hours. All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk, at 352.485.1022 at 48 hours prior to the public hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

8/28 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA

The City of Starke Florida will hold a City Commission Meeting on September 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091 during which the second reading and a vote will occur for the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-12
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III; REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER POSITIONS WITH THE POSITION OF THE CITY MANAGER POSITION IN THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; REPEALING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 5, ENTITLED THE GENERAL MANAGER; ASSIGNING ALL DUTIES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND THE GENERAL MANAGER TO THE POSITION OF THE CITY MANAGER; UPDATING OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND HANDBOOKS; PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR CODIFICATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

8/28 1tchg-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on September 2, 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center located at 1610 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured - no firearms or weapons are permitted.

8/28 1tchg-BCT

City of Starke Commission Meeting Dates for September

Tentative Budget Hearing September 9, 2025 at 5:01 pm
Commission Meeting September 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Final Budget Hearing September 23, 2025 at 5:01 pm
Commission Meeting September 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm

8/28 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 2nd 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 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 12th 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 or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED this 18th day of August, 2025. KELLIE H. RHOADES
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: C. Hollingsworth
Deputy Clerk
Published in: Union County Times
On (dates): August 21, 2025, Aug. 28, 2025, September 4, 2025, September 11, 2025

DUKES LEGAL, P.A.
/s/ M. Aaron Dukes
M. AARON DUKES
Florida Bar No. 124349
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, Florida 32054
(352) 225-1654 (Telephone)
aaron@dukeslegal.com
dukeslegal@outlook.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

8/21 4tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2025 CP 000022
Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARGARET LOUISE DOBBS

Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of MARGARET LOUISE DOBBS, deceased, whose date of death was October 23, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for UNION County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, 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.

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 Aug. 28, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative: Personal Representative: /s/ HECTOR L. ZAYAS JR. HECTOR L. ZAYAS JR.

Attorney Florida Bar Number: 1021693
25 Cathedral St., Ste 303
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Telephone: (904) 327-4111
E-Mail: hzayas@taxestateplanning.com
/S/MARSHA LORI DOBBS BACON
MARSHA LORI DOBBS BACON
1713 Manchester Court N.
Jacksonville, FL 32259
/s/TERRI LISA DOBBS BURTON
TERRI LISA DOBBS BURTON
751 Maplelake Drive
Acworth, GA 30101

8/28 2tchg 9/4-UCT

LMS PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Union County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Planning Committee is to meet on September 11, 2025, at 10a (EST), virtually through the Union County Emergency Management office.

The County encourages any interested citizens and business owners to attend virtually to provide input. The Committee guides the preparation of the Union County LMS, which serves as a plan to reduce the community's long-term risk for protecting people and property from the effects of natural disasters and to build a safer and stronger community. For invite information, contact Union County EM Director Timothy Allen at allentc@unionsheriff.us. Call (386)496-4300 if you do not get a response email with invite information.

8/28 2tchg 9/4-UCT

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 5:30pm at the City Commission Chambers located at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. The PUBLIC HEARING will be held for the presentation of the TENTATIVE Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 AND the TENTATIVE 2025-2026 Millage Rate for the City of Lake Butler.

8/28 1tchg-UCT

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a SPECIAL MEETING on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 5:15pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. The SPECIAL MEETING will be held for the Board to discuss the rental calendar for the Hal Y. Maines Community Center & Townsend Green Building.

8/28 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 NE COMMERCIAL CIRCLE, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA
The City of Keystone Heights will hold the following Public Hearings to amend the Future Land Use Map

(FLUM) for a 2.47 acre parcel located at 200 NE Commercial Circle, Parcel RE# 20-08-23-002189-011-00, from Commercial to Industrial Light:

The following public hearings will be held on the ordinance: Planning and Zoning Board: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council: Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The public hearings will be held at the Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida. Interested parties may appear at the hearings and be heard with respect to the Future Land Use Map amendment. After the public hearings, action may be taken on the proposed Future Land Use Map amendment, or may continue its deliberations to a date, time and place then announced without publishing further notice thereof. A copy of the application for the proposed Future Land Use Map amendment is available for inspection by the public at the Keystone Heights City Hall, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, a person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Planning and Zoning Board or the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearings is advised that such person will need a record of all proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of all proceedings is made, which must include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing accommodations to participate in this matter should contact City Hall at (352) 473-4807, no later than three (3) business days prior to the hearing for which this notice has been given. James Booth, Keystone Heights City Manager

8/28 2tchg 9/4-LRM

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REZONING OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 NE COMMERCIAL CIRCLE, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA
The City of Keystone Heights will hold the following Public Hearings for the rezoning of a 2.47 acre parcel located at 200 NE Commercial Circle, Parcel RE# 20-08-23-002189-011-00, from General Commercial to Industrial Light:

The following public hearings will be held on the ordinance: Planning and Zoning Board: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council: Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The public hearings will be held at the Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida.

Interested parties may appear at the hearings and be heard with respect to the rezoning. After the public hearings, action may be taken on the proposed rezoning, or may continue its deliberations to a date, time and place then announced without publishing further notice thereof. A copy of the application for the proposed rezoning is available for inspection by the public at the Keystone Heights City Hall, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, a person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Planning and Zoning Board or the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearings is advised that such person will need a record of all proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of all proceedings is made, which must include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing accommodations to participate in this matter should contact City Hall at (352) 473-4807, no later than three (3) business days prior to the hearing for which this notice has been given. James Booth, Keystone Heights City Manager

8/28 2tchg 9/4-LRM

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Mia Rivera (left) sends the ball across the net for Keystone as teammates (foreground, l-r) Rachel Blank, Kaleigh Marquart and Bralee-Kate Chester look on.

