

Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 7th Issue — \$1

Commercial filmed at KH Beach

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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A production crew filmed a dog medication commercial at Keystone Beach during the early morning hours of Wednesday, August 21.

Dozens of crew and cast members filled the parking lot of the beach park while producing the commercial.

Clay County Tourism Director Kimberly Morgan said a site selector contacted her about the project, asking for locations near water. She said she gave the site selector several options, and the caller reached an agreement with the City of Keystone Heights based on calendar availability.

The tourism director added that over the last two weeks, she has received three inquiries about production companies filming in the county. One was for a music video, and the other two were from local independent filmmakers seeking to sell content to streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime.



Crew members prepare for the final shot in a television commercial produced at Keystone Beach on Aug. 21.



WORTH NOTING

Correction

Last week's election reporting stated there will be a runoff for the county commission seat in Union County, but that was incorrect. Melissa Dukes McNeal won the universal primary with 37.05% of the vote — no runoff necessary.

In a separate story, Starke Commissioner Andy Redding's name was misspelled as Larry Davis, a former commissioner.

We apologize for the errors.

Collection site closings

All Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, for the Labor Day holiday and will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 10 a.m.

Soil and water conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

The impacts of the Tropical Storm Debby. If people have images of flooding or erosion please email them to Paul Still. You can also contact Still for a site visit. It is important to identify conditions that can contribute to flooding and erosion before the next significant rain event.

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

Church of God food distributions

Starke Church of God by Faith is distributing food on Thursday, Sept. 5 and 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the church, 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. This is a drive-thru giveaway.

Starke splitting manager duties between two jobs

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke is formally splitting city management between two positions, one which will oversee public works and the other finance and general government.

The first reading of the ordinance passed last week designates the roles as general manager and chief administrative officer.

City officials say the ordinance — which significantly amends the previous city manager ordinance — describes how the city has been run for several years.

It reflects how City Manager Drew Mullins and Jimmy Crosby, former city clerk, cooperated all along. That partnership continued after Crosby resigned as clerk and Mullins hired him as operations director.

Once finalized, however, the second administrative position would

no longer answer to the manager. Both the general manager and chief administrative officer would be appointed by the commission, working under separate contracts.

As described by the ordinance, Mullins' current duties are those assigned to the general manager, while Crosby's are assigned to the chief administrative officer. The one exception is finance, which the commission recently assigned to the city manager. The ordinance reverses that, placing finance under the chief administrative officer.

Both appointees will be responsible for preparing a budget, however — one for public works and one for general government.

According to Mayor Scott Roberts, the ordinance is a recognition that what Starke has been doing has been working.

In addition to finance, the chief administrative officer will oversee

matters of economic development, including private, public and partnership projects like City Walk downtown, as they work their way from concept to realization.

"We've got so much going on, one person can't do it," said Mullins, who has multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects of his own in the utility departments. "I felt like I was being pulled in 16 different directions."

The segregation of responsibilities was natural, as Mullins came to the city with experience in utilities as a town manager. The full title in the ordinance is general manager of public works, which includes preparing and sticking to a budget, carrying out short- and long-term plans, advising the commission and department heads, communicating with the commission, staff and the public, human resources for the public works departments, etc.

The chief administrative officer will carry out the same duties on the

general government side of the house. Both jobs share the qualifications of education and experience required for employment as well as required residency within the county. Both will serve at the pleasure of the commission, which will appoint, remove and decide compensation for these positions.

"This is the perfect reasoning behind it. Look what has been done in three years — and we've been operating this way — and look what happened the previous 20 years," Mullins said, listing millions in revenue obtained for infrastructure and revitalization within the city. "This obviously has worked. And it's not just about personalities either. It just makes sense."

Crosby, whose appointment as chief administrative officer is not automatic but presumptive, agrees.

See **MANAGE**, page 2

Melrose Post Office named for fallen letter carrier

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Officials with the U.S. Postal Service named the Melrose Post Office in honor of a letter carrier who was killed in a dog attack two years ago.

Five dogs attacked Pamela Jane Rock after her vehicle broke down near Interlachen on Aug. 21, 2022.

A resident stopped the attack by firing a weapon into the ground and scaring the canines away. Rock was flown to UF Health Shands in Gainesville, where she died.



Pamela Rock in a U.S. postal Service vehicle.

No prosecution, new law proposed

Following Rock's death, State Attorney R.J. Larizza declined to prosecute the owner of the canines after an investigation concluded that the dogs' owner tried to surrender the animals twice, including 10 days before the attack.

The report stated that before the fatal incident, at least one of the dogs attacked a 50-year-old man, sending

him to the hospital, and charged a woman's car, damaging the vehicle.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office recommended a misdemeanor charge for the owner of the five dogs, but Larizza's office declined, citing the owner's efforts to repair the fence that restrained the animals and his attempts to surrender the canines to animal control.

The attack also prompted State Rep. Bobby Payne to sponsor a bill in the Florida House that would have required the Department of Agriculture to maintain a dangerous dog registry. The new database would have allowed residents to look up dogs declared dangerous by local authorities. However, Payne's bill died in committee.

A servant's heart

Rock was the youngest of 14 children, and during the Monday, August 26 ceremony in Melrose, eight of her siblings paid tribute to their baby sister.

"It was definitely a tragic loss," said Maria Rock-Risse. "She didn't have a family of her own. However, she made all her siblings her family, attending any events she was invited to."

Rock-Risse said her sister had a servant's heart.

"She worked with the community both in Melrose and in Gainesville," the ninth Rock sibling said. "She was a WIC nutritionist, working with the families that needed education, nutritional-wise, both in Gainesville, Georgia, and North Carolina."

Rock-Risse added that Pam also taught nutrition on an Indian reservation near Yellowstone National Park.

"She actually saw the (job) opening to be a postal worker, and she thought

See **FALLEN**, page 5

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MANAGE
Continued from page 1

“It’s not totally unique from what some other towns have done, but it is different in that we do not pay for an additional city manager to sit on top of the two

areas that are usually functional in any city,” Crosby said.

Having finance under someone other than the manager allows for better checks and balances on expenditures, he said, comparing them to the CEO and CFO of a corporation.

They may be playing on

separate courts within city hall, but Crosby made it clear they are still on the same team with the same objective, and what each does supports the other. A lot of the funding the chief administrative officer will pursue will help fund infrastructure improvements and extensions

that will in turn support economic development.

While duties over finance have been removed from the city clerk, it remains an elected position in the city, albeit a vacant one. A referendum next year may ask voters if it should be removed from the city charter as one of the elected offices. Unlike the police chief — now a position without a department not indicated it would be eliminating the clerk’s office, which remains

responsible for billing, record keeping, etc. A voter-approved change in the charter would make the clerk another appointed position.

The commission designated the police chief a ceremonial position with a \$1 salary this year when law enforcement was turned over to the sheriff. A November referendum will ask voters if it should be removed from the charter altogether.

Market at Melrose

The Market at Melrose Farmers and Crafts Sale takes place the second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mossman Hall in Melrose, 310 S.R. 26. The market features local artists, homemade crafts, one-of-a-kind gifts, a farmers market, plants and animals.

To become a vendor, reach out to “Grumpa Curtis” on Facebook.



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THANK YOU

After winning the election for County Commissioner for District 5, I wanted to first thank Jesus Christ my savior, for giving me the strength, and his will for me to succeed and serve this county for four more years. I want to thank my Husband for his constant love and support, as well as my family who stood and held signs in the grueling heat for hours, for the numerous friends who helped to contact voters and ask for their support, Sheriff Gordan Smith for his support and help with retrieving the final count, my opponent Brain Outlaw for running a clean race, for the voters who voted for me and put their trust in me to do what is right for this county, I know I could not have made it without all of you! I am greatly humbled and deeply appreciate everything you did to help me!

As I look to the next four years I am fully aware of the problems that we are facing as a county and the need for answers. The way we have handled our problems in the past, should be left in the past, it is time for new measures, new ideas and a spirit of commitment to excellence. I am reminded of a quote from Vince Lombardi, “Excellence must be pursued, it must be wooed with all of one’s might and every bit of effort that we have, each day there’s a new encounter, each week is a new Challenge. All of the noise and all of the glamour, all of the color, all of the excitement, all of the rings and all of the money. These are the things that linger only in memory. But the spirit, the will to excel, the will to win, these are the things that endure.” We as the Board of County Commissioners must commit ourselves to excel in the decisions that we make for this county. We must be transparent and work with our Citizens to find solutions and new methods to old problems. We must have a sense of trust with everyone we work with in order for us to succeed in making this county function the way it should.

We have great needs in our county, citizens who need our help and they are looking to us for answers. We must learn to not only listen, but without fail we must learn to care about their wellbeing, or we should remove ourselves from this board. I understand that there are things that we by law are unable to do, and I ask our citizens to understand our limitations, however, when we do have an opportunity to help the ones we can, I would hope that every Commissioner will make a commitment to do just that, lend a hand and help our constituents!

I am praying for changes that will bring about success in our community, for all five of us to strive for excellence, working together with the entire County to bring transparency, teamwork and success to long overdue problems. Thank you again for your support and I commit myself to do my best by starting this next term off striving for excellence!
God bless each of you and your families!

-Diane Andrews
County Commissioner, Bradford County
District 5

Paid by Diane Andrews, Republican, Bradford County Commissioner District 5

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No truck for road department

Union commissioners struggle with 2025 budget deficit

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Union County commissioners turned down a request from their road department for a new truck during an August 26 workshop and continued to look for cuts to reduce a projected 2024-2025 budget deficit of between \$1.5 million and \$1.9 million.

Commissioner Mac Johns reminded his colleagues that during a previous meeting, Road Superintendent Chris Griffis stressed the need for a service truck.

"We gave our blessing," said Johns of the previous meeting. "He got his three quotes from Jacksonville and the surrounding areas on the state contract. All of them were six to nine months out."

The commissioner added that Murray Ford in Starke had a truck in stock which met the county's requirements.

Clerk and Comptroller Kellie Rhoades said that of the road department's original \$80,000 equipment budget, a little over \$70,000 remained, which was more than adequate to cover the new truck's \$60,000 purchase price.

However, Commissioner Donna Jackson, citing the impact of the purchase on the end-of-year fund balance and a projected budget deficit for 2024-2025 of up to \$1.9 million, argued that if the commission approved the acquisition, it should reduce the road department's equipment budget for the following year.

Griffis said he also needed to replace a \$100,000 tractor, likely in the 2024-2025 year.

"The tractor is going to be a must," added Commissioner Jimmy Tallman. "Can't do without one. That one goes down pretty frequently as well."

County Coordinator Jimmy

Williams told the board he would confer with Griffis about alternatives to the truck and tractor buys and come back to the board with options during their next meeting.

Rhoades told the board that the latest state revenue estimate reduced the county's projected 2024-2025 revenues by \$18,000. She added that next year's spending plan will reduce a forecasted \$3 million September 30, 2024, fund balance to \$2.2 million the following September. That is nearly \$600,000 below the county's target fund balance, based on two-and-a-half months of revenue.

The clerk blamed the 2024-2025 deficit on salary increases and inflation, even though the budget caps 2024-2025 raises at three percent.

During the meeting, commissioners also approved a recommendation from Emergency Medical Services Director Toby Witt to keep a third ambulance available on the weekends in addition to the two



Commissioners Donna Jackson and Mac Johns.

currently on call.

Chair Channing Dobbs noted that the 2024-2025 budget will keep the EMS service level the same as the current year.

Jackson added that while county residents want increases in service levels, they fail to see the price tag associated with those increases.

"There are two things people want when they pick up that

phone," she said. "They want a rescue and a law enforcement officer. I understand that, but when you start asking them, well do you want to pay for that? Do you want to increase what you're paying in taxes? And then they start thinking you're getting personal with them."

Tallman said he saw little hope in reaching the September 30, 2025, target fund balance.

Williams said he would meet with his department heads to discuss further cuts, and Dobbs requested that constitutional officers meet with commissioners to discuss their budget requests.

The board scheduled a special meeting for September 3 to further discuss the budget.

Union commissioners eye tournaments to support rec programs

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County commissioners instructed its recreation board to move forward with a proposal that could bring six softball tournaments to county-owned fields and raise between \$60,000 to \$100,000 a year for its recreation department.

Former Edward Waters University softball coach Billy Rodgers told commissioners that his sports agency, All Sports Management, has been running softball tournaments around the country for eight years, and now that he lives in the area, he wants to use his company's resources to help Union County's recreation department.

He told commissioners that his company helps high school athletes transition to college sports.

"We also do clinics for kids anywhere from 35 kids to 300 kids," he added. "Some of them are actually where I'll bring in 30, 40, 50 college coaches, and they're actually there recruiting during that camp time to try to find players."

Rodgers told commissioners that, with his tournament management experience, he can accurately predict tournament revenues and expenses. He added that a two-day event with 24 to 36 teams would net \$20,000. He proposed splitting the profits 50/50 with the county, provided that the county provided the fields.



Former Edward Waters University softball coach Billy Rodgers told Union County commissioners that his sports agency, All Sports Management, could generate between \$60,000 and \$100,000 a year by running softball tournaments at county-owned fields, helping to support the county's recreation department.

Rodgers claimed his conservative estimate could reach \$100,000 yearly in revenue for the county's recreation department.

"Probably not in Year 1 because we're going to have to work the bugs out," Rodgers added. "Not a lot of hotels, places to stay and stuff like that around here. We all know that. Right? So, there are challenges in bringing teams into where it grows, but I've done it in other places where they still come."

Clerk and Comptroller Kellie Rhoades said that the county's general fund currently allocates between \$100,000 and \$120,000 a year to recreation, and Rodgers's plan would significantly reduce that amount.

Commissioner Jimmy Tallman

said he liked the proposal because it requires no upfront capital investment. The only drawback is that it would require coordination with the recreation

board and the extension office, which uses the agriculture building near the sports complex.

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In these last days it is so important for us to have fellowship with people of "like precious faith", people who believe in and fear the Lord, people who believe the Bible and embrace the truths of God's Holy Word. I believe the Bible teaches that we who are born-again Christians should have a home church, a pastor, a spiritual family. I know many people have been disappointed with pastors and church leadership and have even been hurt and wounded by other Christians. I just want to point out that our past experiences haven't changed and never will change the Word of God. God has never failed us and Jesus has never changed. "He's the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8). The Holy Spirit lives in us to help us, heal us, lead and guide us, and if we will follow His leadership He will lead us right into a local church that teaches the Bible and a pastor that preaches messages that train, reprove, rebuke, exhort and makes true disciples of Christ, not just words that tickle our ears or appeases our flesh. I recently looked at a poll that was taken concerning church attendance in America and this was the results recorded: U.S. Adults - 30% attend church regularly (once per week).

Church attendance does not save us or get us a ticket into heaven, but it is coming together with people of like precious faith and submitting to an under shepherd, a pastor. Church attendance is NOT a requirement to be Born-Again but as stated previously, if you'll ask the Holy Spirit. He will lead you to a church. In Hebrews 10:24-25 we read - "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near." I came across an article recently where the Great Evangelist Billy Graham made a comment concerning being a Christian and attending church, the quote is as follows: "Can you be a true Christian and yet not have anything to do with a church? The answer is Yes... and no! Let me explain. Yes, it is true that God looks on us as individuals, and we are saved solely by trusting Christ as our Lord and Savior. In other words, church membership won't save us; we are saved by our faith in Christ. But when we come to Christ, we become part of a family, the family of God. And God wills for us to join with other believers to worship and serve Him. We need the fellowship of other believers and they need us. We also need to hear God's Word as it is preached and taught. Our attitude should be that of the Psalmist: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1) Hope to see you in church Sunday. Blessings!

U.S. Protestants/Christians/Evangelicals - 40%. This should be very disappointing to all pastors and Christians. The Bible encourages church attendance, training, discipleship, and the necessity of it.

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Bradford County lands economic development grant

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Bradford County officials said the county has been approved for a \$75,000 Competitive Florida Partnership Grant. The county said the award represents the maximum project potential and will be instrumental in advancing the county's economic development initiatives.

In a news release, the county said the grant will enable Bradford County to develop and implement a comprehensive economic development strategic plan focused on sustainable growth within the county and the broader region.

"The funding will be allocated towards several key initiatives, including the creation of the strategic plan, the execution of

targeted marketing strategies, and the facilitation of community engagement efforts, the county said. "This plan is designed to position Bradford County as an attractive destination for business expansion and investment, ultimately driving long-term economic prosperity for both residents and local businesses."

Amber Shepherd, the strategic business partner of the Northeast

Florida Economic Development Corporation, said the corporation would be the county's primary contractor in implementing the grant. She added that while 40% of business relocations or new investments come from professional site selectors, the county needs a marketing and outreach program for the other 60%.

County Manager Scott

Kornegay said the grant and the county's economic development efforts would ultimately improve the lives of Bradford County residents.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support from the CPTA Grant program," he said. "This funding will allow us to fully leverage our county's potential, creating new opportunities for economic development and

ensuring that Bradford County remains a vibrant and thriving community. We are greatly looking forward to working with Northeast Florida Economic Development Corporation to develop a comprehensive economic development strategic plan that will guide our efforts in fostering sustainable growth and enhancing the quality of life for our residents."

Starke grant for downtown vision

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The city of Starke was one of 25 recipients of economic development awards announced last week.

FloridaCommerce divvied up more than \$1.5 million through the Community Planning Technical Assistance and Competitive Florida Partnership programs between 25 Florida communities, including 20 small and rural communities, to foster job creation and growth.

Of that amount, Starke received \$58,500 to envision a plan for downtown that would turn it into "a pedestrian-friendly entertainment district connecting downtown destinations, recreation opportunities, and ecological networks."

It is a small amount compared to what has been awarded and what the city still hopes will be awarded, but it could help

establish the vision for what's to come. For example, the city has a \$400,000 grant to construct a pavilion and a dining area to host food trucks, install new benches and increase pedestrian accessibility at the downtown square as part of the City Walk project.

Starke's downtown redevelopment isn't strictly confined to downtown. A legislative appropriation of \$500,000 will help pay for drinking water system improvements, and the city is in the process of requesting as much as \$20 million in federal funds to reduce the flooding risk from Alligator Creek and turn it into an attractive asset for locals and tourists.

Among the other recipients of this FloridaCommerce award was Bradford County, which will use its \$75,000 on an economic development strategy to promote development opportunities here.

(See related story.)

According to the press release from FloridaCommerce, the CPTA grant program seeks to strengthen communities through resilient, long-term economic development strategies, and the Competitive Florida Partnership program supports communities in developing plans to attract new businesses and create workforce opportunities.

Since 2019, the program has awarded more than \$5.9 million to 90-plus Florida communities.

