

# Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 9th Issue — \$1

## Man dies after pursuit by deputies

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Bradford County Sheriff's Office said a suspect in custody died after deputies chased the 43-year-old into a football-sized pond and swam with the man to shore.

Workers at HCA Florida Starke Emergency pronounced Justin Hogg dead shortly after Bradford Fire Rescue delivered the man to the facility.

According to a sheriff's office social media post, deputies attempted to serve a warrant on the suspect in the Riverbend Estates neighborhood between Graham and Brooker around 4:10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7. They were also seeking to question the man, who resided near State Road 100 between Starke and Keystone Heights, about a firearm that had been stolen the previous day.

"While driving into the private community on a one-lane dirt road, the



**Justin Hogg, 43, resided near State Road 100 between Starke and Keystone Heights.**

deputies observed the subject driving towards them in a blue Tahoe," the

agency said. "They attempted a traffic stop in the roadway, but the subject accelerated around the first patrol vehicle and rammed the second one. The Tahoe veered into a ditch, and the subject fled on foot into a nearby pond."

Undersheriff Brad Smith said that when Deputies Trinton Lovell and Mark Juen reached the water body, Hogg was already 30 feet from shore.

Smith said they caught up with Hogg when he was about 100 feet in, with the suspect backstroking away from the officers and attempting to splash water on the deputies as they got closer.

The undersheriff said that while the officers swam the suspect back to shore, Hogg "went under a time or two."

Smith said he is amazed Juen and Lovell were able to maintain buoyancy in the pond because neither shed any of their agency-issued gear before jumping in.

After reaching land, all three men collapsed in exhaustion until one deputy returned to the water to retrieve a bag the suspect carried into the pond. Smith said the bag contained a firearm.

After the officer retrieved the bag, Lovell and Juen escorted the suspect back to the vehicles Smith said were about 100 yards from where the trio exited the pond.

"He was walking but needed some assistance," Smith said of Hogg, adding that as medics drove up to the scene, the suspect was leaning on a vehicle.

Smith said that soon after fire rescue arrived, Hogg collapsed, and medics performed life-saving procedures before transporting the man to Starke.

Smith said the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating Hogg's death and that the medical examiner will perform an autopsy on the detainee.

## Construction of new Lake Butler Elementary clears hurdle

Superintendent aiming for new school in 2027

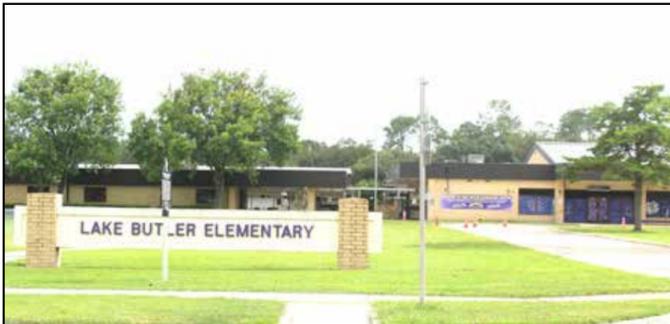
BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A state committee ranked the construction of Lake Butler Elementary School as the Number 1 project for Florida's Special Facility Construction Account for the upcoming 2025 legislative session.

The Florida Department of Education's Special Facility Construction Committee vote on September 5 puts the Union County School District on solid footing for a state appropriation in the 2025 legislative session.

Schools Superintendent Mike Ripplinger asked committee members for \$88.5 million during the meeting in Tallahassee.

He said \$64.6 million would fund the construction of a new pre-k through fifth-grade school, \$19.6 million would provide money to demolish and renovate the current school for other uses, \$2.2 million would renovate the middle school gym, and \$2.1 million



**Superintendent Mike Ripplinger told the Florida Department of Education's Special Facility Construction Committee that Lake Butler Elementary School's buildings date back to 1956, and the school's 22 portables have outlived their life expectancies.**

would finance moving the district's administrative offices to the current elementary school campus.

Also seeking funds from the committee were Baker County for a new middle school, Desoto County for a pre-k through third-grade campus, and Holmes County for a new kindergarten through 12th-grade school in Ponce de Leon. The

committee ranked Union County's project first, followed by Baker, Desoto, and Holmes.

The committee's rankings now go to the Florida Legislature as part of the Education Department's annual capital outlay budget request. If Tallahassee lawmakers green-light the Lake Butler project and the governor signs off on the new school,

the district should have around \$30 million to start the project in the summer of 2025. Ripplinger said the state typically funds new school construction over three years.

### Nearly \$1 million for pecan grove and hay field

Ripplinger said one of the first checks the district would cut for the new school would be a nearly \$1 million expenditure to Shadd Properties, LLC, for a 23.23-acre pecan grove and hay field adjacent to the elementary's current campus. The parcel across Southwest 6th Street (State Road 121) from the Lake Butler Apartments would be the site of the new school.

The superintendent said the district and the Shadd Family signed a binder for the potential purchase, with the district paying \$40,000 per acre, less a \$1,000 per acre contribution from the family to the district, putting the land cost at \$905,970.

See SCHOOL, page 3

## Pro Watercross eyes return to Lake Geneva

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A contractor for Clay County Tourism said his agency is in serious talks to bring back the Pro Watercross Tour to Lake Geneva in 2025.

Alan Verlander of Airstream Ventures told the county's Tourism Development Council on September 4 that his firm is talking to tour representatives about Keystone Heights hosting another race series.

The jet ski racing tour stopped at Lake Geneva in June 2023 for a two-day event and returned the following

year.

Both tour stops were videotaped for later broadcasts on CBS Sports.

Verlander also said his firm was in talks to bring a fishing event to Clay County. The potential event could bring more tourism dollars to the Lake Region.

"We are working on Ozark fishing," he said. "They are a big fishing organization. They would like to come to North Florida, so we are talking to them about the different parts within Clay County that they would fish. They're big into crappie fishing, so



**The jet ski racing tour stopped at Lake Geneva in June 2023 for a two-day event and returned the following year.**

that is their big thing. We're just trying to figure out how many boats they would need, how many ramps we could do it in, those kinds of things. But we'll get that event booked, I'm

hoping, by the end of the year."

In other news from the September 4 Clay County Tourist Development Council meeting,

See LAKE, page 2



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**WORTH NOTING**

### Fairgrounds food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### Church of God food distributions

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

### Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to change based on availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### Shoe drive

Bradford Elementary School is replenishing its shoe closet. Please donate your clean, gently used or new tennis shoes. Drop them off anytime to Coach Harden or the school clinic. Donors will receive a small thank you gift.

### Legion flea market

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

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

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# Crosby accepts chief position

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke's leadership team now has new titles, with Drew Mullins serving as general manager and Jimmy Crosby as chief administrative officer.

City commissioners approved a contract with Crosby Sept. 3 following finalization of the ordinance splitting responsibilities between the new posts. According to city officials, this change reflects the way the city has been running since Crosby was city clerk and Mullins was hired. More recently, Crosby had been working for Mullins as operations director.

Now both managers — each assigned his own duties, but interdependent — answer to the city commission.

Mullins' full title in the ordinance is general manager of public works, which includes preparing and sticking to a budget, carrying out short- and long-term plans related to the city's utilities, advising the commission and department heads, communicating with the commission, staff and the public, human resources for the public works departments, etc.

The chief administrative

officer will carry out many of the same duties on the general government side of the house, but Crosby will also oversee the finance department, just as he did as city clerk.

In addition to finance, the chief administrative officer will oversee matters of economic development, including private, public and partnership projects like City Walk downtown, as they work their way from concept to realization.

Each administrator will prepare a budget and bring them together for commission approval.

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

Crosby's new contract has a starting salary of \$90,000, and he is eligible for any increase in pay provided to other full-time employees, including cost of living adjustments. Positive evaluations can also increase compensation by as much as 10%. He is also eligible to

participate in the city retirement plan for general employees and receive health, disability and life insurance benefits. The city will also provide him an insured automobile or a vehicle allowance with incidental personal use allowed within a 50-mile radius.

The duration is three years, with an automatic renewal of two years unless either party provides a 60 days' notice to terminate the agreement. The city can, however, terminate the CAO at any time, or he could resign. Termination without cause requires a supermajority vote of the board, and termination with cause requires a simple majority. Cause includes being found guilty of a crime involving dishonesty or malfeasance in the performance of duties, misconduct as defined by Florida law or breach of contract.

Termination for cause cancels severance pay unless the commission wishes to negotiate. Otherwise, the CAO would be entitled to a maximum severance of 16 weeks' salary.

## LAKE

Continued from page 1

### Digital campaign delivers 2.9 impressions

Laura English of Advance Travel and Tourism described the county's two digital marketing campaigns designed to drive traffic to ExploreClay.com. She said both campaigns recorded 2.92 million impressions and delivered more than 32,000 visitors to the website in June and July.

"The campaigns we put together for you guys accounted for about half of the website traffic at 60%," English told the council. "Then these users directly drove over 27,000 page views when they were on the website, and then they performed 78,000 event actions on ExploreClay.com."

She said the general leisure campaign targets people outside the county, and the "Hey, Neighbor" campaign is intended for Clay County residents.

English said that through a geo-fencing campaign, her

firm traced 436 smartphones on which their owners clicked an ExploreClay.Com advertisement and then went to a Clay County destination.

### Explore Clay app to feature Keystone Heights history tour

Product Development Manager Samantha Koster told council members that she has just launched a Green Cove Springs history tour on the county tourism's mobile app and is now developing a similar product for Keystone Heights.

She said the Explore Clay app is a mobile version of the county's tourism website.

"It has everything from events to restaurants and places to stay," she said of the app. "The special feature is the tours section. We've started developing passports and itineraries that guide visitors to an even greater vacation when visiting Clay County."

Koster added that one of the app's most popular tours is "Caffeinated Clay," which highlights the county's coffee shops.

### Bed tax revenues flat

Tourism Director Kimberly Morgan reported that bed tax revenues decreased in July by 9%, compared to July 2023, marking the third month in 2024 that tourism tax revenue decreased from the previous year.

Morgan said that based on her talks with industry experts at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, the slump in tourism Florida has experienced over the past year and the county has seen in the last quarter is a stabilization of the industry after the COVID-19 boom.

"They're all saying this is the normalization," Morgan said. "We had such a huge demand from COVID that it actually inflated our rate and our occupancy so much that we didn't know what normal was anymore. And so now that we're starting with everyone getting back to a normal way of life, we're starting to see those rates and that occupancy level actually normalize. So, we're getting into that new normal, and we'll be able to project growth from there."

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| <b>SATURDAY 9/14</b><br>BEETLEJUICE-<br>BEETLEJUICE-<br>4:00 & 7:00<br>(Downstairs)<br>REAGAN-<br>4:00 & 7:00<br>(Upstairs) | <b>SUNDAY 9/15</b><br>BEETLEJUICE-<br>BEETLEJUICE-<br>4:00 & 7:00<br>(Downstairs)<br>REAGAN-<br>4:00 & 7:00<br>(Upstairs) |

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### Providence Baptist welcomes kids to FBI

Providence Village Baptist Church presents a program for children and youth ages 3 and up known as FBI: Faithful Bible Investigators featuring Bible study, games and lots of fun. The program takes place on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at the church, located at 4504 W. State Road 238.

### Alan Bhajan Responds to Slander.

I am Alan Bhajan, candidate for Superintendent of Schools, Bradford County. Most recently I have been privileged to teach the students of Bradford Middle School in their Grade 8 Science class where they achieved unprecedented success at the state examinations. Of significance is my prior experience as an Education Officer with the government of Guyana where I had great success leading, mentoring and developing school administrators and staff to produce safe, nurturing and successful schools. If given the opportunity by the good people of Bradford, I aim with God's help to transform our schools into safe institutions of excellence where administrators and staff work in a supportive and motivating environment to provide quality education to our children.

Recently I was interviewed by this publication and offered critical commentary on the policies and practices of the incumbent Superintendent. His response was to fabricate demonstrable falsehoods, that cast aspersions on my competence and character. I will address this slander after providing a brief contextual background.

In my first year at Bradford Middle School, I received observation assessments from the Assistant Principal and also a supervisory personnel from the district office. Both of these leaders gave me glowing reports and the district personnel declared many times that Bradford needs more teachers like me. Then I applied for a posted vacancy for Assistant Principal, not knowing that someone else was being groomed for the position. Attitudes changed towards me and I received the occasional passive aggressive targeting. I kept my focus on helping my students with quality education geared for success which they ultimately achieved. Sometime in early May, I sat across the desk from the Superintendent who was soliciting my opinion on the status of the school. He eagerly sought my input and appeared to value them and at no time did he indicate any dissatisfaction with my service. He asked about my future plans and I told him I may consider running for his office but at the present felt more inclined to teach at the high school. He encouraged me to apply at the high school. A few weeks later I found myself with other staff being told that the district could no longer afford to retain all teachers and the last person employed from each subject department would not have their contracts renewed for the new school year. The principal encouraged me to apply for other available jobs and reflecting on my prior conversation with the Superintendent, I pointedly asked the principal if there was any negative perception of me in the school district that would hinder my employment at the high school. He assured me that there was none and that I should apply to the high school. At this point, neither the Superintendent nor the principal expressed any concern about my service and so it seems very disingenuous and slanderous for the Superintendent to do so now.

The Superintendent asserts that because of what was happening in my classroom, they had to take a class away from me. First, the results of my students indicate that what happened in my classroom motivated my students to work and achieve great success in so much that they saved the school from another year of dismal failure. Second, the Superintendent evades the truth that an officer of the State was monitoring the school to prevent turn around intervention should another year of failure be recorded. That state personnel tasked the district and principal to derive an initiative to avert the school entering turn around. The principal came up with a model for shared teaching in the Civics and Science department. One of my six classes was given to the other grade 8 teacher who had 3 classes and we were asked to co teach. Since this initiative was applied to both Science and Civics departments, it obviously had nothing to do with my teaching but more to do with preventing another year of failure under the leadership of the incumbent. This debunks the slanderous assertion of the Superintendent.

The most bizarre educational leadership decision I have ever seen in my career happened next when the Superintendent, the Principal and members of his leadership team decided that 70% of the state exam was based on the grade 7 curriculum and that it was a wise idea to remove all students testing at level 2, and put them back into a grade 7 class. Level two performing students were removed from my five classes as well as all four of my coworker's classes clearly demonstrating that it had nothing to do with me but everything to do with desperate administrators willing to use our students as guinea pigs, sacrificing their full education to boost performance numbers. His second assertion on my character is debunked by him subjecting the students in my colleague's classes to the same intervention as mine.

The most basic responsibility of a school is to ensure that each child is taught the full curriculum on which they are going to be tested. In addition, once a child matriculates from 7th grade into grade 8, they should not be sent back. What the incumbent seems not to realize is that by denying our students access to the full curriculum on which they were tested, he compromised the validity of the results of the state of Florida. If students are tested on a curriculum that they were deliberately prevented from completing, the results are invalid. I'm sure the State would find great interest in this breach.

When I learned that there was going to be a mass lay off of teachers, I found it strange since salaries are guaranteed on the budget for each fiscal year on the voted provision. It should not dry up in the middle of a fiscal year unless the managing officer wants to use the funds from laying off teachers, on another purpose. Sure enough, the incumbent launched his reelection campaign with a grand announcement that he raised teachers' salaries. What he didn't announce was that all other non-instructional staff received a five cents (\$0.05) raise. You read that right. Five Cents. Did we just see a Superintendent do a mass layoff of teachers so he can use their budgeted funds to have a political soundbite, without regard for the dedicated teachers whose jobs he took, without regard for our students left in understaffed classrooms receiving a diminished quality of education, and without regard for the teachers who remain and must carry an increased workload? Only an investigation from the state or federal Inspector General can give the answers the good people of Bradford deserve.

The incumbent declares pride in his fiscal management style that consolidates schools, reducing overhead and maintenance expenditure and reducing staffing to a bare operational minimum. For a business like Elon Musk's X, this works great. However not many school districts seem to be aware of this fantastic method of fiscal management, or maybe they know better. Maybe they know that schools are run less like businesses and more like homes. The welfare of the child must underscore every decision. The focus in decision making cannot be on money because schools are not for making money, they make citizens. Each child of Bradford deserves quality education in a safe and motivating school. A good education may not enrich his pocket but it will enrich his mind. A good education will not make a child better than anyone else but it will make a child achieve his best potential in every field of life. For this cause most parents would sacrifice all to ensure their child receives a good education. If we fail our children in providing them a proper education because we consolidate and cut spending like a business, then we will be doomed to spend more on jails, hospitals and welfare programs and God forbid the chickens don't come home to roost in a very personal way.

My motivating concern is for the students of Bradford to have that quality education that will open the doors of opportunities for them. I have taught them, understood them, grown to care for them and helped them realize their potential. They have the capability to achieve excellence. We cannot continue to fail them. The closing of the Middle school which looms in November, will severely hinder the safety and educational development of our children in those precarious years. Casting our preteens in the same facilities and buses with older high school teens is creating a powder keg to which the students themselves will strike the match. Save our schools, our staff and our children with your vote.

A sentiment to the incumbent, a resort to character assassination is bullying. Such behavior does not become men of honor. Having emotionally charged supporters attacking, slandering and attempting to silence the free speech of others on the internet, is cyber bullying and an indictment on their leader who claims he wants to end bullying. We must do better. We can disagree and debate our policies and positions vigorously with critical thinking and conversations within the accepted norms of ethics.