Indians earn a 3-1 win over Tornadoes

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Mia Rivera had 21 kills for the Keystone Heights High School volleyball team, which won two straight sets after a 1-1 start to defeat visiting Bradford 3-1 (25-17, 17-25, 25-14, 25-18) on Aug. 21.

The Indians got off to a strong start in winning the first set. A 6-0 run with Kaleigh Marquart serving included kills from Mackenzie Castlevecchi and Kadence Massey, while a 6-0 run with Massey serving included three aces and two kills by Rivera.

Rivera added two more kills with Castlevecchi serving to help Keystone take a 17-2 lead.

Bradford pulled to within 24-16, taking advantage of errors, kills by Autumn DeKorver and Ar'Nayshia Griffin and a tip by Kingslee Phillips.

Rivera would eventually end the set with a kill.

DeKorver and Griffin each had a kill to help the Tornadoes take a 5-3 lead in the second set. Bradford then went on a 4-0 run with Shelby Cole serving.

A service ace by Manduo Wei and kills by Phillips and Wynter Barrington later helped the Tornadoes take a 13-5 lead, while a 4-0 run with Tatum Burkhalter serving made it a 19-10 game in favor of Bradford.

Keystone would close the gap, but a Griffin kill forced a side-out, making the score 23-17 with Wei serving. The Tornadoes scored two straight points off an error and a Cole dump over the net to close it out and tie the

match.

The Indians got two kills from Rivera, one kill each from Massey and Bralee-Kate Chester and aces from Marquart and Massey in building a 14-4 lead in the third set.

It was 18-10 when Massey had two consecutive aces, putting the Indians up 20-10.

Rivera recorded the set-winning kill.

Bradford scored the first seven points of the fourth set with Phillips serving. The run included a Griffin kill and a DeKorver block.

After a Massey kill forced side-out, the Indians scored six straight with Marquart serving. Castlevecchi, Massey, Rivera and Rachel Blank each had one kill to help Keystone tie it at 7-7 before Bradford's Griffin had a kill to force side-out.

Keystone trailed 11-9 before tying it up with DeKorver serving. The Tornadoes got kills from Ky'lee Johnson and Leila Roberts before the Indians' Rivera had a kill to force side-out.

Two kills by Chester and one by Rivera helped Keystone start to pull away, with the Indians winning the match on a Castlevecchi kill.

Massey finished with eight kills, while Marquart had 37 assists and five aces.

Bella Cumbo led Keystone in digs with 16, while Massey had eight. Blank and Rivera each had six digs.

Castlevecchi recorded a team-

See VOLLEY, page 14

BMS and BHS sports schedules

Aug. 28

—BMS volleyball, home vs. Suwannee 6 p.m.
—BHS JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. Palatka, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

Aug. 29

—BHS varsity football at Dunnellon, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 2

—BHS boys golf, home vs. Palatka, 4 p.m.
—BHS JV/varsity volleyball at Hawthorne, 6 p.m./7 p.m.
—BMS football at Williston, 6 p.m.

Sept. 3

—BHS JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. Newberry, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

KHHS jr. high, JV, varsity sports schedules

Aug. 28

—Varsity boys golf at Oak Hall (Hawkstone Country Club), 4 p.m.

—JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. Union County, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

—JV football, home vs. Union County, 6 p.m.

Aug. 29

—Varsity football at Union County, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 2

—JV/varsity volleyball at Baker County, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

—Jr. high football, home vs. Orange Park, 6 p.m.

LBMS and UCHS sports schedules

Aug. 28

—UCHS boys and girls golf vs. Bronson and Chiefland at Chiefland Golf and Country Club, 3:30 p.m.

—UCHS JV/varsity volleyball at Keystone Heights, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

—UCHS JV football at Keystone Heights, 6 p.m.

Aug. 29

—UCHS varsity football, home vs. Keystone Heights, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 2

—UCHS girls golf vs. Branford at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club, 3:30 p.m.

—LBMS volleyball at Lake City, 5:30 p.m.

—UCHS JV/varsity volleyball at Newberry, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

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



Jailyn Simmons (far left) and Morgan Smith (center) go up for a block attempt.

Union opens with district loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School got off to a good start, winning the first set against District 6-Rural opponent Lafayette, but the visiting Hornets then won three straight to hand the Tigers a 3-1 (24-26, 25-21, 25-21, 25-10) loss to open volleyball's regular season on Aug. 18.

The Tigers were coming off a 2-0 (25-22, 25-22) loss to Lafayette in one of the division championship matches at the second annual Crafty Gemini Preseason Showcase on Aug. 14 in Alachua. The regular-season opener proved to be another battle against a Lafayette team that was ranked as high as second in the state last season.

Union led 4-2 in the first set before scoring three points with Jailyn Simmons serving. One of the points came off a service ace, while another was scored off a Mallory Waugh kill.

Two kills by Waugh helped the Tigers stay in front until she held serve with a 12-10 lead. Union scored three points, with one coming off a Simmons block, to go up 15-10.

Simmons had two kills off Waugh assists late in the set to help the Tigers take a 24-23 lead. It was tied at 24-24 with Lafayette serving when a Simmons kill off an Abby Williams assist forced side-out.