These awards build upon over \$5.9 million awarded to over 90 Florida communities through the program since 2019.

For more information about FloridaCommerce's role in workforce, economic and community development, including valuable resources for employers and job seekers, please visit www.FloridaJobs.org.

How economic development impacts you

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Clay County Economic Development Corporation's president explained to a Keystone Heights business group how economic development impacts ordinary people.

Crawford Powell told the Lake Region Prosperity Partners that he overheard a conversation between a woman and her father in a restaurant before he came to Clay County.

"They were behind us in line, recalled Powell, "and I heard her dad say, Hey, how's your new job going?"

Powell said he perked up when he heard the question because he was working on economic development in the area. As the conversation continued, Powell realized the woman had gotten a job at a Home Depot distribution center, an employer he had helped attract to the area.

The daughter later told her father she thought she could afford a home in a year or two.

"A lot of us take buying a house for granted," Powell told the Keystone Heights group. "But for a lot of people, that's a pretty big dream, guys."

The father later asked the woman about the car trouble she had been having, and the Home Depot worker responded that she hoped to get a better vehicle soon.

"Those are game changers to me, for that family," Powell said.

The economic development official added that most of the



Crawford Powell appeared at the Aug. 22 meeting of the Clay Chamber's Lake region Prosperity Partners at the Keystone Beach Pavilion. He explained why his organization is separate from Clay County Government and why companies considering investing locally prefer to do so secretly.

businesses he attracts to the area also bring with them corporate health insurance plans, which can also affect families.

Powell appeared at the August 22nd meeting of the Clay Chamber's Lake region Prosperity Partners at the Keystone Beach Pavilion. Powell explained why his organization is separate from Clay County Government and why companies considering investing locally prefer to do so secretly.

Powell also commented on his organization's efforts to attract new businesses to the Lake

region, which he said centered at the Keystone Heights Airport. He added that the largest obstacle in bringing new companies to the airport is a lack of water and sewer service.

"As far as Keystone, in particular, goes, we're working very closely with David (Kirkland) and Craig (Coon) out at the airport," Powell said. "We've got a number of projects that we've submitted sites at the airport. We still do not have water and sewer out there. We're working with (the Clay County Utility Authority) to ensure that stays on their radar to figure out a way to get water and sewer to the airport."

Powell added that his organization invested in an environmental study at the facility.

"Most of those studies can take anywhere from six to 12 months," he said. "But the problem is, if you don't have it (completed) upfront, most (employers) are going to pass you by."

In addition to Powell's talk during the meeting, Harold Gilstrap updated the audience on the efforts of the group organizing the celebration of Keystone Heights' 100th anniversary.

Chamber President Jon Cantrell emphasized the benefits of joining his organization. He also talked about upcoming chamber events.

The September 26th Lake Region Prosperity Partners meeting will feature Clay County Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambless.

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.

Register for Forages and Field Day

The UF/IFAS Agricultural Extension and North Florida Livestock Agents Group will hold the 25th annual Livestock Forage and Field Day on Oct. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Santa Fe River Ranch, 29220 NW 122nd St. in Alachua, Florida. There will be demonstrations, industry updates and expert presenters. Topics will include:

- cattle management and vaccination protocols.
- bull selection and EPDs.
- emerging weed problems and cold-season forages.

Register online at <http://2024UFLivestockandForages.eventbrite.com>. The field day is \$20 to pre-register or \$40 at the door.

For more information, please email liz.whitehead@ufl.edu or call 904-966-6224.

School boardmember recognized for honorable distinction

Florida School Boards Association is proud to recognize Sheila Cummings, Bradford County School Board member, as their newest Certified Board

Member.

To earn the initial distinction of a CBM, members must complete 96 hours of training in three different content areas:



Sheila F. Cummings

leadership, advocacy and knowledge.

The Certified Board Member distinction is one of several professional development programs offered by the Florida School Boards Association to ensure board members obtain well-rounded and thorough understanding of his or her policymaking job responsibilities.

Dinkins graduates UF

Ella Dinkins recently graduated cum laude (3.94 GPA) from the University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a Bachelor of Science in Family, Youth and Community Sciences.

Her future plans are to pursue a career in the field of community outreach and development.

Dinkins is an alumna of Hope Christian Academy where she was class valedictorian and very involved in leadership on



Ella Dinkins (Photo: Imago Dei Productions)

campus and in the local and state 4-H organization. Ella's parents are Tamara and David Dinkins.

September 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

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CareerSource consolidation links Bradford with new counties

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

In a move prompted by the state of Florida, Bradford County commissioners approved an interlocal agreement consolidating CareerSource North Central Florida and Florida Crown.

This decision aligns with a recommendation by CareerSource Florida to the governor's office, aiming to streamline workforce services, reduce duplication and enhance efficiency across the region.

Still operating under the name CareerSource North Central Florida, the new entity includes Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union counties, bringing a more unified approach to workforce development in the region.

The interlocal agreement outlines the structure and governance of the new workforce board. One commissioner from each county will serve on the Council of Elected Officials, which will largely dictate policy. They will also select the members of the workforce board from businesses and entities throughout the workforce region. Some decisions will be made

jointly between the two boards, including budget approval.

Alachua County will serve as the administrative entity, with workforce employees, including the chief executive officer, "housed" as Alachua County employees. Alachua's finance office will provide fiscal services, and their equal opportunity manager will serve as equal opportunity manager for workforce.

Per the agreement, Phyllis Marty will continue as CEO of CareerSource NCFL for at least two years to ensure an orderly transition. She will report directly to the workforce board.

Marty said the consolidation has been two and a half years in the making. They have gone "back and forth" addressing the concerns from each county, she said, including the original agreement's provision that most of the elected officials represented would be from Alachua County. The approved agreement is one county, one vote.

The counties will not be responsible for funding workforce initiatives, and liability insurance should ensure that the counties are not

obligated to pay costs incurred by the workforce board. Bradford recently reimbursed more than \$113,000 in disallowed costs from the third-party that formerly served as the administrative entity during Fiscal Years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Restructuring since that time has assured several checks and balances, according to Marty.

"We monitor internally. We contract with an external monitor in addition to our state monitoring. And we have audits, and we have approval processes within the offices of management and budget of Alachua County, all the way to the clerk of court who pays the bills. So, we have so many checks and balances in place that the insurance would kind of be a moot point, but it's there to cover it just in case," she said.

Marty said CareerSource NCFL will continue to have one of its four full-service offices in Starke. Grant funding is supporting a needs assessment of all six counties. It's possible staffing could be arranged in other areas by placing a satellite office within a partner agency.

Brooker council plans for grant awards

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Special to the Telegraph

The Brooker Town Council most recent meeting focuses on the request and use of grant funds for recreation and fire protection.

The meeting began with a report from Doug Sanders of Andy Easton and Associates regarding the application for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant. A FRDAP grant "provides financial assistance for acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation," according to the website. This grant will be to enhance Brooker's recreational opportunities.

The grant, which is due at the end of September, is for a maximum of \$200,000. The council members are hoping for a pickleball court with lighting and fencing. Also under

consideration are a basketball court and public restroom. Sanders thinks the town is likely to get substantial funding and will administer the grant, if awarded to Brooker, for \$1,000.

Funding obtained for locating a fire station in town was also a point of discussion. Brooker got the official word via letter from the Division of State Fire Marshall. There will be more than \$506,000 for the fire station building. Another \$662,500 was granted for "new fire apparatus" such as the fire truck and tanker.

Bradford Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter advised that this represents only 50% of the total required funds said he hopes the legislature will grant the other half in next year's budget appropriations.

There is still some clarity needed about whether the town of Brooker or Bradford County will own the titles to land

and equipment, and how the funds will be managed. Those conflicting understandings of details will, by necessity, be worked out in future discussions.

Meanwhile, the town will be accepting bids for cleanup of the property where the new fire station will be located. One concern is where any new fire truck would be housed, if that is granted before a building is constructed, since the town wants everything to start out new and in perfect condition. Plans for that will be addressed in future discussions as well.

\$1 increase for water

The town council considered the water rates and decided an increase of one dollar would be acceptable. The rate of \$25 for up to 3,000 gallons will be \$26 in the future.



The staff at Bradford Communities for Schools: Kris Dunfee, Martha Boyette, Linda Bennett, Candace Osteen and Cindy DeValerio.

New name, same mission for student, family support group

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

When you think of the newly named Bradford Communities for Schools, think of the decades of amazing work Communities in Schools of Bradford County has performed on behalf of students and their families as well as those who work for the school district.

The mission is unchanged, reaching out to students in grades six to 12 and their families to provide support, and coordinate and deliver services. BCFS will provide continued access to social and education services for at-risk youth to achieve success.

Executive Director Cindy DeValerio recently shared some of the highlights from the organization's past year, which included serving 110 students.

"Our program has five part-time employees, but we do the work of many more than that," she said. It does so with the help of a board of dedicated volunteers as well as volunteer mentors and financial supporters throughout the community, including county commissioners and other leaders.

Staff member Martha Boyette, for example, coordinates the Take Stock in Children program, which identifies students who could benefit and pairs them with an adult mentor who helps see them through their final years of schooling. They help advise and encourage students to do their best and to stay out of trouble.

Successful completion of the program provides a two-year college scholarship to help them continue to reach for higher goals.

This year, there were 22 successful graduates of the program, a 100% success rate.

"We have continued to graduate 100% of our students every year," DeValerio said.

Similarly, Candace Osteen is in Bradford High School as a site coordinator, helping provide academic and behavioral support and resources to get students to graduation.

Typically, students recruited by BCFS have risk factors such as low academic achievement,



Martha Boyette (left) recently received a Gold Excellence Award at the Take Stock in Children Summit. Cindy DeValerio is pictured on the right.

grade retention, poor attendance or impoverished home lives. The program's initiatives go beyond the classroom. This past year Communities for Schools also worked with a local church to provide Christmases for 21 students. A Backpack Weekend program provided supplemental nutrition to 117 students, 18 of whom were BCFS participants.

Communities for Schools also sponsors a project called The Hanger which is open to all students in need of clothing, personal care items and school supplies. They have also incorporated Achievers 4 Life and Tobacco-Free Partnership.

With the support of CareerSource, BCFS has offered a summer employment program for two years now. This past summer, they employed 15 students between five different locations, including Head Start, the Rainbow Center, Bradford County Public Library, The Downtown Grill and Florida Theatre.

Boosted by an Employability Day to learn about professionalism and expectations, the students contributed 70 or more hours for their worksites, while still having enough time to enjoy other extracurricular programs and their summer vacations.

"Our employers were raving about the students that we sent them. Our students were begging to do more. They all felt very good about themselves," DeValerio said.

"Our goal in our programs is to provide support to remove obstacles and barriers so that students would be successful. I feel as though we are doing that through the support services that we offer, and to build a stronger community for them to hopefully come back to and be a part of," DeValerio said. "So many times, our young people leave our community, but we want to keep them here. We want them to come back and raise families and be a viable part of what we're doing in Bradford County."

Communities for Schools holds monthly bingo fundraisers, and it has a golf fundraiser coming up on Sept. 20 (register by Sept. 13) at Turkey Creek Golf Course in Alachua. To register or sponsor the event, go to www.facebook.com/cisbradfordcounty or email admin@cisbradford.org.

To support the program in general by contributing time or money, please contact 904-966-6004 or cdevalerio@cisbradford.org.



Maged Aziz (far left), the U.S. Postal Service's Florida District 1 Manager, U.S. Congressman Aaron Bean (fifth from left), Maria Rock-Risse (sixth from left), and other members of the Rock family unveil a plaque naming the Melrose Post office after Pamela Jane Rock.

FALLEN

Continued from page 1

that would just be the coolest thing, something different, something new, and she could be out with people and talk," Rock-Risse added. "She loved it. She hadn't been there very long before the accident happened."

All of Rock's family members wore t-shirts honoring her memory and promoting the Pam Rock Act, the bill Payne sponsored last year. They said they are trying again to get the legislation passed.

Rock-Risse said that had the law been in force two years ago, the owner of the dogs that killed Pam would have been required to pick up his mail at a post office rather than have it delivered to his home.

Backbone of the postal service

Maged Aziz, the U.S. Postal Service's Florida District 1 Manager said letter carriers like Rock are the backbone of the postal service.

He said letter carriers bring people everything from bills to birthday cards, mail that invokes the full range of emotions, from anger to joy.

"We make you upset when you go to the mailbox and see that hefty insurance bill,"

he told the crowd. "We also make you happy by bringing you a birthday card that you can actually put on your refrigerator. I don't see any of us putting a text message on our refrigerators."

Stephanie Peters, the Interlachen Postmaster, called Rock one of the most cheerful and optimistic employees she had worked with.

"She would come in the morning singing songs," Peters recalled. "In her case, she would come in early and put candy at everyone's case, so when they came in, they had candy waiting for them. She would even send texts of pictures of the sunrise in the morning."

Rock-Risse told the crowd that she and Pam grew up together in Plantation. As Rock-Risse was graduating from the University of Florida's nursing school, Pam was a freshman who played in the university's Pride of the Sunshine marching band.

"She was my hero," Rock-Risse said of her younger sibling, adding that after Rock-Risse delivered her third child, Pam stayed with her for five months, helping out with her new nephew.

Family character

Congressman Aaron Bean told the crowd gathered at the post office that naming

the building in honor of Rock literally took an act of Congress.

"Congress doesn't agree on almost anything," he said, "except honoring the life of an individual who made us all better."

Bean presented the family with the bill signed by President Joe Biden authorizing the naming of the Melrose Post office in honor of Pamela Jane Rock.

State Rep. Bobby Payne said Rock's life of service and selflessness reflects her family.

"This is a family of character," he said, "a family of demeanor, a family of professionalism."

Payne, who served his final term in the Florida House earlier this year, said that in his discussions with the family about the Pamela Rock Act, the siblings were not seeking retribution for their sister's death but rather recognition so a similar tragedy would not happen again.

"I was touched by that, and so we ran a bill this past year, didn't make it to the finish line, but I've already gotten from Senator (Jay) Collins that he's going to run it again (next) year and it makes the most common sense of any of the almost 30 bills I've passed in eight years."



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Thermacell opens research center in Hampton

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Voting and election results weren't the only things creating a buzz on Aug. 20 in Bradford County as a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officially open Thermacell's research center in Hampton.

It was not only Election Day, but World Mosquito Day, which commemorates British doctor Sir Ronald Ross' discovery in 1897 that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria to humans. The day is all about raising awareness of mosquito-borne illnesses.

Thermacell produces mosquito-repellent devices. It will now do so with the new research center at 6393 Navarre Ave. in Hampton playing a major part in the process.

"Everything will be tested here at this facility before it makes it to market," said Jeff Hertz, the formulation science and entomology manager of the new research center.

John Hainze, who was Thermacell's previous vice president of science and research, said the company was looking to open a research center near Gainesville because of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service lab as well as the University of Florida. Hainze said both have "really great mosquito programs."

The company looked in Gainesville and Ocala for a site before coming across the property in Hampton. Hainze, who is no longer with Thermacell and who now teaches at Seattle University, said Thermacell received a warm welcome in Hampton as well as a site that suited its needs — especially the 11 acres that allow for plenty of room in creating outdoor testing sites.

"In addition to everything else, what was attractive to us was it came with a wooded area full of mosquitoes in the back," Hainze said, adding, "It actually is a perfect piece of property for us."

The building is the former Hampton Baptist Church, which consisted of living quarters as well as the church sanctuary, classrooms and offices.

Hertz said the transformation of the building has been impressive, giving kudos to local contractor Kelly Moulton.

"I don't think Kelly's even realized what he's built yet, but it is world class," Hertz said.

Hainze said, "We got bids from multiple contractors, including a couple of big ones from Gainesville. Just the idea of being able to work with somebody local who employs local people made a huge difference. It made us feel like a part of the community."

Indoors

The building is 12,000 square feet. Hertz said it's more room than is needed at the moment for a facility that will consist of just five employees, but he believes having the space could lead to



Preparing to cut the ribbon during the grand-opening of Thermacell's Hampton research center are (l-r) Christian Gradmuller, CEO, Jeff Hertz, formulation science and entomology manager, and Fernando Castro, vice president of research, development and engineering.



Six 40'x60' semi-plots will allow Thermacell to conduct tests outdoors in enclosed areas that contain mosquitoes.



Becky Heinig stands inside a semi-plot that is still under construction. The 40x60-foot enclosures will allow for controlled outdoors testing.

future uses the company hasn't even imagined yet.

"You ever have that thing you didn't know you needed, but now you realize you can't live without it? We think that's what this building is," Hertz said.

Besides a conference room and various offices, the building will have an insectary, which

will contain between 40,000 and 60,000 mosquitoes. The insectary is kept warm and humid and has lights that operate on timers to mimic sunrises and sunsets.

Insectary racks will hold trays that contain larvae. Rabbit food in the form of pellets is ground up and sprinkled in the trays like fish food.

Because the larvae live in water, a filtration system is used to remove the chlorine the city adds to its water supply.

"The city wants to make safe water that things don't grow in, but we want water that things grow in," Hertz said.

Additional racks hold cages of varying sizes in which adult mosquitoes are kept. Smaller cages contain females only. Female mosquitoes are the ones that bite humans and feed on blood, which they use to produce eggs.

The female mosquitoes in the insectary will feed on blood that comes in discs.

"We are purchasing blood from a lab. Nothing weird going on in here," Hertz said with a laugh.

The building also has an entomology lab named after Hainze and a restricted-access administrative room in which all data and studies stored. Hertz said records of a product's safety and effectiveness must be kept until that particular product is no longer sold.

"At any time, the (Environmental Protection Agency) could walk through the door and say that they want to look at our records. This room is critical," Hertz said.

The utilization of some space has yet to be determined. The hallway between the former church's entrance and sanctuary has room on either side to create, as Hertz described it, "two giant chambers." Or each giant



Jeff Hertz shows the trays that will be used to raise larvae in the facility's insectary.



Jeff Hertz shows off some of the cages that will house adult mosquitoes in the insectary.



A collection of mosquitoes ready to be viewed with a microscope in the John Hainze Entomology Laboratory.

chamber could be divided into two 13'x20' chambers.

"I would venture to guess that not many labs have this type of space available like we have," Hertz said.

Hertz termed the area that used to be the church sanctuary the "grand room," an area that could allow Thermacell to host events.

One key component of the building that might not be considered essential by some is a shower. Hertz said it's a good thing to have since he and his colleagues will be spending a lot of time outside "getting pretty funky in the Florida heat."

Outdoors

Becky Heinig, senior scientist-entomology programs, said the center's most-controlled testing environment is indoors, where scientists can control such factors as temperature, light and wind, while also knowing specifically the number of mosquitoes they're working with during any given test.