To the good people of Bradford County, vote to save our schools, vote for leadership that is effective and compassionate, leadership that will transform schools, empower staff and motivate students to achieve their best, vote for a brighter future for our children.

Vote Alan Bhajan.

God save our schools. God safeguard our children and God bless these United States of America.

Paid for by Alan Bhajan, NPA, for  
Superintendent of Schools



**ALAN BHAJAN**  
FOR  
**SUPERINTENDENT**  
OF  
**BRADFORD COUNTY**  
**SCHOOLS**

# SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

"I had gone to them probably over a year ago," Ripplinger said, "letting them know we were pursuing a new school. They're from Union County, have children who went through Union County schools, have grandchildren in the Union County school system, and are very strong supporters of our students and community."

The school's chief said the district also considered another site for the school on the other side of Lake Butler but chose the Shadd property because of its proximity to the current campus.

## Facilities date back to 1956

In his presentation to the Special Facility Construction Committee, Ripplinger said the elementary school's buildings date back to 1956, and the school's 22 portables have outlived their life expectancies. He also said the current campus is overcrowded, the large number of drop-offs and pick-ups causes traffic issues, and the district is

spending an inordinate amount of money to maintain the aging facilities.

The superintendent added that the new school would allow the district to move fifth-grade students from the middle school to the elementary, eliminating the need for three portables at the middle school and converting the sixth through eighth-grade campus into a fully brick-and-mortar facility.

Ripplinger showed committee members photographs of damage caused by compromised roofs, standing water caused by inadequate drainage, and an undersized cafeteria that can only serve one grade at a time, lengthening the time it takes to serve students lunch to nearly two and a half hours.

## Will be one of the largest K-5 schools in Florida

Ripplinger said that once fifth-grade students move to the new elementary school, the campus will host nearly 1,200 students.

"It will be a very large school," he said. "You're not going to find very many elementary schools in the State of Florida with a



Union County officials and supporters attending the Florida Department of Education's Special Facility Construction Committee meeting on September 5 were (l-r) Matthew Elixson - Director of School Safety and Mental Health, Alvin Merriex - Parent and Coach, Stacey Rimes - Director of Curriculum and Accountability, Chris Mecusker - Director of Personnel and Human Resources, Kevin Johnson - Business Partner, Terra Johnson - School Board Member, Mike Ripplinger - Superintendent, Betsy Whitehead - Director of Food Service, Renae Prevatt - Director of Finance, Michelle Fuist - Principal of Lake Butler Elementary, Becky Raulerson - School Board Member, Christie Whitehead - Director of ESE and Student Services, Kathy Bielling - Community Member, Melissa Hendrix - Mayor of Lake Butler, and Jimmy Bielling - Business Partner.

thousand students or more." According to Niche.com, the largest K-5 schools in Florida are the City of Pembroke Pines

Charter School, with 1,898 students, Mater Academy Elementary in Miami, with 1,529, and Horizons Elementary in Davenport, between Orlando and Tampa, with 1,468 students.

The superintendent said the district could split the elementary school population, sending some students back to the old campus after renovations. However, that option would tamper with what Ripplinger and many in Union County feel is a cherished feature of the local school district: one elementary, one middle school, and one high school, which connects students emotionally with one shared experience and strengthens the community.

"It's not the norm," the superintendent said of the large student population, "but we believe it's important to continue that common experience that (Union County students) share. Everybody's a Tiger; we're all purple and gold, and we move you together, all the way through your graduation year."

Ripplinger said district

officials have selected an architect and have visited Legacy Elementary in Macclenny and Bradford Elementary in Starke for design ideas.

"Quite frankly," he said, "we visited the one in Starke because it was two-story, and we wanted to see what that was like."

Ripplinger said the district will consider the two-story option and will also look to maximize

potential capacity by designing teacher workrooms that could be converted into additional classrooms if needed.

He added that he hoped the new campus would be ready in time for the 2027-2028 school year but conceded that the uncertainties of construction, supply chain, and other issues make the timing of the school's opening unclear.



District officials hope to purchase a 23.23-acre pecan grove and hay field owned by Shadd Properties, LLC, for the new school's site. The parcel across Southwest 6th Street (State Road 121) from the Lake Butler Apartments is adjacent to the current campus.



### NOTICE

The 2024 Union County Value Adjustment Board will hold its Organizational Meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. In County Commission Room No 101 55 West Main Street Lake Butler, FL

### HEARINGS

Hearings for Petitions filed with the Union County Value Adjustment Board Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Alternate Hearing Date for Petitions filed will be Held Monday, October 16, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

All hearings will be held in County Commission Room 101 55 West Main Street Lake Butler, FL 32054



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| <p><b>Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Competitive Rates, non-profit, right here in your community</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">A Teachers Energy Cooperative</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Keystone District Office 352-473-4817 • <a href="http://clayelectric.com">clayelectric.com</a></p> | <p style="font-size: x-small;">After Church on Sunday Come to</p> <p><b>Powell's Dairy Freeze</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">"Home of the Foot Long Steak"<br/>Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night!<br/>US 301 NORTH • STARKE, FL</p>   | <p style="font-size: x-small;">Come Worship with us</p> <p><b>STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m.<br/>School • Saturday 10:00 a.m.<br/>1649 W. Madison St • Starke, FL</p>  |
| <p><b>DOUGLAS BATTERY OF STARKE</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">We rebuild starters, alternators, generators.<br/>Auto - Marine - Cycle Batteries<br/>407 N. Temple • 964-7911</p>   | <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">REGIONAL OUTREACH HERE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">thousands weekly</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">904.964.6305</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">classads@bctelegraph.com</p>  | <p><b>Morgan Road Baptist Church</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">3784 NW CR 233<br/>Starke</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Sunday Morning Worship 11am<br/>Sunday School 9:45am<br/>Sunday Evening Worship 6pm<br/>964-4422 Wednesday Evening 7pm</p>   |

# Bradford rolls out naloxone cabinets to combat opioid overdoses

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County Fire Rescue has launched a life-saving initiative aimed at addressing the opioid crisis.

Last week, BCFR, in collaboration with the Hanley Foundation and other local partners, installed several Naloxone cabinets across the community. These cabinets, which offer free access to the opioid-reversing medication naloxone (commonly known by the brand name Narcan), are now available at three locations:

- The Answers Health and Resource Facility, 512 W. Weldon St. in Starke.
- Starke Fire Rescue 105 E. Jackson St. in Starke.
- The Arc of Bradford County's Hampton location, 10501 Hampton Ave.



Bradford County Fire Rescue Lt. David Weeks, Answers CEP JoAnna Weldon and Stefan Nichols from the Hanley Foundation. Picture: BCFR.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to curb the alarming rise in opioid overdoses by making life-saving medications more accessible to the public. Naloxone, when administered quickly, can reverse the effects of opioid overdose, restoring breathing and potentially preventing death. Naloxone has proven a

critical tool in the fight against opioid overdoses, which have surged in recent years due to the proliferation of powerful synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Often carried by first responders, Naloxone can now be obtained by individuals who might witness an overdose or be at

risk themselves, thanks to the installation of these community cabinets.

Kits are also available at any Bradford County Fire Rescue station.

"Naloxone is an essential resource, and the ability to access it freely could save

lives in critical moments," the agency posted on Facebook. "This is a major step forward in safeguarding the health and well-being of our community."

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration describes naloxone as an antagonist. It works by quickly binding to

opioid receptors in the brain, reversing and blocking the effects of other opioids. While it is a short-term solution that requires follow-up medical care, it can buy crucial time for overdose victims to receive emergency treatment.

At least one reader of BCFR's social media post was displeased by the announcement, saying those who abuse drugs should have to live with the consequences.

"I can't believe such resources and funds are being wasted like this. You are doing nothing but enabling the use of drugs," the post read.

Others came to the agency's defense, and BCFR clarified that the cabinet installations came at no cost to Bradford County.

Through its community paramedicine program, BCFR aims to help people dealing with chronic health conditions, including substance abuse. Identifying addicts, getting them into rehab and supporting their recovery part of the mission. They work with partners like Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, to which the county just directed additional opioid lawsuit settlement funding to get a substance abuse counselor assigned to the local office. Some might confuse the

availability of the overdose prevention kits with various forms of medically assisted treatment, which are controversial for some. While naloxone is important for preventing deaths in overdose situations, long-term recovery for those with substance use disorders can require a more comprehensive approach. Medically assisted treatment is a method for helping individuals with opioid addiction using medications like methadone or naltrexone, alongside counseling and behavioral therapies.

Those medications help reduce cravings, prevent withdrawal symptoms, and block the euphoric effects of opioids, giving individuals a better chance at maintaining recovery.

Naloxone, on the other hand, does not create a "high" and has no addictive properties.

## Where to next?

Bradford County Fire Rescue is encouraging the community to suggest additional locations for naloxone cabinets and welcomes businesses interested in installing one. Those interested can contact Lt. David Weeks at 904-977-1938 for more information.

# Voting is around the corner

The deadline to register to vote in this election is Oct. 7

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

With a hard-fought and deeply divisive presidential race at the top of the ballot plus a few controversial initiatives, the 2024 election is one of the most anticipated in history.

In Bradford County, the final local races come down to two: the countywide race for superintendent of schools between incumbent Will Hartley and Alan Bhajan, and the District 1 race between incumbent county commissioner Carolyn Spooner and Shannon Smith, who currently sits on the Starke City Commission. Hartley and Smith are Republicans, Spooner is a Democrat and Bhajan's campaign is nonpartisan.

Starke voters are also being polled on an amendment to

remove the position of police chief from the city charter, and Hampton voters are being asked to approve a "comprehensively reworded" version of the city charter.

Topics for amendments to the Florida Constitution include restoring abortion rights, legalizing marijuana, making school board races partisan, preserving the right to hunt and fish, adjusting homestead exemption amounts for inflation and repealing public campaign financing for state elections.

In addition to the presidential race where the leading candidates are Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, there are also races for U.S. Senate and Congress. The incumbents, both Republicans are Rick Scott and Kat Cammack. They are running against Democrats Debbie Murcarse-Powell and Tom Wells, respectively.

The Circuit 8 state attorney

race is between incumbent Brian Kramer, a Republican, and Yvens Pierre-Antoine. Incumbent Chuck Brannan is running again as a Republican for state representative, District 10, against Bobby Brady.

There are also a handful of judicial retention questions for Florida Supreme Court justices Renatha Francis and Meredith Sasso, and appeals court judges Stephanie Ray, Bradford Thomas and M. Kemmerly Thomas.

Election Day is Nov. 5, with early voting from Oct. 21-Nov. 3. The election is open to all eligible voters. The deadline to register to vote in this election is Oct. 7, and you can do so online by visiting [www.votebradfordfl.gov](http://www.votebradfordfl.gov).

To vote in person, go to your polling location on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or to the courthouse on one of the early voting days from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Photo and signature identification are required. To

vote on Election Day, you must vote in the precinct of your legal residence. Your precinct is listed on your voter registration card.

Updated voter registration cards were mailed when redistricting altered voting precincts. If you need to update your address, do so by calling the elections office at 904-966-6266.

Registered voters may also vote by mail by calling the office or signing up at [www.votebradfordfl.gov](http://www.votebradfordfl.gov). The deadline to request a mail ballot is Oct. 24 for the general election.

Signatures on file with the elections office are used to verify vote-by-mail ballots, candidate and petitions for candidates and ballot initiatives. If your signature has changed, you can update it at the elections office or by mailing an updated voter registration.

For information, visit [www.votebradfordfl.gov](http://www.votebradfordfl.gov).

## Magnolia Baptist anniversary

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Raiford and interim pastor the Rev. Jason Tucker will be celebrating the church's 121st anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 3 p.m. New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of and the Rev. James Morris will be in charge of the service.

## BES Track or Treat

Bradford Elementary School's Track or Treat will be held Friday, Oct. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the school bus loop. Dress up and bring a bag to collect treats. Entry is \$1 per person. Children under 3 enter free.

For information, visit [www.votebradfordfl.gov](http://www.votebradfordfl.gov).

## Market at Melrose

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

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

## Foster, adoption classes

Looking to make a difference in the community? Call Partnership for Strong Families today at 352-213-7219 to enroll in a foster and adoption class for parents.

| BUDGET SUMMARY  |                           |                     |                          |                         |                                 |                  |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| City of Keystone Heights - Fiscal Year 2024-2025  |                           |                     |                          |                         |                                 |                  |
| General Fund  | 3.8847                    |                     |                          |                         |                                 |                  |
| ESTIMATED REVENUES  | General Fund              | Special Revenue CRA | Enterprise Fund Cemetery | Enterprise Fund Airport | Capital Projects Infrastructure | TOTAL ALL FUNDS  |
| <b>Taxes:</b>   | <b>Millage Per \$1000</b> |                     |                          |                         |                                 |                  |
| Ad Valorem Taxes  | 3.8847                    | 378,685.00          |                          |                         |                                 | 378,685          |
| Sales and Use Taxes   |                           | 744,164.95          |                          | 859,002                 |                                 | 1,603,167        |
| Charges For Services  |                           | 84,138.41           |                          | 462,896                 |                                 | 547,034          |
| Intergovernmental Revenue   |                           | 348,045.03          | 233,846.43               |                         |                                 | 581,891          |
| Miscellaneous Revenue   |                           | 27,987.96           |                          | 38,393                  |                                 | 66,381           |
| Licenses And Permits  |                           | 10,930.84           |                          |                         |                                 | 10,931           |
| Grants  |                           | 0                   |                          |                         |                                 | 0                |
| Internal Service Charges  |                           | 21,000              |                          |                         |                                 | 21,000           |
| <b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>  |                           | <b>1,614,952</b>    | <b>233,846.43</b>        | <b>0</b>                | <b>1,360,290.85</b>             | <b>3,209,089</b> |
| <b>Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets</b>  |                           | <b>752,378.78</b>   | <b>230,345.57</b>        | <b>290,589.44</b>       | <b>824,554</b>                  | <b>2,858,700</b> |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS, &amp; BALANCES</b>  |                           | <b>2,367,330.97</b> | <b>464,192.00</b>        | <b>290,589.44</b>       | <b>2,184,845</b>                | <b>6,067,790</b> |
| EXPENDITURES  |                           |                     |                          |                         |                                 |                  |
| Culture & Recreation  |                           | 168,500             | 67,324                   |                         |                                 |                  |
| General Government  |                           | 942,050             | 38,550                   |                         | 728,469                         | 1,709,069        |
| Public Safety/Code Enforcement  |                           | 46,000              |                          |                         |                                 | 46,000           |
| Human Services  |                           | 50,000              |                          |                         |                                 |                  |
| Transportation  |                           | 103,500             |                          |                         | 631,339.04                      | 734,839          |
| Personnel Services (Public Works)   |                           | 267,000             |                          |                         |                                 |                  |
| Debt Service  |                           |                     |                          |                         |                                 | 0                |
| Economic Development  |                           |                     | 127,900                  |                         |                                 | 127,900          |
| Grants  |                           |                     |                          |                         |                                 | 0                |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>   |                           | <b>1,577,050</b>    | <b>233,774</b>           | <b>0</b>                | <b>1,359,808.28</b>             | <b>3,170,632</b> |
| <b>Transfers Out</b>  |                           | <b>37,902</b>       | <b>72.43</b>             | <b>290,589</b>          | <b>482.57</b>                   | <b>1,089,879</b> |
| <b>Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets</b>  |                           | <b>752,378.78</b>   | <b>230,345.57</b>        | <b>290,589</b>          | <b>824,554</b>                  | <b>2,858,700</b> |
| <b>Total Appropriated Expenditures Transfers, Reserves &amp; Balance</b>  |                           | <b>1,614,952</b>    | <b>233,846</b>           | <b>290,589</b>          | <b>1,360,291</b>                | <b>4,260,512</b> |
| The tentative adopted, and / or final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record |                           |                     |                          |                         |                                 |                  |

# County plans single budget workshop between hearings

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County commissioners were set to meet for their only public budget workshop on Sept. 10, a workshop that came after the first public hearing on the budget last week.

Deputy Clerk of Courts Rachel Rhoden, highlighted the need for transparency and public involvement in the budgeting process, saying the clerk's office supports budget workshops.

"We think that they're great. It's an opportunity to let the public see and understand what's going on with the county budget," she said.

At this late stage, however, Rhoden expressed staff's hope that the workshop would lean toward presentation and avoid any major last-

minute changes. The budget represents months of work on their part. Typically, finance employees begin meeting with the county manager's office in February to work on a timeline to submit departmental budgets, Rhoden said. They consider the timing of the annual audit presentation as well as revenue information from the property appraiser's office and other sources.

For that reason, the real window for future budget workshops should be between March and July, she said. Department heads and constitutional officers can present their budget requests to the board, and commissioners can talk about how to incorporate needs like a capital improvement plan.

Rhoden addressed the commission's need for a

capital improvement plan in a prior discussion, noting that there are "major capital expenses" in the county's future, and the board needs to identify them and ensure money is being set aside to pay for them.

Doing all of this in advance would allow the finalization of the budget prior to the required public hearings each September.

"I just wanted to make that note for next year moving forward, so we can kind of be on the same page there," she said.

Because the commission has big decisions to make regarding spending on fire rescue and a still-possible fire assessment fee next year, Rhoden suggested they could begin workshopping that "sooner than later."