With Simmons serving, the Hornets committed a passing error to give Union the 26-24 win.

Neither team led by more than two points in the second set until Lafayette scored three points with Havyn Richardson serving to go up 22-19. A kill by the Tigers' Indi Knox forced side-out, but Union couldn't take advantage of the serve.

Union got one more chance to serve, trailing 24-21. An error gave the Hornets the winning point.

The Tigers trailed 5-3 in the

third set before scoring five straight points with Simmons serving. Simmons recorded an ace during the span, while Waugh had two kills.

Lafayette went on a 4-0 run to go up 13-9 and held the lead for most of the remainder of the set.

Three kills by Simmons and two by Morgan Smith helped Union stay close before the Hornets' Hayley Johnson ended the set with a kill.

Union got aces from Knox and

See UCHS, page 14



HCA volleyball team wins 2 in preseason

Briley Parrish (second from left) makes a play at the net for Hope Christian Academy, which earned preseason wins over First Christian by a score of 2-1 (22-25, 25-16, 15-8) on Aug. 19 and First Assembly Christian by a score of 2-0 (25-17, 25-16) on Aug. 21. The Lions' junior varsity team lost 2-0 to both teams. Hope will travel to Jasper to play Corinth Christian Academy on Friday, Aug. 29. The JV teams will play at 4:30 p.m., followed by the varsity teams at 5:30 p.m.

Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads for week Aug 28 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

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Obituaries

Joyce Altman

Joyce Nell Altman, 90, of Starke, died peacefully at her residence Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025. She was born in Fox, Oklahoma, on April 30, 1935, to the late Z.B. and Flora Love. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Outland Altman; and daughter, Sheila Altman.

She leaves behind her children, F. Kay (Tommy) Lowe, Steve Altman and Vanessa (John) Kober; brothers, Odell (Theda) Love and Harold Love; in-laws, Reginald Altman and Ann Love; 10 grandchildren; and extended family members.

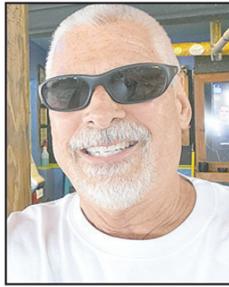
Joyce's family will celebrate her life at a later date.

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



Ted McMillan

On Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, a husband, father, brother, uncle and friend was stolen from us. This spice of life, "Ted" Theodore Wilson McMillan, began Oct. 3, 1956. He was born in Bristol, Pennsylvania (which explains to many his die-hard love for Philly sports teams) to Patricia and Ronald McMillan. He began many adventures with his siblings Ronnie, Karen and Brett. Among those adventures and in his youth, he was a baseball pitcher, which brought scouts to be interested in him. Moving from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin (this also explains his love for cheese) and finally landing in Columbus, New Jersey. This is where he met his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Cherie, whom he married in 1978. Soon after, he would start working at McMaster-Carr and welcome his daughter, Teddilee. He would continue as a faithful employee, missing only a handful of days in 30 years until his retirement in 2010 at 54 years old. He would make lifelong friends there and continue to the rest of his life. His next years in Westampton, New Jersey contained family beach vacations, endless motorcycle outings, billiards, karate, pool days, going out to eat, making his famous mac-n-cheese, drinks, block parties, working out, holiday dinners, snowmobiling but "The beeping snow," a million laughs, love and a fun-filled stint on Thames Lane they moved to the Sunshine State into Keystone Heights in July 2023 and absolutely loved it. Ted, Theo, dad loved to be with his wife, daughter and family, riding his motorcycle, spending time with his friends, playing the lottery, being in the sun, enjoying a good series/movie, sports games, animals, french fries, tater tots and wings with blue cheese, beer, of course, and just to have a damn good time! The life of the party moves on to the next chapter, leaving behind his loving family, wife, Cherie; dog, Shelby (who is missing Red's nightly singing of Tom Jones to her); daughter, Teddilee; son-in-law, Rob Carter; brother Ronnie, (Judi); sister, Karen McKinster; brother, Brett McMillan; brother-in-law, David Winzinger; father-in-law, Henry (Donna) Winzinger; nephews, nieces, countless friends and many brothers from another. As usual, we couldn't keep up with him, so he went ahead of us to get it going and we're sure when he got there he said, "Now it's a party!" We love you so much and will deeply miss you until we see you again.... And remember Ted would tell you, "It's all good!"



William Johnson III

William Hampton (Hamp) Johnson III, M.D., 77, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, in Gainesville. He was born in Gainesville on July 10, 1948, to William Hampton (W.H.) Johnson Jr. and Rosa V. "Mel" Johnson. He grew up in Wildwood, where he attended Wildwood Elementary and later Wildwood High School. As a student, he excelled both in the classroom and on the football field. He was the quarterback of the 1964 Wildwood Wildcats football team, which captured the Florida Class A state championship. After graduating from Wildwood High School, he went on to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he was a proud member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He also joined the freshman Florida Gators football team before his time on the field was cut short by injury. In 1970, he graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in mathematics. He returned to Wildwood, where he taught at Wildwood High School and coached boys' baseball and football teams. After several years of teaching and coaching, he chose to follow his lifelong dream of becoming a doctor, graduating from the University of Miami School of Medicine in 1978. After earning his medical degree, he trained in surgery under the renowned Dr. Michael E. DeBakey at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas from 1978 to 1983. While there, he met Kaye (Pitre) Johnson, the love of his life. From that moment on, they built a life together filled with love, partnership, and 46 years of marriage. In 1983, they moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he furthered his training in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. During this time, he also spent time at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, an experience that left a lasting and profound impact on him, both personally and professionally. In 1985, they settled in Ormond Beach, where he began a distinguished career in private practice. Over the course of nearly four decades, he served the community through Coastal Cardiovascular & Thoracic Associates (1986-2014) and later Atlantic Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgeons, LLC (2014-2023). He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and was board-certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery (Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery) and the American Board of Surgery - General Surgery. He was a member of Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society, Volusia County Medical Society, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and Florida Society of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons, where he served as president from 2016 until 2018. He cared deeply for his patients, treating each one with compassion and respect. He never gave up on those in his care, and his dedication and persistence were hallmarks of his practice.