Taking tests outdoors, though, is an important part of the work.

"Our next step is putting in a slightly more realistic environment," Heinig said. "Something that's sort of like your backyard, but where we have a little bit more control so that we can pick out what's happening more clearly."

The grounds of the center feature a number of what are called semi-plots, which are 40'x60' areas that are enclosed by screening. Heinig described the semi-plots as much larger versions of the mosquito cages used inside the center.

Heinig said she and her fellow scientists can release mosquitoes inside the semi-plots and test how well a repellent device works.

"Once we're done with the experiment, we can take out all the mosquitoes and look at our data," Heinig said.

Though indoor testing offers more control, Hertz said the environments of the semi-plots can be altered, such as with the addition of plants and the use of fans for wind conditions.

While giving a tour of the grounds, Hertz pointed to a couple of lizards on the outside of a screen covering one of the semi-plots. He said efforts will have to be made to keep the semi-plots free of lizards and other animals.

The enclosed areas containing mosquitoes are like all-you-can-eat buffets for several animals, Heinig said, with Hertz adding, "Everybody likes mosquitoes but humans. We'll have to figure out how to keep these (animals) out as much as possible."

Besides semi-plots, the outside grounds also consist of field plots, which aren't enclosed, but do have wind barriers. Field plots are meant to represent backyard conditions.

"When we are ready to take a product to market and get it registered legally with the EPA, we will bring it out here (to a field plot) and test it," Heinig said.

Traps will be used on field plots to collect mosquitoes. They'll emit carbon dioxide to mimic a person exhaling, drawing mosquitoes to the traps. Heinig said, "Your mosquitoes will come in and say, 'Oh, a tasty human.'"

Thermacell studies can first determine how many mosquitoes would be drawn to the field-plot "humans." Then, a repellent device can be used to test its effectiveness.

Heinig said EPA standards are for a device to repel at least 75 percent of the mosquitoes that could potentially bite a person in a given area.

"Our products typically exceed the minimum of the EPA," she said.

See LAB, next page

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Kellie Hendricks
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UC woman publishes children's book

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

Armadillos are unique and interesting animals, but they can also be a great deal of trouble. In Louisiana, they are known as "hard shell possums," and in Georgia, they are known as "living speedbumps." These little animals often fall victim to cars and various predators. Even when they manage to stay out of the road, they are a problem because they dig...and dig...and then dig some more, looking for the insects and other animals that make up their diet.

Local resident Janis Peterson had her first up-close-and-personal encounter with armadillos in 2013 when a family of the critters made a burrow underneath a shed in her yard and moved in. The holes they dug in the yard quickly became dangerous, so her husband, Art, started dealing with them. This happening stuck in her mind and she wrote the first chapter of a story about it. Her daughter read it to her eight-year-old son and he wanted more of the story.

Janis spent some time researching armadillos and completed the book over a couple of weeks in her spare time.

"I wrote it because I wanted my other grandchildren to enjoy it as well," Peterson said. "It's a good bedtime story or for any other time. I hope my grandchildren will read it to their children."

The book follows the adventures of Amy and Archie, their neighbors under the shed, cottontail rabbits Mr. and Mrs. Brown, and their two children, Billy and Betty. All the animals worry about the attention of Peterson's dog, Pepper, and Mr. Peterson, who often comes outside with his gun when the dog barks at night. They try



Janis Peterson with her new book, "The True Adventures of Amy and Archie Dillo."

several ways to avoid notice but finally conclude that they will have to find another place to live.

Peterson sent the story to her son, Sherman, founder of Rabbit Room Press (also a writer and playwright) in Nashville, soon after she completed it. He edited it, and she made the suggested changes. Then, she did not hear anything for a few years. That was until her family gathered for a celebration in June 2024 for the couple's 55th anniversary in Jonesboro, Georgia. Sherman walked into the gathering carrying a wrapped box and set it in front of her.

"It was full of books," Peterson said. "I was shocked."

And such was the birth of "The True Adventures of Amy and Archie Dillo." The front of the book states that it is "Published in celebration of Martha Janis Peterson's 80th birthday" and carries the imprint of Shiloh Press in Lake Butler, FL (the Petersons' farm). Not only had

Sherman published her book, but her grandson, Aedan Peterson (24), had designed and drawn the cover art—taking after his father, Andrew, who is himself an illustrator.

Peterson said she may write another book at some point in the future, but she has a busy schedule with all her activities. Before retiring, she worked at the Reception and Medical Center in Lake Butler as a correctional probation officer for 16 years and, at other times, as a substitute teacher. She was employed at the pants factory in Lake Butler for two years and as a church secretary. Now she quilts and gardens and enjoys yard work, cans the produce from the garden, works with flowers, and loves crafts, sewing, and making memory quilts and bears. According to Art, she is the "best cook in the world" as well. She is also a member of the Sew-in-Seus, a group at First Christian Church in Lake Butler that makes dresses for girls in need in the mission field, many of which are made from pillowcases. One would like to say she stays busy and seems to have a font of energy to do it.

Janis's first priority is her husband, Art, their children, and grandchildren. She speaks with them on the phone as often as possible and visits them frequently. Her other main priority is her faith, which she lives each day.

"The True Adventures of Amy and Archie Dillo" will be available for sale or can be viewed at the Mary Brown Public Library in Lake Butler, but the details have not been worked out yet. So, for now, Art is left wondering what his gracious and talented wife will be up to next, and he seems to be enjoying it.



Field plots attract existing mosquitoes in the area. Thermacell can do testing on mosquito numbers, species of mosquitoes and the effectiveness of repellent devices. Pictured inside a wind barrier are three traps, which attract mosquitoes by emitting carbon dioxide.

LAB Continued from page 6

Thermacell will use a variety of traps manufactured by Biogents. Heinig said the "workhorse" will be the BG-Sentinel, which uses a fan to draw mosquitoes into a collection bag.

BG-Counter traps do as the name suggests — they count mosquitoes as they become trapped.

"It will report the number of mosquitoes that have gone into the trap in 15-minute intervals for as long as we want," Heinig said.

The counter-trap numbers can be viewed remotely via a website.

A rotator trap will also be used. It collects mosquitoes in bottles so that scientists can see which species are showing up.

It can be programmed to attract mosquitoes during specific time intervals so it can be determined what times of day certain species are more likely to be present.

Thermacell's 'beating heart'

Thermacell CEO Christian Gradmuller was present at the Aug. 20 ribbon-cutting ceremony. In his brief remarks, he said Thermacell would continue to invest in the Hampton facility, describing it as "kind of the beating heart of the company."

"This is a long-term commitment from us, and it is a commitment to our consumers, customers and the communities that we operate in," Gradmuller said.

Fernando Castro, Thermacell vice president of research, development and engineering,

said Thermacell is composed of two teams — the engineering team, which is based in Boston, and the science team, which is now based in Hampton.

"This facility is going to enable us to do better and more testing, allowing us to understand our products better and to make better products for our consumers," Castro said.

Hertz said those who have met him since he's been in Bradford County know he is passionate about Thermacell and its products.

With the company's Hampton research center, Hertz hopes that passion will spread.

"It's a sense of pride for me," he said. "Hopefully, it is for you in the community, too."

SWEET ON SCIENCE

Fifth-graders at Bradford Elementary School recently learned about the Scientific Method by performing some tests of their own to theorize and discover how water and salt water would affect the texture of gummy bears.



Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Jonathan Tyrone Bass, 42, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 17 for vehicle theft.

Jeremy Shawn Boyer, 51, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 20 for a probation violation.

Justin Dean Drawdy, 41, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 20 for withholding support.

Makayla Leigh Eichenlaub, 29, of Merritt Island, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 22 for a probation violation.

Landon Christopher Hawkins, 21, of Orange Park, was arrested

by Bradford deputies on August 17 for DUI.

Kurt Alan Hendl, 31, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 17 for resisting an officer, driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of drugs, and attaching a tag not assigned.

Jon Michael Johnson, 23, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 22 for an out-of-county warrant.

Alexander Daniel Main, 31, of Orange Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 23 for kidnapping – false imprisonment, and criminal mischief with property damage.

Steven Terrence Rhoden, 45, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 17 for DUI.

Michael Davis Smith, 36, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 23 for battery.

Union

Antonio L. Chavarria, Jr., 65, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 24 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Abraham Malik Harris, 19, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on August 20 for kidnapping-false imprisonment,

aggravated assault, and possession of marijuana.

Caleb Bishop Harris, 19, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on August 20 for kidnapping-false imprisonment.

Teavon Lee Williams, 32, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 23 for battery.

Sandra Maxine Wilson, 65, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 20 for kidnapping-false imprisonment, aggravated assault, and resisting an officer.

Clay

Destiny Chanell Brown, 48, of Keystone Heights, was arrested on August 18 by Clay deputies for trespassing.

Donna Jean Lang, 50, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 17 for being a fugitive from Justice.

Sean Kimberly Sullivan, 32, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 21 for DUI with property damage or injury.

Henry Wimberley White, 34, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 20 for dealing in stolen property.



During their Aug. 15 meeting, the Friends of Keystone Heights, FL, Inc. discussed their merchandising efforts and plans for their Dec. 28 kickoff event, which will celebrate the city's 100th anniversary of founding.

KH centennial kickoff taking shape

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The group that is organizing Keystone Heights's 100th-year anniversary celebration continued to plan for the yearlong 2025 event.

Friends of Keystone Heights, FL, Inc. chair Ginger Lee said that her organization has focused on merchandising and fundraising up to this point.

"We accomplished getting our raffle ticket sales together," Lee said of the group's Thursday, August 15 meeting. "We've been starting to sell at pop-up events at (Bryan's Ace Hardware). We have three future pop-up events scheduled. We have August 24th, September 7th, and September 14th. We'll be selling shirts, calendars, our new challenge coins that are coming out, and our raffle tickets for the grill that will be donated by Ace

Hardware."

The \$25 raffle ticket is for an outdoor grill valued at \$1,017. The prize will be drawn on October 31.

One committee member reported on the group's first pop-up sales event at Ace. She said foot traffic was brisk due to Hurricane Debby approaching Florida's Big Bend from the Gulf of Mexico.

"Unfortunately, it was Saturday before the hurricane, and everybody was there with their propane tanks, getting a lot of supplies," the committee member said. "We had a lot of interest, but people had other things on their minds."

She added that the group sold 10 raffle tickets and four T-shirts and accepted a \$10 donation.

Lee also said the group continues to develop the Centennial's first major event,

which will occur in 2024 instead of 2025.

"We have the December 28th (event), which is going to be our kickoff event," she said. "It will be at the airport, and it will be from nine to three for family entertainment, and then we have from five to nine a gala, for which we will be selling tickets."

Lee said the band "Duval County Line" will headline the gala. She added that the kickoff will also highlight local cuisine with a feature called a "Taste of Keystone," in which Lake Region restaurants will offer a variety of Keystone-area fare.

During the August 15 meeting, committee members also discussed partnering with Clay County's Tourism Department to promote its events and asking the City of Keystone Heights for financial support.

Union election turnout disappointing

Local candidates thank voters

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

According to Supervisor of Elections Deborah Osborne, last week's primary election went smoothly in Union County, but she was a little disappointed in the voter turnout for the day.

"I wish the turnout had been better," Osborne said. "The county spends a lot of money to hold these elections, and more people need to turn out to vote."

Osborne said turnout was very low at only 42% of the county's registered voters casting their ballots, but that total was up from the 2022 election when only 29% chose to vote.

"We do everything possible to make voting easy and convenient for the voters," Osborne said. "There are three ways to vote, Vote by Mail, Early Voting and at the polls on Election Day. At the precincts on election day we have people on hand just to assist voters should they need it, with special provisions made for voters with any sort of physical handicap."

Osborne said she expected a larger turnout for the General Election November 5, 2024, with the national races and the Florida Constitutional Amendments making up the ballot.

While the presidential race will take center stage, voters will also select their choice for their United States Senator and Representative in Congress.

Voters will also decide on six amendments to the Florida Constitution on their ballots. Last week's primary focus was on two county races, the Clerk of the Circuit Court position and County Commissioner District 3.

Both races turned into Universal Primary contests, meaning all the candidates running for local seats were of the same party. When this happens, everyone in the district

is allowed to vote regardless of their registered party.

The only differences in the individual ballots were that only voters in District 3 were allowed to vote on who would take the commission seat, and they were required to select from their party's candidates in the national races for U.S. Senator and U.S. Congressional Representative.

Everyone made the selection for the Clerk of Circuit Court Seat and the Public Library referendum. Because everyone running locally was running in the same party the winner is the person that will take the seat – there will be no run-off of the top two candidates.

The winners of both races were decided last Tuesday. The race for District 3 had a number of candidates vying for the position. They winner was Melissa Dukes McNeal, followed by runner-up Danny Tomlinson, and Shelton 'Junior' Arnold, Martie V. Touchstone, Chad Ali and Ed Dwight Rainey.

The Times attempted to contact all of these candidates to get their comments on the election and the result, and all responded except Ali and Arnold. The others all described a very civilized and friendly campaign. McNeal said the whole process was a very positive experience for her.

"It was a good clean race," McNeal said. "All of the other candidates were so nice, and we all helped each other. I am prayerful that I will serve the county well."

Danny Tomlinson was quick to say that he enjoyed the experience.

"I think Melissa is going to do a good job," he said.

Touchstone said he felt the best candidate was elected and McNeal was "probably the best one for the job."

Rainey said, "Congratulations to the winner, and good luck going forward."

As the new commissioner, McNeal will have some big

shoes to fill, replacing retiring Commissioner Jimmy Tallman.

Tallman has been a fixture on the board for sixteen years and was elected to four terms.

As far as anyone in county government knows and several local historians consulted, McNeal will set a precedent for Union County. Along with Commissioner Donna Jackson, she will be part of the first female commissioners to serve at the same time.

Incumbent Kellie Hendricks Rhoades faced challenger Ryan Perez in the clerk's race. Rhoades won the race by almost 500 votes and said, "I am humbled to have the confidence of the Union County voters and am thrilled that they have selected me to continue working as their clerk."

Perez was not available for comment on the race.

The referendum on the funding of the public library also had a positive result, with 2,319 approving the continued funding and only 516 voting against it.

Free heart testing at SF

Santa Fe College's Cardiovascular Sonography Program is hosting free heart and carotid arteries ultrasound tests for the Fall 2024 term. SF employees, their families, friends and the public are invited to participate.

The only requirement is that participants must be at least 18 years old.

Testing will take place in the W-Annex of the Northwest Campus in Gainesville.

The dates for the tests are:

Friday, Aug. 30.

Friday, Sept. 27.

Friday, Oct. 25.

If you have questions or want to schedule tests, contact Jennifer Weeks at 352-395-5972 or jennifer.weeks@sfcollge.edu.

Rotary leaders visit Starke, KH

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Rotary District 6970 Governor Mickey Ulmer and Area Governor Jim Troiano visited the Starke and Keystone Heights Rotary clubs on Wednesday, August 21.

With 64 clubs and over 3,200 members, Ulmer leads an area covering 12 northeast Florida counties from the Georgia line to Daytona Beach and Ocala.

His business career includes operating an advertising agency, leading marketing for Sonny's Barbecue, and later becoming a Sonny's franchisee in Fernandina Beach.

The magic of Rotary

Ulmer highlighted Rotary International's 2024-2025 theme, "The Magic of Rotary."

He said Rotary International's President Stephanie Urchick came up with the theme based on a trip to the Caribbean.

"Stephanie is from Pittsburgh, and she and some of her club members went to the Dominican Republic about 12 years ago to install water projects in three small villages up in the hills," Ulmer said. "The idea was to divert water from the running river into the villages and the individual homes."

Ulmer explained that the water remained unfiltered until it reached each residence. Urchick demonstrated the filtering system to villagers, allowing some water to come through unfiltered and dirty, then turning on the filtering system to reveal clean water.

"Everybody marveled at it," the district governor continued. "They decided it was time to go off and take some pictures with the mayor, and she turned the water off, and they started to leave."

As the group was departing, a boy approached Urchick with a request.



Keystone Heights Rotary President Todd Beals, Rotary 6970 District Governor Mickey Ulmer and Area Governor Jim Troiano.

"The little boy said to her, Lady, make the magic happen again," Ulmer said, retelling the story. "She said that what impressed upon her was that, for him, that was pure magic. The reason it's our theme is that she wants you, and I want you to remember that everything we do in Rotary, all the service that we provide, big projects, small projects, local, international, every time we do a project, we make magic happen. You make the magic happen. You may never meet the people that you help. You may never see them. They will probably never meet you, but they will know that you were the ones that made magic happen in their lives."

Ulmer engaged in a back-and-forth with the members of each club, asking them about the clubs' histories, past projects, and fundraising ideas.

During the Keystone Heights meeting, Ulmer swore in Foundation Chair Rick Ergle and concluded both meetings by stressing the importance of connecting with other clubs in the district and attending leadership development events.

Rotary passion

Ulmer challenged the members of the two groups to reconnect with their passions, whether it be clean water or helping children at the Keystone Heights High School Resource Center.

"Think about what your passion is," he said. "When did you last talk about your passion here in this club? When was the last time you said, 'Hey, I think there's something we could do.'"

Ulmer also emphasized the importance of a growing membership.

"Membership provides hands," he said. "More members, more hands, more members, more new ideas, and more members, more money fundraised to pay for all that service."

Ulmer engaged in a back-and-forth with the members of each club, asking them about the clubs' histories, past projects, and fundraising ideas.

During the Keystone Heights meeting, Ulmer swore in Foundation Chair Rick Ergle and concluded both meetings by stressing the importance of connecting with other clubs in the district and attending leadership development events.

Legion flea market in Hawthorne

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 230 will hold a huge community flea market at the post home, 20370 E. Hawthorne Road, on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

Spaces are \$15. Sign up now by calling 352-481-4483.



Russ Wade
Attorney at Law

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

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate

Notification is hereby given that North Florida Technical College located at 609 North Orange Street, Stake, FL 32091 has filed an application for reaffirmation of accreditation with the Commission of the Council on Occupational Education on **Tuesday, August 27, 2024.**

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing to the Executive Director of the Commission, Council on Occupational Education, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta Georgia 30350 or submit their comments through the Council's website (www.council.org).

Persons making comments should provide their name and mailing address.

Bradford 8U team is runner-up in World Series

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A leadoff triple in the bottom of the fifth inning helped Curacao edge the Bradford 8U Rookie All-Stars 9-8 in the Cal Ripken World Series championship game on Aug. 10 in Ocala.

