

Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 7th Issue — \$1

Kramers retiring, selling WEAG

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Change doesn't occur often at WEAG 106.3-FM in Starke. Consider the fact that in the station's 68-year history, there have been only four on-air morning personalities.

However, change is inevitable, and it will occur later this year when the station, pending Federal Communications Commission approval, is purchased by Florida Broadcast Media Group Inc.

The station is currently owned by Chuck Kramer and his family under Dickerson Broadcasting Inc.

"This was not an easy decision," said Kramer, the general manager who's been the station's morning on-air personality since his arrival to Bradford County in 1991. Kramer, who's worked in radio for almost 60 years, added, "I'm getting older, getting slower. It takes me longer to things I used to do quickly."

Kramer's wife, Mary, who is the office manager, has worked at the station for 25 years. Their daughter Lyn has worked there for 20 years, but she's also busy helping to run Tony's Italian Restaurant with her husband, Tony, as well as raising a family.

"She co-owns a restaurant with her husband and operates it," Chuck Kramer said of his daughter. "She hires and fires, keeps the books and has three children — all young children. She said, 'It's time.' Mary said, 'It's time.' I'm saying, 'It's time.'"

Florida Broadcast Media Group Inc. is a new organization that Kramer said was created specifically to purchase WEAG.

In a statement provided to the Telegraph-Monitor Times, Florida Broadcast Media Group President Dave Krieger wrote, "Florida Broadcast Media Group is excited about the opportunity to continue the Kramer family legacy, serving Starke and surrounding areas with news, weather, sports, emergency broadcast information, agricultural and public affairs programming, along with entertaining content. We know that local sports are important to the area and that will not change.

"Our group comes from a community minded background, always in 'pay-it-forward' mode. We have nationally recognized journalists on staff, and we are community focused with a truth-based, conservative-minded business plan to expand on what the Kramer family has done and to continue to make WEAG-FM something Starke can be proud of. And yes, we will continue to provide a morning show as Chuck Kramer has done for so many years."

Chuck Kramer started his career in radio at the age of 14 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He worked one night a week on Sundays "pushing buttons."

Kramer, who began talking on radio during short station breaks at the age of 16, would work for more than 10 stations — mostly in southern New Jersey — before taking the job at



Mary, Chuck and Lyn Kramer are saying goodbye to WEAG 106.3-FM, which will be purchased by Florida Broadcast Media Group Inc., pending FCC approval. The sale will bring an end to Chuck Kramer's 34 years as the station's on-air morning personality. File photo (2015).

WEAG and then owners Ben and Ruth Dickerson. Kramer already knew Ben Dickerson, who was from New Jersey. Dickerson always told Kramer that he should move to Florida.

The day came when Kramer decided to visit the Sunshine State. He told Dickerson he was interested in working at WEAG, but also said he had appointments at other stations in cities such as Orlando, Safety Harbor and Tampa.

When Kramer returned to New Jersey, he had made up his mind to

move to Florida and take the job at WEAG.

Mary Kramer admitted she didn't want to make the move. It took her a while to get used to Florida.

"She cried on our first Thanksgiving because she had to wear shorts," Chuck said. "It was hot."

Mary began settling into her new home and feeling more comfortable when her and Chuck's daughters got older.

See WEAG, page 3

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WORTH NOTING

'Drinking Habits' returns to stage

The comedy "Drinking Habits" will return to the local stage this month with three performances at the Woman's Club of Starke, 201 N. Walnut St.

Dinner theater shows are set for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20, with seatings at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

A Sunday matinee on Sept. 21 will feature popcorn and a drink for \$15.

Get your tickets at Julia's Florist, 326 S. Water St. in Starke, 904-964-7711.

Waldo hosts first Sweet Potato Festival

The Waldo Area Historical Society will host the city's first Sweet Potato Festival and car display on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Waldo City Square, 14450 NE 148th Ave.

The festival will offer something for all ages, including food and craft vendors, a car display, bounce house, children's games, and a Super Smash Brothers gaming competition in the auditorium. Visitors can also enjoy a 50/50 raffle, a sweet potato dish competition, and a new sweet potato cookbook. The Waldo Historical Museum will be open during the event.

Organizers invite the community to come out and join the fun.

Celebration for Deacon Crum

New Covenant Baptist Ministries will host a celebration in honor of Deacon Oliver Crum on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 4 p.m. The program, titled "Celebrating All He Has Done," will recognize Crum for his service and legacy, highlighting his faith, his life, and his contributions to the church community.

The event will take place at New Covenant Baptist Ministries, 863 E. Brownlee St., Starke. The celebration is open to the public.

Friends and Family Day

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church at 901 Keller St. in Starke will be observing its annual Family and Friends Day Program on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Everyone is invited. Dinner will be served after each service.

Johnstown Baptist revival

Johnstown Baptist Church will host its annual revival Sept. 24-27.

Services will begin at 6:30 p.m. each evening with Bro. Caleb Lindsey preaching. On Saturday, services will start at 5 p.m. with a meal.

The revival will also feature singing and fellowship, and the community is invited to attend.

Black Creek project 97% complete

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A St. Johns River Water Management District official told the district's governing board that the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project is 97% complete, with only work at the project's treatment facility in Camp Blanding remaining.

The project consists of a 17-mile pipeline, pumps, and a treatment facility within the National Guard training facility. It could divert up to 10 million gallons of water a day from Black Creek to Keystone Heights area lakes. It is designed to replenish the Floridan Aquifer and is part of the district's recovery plan for minimum flows and levels of Lake Brooklyn and Lake Geneva.

Dale Jenkins, the district's division director for infrastructure and land resources, reported progress on the treatment facility's cells, but alerted board members to a problem with one of the pumps at the intake site where the lower prong of the creek crosses State Road 16, near the Clay County Animal Shelter.

"Because we're getting close to completing the project," he told board members during a September 9 meeting, "we did some testing of the pumps. We found out that one of the pumps is not working very well."

Jenkins said the contractor that installed the pump will inspect it and that hopefully any issues will be covered by the pump's warranty.

Jenkins also updated board members on the six cells at the treatment facility. Cells 1 through 3 are complete.

Approximately 70% of the media installation in Cell 4 is finished, with full completion expected by the end of September. Following this, plant installation will begin, with rinsing of the media slated for the first week of October.

Stone placement is fully completed in Cells 5 and 6, and all piping work in these cells is finished. These cells are now ready for media installation, which will follow the completion of Cell 4, provided the media delivery remains on schedule.

Jenkins said the treatment facility's electrical and automated control systems, including lightning surge protection, are ongoing to ensure operational reliability in the region's lightning-prone environment. The control system, which enables fully automated and remote operation of the facility, is nearing completion with minor adjustments underway.

The project team is also evaluating enhancements to erosion control and energy dissipation at the outfall location into Alligator Creek. These measures aim to mitigate potential erosion or turbidity issues when the facility operates at full capacity, ensuring long-term environmental sustainability.

Board member Douglas Bournique raised questions about the facility's long-term maintenance, particularly regarding the media lifecycle.

Jenkins explained that the media, critical to the



An aerial view of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project's treatment facility at Camp Blanding, taken at an earlier stage of the facility's construction.

facility's water treatment process, has an estimated lifespan of 7 to 13 years. During periods when Black Creek's flow drops below 25 cubic feet per second, pumping ceases, allowing the media to "rest" and potentially extend its lifespan. Media replacement is accounted for in the operations and maintenance budget, with complete replacement planned when the media reaches the end of its functional life.

Union School District thanks Lake Butler Rotary

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Union County School Board kicked off its September 9 meeting with a recognition for the Lake Butler Rotary Club, thanking the group for supporting students and school programs.

Superintendent Mike Ripplinger called the organization a "great partner" to the Union County School District, particularly at the high school level.

He said that over recent years, the club has sponsored monetary awards for valedictorians and salutatorians, provided dictionaries to third graders, and supported various athletic teams through sponsorships.

"Watching the kids open up the dictionaries and look up words is always a big thing," he noted, "all good words."

Union County Sheriff and Rotary member Brad Whitehead added that

the club contributed \$250 to the Lake Butler Middle School's swim team. The funds enabled the purchase of swimsuits and swim caps for the team, which includes three athletes this year.

Whitehead, whose daughter is on the team, coaches the squad.

Ripplinger, who is himself a Rotary Club member, presented Rotarians vWhitehead, Alexandra Pritchett, and Margo Van Peterson with a plaque to signify the district's appreciation, acknowledging that such community support is vital for student programs.

"If it wasn't for businesses and organizations like the Lake Butler Rotary Club, our student organizations and our students would not have a lot of the things they do," he said. "Your undying support of the students, faculty, and staff of the Union County School System, your support makes it possible for our kids to have a lot of these things."



Lake Butler Rotary Club members, (l-r) Sheriff Brad Whitehead, Schools Superintendent Mike Ripplinger, Alexandra Pritchett and Margo Van Peterson.



Gaskins' retirement celebration draws a crowd



Diane Gaskins and Carnell Williams stand in a front of a room full of well-wishers at Gaskins' retirement celebration last Wednesday.

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

Diane Gaskins is retiring after 25 years with Bradford County and her impact on the community was seen in the large outpouring of friends, colleagues, senior citizens and family at her retirement party on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at the Bradford County Senior Center.

Gaskins knew there was going to be a sendoff but walked into a surprise when she saw the large crowd in attendance. Every table in the senior center was filled with people she'd impacted, many who regularly attend Zumba, quilting, gardening and other activities hosted at the center. The answer was always similar when attendees were asked about Gaskins. Many said she did everything with excellence and was always there to help when they needed it.

One of her friends, Dorothy Bartlett, said Gaskins is the "heart of the senior center" and said she'd visited other senior centers and they're not as exceptional as the local one, which she attributed to Gaskins' hard work. She and Gaskins actually worked together in the past at the Bradford County Public Library.

Gaskins worked in the late

1990s at the old library as a circulation clerk and when she moved to the new library building, she began teaching a newly created computer class. She said her boss at the time said, "Diane, do you want to learn?" and she said she would always reply with "Yes, ma'am!"

Her willingness to learn new things has always been part of her passion and has served her and others well. That teachable spirit, along with her ability to roll with the punches is what uniquely suited her to host seniors at the center. Gaskins said Zumba class was her favorite activity. And she would never consider herself a master gardener, but she learned something new from all the master gardeners who attended the classes.

Carnell Williams, one of her friends and a volunteer who helped host the retirement party, was particularly moved when talking about Gaskins. "She goes above, beyond, she never goes below. She's always there for you. ... Nine times out of ten she can help you, but if she can't, she'll find a way to help you. She's loyal ... and I'm going to miss her."

Gaskins is an example of what makes a good leader. She has served the seniors well and



David Gaskins came to celebrate his wife, Diane, at her retirement send off. The couple was also joined by Diane's daughter, Amanda Seyfang, who serves the community as supervisor of elections. Both are very proud of all the hard work Diane has put into the lives of the senior citizens in Bradford County.

promised them she would be dropping in to hangout, but this time as a retiree and not the director. Gaskins is happy her position will be filled by another former library employee, Tonya Mitchell. Mitchell will be taking over Gaskins' role and said she knows she has "big shoes to fill" but is excited for the opportunity to continue to serve the seniors of Bradford County, following in well laid footsteps left by Gaskins.

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Florida GOP Chair Evan Power

Florida GOP chair: The next election is the most important one

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Republican Party of Florida Chairman Evan Power warned attendees at the Bradford GOP Patriots Dinner not to rest on past successes, but to focus on the next election.

Evan Power joined other GOP heavyweights Congressman and gubernatorial candidate Byron Donalds, Florida Attorney General James Uthmeyer, and State CFO Blaise Ingoglia for the annual Starke fundraiser at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center on Friday, Aug. 29.

Power highlighted the Republican Party's landslide 2024 election wins, noting a 14-point victory margin for Donald Trump over Kamala Harris, the largest since 1988.

However, he quickly shifted focus to the future, declaring, "The next election is the most important election."

He warned that Democrats are eager to challenge Republican dominance in the Sunshine State, which he described as "the center of everything" in national politics, citing the elevation of figures like Joe Gruters to RNC

Chairman.

Power's boldest claim was the potential to "eliminate" the Democratic Party in Florida, criticizing their policies on issues like gender in sports and education as out of touch with voters.

"If you're a Democrat in the state of Florida, we're coming after you," Power declared, urging supporters to "buckle up" for an intense election cycle.

Candidate for governor outlines vision for Florida

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Congressman Byron Donalds shared his personal spiritual journey in addition to his vision for Florida in a speech to Bradford County Republicans during the local party's GOP Patriots Dinner on Friday, Aug. 29.

The congressman and gubernatorial candidate represents Florida's southwest coast from Cape Coral to Marco Island. He mentioned his

endorsement for the state's top job by President Donald Trump but focused his comments on a turning point in his life while he was a college student in Tallahassee.

Spiritual awakening at Cracker Barrel

Donalds used the recent rebranding controversy at Cracker Barrel to state that he worked at the country-style eatery during his college days, which he described as "a mess."

"When I was 18, I was arrested in Tallahassee, Florida," he said, "and then when I was 20 years old, I was arrested in Tallahassee, and I've got to tell you, I was a mess. My life was a mess. And as a very young man, I was really trying to figure out what a man was."

He said the turning point began in the summer of 2001, influenced by his then-girlfriend, now wife of 22 years, who encouraged him to attend church.

At Abundant Life Fellowship, a pastor's sermon seemed to speak directly to his life, sparking a spiritual awakening.

Three encounters at Cracker Barrel solidified his transformation. Two couples,

strangers to him, spoke prophetically about a "Byron" needing guidance, with one presenting a story written about a young man who needed to "stop running." The third, a group of 12 from a revival, prompted Donalds to follow a spiritual urging.

On Sept. 1, 2001, he chased their van into the parking lot, where they prayed over him, leading him to give his life to Christ.

A vision for Florida's future

Now 46, with three sons and a stable family, Donalds credits Florida for everything he's built, vowing to ensure the state remains a land of opportunity.

The congressman and candidate said his vision for the Sunshine State is anchored in maintaining Florida's role as a meritocracy where young people can thrive. He also declared his commitment to the Constitution and to Judeo-Christian values.

"It is beyond a shadow of a doubt that free market capitalism supported by constitutional Judeo-Christian values is the very best governing system for free people," he said. "And



(L-R) Florida CFO Blaise Ingoglia and Congressman and gubernatorial candidate Byron Donalds.

you have my word that as our next governor, that will be the importance of diversifying the economy, addressing insurance foundation for the future of Florida and property taxes, improving Florida."