Options have been discussed individually but not publicly as the full board, she said, including reducing operations by as much as 50%. At the same time there has been talk of expansion with a new fire station in Brooker. They need to examine options and their potential impact.

"We haven't really talked about that, and we really need to have those discussions," she said, adding they don't want the consultant's fire assessment data to expire.

"Are we going to reduce? Are we expanding? What is that going to look like? As far as cost, we need to get all of that worked out and quickly," she urged.

Commissioner Diane Andrews agreed with the importance of budget workshops, including the one

scheduled for Sept. 10.

"These people out here, they want to know what's happening, too. And it's a good idea for people to come and just tell about their budget, tell what they've done. And so, I think that we desperately need to get back to that. And the sooner, the better with the fire department," she said.

The final tally for the county budget with grant funding added is more than \$93.88 million. With nearly \$22.8 million, the road department budget is by far the largest. However, almost all but \$3.68 million of that amount is grant funding for projects like C.R. 225, C.R. 235 and C.R. 237.

The \$12.1 million in the fines and forfeitures fund includes \$4.86 million for the sheriff's office and \$3.5 million for the jail.

The budget for fire rescue is almost \$10.5 million. This includes nearly \$1.27 million in grant funding for a new fire engine and station improvements in Theresa and Sampson City. It also includes more than \$226,000 for the community paramedicine program, which is paid for with lawsuit settlement funding to address opioid addiction.

The general fund has more than \$13.4 million in reserve funding, which comes to nearly \$16.1 million when reserves from the other funds are added.

The final budget hearing will take place Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

# Bradford fire assessment: What are the next steps?

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

When most Bradford County commissioners were not ready to move forward with any new fee to fund fire protection this year, that sent everything back to the drawing board.

Almost. There is a statutory process that must be followed to implement a special assessment, but the county may move forward with the same consultant report, barring any major changes in method of assessing properties and collecting the revenue.

Based on the fire department budget, the number of calls for service and how those calls

are distributed over various property classes, the current report places the cost for achieving 100% funding at more than \$300 per residential dwelling unit.

Commissioners balked at asking that much, but also couldn't agree on management's proposed reduction to \$167 a year, or anything less than that. Instead, they opted for more time, more discussion and potentially more options. The intent is more education for everyone and inclusion of more voices in the discussion.

Contrary to the understanding of some that there was no intent to place the fire assessment on this year's tax bill, the resolution

approved by the board in February did state that goal. It is the same resolution the commission will need to approve by the end of this year or (with the approval of the tax collector and property appraiser) the beginning of next year. It will communicate the commission's intention to proceed with the collection of a fire assessment in 2025.

The commission narrowly passed an ordinance in July establishing the method of collecting an annual assessment via property tax bills. The final step, which would need to take place prior to September 2025, will be the resolution establishing the amount of the fees for each property class.

According to the consultant, workshops are anticipated to begin in middle or late November this year, but the clerk's office has urged commissioners to begin sooner rather than later. Questions have been raised by the public and commissioners about the apportionment of the fees as well as if there are other viable methods that would link the value of the property to how much its owner pays. There are questions about what the fee pays for, and whether the commission should also be looking at budget cuts for the department, which would reduce the amount of any assessment but also impact level of service.

It seems likely that changes

to the cost distribution or collection methodology will result in additional work for the consultant as well as additional cost for the county.

And when it comes time for the county commission to vote again on implementing the fee, the county's municipalities will also need to decide on participation. Lawtey, Brooker and Hampton all approved all voted for participation on the first reading of their ordinances, but they were never finalized after the county delayed implementation.

Starke never voted at all, or even publicly discussed participation. Starke commissioners' last discussion with the county on

fire protection ended with the rejection of a county proposal to absorb Starke Fire Rescue into the county's department. At that time, it was the city commission that was being asked to directly fund the cost of doing so.

According to the consultant, the county will continue to encourage participation from all municipalities, and as for consolidation, the county has never taken that possibility off the table.

In the end, the biggest obstacle will remain the commissioners themselves, who have repeatedly expressed the importance of the service and the need for the revenue, but never finalized its collection.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX LEVY

The City of Keystone Heights has provisionally enacted a resolution to maintain its current property tax levy.

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Last year's property tax levy   |            |
| A. Initially proposed tax levy: | \$ 378,685 |
| B. Actual property tax levy     | \$ 378,685 |
|                                 |            |
| This year's proposed tax levy   | \$ 378,685 |

This tax hold is applicable to the City of Keystone Heights, Florida. All concerned citizens are invited to attend the public hearing on the tax hold to be held on  
September 16th, 2024  
6:00PM  
at  
555 S Lawrence Blvd  
Keystone Heights FL 32656

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

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**Tri-County & Lake Area Region!**

# Lawtey, county nearing agreement on fire services

## City donates Engine 50 to county

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

During the Lawtey City Council's Sept. 5 meeting, Council Member Emily Hoffman reported progress on a memorandum of understanding with the county regarding the county using the city's fire station.

Ben Carter, chief of Bradford County Fire Rescue, told the council that the county is willing to operate under a previous agreement between the city and the sheriff's office and that he will bring the proposal to the council during its October meeting.

Carter also told council members that the station's vehicle exhaust system is in disrepair and not working. He said replacing the system would be expensive, and although a system to clear the station of carbon monoxide is required, less costly alternatives are available.

Hoffman recommended the city donate its Engine 50 to the county, eliminating Lawtey's

costs to maintain insurance on the vehicle. She said that with the city owning the vehicle and county employees driving the engine, the city is exposed to potential liability from actions arising from employees it does not control.

Council Member Amy Blom said she would not support the idea until the city and county sign the memorandum of understanding. She added that the city could sell the engine, generating revenue for the municipality's other needs, like road repair.

Council Member Virginia Warner said she did not have a problem donating the vehicle but would not vote for the move without a signed agreement with the county. Mayor Jimmy Scott and Council Member Deborah Jordan joined Hoffman in supporting the measure, which passed 3-2.

Carter also announced that he plans to deploy one of the county's two new fire trucks to Lawtey.

In other news from the Sept. 5 meeting of the Lawtey City Council,

## Tentative millage equals rolled-back rate

The council passed its tentative property tax rate of 2.2498 mills, which equaled the municipality's rolled-back rate.

Council members also passed a tentative general fund budget of \$2,535,138 and a water fund budget of \$1,834,570.

They also set a final budget hearing time and date at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17.

## Limited office hours for city hall

The council voted to extend limited office hours in city hall on Wednesdays through the remainder of 2024. In August, council members voted to close the office at noon on Wednesdays during September to allow Clerk Lisa Harley to complete necessary work on budgets, grants, and other projects without interruption.

When asked about how the limited office hours have worked during the current month, Harley

said that instead of bringing their utility payments inside, water customers simply leave them in the drop box outside the building. She added that she believed the limited office hours also allowed police department staff to catch up on paperwork.

## Demand to abolish garbage charges

During the public comment section of the meeting, Vyunda Strong told council members that they should abolish the \$10 per month garbage fee the city charges residents.

"We pay the city \$120 a year for garbage pickup, and we pay the county \$125 a year to use the dump at any time," she said. "The five of you guys can decide to do away with that \$120 that we paid for garbage pickup, and the citizens wouldn't have to pay \$245 a year."

## Fines and forfeitures bring in \$200k

According to the city's

financial statements, Lawtey received \$215,461.50 in fines and forfeitures from October 2023 through July 2024. The municipality's general fund ran a surplus of \$84,616 through the first 10 months of the fiscal year, and its water fund cleared \$84,955 over the same period.

Lawtey police official Nathan Blom announced that the city issued around 800 violation notices from its school zone speed cameras in August.

"And that's not even counting the ones that were dismissed due to government vehicles and maybe (camera) errors (caused by) weather."

## Dump truck in shop for third or fourth time

Blom reported that the city's dump truck is back in the shop for transmission repairs. She added that the vehicle's transmission was worked on a few months ago, and the truck is still under warranty. Some council members mentioned returning the truck under Florida's Lemon law, but Hoffman said the state's

Lemon Law does not apply to commercial transactions. City Attorney Dan Sikes said he would look into the matter. Blom said this was the fourth or fifth time the transmission had gone out on the truck. Added Harley: "The bad thing is, if we were to have to do that, how long would it take to get a new truck? It took six months for them to build that one."

## Recreation board members no-show meetings

Council Member Deborah Jordan reported that the recreation board failed to reach a quorum for its last meeting and that the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30. Jordan added that during the board's next session, members will discuss the fact that it has failed to reach a quorum for several meetings and will propose solutions to the city council.

# Brooker school orders safety software, welcomes board members

BY CAROL MOSLEY  
Special to the Telegraph

The Brooker Community School Board had news as the new school year got underway.

This is the second year that the public charter school has been up and running, and sixth grade was a new addition this year. The enrollment has nearly doubled from the starting year and now has 80 students enrolled, with room to grow.

The new principal, Thomas Lashley, addressed the importance of following legally required safety protocols and detailed the measures that will be

implemented. All adults entering the campus must be identified and screened. The board agreed to the purchase of Raptor, a system that scans an ID and does a background check. It instantly identifies any outstanding felony warrants or past sexual predator list convictions.

The program makes the decision about access based on legal parameters, absolving school staff from having to decide where the laws apply. Parents will be notified to bring ID with them to events. Parents can prescreen through the office, if desired, and then the process of

scanning identification is smooth and rapid at any school visits or special events.

In other safety areas, Lashley said all staff must have a "hot button" to call 911. The estimated cost for the system is \$4,068. The school has already conducted a crisis drill and fire drill that both went smoothly. The board agreed to construct an official policy statement saying the school will follow the Bradford County School District's policies regarding safety regulations.

There have been recent changes to the school's board members. The resignation of

William Harrell left an opening that will be filled by Michelle Green of Belle Oaks Barn. Green is the volunteer art instructor and is a welcome addition to the board.

Recently joined board member and volunteer John Eagle will consider filling the roll of Diversity Committee chair. That role focuses on recruiting new students through visits to local churches and organizations, especially in the Montecocha area of Alachua County, to let them know the school is free and open to any students from any locale.

Volunteer Patsy Pullen is well

underway with planning for the Oct. 26 Fall Festival. Raffle prizes are already coming in from local vendors. Pullen set a goal of \$20,000 for a "Banner Fundraiser" that gets a business or family a banner hanging on the school fence. The banner could advertise a local business or send a personal family message for a \$1,000 donation.

Pullen is expecting other physical items to be donated for the raffles and more funds raised from the ticket sales. She said the students themselves sold about \$2,500 worth of raffle tickets last year.

Meanwhile, grant items are beginning to arrive from the Charter School Program grant such as smart boards and intercom capabilities. The PTO will need to wait until next year to get up and running. That will allow time to get all the legal requirements in place. And, as with schools everywhere, Brooker Community School is desperately in search of a bus driver. It seems the required training programs for obtaining the special licensing are backed up and contributing to the shortage everywhere.

# Recreational pot on November ballot

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

In November, Florida voters will face another major decision at the ballot box, this time on the issue of recreational marijuana legalization.

If approved, the proposed constitutional amendment would allow adults aged 21 and older to possess and use marijuana for recreational purposes. This referendum follows Florida's 2016 decision to legalize medical marijuana, a measure that passed with overwhelming voter support.

The proposed amendment seeks to legalize the personal use of marijuana for adults and would allow licensed medical marijuana providers to expand into recreational sales. This change, proponents argue, is a natural progression from the state's medical marijuana program, which has been in place for nearly eight years. Supporters claim the success of medical marijuana in Florida demonstrates that a well-regulated system can work without overwhelming negative consequences.

## The pros

Supporters of the amendment argue that legalizing recreational marijuana offers several potential benefits, including economic growth, job creation and a significant boost to state tax revenues. According to a report by Florida TaxWatch, the state could generate upwards of \$200 million in tax revenue annually through marijuana sales — revenue that could be funneled into essential services like education, health care and infrastructure.

Advocates also stress that legalization would provide an opportunity to regulate the marijuana industry more effectively, ensuring safer products for consumers while reducing the burden on law enforcement and the judicial system. The arrest and

incarceration of individuals for marijuana possession disproportionately affects minority communities, they argue, and decriminalizing marijuana could help reduce these disparities.

Moreover, proponents point to the experience of other states that have legalized recreational marijuana. More than 20 states, including Colorado, California and Michigan, have fully legalized recreational marijuana. In Colorado, the first state to legalize it, marijuana tax revenue exceeded \$2 billion by 2022, funding projects like school construction and mental health services. While some states have faced initial challenges, supporters contend that the overall impact has been positive, particularly in terms of public health outcomes and crime reduction.

## The cons

However, not everyone agrees that legalizing recreational marijuana is a good idea. Opponents of the amendment, including many law enforcement officials, public health experts and conservative groups, argue that legalization could lead to negative consequences for Florida's communities. They cite concerns about increased drug use, particularly among young people, and potential risks to public safety, such as impaired driving and workplace accidents.

Critics also highlight some of the problems that have emerged in states where recreational marijuana has been legalized. For example, in Colorado, there has been an uptick in emergency room visits related to marijuana use, particularly due to the consumption of high-potency products like edibles. Similarly, public health officials in California have raised concerns about the rise in underage use and the difficulties in regulating a black market that persists despite legalization.

Opponents also argue that

any potential tax revenue from marijuana sales would be offset by the costs associated with increased public health spending, drug treatment programs and law enforcement challenges. Additionally, some business groups fear the impact of legalization on workplace productivity and the difficulty in maintaining drug-free environments in safety-sensitive industries such as transportation and construction.

## Polls show growing support

Florida's history with marijuana legislation has evolved significantly in recent years. In 2016, voters approved a constitutional amendment to legalize medical marijuana, and since then, the industry has grown rapidly, with more than 800,000 Floridians registered as medical marijuana patients. Support for recreational marijuana has been growing alongside the expansion of medical use, with recent polls showing a majority of Florida voters now in favor of legalization.

As the vote approaches, both sides will continue to present their cases, leaving voters to weigh the benefits and risks of this significant policy change.

## Tornado Throwback Party

Sporting Chance in Starke is hosting a Tornado Throwback Party following the BHS Homecoming Parade on Friday, Sept. 27. Come by from 2 to 4 p.m. to view championship memorabilia from the 1960s and enjoy free refreshments. A special invite is extended to players from that era.

Sponsored by Beth Tillman, members from the state winning team and the Eugene L. Matthews Bradford County Historical Museum.

## BUDGET SUMMARY Union County - Fiscal Year 2024 -2025

| Proposed Millage Levy                                |                           | SPECIAL REVENUE   |                   |                   |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund   | 10.000                    | GENERAL FUND      | FUND              | TOTAL ALL FUNDS   |
| Voted Fund   | 0.500                     |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Estimated Revenues:</b>                           |                           |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Taxes:</b>  | <b>Millage Per \$1000</b> |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Ad Valorem Taxes</b>                              | <b>10.000</b>             | <b>3,713,354</b>  | <b>-</b>          | <b>3,713,354</b>  |
| <b>Ad Valorem Taxes (Voted)</b>                      | <b>0.500</b>              | <b>-</b>          | <b>192,556</b>    | <b>192,556</b>    |
| <b>Sales, Use, Utility &amp; Fuel Taxes</b>          |                           | <b>1,094,372</b>  | <b>1,082,935</b>  | <b>2,177,307</b>  |
| <b>Licenses &amp; Special Assessments</b>            |                           | <b>155,000</b>    | <b>612,500</b>    | <b>767,500</b>    |
| <b>Intergovernmental Revenues</b>                    |                           | <b>3,932,803</b>  | <b>24,850,350</b> | <b>28,783,153</b> |
| <b>Charges for Services</b>                          |                           | <b>72,500</b>     | <b>1,199,800</b>  | <b>1,272,300</b>  |
| <b>Fines and Forfeitures</b>                         |                           | <b>27,500</b>     | <b>4,500</b>      | <b>32,000</b>     |
| <b>Miscellaneous Revenues</b>                        |                           | <b>89,625</b>     | <b>137,680</b>    | <b>227,305</b>    |
| <b>Total Sources</b>                                 |                           | <b>9,085,155</b>  | <b>28,080,321</b> | <b>37,165,476</b> |
| <b>Less: 5% of Estimated Revenue</b>                 |                           | <b>(454,258)</b>  | <b>(212,607)</b>  | <b>(666,865)</b>  |
| <b>Transfers In</b>                                  |                           | <b>475,338</b>    | <b>1,728,673</b>  | <b>2,204,011</b>  |
| <b>Other Financing Sources</b>                       |                           | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>          |
| <b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>                 |                           | <b>5,989,868</b>  | <b>3,566,569</b>  | <b>9,556,437</b>  |
| <b>Total Revenues, Transfers &amp; Fund Balances</b> |                           | <b>15,096,103</b> | <b>33,162,956</b> | <b>48,259,059</b> |
| <b>Estimated Expenditures:</b>                       |                           |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>General Government</b>                            |                           | <b>3,444,579</b>  | <b>650,596</b>    | <b>4,095,175</b>  |
| <b>Public Safety</b>                                 |                           | <b>4,358,964</b>  | <b>15,548,770</b> | <b>19,907,734</b> |
| <b>Physical Environment</b>                          |                           | <b>210,796</b>    | <b>2,015,088</b>  | <b>2,225,884</b>  |
| <b>Transportation</b>                                |                           | <b>-</b>          | <b>10,839,699</b> | <b>10,839,699</b> |
| <b>Economic Environment</b>                          |                           | <b>1,580</b>      | <b>946,191</b>    | <b>947,771</b>    |
| <b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>                      |                           | <b>113,218</b>    | <b>472,929</b>    | <b>586,147</b>    |
| <b>Human Services</b>                                |                           | <b>431,910</b>    | <b>82,249</b>     | <b>514,159</b>    |
| <b>Debt Service</b>                                  |                           | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>          |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>                            |                           | <b>8,561,047</b>  | <b>30,555,522</b> | <b>39,116,569</b> |
| <b>Transfers Out</b>                                 |                           | <b>2,173,673</b>  | <b>30,338</b>     | <b>2,204,011</b>  |
| <b>Fund Balances</b>                                 |                           | <b>4,361,383</b>  | <b>2,577,096</b>  | <b>6,938,479</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenditures, Transfers &amp; Reserves</b>  |                           | <b>15,096,103</b> | <b>33,162,956</b> | <b>48,259,059</b> |

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

# Clay County seeks historical markers for Keystone, Fort 11

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Clay County's Historic Preservation Board continued work on bringing two new state historic markers to the Lake Region.