While deeply committed to his patients and profession, his greatest joy was his family. He and Kaye raised four children in Ormond Beach, where he cherished every opportunity to travel and spend time together with his family. He was a devoted father who never missed a chance to show up, whether at school events, games, or important events in his family's life. He was his children's steadfast source of encouragement and support. He believed in them wholeheartedly, pushed them to give their best, and made sure they knew how deeply they were loved. His grandchildren were his pride and joy, and he delighted in every moment spent with them. His life was also firmly grounded in his faith, and he remained a committed member of his church, drawing strength and purpose from his relationship with God. His faith guided him not only as a husband and father, but also as a physician, offering comfort to his patients and shaping the compassion, perseverance, and hope he brought to his work.

A man of adventure as well as service, he had a true zest for life and a love of new experiences. He approached challenges with courage and enthusiasm, always eager to make the most of every opportunity. He summited Mount Kilimanjaro in 2011 with two of his daughters and twice ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, embodying the spirit of living fully. After his retirement, he and Kaye continued to embrace life with energy and joy, traveling widely together. They especially cherished cruises, trips to visit their daughter in far-flung places, and journeys that allowed them to spend time with their children and grandchildren, making memories across the world while never losing sight of the simple joy of being together on the lake. He was preceded in death by his father, William Hampton (W.H.) Johnson Jr.; mother, Rosa V. "Mel" Johnson; and sister, Ann Grainger Johnson.

He is survived by his wife, Kaye (Pitre) Johnson; children, Kathryn (Ben) Johnson, Elizabeth (Scott) Meachum, Ashley (Tyler) Tedcastle, and William Hampton (Kelly) Johnson IV; grandchildren, Maya and William Schonvold, Marcus and Paul Meachum, Collins and Myles Tedcastle, and Reagan and William Hampton (Quinn) Johnson, V; and brother, E. Bruce (Diane) Johnson of Fort Lauderdale.

The family will receive friends at Trinity Baptist Church, 3716 State Road 21, Keystone Heights 32656, on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Keystone Heights has been entrusted with the arrangements.

PAID OBITUARY

Carolyn D. Sapp

Carolyn Dickens Sapp, 90, of Starke, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, at her residence. Carolyn was born April 30, 1935, in Ocilla, Georgia, to the late Patrick Clovis and Ruby Lee Dickens. She attended and graduated from Ocilla High School. During her school years, she began working as a teller and service representative for BellSouth, where she faithfully served for 30 years and 10 months. She was hardworking, determined, and proud of her accomplishments throughout her career. In 1965, she and her family relocated to Bradford County. Shortly after, she met lifelong resident Joe Sapp and on July 29, 1966, the two wed, and together they shared 59 wonderful years filled with love, laughter, and devotion. A dedicated Christian, she was a faithful member of Madison Street Baptist Church, where she worshipped her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, alongside her church family. In her free time, she enjoyed fishing, playing cards, and cheering for her favorite sports teams, the Tampa Bay Rays and Florida Gators. She had a true green thumb and could make any plant or flower bloom with beauty. She also loved browsing and haggling at yard sales, always ensuring she left with the very best deal, whether she needed it or not. Known for her vibrant, spunky, classy, and sophisticated personality, she brought joy wherever she went. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, as well as a faithful sister and aunt, who always provided for her family and made sure her children never went without. Most of all, Carolyn cherished making memories with her loved ones, investing in their lives and caring for everyone she met. And, while she welcomed many into her home, she made one thing clear: *Don't you dare park in her parking spot!* She was truly one of a kind and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her parents; granddaughter, Maegan Crockett; sisters and brothers, Bernice Portier, Pat Dickens Jr., Annette Moore, Curtis Dickens and Dean Smith.

She is survived by her loving husband Joe Sapp of Starke; children, Mark (Danette) Kurimay of Keystone Heights; Michelle Muse of Inverness; Craig (Lynne) Kurimay of Franklin, North Carolina; and Kimberly Crockett of Starke; along with eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Aug. 30, at 11 a.m. at Madison Street Baptist Church, with Pastor Richard Cason and Pastor Charles Warren officiating. The family will receive friends an hour prior at the church. Interment will follow at Conner Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

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



Bradford County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Glenn Ward (left) receives the award for being Florida's 2024 Drug Recognition Expert of the Year.

Ward is Florida's DRE of the Year

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

If a driver is impaired by alcohol, it's pretty easy for a law-enforcement officer to determine that, but what if the driver is being affected by something other than alcohol?

That's not so easy, but Bradford County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Glenn Ward has gone through rigorous training to be able to do just that. He is the office's first-ever drug recognition expert and was recently recognized as the Florida Drug Evaluation and Classification Program's 2024 DRE of the Year.