Donalds stressed the See GOP, page 4

WEAG Continued from page 1

"Once they started preschool, and I got a job and got to meet people, then it was a lot easier," Mary said.

Now, Mary can't think of any other place being home. She said the people in Bradford County have been wonderful to her and her family.

"When we first moved here, I thought it was the wrong decision, but (Chuck) made the right decision," Mary said.

The family stresses that Bradford County will continue to be home.

"We're going to very much be a part of the community," Chuck said. "We're not moving away. We'll still be involved in the community."

Chuck will still be at WEAG to celebrate his 34th anniversary there, which will occur on Sept. 23.

"A lot of things happened in those 34 years," he said. "I hear about them a lot of times from people who come up to me saying that not only did they grow up with us here at the radio station, but their children have grown up listening to the radio station and us."

It's possible Chuck will still be at the station to celebrate his 60th anniversary in radio, which will

occur Dec. 26.

"Every station has been special to me," Chuck said. "I've loved every one of them."

Yet WEAG has been a special place for him and his family.

"I wish I had found it earlier," Chuck said of the Starke station.

As he eyes his retirement, Chuck said he won't miss waking up at 4:15 a.m. What he will miss is "dealing with the listeners and advertisers on a day to day basis."

He may miss being a part of radio, but he also looks forward to the future.

"I am glad that I'm healthy enough and young enough to enjoy my retirement years with family, spending a lot more time with the kids and the grandchildren," Chuck said.

Free books, ice cream part of Altrusa's Sept. 11 Scoop Up a Story event

The Altrusa Club of Starke is hosting a Scoop Up a Story event at Strickland's Scoop on Thursday, Sept. 11, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Free books and tickets for a free scoop of ice cream will be provided to each child.

Bring the kids for an evening of ice cream and fun activities.

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GET TO IT NOAH, THERE'S MUCH TO DO.
THROUGH IT ALL I'LL BE WITH YOU.
WHEN THE ARK IS FINISHED YOU GET INSIDE.
I'LL SHUT THE DOOR AGAINST THE TIDE.
THE EIGHT WERE SAVED, THAT IS ALL.
THE REST WERE LOST IN THE FALL.
OH LORD, THY ART AN ARK TO ME,
A PLACE OF SAFETY TO ALL THAT BE.**

BY HENRY HODGES
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Christians Need to Think Right, Part 3

I continue this week on the importance of right thinking. When I am talking about right thinking, I am referring to thinking according to God's Word. I recently made the statement that if a person thinks wrong then they will believe wrong, and if you believe wrong then you will talk and act wrong. A person is not going to talk and live the opposite of what they think and believe. What a person believes is a result of their thought process. That is why it is so very important to get our minds renewed with the Bible, God's Word. I am so surprised at times when I hear things people say, and I mean people who are supposed to be Christians. I am not talking about vulgarity or foul language, which is carnal. No, I am talking about things that are totally contrary to scripture. I want to read the scriptures we looked at last week so you will know that what I am teaching is Biblical and right. Romans 12:2, "and be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." I want to remind you here that Paul is writing to Spirit filled Christians, people who are born again. He tells them that even though they are Christians they must change the way they think. He goes on to say that even though they are new creatures with reborn spirits they will never experience transformation in this life apart from getting their minds renewed with God's Word.

As a matter of fact, he tells them that apart from having their minds renewed they will continue to be conformed to this old world. Another scripture we looked at last week is 2 Corinthians 10:5, "casting down imaginations (natural reasonings) and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (the Word of God) and bringing into captivity every thought (thinking) to the obedience of Christ." We are told here the importance of not allowing ungodly thoughts to remain in our minds but to

cast them down and make our thoughts align with God's Word. I said "ungodly" thoughts, not just wicked or evil thoughts. Ungodly thoughts are thoughts that are contrary to God's nature, thoughts that are unlike God or contrary to the Word of God. One last verse I want to look at again is 1 Corinthians 2:16, "For who has the mind of the Lord that they may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ." You might be reading this and thinking, there is no way a person can think this way, it is impossible. Not so, not only is it possible but God instructs us to think according to His Word. If God tells us that we are to do something or that we can do something then we can do it.

God would never tell His people to do something they were incapable of doing, that would be unjust. He has provided us with His Word and the Holy Spirit to help us accomplish what at first seems impossible. I did not say renewing the mind or thinking according to God's Word was easy. Absolutely not. That is why most Christians think wrong because it takes prayerful study and meditation of God's Word to shift our thinking. People want to live under God's blessings but they are not willing to put up a fight for what Christ has provided for them. I am going to be blunt here. If we do not get our thinking and believing straightened out then we are going to do without many of the blessings of God. I want to leave you with this verse found in 1 Timothy 6:12, "fight the good fight of faith....". We are in a battle (fight) against the devil's lies and our own thought life. Until next week, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the father God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

-Pastor Rick

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classads@bctelegraph.com

Letters

Does the county follow its own rules?

Dear Editor:
Do you trust your local government to follow its own rules? After the Bradford County Commission's recent rezoning, I'm not so sure. I'm the "Belford" mentioned in the Telegraph's coverage.

Here's the nutshell. A 2.5-acre parcel directly behind our home was sliced into five half-acre lots and shifted from Residential Single Family-1 to RSF/Mobile Home-1. My wife and I don't oppose mobile homes — what we oppose is doing it off-process and off-standard. If the law requires notice, hearings and evidence, then that's what should happen, before the bulldozers and move-ins, not after.

Two failures stand out. Process. Under Florida Supreme Court precedent (Snyder), parcel-specific rezonings must be handled as quasi-judicial matters, with Bradford County's Land Development Regulations supplying the notice and hearing steps, including sworn testimony,

documents, and an evidentiary record the commission actually relies on. That didn't happen. Our attorney had to fight just to speak longer than three minutes. That's not due process; that's a public-comment box check.

Substance. Appendix A sets a 10-acre standard for establishing the RSF/MH-1 district (with narrow contiguity exceptions). Even counting the "add-ons," this area is barely seven acres. The commission voted 5-0 anyway. If rules matter, they should matter here.

And the timeline makes it worse. Months before the vote, the county zoning director acknowledged in writing that he "took it upon myself to grant the zoning change," with no hearing and no posted notice. Only later did the county bring forward Z 25-02, a "clean-up" ordinance, to make that off-book change official. The board's 5-0 approval effectively ratified what staff had already done without the public process the law contemplates.

This isn't neighbors versus mobile homes. Many of us would welcome lawful, well-kept units developed in the right way. This is about trust. When rules are bent for convenience, the public loses confidence that those same

rules will protect them tomorrow.

Accountability shouldn't be controversial. It looks like this:

—An independent review of when and how the Official Zoning Atlas was altered — and who authorized permits tied to that alteration.

—A public release of audit logs, fee receipts, and permit/CO records, plus the county's legal rationale for treating RSF-1 as RSF/MH-1 before any ordinance.

—A bright-line policy: no zoning map change takes effect without an adopted ordinance — full stop.

—Training and consequences so "I took it upon myself" never appears in another zoning email.

I am forced to ask, if the county commission is OK with ratifying their planning director making the zoning change on his own, who in the county is asking the planning director why he did that without following the law?

Trust in local government is built (or broken) on process. We're asking for nothing more — and nothing less — than the process the law already requires.

Sincerely,
Scott Belford

Recreation board improving Starke ballfields

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County commissioners approved the first expenditure for Bradford Sports United, although it required some discussion.

Board Chairman Danny Riddick brought the request to purchase \$30,000 of clay to cover the ballfields at Starke's Edwards Road park. The youth sports program is funded equally by the county, city and Tourist Development Council. TDC's contribution covers infrastructure needs like field improvements.

"Are you kidding me?" Riddick asked when Commissioner Diane Andrews' motion to approve the expenditure did not receive an immediate second to move forward with a vote.

"If you've been to those fields, they're in bad shape," Riddick said. "The reason we're using TDC money, there's going to be tournaments coming in there, and you may get the tournaments in there a couple times. But those teams coming in from all over the place, if they come and play on that field like that, you won't get them back, I just promise you."

TDC funds are involved

because travel tournaments also benefit businesses within the community, including hotels and restaurants, he said. Tourist development funding is derived from a tax on overnight accommodations known as the Bed Tax.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty seconded the motion for further discussion. He said he approved the of the funding coming from TDC's contribution to the recreation budget. He wanted to remind the board of his desire to fund recreation through significant budget cuts. Instead, the county's contribution was funded with "found money."

"I would approve the use of the clay for the fields, but with that asterisk in there that I did not approve the funding of the recreation department," Dougherty said.

Riddick further explained he brought the purchase to the board because someone had volunteered their time and equipment to work on the fields if the board could supply the clay.

Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase.

Recreation board apps available

Riddick said Bradford Sports United is still working on putting its board together. The county commission has appointed him, Starke appointed executive assistant Cathy Bradley, and TDC appointed Brooker Mayor Gene Melvin.

They will choose four additional board members through a volunteer application process. Applications can be downloaded at www.bradfordcountyfl.gov or www.cityofstarke.org. Completed applications should be emailed to cbradley@cityofstarke.org or delivered to city hall, 209 N. Thompson St. in Starke.

Board members will help plan events, guide initiatives and participate in fundraising. Those with a passion for recreation and youth engagement are encouraged to apply.

Terms are for two or four years and members must be able to attend board meetings and activities. Background screening by the sheriff's office is required.

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share's upcoming food distribution will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. (Distribution could start early depending on delivery.)

GOV Continued from page 3

transportation and infrastructure, and ensuring K-12 graduates are economically viable.

He also cited North Florida's potential for manufacturing jobs and supply chain development linked to the Space Coast, advocating for collaboration between institutions like Santa

Fe College, the University of Florida, and local governments to drive sustainable growth.

Warning against complacency

Donalds warned against taking past Republican wins for granted. He cited Iowa Democrat Caitlyn Drey's August win for a state senate seat as an example of what can happen when republicans get

overconfident. That district went heavily for Trump in 2024.

He urged Republicans to avoid divisive primaries that could weaken their 2026 prospects, emphasizing that even the most moderate Democrat supports policies — such as men in women's sports or lax border security — that harm Floridians.

"Any Republican is 50 times better than the most moderate Democrat," he declared.

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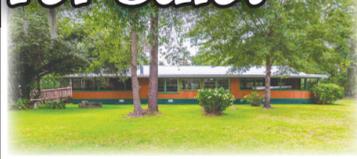


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Lake Region

Lake Region Community Calendar

September 11, KH Elementary
 September 15, KH Planning and Zoning Meeting, 6 p.m.
 September 16, KH Heritage
 Hero's Day, KH High School Back to School Day, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
 September 17, Clay County Public Schools early release day.
 September 18: KH CRA Meeting (Budget Approval), 5:30 p.m.; KH Council Meeting,

6:00 p.m.
 September 20, KH Fall Festival, 8 a.m., Impact Clay Train, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Keystone Heights Jr.-Sr. High School

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The *Union County Board of County Commissioners* has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy

A. Initially proposed tax levy\$ 3,826,968

B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board And other assessment changes\$ (10,102)

C. Actual property tax levy\$ 3,837,070

This year's proposed tax levy\$ 4,017,609

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

**Monday, September 15, 2025
 5:45PM
 at
 Union County Courthouse.**

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

Clay officials finalize legislative priorities

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
 dan@bctelegraph.com

During their August 26 meeting, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners reviewed their proposed legislative priorities and appropriations requests for 2026, preparing for a September 30 delegation meeting with state lawmakers.

The board discussed a palm card detailing the rankings, which they and other county supporters will use in Tallahassee to pitch their priorities during the 2026 legislative session.

Commissioners' top priorities are:

Transition to a Sustainable Tax System

With a potential 2026 referendum to eliminate property taxes, the county seeks a tax system adaptable to changing economic conditions, such as a shift to sales tax, to avoid revenue shortfalls during recessions. This priority aims to maintain fiscal stability while supporting essential services.

Local Control Over Tax Dollars

Board members stressed the importance of retaining local authority over the allocation of tax revenues, particularly for property taxes that fund critical services like public safety and law enforcement, which

Clay officials hold the line on solid waste assessment

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
 dan@bctelegraph.com

Residents of unincorporated Clay County will continue to pay \$358 annually for trash pickup and disposal.

The cost, which is billed to property owners on their property tax bills, is composed of a \$96 disposal fee and a \$262 collection assessment.

During an August 27 public hearing about the assessments,

consumed much of this year's budget.

Consolidation of Public Service Answering Points

The County proposed consolidating its four 911 call centers—currently split between law enforcement and fire services—into a unified system under a coordinating board with stakeholder oversight. This move aims to streamline emergency response times and improve efficiency.

Increased Funding for the Judicial System

With Clay County set to receive two additional judges, the board highlighted the need for state funding to cover logistical costs, estimated at \$1 million per judge, to support court operations and related services.

Addressing Rising Homeowner Insurance Costs

Commissioners called for state action to mitigate escalating insurance costs, noting that current legislative measures have

no members of the public spoke.

While commissioners deliberated on the fees, Assistant County Manager Troy Nagle disclosed that, although the cost of collection is not increasing for residents, FCC Environmental Services, the county's contractor for trash pickup, will receive a 2.7% raise due to an inflation clause in its contract with the county, increasing the county's budget deficit for the operation.

been slow to provide relief.

Appropriations Requests

Construction of a new multi-agency warehouse to support county and state operations, at a cost of \$2 million.

Construction of a new fleet center to support and streamline operations for public safety, the sheriff, and the county, for \$1.5 million.

Construction of a new public safety administration building for continuity of operations, \$3 million.

Construction of a new 911 communications and emergency operations center to support county and regional operations, \$2 million.

Support for supplying utilities to the public safety training complex, \$2 million.

Construct next phase of the Moccasin Slough boardwalk and observation tower, \$750,000.

Improvements at the Clay County Fairgrounds, \$750,000.

Preserve the condition of the historic courthouse, \$500,000.

Expand County Road 218 to four lanes, at a cost of \$5 million.

Support for a pilot project to transition failing septic tanks to new septic tanks in areas where wastewater treatment is not available, \$1 million.

Books, apps, and buses highlight public comments at Clay school board meeting

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
 dan@bctelegraph.com

The public comment section of the Clay County School Board's September 4 meeting contained several issues addressed in the past, like alleged inappropriate

library books and teacher salaries.

However, parents brought up new issues coinciding with the beginning of the school year, like smartphone apps the school system is using and the district's implementation of the state's two-mile rule for bus transportation.