The board met in Green Cove Springs on September 5 to discuss a state marker for the City of Keystone Heights, coinciding with the municipality's 100th anniversary next year. The panel also addressed a plaque marking the site of Fort 11, a Second Seminole War barracks near the city's current city hall that guarded the road between Palatka and Ocala.

Board member and Keystone Heights resident Dierdre Murphy said she plans to ask the city council for permission to erect the state marker about the municipality on city property during the council's next meeting.

Board member Jerry Casale told his colleagues that based on research he had done documenting Army orders during the war, General Zachary Taylor was at Fort 11 when it was dedicated.

Casale said his research challenged some of the earlier narratives about the outpost, including its exact location. He stated that the consensus on the fort's location could be a block to the north of the actual site.

The board member also questioned the prevailing theory that the fort was healthier than other forts because of its proximity to Lake Geneva's fresh water.

Casale said he uncovered several requests from the post's commanders asking for replacements for sick soldiers and one requesting volunteers to replace the fort's entire muster because of illness.

Casale also said he found an



Clay County's Historic Preservation Board is trying to establish state historic markers for the City of Keystone Heights and Fort 11. The two new markers would resemble this plaque commemorating the Keystone Inn.

order from Colonel William Worth, the last commander of the Army of Florida. The order turned over possession of the fort in 1842 to a group of settlers moving into the Lake Region from the Black Creek area.

Casale added that according to Worth, Fort 11 had strategic value because of its proximity to the Etoniah Scrub, a known route for Indian raiding parties. After Fort 11, along with several other outposts, were closed due to a change in strategy, Seminole raids re-emerged, including an attack in Jacksonville's Mandarin area and an ambush on settlers traveling to St. Augustine.

The board is also working on historical markers to educate the public about the Middleburg Colored School, the Branan Field Outlying Landing Field, the Middleburg Museum and

Civil War Center, and St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Green Cove Springs.

## Craft fair in Keystone

The third annual Almost Fall Craft and Vendor Festival, presented by the Woman's Club of Keystone Heights, will be held Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 60 talented vendors are expected along with face painting and other activities. Food trucks include Blue Line, Snow Shack Shaved Ice, Cosmo's Kettle Corn, Tom's Meat Wagon and Sweet South Mini Donuts.

The Woman's Club is located at 6747 Woman's Club Drive in Keystone Heights.



(L-R) Keystone Heights High School Principal Laurie Burke, speech and debate team members Mikayla Turner, Olivia McCoy, Seth Preseau, Benjamin Mann and Coach Shannon Southam.

## KH debate team goes to nationals

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Clay County School Board recognized Keystone Heights High School's debate and speech team during the board's September 5 meeting.

Principal Laurie Burke credited Shannon Southam for launching the program.

"A couple of years ago," she told board members, "Ms. Southam came to me and said, 'Can I start a speech and debate club? And I was like, well, how do you do that?'"

### Like a track meet

Burke recalled that once she green-lighted Southam's idea, the coach took the initiative to launch the team.

"She was awesome," the principal said. "She found the resources for it and had contacts with that. Next thing you know, two years in, we've been to the national tournament, the second time this past summer, and we have a huge tournament coming that we're going to host for the first time at Keystone in February."

Burke added that the February regional tournament will have around 300 participants.

Southam told board members that the team started with four members and now has 25.

She said the competitions

resemble a track meet, with team members competing in individual events with their points contributing to the team totals. The matches also feature team events.

The coach added that her squad holds memberships in the Florida Civic and Debate Initiative under the Florida Department of Education, the National Catholic Forensic League, the Florida Forensic League, and the National Speech and Debate Association.

"We're part of so many different organizations," Southam said. "It's not just competing for these kids. This is an honor society, so they earn different degrees and levels every time they compete, and every time they volunteer, they get different levels of accomplishments."

### "We're doing it"

The coach said two team members competed in the National Catholic League tournament in Louisville, Kentucky, and three qualified, while two competed in the National Speech and Debate Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa.

The two team members who traveled to Kentucky were Mikayla Turner, who competed in oral interpretation of literature, and Olivia McCoy, who took part

in congressional debate.

The pair that traveled to the Hawkeye State was junior high student Seth Preseau and senior high team member Benjamin Mann. Both competed in impromptu speaking, an event Southam described as "crazy."

"They get a quote, (and) they have a total of seven minutes," the coach said. "Once they get that quote, I tell my students about a minute and a half of prep, and the rest of it is speech time. So, they hit that time on the mark, seven minutes. They're very good at timing themselves and making sure that they are able to articulate the meaning of the quote."

The coach said her team also competes in Lincoln-Douglas debate, policy deliberations, and other formats.

"Whatever debate you could possibly think of that's out there, we're doing it," Southam declared. "Same thing with speech. We're doing impromptu extemporaneous speaking, dramatic performance, oral interpretation of literature, and original oratory."

The coach said the skills developed in competitive communication help students in a wide range of academic disciplines, as well as test-taking skills and confidence building.

## 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 .....   | \$ 3,446,665        |
| B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes..... | \$ (94,268)         |
| C. Actual property tax levy .....  | \$ 3,540,933        |
| <b>This year's proposed tax levy .....</b>   | <b>\$ 3,826,968</b> |

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

**Monday, September 16, 2024**

**5:30 p.m.**

**at**

**Union County Courthouse**

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

## Soil and water conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. Please note the time change. Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month will remain at 4:30 p.m., while the third Tuesday of the month meetings will take place at 10:30 a.m. for the convenience of agency partners.

Meetings are open to the public and can be attended in person or by Zoom. Contact Paul Still at 904-368-0291 or stillpe@aol.com for more information and the Zoom link.

This month, the impacts of the Tropical Storm Debby will be discussed. Anyone with images of flooding or erosion may email them to Still, or contact him for a

site visit. It is important to identify conditions that can contribute to flooding and erosion before the next significant rain event.

## Register for Livestock Field Day

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

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

Register online at <http://2024UFLivestockandForages.eventbrite.com>. The

field day is \$20 to pre-register or \$40 at the door.

For more information, please email [liz.whitehead@ufl.edu](mailto:liz.whitehead@ufl.edu) or call 904-966-6224.

## Suwannee River BMAP meeting

A public meeting on the Suwannee River Basin Management Action Plan will be held in-person on Monday, Sept. 30, at 10 a.m. The presentation will focus on the upcoming BMAP updates, including, but not limited to, topics on responsible entity requirements and BMAP update next steps.

This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the North Florida Research and Education Center – Suwannee Valley, 7580 County Road 136 in Live Oak. Please call 850-245-8555 with any questions.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap or marital status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) are asked to contact DEP's Limited English Proficiency Coordinator at 850-245-2118 or [LEP@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:LEP@FloridaDEP.gov) at least 10 days before the meeting. If you have a hearing or speech impairment, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 800-955-8771 (TDD) or 800-955-8770 (voice).

## Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



- Personal Injury
- Divorce and Family
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- Auto Accidents
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- Traffic/DUI
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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.

# 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

Bruce Roger Allen, 50, of Ocala, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 31 for DUI.

Homer Lee Brown, 52, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 31 for DUI and attaching a tag not assigned.

William Fox Douglas, 18, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 4 for possession of drug equipment, driving without a valid license, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Robert Martin Benjamin Gallion, 47, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 6 for disturbing the peace.

Edward Allen Grover, 56, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 4 for possession of drugs, possession of marijuana, and a conditional release violation.

Richard Michael Hatala, 18, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 3 for intimidation.

Charity Faith Johnson, 23, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 31 for an out-of-county warrant.

James Andrew Mazur, 30, of Worthington Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 4 for out-of-county warrants.

Kadedra Takamya Rhines, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 5 for failure to appear.

James Allen Roberts, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 6 for disorderly intoxication.

Jeffrey Lee Wallace, 60, of Pompano Beach, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 3 for trafficking in drugs and smuggling contraband into a prison.

Kaitlyn Billingsley Zelaya, 38, of Panama City, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September

6 for DUI.

### Union

Caleb Bryce Holdridge, 20, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 3 for battery.

Leroy Jenkins Jr., 66, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 4 for resisting an officer.

Shannon Britton Miley, 37, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 4 for an out-of-county warrant.

Brandyn Matthew Miller, 23, of Lake City, was arrested by Union deputies on September 6 for out-of-county warrants.

Ronald Austin Moore Jr., 43, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 3 for battery.

Angela Lee Sundstrom, 61, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 5 for an out-of-county warrant.

### Clay

Noah Devante Barnett, 26, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 2 for battery and criminal mischief with property damage.

## Lake City fugitive caught in Union County

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Union County Sheriff's Office said its deputies, along with personnel from other agencies, apprehended a 23-year-old Columbia County man after a nine-hour manhunt.

Brandon Matthew Miller was arrested on seven felony warrants, including domestic battery, kidnapping, criminal mischief, and multiple sex offender registration violations.

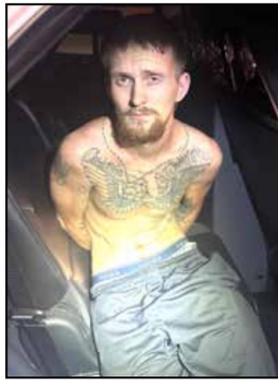
According to the office, it received information from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office around noon that the defendant could be traveling through Union County and possibly had friends in the area.

"Our deputies and investigators immediately started searching for his vehicle and known associates and were able to track the suspect to a location off County Road 239 just north of County Road 238," the office said. "As soon as our units arrived on scene, the suspect took off on foot in a heavily wooded area. The suspect was recently released from the Department of Corrections this year."

Sheriff Brad Whitehead's

office said three K-9 Teams from the Department of Corrections' Reception and Medical Center, Union Correctional Institution, and Baker Correctional Institution joined the manhunt, as well as officers from the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

The Lake Butler-based agency said the manhunt continued for nine hours in the woods between C.R.238, C.R.239, and S.R. 100



**Brandon Matthew Miller, 23, was arrested on seven felony warrants, including domestic battery, kidnapping, criminal mischief, and multiple sex offender registration violations.**

and ended with the defendant's arrest at 9:30 p.m.

Union County Sheriff Brad Whitehead thanked the other agencies participating in the search for Miller.

"At no time today were citizens in any danger as our team relentlessly pursued him," the sheriff added.

## FHP looking for Keystone hit-and-run driver

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Florida Highway Patrol said it is looking for a driver who hit a Keystone Heights pedestrian on Saturday, September 7.

According to an agency news release, the 37-year-old victim was walking along State Road 100 near Lakeview Drive around 10:45 p.m. when she was struck.

FHP added that there were no witnesses to the crash, and the victim could not describe the vehicle.

Clay County Fire Rescue took the victim to UF Health Shands in Gainesville with serious injuries.

FHP said the driver of the vehicle continued west on State Road 100 after hitting the woman.

## Personal growth 'blooms' in jail

BY AMBER J. CRAFT  
Special to the Telegraph

Earlier this year, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office launched "Growth Through Gardening," a 10-week scripture-based creative writing program offering a safe space for women inmates to meet weekly to discuss and process past traumas while incarcerated. During this program, participants also grow and manage a real garden while working on their personal growth.

Participants focus on emotion-packed words like shame, forgiveness, reconciliation, accountability, courage, empathy, pride, self-doubt, and vulnerability. These words are matched with a variety of different flowers to illustrate the growth achieved while working through them.

### Face their inner traumas

Deputy Amanda Hinds, the programs coordinator, explained how the program came to be. "We put some feelers out to our volunteers when I took over a few months ago, and we've had lots of ideas about different ways we can help out inmates to express themselves, to find more meaning within themselves, find more courage and a little bit of hope." The result was Growth Through Gardening, led by volunteer Helen Haverty, a former teacher who has dedicated herself to this initiative.

"This is a class that is designed for these females to face their inner traumas whether it's recent or whether it's long in the past," Deputy Hinds explained. "It's a safe place for them to be able to express these things and have some context from other people

who may or may not have gone through some of the same issues, and they just work to build each other up through that course."

The gardening activities the women participate in together act as a practical representation of this growth. "We have carrots, radishes, and flowers right now," Deputy Hinds said. "And what's really cool about this program is because they have the physical plants, they get to watch the plants grow as a reflection of themselves growing."

### Sleeping, playing cards or succumbing to depression

Ashley Forbes, 39, a college student and mother of four, is currently participating in the program and agrees. "These classes have helped big time. It makes you more mindful of the day-to-day interactions with people so that you can kind of put yourself in their shoes."

According to Forbes, prior to this opportunity, activities available to pass time were limited to sleeping, playing cards, or succumbing to depression. "It can be very draining being in pods. The same thing every single day. I've seen people lose it. This gives us an opportunity to open that part of your brain and do something different."

Deputy Hinds related that there is one common struggle among most humans regardless of age, and that is unresolved trauma. "From my perspective, I've worked with youth. I spent seven and a half years as an at-risk youth counselor. I've spent two years teaching at the high school, and I've worked here on

and off for about 20 years now. And one thing that I've seen through all the different ages is that we all have traumas that we've suffered. What I see the most is that a lot of our people that are here in our inmate population, they have really deep, unresolved things that have just been holding them back. They've been making choices based on those trauma responses instead of their rational thinking patterns."

### A better mindset

Inmates are given the opportunity on a volunteer basis to participate in the program and use the time they have to work on themselves without any outside distractions. Once they leave, the hope is that they will be in a better mindset to make more rational, more productive decisions instead of falling back into negative patterns and behaviors.

So far, the program is considered to be a success with positive results. "I've seen them being a lot calmer, being a lot more willing to express themselves. They seem like they're finding their peace of mind. Like they're not carrying their burdens as heavily," Deputy Hinds said. "We're just going to continue to foster and nurture these people, give them the opportunities to go in and be part of this self-motivated improvement so that they can go and work on themselves, face these things they've been internalizing for a long time and hopefully at least have a clear mind in the end."

"I'm just very excited to see how everything's going. It's encouraging," Hinds said.

## Library hosts pine needle basket weaving class

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Bradford County Public Library hosted a pine needle basket weaving class on Friday, September 6th.

The library's Program Coordinator, Kathy Paddock, said the seminar was one of a series of crafts and hobbies classes she organized.

"We have basket weaving," she said. "We have cricket crafts, quilting, not quilting, but quilting; it's a paper craft. Jewelry making is next. We had (candle making) already, and we'll do that again in October."

Debra Hall and Ella Cooney led the basket weaving session. Hall said the library's crafts and hobbies series consists of local residents sharing their skills and knowledge with their neighbors.

"This is a craft I learned 50 years ago," she said of pine needle basket weaving. "People were interested in it, and we just have a lot of fun getting together, socializing, and trying to do it. It's fun to go out in the woods and get fresh air and have a good time doing it."

Cooney and Hall displayed a tableful of baskets they had previously woven.

Hall said the time required to make the baskets vary.

"Ella's fast," she said of her creative partner. "She can get it done in a week. I take a month; I take my time."

Hall said she took up the pastime 50 years ago and still has one of the first baskets she made.



**Debra Hall (right) and Ella Cooney led the basket weaving session.**

## Dance brings back Crooked Counsel

The Lakes Area Annual Community Dance will be held at the Keystone Heights Woman's Club building again — a gem of a facility tucked away at 6747 Woman's Club Drive, about two blocks off State Road 21. It has a large dance floor, a dedicated band space and adequate parking. All adults are welcome.

On Sept. 21, club doors will open up with the sounds of

Crooked Counsel, an energetic classic rock cover band with a large and diverse repertoire, starting at 7 p.m. This is the same 5-member band who played for the dance last year, back by popular demand. Shuri Pass, the lead vocalist and front person for the band, resides in Keystone Heights. She sings everything from Adele to Zeppelin, and folks keep comparing her to Janis

Joplin, which Shuri considers the ultimate compliment.

John Middleton, a practicing attorney in Melrose, gave the band its name and put some new pizzazz into the repertoire. John also sings backup and a few lead vocals.

Tickets are \$20, and can be reserved by texting 352-240-5181. Light refreshments, beer and wine will be available for a donation.



# RUSS WADE

## Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street  
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Scan for video version of this story.