The award was presented as part of the 25th annual Florida Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Challenge in Orlando in July.

"It shows he's doing his job exceedingly well," Sheriff Gordon Smith said.

Ward, who also earned an award for impaired-driving enforcement last year, said being named the state's DRE of the Year is a credit to the deputies who perform road stops.

"I couldn't have gotten this without they guys," Ward said. "You know why? They find them. They do a DUI. Then I go to do the DRE on them."

Ward said the sheriff and his administration also deserve credit for "supporting the stuff that is a little bit out of the ordinary."

DREs certainly aren't ordinary. Ward said Florida has 93,000 law-enforcement officers. Only 350 are DREs. Data compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2019 revealed that Florida had the fourth highest number of DREs after California, Texas and New Jersey.

DREs aren't confined just to the U.S.

"The thing about this certification that I have is it's international," Ward said, adding, "I could go to England and be a DRE."

Worldwide, less than 1 percent of law-enforcement officers are DREs, Ward said.

If one wants to become a DRE, he or she certainly has to be fully

committed because it's a difficult process.

"It's quite the challenge to get certified in that," Smith said.

First, someone interested in going through DRE training has to be accepted. Ward said it's not like most certifications where you just sign up and go.

Ward said he had to take an online pre-course and then attend a two-day in-person phase. The second day of the in-person session included an exam. DRE candidates have to pass that exam to continue.

Following that is seven days of instruction, with DRE hopefuls studying from a 35-chapter book. Ward said there are several "exit points" along the way, where failure results in the end of a person's continuation with the program.

Ward said a main test is taken at the end of the seven days. If you don't pass, you get one chance at a retake. If you fail that, you're done with the program.

The main test is followed by two days of practical experience at a clinic in Jacksonville, evaluating people who are on drugs or alcohol.

DREs learn seven drug categories: central nervous system depressants, central nervous system stimulants, hallucinogens, dissociative anesthetics, narcotic analgesics, inhalants and cannabis.

Ward said candidates have to be at least 85-percent accurate in their evaluations to continue with the DRE program.

Those who continue then have five months to ready themselves to take a final-knowledge exam.

"There are five parts," Ward said, adding that one has to score 98 percent to pass. This exam has no retakes.

"The test took me nine hours," Ward said. "They give you up to 12 hours to take it. The minimum that somebody's completed it, I think they said, was five hours."

All in all, the total process of getting certified took Ward nine months. He completed the training in September 2024.

"He was stressed," Smith said. "He was like, 'Boss, I've never done anything this hard.'"

In evaluating impaired drivers, Ward, as a DRE, has to go through a 12-step process, which includes such things as interviewing both the suspect and the deputy involved, conducting a breath-alcohol test, taking multiple pulse readings as well as a blood-pressure reading and examining the eyes.

"Your eyes can pretty much tell me everything," Ward said. "They'll give me an idea of what you're on."

After examination, Ward will put together a detailed report that can take him several hours. The report has to be uploaded to a national data base and approved by a DRE instructor.

"They're trying to track all this," Smith said. "What is really creating most of the traffic crashes on our highways?"

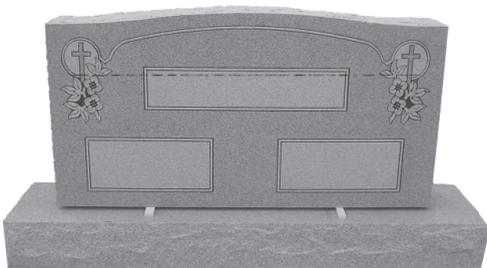
Ward said becoming a DRE has also benefitted the sheriff's office with additional funding via grants he's applied for. Some of that funding has been used to pay for overtime as the office has put additional deputies on the road.

"It's two-fold for us," Ward

See WARD, page 13

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BHS D shines in 24-0 win over Baker

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School shut out visiting Baker County for the fourth time in six games and created three turnovers in defeating the visiting Wildcats 24-0 on Aug. 22 to open the varsity football season.

The Tornadoes, who travel to play Dunnellon on Friday, Aug. 29, at 7:30 p.m., held Baker to 10 rushing yards and 96 yards overall, with approximately half of that total yardage occurring on the Wildcats' final two drives of the game. Six of Baker's nine possessions went three plays or less.

"I thought we were going to be pretty good on defense when we went down to Cocoa, and we made it really tough for them to score points and had a couple of goal-line stands at their place," Rodgers said, alluding to the 16-7 preseason loss to the three-time defending state champs on Aug. 15. "Our kids played extremely hard (against Cocoa), and they did it again tonight."

Bradford is now 6-0 in the big rivalry game under Rodgers, with four of those games being the teams' season opener.

"Rivalry games — we've seen it," Rodgers said. "Florida-Georgia, Florida State-Florida, Georgia-Auburn — anytime there's this kind of game, anything can happen. You've just got to hope you can focus your way through it and get the job done."

"We were really focused on defense tonight."

That focus was there at the start, with Jackson Parmeter making a tackle for no gain on the Wildcats' opening series, which also included a 7-yard sack by Cohen Cioffi.

Conversely, Baker's defense was also making it tough for the Bradford offense. The Tornadoes' first offensive play was an interception by the 'Cats' Rhett Rhoden, while Bradford's second series ended the same way, with Bryan Tyson intercepting a tipped pass.