Bruce Friedman criticized the inclusion of the book "You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P." by Alex Gino in school libraries, arguing it promotes divisive narratives about race and police violence. He called for better oversight to prevent such materials from reaching students, citing the removal of 725 titles over three years for violating content standards.

Sheila Torres and Adam Warren raised issues with the district's adoption of new technology, including the Rooms app for parent-teacher communication and the Chipmunk app for bus tracking.

Torres noted that not all

teachers were using Rooms, limiting parental access to critical information.

Warren praised the principals at Argyle Elementary, Orange Park Junior High and Orange Park High School.

"So those three schools," he told board members, "I'm affiliated with them because I have kids there. All top-notch leadership going on, and, you know, so there's definitely some praise there."

Warren then complained about another app the district is using, GoFan automates ticket purchases for athletic events. Warren pointed out that the app takes \$1.25 for every transaction it processes.

"That is a ton of money that you guys are leaving on the table," he told the board.

The speaker then complained about Chipmunk, comparing it unfavorably with the tracking.

See PUBLIC, page 7



Clay County Education Association President Vicki Kidwell complained about a 53% increase in administrative staff since 2015, despite only a 7% student population growth, and a \$700,000 increase in administrative spending against a \$25 million decrease in instructional funding.

BUDGET SUMMARY UNION COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

| Proposed Millage Levy | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | 10.000 | | | |
| Voted Fund | 0.500 | | | |
| | | GENERAL FUND | SPECIAL REVENUE FUND | TOTAL ALL FUNDS |
| Estimated Revenues: | Millage Per | | | |
| Taxes: | \$1,000 | | | |
| Ad Valorem Taxes | 10.000 | 3,917,738 | - | 3,917,738 |
| Ad Valorem Taxes (Voted) | 0.500 | - | 202,170 | 202,170 |
| Sales, Use, Utility & Fuel Taxes | | 1,218,128 | 1,087,322 | 2,305,450 |
| Licenses and Special Assessments | | 66,000 | 628,000 | 694,000 |
| Intergovernmental Revenues | | 4,047,937 | 35,063,764 | 39,111,701 |
| Charges for Services | | 65,000 | 1,344,900 | 1,409,900 |
| Fines and Forfeitures | | 25,000 | 4,500 | 29,500 |
| Miscellaneous Revenues | | 122,025 | 166,667 | 288,692 |
| Total Sources | | 9,461,828 | 38,497,323 | 47,959,151 |
| Less: 5% of Estimated Revenue | | (473,091) | (243,985) | (717,076) |
| Transfers In | | 308,600 | 1,205,716 | 1,514,316 |
| Other Financing Sources | | - | - | - |
| Fund Balances Carried Forward | | 5,645,974 | 4,275,144 | 9,921,118 |
| Total Revenues, Transfers & Fund Balances | | 14,943,311 | 43,734,198 | 58,677,509 |
| Estimated Expenditures: | | | | |
| General Government | | 3,541,952 | 1,802,447 | 5,344,399 |
| Public Safety | | 4,745,689 | 20,601,635 | 25,347,324 |
| Physical Environment | | 238,120 | 1,421,290 | 1,659,410 |
| Transportation | | - | 15,116,480 | 15,116,480 |
| Economic Environment | | 1,580 | 911,996 | 913,576 |
| Culture and Recreation | | 125,996 | 766,240 | 892,236 |
| Human Services | | 461,055 | 109,468 | 570,523 |
| Debt Service | | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditures | | 9,114,392 | 40,729,556 | 49,843,948 |
| Transfers Out | | 1,501,716 | 12,600 | 1,514,316 |
| Fund Balances | | 4,327,203 | 2,992,042 | 7,319,245 |
| Total Expenditures, Transfers & Reserves | | 14,943,311 | 43,734,198 | 58,677,509 |

The tentative, adopted, and/or final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record.

UNION COUNTY

High Springs teen killed in motorcycle crash

The Florida Highway Patrol said a 17-year-old High Springs man was killed when his

motorcycle rear-ended an SUV on State Road 121 Friday night.

According to an FHP report, the biker was traveling southbound about a mile south of the O.J. Phillips Recreation Complex when the collision

occurred at 6:49 p.m., September 5.

The driver of the SUV, a 42-year-old Lake Butler woman, was turning left from the state highway onto Southwest 76th Lane. She was not injured.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The City of Lake Butler has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy

A. Initially proposed tax levy\$ 162,758

B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board And other assessment changes\$ (1,112)

C. Actual property tax levy\$ 163,870

This year's proposed tax levy.....\$ 170,360

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

September 16, 2025
6:00PM

at
200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054.

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

'It feels kind of slimy to me'



File photo: Union County Commissioners Donna Jackson and Mac Johns.

Union County officials spar over proposed pay policy

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County Commissioners delayed a decision on a proposed merit-based raise policy following a contentious debate over the county's questionable financial outlook.

The proposed policy change, explained by County Coordinator Jimmy Williams, would have given county department heads more autonomy in granting pay raises.

Williams presented the idea as a precursor to a discussion and vote at a future board meeting. However, Commissioner Donna Jackson registered her immediate disapproval of the idea.

"I'll just toss out there," she told her colleagues, "that I don't know how we could put this into effect, realizing that it could (mean) sweeping pay raises when we can barely afford a (cost-of-living adjustment) right now. I don't know how we put in a policy that says, okay, you can do this and you can do that when we're struggling just to get a minimum of money in the budget for a raise."

Department heads could abuse policy

Jackson then outlined several scenarios in which department heads could abuse the policy, including steering raises toward personal favorites at the expense of other department workers, using funds intended for another purpose within a department budget for a raise, and concealing raises within departments from commissioners.

She pointed out that most departments, like Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Road Department, and Solid Waste are already running deficits and must be supported by General Fund transfers.

She then theorized that the proposed policy might be a way to give employees a raise without going through the board's budgeting process.

"I guess I'm just cautious because I feel like this is an answer to, 'Okay, we didn't get what we wanted in our budget discussion, so let's pass this policy and we can do it anyway.' Maybe that's happened. Maybe that didn't happen. I don't know. But I don't like the feel of it. It feels kind of slimy to me, and that's just me."

Low pay affects taxpayers

Commissioner Melissa McNeal said low wages and the resulting staff turnover ultimately affect the county's service level.

"When I get complaints," she said, "...whether it's the roads or whether it's (Emergency Medical Services), anything like that, a lot of times I can drop back to: there's been a turnover in the employees, and when we can't keep employees because we can't pay them well, then our citizens are seeing the results of it."

Commissioner Mac Johns argued that the proposal would give department heads the autonomy they need to run their departments properly. He added that constitutional officers, like the sheriff and tax collector, already have such independence, and grant raises to employees without board approval.

"(Like the) sheriff's office, Donna. I started over here for Jerry Whitehead, making (\$20

an hour), and in two years, I was up almost to 50," he told Jackson. "He never once asked a commissioner if he could raise me, and he never once raised his budget, and at any year he gave money back."

County finances better than expected

Jackson emphasized the county's uncertain financial outlook. Johns responded with a question to Clerk Kellie Rhoades. "Are we really in that bad of financial shape right now with your projected revenue?"

Rhoades responded that the board budgeted a \$1.7 million deficit for 2024-2025. However, now, the actual deficit appears to be around \$200,000 for the current fiscal year because of additional revenues and fewer expenses than projected.

Jackson and Johns then engaged in a debate over to what extent commissioners manage department heads, with Johns claiming the panel micromanages them and Jackson arguing the opposite.

"I don't feel like we micromanage our directors," Jackson told Johns. "I feel we don't, and sometimes I don't feel like we manage them at all. I mean, we are their bosses, and we're not calling them in here and calling them on the carpet... When's the last time you saw this board fire a director?"

Later in the meeting, when Fire and Emergency Medical Services Director Brent Allen told the board he had made a \$160,000 mistake in his 2025-2026 estimate for bad debts, Johns turned toward Jackson and quipped, "This is your chance to fire your first director."

Coffee and Commerce sparks ideas to promote KH businesses



Keystone Heights Events Director, Drew Bell leads a discussion about how the city could help area small businesses.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The City of Keystone Heights hosted a gathering of officials and business owners during a coffee and commerce meeting at the Dirty Palette art studio on South Lawrence Boulevard.

The city's events director, Drew Bell, and social media specialist Kathryn Wills led the discussion about how the city could help area small businesses. Interim City Manager Jamie Booth and City Council members Ryan Knight and Elston "Speedy" Kussler also attended.

Portal on the city's website

Bell informed the audience of upcoming events within the city. She focused on a basketball clinic during the city's fall festival

that will feature a three-on-three contest with local coaches and NBA-affiliated trainers. This event includes a ribbon-cutting ceremony for resurfaced basketball courts.

Bell also outlined plans for a Christmas market and a potential scavenger hunt as part of the "Shop Small" campaign.

Wills pitched attendees on an idea for a business portal within the city's website.

Wills, who is also the vice president of the Clay Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber employs such a portal on its website, and members have given it positive reviews.

"You control the information, and it's very user-friendly," she said, adding that business owners can present their products and services on the city's website. She said the information could be basic and minimal or more detailed with specific product offerings and

See COFFEE, page 7

BUDGET SUMMARY CITY OF LAKE BUTLER FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

| Revenue | FUNDS | | | | | | Street & Road Improvement | Total |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | General | Water | Wastewater | Downtown Redev. - CRA | Solid Waste | | | |
| Millage per \$1,000 | 3.25 | | | | | | | |
| Taxes | | | | | | | | |
| Ad Valorem Taxes | \$161,842 | | | | | | | \$161,842 |
| Sales and Use Taxes | \$239,000 | | | | | | | \$239,000 |
| Franchise Fees | \$158,500 | | | | | | | \$158,500 |
| Utility Service Taxes | \$156,350 | | | | | | | \$156,350 |
| Total Sources | \$715,692 | | | | | | | \$715,692 |
| Licenses and Permits | \$9,000 | | | | | | | \$9,000 |
| Intergovernmental | \$245,749 | | | | | | | \$245,749 |
| Charge for Services | \$104,438 | \$391,068 | \$1,502,281 | \$28,255 | \$360,000 | | | \$2,386,042 |
| Other | \$10,425 | \$24,300 | \$18,250 | \$10 | \$5,000 | \$20,914 | | \$78,899 |
| Rents | \$36,100 | | | | | | | \$36,100 |
| Other Financing Sources | \$175,701 | \$31,822 | | | | | | \$207,523 |
| Prior Year Earnings | | | | \$24,223 | | | | \$24,223 |
| Total Revenue | \$1,297,105 | \$447,190 | \$1,520,531 | \$52,488 | \$365,000 | \$20,914 | | \$3,703,228 |
| Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| City Commission | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Fringes | \$95,098 | | | | | | | \$95,098 |
| Operating Expenditures | \$12,931 | | | | | | | \$12,931 |
| Total | \$108,029 | | | | | | | \$108,029 |
| City Manager | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Fringes | \$100,032 | | | | | | | \$100,032 |
| Operating Expenditures | \$17,398 | | | | | | | \$17,398 |
| Total | \$117,430 | | | | | | | \$117,430 |
| Finance | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Fringes | \$62,776 | | | | | | | \$62,776 |
| Operating Expenditures | \$141,784 | | | | | | | \$141,784 |
| Total | \$204,560 | | | | | | | \$204,560 |
| Legal Contractual | \$51,200 | | | | | | | \$51,200 |
| Planning and Zoning | \$7,000 | | | | | | | \$7,000 |
| Elections | \$5,000 | | | | | | | \$5,000 |
| Code Enforcement | \$30,400 | | | | | | | \$30,400 |
| Law Enforcement-Cont. | \$75,000 | | | | | | | \$75,000 |
| Crossing Guards | \$26,428 | | | | | | | \$26,428 |
| Cemetery-Supplies | \$1,000 | | | | | | | \$1,000 |
| Public Works | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Fringes | \$147,361 | \$204,765 | \$368,348 | \$0 | \$73,923 | \$0 | | \$794,397 |
| Operating Expenditures | \$111,903 | \$242,425 | \$1,152,183 | \$52,488 | \$286,077 | \$20,914 | | \$1,865,990 |
| Total | \$259,264 | \$447,190 | \$1,520,531 | \$52,488 | \$360,000 | \$20,914 | | \$2,660,387 |
| Animal Control | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Fringes | \$2,573 | | | | | | | \$2,573 |
| Operating Expenditures | \$24,971 | | | | | | | \$24,971 |
| Total | \$27,544 | | | | | | | \$27,544 |
| Parks and Recreation | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Fringes | \$61,756 | | | | | | | \$61,756 |
| Operating Expenditures | \$306,700 | | | | | | | \$306,700 |
| Total | \$368,456 | | | | | | | \$368,456 |
| Reserve: | | | | | | | | |
| Transfer Out | \$15,794 | | | | \$5,000 | | | \$20,794 |
| Capital Earnings | | | | | | | | |
| Total Expenditures, Transfers, Reserves and Balances | \$1,297,105 | \$447,190 | \$1,520,531 | \$52,488 | \$365,000 | \$20,914 | | \$3,703,228 |
| Net | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |

The tentative, adopted, and/or final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record.

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

Justin Drawdy, 42, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 2 for withholding support.

Nikki Gutierrez Bridgman, 38, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 31 for fraud and dealing in stolen property.

According to an arrest report, an investigation by the Union County Sheriff's Office revealed the defendant stole jewelry from her mother and pawned the items at a Starke pawn shop.

Jason Hemphill, 42, of High Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 30 for DUI.

James Holland, 35, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 4 for child cruelty and possession of obscene material.

Deandrea Jenkins, 33, of Lawtey, was arrested by Lawtey police on September 3 for driving with a suspended or revoked

license.

Austen Livingston, 28, of Orange Park, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 30 for DUI.

Marc Oody, 54, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 3 for conditional release violations.

Jennifer Rhoden, 39, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 30 for a probation violation.

Cheyenne Roseberry, 29, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 31 for a probation violation.

Michael Suggs, 40, of Cypress, Texas, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 5 for an out-of-county warrant.

Isaac Warren, 22, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 2 for resisting an officer.

Union

Maquanda Rayford, 25, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 6 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Clay

John Cardenas, 62, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 5 for a probation violation.

Beating results in serious injuries

Norman Webber, 41, of Keystone Heights, was arrested

by Clay deputies on September 4 for felony battery.

According to an arrest report, deputies responded to HCA Starke ER following a report of a white male receiving treatment for significant facial injuries.