Curacao led 2-0 after the first inning, but Bradford scored three runs in the top of the second. Chance Reed hit a leadoff double, while Easton Wiseman hit into a fielder's choice that resulted in no outs. After Braxton Lee singled to load the bases, Bryson McCollum hit an RBI single. One out later, Sebastian Almanzar hit

his own RBI single, followed by Rylan Noegel driving in a run on a ground out to put Bradford up 3-2.

Bradford broke a 3-3 tie with a run in the third. Wynnlín Lansford and Ashton Brown hit back-to-back singles. Reed reached on an error on a pop-up, with Brown being put out at second. Lee hit a two-out RBI single.

Two runs in the top of the fourth gave Bradford a 6-3 lead. With two outs and no one on, Noegel singled and scored on Trey Waldon's triple. Waldon then scored on a Lansford single.

Curacao scored five runs in the bottom of the fourth, taking advantage of four singles, one double, a fielder's choice and two errors.

Bradford evened the score at 8-8 with two runs in the top of the fifth. With one out and no one on, Lee reached on an error, while McCollum singled. The runners advanced on Liam Hobbs' sacrifice bunt. An error on a ball put into play by Almanzar scored both Lee and McCollum.

Curacao led off the bottom of the fifth with a triple. Bradford caught a pop-up for the first out before Curacao hit a single

that scored what would be the winning run. Bradford got out of the inning without allowing another run, recording a double play that began with first baseman Reed catching a pop-up.

Bradford could not put any runners on in the final inning.

Lansford went 3 for 4 with an RBI, while Lee and McCollum each went 2 for 3 with an RBI. Brown and Noegel each went 2 for 4, with Noegel driving in one run.

Almanzar and Waldon each had one RBI.

The eight runs Bradford scored gave it a total of 83 for the

tournament, which led all teams. Curacao scored the second-most runs with 78.

Bradford finished with a 5-4 record in the five-day tournament, which consisted of five teams overall, with Fern Creek, Ocala and Sorrento joining Bradford and Curacao.

Brown, Noegel, Reed and Wiseman were named to the All-Golden Glove Team.

It was 6-3 in favor of Fern Creek before Bradford scored five runs in the sixth. With two outs and no one on, Noegel singled and then scored on a Waldon triple. Brown and Reed hit back-to-back RBI singles, with Reed later scoring on a steal of home. Lansford singled and eventually scored on a steal of home.

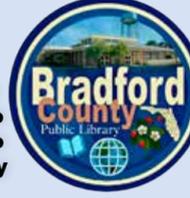
Brown and Lansford each went 4 for 4, with Brown driving in one run. Reed and Waldon each went 3 for 4, while Hobbs and Lee each went 2 for 3. Hobbs

Day 1

Bradford began the tournament with an 8-6 win over Fern Creek on Aug. 6.

See SERIES, page 10

Highly Rated Local Businesses!

<p>Andrews Site Prep (386) 867-0572 Services 20 different counties!</p> <p>ANDREWS SITE PREP</p> <p>"Only giving 5 stars because I can't give more. I'm not sure who you're using for your well and septic system but if you're not using Andrews site prep you are missing out. Bart, Luke, and the young lady in the front office are amazing. They know how to take care of a customer and treat them as a person not a number, as if I didn't already use them whenever I had a problem they have made sure I never go anywhere else ever again. If you ever need work done this is the place to go."</p>	<p>The Struggle Bus Mobile I.V. www.strugglebusventures.com</p> <p>"10/10 recommend! I got the stomach bug and they came that day for an in home visit to give me the recovery blend IV. I didn't even have to get off the couch. They are so amazing and did a great job!"</p> 	<p>Bradford County Eye Center 292 Lafayette St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8076</p> <p>BRADFORD COUNTY EYE CENTER</p> <p>"While vacationing in Florida I had a situation arise that needed immediate attention. I contacted Bradford County Eye and was scheduled immediately! Within 30 minutes I was seen, diagnosed and encouraged to see my eye doctor at home in 6 weeks. The staff and Dr. Mike were fantastic! Very professional, knowledgeable, attentive and kind. I highly recommend this practice. If I am in the area again and need them I will return! Special thank you to them all!"</p>
<p>NO LIMITZ Our Possibilities are Endless! 3 Stores to Serve You!</p> <p>*No Limitz Outlet ...Brand Name Retail for all Men, Women & Children</p> <p>*No Limit Fun Zone & Arcade ... Pool Tables, NFL Blitz, Darts and more...Fun for ALL Ages!</p> <p>*No Limit Smoke & Vape ... Vapes, accessories & more!</p> <p>421 W. Madison St Starke 904-454-1483 430 W. Call St. Starke 904-454-1013</p> <p>5-star rated!</p>	<p>Hometown Health & Wellness 110 Nightingale St, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 664-7702</p> <p>HOMETOWN Health & Wellness</p> <p>"I have gone here multiple times to see both Jen and Bryan. I love that the location is close to home, they are open various hours to fit your schedule but most of all I love the small town feel when you walk in the door! You are welcomed and made to feel at home. I am very happy with all services I have received and am so thankful."</p>	<p>The Chiropractic & Injury Clinic of Starke 601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-8018</p> <p>THE CHIROPRACTIC & INJURY CLINIC</p> <p>"I love this place! They make me feel like family here! Karen is my bestie, she's great. You'll love the two assistants in the back. They're so nice and very funny too! Dr. Lowry does awesome adjustments and is very friendly and welcoming. I always feel like a new person when I leave. No joke when I say this is the kindest medical staff I've ever dealt with. 10/10 recommend."</p>
<p>Bradford County Sheriffs Office 945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 966-6161</p>  <p>Sheriff, Gordon Smith "No Care"</p> <p>"I need to take a minute to recognize my jail command team, the people I'm surrounded by. Each unique and strong in their own areas. There is nothing anyone asks of them they don't do and almost always with a smile. They take care of business and take care of people at the same time. They have our agency's best interest at heart always!! I'm pretty sure some make fun of our kinder gentler approach at times, but when people are at their lowest, they sometimes need kindness to make a change."</p>	<p>Hearing Aids Today 450 S Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 877-4471</p> <p>HEARING AIDS TODAY Affordable Hearing Solutions</p> <p>"This is the place to come to! I went many years between hearing exams. Very professional and compassionate in taking care of their customers. They are family owned and operated! And the man that owns the place is the one that you deal with! The rest of the staff is amazing also! As I am a local business owner also I highly recommend if there was more stars I would give it. Go see them if you have hearing problems, you will be amazed!"</p>	<p>Robert's Insurance 986 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 452-7784</p> <p>ROBERTS INSURANCE EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES</p> <p>"Always a great place to visit and get help, thanks!"</p>
<p>Phillip McDonald Plumbing 740 S Orange St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-3737</p>  <p>PHILLIP MCDONALD PLUMBING AND SEPTIC 904-964-3737</p> <p>"One of the most professional companies I have had the privilege of working with. Knowledge is amazing and answered any and all questions with examples so people that don't know or understand this process. I recommend them for a first choice in septic and plumbing Great fair pricing, does not stick it to you. Great great company."</p>	<p>Bradford County Public Library 456 W Pratt St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 368-3911</p>  <p>"I love the staff here. They are always kind & helpful to me & my 3 girls. We go in to just grab a few books & stay an hour just to chat with everyone & check out all the upcoming events they offer."</p>	<p>Victory Way Church of God 205 SW Magnolia Ave, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (941) 718-7006</p> <p>Victory Way</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 AM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 10:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING MORNING WORSHIP SUNDAY NIGHT: 6:00 PM THURSDAY NIGHT: 7:30 PM</p>
<p>Jackson Building Supply Inc. 937 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-6078</p>  <p>"My hubby and I love this place. We're out at Kingsley lake and the big box stores on Blanding seem a million miles away. JBS is much quicker and a much safer drive. It's well worth it and the inventory is extensive. We're fans."</p>	<p>Ford's Land Clearing Inc. (352) 260-2387 Servicing Starke, Keystone, and surrounding areas!</p> <p>Ford's Land Clearing</p> <p>"Very friendly easy to work and responds promptly. Installed culvert on our new property. Price was reasonable compared with others wasn't the cheapest but wasn't the highest. I would use them again in future for future projects and recommend them to others."</p>	<p>Turners Automotive & Transmission 135 Commercial Cir, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-3404</p>  <p>"My gear shift button broke, car was stuck in neutral/ drive. Wouldn't go into park or reverse. Couldn't remove key from ignition. These guys fixed my issue fast and affordable. Will definitely be back with any other problems me or my family have with our vehicles."</p>
<p>Teal Tile Carpet One 131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7423</p>  <p>"Working with local businesses like Teal Tile and salesperson Mary Carver made my remodel go smoothly. My husband and I are pleased with the finished results. I had the floating flooring put into my kitchen, laundry room, powder room and the added bathroom. I also had tile for my kitchen backsplash and tile put into the new shower."</p>	<p>DLP Bank 811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7830</p>  <p>"Great service! Fast and efficient place with very nice and knowledgeable people. Great place to bank and a trusted bank in the community for over 100 years!"</p>	<p>Keystone Plumbing Inc. 2473 State Rte 100, Starke, FL 32091 (352) 792-4426</p>  <p>"Prompt and professional service! I called one morning and they were out that afternoon. Went above and beyond!"</p>
<p>Durrance Pump 864 N Temple Ave STE C, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7061</p>  <p>"Great place! These people are great at what they do. If you don't have a lot of money at the time you need a repair, they will work with you like they did me. I really appreciate these folks. Thank you so much!"</p>	<p>Dr. Nancy Short, Chiropractor SE 28th St, Melrose, FL 32666 (904) 778-6859</p>  <p>"Dr Short has been the most caring Doctor I have ever had. She listens to you and gives great advice. She has always been very helpful and fixes my issues. I've had Chiropractic care for the last 40 years and she is the best."</p>	<p>C & S Site Prep 22787 NW 34th Ave, Lawtey, FL 32058 (352) 235-1210</p>  <p>Land Clearing, Driveway, Culverts, Excavation, Ponds, House Pads, Drainage, Grading, Erosion Control, Dirt, Lime Rock, Asphalt, Sand, Crushed Concrete, 57 Stone</p>
<p>Big Teal Cleaning 12696 US HWY 301 South Starke, FL 32091 (904) 903-6746</p>  <p>"Had my truck in the mud all weekend and took it up there. They got it 100% clean for a great price. I would recommend them to anyone"</p>		<p>CJ Appliances 442 W Call St, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 452-1968</p>  <p>"They have the best prices on appliances I've seen in any liquidation store. They are located very conveniently close to my house. The people there are very nice and the service is great."</p>

BHS takes top 7 spots in boys golf match vs. Union County

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Charles Zink had two birdies, while Cody Spratlin had an eagle to lead the Bradford boys golf team in its Aug. 22 home match against Union County.

The Tornados took the top seven individual spots and finished with a team score of 174. Union doesn't have a full team, with just three players.

Zink was the medalist with a nine-hole score of 39, while Spratlin was second at 40. Each shot par on three holes.

Avery Burgin also shot par on three holes in finishing with a third-place score of 46.

Steven Carter and Matthew Stafford, who each made par on one hole, placed fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores of 49 and 50.

Tucker Griffis and Grayson

Jennings finished with scores of 52 and 56, respectively, to place sixth and seventh.

The Tigers' Gavin Kuhn and Patrick Maxwell finished tied for eighth, with each shooting a 61.

Brysen Tomlinson had a 10th-place score of 72.

It was the second match of the season for both Bradford and Union.

The Tornados hosted Branford and Trinity Christian on Aug. 20, with Trinity winning with a team score of 181.

Bradford finished two strokes behind the Conquerors, while Branford had a team score of 197.

Zink, who made par on four holes, shot a 42, finishing one stroke behind medalist Jack Gracyalmy of Trinity.

Spratlin, who made par on three holes, finished in a tie for third with a score of 44, while Carter, who made par on two holes, shot an eighth-place score of 48.

Jennings, who made par on two holes, had a score of 49, which tied him for ninth.

Burgin and Griffis finished

with scores of 54 and 56, respectively, while Stafford shot a 58.

Union opened its season on Aug. 20 also, hosting Lafayette and Taylor County at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club (the Tigers' home course).

Kuhn finished in the top 10 with a 10th-place score of 62.

Maxwell and Tomlinson had scores of 64 and 74, respectively.

Lafayette and Taylor had full teams, with Lafayette taking first place with a team score of 162 — 44 strokes ahead of Taylor.

Bradford and Union played each other again this past Tuesday.

UC's Elixson is top girl in golf match vs. BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Three girls golfers represented Union County High School in an Aug. 22 match hosted by Bradford on Aug. 22, with Zoe

Elixson coming out on top of five players with a nine-hole score of 53.

Bradford, which had two players, got a second-place finish from Kaylee Devore, who had a score of 55.

Elixson and Devore each made par on one hole.

The Tornados' Sarah Rantz took third with a score of 58.

Union's Katelyn Seay and Kerissa Seay placed fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores of 66 and 70.

Ty Mitzel leads KH boys golf team in victory

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School took the top-four individual spots in opening boys golf season with a 43-stroke win over St. Johns Classical on Aug. 22 at Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club in Green Cove Springs.

The Indians, who had a nine-

hole team score of 184, were led by Ty Mitzel, who was the medalist with a score of 42. Mitzel had a birdie and made par on four holes.

Jacob Beach, who made par on five holes, finished one stroke behind Mitzel with a second-place score of 43.

Cade Begue and Landon Spence placed third and fourth, respectively, with scores of 48 and 51. Begue made par on three holes, while Spence made par on two.

Konner Kelly was sixth with a score of 53, while Hunter Sheppard was seventh with a score of 57.

Brooks is 3rd in KHHS girls golf team's 1st 2 matches

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School got a third-place finish

from Aubrey Brooks, but dropped a girls golf match against Middleburg on Aug. 26 at Orange Park's Eagle Landing Golf Club.

The Indians (0-2) had a team score of 270, which left them trailing Middleburg by 53 strokes.

Orange Park didn't have a team score, but also participated in the match with two players.

Brooks made a birdie and finished with a score of 55.

Rebecca Binet and Jasmine Walls finished seventh and eighth, respectively, for Keystone with scores of 69 and 70.

The Indians also had the following compete: Ashlynn Duncan 76, Ila Miller 80 and Averi Hemphill 81.

Keystone opened the season with a loss to Oak Hall on Aug. 20 at Gainesville's Hawkstone Country Club. Oak Hall had a team score of 224 to the Indians' 280.

Brooks tied for third with a score of 55, while Emily Cunningham tied for sixth with a

See SPORTS, page 15

SERIES

Continued from page 9

and Reed each had one RBI.

McCollum and Noegel each had one RBI as well, with Noegel going 2 for 4. Each batter hit a double.

Bradford's second game on Aug. 6 was a 10-6 loss to Curacao.

A two-run single by Reed tied the game at 2-0 in the third. Bradford later trailed 4-2 before scoring four runs in the bottom of the fifth. Noegel and Waldon hit back-to-back singles before Brown hit an RBI double. Reed and Wiseman hit back-to-back triples, with Reed's hit driving in two runs and Wiseman's driving in one.

The 6-4 lead didn't last long as Curacao scored six runs in the sixth.

Noegel, Reed and Wiseman each finished 3 for 3, with Reed and Wiseman each driving in one run.

Brown finished with the one RBI on his fifth-inning double.

Day 2

The second day of the tournament began for Bradford with a come-from-behind 9-7 win over Sorrento on Aug. 7.

Bradford built an early lead, going up 4-1 with a four-run second inning. Bradford loaded the bases with no outs on three straight singles hit by Wiseman, Lee and Hobbs. Almanzar hit a two-run double, followed by Hobbs scoring when McCollum hit into a fielder's choice. Noegel drove in the final run of the inning on a single.

It was 6-3 in favor of Bradford going into the fifth. Sorrento scored four runs in the top of the inning to go up 7-6.

Bradford's rally in the bottom of the inning began with Brown and Reed hitting back-to-back one-out singles. Brown scored on Reed's hit, while an error allowed Reed to score. Wiseman then tripled and scored when Lee

hit into a fielder's choice.

Almanzar, Lee and Noegel each drove in two runs, with Noegel batting 2 for 3.

Brown, Hobbs and Wiseman also each went 2 for 3.

McCollum and Reed finished with one RBI each.

Bradford played Ocala in its second game on Aug. 7, losing 10-5.

Waldon's RBI in the top of the first gave Bradford its only lead, but the team did have a big inning in the third, scoring three runs on a triple from Brown and singles from Reed and Waldon.

Waldon finished with two RBI. Brown and Hobbs each went 3 for 3, with Brown driving in one run.

Reed and Noegel were 2 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively, with Reed driving in one run.

McCollum hit a double and had one RBI.

Day 3

Bradford opened its day-three play on Aug. 8 with a 7-6 win

over Sorrento that saw Lansford score the winning run in the bottom of the seventh.

Sorrento took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first, but Bradford answered with five runs in the bottom of the inning. Noegel hit a leadoff single, but was put out when Waldon hit into a fielder's choice. Waldon scored on a Lansford single before Brown hit an RBI triple. Reed drove in a run on a sacrifice fly, while Wiseman, McCollum and Hobbs hit back-to-back-to-back singles. Hobbs' hit scored two runs.

Bradford's opponent tied the score in the top of the second, but Brown hit an RBI single in the bottom of the inning.

Sorrento scored a run in the third, with the game remaining tied at 6-6 until the bottom of the seventh. Lansford hit a leadoff single and advanced to second on an error. Brown then hit into a fielder's choice that allowed Lansford to score.

Brown drove in three runs and finished 2 for 4 at the plate, while Hobbs, who went 2 for 3, drove in two runs.

Lansford and Noegel each went 3 for 4, with Lansford driving in a run.

Reed finished with one RBI, while Wiseman batted 2 for 3.

Bradford built a big lead early in its second game of the day, defeating Fern Creek 9-3.

A four-run first inning began with Noegel hitting a leadoff single. With one out, Lansford, Brown and Reed all singled, with Reed's hit scoring a run. Wiseman then hit a bases-loaded double that scored all three runners.

Bradford scored three runs in the second to go up 7-1. With one runner on with two outs, Waldon and Lansford hit singles, with Noegel scoring on Lansford's hit. Brown then hit an RBI double.

A two-run sixth inning began with Bradford putting two runners on, but Fern Creek turned a double play. With one runner (Lee) on, Noegel hit an RBI double, followed by Waldon hitting an RBI single.

Wiseman finished with three RBI, while Lansford, who went 3 for 4, had two.

Brown and Lee were each 2 for 3, with Brown driving in a run.

Noegel and Waldon each went 2 for 4 with an RBI.