## Class of '64 reunion

The Bradford High School Class of 1964 will meet at the Cedar River Restaurant on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 1 p.m. All graduates and spouses are invited. Please let Jerome Kelley (352-538-0741) or Eugenia Whitehead (352-745-1828) know if you plan to attend so they can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

## Lawtey Fall Festival

Lawtey Elementary School's Fall Festival will take place Friday, Nov. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. Come out for games, music food and fun.



(L-R) Back row: Gerda Godwin, Jean Estes, Wanda Godwin, Donna Godwin, Deborah Carter. Front row: Diana Marko and Nell Carter during an ice cream party featuring four flavors and various toppings.

## Senior Social Club going strong

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
*Special to the Times*

The Lake Butler Senior Social Club is still around and going strong after more than five years of existence.

The club was originally the brainchild of several staff members at Lake Butler Hospital. They were looking for a way to get seniors out and about and involved in the community.

The first meetings were held in the hospital's atrium and featured a variety of programs for senior citizens, ranging from nutrition and healthy living to arts and crafts.

The club grew, and more and more seniors marked their calendars for the meeting days.

Eventually, right after the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the club moved

its base of operations to the public library in Lake Butler, which has served as the club's home ever since.

The library's name has changed to the Mary Brown Public Library, but the club remains the same, and many of the original members still attend. They meet on the first and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10 – 11:30 a.m. There are almost always programs and refreshments, and parties are frequent. The library staff delights in creating special programs for their senior friends, from educational presentations and fun programs to learning new skills and creating practical items and works of art.

When the library staff realized that three of the club's members were all celebrating their 90th birthdays in June,

they swung into action to create a special event to celebrate with them.

The staff and the club members came together to help their friends celebrate 90 years of life with a pizza and birthday cake lunch.

All enjoyed the celebration in the company of the birthday girls, Jean Estes, Diana Marko, and Wanda Godwin.

Later in the month, the club got together again for its annual Ice Cream Social, which featured several kinds of ice cream and a wide selection of toppings.

Everyone seemed to have a good time at the events, participating in the activities and, most importantly, getting out of the house to socialize with friends and neighbors.

## Judge graduates from military course

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
*Special to the Times*

As a part of his duties in the Marine Corps Reserve, Union County Judge Mitchell Bishop recently graduated from the 67th Military Judges' Course at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Law Center and School.

Judge Bishop, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, attended the course from May 20th to June 7th in Charlottesville, Virginia, preparing for his upcoming assignment as a military judge with the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary.

The Union County High School, Florida State University, and Florida Coastal School of Law graduate was selected for the assignment after being screened and selected by the Judicial Screening Board of the Department of the Navy.

The screening board selected Bishop as eligible for service on the trial and appellate court. His first assignment will be as a trial judge.

The Military Judge's Course is held annually at the Army JAG school. Newly appointed military judges from all branches of service attend the course.



Lt. General Stuart Risch (left), the Judge Advocate General of the Army, congratulates Marine Corps Reserve Lt. Colonel Mitchell Bishop for graduating from 67th Military Judge's Course.

Bishop, appointed as Union County Judge by Gov. Rick Scott in 2018, has also served as a Civil Affairs Officer with the 4th Civil Affairs Group and most recently completed a two-year tour as the Executive Officer of the 4th Civilian Affairs Group.

## Foster, adoption classes

Looking to make a difference in the community? Call Partnership for Strong Families today at 352-213-7219 to enroll in a foster and adoption class for parents.

### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The City Of Starke has tentatively adopted a budget for the fiscal year 10/1/24 - 9/30/25

A public hearing to make a FINAL DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on:

Date: Tuesday September 17, 2024  
Time: 5:01 PM

Place: City Hall Commission Chambers  
209 N Thompson Street  
Starke, FL 32091

### BUDGET SUMMARY

#### City of Starke - Fiscal Year 10/1/2024 - 9/30/25

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STARKE ARE 6% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

#### General Fund 4.3879

| ESTIMATED REVENUES                              | GENERAL FUND              | SPECIAL REVENUE    | ENTERPRISE FUND      | TOTAL ALL FUNDS      |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Taxes:</b>                                   | <b>Millage per \$1000</b> |                    |                      |                      |
| <b>Ad Valorem Taxes</b>                         | <b>4.3879</b>             | \$1,161,223        |                      | \$1,161,223          |
| Local Option, Use, & Fuel Taxes                 | \$902,401                 | \$360,829          |                      | \$1,263,230          |
| Utility Services Taxes                          | \$582,995                 |                    |                      | \$582,995            |
| Communication Services Taxes                    | \$218,628                 |                    |                      | \$218,628            |
| Local Business Taxes                            | \$26,485                  |                    |                      | \$26,485             |
| Permits, Fees, & Special Assessments            | \$326,588                 |                    |                      | \$326,588            |
| Intergovernmental Revenues                      | \$707,722                 |                    | \$16,117,314         | \$16,825,036         |
| Charges For Services                            | \$1,743                   |                    | \$12,505,186         | \$12,506,930         |
| Judgements, Fines, And Forfeits                 | \$9,472                   |                    |                      | \$9,472              |
| Miscellaneous Revenues                          | \$242,048                 | \$152,488          | \$27,746             | \$422,283            |
| Other Sources                                   |                           |                    | \$190,824            | \$190,824            |
| <b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>                            | <b>\$ 4,179,306</b>       | <b>\$ 513,318</b>  | <b>\$ 28,841,071</b> | <b>\$ 33,533,694</b> |
| Transfers In                                    | -                         |                    |                      | -                    |
| Fund Balances / Reserves / Net Assets           | \$3,125,622               | \$1,066,349        | \$ 5,571,353         | \$ 9,763,324         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS &amp; BALANCES</b> | <b>\$7,304,928</b>        | <b>\$1,579,666</b> | <b>\$34,412,424</b>  | <b>\$43,297,018</b>  |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                             |                           |                    |                      |                      |
| General Government                              | \$ 2,536,117              |                    |                      | \$2,536,117          |
| Public Safety                                   | \$ 1,820,077              |                    |                      | \$1,820,077          |
| Physical Environment                            |                           |                    |                      | \$30,086,460         |
| Transportation                                  |                           | \$315,610          | \$30,086,460         | \$315,610            |
| Culture / Recreation                            | \$ 305,151                |                    |                      | \$305,151            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                       | <b>\$4,661,345</b>        | <b>\$ 315,610</b>  | <b>\$ 30,086,460</b> | <b>\$ 35,063,415</b> |
| Transfers Out                                   |                           |                    |                      | -                    |
| Fund Balances / Reserves / Net Assets           | \$2,643,583               | \$1,264,056        | \$4,325,964          | \$8,233,603          |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES</b>          | <b>\$7,304,928</b>        | <b>\$1,579,666</b> | <b>\$34,412,424</b>  | <b>\$43,297,018</b>  |

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

**GAME ON 2024 • FOOTBALL CONTEST**

**YOU COULD WIN \$50 CASH**

IN THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR

**FOOTBALL CONTEST**



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**3** *Union County Tigers vs. Baldwin Indians*

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**4** *Georgia Bulldogs vs. Kentucky Wildcats*

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**5** *Memphis Tigers vs. FSU Seminoles*

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**6** *Texas A&M Aggies vs. Florida Gators*

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**7** *Oregon Ducks vs. Oregon St. Beavers*

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**8** *Alabama Crimson Tide vs. Wisconsin Badgers*

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**9** *Boston College Eagles vs. Missouri Tigers*

**JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY**  
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**10** *LSU Tigers vs. South Carolina Gamecocks*

**TEAL TILE**  
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Starke, FL 904-964-7423

**11** *Ball St. Cardinals vs. Miami Hurricanes*

**DURRANCE PUMP**  
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(904) 964-7061

**12** *Arizona Wildcats vs. Kansas St. Wildcats*

**LAKE AREA TITLE**  
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

**TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR WEEKLY FOOTBALL CONTEST ENTRY FORM**  
Pick the Week's Winners  
**Win \$50 Cash**

ENTER one TEAM Winner in space for each of GAMES OF THE WEEK.  
**★ Deadline: 5 pm 9/6/24\***  
DROP BY OR EMAIL US YOUR ENTRY see rules below\*\*\*

Biz 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biz 9 \_\_\_\_\_

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



*This Weeks Winner: Casey Cloud missed 3 Congratulations!*

ENTRANT INFO:  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 or \_\_\_\_\_

**13** *Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. Purdue Boilermakers*

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**14** *Cincinnati Bengals vs. Kansas City Chiefs*

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**15** *Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Detroit Lions*

**PIPELINE CONSTRUCTORS INC.**  
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**16** *Indianapolis Colts vs. Green Bay Packers*

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**17** *Cleveland Browns vs. Jacksonville Jaguars*

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**18** **YOUR BUSINESS CAN BE HERE!**

\* 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.]

# Obituaries

## Kenneth Clyatt

Kenneth "Ken" Charles Clyatt. A man that was devoted to his faith, family, and farm. Ken passed at his home in Fort Pierce on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024, at the age of 61. He was born and raised in Providence and graduated from Union County High School. He then went on to continue his education at Florida Gateway College. From a very young age, he took an interest in the swine industry. He invested his life into breeding show-quality swine. He was the founder of Clyatt Show Pigs for nearly 30 years, where he found joy in growing, showing, judging, and breeding market swine. He was a loving husband to his beloved wife, Ellen. Ken and Ellen built a life filled with love, faith, and many memories. He was a true man of faith and loved his Lord and Savior. He was predeceased by his father, Charles L. Clyatt; and brother-in-law, Tom Miller.



He is survived by his wife, Ellen; mother, Sybil (Richard) Clyatt Button; children, Ashley (Sid) Carlton, Amy (Eddie) Samuel, and Joshua Giancola; sisters, Gail (Tom) Clyatt Miller, Tina (Jimmy) Palmbo, Rena (Manie) Newby, Glenda (Ed) Hood, Susan (Andy) Nolfis, and Debi Merriken; brothers, Darrell Stenbridge and Keith (Tracy) Stenbridge; grandchildren, Shelby and Sidley Carlton, Hudson, Emerson, and Riley Samuel; along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins that he loved dearly.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 14, at 2 p.m. at Old Providence Baptist Church, 9316 N.W. C.R. 245, Lake Butler 32054.

PAID OBITUARY

## Ayden Graff

Ayden Tyler Graff, 17, of Keystone Heights passed away suddenly on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024. Ayden was born on May 23, 2007, in Orange Park and was a lifelong area resident. He was a senior at Keystone Heights High School and was attending Santa Fe College. He worked part-time at Winn Dixie and loved playing the guitar. His greatest joy was spending time with his family and friends. Preceding him in death was his brother, Faolan Graff.



Survivors are his father, Adam (Jennifer) Graff of Keystone Heights; mother, Sarah (Eddie) Piner of Green Cove Springs; siblings, Sean (Madison) Graff of Orange Park, Torin Graff, Rozlynn Samers and Regan Samers, all of Keystone Heights; paternal grandparents, Robert and Michele Graff of Ocala; maternal grandparents, Robert and Mary Jane "Sue" Regal of Green Cove Springs, and Pete and Barbara Wickham of Keystone Heights. Also left are his twin nephews, Oliver and Elijah Graff; along with several aunts, uncles, numerous cousins, extended family members and a host of friends.

The family received friends at Jones-Gallagher funeral home on Monday, Sept. 9, with funeral services following. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Keystone Heights High School, Guitar Class.

PAID OBITUARY

## Oleeta Hardenbrook

Mrs. Oleeta Katherine Hardenbrook, 96, of Starke, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, at her home. She was born Nov. 16, 1927, in Starke, to the late Nelson and Winifred "Boots" (Wimberly) Green. Starke was her lifelong permanent residence, though she traveled the world with her military husband and her sons, retiring home in 1968. She graduated from Bradford High School in the class of 1945 and worked as the secretary for the First United Methodist Church, as well as an account specialist for North Florida Telephone Company. She was a member of the First Methodist Church, later the First United Methodist Church, and now, Foundation Church, all of Starke. She worked many hours for Methodist women's groups, as well as in innumerable other church ministries and community activities. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Neil Hardenbrook; siblings, Ruby (Green) Hudson, Harry Green, and Phoebe (Green) Bakken; her beloved grandson, Justin Neil Hardenbrook; nephew, Joseph Bennie Bakken III; and niece, Eoline (Green) Underhill.



Survivors are her sons, Lee (Marilyn) Hardenbrook and Mark (Carolyn) Hardenbrook, both of Starke; brother, DeRitch Green of Brookler; grandchildren, Cara Hardenbrook, Doug Snyder, Jeremy Snyder, Tommy Jones, and Kelly Donn; along with nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and five nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at Foundation Church on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., with funeral services beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Highland Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Josh Reinken, Rev. Don Thompson, Jr., and Rev. Mike Moore will officiate. Those wishing may send flowers or, in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Foundation Church of Starke, P.O. Box 157, Starke, 32091; or to their favorite charity in Oleeta's name.

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

PAID OBITUARY

## Frank Kozdras

Frank W. Kozdras passed away Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, peacefully at his home in Jacksonville. Frank is survived by his spouse, Sue Nichols Kozdras; a daughter, Amy (Jimmy) McCord; sons, Mike (Wendy), David (Mary) and Scott (Diane) Kornegay; grandchildren, Matthew (Sara) Kozdras, Nikolas (Kaleigh) Kozdras, Samantha Kozdras, Garrett Kozdras, Cassidy (Chris) Komatz, Dylan (Megan) McCord; four great-grandchildren; and sisters, Norene (Tom) Morrisey and Dr. Cynthia (Dave) Popovich. He was pre-deceased by his father and mother, Walter and Dorothy Kozdras.



Frank was born on May 9, 1939, in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of McKeesport High School in 1957. He earned his bachelor's degree from California State Teachers College in California, Pennsylvania. He earned his master's degree from Troy University. Frank served 32 years in the US Air Force, retiring at the rank of Colonel. He received his aeronautical rating, class #63, the first all-jet program in the Air Force. He then flew tactical refueling tankers, trainer jets, and jet fighters before receiving wing level command assignments and receiving 13 Air Force and Air National Guard awards and decorations. Frank was the first commander of the 202nd Combat Engineering Squadron (REDHORSE) located at Camp Blanding. Upon retirement, he worked as a strategic planner for the Department of Military Affairs of Florida. He also served as past president or Chairman of the Board of Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Association. He was a life member of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the American Legion, VFW, Florida National Guard Foundation, Civil Engineers Association, and National Guard Officer's Association (NGOA) of Florida. Frank was a member of Bartram Baptist Church.

A Celebration of Life will take place Monday, Sept. 16, at 11 a.m. at Oaklawn Chapel and Cemetery, 4801 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville 32207.

PAID OBITUARY

## Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo visits Kiwanis Club of Starke

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Three residents of the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo — along with two humans — were guests at the Aug. 27 Kiwanis Club of Starke meeting at Starke's The Downtown Grill.

A chuckwalla, red-footed tortoise and European glass lizard were part of the program presented by Jade Woodling, the zoo's conservation-education coordinator, and staff member Cameron Wolf. They talked about the "ambassador animals" they brought with them, the zoo animal technology program at the college and the zoo in general.

"A lot of people have never heard of the teaching zoo, even though our program has been around since 1970," Woodling said.

The zoo is located at the school's Northwest Campus in Gainesville and is the only zoo on a college campus that is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

"If you have ever been to or heard of the Bronx Zoo, San Diego Zoo, that little zoo in Orlando called Disney's Animal Kingdom — they are all AZA accredited," Woodling said. "We are held to the same standards. Our little 10-acre zoo that sees almost 70,000 people a year has the same standards as a zoo that might see 2 million."

Woodling asked how many Kiwanis Club members had been to the zoo. She said if those who raised their hands last visited before 2011, they probably did so on a weekend or by appointment.

"Now, we're open every single day from 9 to 3," Woodling said.

The zoo is a component of the school's zoo animal technology program. Woodling described it as a "10-acre learning lab."

"Not many people realize you can go to college for zoo keeping," Woodling said, adding, "Our zookeepers go off to do amazing things all over the world. We have keepers in Edinburgh, New Zealand and Australia, San Diego and, of course, Florida. We probably have more AZA zoos in Florida than in most states. We have a lot of opportunities for our students when they graduate. We have about an 85-percent placement rate."

The college has an associate-in-science program that is five semesters and a new bachelor-of-applied-science zoo-and-aquarium-management program.

"When you go to the zoo, you're going to see our students working with the animals," Woodling said. "They're not shadowing a keeper. They're not doing an internship. They are our zookeepers."

"They are also taking classes that reinforce everything that they do."

### Providing nutrition and enrichment

The first animal that was introduced at the Kiwanis meeting was a chuckwalla, a species of lizard common in the western U.S. and in Mexico.

"This species is related to another lizard you might know — iguanas," Wolf said. "They are in the same family as iguanas — Iguanadae."

Wolf said chuckwallas in captivity can keep growing until at least the age of 25, which exceeds their average lifespan in the wild.

Knowing how different species grow and develop is just part of what students need to know when planning for animals' nutritional needs.

"Not all of (the animals at the zoo) eat every day, especially our reptiles," Woodling said. "We have some larger snakes that might only eat every other week. Our alligators in the winter might go months without eating."

"It really just depends on how they metabolize food and if they're living outside, where they're at the mercy of what our temperatures are."