A Bradford deputy, already on scene, directed the responding Clay officer to a room, where the victim was being treated.

The victim exhibited severe swelling and bruising under his eyes, a laceration on his forehead, and blood pooling around his nostrils. Due to his condition, he could only briefly state that he had been involved in an argument but was unable to provide further details.

In the hospital lobby, the Clay officer interviewed a witness, who recounted that his son, Norman Webber, approached him at their residence on Bondarenko Road in Keystone Heights and instructed him to take the victim to the hospital. When pressed for details, Norman admitted to having "beat" the victim.

The officer then spoke with the defendant, who was present at the hospital. After being read his Miranda rights, Norman confessed to striking the victim multiple times in the face with a closed fist. He cited anger from a prior argument with his family earlier that day as the trigger for his actions, though he noted that the victim was not involved in that dispute. Norman attributed his behavior to unspecified mental health issues but provided no further justification for the assault.

Hospital staff members told the deputy the victim suffered fractures to orbital bones, a broken nose, lacerations to his forehead, and severe facial swelling and bruising.

New Hampshire police accuse Starke man of sex offenses

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com



Austin Malone

Bradford deputies arrested a 24-year-old Starke man after police in Rochester, New Hampshire, said he exchanged sexually explicit photographs with a minor.

Austin Malone was arrested for transmitting information harmful to minors, unlawful use of a two-way communications device, and possession of images depicting child sex conduct.

According to an arrest report, a detective in Rochester contacted a Bradford deputy about the allegations.

"I had been investigating a separate sex assault involving (the minor) having been assaulted by (another man)," wrote the New Hampshire officer.

The detective added that during

the course of the assault investigation, he subpoenaed the Snapchat records of the victim and discovered she had been exchanging sexually explicit images with several men, including Malone.

The detective added that he found 320 messages and images exchanged between Malone and the victim between April 10 and April 16, 2024.

Bradford Detective Preston Welch wrote that he and Detective Hunter Redding interviewed the defendant.

According to Welch, Malone said that prior to dating his current

girlfriend, he would engage in conversations with "random people" via Snapchat, and sometimes those conversations turned sexual in nature.

"When asked if Austin exchanged inappropriate pictures with someone under the age of 18, he advised he probably did," reported the detective.

Malone then allowed the detectives to look through his phone, admitting that there were likely incriminating photos on the device.

"I asked Austin if anyone in the photographs was under the age of 18," Welch wrote, "and he responded maybe at the time they were sent."

The detectives arrested Malone after finding pictures of nude females on the device.

She snuck boyfriend into bedroom, man holds him at gunpoint

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com



Rashaun Gray

Rashaun Gray, 23, of Ocoee, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 26 for traveling to lure a child to engage in illegal sexual conduct.

According to an arrest report, a 911 caller told dispatchers he had a home intruder held at gunpoint.

When deputies arrived on the scene, they issued callouts to the occupants of the home, and the caller emerged, telling officers the intruder and a girl were still inside.

After deputies cleared the home and detained Gray, an

underage female in the house told deputies her boyfriend, the defendant, drove from Central Florida to visit her, and she snuck him into her bedroom.

"(Redacted) advised she sneaked Rashaun inside the house through the side door and stayed inside her room. (She) advised she went to use the restroom. (Redacted) went to check on her and to her surprise, located Rashaun inside (the girl's) bedroom."

When the family member yelled for help, the 911 caller ran to the room with his pistol, struck the defendant in the face with the weapon, and held him at gunpoint until deputies arrived.

"(The girl) was asked if Rashaun and her had sexual intercourse," wrote a deputy in the arrest report. "(She) replied yes, and then retracted her statement saying, 'we only kissed.' She was asked if Rashaun knew her age. (The girl) replied, yes, and then retracted her statement saying, 'we communicated through an app and I lied about my age being 18 or 19 years old.'"

COFFEE Continued from page 6

discount offers.

She said the portal could connect readers to business websites and social media pages, YouTube videos, and Google business profiles.

Wills said she hoped to launch the portal by October 15.

"The goal is," added Bell, "when someone comes in town...If they go to the City of Keystone Heights website...and see what the City of Keystone Heights offers. This is what the businesses offer."

Homelessness, dumpster diving and traffic

Bell addressed ongoing issues such as homelessness, dumpster tampering, and panhandling. She encouraged attendees to use the sheriff's office SaferWatch app to report concerns directly to deputies, enhancing law enforcement responsiveness.

Booth talked about traffic safety, updating the group on a federal grant for road safety assessments and ongoing communication with the Florida Department of Transportation regarding intersection improvements

and sidewalk concerns. Bell urged attendees to participate in surveys to highlight traffic issues and contribute to securing funding for safety enhancements.

Mayor's business blitz

Bell and Booth said Mayor Nina Rodenroth was out of town during the meeting. They added that when she returns, she plans a "business blitz," going door-to-door to city businesses, asking them about their concerns and drafting a plan to respond to their needs.

PUBLIC Continued from page 5

transportation app the district used last year: Here Comes the Bus.

"Chipmunk has been an absolute disaster," he proclaimed. "You know, kids, we're not getting robocalls. We have no clue. We're not getting the notifications."

Warren added that Chipmunk fails to identify the number of the bus picking up students and highlighted a 45-minute bus delay, as well as safety concerns about unidentified buses, urging the district to reconsider its transportation solutions.

Sarah Harrison, representing Patterson Elementary's Parent and Family Association, expressed frustration with new vendor forms that complicate fundraising efforts.

She noted that established vendors, such as Domino's Pizza and Texas Roadhouse, were no longer approved. Harrison requested streamlined vendor processes to support parent-funded initiatives.

Major Matt Webber of the U.S. Marine Corps recruiting office in Jacksonville told board members that last year, 29 Clay County graduates joined his organization.

Webber highlighted the Marines' ROTC program, which has awarded \$4.7 million in scholarships in his area, stretching from Albany, Georgia, to Daytona Beach.

"As a recipient of that scholarship in 2011, through the University of Pennsylvania," he said, "I cannot speak highly enough of that program and have a deep interest in expanding that opportunity to students of Clay County."

Kawana Hawthorne voiced

safety concerns about the lack of bus transportation for her eighth-grade daughter at Orange Park Junior High, who she said faces a 45-minute walk through an area with registered sex offenders and no crossing guards.

Hawthorne called the decision to eliminate bus service "unbelievable" and unsafe, urging the board to reinstate transportation for seventh- and eighth-grade students.

Union rep.: District stonewalling

Vicki Kidwell, representing the Clay County Education Association (CCEA), told board members that her organization has begun to negotiate a new contract with the district. She complained about district administrators failing to fulfill her requests for the district's financial data.

"CCEA has been requesting millage expenditure, fund balance details, and other budget information for many months," she said. "We all understand that this is a difficult budget year in Clay County. However, we also know that financial disclosure is a legal requirement necessary for bargaining in good faith."

Kidwell noted that surrounding counties use millage funds for both safety and competitive salaries, while Clay County allocates none to wages. She pointed to a 53% increase in administrative staff since 2015, despite only a 7% student population growth, and a \$700,000 increase in administrative spending against a \$25 million decrease in instructional funding. She called for clarity on millage expenditures and fund balances to ensure fair negotiations.

Superintendent's Response and board comments

Superintendent David Broskie acknowledged issues with the Chipmunk app, which he said crashed on the first day due to statewide server overload.

He assured parents that transportation staff were addressing their concerns.

He explained the state's two-mile transportation rule and the hazardous walking condition process, encouraging parents to apply for courtesy rider status.

On teacher salaries, Broskie expressed a shared desire to increase pay but noted budget constraints, promising continued collaboration with the Clay County Education Association.

Regarding vendor issues, he confirmed that the district's Chief Academic Officer, Roger Dailey, would personally follow up with Patterson Elementary to resolve delays in approving vendors for fundraisers.

Board members echoed Broskie's sentiments, emphasizing their commitment to addressing community concerns.

Robert Alvero supported exploring millage funds for teacher salaries and transportation improvements, while Beth Clark praised the district's efforts to avoid portables and highlighted the Farm Bureau's \$7,400 scholarship fundraiser.

Michele Hanson addressed the learning curve with new apps like Rooms and Chipmunk, urging patience as they improve communication.

Erin Skipper emphasized the board's efforts to secure career and technical education funding through legislative advocacy and reaffirmed the board's commitment to competitive teacher pay within budget constraints.



Kirsten Brinson, Xana Briley, Dominic Rosario, Anthony Peak, Ryder Thomas, Jake Markham and R.J. Rosario.

BY MELANIE CRABTREE
Special to the Monitor

The Athletic Leaders Council, known as the ALC, was a new club at Keystone Heights High School during the 2024-2025 school year.

This year, council members intend to continue the program, making it even bigger and better for 2025-2026. All student athletes are welcome to join; the council votes on leaders just like the student government.

This program works similarly to a student government that most individuals are familiar with, although they serve a different purpose.

The difference is that the ALC serves a main purpose to get students more interested and involved in athletics, to support other Keystone Heights Athletes at their events, and to give back to the community.

Every Friday, members of the ALC go to the Keystone Heights Elementary School for an event called "High Five Friday," where they greet the students at their bus or parent pick up,

giving every child a high five to get them excited and ready to have a good day.

The members have a meeting once a month to discuss their ideas for different themes and dress-up events for the student section for all the sports throughout their seasons.

For example, they dressed up in pajamas for a varsity volleyball-themed "sleepover shutdown."

During these meetings, they also discuss different plans of action and ideas for the school's pep rallies to celebrate the different athletic seasons and other events.

This year's Athletic Leaders Council is run by Ryder Thomas (President), Ashlyn Brown (Vice President), Taylor Buchanan (Historian), and Rigby Morford (Secretary), who are led by program sponsors Jessica Marquart and Jakob Alvarez.

When President Ryder Thomas was asked how he prepared himself to take on the leadership role of the program for the year, his response was "

I prepare myself by making sure I know the date and themes of everything and showing up and showing out to everything!"

Sponsor Jakob Alvarez mentioned that his main goal as a leader of this program is to pass along the knowledge that he has gained over the years playing high school and college football and to be a positive role model for his members.

Alvarez stated, "If I can model the behavior that I want to see our students doing, it shows them that they can do it as well!"

This is a program that is built on leading and serving others to better oneself and what they bring to the table as a player and as a person, along with supporting other athletes. It is also designed to help members develop leadership abilities and standards that they can bring back to their teams and carry throughout their high school years.

More information about this program, along with the upcoming events they do, can be found on the ALC Instagram page @kh.alc.

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Tornadoes survive, defeat 3A South Sumter 14-12

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A failed two-point conversion attempt and a drive that consumed the final five-plus minutes allowed the Bradford High School football team to leave Bushnell with a 14-12 win over Class 3A South Sumter on Sept. 5.

"We're fortunate to get the win tonight," Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said, adding, "I'm just really extremely proud of our team."

The Class 2A Tornadoes (3-0), who'll play up in class again when they travel to Jacksonville to play Class 6A Mandarin on Friday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m., held a 14-6 lead against South Sumter before the Raiders (2-1) put together a 12-play, 84-yard touchdown drive that made it a two-point game with 5:26 to play. The Raiders went for two, with Bradford's Jackson Parmeter intercepting a pass in

the end zone.

South Sumter was forced to go for two because the extra-point attempt after its first touchdown was blocked by Jy'Quez Cason.

"Special teams are special. That's why they call them that," Rodgers said. "We had the interception on the two-point conversion. We had the blocked extra point, which is why they ended up with 12. That's why we won the game. It's the only reason we won the game."

Bradford's offense sealed the win with the legs of Cason, Jordan Cason and Cy Cubbedge picking up yards and first downs. The Tornadoes drove 62 yards to the South Sumter 3-yard line before Cubbedge took three kneel downs to end the game.

Rodgers said he doesn't expect the Raiders to lose another game at home during the regular season.

"When we look back at the end of the year after 10 games, I



Cy Cubbedge (far right) drops back to pass. Also pictured is Jy'Quez Cason (center).

honestly think there's only going to be one away team that won here (at South Sumter), and that will be us," Rodgers said.

The Tornadoes put together a promising drive the first time they touched the ball. Five runs by Iyen Addison for 31 yards and a 15-yard pass play from Cubbedge to Kamontae Nixon moved Bradford from its own 26 to the South Sumter 28 before the Tornadoes turned the ball over on a fumble.

A shanked punt on the Raiders' second series had the Bradford offense starting a drive at the 50. South Sumter's Logan Ward intercepted a pass on the first play of the drive, though, and returned it 70 yards for a touchdown with 5:50 remaining in the first quarter. The score remained at

6-0 after Jy'Quez Cason blocked Alejandro Cruz-Garcia's extra-point attempt.

South Sumter later put together a drive that consumed more than eight minutes despite having to start inside its own 1-yard line after Parmeter downed a Cubbedge punt. The Raiders were helped by a couple of offside penalties on Bradford, while a 21-yard pass from Landen Sherman to Louis Brown moved the ball to the Bradford 48. The Tornadoes' Nate Raymond blowing up a play in the backfield that helped force the Raiders into a fourth-down play. Gabriel Sabolina carried the ball for a 6-yard gain on a fake-punt attempt, giving South Sumter a first down at the 35.

The drive would stall, with the

Raiders getting penalized for a personal foul following the first play after the fake punt. South Sumter eventually punted on fourth-and-19.

Bradford had the ball first to start the second half and faced a third-and-3 play at its own 34. Jarrell Harris was held to a 1-yard gain on the third-down play, but a personal foul against the Raiders gave the Tornadoes a first down 1 yard shy of midfield.

The Tornadoes were assessed a penalty for holding on the next play, but were able to overcome it with a 25-yard reception by Nixon to the South Sumter 36. Harris was tackled for a 1-yard loss on the following play, but Cubbedge dropped back on second down and hit Jordan Cason in stride along the South Sumter sideline for a 37-yard

touchdown at the 8:44 mark of the third quarter. Tyler Sapp kicked the extra point to give Bradford a 7-6 lead.

A fired-up Bradford defense forced South Sumter to go three-and-out on its first drive of the half. Caiden Carn had a tackle for a 1-yard loss on a run play, while Kingston Booker had a tackle for a 7-yard loss on a lateral. Two plays later, Chase Phillips fielded a Raiders punt and returned it 10 yards to give the Bradford offense the ball at the South Sumter 37-yard line.

Before the Tornadoes snapped the ball on the first play of the ensuing drive, the Raiders were penalized for jumping offsides. On first-and-5 from the 32, Phillips caught a Cubbedge pass

See BHS, page 12



Jordan Cason (left) catches a pass in the first quarter.