Rodgers said Baker's defense was focused on taking the pass away and giving the Tornadoes opportunities in the run game. Bradford took advantage of that, rushing for 224 yards. Iyen Addison had 104 yards on 19 carries, while Keshawn Kennedy had 78 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries.

"When we didn't have holding penalties, we were rocking along — just chunk, chunk, chunk going down the field," Rodgers said of his run game. "That's



Cohen Cioffi (left) grabs hold of Baker County quarterback Hudson Register, leading to a first-quarter sack.



Keshawn Kennedy (right) carries the ball past Baker County's Anthony Williams.

what it's supposed to look like."

The Tornadoes drove inside the red zone on their third drive, with Kennedy carrying the ball five times for 28 yards and Addison gaining 12 yards on three carries. Quarterback Cy Cubbedge, who was able to draw the Wildcats offsidess twice on the series, also had an 8-yard scramble as Bradford drove from its 20 to the Baker 17. A third-and-1 play from there, however, resulted in a fumble, which Cubbedge fell on for a 4-yard loss. The Tornadoes went for it on fourth-and-5 from the 21, turning the ball over when Jy'Quez Cason was held to a 2-yard gain.

Bradford cashed in on its next possession, which began at the Baker 43-yard line. Kennedy ran through several tacklers as he gained 17 yards on a third-and-9 play to give the Tornadoes a first down at the 25. Kennedy

followed that up with a 13-yard run to the 12. Two straight carries by Addison moved the Tornadoes to the 2-yard line. Cason scored on a run from there at the 6:31 mark of the second quarter. Tyler Sapp kicked the extra point to make it 7-0.

Baker quarterback Hudson Register injected some life into his team's offense on the following series with consecutive runs of 20 and 11 yards as the Wildcats drove to the Bradford 44. After a 3-yard run and an incomplete pass, Register kept the ball for a 4-yard gain. Baker went for it on fourth-and-3, with Register getting dumped for a 2-yard loss.

That gave the Bradford offense the ball at its own 39 with 1:51 remaining in the first half. After a 5-yard run by Addison, Cubbedge found Kamontae Nixon across the middle for what would be a

56-yard touchdown pass, but a holding penalty brought the play back. A 12-yard reception by Jordan Cason and a penalty gave the Tornadoes a first down at the Baker 49. Addison then had an 11-yard run, but another holding penalty backed Bradford up to the Baker 48-yard line.

Jordan Cason, who finished with 52 yards on four receptions, caught a pass for a 23-yard gain, setting Bradford up at the 25-yard line with 0.8 seconds on the clock. Sapp kicked a 42-yard field goal to send the Tornadoes into halftime leading 10-0.

Baker's second series of the second half ended with Jordan Cason causing and recovering a fumble. That led to a 54-yard scoring drive by Bradford. The Tornadoes picked up a first down when Cubbedge was able to get the Wildcats to jump offsidess again and then overcame a holding penalty on four straight runs. Addison had two runs for 15 yards, while a 2-yard run by Jarrell Harris set up fourth-and-3. Kennedy got the ball and bulled through several defenders to pick up a first down at the Baker 29.

The drive continued with Cubbedge throwing a 13-yard pass to Jordan Cason. After Addison carried the ball for a 4-yard gain, Elijah Lawrence caught a pass behind the line of scrimmage, eluded a tackler and scampered into the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown. Sapp added the PAT for a 17-0 lead with 2:36 to play in the third quarter.

It didn't take Bradford long to get the ball back. The Wildcats ran two plays following Lawrence's score, with the second being a pass picked off by the Tornadoes' Montrez Aldridge, giving Bradford's offense the ball at the Baker 33.

Cubbedge scrambled away from pressure and picked up 12 yards on a run to the 21. Kennedy then had runs of 8 and 6 yards. The Wildcats were penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct following Kennedy's second run, resulting in first-and-goal at the 3. Kennedy eventually scored on a 1-yard touchdown run six seconds into the fourth quarter. Sapp ended his perfect night with his third extra point, capping the scoring at 24-0.

The Tornadoes put heavy pressure on Register on the Wildcats' final two series, with P.J. Lee making two sacks for a total loss of 17 yards and Nate Raymond getting a sack for a 19-yard loss.

Raymond's sack had Baker facing second-and-39 from its own 40 on the Wildcats' final drive. Parmeter made a tackle for a 2-yard loss on a pass play and then intercepted a pass tipped by Jordan Cason. Parmeter returned the interception 55 yards to the Baker 10-yard line.

Cubbedge attempted to throw a pass to Nixon in the end zone on the following play, which was incomplete. Cubbedge, who went 6 of 17 for 75 yards, then took a knee to end the game.

Class 2A Bradford now starts what appears to be a brutal three-game road stretch, beginning with going to Class 3A Dunnellon and then playing games at Class 3A South Sumter and Class 6A Jacksonville Mandarin. Rodgers expects all three to be top-five teams in their respective classes. "There are no gimmes for us," Rodgers said.

Dunnellon opened its season with a 17-14 loss to Class 2A Florida High. Despite the loss, the Tigers amassed 353 yards, with Tony Tanner rushing for 174 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries and quarterback Dylan Curry completing 14 of 26 passes for 136 yards and a touchdown.

The Tigers' defense allowed Florida High to gain 109 yards rushing and 168 yards passing.

Bradford hosted Dunnellon in 2024, winning 29-14.



Natwon Richardson (foreground) takes down Yulee receiver Jayden Bishop.