Wolf said zoos have commissary positions for students who find their passion is working kitchens and preparing animals' diets. She added that nutrition is one of five areas of zoo care that students rotate through.



Santa Fe College Zoo's Cameron Wolf holds a baby red-footed tortoise.

Woodling said students have a chance to put creative skills to use when it comes to animal enrichment, which helps every day seem like a new day for the animals.

"That's a big part of what we do," Woodling said. "Our zookeepers get to build things and get really inventive with them. They also learn to build habitats. If you come to the zoo, you might see some of those that our keepers almost exclusively built from top to bottom and even helped to design, which is really great."

"We often hear from hiring managers that one of the things they love about our zookeepers is how multifaceted they are."

As part of enrichment, Santa Fe is working with a company called FluentPet, which produces talking-button kits that allow animals to communicate with people. Woodling said FluentPet is interested in finding ways that animals besides cats and dogs can communicate via their kits.

"We're actually helping the company," Woodling said. "One of our instructors who started this project is writing up all of what

See ZOO, page 20

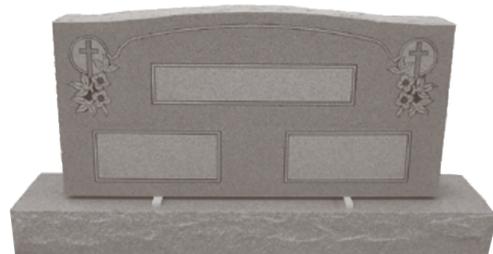


## Kiwanis Club of Starke supports Bradford County Friends of the Library

Kiwanis Club of Starke Vice President George Konkel (far right) presents a \$1,000 check to New River Public Library Cooperative Director/Bradford County Public Library Director Tricia Wylie (far left) and Bradford Library Assistant Director Kim Crawford in support of Friends of the Library. The funds, which were raised at the last Patsy Welch Memorial Poker Tournament, were presented at the club's Aug. 20 meeting. Crawford and Wylie also presented the program for that meeting.

## Charles Custom Memorials

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# The Matthews Museum (Bradford County Museum) Needs Volunteers!

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

To find out more

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



## Indians return to field Friday

Keystone Heights High School's varsity football team

had a bye on Sept. 6 and will return to action with a road game against District 5-2A opponent Newberry on Friday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Newberry (1-2) is coming off a

23-0 loss to Class 4A Vanguard. The Panthers opened the season with a 44-20 win over Class 1A University Christian. They then fell in overtime to two-time defending Rural state champion Hawthorne by a score of 28-27.

This is the first meeting between Keystone and Newberry since 2014. The Panthers won that game 41-20.

## KH cancels JV football season

Keystone Heights High School announced the cancellation of the remainder of its junior varsity football season.

A post on the Keystone

Heights High Athletics Facebook page cited the low number of players remaining after injuries as the reason.

JV players will all join the varsity team.

## Carter places 32nd for BHS at Clay meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's Steven Carter finished 32nd in the 131-runner field at the Clay County Cross Country Invitational, which was held Sept. 7 in Green Cove Springs.

Carter had a time of 20:33 to

lead three total BHS runners. Kayden Lee and Dalton Bergstrom had times of 24:53 and 27:02, respectively.

## Thomas leads KHHS at Florida Horse Park Invitational

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School boys cross-country runner Ryder Thomas placed 89th out of 381 at the Sept. 7 Florida Horse Park Invitational in Ocala.

Thomas had a time of 17:17 to lead a total of nine KHHS boys.

Noah Yara also finished in the top half of the field, placing 114th with a time of 17:35.

Also running in the boys race were Jason Parales 22:45, Adam Bell 22:48, Gavin Morford 23:17, Mason Gray 24:39, Hunter Gray 25:27, Alex Mahaffey 25:47 and Eli Rabe 27:56.

Olivia Griffin led the girls team, placing 143rd out of 284 with a time of 23:13.

Keystone also had the following girls results: Melody Tyre 25:44, Cali Chamberlain 26:52, Brook Graudons 27:46, Kenslee Phillips 27:58, London Williams 28:03 and Madilyn Miller 28:04.

# JBS Jackson Building Supply

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

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# Highly Rated Local Businesses!

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Phillip McDonald Plumbing</b><br/>740 S Orange St,<br/>Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 964-3737</p> <p><b>"One of the most professional companies I have had the privilege of working with. Knowledge is amazing and answered any and all questions with examples so people that don't know or understand this process. I recommend them for a first choice in septic and plumbing Great fair pricing, does not stick it to you. Great great company."</b></p>   | <p><b>CJ Appliances</b><br/>442 W Call St, Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 452-1968</p> <p><b>"They have the best prices on appliances I've seen in any liquidation store. They are located very conveniently close to my house. The people there are very nice and the service is great."</b></p>  | <p><b>Turners Automotive &amp; Transmission</b><br/>135 Commercial Cir, Keystone Heights, FL 32656<br/>(352) 473-3404</p> <p><b>"My gear shift button broke, car was stuck in neutral/ drive. Wouldn't go into park or reverse. Couldn't remove key from ignition. These guys fixed my issue fast and affordable. Will definitely be back with any other problems me or my family have with our vehicles."</b></p>   |
| <p><b>DLP Bank</b><br/>811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 964-7830</p> <p><b>"Great service! Fast and efficient place with very nice and knowledgeable people. Great place to bank and a trusted bank in the community for over 100 years!"</b></p>  | <p><b>Teal Tile Carpet One</b><br/>131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 964-7423</p> <p><b>"Working with local businesses like Teal Tile and salesperson Mary Carver made my remodel go smoothly. My husband and I are pleased with the finished results. I had the floating flooring put into my kitchen, laundry room, powder room and the added bathroom. I also had tile for my kitchen backsplash and tile put into the new shower."</b></p>   | <p><b>Jackson Building Supply Inc.</b><br/>937 S Walnut St,<br/>Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 964-6078</p> <p><b>"My hubby and I love this place. We're out at Kingsley lake and the big box stores on Blanding seem a million miles away. JBS is much quicker and a much safer drive. It's well worth it and the inventory is extensive. We're fans."</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Ford's Land Clearing Inc.</b><br/>(352) 260-2387<br/>Servicing Starke, Keystone, and surrounding areas!</p> <p><b>"Very friendly easy to work and responds promptly. Installed culvert on our new property. Price was reasonable compared with others wasn't the cheapest but wasn't the highest. I would use them again in future for future projects and recommend them to others."</b></p>   | <p><b>Durrance Pump</b><br/>864 N Temple Ave STE C,<br/>Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 964-7061</p> <p><b>"Great place! These people are great at what they do. If you don't have a lot of money at the time you need a repair, they will work with you like they did me. I really appreciate these folks. Thank you so much!"</b></p>   | <p><b>Big Teal Cleaning</b><br/>12696 US HWY 301 South<br/>Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 903-6746</p> <p><b>"Had my truck in the mud all weekend and took it up there. They got it 100% clean for a great price. I would recommend them to anyone"</b></p>  |
| <p><b>The Struggle Bus Mobile I.V.</b><br/>www.strugglebusventures.com</p> <p><b>"10/10 recommend! I got the stomach bug and they came that day for an in home visit to give me the recovery blend IV. I didn't even have to get off the couch. They are so amazing and did a great job!"</b></p>   | <p><b>Bradford County Eye Center</b><br/>292 Lafayette St,<br/>Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 964-8076</p> <p><b>"While vacationing in Florida I had a situation arise that needed immediate attention. I contacted Bradford County Eye and was scheduled immediately! Within 30 minutes I was seen, diagnosed and encouraged to see my eye doctor at home in 6 weeks. The staff and Dr. Mike were fantastic! Very professional, knowledgeable, attentive and kind. I highly recommend this practice. If I am in the area again and need them I will return! Special thank you to them all!"</b></p> | <p><b>Andrews Site Prep</b><br/>(386) 867-0572<br/>Services 20 different counties!</p> <p><b>"Only giving 5 stars because I can't give more. I'm not sure who you're using for your well and septic system but if you're not using Andrews site prep you are missing out. Bart, Luke, and the young lady in the front office are amazing. They know how to take care of a customer and treat them as a person not a number, as if I didn't already use them whenever I had a problem they have made sure I never go anywhere else ever again. If you ever need work done this is the place to go."</b></p> |
| <p><b>Robert's Insurance</b><br/>986 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 452-7784</p> <p><b>"Always a great place to visit and get help, thanks!"</b></p>  | <p><b>C &amp; S Site Prep</b><br/>22787 NW 34th Ave,<br/>Lawtey, FL 32058<br/>(352) 235-1210</p> <p><b>Land Clearing, Driveway, Culverts, Excavation, Ponds, House Pads, Drainage, Grading, Erosion Control, Dirt, Lime Rock, Asphalt, Sand, Crushed Concrete, 57 Stone</b></p>  | <p><b>NO LIMITZ</b><br/><i>Our Possibilities are Endless!</i><br/>3 Stores to Serve You!<br/>*No Limitz Outlet ...Brand Name Retail for all Men, Women &amp; Children<br/>*No Limit Fun Zone &amp; Arcade ... Pool Tables, NFL Blitz, Darts and more...Fun for ALL Ages!<br/>*No Limit Smoke &amp; Vape ... Vapes, accessories &amp; more!<br/>421 W. Madison St Starke 904-454-1483<br/>430 W. Call St. Starke 904-454-1013<br/><b>5-star rated!</b></p>  |
| <p><b>The Chiropractic &amp; Injury Clinic of Starke</b><br/>601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 964-8018</p> <p><b>"I love this place! They make me feel like family here! Karen is my bestie, she's great. You'll love the two assistants in the back. They're so nice and very funny too! Dr. Lowry does awesome adjustments and is very friendly and welcoming. I always feel like a new person when I leave. No joke when I say this is the kindest medical staff I've ever dealt with. 10/10 recommend."</b></p>  | <p><b>Victory Way Church of God</b><br/>205 SW Magnolia Ave,<br/>Keystone Heights, FL 32656<br/>(941) 718-7006</p> <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 AM<br/>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 10:30 AM<br/>CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING MORNING WORSHIP<br/>SUNDAY NIGHT: 6:00 PM<br/>THURSDAY NIGHT: 7:30 PM</b></p>  | <p><b>Hometown Health &amp; Wellness</b><br/>110 Nightingale St,<br/>Keystone Heights, FL 32656<br/>(352) 664-7702</p> <p><b>"I have gone here multiple times to see both Jen and Bryan. I love that the location is close to home, they are open various hours to fit your schedule but most of all I love the small town feel when you walk in the door! You are welcomed and made to feel at home. I am very happy with all services I have received and am so thankful."</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Bradford County Sheriffs Office</b><br/>945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 966-6161</p> <p><b>"I need to take a minute to recognize my jail command team, the people I'm surrounded by. Each unique and strong in their own areas. There is nothing anyone asks of them they don't do and almost always with a smile. They take care of business and take care of people at the same time. They have our agency's best interest at heart always!! I'm pretty sure some make fun of our kinder gentler approach at times, but when people are at their lowest, they sometimes need kindness to make a change."</b></p> | <p><b>Hearing Aids Today</b><br/>450 S Lawrence Blvd,<br/>Keystone Heights, FL 32656<br/>(352) 877-4471</p> <p><b>"This is the place to come to! I went many years between hearing exams. Very professional and compassionate in taking care of their customers. They are family owned and operated! And the man that owns the place is the one that you deal with! The rest of the staff is amazing also! As I am a local business owner also I highly recommend if there was more stars I would give it. Go see them if you have hearing problems, you will be amazed!"</b></p>                | <p><b>Bradford County Public Library</b><br/>456 W Pratt St,<br/>Starke, FL 32091<br/>(904) 368-3911</p> <p><b>"I love the staff here. They are always kind &amp; helpful to me &amp; my 3 girls. We go in to just grab a few books &amp; stay an hour just to chat with everyone &amp; check out all the upcoming events they offer."</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Craig Falstreux Heating &amp; Air, Inc</b><br/>228 S Walnut St,<br/>Starke, FL 32091<br/>(352) 792-4426</p> <p><b>"We have used them twice for emergency situations on the weekend. They are fast and helpful. They do charge a weekend/holiday fee but I think that is fair. It is an efficient family business as far as I can tell."</b></p>   |  |  |

# A look back: Bradford's long dry spell of 1905-73

*Editor's note: The following was published in the Telegraph's July 26, 1979, 100th anniversary issue.*

At one time, Starke had more saloons than churches, but after several skirmishes and a continuing campaign waged by the ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, dry forces were finally successful in voting out the "open saloons" that dotted early Call Street.

A petition, signed by the required one fourth of registered voters of the county was presented to the county commission at its May 2, 1905, meeting, asking that the sale of "intoxicating liquors, wines or beer" be prohibited in Bradford County. Accordingly, an election was ordered and held on June 20, 1905, to decide the issue.

When votes were canvassed on June 22, it was found that the dries had scored a decisive victory over the wets, 610 to 370.

The vote was nip and tuck in the Starke precinct, where the dries won by three votes, 139 to 136. In the second-largest precinct (Lake Butler), the dry margin was more substantial, 114 to 69 for the brass-rail boys.

County commissioners Comer L. Peek (chairman), John Croft,

N.C. Wainwright, R.J. Andrews and John Morgan proclaimed that all places selling such intoxicating beverages "shall be closed at 12 o'clock noon this date."

The Telegraph supported the dry forces editorially, although some merchants feared that closing saloons would hurt Starke as a trade center and might even force them out of business. The Telegraph, though, argued that banishing saloons might help business since some women were reluctant to shop along Call Street because of the rough element hanging around the bars.

At any rate, the town survived and remained dry for over half a century in spite of one or two attempts over the years to legalize liquor sales over strongly organized and successful opposition by churches. During this arid period, those who wished to make a purchase had only to drive across the county line into Alachua or Union — a 10- to 15-minute trip.

At long last, the efforts of the legal-sale faction finally paid off on April 4, 1973, when 57 percent of Bradford voters turned out to register a narrow 148-vote margin for legalization. The vote that day was 2,012 for legal

liquor sales to 1,864 against.

The strongest backing for legalization came from the Reno precinct, with a 2-1 margin for approval. Of the total 257 votes cast in that precinct, 169 were for legal sales and 88 against.

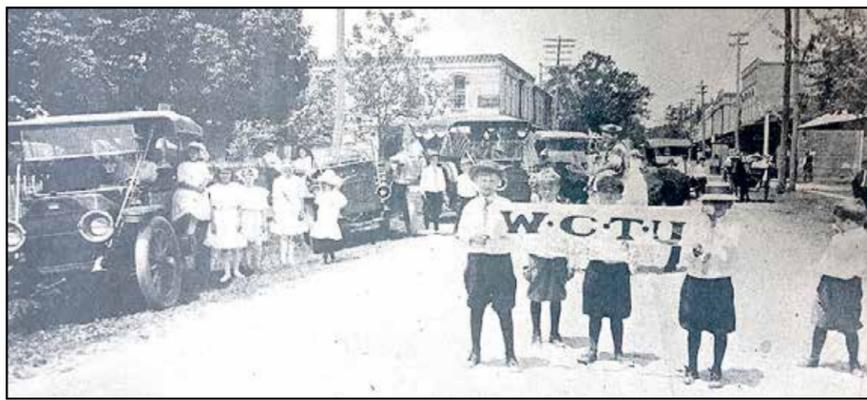
The strongest opposition came from the Brooker precinct, where 106 out of the total 140 votes cast were opposed to legal sales.

Nine of the county's 17 precincts voted for legalization as Bradford joined the other 57 counties that were in the wet column at that time.

Bradford had a population of 15,000 by 1973, qualifying the county for six liquor-sale licenses, based on one license for every 2,500 people in accordance with state law.

Before 1973, Bradford had a history of voting against all measures dealing with legalized liquor. Back in 1910, a constitutional amendment was presented to the voters providing for statewide prohibition. The amendment was defeated by a small majority, although Bradford voted (as usual) on the prohibition side.

Many citizens believed legalized liquor would increase crime and corruption, but the prohibition era of the 1920s brought a new wave of crime,



The Women's Christian Temperance Union took part in an anti-saloon parade on Call Street in Starke prior to Bradford County residents voting in favor of the prohibition of the sale of "intoxicating liquors, wines or beer."

with the rise of the bootlegging era, the so-called "speakeasy" and illegal marketing of moonshine.

Bootlegging became a flourishing business in Bradford and neighboring counties. Liquor continued to be available to residents despite legal barriers. Nearby Baker County was once considered the moonshine capital of Florida.

In the 1950s, Mayor W.T. Jackson described the bootlegging as one of the major crimes in Starke. The selling

of homemade 'shine, or white lightning, as it was sometimes called, involved many citizens in both rural and urban areas.

The 1950s marked the biggest crackdown in moonshine traffic, resulting in the arrest of several prominent residents. In 1957, there were more moonshine arrests than at any time since the county turned dry. A three-month investigation by federal officers resulted in 11 people being arrested in Starke alone.

Legalized liquor sales in 1973 put a virtual end to the

bootlegging business locally. The crime rate also made some noticeable improvement after legalization, according to Deputy Sheriff Robert Green.

"There were several stills operating all over Bradford County in the '50s and '60s, but we haven't seen a still operating in the last six years," Green said. "It was hard to keep moonshine out of the city during the dry era. If a person wanted whiskey bad enough, he would get it any way he could."