PUBLIC NOTICE LAWTEY CITY ELECTION QUALIFYING FOR A FOUR YEAR TERMS OF:

- CITY COMMISSIONER GROUP (1)
- CITY COMMISSIONER GROUP (3)
- CITY COMMISSIONER GROUP (5)
- CITY CLERK
- POLICE CHIEF

Qualifying will take place at the Lawtey City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawtey, Fl. 32058, beginning at noon September 22, 2025, until noon September 26, 2025.

Voting registration ends at 5 p.m.

November 3, 2025.

Election Day is December 2, 2025.

KHHS, UCHS return to action Sept. 12

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

After not playing on Sept. 5, the Keystone Heights and Union County high school varsity football teams will step onto the field again on Friday, Sept. 12, with both schools playing at home.

Keystone (0-2) is coming off its bye week and will host Newberry (0-3) at 7:30 p.m. The Panthers are coming off a 27-3 loss to Vanguard and are averaging only eight points per game. They opened the season with a 47-14 loss to University Christian, which was

then followed by a 32-7 loss to Hawthorne.

Union (1-1) was supposed to have played at St. Joseph Academy on Sept. 5, but St. Joseph's was unable to participate due to its number of injuries. St. Joseph was actually a replacement opponent for

Hollis Christian, which canceled its season.

The Tigers will host Baldwin (3-0) on Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The Indians are winning their games by an average score of 33-6, having defeated Englewood 28-3, Palatka 31-14 and KIPP Bold City 39-0.

GAME ON 2025 8 FOOTBALL CONTEST

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IN THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR

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Pick the Week's Winners Win \$50 Cash

ENTER one TEAM Winner in space for each of GAMES OF THE WEEK.
Deadline: 5 pm 9/12/25*

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Biz 1 _____ | Biz 8 _____ | Biz 15 _____ |
| Biz 2 _____ | Biz 9 _____ | Biz 16 _____ |
| Biz 3 _____ | Biz 10 _____ | Biz 17 _____ |
| Biz 4 _____ | Biz 11 _____ | Biz 18 _____ |
| Biz 5 _____ | Biz 12 _____ | Biz 19 _____ |
| Biz 6 _____ | Biz 13 _____ | Biz 20 _____ |
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| | | Biz 22 _____ |

DROP BY OR EMAIL US YOUR ENTRY
see rules below***

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

This Weeks Winner:
John Adkins
missed 5, won with tiebreaker



ENTRANT INFO:

Name _____

Email _____

Phone# _____

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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

BHS keeps rolling in volleyball with win over KHHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's volleyball team won its fourth match in a row, defeating visiting Keystone Heights 3-1 (25-14, 25-17, 24-26, 25-13) on Sept. 8.

The Tornadoes (4-3) went on a 4-0 run with Manduo Wei serving to take a 6-2 lead in the first set, while two Ar'Nayshia Griffin kills helped Bradford later take a 13-6 lead.

Kills by Bralee-Kate Chester and Mia Rivera helped the Indians (5-4) keep their deficit at single digits before Bradford scored five straight points to take a 24-13 lead. That Tornadoes run included a Griffin kill, a Tatum Burkhalter block and a Lakelyn Sheppard service ace.

Keystone's Kaleigh Marquart dumped the ball over the net to force side-out, but an error gave the Tornadoes the 25-14 win.

The second set was a tight affair throughout. Bradford led 19-17 before closing it out with six straight points with Kingslee Phillips serving. Phillips had three aces during the run, which also included a Burkhalter kill off a Phillips assist.

Bradford maintained a small lead throughout most of the third set, but the Indians took a 22-19 lead behind two service points from Rivera. The Tornadoes then scored three straight with Phillips serving to go up 24-23, but a side-out evened the score and gave the serve to Keystone's Marquart. Kadence Massey's kill put the Indians up 25-24 before a Marquart ace gave the Indians the 26-24 win.

It was again another close contest in the fourth set until the Tornadoes began pulling away with the help of kills by Burkhalter and Griffin. A Ky'lee Johnson kill forced a side-out and gave Bradford a 16-12 lead. The Tornadoes then scored three points with Shelby Cole serving, with Cole recording two aces.

The Tornadoes it out with two service points from Autumn DeKorver, giving Bradford the 25-13 win in the fourth set and the match win.

It was also a good night for Bradford's junior varsity team, which defeated Keystone 2-0 to improve to 4-2 on the season.

The varsity team's win streak began with a 3-1 (25-22, 23-25, 25-20, 25-18) victory over visiting Palatka on Aug. 28 in which DeKorver recorded nine kills, eight blocks and three aces.

Johnson and Leila Roberts each had eight kills, with Roberts also adding five blocks.

Wynter Barrington and Griffin had three and two blocks,



ABOVE: Bradford's Leila Roberts (far left) and Wynter Barrington (far right) go up to defend an attack by Keystone's Mia Rivera. RIGHT: Bradford's Tatum Burkhalter (right) goes up for an attack as Wynter Barrington looks on.



respectively, while Wei led the team in digs with 13.

Phillips tallied 22 assists, while Cole had three aces.

On Sept. 2, DeKorver and Johnson had five kills apiece in a 3-0 (25-17, 25-15, 25-13) win at Hawthorne. DeKorver also had two blocks.

Phillips and Cole recorded 11 and nine assists, respectively, with Phillips also adding five

aces.

Sheppard and Burkhalter had six and five aces, respectively, with Burkhalter also recording five kills.

Bradford defeated visiting Newberry 3-1 (18-25, 25-18, 25-22, 25-19) on Sept. 3, getting 10 kills from Roberts and nine kills and seven digs from Burkhalter.

Griffin and Barrington added eight and six kills, respectively,

while Phillips recorded 17 assists.

Cole and Sheppard each had seven digs, with Cole also adding 10 assists.

Johnson recorded two blocks, while Wei had three aces.

Keystone had won two in a row before the Sept. 8 loss to Bradford.

The Indians defeated host Baker County 3-0 (27-25, 25-23, 25-20) on Sept. 2, with Rivera recording 21 kills and six digs.

Massey had 12 digs, eight kills and three aces, while Marquart had 36 assists and three aces.

Mackenzie Castlevecchi recorded six kills, while Bella Cumbo had 14 digs.

On Sept. 4, the Indians defeated visiting Palatka 3-2 (25-21, 20-25, 17-25, 25-20, 15-9), getting 22 kills, seven digs, four aces and two blocks from Rivera.

Massey, who had nine kills, led Keystone in digs with 13, while the Indians got eight digs from Cumbo and seven digs from Rachel Blank.

Blank also had four aces.

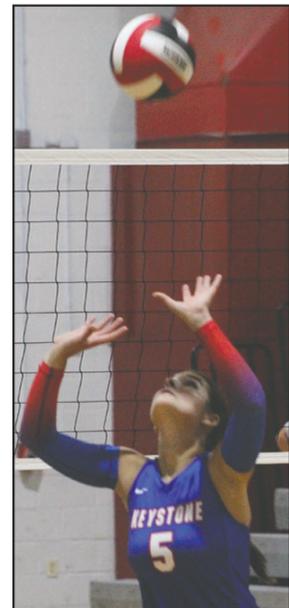
Chester and Marquart each had three aces, with Chester adding six blocks and Marquart recording 36 assists.

Castlevecchi had two blocks.

Bradford returns to action with a home match against Union County on Thursday, Sept. 11. The JV teams play at 5:30 p.m., followed by the varsity teams at approximately 6:30 p.m. The Tornadoes then travel to play Interlachen at 5:30 p.m./6:30

p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16.

Keystone played Interlachen this past Tuesday and will play in a tournament hosted by Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 12-13. The Indians then host St. Johns Country Day on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., following a JV match at 6 p.m.



Keystone's Kaleigh Marquart sets the ball.



Lakelyn Sheppard keeps a ball in play for Bradford.

UCHS wins 5th straight, now 6-2 in volleyball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's volleyball team took a five-match winning streak into its

match against Dixie County this past Tuesday.

The Tigers' most recent wins were 3-0 (25-13, 25-23, 25-23) against host Newberry on Sept. 2 and 3-0 (25-17, 25-17, 25-21)

against visiting Oak Hall on Sept. 4.

Stats were unavailable.

Union (6-2) travels to Starke to play Bradford on Thursday,

Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 5:30

p.m. The Tigers host Branford on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you information about our qualifications and experience.

PAGE 2

GAME ON 2025: FOOTBALL CONTEST

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SEE ENTRY FORM ON PREVIOUS PAGE

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| <p>9 Wisconsin Badgers vs. Alabama Crimson Tide DURRANCE PUMP 864 N Temple Ave. • Starke (904) 964-7061</p> | <p>10 Oregon St. Beavers vs. Texas Tech Red Raiders PIPELINE CONSTRUCTORS INC. Site & Utility Contractor Roo Denmark President 2117 N Temple Ave Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-2019</p> | <p>11 USC Trojans vs. Purdue Boilermakers BMS Tornadoes of the Week J'QUEZ CASON #1 (LEFT) CY CUBBEDGE #15 (RIGHT) titanchevy.com (904) 964-3200</p> | <p>12 Clemson Tigers vs. Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets TEAL TILE 131 N. Cherry St. Starke, FL 904-964-7423 CARPET ONE</p> |
| <p>13 Pittsburgh Panthers vs. West Virginia Mountaineers STARKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (904) 964-5441 15501 NE 14th Ave • Starke, FL OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK! GREENS FEE: \$10 CART RENTAL: \$20</p> | <p>14 Arkansas Razorbacks vs. Ole Miss Rebels DLP BANK STARKE, FL • (904) 964-7830 LAKE BUTLER, FL • (386) 496-3333 Member FDIC PARKER PARRISH JACKSON PARMETER DLPbank DURABLE AND TOUGH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK</p> | <p>15 Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Cincinnati Bengals Jackson Building Supply JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY Starke Lake Butler 904-964-6078 386-496-3079</p> | <p>16 Buffalo Bills vs. New York Jets NORTH FLORIDA PHARMACY 405 S. Lawrence Blvd Keystone Heights, FL 32656 352-478-2057</p> |
| <p>17 Cleveland Browns vs. Baltimore Ravens LAKE AREA TITLE SERVICES, INC. • Real Estate Closings • • Notary • Keystone Hts Location 7404 State Road 21 Keystone Heights, FL 32656 (352) 473-9009 Lake Butler Location 25 East Main Street Lake Butler, FL 32054 (386) 496-8238</p> | <p>18 New England Patriots vs. Miami Dolphins A NAME YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW AND TRUST V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services 386-496-1400 WE'RE HERE FOR YOU www.ferreirafuneralservices.com</p> | <p>19 Seattle Seahawks vs. Pittsburgh Steelers THORNTON & CO REALTY 50 West Main Street Lake Butler, FL 904-364-6890 Thornton & Co. Realty</p> | <p>20 San Francisco 49ers vs. New Orleans Saints QUALITY PLUMBING (352) 377-1009 Quality-Plumbing.com</p> |
| <p>21 Philadelphia Eagles vs. Kansas City Chiefs HOMETOWN INSURANCE 904-964-3375 hometowninsurance.com</p> | <p>22 Atlanta Falcons vs. Minnesota Vikings HANDI HOUSE OF STARKE (904) 964-3330 1670 S Walnut St • Starke, FL</p> | | |

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

BHS runners open season at Bronco Classic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School had seven cross-country athletes participate in the Sept. 6 Middleburg Bronco Classic, with Steven Carter and Anna Adkins leading the boys and girls teams. Carter ran a time of 20:43 in

placing 108th out of 214 in the boys race, which also included the following BHS runners: Kayden Lee 24:37, Liam Reeves 24:38 and Kolson Lee 26:20.

Three from Bradford ran in the girls race, which consisted of 150 runners. Adkins led the Tornados with a 110th-place time of 27:31, while Mia Olesen and Kayleigh Dyal had times of 30:02 and 31:00, respectively.

Bradford will compete in Keystone Heights High School's Indian Invite, which will start at 7 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13,

at Trinity Youth Camp (7996 County Line Road, Melrose).

Carter medalist as BHS boys defeat UCHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Steven Carter led the Bradford High School boys golf team, which topped visiting Union

County in a Sept. 4 match at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

The Tornados had a team score of 195 to the Tigers' 230.

Carter had two birdies and made par on two holes in shooting a first-place score of 42.

Bradford's Avery Burgin and Patrick Pendarvis each had a score of 45 to tie for second. Burgin made par on three holes, while Pendarvis made par on four.

Union golfers took the fourth-seventh slots. Ayden Tomlinson

and Gavin Kuhn were fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores of 54 and 56, while Brysen Tomlinson, who made par on one hole, was sixth at 58. Emery Muse's score of 62 earned him seventh.

The Tornados' Mason Scoggins and Beckett McMillan placed eighth and ninth, respectively, with scores of 63 and 66.

Fenix Norman was 10th for Union with a score of 74.

Bradford entered the match off a loss to visiting Palatka on Sept. 2. The Tornados had a team score of 185 to the Panthers' 156.

Burgin, who had a birdie and made par on four holes, had a third-place score of 40, while Pendarvis, who had a birdie and made par on three holes, had a fifth-place score of 42.