Tigers drop season opener 21-6 to Yulee

BY LISA HOLTZENDORF
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

A fumble and a safety helped visiting Yulee score 14 points and hand the Union County High School football team a season-opening 21-6 loss on Aug. 22.

Union Interim Head Coach Lamar Waters praised his team for playing hard and not giving up against the Class 3A Hornets. He gave kudos to his defense for creating turnovers and said a young offense will only improve.

"We had some good plays and just need to get better," Waters said.

The coach told his players that the work must continue, and the focus has to shift to the next game, which will take place Friday, Aug. 29, at home against Class 2A Keystone Heights (0-1) at 7:30 p.m.

Jeffrey Brugh, C.J. Ivey, Rhett Prevatt and Keegan Shuler were the Tigers' captains for the coin toss, which Union won. The Tigers elected to receive the opening kickoff, which Alec McClellon took to the Union 30-yard line.

Despite a decent gain of 5-yards on a quarterback keeper by Brugh, the Tigers were forced to punt after a fumble on third down hurt their efforts. Bryce Lawton punted, with Yulee beginning its first possession at its own 39.

Yulee running back Jayden Timmon, who terrorized the Union defense all night, earned a first down on his first carry. The Tigers later had the Hornets facing third-and-10, but quarterback Tre Vazquez broke free on a scramble and picked up the first down. Union got a huge break when a fumble was recovered by Erick Lasseter, putting a stop to the drive.

The Tigers' next drive was their longest of the first quarter. Brugh connected with running back Drew Simmons on a first-down play, followed by two good runs by Ivey. A third-and-1 play saw Simmons take a pitch and break the Tigers into Yulee territory for a first down at the Hornets' 48-yard line. Brugh had a big-yardage gain on a keeper on third-and-9. That was followed by another good run by Simmons, who went around left end for another first down.

Union's promising drive, though, stalled in the opening minutes of the second quarter. The Tigers turned the ball over on downs at the Yulee 19-yard line.

Yulee's offense didn't waste any time going to work, with Timmon chipping away at the defense. The Hornets earned three first downs before Timmon broke free for a 41-yard touchdown run on a third-down play. Yulee's PAT was good, making the score 7-0 with 5:05 left in the second quarter.

If the Tigers needed motivation, the Yulee touchdown breathed some fire into them.

McClellon returned the Hornets' kickoff to his own 39-yard line. Three plays later, Brugh connected with Simmons for a 74-yard touchdown that made it a 7-6 game with three minutes remaining in the first half. The extra point was no good.

Union got a break when the Hornets were flagged for holding on the following kickoff, backing Yulee up to its own 20. Despite earning a first down on a run by Corbin Fletcher, the Hornets would throw three incomplete passes that forced them to punt.

The closing seconds of the half proved to be exciting if you were a Yulee fan. The Tigers, lining up to punt, tried some trickery with a direct snap to Landon Cason. Cason, though, was stopped of gaining a first down. Yulee's offense took over at the Union 46 and went to work with mere seconds on the clock. Vazquez connected with Fletcher on a 31-yard touchdown pass as time expired, putting the Hornets up 13-6. The PAT was no good.

Yulee had a big kickoff return to open the second half, starting a drive 2 yards shy of midfield. A penalty on a fourth-down play kept the Hornets' drive alive, but the Union defense dug in its heels. Big stops by Edward Durant, Wyatt Elixson and A.J. Rivera gave the ball to the Union offense at its own 38-yard line. A second-down fumble, however, gave the ball right back to the Hornets at the Union 25.

The Hornets converted on a fourth-and-1 play, but the Tigers responded on defense, with Lasseter recovering his second fumble of the game.

Union's offense couldn't capitalize on the following series and lined up to punt. Unfortunately, the punter's knee touched the ground in the end zone, resulting in a safety that put Yulee ahead 15-6.

Yulee cashed in on the Tigers' free kick following the safety when Vazquez threw a touchdown pass to Fletcher on fourth-and-long. That capped the scoring at the 10:41 mark of the fourth quarter as the extra point was no good.

Union's offense couldn't get anything going but the defense did come up with some big plays. Durant recovered a fumble on one Yulee series and had a 12-yard sack on another series.

The Tigers finished the game with only 52 rushing yards on 22 attempts, while Brugh completed 4 of 11 passes for 94 yards.

Yulee gained 221 yards (151 rushing, 70 passing).

The Rural Class Tigers play up in class again when they host the Keystone Heights Indians, but a young Indians team is struggling to start the season, having lost 42-0 in the preseason to Ridgeview and then 36-0 to Interlachen in their season opener.

Last season's matchup between Union and Keystone was a 35-0 win for the Tigers.

KHHS falls 36-0 to Rams

BY MELANIE CRABTREE
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Interlachen running back Raszir Phelps scored three touchdowns as the visiting Rams defeated the Keystone Heights High School football team 36-0 in the 2025 season opener on Aug. 22.

Rams quarterback Ben Aguayo threw a touchdown to Garret Riddle, who notched another TD from a scoop-and-score off a failed Keystone punt. Those scores, plus two of Phelps' touchdowns, gave Interlachen a 28-0 lead at halftime.

Phelps ran for an additional touchdown in the second half.

D.J. McKennon ran for two-point conversions following three of the Rams' touchdowns.

Keystone Coach Steve Reynolds said the team played their hearts out, while also mentioning "we will do better as coaches to make sure our team is better prepared for the game."

The Indians fielded a squad mostly of freshmen and sophomores, putting them at a disadvantage in terms of size and experience.