## Bradford Telegraph's 'booze news' of the past

With Bradford County being a "dry" county from 1905 until 1973 (see related story), it's no surprise that moonshine made the news periodically in the pages of the Bradford County Telegraph.

### April 1919 — 'Shiners rounded up

Last Thursday, Sheriff Epperson and Deputy Baisden arrested Mrs. E.B. Dees, who lives 4 miles southeast of Starke, on a charge of illicit distilling. She was in the act of taking off a charge of the fiery stuff when the sheriff walked upon the scene.

According to the officers, they secured the granddaddy of all moonshine stills in this raid, bringing in the largest one yet captured as well as two smaller ones that had been discarded for "Big Jim."

Dees was arraigned before Judge Gardiner on Friday, pled guilty and was fined \$100 and costs of court.

Thursday night, the two officers, assisted by (Starke Chief of Police) Kite, arrested Harney Forsyth on the same charge. The officers found a still of the lard-can variety filled with the liquid, still smoking. Forsyth was released to appear before the judge the next morning, but evidently has forgotten about his engagement as he is reported on the missing list.

For the last few days, the sheriff's office has had a distinctive odor of its own — more like a sour whiskey barrel than a respectable sheriff's office.

### February 1921 — Woman 'chemist' arrested for 'shine

*(The April 1919 story about Mrs. E.B. Dees must have been forgotten when the following story was published.)*

The ideal moonshiner is pictured as a rugged man with a big, ragged moustache. He is garbed in greasy overalls and shod with shoes that will allow the water to run out of them as fast as it comes in as he tramps about in the swamp in which his still is located.

He is also supposed to have a shotgun handy for use in an emergency. Whatever may be said about the moral aspect of his trade, the moonshiner has to be a man physically. No woman could be a moonshiner any more than she could be a lineman or a timber cruiser.

But this is the era of surprises, and Monday it was proved that a woman can make 'shine as well as a man. What's the necessity of having a still in a swamp, where smoke and tracks and loud-smelling "buck" would give it away? Why not have it in a dwelling house, where there is nothing to point the way to it?

Where an open can of sauerkraut would disguise the odor of "buck?" Where the time might be profitably employed at other work, while the delectable fluid slowly trickled from the worm?

On the day in question, Messrs. Epperson, Baisden and Kite invaded the peaceful home of Mrs. Elizabeth Monden, a widow living in the old Tompsett house at the foot of Orange Street near the Peggy road. They searched the house for a moonshine still and found it. The apparatus was snugly embedded in a brick furnace and consisted of a 15-gallon kettle of heavy copper, a well-made and sufficient worm (also of copper) and some piping, apparently put together by a master plumber.

The apparatus was bright and clean, not smutty and greasy, as is the case when in the care of a mere man. Bottles and other "containers" found were also scrupulously clean. Even the corks had been boiled in water containing "Grandma" till they were as clean and bright as a new penny. If the liquor manufactured was not conducive to health, it was at least put up in sanitizing packages.

Some liquor was found, and the still was dismantled and taken by the officers to furnish Exhibit A. Mrs. Monden was arrested, but she claimed she had made liquor only for her own use and never sold any, but that was for the court to decide. She was put in the county jail in default of a \$500 bond.

### June 1923 — Mother Earth fails to hide 'shine from officers

Sheriff Epperson and his chief deputy, W.W. Baisden, have literally unearthed booze at three different places lately.

Thursday of last week, they searched the premises of W.J. Stallings for liquor and found 10 gallons buried in his horse lot.

Monday of this week, they paid a visit to the home of Wash Green near Lawtey and found 4 gallons of 'shine buried about 50 yards outside of his gate.

Later, they found 5 pints of hooch buried near the store of D.W. Boree.

The officers were not provided with bloodhounds, but used only their own powers of scent in finding the hidden booze. Practice makes perfect.

When you hide your bottles, be sure that the corks are tight and bury them deep, or the officers will be sure to find them.

### June 1924 — 'Shine car outruns sheriff

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilkinson, who reside just across the line in Clay County east of Lawtey for transporting liquor, according to the sheriff's office.

Sheriff Epperson has been on the lookout for Charles Wilkinson for some time, he being suspected of peddling booze. Acting on a tip, Epperson was in Lawtey on Sunday awaiting Wilkinson's appearance. Epperson followed Wilkinson out of town to the home of Wash Green.

Epperson was unable to get to the house in his car unseem. Wilkinson, who was driving a Willys Knight, stepped on the gas at the approach of the sheriff and left the scene. Before he left, however, he succeeded in delivering two 1-gallon jugs of liquor. Epperson witnessed the dash of a boy from the car to the house with a jug under each arm.

Seeing it would be impossible to catch the speedy car, the sheriff stopped at the house and ran inside to secure the liquor as evidence. The occupants promptly boosted the jugs out of a window and broke them, whereupon the sheriff made another dash outside to get some of the liquor before it could all escape.

He was foiled again, however. A tub full of water was poured out of the window on top of the sheriff, liquor and broken jugs. All the sheriff got for his trouble was the aroma.

Warrants for the arrest of Wilkinson and his wife on charges of having liquor in their possession and for transporting liquor have been issued by Judge Green.

### January 1926 — Barber shop of S.L. Alvarez cleaned out by indignant woman

Mrs. A.N. Marcotte, who resides with her husband in the former Limbaugh home on Call Street, created something of a sensation Tuesday afternoon shortly after the noon hour when she invaded S.L. Alvarez's barber shop, asserting that he

had sold liquor several times to her husband, that she had seen it delivered, that she had witnessed Alvarez accepting the money in payment and that it had to stop.

Jerking the towel from around her husband's neck, as with lathered face he was awaiting a shave, the irate woman ordered to get out of the shop. Under the lash of her tongue, both her husband and Alvarez hastily vacated the shop, leaving her in sole possession while she made a search for concealed booze.

Mrs. Marcotte made no pretense of keeping the reason for her conduct a secret. She asserted to all who would hear that her husband, addicted to the drink habit, has been constantly supplied with moonshine by Alvarez and that she had witnessed more than one delivery of the vile poison by Alvarez and his receiving the money in payment. In most emphatic language, she expressed her condemnation of the bootlegging fraternity in Starke and her determination to mark the name of one customer from their list.

A.N. Marcotte, it is alleged, was under the influence of liquor during the afternoon. Each time he left the house, his wife would promptly go in search of him and send him home. On these excursions, she warned everyone with whom she found Mr. Marcotte that the selling of liquor to her husband had to stop.

A warrant for the arrest of Alvarez on the charge of selling intoxicating liquor was issued by Judge Gardiner Thursday morning. Subpoenas were issued for the appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Marcotte as state witnesses at the regular term of the county court on Tuesday, Jan. 26. It is understood that the warrant was issued on evidence given Deputy Baisden by Mrs. Marcotte on Tuesday afternoon, with the further assurance that her husband would testify to the same when he was placed on the stand.

However, when Sheriff Epperson and Deputy Baisden went to the Marcotte home Wednesday morning to make further investigation, it is said Mrs. Marcotte would make no statement other than she did not want to see anyone go to jail. Sheriff Epperson stated Wednesday that the charge against Alvarez would be pressed. Mrs. Marcotte had publicly accused Alvarez of selling liquor to her husband, so the matter would now have to thrashed out in Judge Gardiner's court.

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION

BY THE CITY OF LAWTEY

Notice is hereby given that proposed Resolution #23-02 whose title appears below, will be considered for enactment by the City Council of Lawtey, on September 26, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter that may be heard at City Hall, Lawtey, Florida. A copy of the proposed resolution may be inspected by all members of the public at City Hall, Lawtey, Florida. Anyone wishing to be heard should attend the meeting. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX LEVY FOR THE CITY OF LAWTEY, OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The City of Lawtey has tentatively adopted a budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. A public hearing to make a FINAL DECISION on the budget AND TAXES will be held on September 17, 2024 6 p.m. At Lawtey City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawtey, FL.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

### City of Lawtey - Fiscal Year 2024-2025

| ESTIMATED REVENUES        | GENERAL FUND | WATER/SEWER FUND | TOTAL        |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Taxes:                    |              |                  |              |
| Ad Valorem Taxes 2.2498   | \$ 46,187    | \$ -             | \$ 46,187    |
| Franchise Fees            | \$ 43,000    | \$ -             | \$ 43,000    |
| Licenses and Permits      | \$ -         | \$ -             | \$ -         |
| Intergovernmental Revenue | \$ 258,159   | \$ -             | \$ 258,159   |
| Charges for Services      | \$ -         | \$ 349,120       | \$ 349,120   |
| Fines and Forfeitures     | \$ 260,300   | \$ -             | \$ 260,300   |
| Misc. Funds               | \$ 1,613,648 | \$ 1,485,450     | \$ 3,099,098 |
| Fund Balance              | \$ 13,644    | \$ -             | \$ 13,644    |
| Public Safety Fund        | \$ 300,200   | \$ -             | \$ 300,200   |
| Total Revenues & Balances | \$ 2,535,138 | \$ 1,834,570     | \$ 4,369,708 |
| EXPENDITURES              |              |                  |              |
| General Government        | \$ 286,628   | \$ -             | \$ 286,628   |
| Public Safety             | \$ 571,628   | \$ -             | \$ 571,628   |
| Physical Safety           | \$ -         | \$ 1,657,415     | \$ 1,657,415 |
| Transportation            | \$ 1,663,882 | \$ -             | \$ 1,663,882 |
| Culture & Recreation      | \$ 13,000    | \$ -             | \$ 13,000    |
| Debt Services             | \$ -         | \$ 109,322       | \$ 109,322   |
| Economic Environmental    | \$ -         | \$ -             | \$ -         |
| Total Expenditures        | \$ 2,535,138 | \$ 1,766,737     | \$ 4,301,875 |
| Fund Balance              | \$ -         | \$ 67,833        | \$ 67,833    |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATED        | \$ 2,535,138 | \$ 1,834,570     | \$ 4,369,708 |

THE TENTATIVE ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE NAME MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF LAWTEY

Notice is hereby given that proposed Resolution #23-03 whose title appears below, will be considered for enactment by the City Council of Lawtey, on September 26, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter that may be heard at City Hall, Lawtey, Florida. A copy of the proposed resolution may be inspected by all members of the public at City Hall, Lawtey, Florida.

Anyone wishing to be heard should attend the meeting. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF LAWTEY, OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Sept. 12, 2024

## BRADFORD

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on 09/20/2024 10:00 am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items:  
Unit 120 Belonging to J. Kasgnot  
Unit 59 Belonging to M. Johnson  
Unit 110 Belonging to V. Atkinson  
Unit 43 Belonging to K. Larsen  
Unit 60 Belonging to N. McCutchen  
9/5 2tchg 9/12-BCT

Bradford County, Florida  
BY: KANETRA JENKINS,  
Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: September 3, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION:  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024; SEPTEMBER 19, 2024; SEPTEMBER 26, 2024;  
OCTOBER 3, 2024  
9/12 4tchg 10/3-BCT

CITY COMMISSION TIME CHANGE  
The City of Starke September 17, 2024 Commission Meeting will begin at 5:15 pm.  
9/12 1tchg-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 716  
Year of Issuance: 2017  
Parcel Number: 02527-0-00000  
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-15  
Description of Property: Lot 3, Block 20, NORTH RENO SUBDIVISION, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 39, current public records of Bradford County, Florida.  
Name in Which Assessed: KEYON BAKER  
Name on last tax roll, if different:  
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 11/13/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
Denny Thompson,  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Bradford County, Florida  
BY: KANETRA JENKINS  
Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: September 3, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION:  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024; SEPTEMBER 19, 2024; SEPTEMBER 26, 2024;  
OCTOBER 3, 2024  
9/12 4tchg 10/3-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 1275  
Year of Issuance: 2018  
Parcel Number: 06053-0-01000  
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-14  
Description of Property:  
PARCEL NO. 7:  
Beginning at a concrete monument marking the Southwest corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 26, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Thence North 188.57 feet to a concrete monument. Thence East 495 feet to a concrete monument. Thence South 188.57 feet to a concrete monument. Thence West 495 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 2.14 acres more or less.  
ALSO:  
The right of ingress and egress across the East 20 feet of the West 495 feet and the North 20 feet of the East 825 feet of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 26, Township 8 South, Range 22 East.  
Name in Which Assessed:  
CATHERINE SLOAN  
Name on last tax roll, if different:  
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 11/13/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
Denny Thompson,  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court

Town of Brooker  
Second Public Hearing Notice  
Date of Publication: September 12, 2024

The Town of Brooker plans to apply to the Florida Department of Commerce for a FFY 2023 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$600,000 in the Housing Rehabilitation category. The grant project activities, estimated dollar amounts, and estimated percentage benefit to low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons are as follows:  
Housing Rehabilitation/ Demolition/ Relocation: \$507,300 (100% LMI benefit); [Temporary Relocation: \$2,700 (100% LMI benefit); Grant Administration: \$90,000 (LMI benefit is not applicable). Total grant amount: \$600,000. In addition, \$25,000 will be contributed to the project as local match. The local match will be in the form of State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) funds that have been provided to the Town by the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners. The local match funds will be used to further and enhance the CDBG funded activities. The Town plans to rehabilitate or demolish and replace at least nine very low-, low- and-moderate income homes within the Town limits that do not meet current building code standards. The Town will accept applications for rehabilitation assistance from qualified homeowners if grant funding is received.  
The Town of Brooker does not expect that anyone will be permanently displaced as a result of CDBG-funded activities. If any persons are displaced as a result of the planned activities, the Town will assist them as described in the Town's anti-displacement and relocation policy, which is available for review at Town Hall.

A public hearing to provide citizens an Opportunity to comment on the application will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at the Town of Brooker Community Center located at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, FL 32622. For more information concerning the public meeting contact Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk at (352) 485-1022. Ms. Thomas may also be contacted by email at [Brookerclerk1022@windstream.net](mailto:Brookerclerk1022@windstream.net) or by postal service at P. O. Box 127, Brooker, Florida 32622.

A draft copy of the application will also be available for review during normal business hours in the Clerk's Office at Town Hall (which is an office within the Community Center) by noon on September 20, 2024. Persons wanting to submit written comments on the application should send them to Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk, by e-mail at [Brookerclerk1022@windstream.net](mailto:Brookerclerk1022@windstream.net), or by USPS at P. O. Box 127, Brooker, Florida 32622, or by in person delivery at 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, FL 32622 no later than September 23, 2024. A copy of the final application will be available for review in the Clerk's Office at Town Hall no later than October 10, 2024. The application will be submitted to the Florida Department of Commerce on or before October 17, 2024. To obtain additional information concerning the application and the public hearing, contact Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk at (352) 485-1022. Ms. Thomas may also be contacted by email at [Brookerclerk1022@windstream.net](mailto:Brookerclerk1022@windstream.net) or by postal service at P. O. Box 127, Brooker, Florida 32622.

The public hearing 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

hearing is asked to advise the Town at least five days before the hearing by contacting Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk at (352) 485-1022. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Town 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 hearing should contact Charlene Thomas, Town Clerk at (352) 485-1022 at least five days prior to the hearing and an interpreter will be provided.  
A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION  
9/12 1tchg-BCT

## UNION

IN THE COUNTY COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.  
CASE NO.: 63-2024-CA-0099  
PAULA MCNEAL

Plaintiff,  
vs.  
UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST LOUCIL JAMES CLAY, deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES PATRICK CLAY, SR., deceased, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ANY OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST JAMES PATRICK CLAY, JR., deceased,  
Defendants.

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

Union County Parcel Identification Number: 09-06-18-00-000-0010-0  
You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukes, the Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 3rd day of October, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiffs' attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
DATED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2024.  
KELLIE H. RHOADES  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: CRYSTAL NORMAN  
Deputy Clerk  
Published in: UNION COUNTY TIMES  
ON 8/29, 9/5, 9/12 AND 9/19/2024  
Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice

If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to access court facilities or participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337-6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at [interpreter@circuit8.org](mailto:interpreter@circuit8.org)  
8/29 4tchg 9/19-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 24000018CAAXMX  
MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021-NM1,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
PATSY JO BROOKER F/K/A PATSY JO ADDISON; DONALD K. BROOKER; UNKNOWN TENANT(S)

IN POSSESSION #1 and #2, and ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, et al.,  
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE  
(Publish in the The Union County Times)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 27, 2024, entered in Civil Case No.: 24000018CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021-NM1, Plaintiff, and PATSY JO BROOKER F/K/A PATSY JO ADDISON; DONALD K. BROOKER, are Defendants.

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, in the Front Lobby of the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 at 11:00 AM, on the 23rd day of January, 2025, the following described real property as set forth in said Judgment, to wit: COMMENCE WHERE WEST LINE OF GOVERNMENT LOT 7 INTERSECTS THE CENTERLINE OF STATE ROAD 238, THEN NORTH 33 FEET TO NORTH LINE OF SR 238, THEN EAST 581 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THEN CONTINUE EAST ALONG STATE ROAD R/W LINE 210 FT, THEN NORTH 210 FEET, THEN WEST 210 FEET TO LAND DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 76 PAGE 224, THEN SOUTH 210 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. (SECTION 30 TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH RANGE 20 EAST)  
TOGETHER WITH MOBILE HOME VIN NO. HMLL2814B1521425A AND HMLL2814B1521425B.