Reed finished with one RBI.

Day 4

Bradford's fourth day began with an 11-10 loss to Curacao in which Curacao scored seven runs in the final two innings.

A five-run second inning put Bradford up 6-0. Hobbs and Almanzar reached on errors. With two outs, Waldon hit a two-run triple and later scored himself on an error. Lansford and Brown singled and doubled, respectively, before both scored on a Reed single.

Bradford took a 10-4 lead with a four-run fourth. Waldon, Lansford and Brown all singled to load the bases. Reed hit an RBI single, while another run scored when Wiseman reached on a fielder's choice. Lee singled to load the bases again before two runs scored when Hobbs hit into a fielder's choice.

Curacao scored five runs in the fifth on five singles, a double and two sacrifice flies. The team hit four straight singles in scoring two runs in the sixth.

Reed and Waldon each went 3 for 4, with Reed driving in three runs and Waldon driving in two.

Hobbs, like Waldon, had two RBI.

Brown went 4 for 4 with an

RBI, while Lee was 3 for 4.

Lansford finished 2 for 3, while Wiseman had one RBI.

Bradford bounced back from the loss with a 21-6 win over Fern Creek.

It was only a two-run game when Bradford scored 13 runs in the final two innings.

Bradford took advantage of two errors and a Reed ground out to score three runs in the first. An error and a ground out scored two runs in the second, while a three-run third saw Wiseman hit a two-run triple and Lee hit an RBI single.

It was an 8-6 game when Bradford scored three in the fifth to go up 11-6. Brown hit a leadoff single, advanced on Reed's sacrifice bunt and scored on a Wiseman ground out. Lee reached on an error, followed by Hobbs reaching on a single. Both runners scored on an Almanzar double.

Bradford continued to pull away with a 10-run sixth. Noegel hit a leadoff single and scored when Waldon reached on an error. Lansford hit an RBI single, while Brown hit an RBI triple. Bradford got four straight singles from Wiseman, Lee, Hobbs and Almanzar, with runs scoring on the hits by Wiseman, Hobbs and Almanzar. McCollum then hit a two-run triple, followed by Noegel hitting an RBI single. Waldon reached on an error, which allowed the final run to score.

Wiseman went 3 for 4 with four RBI, while Almanzar was 3 for 4 with three RBI. McCollum, who went 2 for 4, had two RBI.

Lansford and Noegel each went 4 for 5 with an RBI, while Hobbs and Lee were each 3 for 4 with an RBI.

Brown went 2 for 5 with an

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Tornadoes open with 13-7 win over Baker County

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's defense created two turnovers, sacked the quarterback 10 times and held Class 3A Baker County scoreless until the final two minutes in a 13-7 season-opening win on Aug. 23 in Macclenny.

The play of the defense has been what has stood out the most since Jamie Rodgers became head coach in 2022. Bradford, which hosts Class 3A Dunnellon (1-0) on Friday, Aug. 30, at 7:30 p.m., allowed Baker's offense

to drive past midfield just three times. The Wildcats' final two drives began inside the Bradford 20, thanks to a fumble and a 15-yard penalty. Baker's lone touchdown drive covered 11 yards.

"That's basically what we do," Rodgers said. "We play good defense. I'm always good with a low-scoring game. I feel like that's kind of our deal. That's what we like."

A 22-yard touchdown run by Gino Addison in the fourth quarter proved to be the

difference in a game that was reminiscent of the 2023 season opener between the two teams, which the Tornadoes won 12-0.

Rodgers said his team didn't play well offensively, but credited a senior-heavy Baker defense.

"When you've got a bunch of seniors playing, you should be good," Rodgers said, adding, "They were doing some different stuff on defense. They were cutting our offensive linemen, which we don't see very much, and letting their linebackers,

who are their best players, make plays. It was a good strategy tonight."

Bradford had a great chance to put points on the board in the first quarter. The Wildcats lined up to punt after three plays on its first drive. The snap sailed over the punter's head. He chased down the loose ball and tried to get a kick off, but it was blocked, with the end result being that the Bradford offense had the ball at the Baker 7-yard line.

Three straight run plays, though, resulted in a loss of 3

yards. An incomplete pass on fourth down gave the ball back to the Wildcats.

It was typical of the tough going the Tornadoes' offense had. Bradford gained a total of 11 yards on its first three possessions. The Tornadoes' first eight run attempts netted minus-5 yards.

Baker, after surviving the botched punt attempt, moved from beyond the shadow of its own end zone, picking up two first downs — the second of which came on a 16-yard run

by Keshawn Kennedy to the Baker 36-yard line. The Wildcats gained just 4 yards on the next two plays. On third-and-6, Duke Lewis tackled Kennedy for no gain, forcing Baker to punt.

Bradford's Brian Cliffin and Trente Jenkins had consecutive sacks to force a three-and-out series the next time the Wildcats had the ball. Following the punt, Bradford's offense took to the field to begin its fourth series of the game at the Baker 49-yard

See BHS, page 15



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Obituaries

Justin Barfield

Justin Robby Barfield, 32, of Keystone Heights passed away suddenly on Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, in Lake Butler. He was born in Orange Park on Oct. 28, 1991. He attended Keystone Heights JR/SR High School and was involved in Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department. He enjoyed fishing, mudding, and spending time with his family and friends, and the best joy of his life was to be a father. Preceding him in death was his "Papa" James Barfield and his "Papa" Buck Wiggins.

He is survived by his wife, Kymberly Barfield; children, Mackenna Barfield, Isabella Herring, Aurora Herring, Beckett Williams and Maverick Barfield; his parents, Robby and Teresa Barfield; siblings, Erica (Jarret) Frasco and Amanda (Jerry) Wahl. Also left are nieces and nephews, Lana Frasco, Wesley Wahl, Mackenzie Wahl and Talmadge Frasco; his "Nanie," Jean Wiggins; and "Mema," Peggy Barfield.

A visitation will be held at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Keystone Heights, on Friday, Aug. 30, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights, on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 11 a.m., with Chaplain Mitch Perry officiating. Interment will follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

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



John Howard

John Carl Howard, 62, of Lake Butler, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at his home on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024. John was born in Gainesville on May 8, 1962, and was a lifelong resident of Union County. After graduating from Union County High School, he began his career working at the family business, Hobo Tractor. From dawn to dusk, his hard work was matched only by his love for his family, who were the center of his world. He married his high school sweetheart, Melanie, in 1982, and together they built a life deeply rooted in their family traditions and faith. His legacy extends beyond his work on the farm and at the family business. He was a lifelong member of Harmony Free Will Baptist Church. His commitment to preserving his family's traditions was evident in the way he lived and worked, and he took great pride in passing down these values to his children and grandchildren. He was part owner of Hobo Tractor with his son, Justin, and his brother, David. In his 45 years at Hobo Tractor, many people came in as customers and left as lifelong friends. He lived his life as an honest, hardworking, faithful man and devoted every breath to his family and friends. On the rare occasion that he wasn't working or on the farm, you could find him on his boat, in a tree stand, grilling for family and friends, watching his grandsons at the ball field, or seeing his granddaughters twirl on the dance floor. With his passing, this community will feel a tremendous void as his unselfish love was far-reaching and touched so many. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and loyal customers, but he will never be forgotten. His legacy will remain strong through his children, grandchildren, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Canova Howard; brother, Charles Howard; and nephew, Chuck Howard.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Melanie; their three children, Shayna (Kevin) Harrison, Justin (Jessica) Howard, and Ashton (Kendyl) Willis; eight grandchildren, Graysen, Kennon, Blair, Jepson, JoyDel, Drake, Judd, and Avie-Kate; his mother, Shirley Howard; brothers, Andy (Gigi) Howard and David Howard; brother-in-law, Jack Parrish; sister-in-law, Terri Parrish; nephew, Zeb Howard; cousin, Aimee Howard Cress; nieces, Megan Perry, Jesse Parrish, and Taylor Hanks; and extended family and friends.

The family received friends for a visitation on Monday, Aug. 26, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. A funeral service was held Tuesday, Aug. 27, at his church, Harmony Free Will Baptist Church. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Harmony Free Will Baptist Church.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to once again serve the Howard family.
PAID OBITUARY



Mary O. Jones

Mary Ophelia "Opie" Jones, 68, of Starke passed away at her brother's residence on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. Opie was born in Middleburg on Dec. 24, 1955, to the late John Paul Bennefield and Dorothy May Bryan Bennefield. She was raised in Union County and lived in Georgia for the majority of her adult life. She recently relocated to Bradford County to be closer with her son. While in Georgia, she married her best friend and forever companion, M.L. Jones, and they shared many beautiful years together until his passing. More than anything, Opie loved her family and cherished time with them. She enjoyed listening to Hank Williams Sr.'s music, relaxing, and playing mobile games. She held the number one ranking score in the nation on Candy Crush for a short season and thoroughly loved being in the winner spot. She was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, M. L. Jones.

She is survived by her son, Cody Alan (Robin Ferrell) Jones of Starke; brothers, Mark Bennefield and Enoch Bennefield; sisters, Sharon Norman and Bonnie Willingham; along with several extended family members.

Opie's Life will be privately celebrated in the near future. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial chapel, Starke, 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferrierafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.
PAID OBITUARY

Imogene Varnes

Imogene Prevatt Varnes, 88, of Hilliard, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loved ones, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024. Born in High Springs, in 1936, she was the 11th of 15 children born to Thelma and Morgan Prevatt. She was a member of Good News Baptist Church in Jacksonville for 20 years and also attended Live Oak Baptist Church in Callahan for the past two years. Her greatest passion was taking pictures of everyone and everything. She avidly enjoyed dancing, playing cards, slot machines, traveling, visiting her extended family, and faithfully attending the annual Prevatt Family Reunions! She was known for her many collections, including "what-nots," and anything John Wayne or Elvis related. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Kaley Cooper; and 12 of her siblings.

She is survived by her four children, Dinah Castleberry of Ft. McCoy; Donald (Becky) Dawkins of Hilliard, Deborah Betts of Hilliard, and Patricia Cooper of Gainesville; two siblings, Dorothy Brightwell of Keystone Heights, and Jackie (Frances) Goolsby of Valdosta, Georgia; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler, on Saturday, Sept. 7. Visitation will be at 1 p.m., followed by the service at 2 p.m.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the family Mrs. Imogene Varnes. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com
PAID OBITUARY



Lucinda Caldwell

Lucinda Joy Caldwell, 58, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at Shands UF in Gainesville. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, and friend.

She is survived by her husband; Jeffery Caldwell; five children, Kristinia Martin, Tabitha Wilson, Cassandra Underhill, Stanley Hamilton III, and Josephine Wood; 23 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Also surviving are her siblings, Timmy Nugent, Eric Nugent, and Becky Taylor; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

She will be deeply missed. A celebration of life will be held at the Raiford Community Center in Raiford beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14. All who knew her and loved her or were touched by her are welcome to come celebrate her life.
PAID OBITUARY



James Ferguson

James Clarence Ferguson was born in Manhattan, Kansas on April 24, 1973, and passed away on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at UF Shands, in Gainesville. James attended Union County High in Lake Butler from August 1987- December 1990 and later earned his diploma at Kansas State High School in 1993. He worked at Alma Dairy Cheese Plant in 1992-1998. Then, after returning to Florida, he finished his career as a lead dietary cook at Bradford Terrace Nursing Home in Starke (1998-2010), where he found his passion for cooking. Due to health challenges, James had to retire in 2010. His nickname to his closest friends was "Fergerburger" or "Fergie." James enjoyed family dinners, cooking, watching cooking shows and horror movies. He loved trivia questions, listening to music (some favorites include rock-n-roll, bagpipes, & jazz), playing guitar, singing karaoke and fishing. He loved to read (his favorite author was Stephen King), loved to draw, eat Mexican food, loved fireworks, and loved football. He was preceded in death by his father Joseph A. Winfree Sr.

He is survived by his mother, Martha L. Winfree; siblings, Jason L. Ferguson, Lisa A. Thompson, and Joseph A. Winfree Jr.; and their spouses and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

A memorial service for James will be announced privately at a later date.
PAID OBITUARY



Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Aug. 29, 2024

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 1009
Year of Issuance: 2018
Parcel Number: 04660-0-00000
Case Number: 2024-TD-0013
Description of Property: COMMENCING at the NE corner of NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 3, Township 7 South, Range 22 East and run South 400.2 feet for POB, thence continue South 228.8 feet, thence West 116.6 feet to East ROW line of State Highway No. 100, thence in a NWly direction along said ROW of said Highway 100, 190 feet, thence East 195 feet to POB, all of said land lying in SE corner of NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of SW 1/4, said Section, Township and Range in Bradford County, Florida.

Name in Which Assessed: DWAYNE K WINDSTEAD; TINA M WINDSTEAD
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/23/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: August 7, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: AUGUST 15, 2024; AUGUST 22, 2024; AUGUST 29, 2024; SEPTEMBER 5, 2024.
8/15 4tchg 9/5-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 915
Year of Issuance: 2018
Parcel Number: 04198-0-00000
Case Number: 2024-TD-0012
Description of Property: Beginning at the NE corner of the SW 1/4 of SE 1/4, run thence West 405.8 feet for Point of Beginning; thence run South 670.6 feet, thence West 401.9 feet,

thence North 670.6 feet, thence East 504.8 feet to Point of Beginning, Lying and being in Section 30, Township 6 South Range 22 East.

Name in Which Assessed: CONSEVILLA GOODSON; CONSEVILLAIE HAMEED; ATA DOWNSHAMEED
Name on last tax roll, if different: CONSEVILLA GOODSON ET AL
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/23/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. cee
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: August 7, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: AUGUST 15, 2024; AUGUST 22, 2024; AUGUST 29, 2024; SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
8/15 4tchg 9/5-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number: 967
Year of Issuance: 2018
Parcel Number: 04432-0-00000
Case Number: 2024-TD-0011
Description of Property: A part of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the NW Corner of said NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 for point of beginning; from point of beginning this described, run South 0°58' East 420 feet to a point; thence run South 89°58' East 315 feet to a point; thence run North 0°58' West 320 feet to a point; thence run North 89°58' West 200 feet to a point; thence run North 0°58' West 100 feet to a point; run thence North 89°50' West 415 feet to point of beginning. SAVE AND EXCEPTING therefrom any portion thereof lying within the right-of-way of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad.
Name in Which Assessed: GREGORY DURBAN
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 10/23/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
Denny Thompson,

Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: August 7, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: AUGUST 15, 2024; AUGUST 22, 2024; AUGUST 29, 2024; SEPTEMBER 5, 2024
8/15 4tchg 9/5-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on September 18, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on September 11, 2024 and end at 2PM on September 18, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com.
KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837
Time: 02:00PM CST
B22, Williams, Clarence, B48, Williams, Clarence, C02, PARKER, CHICOTIS
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.
8/22 2tchg 8/29-BCT

BID

The Town of Brooker will receive and accept sealed bids for the following complete clean-up of Town Property located at 17375 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, Florida. Bids will be received until 1:00p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2024. The bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, around 7:00p.m. at the regular monthly council meeting. Mailing address: P.O. Box 127, Brooker, FL 32622. Also, a drop box is located at the Town Hall office if you would like to deliver bid.

Scope of Work: Complete clean-up of property including hauling off everything. To include removal of all trash and debris. All trees to be cut down and stumps removed except ones marked for keeping. Removal of trees in fence along property line next to Town Park. Property needs fill dirt before leveling can be completed. Any questions, please contact Steve Acree, 352-318-7464.
REQUIRED WITH BID — A copy of current insurance declaration page showing \$250,000.00 or more Liability coverage and Worker's Compensation coverage certificate or exemption certificate. BIDS NOT

CONTAINING THESE REQUIRED ITEMS WILL BE REJECTED. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Equal Opportunity Employer, Fair Housing, Handicap Access Jurisdiction.
8/22 3tchg 9/5-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: SEAN PATRICK CRAWFORD, 18302 NE CR 1471, Hampton, FL 32044, joint owners, doing business under the firm name of: Crawford's Property Management & Tree Service, 18302 NE CR 1471, Hampton, FL 32044, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 21 day of August A.D., 2024, in BRADFORD County.
8/29 1tchg BCT

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Probate Division
File No. 04-2023-CP-000109 PAXMX IN RE: ESTATE OF JERRY W. WOODS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of JERRY W. WOODS, deceased, Case No: 63-2008-CP-000109 PAXMX is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 945 Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address 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, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF-A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
The date of the first publication of this Notice is August 29, 2024.
Personal Representative
ELEWYN WOODS
4525 SE 3rd Place
Keystone Heights, Florida 32656
Personal for Representative Attorney
CURTIS A. "LEX" SANDERS
407 West Georgia Street
Starke, Florida, 32091
(904) 964-2020/fax: 964-9400
Florida Bar No: 0625647
8/29 4tchg 9/19-BCT

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- LAWN & GARDEN

STARKE 964-6078
US-301S
Lake City, FL

LAKE BUTLER 496-3079
145 SW 6th Ave.
Lake City, FL

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

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Florida Monument Builders
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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Aug. 29, 2024

UNION

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that J. R. Davis, Jr., as 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 #: 71
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 21-06-18-45-000-0410-0
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
Parcel No. 41 of Upland Pines Plantation, Union County, Florida: The Westerly 164 feet of the following described property:

Commence at the Northwest corner of Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 18 East and run North 86 degrees 27 minutes 24 seconds East along the North line of said Section, 2021.94 feet, thence run South 2 degrees 46 minutes 29 seconds East, 619.62 feet to the North right of way line a 60 foot Access Road (Sara Lane; said point being the Point of Tangent of a curve on said right of way) thence run South 3 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East 60 feet to the South right of way of said 60 foot Access Road; thence run South 86 degrees 27 minutes 24 seconds West, along said right of way 656 feet, thence run South 3 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 575.12 feet to the North right of way of a 40 foot dedicated County Road and the Point of Beginning; thence run South 88 degrees 20 minutes 12 seconds West along said right of way 328.57 feet, thence run North 3 degrees 28 minutes 03 seconds West 294.34 feet, thence run North 86 degrees 27 minutes 24 seconds East, 328.00 feet, thence run South 3 degrees 32 minutes 36 seconds East, 305.12 feet to the Point of Beginning, being and lying in Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 18 East, Union County, Florida.

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MARY R MILLING & JAMES Z STRIPLING 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 26th day of September, 2024. Dated this 13th day of August, 2024. 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. 8/15 4tchg 9/5-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2024-CP-00030 Division Probate IN RE: ESTATE OF CYNTHIA HALAS BAGLEY Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Cynthia Halas Bagley, deceased, whose date of death was March 10, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main St. Rm 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court 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.

A personal representative or curator has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in sections 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under section 732.2211.