Keystone's Tallon Lybarger (far left) chases down Interlachen running back Raszir Phelps. Lybarger and Hunter Crompton led the Indian defense with four tackles each.

Hunter Crompton led the Indians in rushing with 89 yards on 24 carries. Trase Wooden ran for 13 on five carries.

Crompton also led the defense, along with Tallon Lybarger, both of whom had four tackles. Michael Gamble, De'shawn Williams, Luke Bacorn, Pete Bostic and Clay Ross had three tackles each.

Ryder Thomas racked up a total of 156 punting yards off of his five attempts for a 31.2-yard average.

Keystone travels to Lake Butler to play Union County on Friday, Aug. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Union is coming off a 21-6 loss to Yulee.

In last season's meeting, the Tigers defeated the Indians 35-0.

by alcohol, caused a crash that killed a father of three before Christmas.

"I just felt it was my thing, that I needed to make it up to those kids because they grew up without a dad," Ward said, adding, "It's been a mission for me."

Ward said he's conducted nine DRE evaluations this year, which he described as "a lot."

"One the average, you do maybe six or seven a year," he said.

Still, being recognized as the Florida Drug Evaluation and Classification Program's 2024 DRE of the Year was something he never would've imagined.

"I was very shocked that I won this," he said.

WARD

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said. "Not only are we getting people off the road who are impaired, we're putting out that presence, which also deters crime."

Ward is passionate about helping to combat impaired driving. His father, impaired

NCA volleyball schedule

Aug. 28

—Varsity volleyball, home vs. Brunswick Christian, 5 p.m.

Aug. 29

—Varsity volleyball, home vs. Crossroads Christian, 5 p.m.

Sept. 2

—Varsity volleyball, home vs. First Assembly, 5:30 p.m.

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Former Tornado Williams named to 3 watchlists for defensive-player awards

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Junior Iowa State University cornerback Jontez Williams continues to get preseason recognition, with his name being placed on three watchlists for defensive-player awards.

The 2022 Bradford High School graduate is on the watchlists for the Bronko Nagurski Award, which is presented to the top defensive back, the Chuck Bednarik Award, which is presented to the outstanding defensive player, and the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, which is presented to the best defensive back (based on on-field performance, athletic ability and character).



Jontez Williams has been named to the watchlists for three defensive-player awards as he looks to build on his 2024 sophomore season in which he was a second-team All-Big 12 selection. Photo provided courtesy of Iowa State Athletics.

Williams, who led Iowa State with four interceptions last season, has also been named to the Preseason All-Big 12 Conference Team as well as being named a Third-Team All-American by football writer Phil Steele. The 5-11, 200-pound defensive back is coming off a season in which he received second-team All-Big 12 and Associated Press All-Big 12 honors.

The Bronko Nagurski, Chuck Bednarik and Paycom Jim Thorpe award winners will be announced in December. Last season's winners were South Carolina defensive end Kyle Kennard (Bronko Nagurski), Colorado defensive back Travis Hunter (Chuck Bednarik) and Texas defensive back Jahdae Barron (Paycom Jim Thorpe).

VOLLEY

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high three blocks.

Other results

Keystone's win over Bradford was its second straight after the Indians opened the season with a 3-2 (25-22, 25-19, 19-25, 22-25, 15-6) win over visiting Crescent City on Aug. 19.

Marquart recorded 31 assists to go along with six aces. Massey had eight aces, six kills and six digs.

The Indians got 15 kills from Rivera, three blocks from Chester and 10 digs from Blank. Cumbo had nine digs.

Keystone dropped two straight matches in an Aug. 23 tournament at Newberry, losing 3-1 (31-29, 22-25, 25-23, 26-24) to host Newberry on Aug. 23 and 3-2 (25-13, 25-21, 19-25, 18-25, 15-12) to Suwannee.

Bradford dropped its second straight match after opening the season with a 3-1 (25-21, 16-25, 25-15, 25-9) loss at Union County on Aug. 19.

The Indians (2-2) travel to play Columbia on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 6:30 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 5:30 p.m. Keystone then hosts Union County on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. (JV match at 6 p.m.) before traveling to play Baker County on Tuesday, Sept. 2, with matches set for 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Bradford played Baker County this past Monday and will host Palatka on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m., following a JV match at 6 p.m. The Tornados then travel to play Hawthorne on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, Sept. 3, Bradford hosts Newberry at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



Keystone's Mackenzie Castlevecchi (left) attempts to push the ball past Bradford's Ky'lee Johnson. Keystone's Kaleigh Marquart is also pictured.



Autumn DeKorver (right) prepares for an attack opportunity off a set by Kingslee Phillips. Leila Roberts is also pictured (background).

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UCHS

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Simmons and a kill from Smith to keep it close early in the fourth set, but Lafayette began to pull away. The Hornets built a 19-9 lead before scoring four straight points to make it a 23-9 game. Kills on consecutive plays by

Sophia Kendrick and Johnson ended the match in Lafayette's favor.

The Tigers followed up the loss with their first win of the season, defeating visiting Bradford 3-1 (25-21, 16-25, 25-15, 25-9) on Aug. 19. Union then traveled to Suwannee on Aug. 21, losing 3-2 (22-25, 25-22, 25-21, 24-26, 15-13).

Union, which played Williston on Aug. 25 and Baker County on Aug. 26, will next travel to play Keystone Heights on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 6 p.m. The Tigers then travel to play Newberry on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



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