Carter, who made par on three holes, had a score of 44 to place seventh, while Braxton Mitchell was 10th with a score of 59.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Sept. 11, 2025

BRADFORD

PUBLIC AUCTION

Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on Friday Sept 12th at 10:00am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items: Unit 146 belonging to A. Harp Unit 159 belonging to A. Smith Unit 98 Belonging to S. Hampton Unit 66 Belonging to S. Marshall Unit 67 Belonging to M. Eunice
9/4 2tchg 9/11-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK 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: 64 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 00544-0-00103 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-002 Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4 and run North 89° 41' 35" East along the Northerly boundary thereof, 1639.47 feet to a concrete monument found on the Westerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 229; thence South 37° 51' 01" East along said Westerly boundary, 1188.41 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described, continue South 37° 51' 01" along said Westerly boundary, 473.00 feet to a found iron rod; thence run South 00° 15' 53" East, 13.47 feet to a concrete monument found at the Southeast corner of the N 1/2 of said NW 1/4; thence run South 89° 44' 28" West along the Southerly boundary of said N 1/2 of NW 1/4, a distance of 1121.21 feet to a set iron rod; thence run North 64° 30' 08" East, 910.59 feet to the Point of Beginning. Name in Which Assessed: AMY ANDRE; MONTELIUS PIERRE NEWTON; GLADYS FENELON Name on last tax roll, if different: AMY ANDRE 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 11/19/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court BY: Kanetra Jenkins KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: September 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025; SEPTEMBER 18, 2025; SEPTEMBER 25, 2025; OCTOBER 2, 2025
9/11 4tchg 10/2-BCT

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Orange Blossom Hideaway located at 19586 NW 135th Lane in the County of Bradford, Florida, in the City of Lake Butler, Florida 32054 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Lake Butler, Florida this 4th day of September, 2025. Jessica Mizell - Owner
9/11 1tchg-BCT

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

The City of Starke Florida will hold a City Commission Meeting on September 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091 during which the second reading and a vote will occur for the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-15**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, CREATING CHAPTER 82, ARTICLE VI, SECTIONS 82-339 THROUGH 82-346 ENTITLED "CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN" ESTABLISHING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGET, PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR REVIEW, AMENDMENT, ADOPTION, AND APPROPRIATION BY THE CITY COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR A PROGRESS REPORT ON CURRENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CITY COMMISSION; ADOPTING THE 2026-2030 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL UPDATE; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSION FROM CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance is available for public inspection at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Interested parties may appear and have an opportunity to be heard at the meeting with respect to the proposed ordinance. 144009 9/11 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA FILE NO.: 04-2025-CP-101 PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF ROCKEY ARNOLD GARDNER, Sr., Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ROCKEY ARNOLD GARDNER, Sr., deceased, File Number 04-2025-CP-101, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT: All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmaturing, 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 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY 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 unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) 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 Sept. 11, 2025 EXECUTED this 08 day of September, 2025. PAUL SANDERS, P.A. Attorney for Petitioner Florida Bar No.: 557463 132 E. Call St. Starke, Florida 32091 Telephone: 904/964-2323 sandersplaw@mail.com GRANETTA GARDNER, Petitioner 306 Mount Moosilauke Hwy. Wentworth, NH 03282
9/11 2tchg 9/18-BCT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CLOSING AND ABANDONING ROADWAY NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at a duly advertised public hearing held on Thursday, July 17th, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. and pursuant to the authority provided by Chapter 336, Florida Statutes, exercised its authority to close and abandon an unopened platted street described as follows: p/o the West one-half of the Southeast one-quarter of the Northwest one-quarter of Section 21, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, being more particularly as follows: The Northerly 15 feet and The Westerly 15 feet of Parcel F. See attached partial copy of survey. A copy of Resolution 2025-07 may be obtained by any member of the public at the Office of the County

City of Lawley, Florida FY 2026/2027 FRDAP Public Meeting Notice Middleburg Road Park

The City of Lawley is considering applying to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for a FY 2026/2027 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant. The City is eligible to apply for up to \$200,000 in FRDAP grant funding. A public meeting to discuss the proposed FRDAP application for Middleburg Road Park will be held at City Hall, 2793 Lake Street, Lawley, FL 32058, on September 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM. For information concerning the public meeting, contact Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com. The public meeting is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the meeting is asked to advise the City before the meeting by contacting Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the City using the Florida Relay Service, (1-800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (1-800) 955-8770 (Voice). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public meeting should contact Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. 9/11 1tchg-BCT

City of Lawley, Florida FY 2026/2027 FRDAP Public Meeting Notice Middleburg Road Park

The City of Lawley is considering applying to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for a FY 2026/2027 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant. The City is eligible to apply for up to \$200,000 in FRDAP grant funding. A public meeting to discuss the proposed FRDAP application for Middleburg Road Park will be held at City Hall, 2793 Lake Street, Lawley, FL 32058, on September 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM. For information concerning the public meeting, contact Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com. The public meeting is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the meeting is asked to advise the City before the meeting by contacting Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the City using the Florida Relay Service, (1-800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (1-800) 955-8770 (Voice). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public meeting should contact Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. 9/11 1tchg-BCT

City of Lawley, Florida FY 2026/2027 FRDAP Public Meeting Notice Tatum Brothers Park

The City of Lawley is considering applying to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for a FY 2026/2027 Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant. The City is eligible to apply for up to \$200,000 in FRDAP grant funding. A public meeting to discuss the proposed FRDAP application for Tatum Brothers Park will be held at City Hall, 2793 Lake Street, Lawley, FL 32058, on September 15, 2025, at 6:15 PM. For information concerning the public meeting, contact Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com. The public meeting is being conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the meeting is asked to advise the City before the meeting by contacting Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the City using the Florida Relay Service, (1-800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (1-800) 955-8770 (Voice). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public meeting should contact Lisa Harley, City Clerk, at (904) 782-3454 or by email at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com prior to the meeting and an interpreter will be provided. 9/11 1tchg-BCT

City of Lawley, Florida FY 2026/2027 FRDAP Public Meeting Notice Tatum Brothers Park

9/11 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 63-2024-DP-000021

IN THE INTEREST OF: Z.J.M. DOB: 8/4/2013, MINOR CHILD

NOTICE OF ACTION TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

TO: Jason Mach, address unknown YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights and permanently commit the following child for adoption: Z.J.M. born on 8/4/2013. You are hereby commanded to appear on October 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM before General Magistrate Bridget Baker at the Union Courthouse, 55 West Main Street Lake Butler, FL 32054, for an ADVISORY HEARING. FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR

AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED, YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THIS NOTICE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, 201 E. University Avenue, Room 414A, Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. WITNESS, my hand as Clerk of said Court and the Seal thereof, this 12th day of August, 2025. Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Court By: TAMMY DUKES As Deputy Clerk 8/21 4tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 63-2025-CA-0060 OLUSTEE CREEK, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST LESLIE L. BUBLITZ, deceased, and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST SUSAN C. BUBLITZ, a/k/a SUSAN SAMS, a/k/a SUSAN BREWER, deceased, Defendants. NOTICE OF ACTION YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF THE filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following property in Union County, Florida: LOT 37, SADDLE-BROOK ESTATES, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, page 32-33, public records of Union County, Florida. Union County Parcel Identification Number: 13-06-18-53-000-0370-0 You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukes, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 18th day of September, 2025, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED this 18th day of August, 2025. KELLIE H. RHOADES Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: C. Hollingsworth Deputy Clerk Published in: Union County Times On (dates): August 21, 2025, August 28, 2025, September 4, 2025, Sept. 11, 2025 DUKES LEGAL, P.A. /s/ M. Aaron Dukes M. AARON DUKES Florida Bar No. 124349 Post Office Box 328 Lake Butler, Florida 32054 (352) 225-1654 (Telephone) aaron@dukeslegal.com dukeslegal@outlook.com Attorney for Plaintiff 8/21 4tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 63-2025-CA-0060 OLUSTEE CREEK, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST LESLIE L. BUBLITZ, deceased, and UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST SUSAN C. BUBLITZ, a/k/a SUSAN SAMS, a/k/a SUSAN BREWER, deceased, Defendants. NOTICE OF ACTION YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF THE filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following property in Union County, Florida: LOT 37, SADDLE-BROOK ESTATES, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, page 32-33, public records of Union County, Florida. Union County Parcel Identification Number: 13-06-18-53-000-0370-0 You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukes, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 18th day of September, 2025, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED this 18th day of August, 2025. KELLIE H. RHOADES Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: C. Hollingsworth Deputy Clerk Published in: Union County Times On (dates): August 21, 2025, August 28, 2025, September 4, 2025, Sept. 11, 2025 DUKES LEGAL, P.A. /s/ M. Aaron Dukes M. AARON DUKES Florida Bar No. 124349 Post Office Box 328 Lake Butler, Florida 32054 (352) 225-1654 (Telephone) aaron@dukeslegal.com dukeslegal@outlook.com Attorney for Plaintiff 8/21 4tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 04-2025-CA-0084

KIM GRAHAM, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, SR., deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST PATRICK LEIGH, PETER LEIGH, MARY C. MYERS, BETH-ANNE LEIGH GEOGHAGAN, and JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, JR., Defendants. NOTICE OF ACTION TO DEFENDANTS UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, SR., deceased: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF the filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following described property in Bradford County, Florida:

9/11 2tchg 9/18-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No. 63-2024-CA-0148 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs. JOANAS ERIC THOMPSON; MARYANN THOMPSON; and UNKNOWN TENANT Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated August 22, 2025, entered in Case No. 63-2024-CA-0148 of the Circuit Court in and for Union County, Florida, wherein JOANAS ERIC THOMPSON, MARYANN THOMPSON and UNKNOWN TENANT are the Defendants, that Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, CPA, the Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, in person at at Union County Courthouse, 55 W. Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on **December**

11, 2025 at 11:00 AM, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment:

Legal: LOT 27, PINE TREE ESTATES AND UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION, LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID SECTION 3; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89°06'08" WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 3, A DISTANCE OF 592.72 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 01°29'21" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 838.84 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 88°30'39" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 599.14 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 85°14'17" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 488.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL, THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING NORTH 85°14'17" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 180.79 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH 01°19'43" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 235.97 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 88°40'17" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 180.47 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 01°19'43" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 246.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH A 2021 LIVE OAK 52X32 MODEL MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL NOS.: LOHGA32071786A AND LOHGA32071786B. NOTICE IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS. Dated this 29th day of August, 2025. Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: C Hollingsworth As Deputy Clerk

NOTICE If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Union County Courthouse, 55 W. Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054 and whose telephone number is 904-496-3711, within two working days of your receipt of this notice. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8711. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing has been served by U.S. Mail on this 29th day of August, 2025, to: Leslie S. White, Post Office Box 2346, Orlando, FL 32802-2346, Attorney for Plaintiff; **Attorney for Defendant** S via email to: M. Aaron Dukes, Esq., aaron@dukeslegal.com; dukeslegal@outlook.com **Defendant** S via U.S. Mail to: UNKNOWN TENANT, 20033 SE 84th Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054. 9/4 2tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 04-2025-CA-0084

KIM GRAHAM, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, SR., deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST PATRICK LEIGH, PETER LEIGH, MARY C. MYERS, BETH-ANNE LEIGH GEOGHAGAN, and JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, JR., Defendants. NOTICE OF ACTION TO DEFENDANTS UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, SR., deceased: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF the filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following described property in Bradford County, Florida:

9/4 2tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 04-2025-CA-0084

KIM GRAHAM, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, SR., deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST PATRICK LEIGH, PETER LEIGH, MARY C. MYERS, BETH-ANNE LEIGH GEOGHAGAN, and JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, JR., Defendants. NOTICE OF ACTION TO DEFENDANTS UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JACK LAWRENCE LEIGH, SR., deceased: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF the filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following described property in Bradford County, Florida:

9/4 2tchg 9/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2024 CA 000059 NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS/BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, SURVIVING SPOUSE, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, 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 Union County Times) TO: Cannon Shea Foss, in the care of his mother and natural guardian, Shasta Siobhan Bell. Last Known Residence: 10703 SW 54th Path Lake Butler, FL 32054 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 401 W. Linton Blvd. Suite 202-B Delray Beach, FL 33444, on or before October 2, 2025, 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 September 2, 2025. KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES As Clerk of the Court BY: C. HOLLINGSWORTH Deputy Clerk 9/11 2tchg 9/18-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 6:15pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. 9/11 1tchg-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph
USPS 062-700
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John Miller, Publisher

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Yara, Thomas lead Keystone boys and girls at Middleburg Bronco Classic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School was led by Noah Yara and Ryleigh Thomas at the Sept. 6 Middleburg Bronco Classic to open the cross-country season.

Yara placed 31st out of 214 in the varsity boys race. Teammate Ryder Thomas had a 43rd-place time of 18:48.

The Indians, who placed 15th out of 23 teams, also had the following results: Hunter Gray 21:00, Jason Parales 22:04, Gavin Morford 22:05, Eli Rabe 23:58 and Mason Gray 25:06.

Ryleigh Thomas had a time of 23:26, which placed her 49th out of 150 in the varsity girls race. Melody Tyre and Olivia Griffin placed 65th and 87th, respectively, with times of 24:16 and 25:36.

Bailee Morris and Clara Beth Robinson ran times of 28:45 and 31:55, respectively, for Keystone, which placed 11th out of 16 teams.

Four from Keystone

See KHHS, page 13

KHHS boys play in 24-team golf invitational

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights High School boys golf team competed in the 24-team, 18-hole Randy Warren Invitational on Sept. 8 at The Golf Club at Fleming Island, placing 20th with a score of 366. Beachside won the event with a score of 284.

Nate Bardier led the Indians, finishing in a four-way tie for

83rd with a score of 88. Bardier, one of 120 individual golfers, made par on eight holes.

Will Begue, Luke Lewis and Landon Spence each made par on four holes for the Indians. Begue and Spence had scores of 89 and 93, respectively, while Lewis shot a 96.

Sammy Wach, who made par on three holes, finished at 98.

Keystone entered the invitational off a second-place finish in a three-team match at Gainesville's Ironwood Golf Course on Sept. 2.

The Indians had a score of 176 to finish behind Buchholz, which had a score of 155. Gainesville finished behind Keystone with a

score of 210.

Begue, who made par on four holes, shot a fifth-place score of 42, while Baylor Ford, who also made par on four holes, shot a 44 to finish in a three-way tie for seventh.

Bardier and Spence each had a score of 45 to finish in a tie for 10th. Each golfer made par on two holes, with Spence also making a birdie.

Jackson McDanile had a birdie and made par on one hole to finish with a score of 47, while Wach shot a 52.

Keystone will play P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Mark Bostick Golf Course at the University of Florida at 4 p.m.

Katelyn Seay is 1st for UCHS in match in Starke

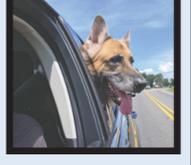
BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Katelyn Seay, who made par on two holes, shot a first-place score of 51 for the Union County girls golf team, which played a match hosted by Bradford High School at the Starke Golf and Country Club on Sept. 4.