The date of first publication of this notice is August 22, 2024. Attorney for Personal Representative: Stephen M. Witt Attorney Florida Bar Number: 231916 PO Box 2064 LAKE CITY, FL 32056-2064 Telephone: (386) 755-2863 Fax: (386) 752-1732 E-Mail: stephen@attorneywitt.com Secondary E-Mail: carey@attorneywitt.com Personal Representative: Michael Halas 84 Gill Rd. Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324 8/22 2tchg 8/29-UCT

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on September 16, 2024 at 12:00 pm on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Unit #27 Tashonia Jackson \$335.30 Unit #12 Katherine Morabito \$276.56 Unit #32 Lindsay J. Parrish \$131.60 Unit #82 Daffaney Jones \$275.82 Unit #24 Ana Wise \$161.02 Unit #41 Aaron Smith \$287.04 Unit #35 Frieda Crawford \$161.02 Unit #40 Carol Dampier \$161.02 All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details. 8/22 2tchg 8/29-UCT

IN THE COUNTY COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO.: 63-2024-CA-0099 PAULA MCNEAL Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST LOUCIL JAMES CLAY, deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES PATRICK CLAY, SR., deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES PATRICK CLAY, JR., deceased, Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO ALL DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF the filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following described property in Union County, Florida: THE EAST 17.5 ACRES OF THE NORTH 420 YARDS (1260 FEET) OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS AND EXCEPT THE EAST 50.00 FEET THEREOF FOR COUNTY ROAD NO. 241 RIGHT OF WAY

Union County Parcel Identification Number: 09-06-18-00-000-0010-0 You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukes, the Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 3rd day of October, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiffs' attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED this 21st day of August, 2024. KELLIE H. RHOADES Clerk of the Circuit Court By: CRYSTAL NORMAN Deputy Clerk

Published in: UNION COUNTY TIMES ON 8/29, 9/5, 9/12 AND 9/19/2024 Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to access court facilities or participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (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 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org 8/29 4tchg 9/19-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2024-CP-00030 Division Probate IN RE: ESTATE OF CYNTHIA HALAS BAGLEY Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Cynthia Halas Bagley, deceased, whose date of death was March 10, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main St. Rm 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court 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.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2024 CA 00059 NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff,

VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS/BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY THROUGH UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER SCOTT FOSS, DECEASED; et al., Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION
(Publish in The Union County Times) TO: Unknown Heirs Beneficiaries, Devisees, Surviving Spouse, Grantees Assignee, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, And All Other Parties Claiming An Interest By Through Under Or Against The Estate Of Christopher Scott Foss, Deceased Last Known Residence: Unknown YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in UNION County, Florida: A PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE NORTH 3/4 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, AND RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, A DISTANCE OF 739.25 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING SOUTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 395.61 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 352.26 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 79 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 190.36 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. S-238 -A; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 380.95 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH SAID NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19; THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 204.39 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiff's attorney, at 5300 West Atlantic Avenue Suite 303 Delray Beach, FL 33484, on or before September 26, 2024, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. Dated on August 22, 2024 KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES AS CLERK OF THE COURT BY: CRYSTAL NORMAN AS DEPUTY CLERK 8/29 2tchg 9/5-UCT

ORDINANCE 2024-606
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY ZONING MAP BY AMENDING APPROXIMATELY 1.054 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY GEORGE L. RESTEA, FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY (RSF) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG); PROVIDING FINDINGS BY THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS FOR RECORDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ordinance 2024-607
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, MAKING A SMALLSCALE AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING APPROXIMATELY 1.054 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY, OWNED BY GEORGE L. RESTEA, FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY (RSF) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) ON THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP; PROVIDING FINDINGS BY THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR RECORDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. City of Keystone Heights 555 S Lawrence Blvd Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Charlie VanZant, City Manager 8/22 2tchg 8/29-LRM

FL STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION I, CORD BYRD, Secretary of State for Florida, do hereby give notice that the ballot title, summary and proposed text for each of the following proposed amendments and revisions to the Florida Constitution will be on the General Election ballot on November 5, 2024, in each county. The full text may also be found at <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/>, at FloridaPublicNotices.com, and at this newspaper's website. 8/29 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION
PUBLIC HEARING The following public hearing has been scheduled and will be held September 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, to hear comments, if any, regarding the second reading of Ordinances: 2024-608 – Florida Retirement System. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact City Hall at (352)473-4807 at least (3) days prior to the meeting. All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-608
ORDINANCE RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP INTO THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
The City of Keystone Heights, Florida, in lawful session and in regular order of business properly presented, finds that: WHEREAS, the policy and purposes of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida, to extend to the General Employees of said City of Keystone Heights not excluded by law, the

benefits of the Florida Retirement System, on the basis of applicable State laws and amendments thereto, and rules and regulations, authorizing and directing the Chairman (or other chief executive officer) to execute agreements thereto with the Department of Management Services, for coverage of said General Employees; providing for withholding from salaries and wages of the General Employees of the City of Keystone Heights so covered to be made and paid over as provided by applicable State laws or regulations; providing that said City of Keystone Heights shall appropriate and pay over employer's contributions and assessments as provided by applicable State laws or regulations; providing that said City of Keystone Heights shall keep records and make reports as required by applicable State laws or regulations. City of Keystone Heights 555 S Lawrence Blvd Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Charlie VanZant, City Manager 8/22 2tchg 8/29-LRM

PUBLIC HEARING
The following public hearing has been scheduled and will be held September 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, to hear comments, if any, regarding the second reading of Ordinances: 2024-606 – Rezoning, and 2024-607 – Land Use Change. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact City Hall at (352)473-4807 at least (3) days prior to the meeting. All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.

Ordinance 2024-606
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY ZONING MAP BY AMENDING APPROXIMATELY 1.054 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY GEORGE L. RESTEA, FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY (RSF) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG); PROVIDING FINDINGS BY THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS FOR RECORDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ordinance 2024-607
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, MAKING A SMALLSCALE AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING APPROXIMATELY 1.054 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY, OWNED BY GEORGE L. RESTEA, FROM RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY (RSF) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) ON THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP; PROVIDING FINDINGS BY THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR RECORDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. City of Keystone Heights 555 S Lawrence Blvd Keystone Heights, FL 32656 Charlie VanZant, City Manager 8/22 2tchg 8/29-LRM

FL STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS FOR THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION I, CORD BYRD, Secretary of State for Florida, do hereby give notice that the ballot title, summary and proposed text for each of the following proposed amendments and revisions to the Florida Constitution will be on the General Election ballot on November 5, 2024, in each county. The full text may also be found at <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives/>, at FloridaPublicNotices.com, and at this newspaper's website. 8/29 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION
PUBLIC HEARING The following public hearing has been scheduled and will be held September 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM at Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, to hear comments, if any, regarding the second reading of Ordinances: 2024-608 – Florida Retirement System. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact City Hall at (352)473-4807 at least (3) days prior to the meeting. All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.

ORDINANCE No. 2024-608
ORDINANCE RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP INTO THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
The City of Keystone Heights, Florida, in lawful session and in regular order of business properly presented, finds that: WHEREAS, the policy and purposes of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida, to extend to the General Employees of said City of Keystone Heights not excluded by law, the

finance joint educational programs. **ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE** Partisan election of members of district school boards.— This section and the amendment to Section 4 of Article IX requiring members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election shall take effect upon approval by the electors, except that members of district school boards may not be elected on a partisan basis until the general election held in November 2026. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the general election held on November 3, 2026, for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.

No. 2 Constitutional Amendment
Article I, Section 28 **Ballot Title**
Right to Fish and Hunt **Ballot Summary**
Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Species that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV of the State Constitution.

Text **ARTICLE I DECLARATION OF RIGHTS** SECTION 28. Fishing, hunting, and the taking of fish and wildlife.—Fishing, hunting, and the taking of fish and wildlife, including by the use of traditional methods, shall be preserved forever as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. This section does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV.

No. 3 Constitutional Amendment
Article X, Section 29 **Ballot Title**
Adult Personal Use of Marijuana **Ballot Summary**
Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date.

Financial and State Budget Impact Statements
The amendment's financial impact primarily comes from expected sales tax collections. If legal today, sales of non-medical marijuana would be subject to sales tax and would remain so if voters approve this amendment. Based on other states' experiences, expected retail sales of non-medical marijuana would generate at least \$195.6 million annually in state and local sales tax revenues once the retail market is fully operational, although the timing of this occurring is unclear. Under current law, the existing statutory framework for medical marijuana is repealed six months after the effective date of this amendment which affects how this amendment will be implemented. A new regulatory structure for both medical and nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully known until the legislature acts; however, regulatory costs will probably be offset by regulatory fees. Other potential costs and savings cannot be predicted. THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE A NET POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS IMPACT MAY RESULT IN GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Text **ARTICLE X MISCELLANEOUS** SECTION 29. Medical marijuana production, possession and use.— (a) PUBLIC POLICY. (1) The medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient or caregiver in compliance with this section is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law. (2) A physician shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law solely for issuing a physician certification with reasonable care to a patient diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition in compliance with this section. (3) Actions and conduct by a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center registered with the Department, or its agents or employees, and in compliance with this section and Department regulations, shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law. (4) The non-medical personal use of marijuana products and marijuana accessories by an adult, as defined below, in compliance with this section is not subject to any criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law. (5) Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other entities licensed as provided below, are allowed to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute marijuana products and marijuana accessories to adults for personal use upon the Effective Date provided below. A Medical Marijuana Treatment Center, or other state licensed entity, including its agents and employees, acting in accordance with this section as it relates to acquiring, cultivating, processing, manufacturing, selling, and distributing marijuana products and marijuana accessories, to adults for personal use shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law. (b) DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this section, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings: (1) "Debilitating Medical Condition" means cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired

immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, or other debilitating medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated, and for which a physician believes that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for a patient. (2) "Department" means the Department of Health or its successor agency. (3) "Identification card" means a document issued by the Department that identifies a qualifying patient or a caregiver. (4) "Marijuana" has the meaning given cannabis in Section 893.02(3), Florida Statutes (2014), and, in addition, "Low-THC cannabis" as defined in Section 381.986(1)(b), Florida Statutes (2014), shall also be included in the meaning of the term "marijuana." (5) "Medical Marijuana Treatment Center" (MMTC) means an entity that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their caregivers and is registered by the Department. (6) "Medical use" means the acquisition, possession, use, delivery, transfer, or administration of an amount of marijuana not in conflict with Department rules, or of related supplies by a qualifying patient or caregiver for use by the caregiver's designated qualifying patient for the treatment of a debilitating medical condition. (7) "Caregiver" means a person who is at least twenty-one (21) years old who has agreed to assist with a qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana and has qualified for and obtained a caregiver identification card issued by the Department. The Department may limit the number of qualifying patients a caregiver may assist at one time and the number of caregivers that a qualifying patient may have at one time. Caregivers are prohibited from consuming marijuana obtained for medical use by the qualifying patient. (8) "Physician" means a person who is licensed to practice medicine in Florida. (9) "Physician certification" means a written document signed by a physician, stating that in the physician's professional opinion, the patient suffers from a debilitating medical condition, that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient, and for how long the physician recommends the medical use of marijuana for the patient. A physician certification may only be provided after the physician has conducted a physical examination and a full assessment of the medical history of the patient. In order for a physician certification to be issued to a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the minor must consent in writing. (10) "Qualifying patient" means a person who has been diagnosed to have a debilitating medical condition, who has a physician certification and a valid qualifying patient identification card. If the Department does not begin issuing identification cards within nine (9) months after the effective date of this section, then a valid physician certification will serve as a patient identification card in order to allow a patient to become a "qualifying patient" until the Department begins issuing identification cards. (11) "Marijuana accessories" means any equipment, product, or material of any kind that are used for inhaling, ingesting, topically applying, or otherwise introducing marijuana products into the human body for personal use. (12) "Marijuana products" means marijuana or goods containing marijuana. (13) "Personal use" means the possession, purchase, or use of marijuana products or marijuana accessories by an adult 21 years of age or older for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise. An adult need not be a qualifying patient in order to purchase marijuana products or marijuana accessories for personal use from a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center. An individual's possession of marijuana for personal use shall not exceed 3.0 ounces of marijuana except that not more than five grams of marijuana may be in the form of concentrate. (c) LIMITATIONS. (1) Nothing in this section allows for a violation of any law other than for conduct in compliance with the provisions of this section. (2) Nothing in this section shall affect or repeal laws relating to non-medical use, possession, production, or sale of marijuana. (3) Nothing in this section prohibits the Legislature from enacting laws that are consistent with this amendment. (3) Nothing in this section authorizes the use of medical marijuana by anyone other than a qualifying patient. (4) Nothing in this section shall permit the operation of any vehicle, aircraft, train or boat while under the influence of marijuana. (5) Nothing in this section changes federal law or requires the violation of federal law or purports to give immunity under federal law. (6) Nothing in this section shall require any accommodation of any on-site medical use of marijuana in any correctional institution or detention facility or place of education or employment, or of smoking medical marijuana in any public place. (7) Nothing in this section shall require any health insurance provider or any government agency or authority to reimburse any person for expenses related to the medical use of marijuana. (8) Nothing in this section shall affect or repeal laws relating to negligence or professional malpractice on the part of a qualified patient, caregiver, physician, MMTC, or its agents or employees. (9) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT. The Department shall issue reasonable regulations necessary for the implementation and enforcement of this section. The purpose of the regulations is to ensure the availability and safe use of medical marijuana by qualifying patients. It is the duty of the Department to promulgate regulations in a timely fashion. (1) Implementing Regulations. In order to allow the Department sufficient time after passage of this section, the following regulations shall be promulgated no later than six (6) months after the effective date of this section: a. Procedures for the issuance and annual renewal of qualifying patient identification cards to people with physician certifications and standards for renewal of such identification cards. Before

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Legal Notices

LEGALS

Continued from page 13

issuing an identification card to a minor, the Department must receive written consent from the minor's parent or legal guardian, in addition to the physician certification.

b. Procedures establishing qualifications and standards for caregivers, including conducting appropriate background checks, and procedures for the issuance and annual renewal of caregiver identification cards.

c. Procedures for the registration of MMTCS that include procedures for the issuance, renewal, suspension and revocation of registration, and standards to ensure proper security, record keeping, testing, labeling, inspection, and safety.

d. A regulation that defines the amount of marijuana that could reasonably be presumed to be an adequate supply for qualifying patients' medical use, based on the best available evidence. This presumption as to quantity may be overcome with evidence of a particular qualifying patient's appropriate medical use.

(2) Identification cards and registrations. The Department shall begin issuing qualifying patient and caregiver identification cards, and registering MMTCS no later than nine (9) months after the effective date of this section.

(3) If the Department does not issue regulations, or if the Department does not begin issuing identification cards and registering MMTCS within the time limits set in this section, any Florida citizen shall have standing to seek judicial relief to compel compliance with the Department's constitutional duties.

(4) The Department shall protect the confidentiality of all qualifying patients. All records containing the identity of qualifying patients shall be confidential and kept from public disclosure other than for valid medical or law enforcement purposes.

(e) LEGISLATION. Nothing in this section shall limit the legislature from enacting laws consistent with this section. The legislature may provide for the licensure of entities that are not Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers to acquire, cultivate, possess, process, transfer, transport, sell, and distribute marijuana products and marijuana accessories for personal use by adults.

(f) SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this section are severable and if any clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this measure, or an application thereof, is adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction other provisions shall continue to be in effect to the fullest extent possible.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE. This amendment shall become effective six (6) months after approval by the voters.

No. 4 Constitutional Amendment

Article 1, New Section

Ballot Title

Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion

Ballot Summary

No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.

Financial and State Budget Impact Statements

The proposed amendment would result in significantly more abortions and fewer live births per year in Florida. The increase in abortions could be even greater if the amendment invalidates laws requiring parental consent before minors undergo abortions and those ensuring only licensed physicians perform abortions. There is also uncertainty about whether the amendment will require the state to subsidize abortions with public funds. Litigation to resolve those and other uncertainties will result in additional costs to the state government and state courts that will negatively impact the state budget. An increase in abortions may negatively affect the growth of state and local revenues over time. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and local revenues and costs cannot be estimated with precision, the total impact of the proposed amendment is indeterminate. **THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT CANNOT BE DETERMINED DUE TO AMBIGUITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE AMENDMENT'S IMPACT.**

Text

ARTICLE I DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION ____ Limiting government interference with abortion — Except as provided in Article X, Section 22, no law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider.

No. 5 Constitutional Amendment

Article VII, Section 6 and Article XII

Ballot Title

Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions

Ballot Summary

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2025.

Text

ARTICLE VII FINANCE AND TAXATION

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions—
(a)(1) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, as follows:

a. Up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars; and;

b. For all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars.

upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repeated on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(2) The twenty-five thousand dollar amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation provided in subparagraph (a)(1), shall be adjusted annually on January 1 of each year for inflation using the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, if such percent change is positive.

(3) The amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation for which every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, is eligible, and which applies solely to levies other than school district levies, that is added to this constitution after January 1, 2025, shall be adjusted annually on January 1 of each year for inflation using the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, if such percent change is pos-

sitive, beginning the year following the effective date of such exemption.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or both of the following additional homestead tax exemptions.

(1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars; or

(2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the property to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as determined in the first tax year that the owner applies and is eligible for the exemption, and who has maintained thereon the permanent residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).

The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant these additional exemptions, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e)(1) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this paragraph, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may reply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years.

(2) If a veteran who receives the discount described in paragraph (1) predeceases his or her spouse, and if, upon the death of the veteran, the surviving spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead property and permanently resides thereon, the discount carries over to the surviving spouse until he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the homestead property. If the surviving spouse sells or otherwise disposes of the property, a discount not to exceed the dollar amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to the surviving spouse's new homestead property, if used as his or her permanent residence and he or she has not remarried.

(3) This subsection is self-executing and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property to:

(1) The surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) The surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.

(3) A first responder who is totally and permanently disabled as a result of an injury or injuries sustained in the line of duty. Causal connection between a disability and service in the line of duty shall not be presumed but must be determined as provided by general law. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "disability" does not include a chronic condition or chronic disease, unless the injury sustained in the line of duty was the sole cause of the chronic condition or chronic disease.

As used in this subsection and as further defined by general law, the term "first responder" means a law enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic, and the term "in the line of duty" means arising out of and in the actual performance of duty required by employment as a first responder.

ARTICLE XII SCHEDULE

Annual adjustment to homestead exemption value.—This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII requiring an annual adjustment for inflation of specified homestead exemptions shall take effect January 1, 2025.

No. 6 Constitutional Amendment

Article VI, Section 7

Ballot Title

Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement

Ballot Summary

Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

Text to be repealed

ARTICLE VI SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 7.—Campaign spending limits and funding of campaigns for elective state-wide office.—It is the policy of this state to provide for state-wide elections in which all qualified candidates may compete effectively. A method of public financing for campaigns for state-wide office shall be established by law. Spending limits shall be established for such campaigns for candidates who use public funds in their campaigns. The legislature shall provide funding for this provision. General law implementing this paragraph shall be at least as protective of effective competition by candidates who use public funds as the general law in effect on January 1, 1998.

8/29 & 10/3 BCT

PROPUSTAS DE ENMIENDAS Y REVISIONES CONSTITUCIONALES PARA LA ELECCION GENERAL DEL 2024

Yo, CORD BYRD EE, Secretario de Estado de la Florida, por el presente notifico que el título del boleta, el resumen del boleta, y el texto de las siguientes enmiendas constitucionales propuestas y revisiones estarán en el boleta de las elecciones generales del 2024 en el día 5 de noviembre, 2024, en cada condado. El texto completo de estas enmiendas se define en el presente aquí también se puede encontrar en DOS Elections.MyFlorida.com/initiatives, en FloridaPublicNotices.com, y en el sitio web de este periódico.

N.º 1 Enmienda Constitucional

Artículo IX, Sección 4 y Artículo XII

Título de la boleta

Elección Partidista de Miembros de Juntas Escolares de Distrito. —

Resumen de la boleta

Se propone enmiendas a la Constitución estatal para requerir que los miembros de una junta escolar distriatal sean elegidos mediante una elección partidista en vez de una elección no partidista y se especifica que la enmienda solo se aplica a las elecciones celebradas a partir de las elecciones generales de noviembre de 2026. Sin embargo, las elecciones primarias partidistas pueden suceder antes de las elecciones generales de 2026 con el fin de nominar a los candidatos de partidos políticos para ese oficio para su inclusión en la boleta de las elecciones generales de 2026.

Texto

ARTÍCULO IX EDUCACION

SECCIÓN 4. Distritos escolares; juntas escolares. —

(a) Cada condado formará un distrito escolar, no obstante, dos o más condados contiguos, con el voto de los electores de cada condado conforme a ley, podrán combinarse en un distrito escolar. En cada distrito escolar habrá una junta escolar compuesta de cinco o más miembros electos por el voto de los electores en una elección partidista no-partidista, para mandatos de cuatro años apropiadamente escalonados, según lo dispuesto por ley.

(b) La junta escolar deberá operar, controlar, y supervisar todas las escuelas gratuitas públicas en el ámbito del distrito escolar y deberá determinar la tasa de impuestos del distrito escolar dentro de los límites establecidos en este documento. Dos o más distritos escolares podrán operar y financiar programas educativos colectivos.

ARTÍCULO XII ANEXO

Elección partidista de miembros de las juntas escolares de distrito. — Entrarán en vigor tras la aprobación de los electores, esta sección y la enmienda de la Sección 4 del Artículo IX que exige que los miembros de una junta escolar de distrito sean elegidos en una elección partidista en lugar de una elección no partidista, excepto que los miembros de las juntas escolares de distrito no podrán ser elegidos sobre una base partidista hasta las elecciones generales celebradas en noviembre de 2026. Las elecciones primarias partidistas pueden sin embargo suceder antes de las elecciones generales celebradas el 3 de noviembre de 2026 con el fin de nominar a candidatos de partidos políticos para ese oficio para su inclusión en la boleta de las elecciones generales de 2026.

N.º 2 Enmienda Constitucional

Artículo I, Sección 28

Título de la boleta

Derecho a Pescar y Cazar. -

Resumen de la boleta

Se propone una enmienda a la Constitución estatal para preservar constantemente la pesca y la caza, incluso por medio de métodos tradicionales, como derecho público y medio preferido para gestionar y controlar responsablemente los peces y la vida silvestre. Especifica que la enmienda no limita la autoridad adjudicada a la Comisión de Conservación de Pesca y Vida Silvestre en virtud de la Sección 9 del Artículo IV de la Constitución estatal.

Texto

ARTÍCULO I DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS

SECCIÓN 28. Pesca, caza y captura de peces y vida silvestre. — La pesca, caza y captura de peces y vida silvestre, incluso por medio de métodos tradicionales, se preservarán constantemente como un derecho público y un medio preferido para gestionar y controlar responsablemente los peces y la vida silvestre. Esta sección no limita la autoridad adjudicada a la Comisión de Conservación de Pesca y Vida Silvestre en virtud de la Sección 9 del Artículo IV.

N.º 3 Enmienda Constitucional

Artículo X, Sección 29

Título de la boleta

Uso Personal de Marihuana Para Adultos. —

Resumen de la boleta

Autoriza que los adultos de 21 años de edad o mayores posean, compren o utilicen productos y accesorios de marihuana para consumo personal que no sea medicinal mediante el tabaquismo, por ingestión o de otra manera; Centro de tratamiento de marihuana medicinal y otras entidades con licencia estatal, para adquirir, cultivar, procesar, fabricar, vender y distribuir dichos productos y accesorios. Se aplica a la ley de la Florida; no cambia, tampoco protege contra las violaciones de leyes federales. Define los límites de posesión para uso personal. Da consistencia legislativa. Define los términos. Define la fecha de vigencia.

Declaraciones del impacto del presupuesto financiero y estatal

El impacto financiero de la enmienda proviene en primer lugar de la recaudación impositiva futura sobre las ventas. Si hoy es legal, las ventas de marihuana con fines no medicinales estarían sujetas al impuesto sobre las ventas y seguirían siéndolo si los votantes aprueban esta enmienda. Según las experiencias de otros estados, las ventas minoristas futuras de marihuana no medicinal generarían al menos \$195.6 millones anuales en ingresos por impuestos estatales y locales sobre las ventas una vez que el mercado minorista esté en pleno funcionamiento, aunque no está claro el momento en que esto ocurrirá.

Según la ley vigente, el marco legal existente para la marihuana medicinal queda derogado con efecto seis meses después de la fecha de esta enmienda, lo que afecta la forma en que se implementará esta enmienda. Se necesitará una nueva estructura regulatoria para el uso medicinal y no medicinal de la marihuana. No se puede conocer su diseño en su totalidad hasta que actúe la Legislatura; sin embargo, los costos regulatorios serán compensados por las tarifas regulatorias. No se pueden predecir otros costos y ahorros potenciales. SE ESPERA QUE ESTA PROPUESTA DE ENMIENDA CONSTITUCIONAL TENGA UN IMPACTO NETO POSITIVO EN EL PRESUPUESTO ESTATAL. ESTE IMPACTO PUEDE RESULTAR EN LA GENERACIÓN DE INGRESOS ADICIONALES O UN INCREMENTO EN LOS SERVICIOS GUBERNAMENTALES.

Text

ARTÍCULO X MISCELÁNEO

SECCIÓN 29. Producción, posesión y utilización de marihuana medicinal. —

(a) POLÍTICA PÚBLICA.
(1) La utilización de marihuana medicinal, por parte de un paciente o cuidador calificado de conformidad con esta sección, no está sujeto a responsabilidad penal o civil ni a sanciones según la ley de Florida.

(2) Un médico no estará sujeto a responsabilidad penal o civil ni a sanciones según la ley de Florida únicamente por emitir una certificación médica con atención razonable a una persona diagnosticada con una condición médica debilitante de conformidad con esta sección.

(3) Las acciones y conductas de un Centro de Tratamiento de Marihuana Medicinal registrado en el Departamento, o sus agentes o empleados, y de conformidad con esta sección y las regulaciones del Departamento, no estarán sujetas a responsabilidad penal o civil ni a sanciones según las leyes de Florida.

(4) El uso personal y no medicinal de productos de marihuana y accesorios de marihuana por parte de un adulto, como se define a continuación, de conformidad con esta sección, no está sujeto a ninguna responsabilidad penal o civil ni a sanciones según la ley de Florida.

(5) Los Centros de Tratamiento de Marihuana Medicinal y otras entidades autorizadas según lo dispuesto a continuación pueden adquirir, cultivar, procesar, fabricar, vender y distribuir productos y accesorios de marihuana para uso personal en la fecha de entrada en vigor que se proporciona a continu-

ación. Un centro de tratamiento de marihuana medicinal, u otra entidad con licencia estatal, incluidos sus agentes y empleados, que actúe de acuerdo con esta sección en lo que se refiere a la adquisición, el cultivo, procesamiento, la fabricación, venta y distribución de productos y accesorios de marihuana a adultos para uso personal no estará sujeto a responsabilidad penal o civil ni a sanciones según la ley de Florida.

(b) DEFINICIONES. A los fines de esta sección, las siguientes palabras y los términos tendrán significaciones siguientes:

(1) "Enfermedad médica debilitante" significa cáncer, epilepsia, glaucoma, estado positivo para el virus de inmunodeficiencia humana (VIH), síndrome de inmunodeficiencia adquirida (SIDA), trastorno de estrés posttraumático (PTSD), esclerosis lateral amiotrófica (ELA), enfermedad de Crohn, enfermedad de Parkinson, esclerosis múltiple u otras afecciones médicas debilitantes del mismo tipo o clase o comparables a las enumeradas, y para las cuales un médico que el uso médico de la marihuana probablemente superaría los riesgos potenciales para la salud del paciente.

(2) "Departamento" significa el Departamento de Salud o su agencia sucesora.

(3) "Tarjeta de identificación" significa un documento emitido por el Departamento que identifica a un paciente o cuidador calificado.

(4) "Marihuana" tiene el significado que se le atribuye al cannabis en la Sección 893.02(3) de los Estatutos de Florida (2014) y, además, "cannabis con bajo contenido de THC" tal como se define en la Sección 381.986(1)(b) de los Estatutos de Florida (2014), también se incluirá en el significado del término "marihuana".

(5) "Centro de Tratamiento de Marihuana Medicinal" (MMTC) significa una entidad que adquiere, cultiva, posee, procesa (incluido el desarrollo de productos relacionados como alimentos, tinturas, aerosoles, aceites o ungüentos), transfiere, transporta, vende, distribuye, dispensa o suministra marihuana, productos que contienen marihuana, suministros relacionados o materiales educativos a pacientes calificados o sus cuidadores y está registrado por el Departamento.

(6) "Uso medicinal" significa la adquisición, posesión, uso, entrega, transferencia o administración de una cantidad de marihuana que no entre en conflicto con las reglas del Departamento, o de suministros relacionados por parte de un paciente o cuidador calificado para uso de la persona calificada designada por el cuidador del paciente para el tratamiento de una enfermedad médica debilitante.

(7) "Cuidador" significa una persona que tiene al menos veintidós (21) años de edad que ha aceptado de ayudar con el uso medicinal de marihuana de un paciente calificado y ha calificado y obtenido una tarjeta de identificación de cuidador emitida por el Departamento. El Departamento puede limitar la cantidad de pacientes calificados que un cuidador puede ayudar al mismo tiempo y la cantidad de cuidadores que un paciente calificado puede tener al mismo tiempo. Los cuidadores tienen prohibido consumir marihuana obtenida para uso médico por el paciente calificado.

(8) "Médico" significa una persona que tiene licencia para ejercer la medicina en Florida.

(9) "Certificación del médico" significa un documento escrito firmado por un médico, que establece que, en la opinión profesional del médico, el paciente sufre de una condición médica debilitante, que el uso médico de la marihuana probablemente superaría los riesgos potenciales para la salud del paciente, y durante cuánto tiempo el médico recomienda el uso médico de la marihuana al paciente. Sólo se puede proporcionar una certificación médica después de que el médico haya realizado un examen físico y una evaluación completa del historial médico del paciente. Para que se emita una certificación médica a un menor, uno de los padres, o tutor legal del menor debe dar su consentimiento por escrito.

(10) "Paciente calificado" significa una persona a la que se le ha diagnosticado una condición médica debilitante, que tiene una certificación médica y una tarjeta de identificación de paciente calificado válida. Si el Departamento no comienza a emitir tarjetas de identificación dentro de los nueve (9) meses posteriores a la fecha de vigencia de esta sección, entonces una certificación médica válida servirá como tarjeta de identificación del paciente para permitir que una persona se convierta en un "paciente calificado" hasta que el departamento comience a emitir tarjetas de identificación.

(11) "Accesorios de marihuana" significa cualquier equipo, producto o material de cualquier tipo, que se utilice para inhalar, ingerir, aplicar tópicamente o introducir de otro modo productos de marihuana en el cuerpo humano para uso personal.

(12) "Productos de marihuana" significa marihuana o productos que contienen marihuana.

(13) "Uso personal" significa la posesión, compra o uso de productos de marihuana o accesorios de marihuana por parte de un adulto de 21 años de edad o más para consumo personal no médico mediante fumar, ingerir o de otra manera. No es necesario que un adulto sea un paciente calificado para comprar productos, accesorios de consumo para uso personal, en un Centro de Tratamiento de Marihuana Medicinal. La posesión de marihuana para uso personal por parte de un individuo no excederá las 3.0 onzas de marihuana, excepto que no más de cinco gramos de marihuana pueden estar en forma de concentrado.

(c) LIMITACIONES.

(1) Nada en esta sección permite una violación de cualquier ley que no sea una conducta de conformidad con las disposiciones de esta sección.

(2) Nada en esta sección afectará o derogará las leyes relacionadas con el uso, posesión, producción o venta de marihuana con fines no médicos.

(2) Nada en esta enmienda prohíbe a la Legislatura promulgar leyes que sean consistentes con esta enmienda.

(3) Nada en esta sección autoriza el uso de marihuana medicinal por parte de nadie que no sea un paciente calificado.

(4) Nada en esta sección permitirá la operación de ningún vehículo, avión, tren o barco bajo la influencia de la marihuana.

(5) Nada en esta sección cambia la ley federal ni requiere la violación de la ley federal ni pretende otorgar inmunidad bajo la ley federal.

(6) Nada en esta sección requerirá ninguna adaptación de cualquier uso médico de marihuana en el sitio en cualquier institución correccional o centro de detención o lugar de educación o empleo, o de fumar marihuana medicinal en cualquier lugar público.

(7) Nada en esta sección requerirá que ningún proveedor de seguro médico ni ninguna agencia o autoridad gubernamental reembolse a ninguna persona los gastos relacionados con el uso médico de la marihuana.

(8) Nada en esta sección afectará o derogará las leyes relacionadas con negligencia o mala práctica profesional por parte de un paciente calificado, cuidador, médico, MMTC o sus agentes o empleados.

(d) FUNCIONES DEL DEPARTAMENTO. El Departamento emitirá las regulaciones razonables necesarias para la implementación y cumplimiento de esta sección. El propósito de las regulaciones es garantizar la disponibilidad y el uso seguro de la marihuana medicinal por parte de los pacientes que califican. Es deber del Departamento promulgar reglamentos en forma oportuna.

(1) Reglamento de aplicación. Para permitir al Departamento tiempo suficiente después de la aprobación de esta sección, las siguientes regulaciones se promulgarán a más tardar seis (6) meses después de la fecha de vigencia de esta sección: a. Procedimientos para la emisión y renovación anual de tarjetas de identificación de pacientes calificados para personas con certificaciones médicas y estándares para la renovación de dichas tarjetas de identificación. Antes de emitir una tarjeta de identificación a un menor, el Departamento debe recibir el consentimiento por escrito de uno de los padres o tutor legal del menor, además de la certificación médica.

b. Procedimientos que establecen calificaciones y estándares para los cuidadores, incluida la realización de verificaciones de antecedentes apropiadas, y procedimientos para la emisión y renovación anual de tarjetas de identificación de cuidadores. c. Procedimientos para el registro de MMTC que incluyen procedimientos para la emisión, renovación, suspensión y revocación del registro, y estándares para garantizar la seguridad, el mantenimiento de registros, las pruebas, el etiquetado, la inspección y la seguridad de los cuidadores. d. Una regulación que define la cantidad de marihuana que razonablemente podría presumirse como un suministro adecuado para el uso médico de los pacientes calificados,

basándose en la mejor evidencia disponible. Esta presunción de cantidad puede superarse con evidencia del uso médico apropiado de un paciente en particular que califica.

(2) Tarjetas de identificación y registros. El Departamento comenzará a emitir tarjetas de identificación de pacientes y cuidadores calificados y a registrar los MMTC a más tardar nueve (9) meses después de la fecha de entrada en vigor de esta sección.

(3) Si el Departamento no emite regulaciones, o si el Departamento no comienza a emitir tarjetas de identificación y a registrar MMTC dentro de los límites de tiempo establecidos en esta sección, cualquier ciudadano de Florida tendrá legitimación activa para buscar reparación judicial para obligar al cumplimiento de las disposiciones constitucionales del Departamento.

(4) El Departamento protegerá la confidencialidad de todos los pacientes que califiquen. Todos los registros que contengan la identidad de los pacientes calificados serán confidenciales y no se divulgarán al público excepto para fines médicos o policiales válidos.

(e) LEGISLACIÓN. Nada en esta sección limitará a la legislatura a la hora de promulgar leyes consistentes con esta sección. La Legislatura puede disponer la concesión de licencias a entidades que no sean Centros de Tratamiento de Marihuana Medicinal para adquirir, cultivar, poseer, procesar, transferir, transportar, vender y distribuir productos de marihuana y accesorios de marihuana para uso personal de adultos.

(f) DIVISIBILIDAD. Las disposiciones de esta sección son divisibles y si cualquier cláusula, frase, párrafo o sección de esta medida, o una aplicación de la misma, es declarada inválida por un tribunal de jurisdicción competente, otras disposiciones seguirán estando vigentes en la mayor medida posible.

(g) FECHA DE VIGENCIA. Esta enmienda entrará en vigor seis (6) meses posteriores a la aprobación de los votantes.

N.º 4 Enmienda Constitucional

Artículo 1, Nueva Sección

Título de la boleta

Enmienda Para Limitar La Interferencia Gubernamental en El Aborto. —

Resumen de la boleta

Ninguna ley prohibirá, penalizará, retrasará o restringirá el aborto antes de su viabilidad o cuando sea necesario para proteger la salud de la paciente, según lo determine el proveedor de servicios de salud de la paciente. Esta enmienda no cambia la autoridad

Indians start with shutout of Rams

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Keystone Heights started its 2024 campaign on a positive note on Aug. 23, winning 29-0 over Interlachen in Putnam County.