The Tigers had a team score of 234, while Bradford had only

See GOLF, page 13

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Sept 11 2025

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

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Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County Telegraph Lake Region Monitor UNION COUNTY TIMES

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Obituaries

Richard Abell

Richard Abell, 84, died Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born in 1941, he grew up in Elk River, Idaho, where a childhood in the woods formed a lifelong curiosity about how the world works. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1960 and served for 20 years, retiring as a Senior Maintenance Chief in 1980. Sea duty and ports around the globe fed his love of travel and stories; he never tired of recounting shipboard life and the curiosities of far places. He told his stories with such excitement that you couldn't help but get carried along. After military service, he worked as an analyst in the aerospace industry, first with McDonnell Douglas and then with Boeing from 1980 until his retirement in 2003. He valued colleagues who solved hard problems and he took pride in contributing to defense programs, including the Apache Helicopter. Family and friends remember Rich for his sense of wonder at the world. He especially loved engaging with babies, delighted by their newness and possibility. He also valued his friendships made while attending Sardis Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, CJ and Margaret; wife, Audrey; son, Joe; grandson, Sam; and sister, Sondra.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; son, Josh (Denise) Abell; brother, Robert (L.D.) Abell; stepsons, Cimaron Holt and John (Becky) Holt; three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. In accordance with his wishes, no service will be held. Rich's final memorialization will be by cremation under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

Christy Chandler

Christy Chandler, 72, passed away Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, at Shands at University of Florida Hospital in Gainesville. He attended the schools of Bradford County and Moorehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He retired from E.I. De Nemours (DuPont) as head operator. He was a member of True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

Survivors are his wife, Marilyn Lee Chandler; four sons, Christopher Chandler, Tafaris Chandler, Timothy Chandler and Derik Dean; daughters, Tabatha Brown and Shaarra Chandler; six brothers, Hamp Chandler, Harold Chandler, Ross Chandler, Captain Chandler, Michael Chandler and Gregory Chandler; five sisters, Mary Taylor, Sandra Chandler, Bettye Chandler, Mary Fluellen, and Juanita Phillips; and a host of grands, nieces, nephews, cousins and many sorrowing friends.

The viewing will be Friday, Sept. 12, from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry, 422 St. Clair St., Starke. The Cortège will form at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the residence of Mrs. Marilyn Chandler. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry on Saturday, Sept. 13, officiated by Minister Edward Lamar Hamilton, Associate Pastor.

Professional services are provided by Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke. 904-964-7915.

PAID OBITUARY

Donald Dedge

Mr. Donald Wilson Dedge passed away Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, at the age of 78. He passed away peacefully in his sleep in Gainesville. He was born Nov. 8, 1946, and raised in Keystone Heights by his mother, Cathryn, and stepfather, Charlie. He will be remembered for his love of fishing, his sense of humor, and love for his family and friends. He served in the United States Army before starting a career as an electrician, retiring as a master electrician after more than 40 years of service with Ray's Electric in Melrose. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 25 years, Linda Johnson Dedge; his mother, Cathryn Louise Johnson; stepfather Charlie Alvarez; biological father Wilson Leo Dedge; and brothers Ernie Alvarez and Randy Alvarez.

His memory will live on with his children, Shannon (Randy) Blankenship and Steven (Banae) Johnson; grandchildren, Caleb (Savanna) Blankenship and Cathryn Blankenship; brothers and sisters, Larry (Kim) Alvarez, Sue Lutgens, Micki White, Kay Kight, and Kevin Alvarez; and aunts, Bonnie Rye and Earline Price. His memory will also be remembered warmly by a number of nieces, nephews, cousins, great grandchildren, and friends.

The family will be hosting a Celebration of Life luncheon at 5488 NW County Road 229, Starke, 32091, on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Donald Hicks

Donald Eugene Hicks, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, just two days shy of his 67th birthday, after an extended illness. Born on Sept. 7, 1958, he was raised on Smokey Road in Baker County. He graduated from Baker County High School before proudly serving his country in the United States Air Force as a medic, stationed in Colorado Springs. After his military service, he returned to Florida and earned his degree from the University of Florida, a true Gator through and through. He dedicated 35 years of his life to the Florida Department of Corrections, where he not only found a career but also the love of his life. He met his wife, Toni, while working at the Department. Together they built a life full of love, laughter, and purpose in Lake Butler. He and Toni were married for 38 wonderful years and raised two daughters, Ashley Biddix and Amy Hicks. He was a proud and loving grandfather to Landon Biddix. He was a man of strong values, quiet strength, and a generous spirit. He had a great love for the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and watching the skies for hawks. But one of his greatest passions was beekeeping. He found peace in the hum of the hives and took joy in tending to his bees. He loved teaching others about the art and science of beekeeping, always eager to share his knowledge and encourage anyone interested to give it a try. Whether he was mentoring a new beekeeper or showing his grandson the beauty of nature, his love for learning and sharing never faded. And while he was famously stubborn, and he'd be the first to admit it, that same stubbornness was a sign of his deep convictions, fierce loyalty, and unwavering determination. You always knew where he stood, and when he loved you, he loved you with his whole heart. He was a gifted storyteller whose tales were equal parts wisdom, humor, and heart, a voice that will be deeply missed around every gathering.

He is survived by his sister, Judy Kaye Riggle; brothers-in-law, Kenneth (Robin) Clyatt and Curtis Clyatt; sister-in-law, Prudence Pate; and a large extended family who adored him. He was a devoted and loyal brother, a title he held with great pride. As a brother to the late Woodrow Hicks and a brother-in-law to the late Frank Riggle and Kirk Pate, Donald filled the role of protector, storyteller, and steady presence. His bond with his siblings was deep, enduring, and full of heart. He was a proud uncle to many nieces and nephews, each of whom he cherished dearly, Randy Hicks, Billy Hicks, John Hicks, Dillan Clyatt, Kaleb Clyatt, Paden Clyatt, Kurstie Hicks, Danielle Mouser, Taylor Pate, and Lorrie Sweetapple. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dearwood and Inell Fish Hicks; and nephew, Ronnie Hicks.

A celebration of life was held Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Lake Butler. He leaves behind a legacy of service, love, laughter, and unwavering devotion. Donald Eugene Hicks was a rock to many and a blessing to all who knew him. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve Don's family during this time. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

Billy Mosley

Mr. Billy "Squirrel" Jerald Mosley, 76, of Lawtey passed away Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025, at HCA Florida/North Florida Hospital. He was born Sept. 5, 1948, in Glen St. Mary to the late Ruben and Evelyn (Carter) Mosley and graduated from Orange Park High School. He was a Baptist and never met a stranger. He enjoyed car racing, fishing and spending time with his grandchildren. Prior to retirement, he worked in timber and land sales. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Coco Mosley.

Survivors are his wife of 52 years, Alene (Sweat) Mosley of Lawtey; sons, Wendell (Patty) Durrance, Timmy (Cindy) Durrance and Shane (Kelly) Durrance; sisters, Barbara (Walter) Ann Scott and Ermajean (Jack) Mosley; and brothers, David Mosley and Cecil Mosley. Also left are his grandchildren, who affectionately called him "Papa Squirrel," Cassie (Derek) Durrance, Bubba (Stephanie) Durrance, Brittany Durrance, Shayna Durrance, Tyler Padgett and Hannah Smith; great-grandchildren, Gracie Durrance, Ryland Bass, Jaydin Alvarez, Raelynn Alvarez, Annsie Nipper, Addison Nipper, Bryar Nipper, Charlotte Padgett and Stella Padgett; along with a host of nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Friday, Sept. 5, at Long Branch Baptist Church followed by funeral services. Interment followed at Long Branch Cemetery with Joey Nolan officiating.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY



Ethel 'Vi' Tew

Mrs. Ethel "Vi" Viona Sutton Tew, 94, of Lawtey passed away Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, at UF Health Shands Hospital following an extended illness. Vi was born on Feb. 23, 1931, in Arcadia to the late Walter Preston and Janey Mabel (Colson) Sutton. Prior to retirement, she was a seamstress and was known as "THE DOLL LADY." She made many dolls that became collectibles around the world, loved animals and possessed a great sense of humor. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Homer Watson Tew; and two grandsons.

Survivors are her children, Roger (Debbie) Tew of Ocala, Larry W. Tew of Lawtey, Ronald E Tew (the late Theresa) of Lawtey, Shara C. Tew of Lawtey, and Sheila T. (Marc) DeRossett of Hilliard; and brother, Lamarr (Nancy) Sutton of Land O' Lakes. Also left are her eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren who affectionately called her "Granny."

Graveside funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 5, at Orange Hill Cemetery in Williston.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Henry Wimberly III

Henry "Bubba" Wimberly III, 63, passed away Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, just days after celebrating his birthday Aug. 16. He was the beloved husband of Cynthia "Cyndi" Wimberly for 40 years, a devoted father to Krystle Wimberly Davis and Henry Wimberly IV, and a proud grandfather to his granddaughter, Keiara K. Hilton, age 13. Bubba was well known in our community as the owner and operator of Wimberly & Son Tree Service, where he served his neighbors with dedication and integrity for many years.

Later in life, he returned to his love of the open road as a long-distance truck driver, pursuing his passion for travel and adventure. He had a lifelong love of trucks, cars, and motorcycles—anything with wheels and a motor. He enjoyed working on vehicles, talking about them, and sharing his enthusiasm with family and friends. His love of the road and all things automotive was a defining part of who he was. His kindness touched everyone he met. He truly never met a stranger. His warmth and genuine friendliness left a lasting impression on all who crossed his path, and his caring spirit will be deeply missed. His sister shared that growing up with Bubba was always an adventure, full of laughter and sometimes sadness. He was always a shoulder to lean on, and his passion for life shone through everything he did. Though his time here was cut short, the impact he made will last forever. Her brother wholeheartedly agreed. He was preceded in death by his mother, Jerry Logue; maternal grandparents, Gertrude Logue and Jerry "J.D." Logue; younger sister, Dorothy Wimberly Richburg; and paternal grandparents, Mildred Wimberly and Henry Wimberly Sr. of Twin City, Georgia.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia "Cyndi" Wimberly; his father, Henry Wimberly Jr.; sister, Millie Wimberly Cooper; brother, Mathew J. Wimberly; daughter, Krystle Wimberly Davis; son, Henry Wimberly IV; and granddaughter, Keiara K. Hilton. He is also survived by his nieces, Amanda Richburg and Brittany Richburg, daughters of his late sister, Dorothy; niece and nephew, Starlyn Wimberly and Garrett Arrington, children of his sister, Millie; and nephew, Matthew Wimberly Jr., son of his brother, Mathew. His legacy lives on through his loving family and friends.

He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, his steadfast love for his family, his passion for anything with wheels and a motor, and his warm, generous spirit. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness and hard work that will be cherished by all who knew him.

John 3:16-For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses. As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PAID OBITUARY

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

BHS

Continued from page 8

and took it in for a touchdown with 6:27 remaining in the third quarter. Sapp added the PAT for a 14-6 Bradford lead.

A personal-foul penalty on Bradford and a 12-yard pass play helped the Raiders pick up two first downs and move from their own 30 the Bradford 36. Bradford's defense made a stand, with a 7-yard sack by Danny Torres on a third-down play forcing South Sumter to punt.

The Raiders scored their second touchdown on a drive that began at their own 16-yard line with 11:07 to play. The first play was a 14-yard reception by Bubba Boone, while a 6-yard pass play later earned South Sumter another first down at its own 47.

Two plays later, on third-and-1, Sherman went over

center for a 13-yard gain and a first down at the Bradford 31. The Raiders later went for it on fourth-and-3 at the 24, with the Tornados getting flagged for pass interference, resulting in a first down at the 11-yard line.

Boone took a handoff from there and gained 9 yards to the 2. Sherman scored on a run from there to make it 14-12. Despite its success on run plays toward the end of the drive, the Raiders attempted to pass on the two-point play, with Parmeter getting the pick in the end zone.

The ensuing kickoff went out of bounds, giving the Tornados the ball at their own 35. After an illegal-procedure penalty, Jy'Quez Cason had an 8-yard run. Cubbedge scrambled out of the pocket on a third-and-7 play, gaining 18 yards. He was hit out of bounds, which tacked on an additional 15 yards, giving Bradford a first down at the South Sumter 29.

Jordan Cason had two consecutive carries for a total of 16 yards, while two straight carries by Jy'Quez Cason netted 10 yards.

With Bradford having consumed enough time off the clock, Cubbedge was able to kneel down three times.

Addison, who left the game with an injury, finished with 71 yards rushing on 13 carries. Jy'Quez Cason had 18 yards on three carries, while Jordan Cason had 16 yards on two carries. Cubbedge and Harris each added 12 yards.

Cubbedge completed 12 of 21 passes for 170 yards, with Jordan Cason catching six passes for 79 yards. Phillips had 33 yards on two receptions, while Nixon had 48 yards on three receptions.

Bradford finished with 299 yards to South Sumter's 167.

The Tornados have played nothing but schools in larger classifications so far this season,

and that continues when they take on 6A Mandarin in what will be Bradford's third straight road game. The Mustangs (3-0) are coming off a 42-0 win over Sandalwood and are defeating teams by an average score of 46-12.

Bradford defeated Mandarin 18-13 in last season's matchup in Starke.

Hope Christian JV/varsity volleyball schedule

Sept. 11

JV/varsity at First Christian, 5 p.m./6 p.m.

Sept. 16

—JV/varsity, home vs. Northside Christian, 4 p.m./5 p.m.

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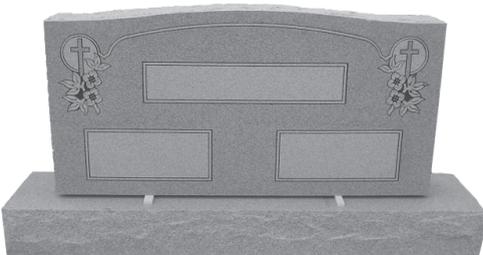
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BMS and BHS sports schedules

Sept. 11

—BHS JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. Union County, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.
—BHS JV football at Clay, 6 p.m.

Sept. 12

—BHS varsity football at Mandarin, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 13

—BMS/BHS cross country at Keystone Invite at Trinity Youth Camp, 7 a.m.

Sept. 16

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

—BHS JV/varsity volleyball at Interlachen, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

—BMS football at Palatka, 6 p.m.

Sept. 17

—BMS volleyball at Williston, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

KHHS jr. high, JV, varsity sports schedules

Sept. 11

—Jr. high volleyball, home vs. Lakeside, 5:30 p.m./6:45 p.m.

—JV football, home vs. Crescent City, 6 p.m.

Sept. 12

—Varsity volleyball at Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association tournament
—Varsity football, home vs. Newberry, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 13

—Cross country, home, Keystone Invite at Trinity Youth Camp, 7 a.m.

—Varsity volleyball at Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association tournament

Sept. 15

—Jr. high volleyball, home vs. Oakleaf, 5:30 p.m./6:45 p.m.

Sept. 16

—Boys golf vs. P.K. Yonge at Mark Bostick Golf Course at UF, 3:30 p.m.

—JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. St. Johns Country Day, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

—Jr. high football, home vs. Wilkinson, 6 p.m.

Sept. 17

—Jr. high volleyball at Green Cove Springs, 5:30 p.m./6:45 p.m.

LBMS and UCHS sports schedules

Sept. 11

—LBMS volleyball at Williston, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

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

Sept. 12

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

Sept. 15

—LBMS golf vs. Branford at the Country Club at Lake City, 4 p.m.

—LBMS volleyball at P.K. Yonge, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

Sept. 16

—LBMS golf vs. Aucilla Christian and Branford at Jefferson County Country Club, 3:30 p.m.

—UCHS girls golf vs. Branford at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club, 4 p.m.

—UCHS JV/varsity volleyball, home vs. Branford, 5:30 p.m./6:30 p.m.

—LBMS football, home vs. Lake City, 6 p.m.

Northside Christian JV/ varsity volleyball schedule

Sept. 11

Varsity at First Assembly Christian, 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 12

Varsity, home vs. Corinth Christian, 5 p.m.

Sept. 13

JV/varsity at Hope Christian, 4 p.m./5 p.m.

Bennett, Ramseur honored at Leave a Legacy

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Linda Bennet and Vivian Ramseur were the honorees at the Bradford County Education Foundation's seventh annual Leave a Legacy event, which was held Aug. 28 at Starke's Madison Street Baptist Church.

Video interviews and a question-and-answer session led by Tatum Davis were the highlights of the event, which also included a fundraising dessert dash and performances by Bradford High School band students.

Bradford County Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley opened the event, speaking to the contributions Bennett and Ramseur made in the classroom and in their community.

"God puts all of us on earth for a reason, and there is no doubt why these two women were put here," Hartley said. "They have certainly fulfilled their purpose and continue to do that here on this earth. We appreciate them so much."

Linda Bennett

Bennett's family moved from Gainesville to Brooker prior to her 10th-grade year, which she began at Bradford High School.

Davis asked Bennett about the transition from living in Gainesville to living in Brooker and attending BHS. Bennett said it was a hard transition, but one that was probably easier for her sister, Sandra Edwards Hazen.

"I was shy and reserved, and she was very outgoing and boisterous," Bennett said.

It was at BHS where Bennett met Joey, who would become her husband. Bennett said Joey's sense of humor and love for life won her over. They married after graduating from BHS at the age of 19 and moved to Lawtey.

Life after BHS also included going to school at the University of Florida, where Bennett earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1978.

"Well, the sad news was I graduated in December, and there was only one opening in January in the county," Bennett said. "That was at Bradford Middle School."

Bennett said she discovered that she loved teaching middle-school students.

"I'd found my niche," she said, adding, "I have so many good memories of teaching math to middle-school kids."

Three sons were born to the Bennetts in the 1980s: Kyle, Matt and Scott.

"Obviously, with three boys, we spent a lot of time on the baseball field," Bennett said. "We grew our family in the church. We're a family of strong faith."

Scott died from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident in 2005, which led to Bennett taking time off from work.

Bennett said when she eventually returned to work, the students helped her instead of her helping them.

"I got 3,000 hugs a day," she said. "Every child would hug my neck."

The students cared for her, and she cared for them. Bennett said she remembers one student she had who always "seemed to be going through some things." After a few weeks, she asked him if anything was troubling him. He responded that his parents



Linda Bennett said she found her niche in teaching middle-school students. After retiring, she became involved with Bradford Community for Schools.



With the exception of four years, Vivian Ramseur spent her entire teaching career at Southside/Bradford Elementary School.



Jenneina Decker (left) and Edrick Hamilton are putting the "dash" in the dessert dash - a fundraiser at Leave a Legacy.

were going through a divorce.

It's harder for teachers today to have such conversations with students and find out what kinds of things they're going through.

"Teachers are challenged with so many needs that they're hard to pinpoint," Bennett said. "I was able to pinpoint some needs, but today, you really can't do that. Kids come to school with so many broken pieces, and they need so much more than just academics."

Bennett, who retired after 33 years of teaching, enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, gardening, crafts, refinishing furniture and working in her church.

"God is always my first priority," she said.

She also began working for Bradford Community for Schools. That and other activities have been important since Joey passed away in 2013.

"It's good for me to stay busy," Bennett said.

Davis asked Bennett what advice she would give new teachers.

"I always thought when I first started teaching, I took life too seriously," Bennett said. "I just felt like I got bogged down because of that. I really ironically learned to laugh when I lost my son. It was either you laugh, or you die."

Teachers have a big burden, Bennett said, so she encourages them to not let the job overwhelm them. The key, she said, is to lighten up and laugh every now and then.

Bennett said she would also tell new teachers to get to know their students and to build relationships with them.

"Even with middle-schoolers, they're not going to learn from

you unless they know you care about them," Bennett said, adding, "They have to know that we care first, and all that rigorous stuff we do is secondary."

If new teachers are fellow believers, Bennett has another piece of advice.

"Being a Christian, I think it's important to pray for our kids," she said.

Vivian Ramseur

Ramseur, the daughter of Freddie and Emma Lou Bell, was born at Bradford Hospital. She and her siblings were the first Black children to integrate the school in Lawtey.

After graduating from BHS in 1980, Ramseur worked with Project PASS at the Bradford County School Board office while attending Santa Fe College at night. Ramseur would eventually transfer to Clark College in Atlanta.

While in Atlanta, she met her future husband, Byron, on the subway.

"I met my husband in 1983. We got married in 1984," Ramseur said. "My mom's first request was, 'You've got to make sure you graduate from college.' So, I did do that."

Ramseur graduated with her bachelor's in Early Childhood Education in 1986.

While her children — Emmali, James and Calvin — were small, Ramseur went to real-estate school. She worked as a buyer for the Ritz Carlton Hotel Atlanta and as an after-school teacher with Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church. Ramseur also

trained as a florist with Robb's Flowers of the Field.

Ramseur said she and her family began attending First Baptist Church of Atlanta, where her husband was called into the ministry.

She and her family moved to Lawtey in 2000 to help care for her mother.

Ramseur said she remembered telling her brother the year before making that move that she would never return to Lawtey. She said she learned that you never tell God what you're going to do or are not going to do.

When Davis asked Ramseur about making the transition to living in Lawtey again after living in Atlanta, she said that in Atlanta one "can go half a mile down the road, and you're at the store." She added that if you want to eat somewhere at midnight in Atlanta, you have options.

Also, if your vehicle won't work, you've got public transportation in Atlanta.

"That's not here," Ramseur said of Lawtey. "This is rural. Very rural."

It was a big transition for her, Ramseur said, but she added, "The one thing I didn't have in Atlanta that I have here is my family and my loved ones. That was a plus — to have my family."

Ramseur began teaching at Bradford Elementary School in 2002 when it was known as Southside. Aside from four years at the former school in Hampton, she spent her entire career at Southside/Bradford until retiring at the end of the 2024-25 year.

"I was blessed to have taught some amazing students," Ramseur said. "Some of them were so cotton-picking smart. I loved it — loved it, loved it, loved it."

Ramseur remembered a funny incident that occurred during her second year of teaching. She'd always give her students pep talks on Fridays before they left school for the day, telling them to be good and kind to their parents and to do what their parents ask them to do without making them ask more than once.

She'd close her pep talks by saying, "I want you to know I love you."

During this one particular incident, a student exclaimed, "You love us?!" When Ramseur said that she did indeed love all of them, the student responded by saying, "That's so nice. I didn't know you loved us."

"Sometimes we need to make sure our kids hear that — that they're loved — because they may not hear it all the time," Ramseur said.

Davis asked Ramseur what she looked forward to in retirement. She said the first thing was learning how to rest, something she admitted she hasn't been good at. She said since she was the oldest girl among her siblings, she was always doing something, which continued throughout her life.

"I'm looking forward to rest, which I have gotten and is wonderful," Ramseur said.

Ramseur said she looks forward to being Grandma and encouraging her son James and his fiancé that once they get married, they need to give her more grandchildren. She wants to read more books and take vacations. She and her husband would like to go back to Europe, where they went last year for their 40th anniversary.

Ramseur also looks forward to observing how her former students are doing.

"You don't forget your kids," she said. I'm looking forward to opening the Bradford County Telegraph at the end of the school year and picking out all the kids I taught (in the paper's graduation issue)."

When Davis asked Ramseur what advice she'd give new teachers, she said it would be to tell them to find a mentor teacher who they can confide in, pray with and get help from.

Ramseur said she'd also tell teachers that their responsibility isn't just teaching.

"You get kids who come to school who may not have eaten that morning. Who may not have had someone say, 'I love you.' Someone who may never have had anyone teach them who Jesus is. That might be one of our responsibilities that you don't even know you have."

Ramseur said she remembered when School Board Member Randy Jones visited her classroom. She told him she may have to be fired because if students ask her about Jesus, she's going to tell them.

"That's going to be the one thing that carries them, not just in school, but for the rest of their lives," Ramseur said. "We're trying to build lives here."

Ramseur concluded her question-and-answer session with Davis by saying that it's important for students to get to know their teachers. For example, she taught her kids sign language because that was a part of her life since her son Calvin is deaf.

With that in mind, Ramseur said she'd tell new teachers, "You need to make sure you give some of these kids something other than your education. Give them you."



Cassandra Kiser (left) and Cassie Melvin find cakes to their liking during the fundraising dessert dash.



KHHS

Continued from page 11

participated in the junior varsity boys race, which consisted of 136 runners. Ryeland Wahl, who had a time of 21:53, and Alex Mahaffey, who had a time of

25:13, led the Indians with 40th- and 88th-place finishes, while Adam Bell and Oliver Miller had times of 27:03 and 28:10, respectively.

Keystone will host its second annual Indian Invite on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 7 a.m. at Trinity Youth Camp (7996 County Line Road, Melrose).

GOLF

Continued from page 11

one player.

Kerissa Seay and Summer Shaw placed second and third, respectively, for Union with scores of 54 and 64, while Sierra Bell and Sophia Elixson tied for fourth, with each shooting a 65.

The Tornadoes' Alexis Fuhrman had a score of 66.

Union entered the match off a third-place finish in a Sept. 2 match at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club that also

featured Branford and Columbia.

Columbia took first as a team with a score of 181. Branford and Union had scores of 215 and 253, respectively.

Katelyn Seay led the Tigers with a seventh-place score of 56, while Elixson shot a 60 to finish in a two-way tie for eighth.

Kerissa Seay and Shaw had scores of 66 and 71, respectively.

The Tigers played Columbia and Keystone Heights this past Tuesday and will return to action Tuesday, Sept. 16, when they take on Branford at 3:30 p.m. at Quail Heights.

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Bradford rolls to 36-8 win over LBMS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford Middle School's football team scored all five of its touchdowns in the first half in defeating visiting Lake Butler 36-8 on Sept. 9.

The Tornadoes (3-0) are winning their games by an average margin of 31 points per game. They opened the season with a 26-6 win over Lake City and then defeated Williston 46-0.

Bradford received the opening kickoff against Lake Butler (2-1) and got an 18-yard run from Raef Cubbedge to pick up its initial first down. Quarterback Tony Richardson then hooked up with Cameron Hampton for a 32-yard touchdown, but a holding penalty negated the score. Three plays later, the Tornadoes got a touchdown that counted on Hampton's 26-yard run to put Bradford up 6-0. The pass on the

two-point conversion attempt was incomplete.

It didn't take long for the Tornadoes to add their second score. The Tigers ran two plays on their first series before quarterback Jackson Seay was sacked by Cubbedge. A fumble on the play was recovered by Tayten Raymond, giving Bradford the ball at the Lake Butler 3-yard line.

Bradford needed just two plays to punch it in on Richardson's 1-yard touchdown run. Hampton's run on the two-point conversion attempt made it a 14-0 game in the first quarter.

A pass interference penalty gave Lake Butler a first down on its second drive, but the Tigers' Ja'len Jonas was held to 1 yard on two carries before Bradford's Tony Goodman and Carter Lee teamed up to sack Seay for a 15-yard loss, forcing a punt.

The Tornadoes again had a two-play scoring drive, with Cubbedge scoring on a 56-yard reception early in the second quarter. Tre'Vonn Williams' reception on the two-point conversion attempt put Bradford up 22-0.

Cubbedge got the ball back for the Bradford offense when he intercepted a pass. The Tornadoes, starting a drive at the Lake Butler 38, picked up a first down at the 11-yard line on Cubbedge's 12-yard reception. Brandon Arnold then scored on a pass from Richardson, but a personal-foul penalty wiped out the touchdown and backed Bradford up to the 26-yard line. Swade Britt, getting a vicious block from Cubbedge, scored on a run from there to put the Tornadoes ahead 28-0. The two-point try failed.

Lake Butler went for it on a fourth-and-2 play from its own 16, with the result being a 1-yard loss on a run play and a turnover on downs, giving the Tornadoes the ball with 11 seconds remaining in the half. Arnold scored on a 15-yard touchdown run. Williams' run on the two-point play sent Bradford into the



Bradford's Raef Cubbedge sacks Lake Butler quarterback Jackson Seay, causing a fumble recovered by the Tornadoes' Tayten Raymond (right).



Bradford's Cameron Hampton (left) eludes the grasp of Lake Butler's Zaden Sirmones.

break leading 36-0.

The Tornadoes piled up 196 yards in the first half, with 122 coming on nine rushing attempts. Britt gained 57 yards on three carries, while Hampton had 26 on one carry. Cubbedge had three attempts net 23 yards.

Richardson completed 3 of 5 passes — all to Cubbedge — for 74 yards in the half.

It was a stingy effort out of the defense in the half as well, as the Tornadoes held Lake Butler to 4 yards.

The second half went quickly due to a running clock.

Lake Butler was able to avoid

the shutout on the game's final series. Jonas converted a fourth-down play 13-yard run to the Bradford 38. He then had a 13-yard run for a first down at the 25.

An 11-yard sack put the Tigers into a long-yardage situation, but Seay was able to throw a 33-yard touchdown pass to Jonas. Seay had a successful run on the two-point conversion attempt to end the scoring at 36-8.

Bradford travels to play Palatka on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m.

Lake Butler plays that same night, hosting Lake City at 6 p.m.



Kiwanis Club of Starke supports BMS basketball

Proceeds from the Kiwanis Club of Starke's July 18 Patsy Welch Memorial Poker Tournament were donated to the Bradford Middle School boys basketball program. President George Konkel (far left) and Treasurer Ed Rensberger (far right) present a check for \$625 to BMS Coach Alfonzo Jackson.



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