The Indians, who host Union County on Friday, Aug. 30, at 7:30 p.m., started aggressively by recovering a sky kick to Interlachen on the Rams' 25. Running back Zane Leger then carried for 5 and 15 yards before scoring on a 5-yard dive with 10:37 left in the first quarter. Tyler Sapp added the extra point, which gave Keystone a seven-point lead to begin the game.

Leger led the Indians in rushing with 152 yards and one touchdown on 20 carries.

Leger continued his heroics on the other side of the ball when he recovered an Interlachen fumble midway through the first quarter. The turnover gave the Indians the ball at midfield. Leger and Colton Hollingsworth combined for five runs totaling 18 yards before Leger capped off the drive with a 32-yard dash with 1:55 remaining in the



An Interlachen hangs on as Zane Leger scores his second touchdown of the night for the Indians.

quarter. However, the Indians mishandled the hold on the extra point, leaving them with a 13-point lead as the first quarter wound down.

Hollingsworth ended the game with 99 yards rushing on 18 carries. He also led the Indians in tackles with five solos and four

assists.

Tallon Campbell had seven tackles, and Layton Wright recorded six takedowns.

Keystone once again received excellent field position with eight minutes remaining in the half when Interlachen went for it on fourth-and-4 from the Keystone 39. However, the promising drive, which started on the Interlachen 26, was doomed with a botched snap on the fourth-down attempt. The Indians recovered the ball on the Interlachen 35, and after two Leger runs, which gained no yards, quarterback Baylor Ford hit Andrew Wilson with a 35-yard touchdown pass with 6:22 remaining in the half. Sapp's extra point sailed wide of the goal post, and Keystone took a 19-0 lead into intermission.

Ford finished with four completions on nine attempts for 80 yards and two touchdowns.

Wilson had three catches for 76 yards and two touchdowns, while Jackson Parmeter caught one pass for 4 yards.

The Indians began the second half with an 11-play, 49-yard

drive that concluded with a 16-yard Sapp field goal with 7:48 remaining in the third quarter. Behind the blocking of Luke Bacorn, Jackson Herman, Bryce Daniels, Pete Bostic and Teddy Westbrooks, Hollingsworth and Leger churned out runs of 2, 4, 3, 19, 6, 6 and 3 yards during the drive.

Campbell set up Keystone's final score at the beginning of the fourth quarter when he picked off an Interlachen pass. Two plays later, Ford and Wilson connected again on a 38-yard pass, and Sapp added the P.A.T., giving the Indians a 29-0 victory.

Things won't be easy this week for the Class 2A Indians when Union County comes to town. The Tigers, who play in the Rural classification and have advanced to the regional-championship round four straight years, opened their season with a 14-13 win over Class 3A Yulee in Nassau County. Keystone played Yulee in the first round of the playoffs last year, losing 36-10.

Keystone and Union last played each other in 2020, with the Tigers winning 42-20.



Drew Simmons (left) rushed for 176 yards and scored the second touchdown for the Tigers. Photo by Gloria Hastings.

Defense comes up big at end in 14-13 UCHS win

BY CECE THOMAS
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

It has been said that a good defense will win championships.

On Aug. 23, it was the defense as well as a lot of heart from the Tigers, who won the game for Union County High School against the host Yulee Hornets.

A lot of factors were against Union. First, Yulee, which plays in Class 3A, is a much larger school and had twice the number of players as the Tigers, who play in the Rural classification. Second, the field was saturated with rain that continued to fall on and off throughout the game. Finally, the offense moved the ball well, but had five turnovers.

However, the defense successfully stopped the Hornets four times when they were in scoring position. With only seven seconds left on the clock, Ibn Williams knocked down a pass on a two-point conversion attempt to give the Tigers a 14-13 season-opening win.

"Our kids just battled all night, handled the adversity thrown at them, moved on after mistakes and kept fighting," Head Coach Andrew Thomas said. "Eventually we kind of took over and were able to finish and hold on in the end."

Head Coach Andrew Thomas. The Union County Tigers next game for August 30th will be played against Keystone at Keystone.

Union, which will travel to play Class 2A Keystone Heights (1-0) on Friday, Aug. 30, at 7:30 p.m., started its first

drive on its own 28-yard line. Trenton Klein's first play — a quarterback keeper — gained 2 yards. On third down, a pass to Drew Simmons was incomplete due to Yulee's defense getting to the quarterback. Gavin Jenkins punted to the Hornets, who took over at their own 32-yard line.

Yulee had the first flag of the game, being penalized 5 yards for being offside. Quarterback Preston Matricardi then bobbled the snap, but managed to still make a good run for a first down. Yulee, at its own 42, scored a touchdown on Matricardi's long pass to T.J. Williamson. Daniel Armenta kicked the extra point, giving Yulee a 7-0 lead with 8:43 left in the first quarter.

The Hornets kicked off to the Tigers, with and Simmons returning it to the Tigers' 30-yard line. C.J. Ivey had a good carry for 9 yards, but on the next play, Simmons slipped in the backfield for a 5-yard loss. On third down, Simmons had a great carry to get the Tigers a first down and more out to the 47-yard line. The Tigers then fumbled, with Yulee recovering.

With many back-and-forth possessions between the teams, the first quarter ended with Yulee leading 7-0.

The Tigers started the second quarter with a third-and-7 play at their own 41. The entire crowd and both football teams thought that Yulee jumped offside, but the refs called it against the Tigers. Thomas argued the call, but Union still ended up facing

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SPORTS

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score of 74.

Binet and Jillian Huntley, who made a birdie, placed eighth and ninth, respectively, with scores of 75 and 76.

Zoey Gill shot a 10th-place score of 77 while Walls was 11th with a score of 78.

Keystone will play Oakleaf and St. Johns Classical Academy on Thursday, Aug. 29, at 3:30 p.m. at Green Cove Springs Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club. On Tuesday, Sept. 3, the Indians travel to Gainesville's Ironwood Golf Course to play

Gainesville at 3:30 p.m.

UC volleyball team drops 3-0 match to Final-Four team

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School picked up its first win in volleyball, but then dropped a 3-0 (25-17, 25-13, 25-16) match on Aug. 22 to Oak Hall, a team that advanced to the Final Four in the Class 2A playoffs last year. The Tigers, who play in the

Rural classification, got eight kills and five blocks from Jailyn Simmons. Morgan Smith and Layla Barber had six and five kills, respectively.

Indi Knox led the team in digs with 10. Kamryn Southerland and Bella Johns had nine and eight, respectively.

Abigail Williams, who had five digs, recorded a team-high seven assists, while Southerland had six.

Union (1-2) entered the match off a 3-0 (25-17, 25-22, 25-19) win over Class 3A Bradford on Aug. 20 in Starke.

Simmons had three blocks and recorded 10 kills, while Barber and Smith each had eight kills. Knox added six kills.

BHS

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line.

At first, it appeared as if it would be another drive that went nowhere. Two run plays resulted in no gain and a loss of a yard, while an illegal-procedure penalty had the Tornadoes facing third-and-16. Quarterback Zack Paulk dropped back to pass, but took off on a run to avoid pressure. He gained 16 yards in picking up a first down at the Wildcats' 39.

The play seemed to provide a spark. After a 3-yard run by Jeremiah McKenzie, Addison had three straight runs totaling 20 yards, moving Bradford inside the 20-yard line. A holding penalty and a sack, however, backed the Tornadoes up. The drive ended in a turnover on downs after two incomplete passes.

Running back Ke'na's Williams gave the Baker offense a spark when he broke tackles on two straight runs that netted 17 yards. The third play of the drive, though, saw the Tornadoes' Jenkins sack Hudson on a keeper. Another sack forced the Wildcats to punt on fourth-and-12.

Marlin Haywood returned the punt approximately 15 yards to set the Bradford offense up at the Baker 46 with 3:04 remaining the first half. Addison was held to no gain on the first play of the drive, but then had a 5-yard run on second down. Iyen Addison picked up the first down on a 14-yard run, with an additional 15 yards tacked on due to a personal-foul penalty on Baker. On first-and-20 at the 20, Iyen Addison ran for a 5-yard gain. Mikey Oliver then caught a pass at the 12-yard line and sprinted his way along his team's sideline for a touchdown with 57 seconds on the clock. Cy Cubbedge

kicked the extra point for a 7-0 Bradford lead.

Gino Addison, who rushed for 88 yards on 16 carries, had the Tornadoes on the move on their second series of the second half. He had a 13-yard run that gave Bradford a first down at the Baker 27. He followed that with a 9-yard run to the 18. Addison was dropped for a 5-yard loss on the next play, however, while a pass completion resulted in a 3-yard loss when Oliver's knee touched the ground on the catch. Bradford went for it on fourth-and-9, with Gino Addison carrying the ball and coming up 1 yard shy of picking up a first down.

Baker went three-and-out on its first two possessions of the half, but picked up a first down on its third series when Register completed a 10-yard pass to Hudson Hodges. Bradford's Barron Walden made a tackle for a 1-yard loss, but another pass play resulted in another first down, with Register and Chase Phillips hooking up for a 24-yard gain to the Bradford 49. McKenzie and Reese Wainwright teamed up for a 2-yard sack, but a personal-foul call against Bradford moved the Wildcats to the 36. The Tornadoes' Ne-o Addison ended the drive when intercepted a deep pass, giving Bradford the ball at its own 10-yard line.

The Tornadoes covered 90 yards on 10 run plays. McKenzie had runs of 9 and 17 yards that gained first downs, while a 12-yard run by Clifflin gave Bradford a first down at the Baker 25. Gino Addison capped the drive with his 22-yard run into the end zone that put Bradford up 13-0 with 9:38 to play. The run on the two-point conversion failed.

McKenzie and Jordan Cason recorded sacks on consecutive plays on Baker's ensuing drive. The Tornadoes finished with 10



Baker County quarterback Hudson Register (center) scrambles out of the pocket, chased by Brian Clifflin (far left) and Trente Jenkins. Bradford's defense recorded 10 sacks in the season-opening win.

sacks for a total loss of 29 yards.

Baker's Davion Dean recovered a fumble at the Bradford 19 to give the Wildcats their first serious scoring threat. Kennedy ripped off an 8-yard run on first down, followed by Williams' 3-yard run for a first-and-goal at the 8. Clifflin tackled Kennedy for no gain before Williams carried the ball for a 2-yard gain to the 6. The Wildcats then fumbled, with the Tornadoes' Wainwright recovering at the 6.

The Tornadoes ran the ball three straight times, gaining 4 yards before punting from the 10. A personal-foul penalty on the Wildcats' approximate 10-yard return set the Baker offense up at the Bradford 11 with 2:50 to play. Hodges caught a 6-yard pass before Register was dropped

for a 2-yard loss by Jenkins on a keeper. Register then completed a pass to Dean, who took it into the end zone for a 7-yard touchdown with 1:53 on the clock. Brock Boatwright kicked the extra point to cap the scoring.

Bradford recovered the ensuing onside-kick attempt and took three straight kneel-downs to run out the clock.

The Tornadoes finished with 207 yards of offense, with 182 yards coming on the ground.

Baker had 137 yards, with Register completing 9 of 17 passes for 85 yards.

"We still should've probably held them to zero. That bugs me," Rodgers said, but he added, "Half the teams that played tonight lost. To be 1-0 is a good deal."



FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING in your local area

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

- COMMUNITY:** Events, fairs, gatherings, concerts sponsored by local schools, churches & community organizations; food banks, help, resources; crime reports, arrests; law enforcement, businesses, services, government.
- HEALTH:** What is happening locally in our communities, hospitals, schools, health departments; school closures.
- GOVERNMENT:** Taxes, fees, local & regional boards, commissions, officials, decisions, spending, budgetary oversight, local emergencies.
- SPORTS:** Local teams, athletes, scores, events, outdoor happenings, festivals, achievements, championships, competitions.
- DEALS:** Advertiser sales, restaurant & store offers, grocery inserts, coupons, special events at stores & local businesses.
- ELECTIONS:** Candidates running for local offices. Upcoming elections & election results; any local voting glitches.

CONSUMERS TRUST NEWSPAPERS

Here's further proof that advertisers and marketers seeking a trusted media should hire newspapers. Newspapers show up as two of the Top 5 "trusted advertising channels" rated by U.S. Consumers in Nielsen's 2021 Trust in Advertising Study. Seven out of 10 consumers said they either trust completely or trust somewhat four of the channels that included newspapers or products they offer advertisers. The top channel applies also to newspapers because their readers are informed consumers.

Special note: The Research Project for The Nielsen Co. utilized leader in audience measurement, data, and analytics, for this award from its Trust in Advertising Study. Nielsen used 23 channels, a sample throughout where ads show-up or are referenced, in the study.

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from the campaign of

Tracey KENDRICK

for Superintendent of Bradford County Schools

I would like to **THANK EVERYONE** who supported my campaign. Although the results were not what we hoped for, I am very thankful for the friends and amazing people that I met along the way. Thank you for your support and encouragement! Please know that I remain committed to improving the educational opportunities available to the children in our county.



Paid for by Tracey Kendrick, Republican, for Superintendent of Bradford County Schools.



New board members (2024-26) for the Woman's Club of Starke are pictured with Bradford Community for Schools Executive Director Cindy DeValerio, who received a \$500 donation from the club at its Aug. 10 membership tea party. Pictured (l-r) are: First Vice President Cindy Little, Recording Secretary Jejetta Lee, Corresponding Secretary Jaelyn Jackson, Second Vice President Lisa Rodgers, DeValerio, President Sheila Barnes, Third Vice President Cleo Elder and Treasurer Linda Lee. Not pictured: Fourth Vice President Lori Thompson and Past President Charnelle Whittemore.

Woman's Club of Starke hosts membership tea

The Woman's Club of Starke had 32 in attendance at its Aug. 10 membership tea party, which honored the memory of member Gloria Gillenwaters and celebrated Bradford Community for Schools (formerly Communities in Schools of Bradford).

Bradford Community for Schools Executive Director Cindy DeValerio accepted a check for \$500, which the Woman's Club raised through fundraising and community service projects.

Gillenwaters, one of the club's cherished and longtime members, passed away in June. An original 1941-copyrighted copy of the book "Cross Creek" was presented to the Gillenwaters family as a token of love and appreciation. Kim Crawford, who is the assistant director at the Bradford County Public Library, accepted the book to be placed in the library in Gillenwaters' memory.

The 2024-26 board members for the Woman's Club are as follows: President Sheila Barnes, First Vice President



Woman's Club of Starke member Merry Hess (center) presents an original, 1941-copyrighted copy of "Cross Creek" to Bradford County Public Library Assistant Director Kim Crawford (far right). The book will be placed in the library in honor of club member (and Hess' sister) Gloria Gillenwaters. Also pictured is club member Carolyn Grider.

Cindy Little, Second Vice President Lisa Rodgers, Third Vice President Cleo Elder, Fourth Vice President Lori Thompson, Reporting Secretary Jejetta Lee, Corresponding Secretary Jaelyn Jackson, Treasurer Linda Lee and Past President Charnelle Whittemore.

JUMP

Continued from page 15

third-and-long. Simmons had an outstanding carry, but the refs marked him 1 yard short of the first down. The Tigers went for it and got the first down, but then fumbled the ball. Yulee took over at the 50-yard line.

It was the third fumble of the game.

The end of the second quarter rolled up, with the Tigers digging into their bag of tricks. Klein handed the ball to Gavin Jenkins on a jet sweep. Jenkins then threw a long, beautiful pass to Williams, who stumbled down inside the Yulee 10-yard line for first-and-goal with 30 seconds left in the half. Klein took it in for a touchdown on a quarterback keeper. The Tigers went for two, but came up short with 21 seconds left and Yulee still leading, 7-6.

In the third quarter, Yulee had a player gain 6 yards before getting injured. Union's Garrett Jackson made a stop on second down, resulting in Yulee facing third-and-2. Yulee, after getting the first down, had a bad snap on a second-down play, with Matricardi retrieving the loose ball. The quarterback then kept the ball for a huge run all the way to the Tigers' 16-yard line. A block-in-the-back call against Yulee resulted in first-and-20. The Hornets were later called for holding on second down, but Union declined the penalty. The Tigers got a big defensive stand and took over on their own 26-yard line.

The Union offense continued to have great runs, but the drive stalled deep in Yulee territory because of some questionable penalties.

Yulee took over at midfield toward the end of the third quarter. Klein had two big sacks to help the Tigers get the ball back at their own 11-yard line. Simmons carried the ball for 9 yards, with Ivey then picking up a first down at the 32 as the third quarter ended with the Tigers still trailing 7-6.

Simmons had two huge carries at the start of the fourth quarter, bringing the Tigers into Yulee territory at the 39-yard line. Ivey had a good run, but then fumbled the ball — the Tigers' fifth turnover. Yulee took over at its own 35.

The Tigers' defense came up with an interception on a fourth-down play, with the offense

taking over at the Union 10-yard line.

This would prove to be the drive on which the Tigers finished the deal.

Simmons had a huge carry for a first down at the Tigers' 42. The Tigers later had fourth-and-long when Klein had a huge run, moving Union from its own 45 to the Yulee 24-yard line. Simmons was tackled for a loss on the next play, but he carried again on second-and-long, picking up a first down at the 13-yard line. Ivey then had a carry to the 9. Simmons, who finished with 176 yards on 18 carries, took it in for the touchdown with 1:01 left in the game. The Tigers went for two, with Klein getting it on a quarterback keeper, putting the Tigers up 14-7.

Yulee's offense, with all three of the team's timeouts left, took over at its own 45-yard line with 58 seconds left. Matricardi threw a huge pass for a first down at the Tigers' 33 with 52 seconds left. After two incompletions, Yulee's Shamar Gibbs had a big run for a first down at the 11-yard line. Matricardi scored on a keeper with 16 seconds left, making it 14-13. The two-point conversion attempt began with a bad snap before the Tigers' Williams came up with the pass deflection to seal the win.

A lot of Tiger fans commented that this was one of the best high school games they had witnessed because of all the adversity Union had to overcome in finding a way to win against a bigger school and a good team like Yulee.

Besides Simmons, Klein (eight carries, 69 yards) and Ivey (10 carries, 61 yards) were a big part of a team rushing effort that netted 318 yards.

Klein led the defense in tackles with 14. Williams, Jesse Chaikin and Ashton Newsom each had seven, while Jackson had six.

In other news surrounding the Tigers, the Quarterback Club wants you to know this season is special in the sense that it marks the 30th anniversary of the 1994 state-championship team and the 50th anniversary of the 1974 state-finalist team.

The Quarterback Club will honor the 1974 team on Sept. 6 during the Santa Fe game. They would like anyone involved with that team (players, cheerleaders, band members, etc.) who has any photos to share them.

Also, the Quarterback Club plans on inducting the newest members to the Union County Hall of Fame on Sept. 27.

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