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you fail to file a timely 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. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352-337-6237) at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at [interpreter@circuit8.org](mailto:interpreter@circuit8.org)  
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on August 29, 2024  
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By: Crystal Norman  
Deputy Clerk  
Attorney for Plaintiff:  
Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire  
Popkin & Rosaler, P.A.  
1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard  
Suite 400  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
Telephone: (954) 360-9030  
Facsimile: (954) 420-5187  
9/5 2tchg 9/12-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Case No. 63-2024-CP-000025-CPAM  
Estate Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF ALISA SUZANNE TICE-BOULDING, DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The administration of the estate of ALISA SUZANNE TICE-BOULDING, deceased, whose date of death was May 13, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division the address of which is 55 W. Main St., Room 103, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE

OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is September 12, 2024

Personal Representative:  
CARL R. BOULDING  
22619 NE 147<sup>th</sup> Trail  
Raiford, Florida 32083  
CHASE C. JORDAN  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
Florida Bar No. 108892  
200 Grove Park Lane, Suite 670  
Dothan, Alabama 36305  
(334)793-2629  
9/12 2tchg 9/19-UCT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Lake Butler ("City") invites Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and will receive submittals until 4:00 pm on September 30, 2024.

Synopsis: The City, in conformance with the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act (CCNA), Florida Statutes Section 287.055, and the policies and procedures of the Florida Department of State, Division of Historic Preservation, and the City of Lake Butler, is soliciting SOQs from professional engineering firms with State qualified historic preservation architects, for the re-roofing, re-flooring, and new windows of the Historic Townsend Building.

Submission Requirements: SOQs must be prepared in conformance with the "Format and Content of Statement of Qualifications Submittals" section of the RFQ. Ten (10) copies shall be submitted in one sealed package, clearly marked on the outside "Sealed SOQ for Engineering Services for Rehabilitation of the Townsend Building, (RFQ#2)," and addressed to:  
Kimberly Hayes, City Manager  
City of Lake Butler  
200 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Submittals will be publicly opened during the Lake Butler City Commission meeting at 200 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Lake Butler, Florida, in the presence of City officials, on October 15, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm or thereafter. Selection of the firm and fee negotiations by the City will be on the same date.

All documents may be requested by electronic mail to the Project contact person: Douglas Sanders  
e-mail: [dsanders@cityoflakebutler.com](mailto:dsanders@cityoflakebutler.com); or [interstar1@juno.com](mailto:interstar1@juno.com).  
The City reserves the right to reject any or all submittals, to waive any irregularity, and to take all submittals under advisement for a period of sixty (60) days.

Notice of Application for Tax Deed NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that J. R. Davis, Jr., as Trustee of the J. R. Davis Trust the holder(s) of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon.

The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
CERTIFICATE #: 213  
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2017  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 32-05-20-22-004-0040-0  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:  
Lot 4, Block 4, J. W. Townsend's Addition to the City of Lake Butler, Florida, as recorded in Plat Book 1, page 8, public records of Union County, Florida, except parcel 10 feet by 10 feet in the Southeasterly corner thereof.

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: JUANITA BROWN  
Said property being in the County of Union, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

For Kellie Hendricks Rhoades  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Union County, Florida  
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.  
9/12 4tchg 10/3-UCT

## LAKE REGION

Request for Proposal (RFP)  
Project Title: Demolition and Site Preparation Services for Existing Building

Introduction: The City of Keystone Heights, located in Keystone Heights, FL is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to provide demolition and site preparation services for an existing building located at 125 E Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. The scope of work includes the demolition and removal of the

existing abandoned building and site furnishings, disconnection of electrical and plumbing systems, debris removal, and maintenance of traffic during the demolition process.

Project Overview: The project involves the complete demolition of an existing building encompassing 1,500 square feet. The building is a vacant brick restaurant. The City of Keystone Heights shall make its best efforts to maintain the site conditions existing at the time of inspection for bidding purposes. The demolition must be conducted in accordance with all relevant local, state, and federal regulations. Qualified contractors must carry Commercial General Liability Insurance of \$100,000/\$300,000.

Scope of Work: The scope of work for this project includes, but is not limited to:  
-Obtain a demolition permit from Clay County

-Demolition and removal of the existing building, concrete/asphalt slabs, and foundations.

-Demolition and removal of site improvements, including but not limited to foundation, parking slab, concrete sidewalk, underground structures, signs, and poles.  
-Disconnection and removal of all electrical and plumbing systems. Contractor required to call 811 for locates prior to work being commenced.

-Proper disposal of hazardous materials, if any, in accordance with environmental regulations.

-Removal and disposal of all debris generated during the demolition process.

-Implementation and maintenance of traffic control measures to ensure safety during demolition activities. Conduct demolition operations to prevent injury to people and damage to adjacent facilities. Ensure safe passage of people and traffic around the demolition area.

-Restoration of the site to a clean and level condition upon completion of demolition activities.

Quality Assurance: Contractor shall comply with all applicable EPA, state and local notification regulations before starting demolition. Contractor shall comply with hauling and disposal regulations of authorities having jurisdiction; all other codes, standards, regulations, and workers safety rules that are administered by federal agencies (HUD, EPA, OSHA, and DOT) or state agencies (State OSHA, DEM, DOH, etc.); and any other local regulations and standards (i.e. building codes) that may apply. The demolition contractor must secure all associated permits. By submitting a proposal, Contractor affirms they have familiarized themselves with the legal requirements (federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations) and other conditions which may affect performance of this Scope of Work.

Proposal Requirements: Interested contractors are requested to submit proposals that include the following information:  
-Company profile, including relevant experience in demolition and site preparation projects.

-Description of the proposed methodology and equipment to be used for demolition and debris removal.

-Proposed timeline for completion of the project.

-Safety plan outlining measures to ensure the safety of workers and the surrounding community during demolition activities.

-Environmental protection plan detailing how hazardous materials will be identified, handled, and disposed of in compliance with regulations.

-Cost proposal, including a breakdown of all expenses related to the project.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

-Experience and qualifications of the contractor.

-Proposed methodology and equipment.

-Compliance with safety and environmental regulations.

-Cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

-Proposed timeline for completion of the project.

-Appropriate insurance coverage (\$1 Million/\$3 Million)

Submission Instructions: Proposals must be submitted electronically to [Beau.Wright@wright@keystoneheights.us](mailto:Beau.Wright@wright@keystoneheights.us) no later than October 15, 2024. Late submissions will not be considered.

Site Visit: A pre-bid site visit will be held on October 1, 2024 at 10:00 AM at 125 E Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Contractors must attend the site visit to familiarize themselves with the project site and requirements. Contractor must survey the existing site to determine the scope of demolition as well as the existence of any potential hazardous materials.

Contact Information: For inquiries or clarifications regarding this RFP, please contact Beau Wright at [wright@keystoneheights.us](mailto:wright@keystoneheights.us) or 352-473-4807.

Reservation of Rights: The City of Keystone Heights reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received, to waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals received, and to select the proposal deemed to be in the best interest of the city.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to receiving your proposal.

Sincerely,  
Charlie Van Zant  
City of Keystone Heights  
9/12 2tchg 9/19-LRM

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US-301S  
964-6078

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

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496-3079

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### Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
**Lake Region Monitor**  
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091  
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091  
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628

**John Miller, Publisher**

- Subscription Rate in Trade Area
- \$52.00 per year:
- \$26.00 six months
- Outside Trade Area:
- \$52.00 per year:
- \$26.00 six months

- Editor: Dan Hildebran
- Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
- Advertising: John R. Tillman
- Typesetting: Mary Gooch
- Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
- Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
- Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Gooch
- Front office Asst:

### Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
**Bradford County Telegraph**  
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091  
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

**John Miller, Publisher**

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- Outside Trade Area:
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- Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
- Advertising: John R. Tillman
- Typesetting: Mary Gooch
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- Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Gooch
- Front office Asst:

### UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200

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**UNION COUNTY TIMES**  
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091  
uctimeseditor@gmail.com  
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628

**John Miller, Publisher**

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## Bardier, Mitzel tie for 1st in KHHS golf win over BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's Nate Bardier and Ty Mitzel were co-medalists in the boys golf team's win over host Bradford on Sept. 3.

The Indians had a team score of 169, which put them 21 strokes ahead of the Tornadoes.

Bardier, who made par on four holes, and Mitzel, who made par on five, each shot a 41. They finished one stroke ahead of

Bradford's Cody Spratlin, who made par on five holes.

Keystone's Konner Kelly, who made par on three holes, placed fourth with a score of 43, while teammates Jacob Beach, Will Begue and Hunter Sheppard each shot a 44 to tie for fifth. Beach and Begue each made par on three holes, while Sheppard made par on two.

Bradford's Avery Burgin and Steven Carter had scores of 48 and 49, respectively, to place eighth and ninth. Burgin made par on one hole, while Carter made par on four.

The Tornadoes' Matthew Stafford also placed in the top 10, making par on three holes and finishing with a score of 51.

Tucker Griffis and Grayson

Jennings shot 54 and 55, respectively, for Bradford. Jennings made par on one hole.

## Bradford 1st at golf match with Branford, Union County

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School hosted a boys golf match at Lake City's Quail Heights Golf and Country Club on Sept. 5, with Bradford topping Branford by 16 strokes.

The Tigers don't have a full team this year, with only three

players, leaving the Tornadoes and the Buccaneers to battle it out in team competition. Bradford (2-1) finished with a score of 183 and was led by Cody Spratlin, who was the medalist with a score of 39. Spratlin had a birdie and made par on four holes in finishing six strokes ahead of Branford's Troy Tyler.

Bradford players took the third-, fourth- and fifth-place spots. Tucker Griffis made par on one hole to finish with a score of 47, while Avery Burgin, who had a birdie and made par on two holes, shot a 48. Steven Carter finished at 49.

Union's Gavin Kuhn made par on one hole and shot a ninth-place score of 55, while Patrick Maxwell shot a 56 to finish in a

three-way tie for 10th.

Brysen Tomlinson finished with a score of 70 for the Tigers.

## Keystone boys golf team loses to P.K. Yonge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights High School boys golf team lost a match against P.K. Yonge on Sept. 5 at the University of Florida's Mark Bostick Golf Course.

Keystone (2-3) had a team score of 172, which left the Indians trailing P.K. Yonge by

four strokes.

Ty Mitzel placed second with a score of 40, which put him five strokes behind the Blue Wave's Katelyn Huber. Mitzel had a birdie and made par on four holes.

Nate Bardier and Jacob Beach tied for fourth, each shooting a 44. Bardier had a birdie and made par on two holes, while Beach made par on three holes.

Konner Kelly, who made par on two holes, finished in a three-way tie for sixth with a score of 48.

Will Begue and Hunter Sheppard placed ninth and 12th, respectively, with scores of 49 and 56. Each made par on one hole.



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24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford, FL, from the NRSWA Website at www.nrswa.org or by calling the NRSWA office at 386-431-1000. Deadline for submitting an application will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. New River Solid Waste is a drug-free workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE CITY OF LAWTEY is taking applications for a Maintenance Supervisor. Applicants must be able to pass and maintain a non-DOC supervisor class, drug test and background check, to get inmate labor. Application and full job description can be picked up at Lawtey City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawtey, FL 32058, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Applications are due by Friday September 19, 2024, by 4 p.m. City of Lawtey is an Equal Opportunity employer and a drug free workplace.

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Bradford County Telegraph, Lake Region Monitor, UNION COUNTY TIMES

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Running back Gino Addison (center) heads upfield after receiving a handoff from Zack Paulk (far right) and getting blocking from lineman Kyren Green.

## Tornadoes defeat another 3A school, top Raiders 28-7

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's football team got a special-teams score on the last play of the first half to go up by two scores and had two 100-yard running backs in a 28-7 win over visiting Class 3A South Sumter on Sept. 6.

"They have no idea how big of a win that is, how good of a football program (South Sumter) is," Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said of his players. "I'm so proud of them."

The Raiders (1-2), whose only loss entering the game was by a touchdown to a Class 5A Niceville program that has been to the playoffs in each of the past 23 years, brought a team that includes players who are committed to Division-I college programs such as Georgia, LSU, Michigan State and Pittsburgh.

Rodgers expected a physical battle.

"Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we talked about how much grit we had to have because (South Sumter was) going to have it, and they did have it," Rodgers said. "It was just that we played harder. That's nothing against them. Our kids just believed in the message we talked about all week — we had to play the hardest the longest. Tonight, we did."

The Class 2A Tornadoes (3-0) have now defeated three Class 3A teams by a combined score of 70-28. They'll play another larger-classification school on Friday, Sept. 13, when they host Class 6A Mandarin (3-0) at 7:30 p.m. Like Bradford, Mandarin was a state runner-up last year.

"Hey, we're going to be here," Rodgers said. "We're going to be ready to roll. Our guys aren't backing down from that."

South Sumter's offense found success early, with Blaine Walker completing a 24-yard pass to Rashad Johnson and Ja'kyrian Turner gaining 17 yards on a run on the Raiders' first two plays from scrimmage. Turner's run put the Raiders at the Bradford 4.

The Tornadoes held South Sumter to just 3 yards over the next three plays, which included Reese Wainwright tackling



Marlin Haywood (right) catches a pass in the first quarter.

running back Tayshaun Young for no gain. The Raiders, though, were able to draw Bradford offside and set up a fourth-and-2 play from the 33. South Sumter went for it, with Turner getting tackled for a 1-yard loss.

A holding penalty hurt the Raiders on their next series, which also included Bradford's Marlin Haywood making a tackle for a 5-yard loss on a pass play. South Sumter punted and was then penalized for a personal foul, which set the Bradford offense up at the Raiders' 46-yard line.

The Tornadoes seemed primed to score on what was their third possession. A 15-yard pass completion from Zack Paulk to Haywood and a pass-interference penalty helped Bradford drive to the 11-yard line, but South Sumter's George Mullins put an end to the drive when he intercepted a Paulk pass in the end zone.

A 7-yard sack by Bradford's Trente Jenkins helped force the Raiders to go three-and-out on their next series, with the Tornadoes taking over offensively at the South Sumter

42-yard line following the punt. Running back Gino Addison gained 5 yards on the drive's first play and then got the carry again, taking advantage of a block by Tyndale Mullins and breaking free for a 28-yard run to the 9-yard line.

Addison and Paulk had runs of 2 and 3 yards, respectively, before Addison, who finished 115 yards on 18 carries, took the ball into the end zone from 4 yards out with 7:09 remaining in the second quarter. Cy Cubbage kicked the extra point for a 7-0 Bradford lead.

South Sumter's Turner had a 40-yard run to the Bradford

See BHS, page 19

## BHS defeats Hawthorne for season's 1st volleyball win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A young Bradford High School varsity volleyball team picked up its first win, defeating visiting Hawthorne 3-0 (25-14, 25-15, 25-15) on Sept. 4.

The Tornadoes couldn't make it two wins in a row, losing to visiting Interlachen 3-0 (25-18, 25-19, 25-22) on Sept. 5.

Bradford (1-5) is putting an almost entirely new team on the court this season, with five of the eight players being freshmen. Another two are sophomores.

Bradford lost four straight 3-0 matches against Union County, Hilliard, Baker County and Episcopal to start the season, but finally got in the win column against a winless Hawthorne team.

The Tornadoes scored the first six points of the first set, including five in a row with Kingslee Phillips serving.

Hawthorne (0-3) made a brief, early run, making it a three-point game until Bradford's Tatum Burkhalter had a kill to force a side-out with the Tornadoes leading 10-6. Bradford then scored four straight points, with Victoria Hudgens recording three service aces and Autumn DeKorver getting a kill.

Two more DeKorver kills and two aces by Burkhalter later helped the Tornadoes go up 19-8.

Wynter Barrington had two kills late in the set, with the second resulting in the game winner.

The second set began with Burkhalter making two diving digs, both of which led to kills by Barrington. Those plays, along with an ace by Phillips, gave Bradford the first three points.

It was a 5-5 game when the Tornadoes scored 12 points with Maduo Wei serving. DeKorver had two kills during the run, which also included two aces by Wei. Burkhalter and Hudgens each had a kill as well as Bradford took a 17-5 lead.

DeKorver added two more kills late in the set, while a Burkhalter spike led to the winning point, sending the Tornadoes into the third set with a 2-0 lead.

Bradford was struggling in what would be the final set and led only 13-12 before scoring four points with Ky'lee Johnson serving. Burkhalter and Hudgens each had a kill in helping the Tornadoes go up 17-12.

A Burkhalter kill and aces by Barrington and Hudgens helped



Autumn DeKorver goes up for an attack as teammate Kingslee Phillips looks on. DeKorver's kill put the exclamation point on the 3-0 sweep over Hawthorne.



Wynter Barrington (right) and Victoria Hudgens (background) ready for attack opportunities off a set by Kingslee Phillips.

Bradford build a 23-14 lead.

DeKorver ended the match with a kill.

The Tornadoes played Keystone Heights this past Tuesday and played Hawthorne again (this time on the road on

Sept. 11. Bradford travels to play Suwannee on Monday, Sept. 16, and then travels to play Hilliard on Wednesday, Sept. 18. Both matches start at 7 p.m. following junior varsity matches at 6 p.m.

## Hope Christian starts off 3-3 in volleyball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Hope Christian Academy's volleyball team won its first two matches of the season, but has since lost three of four, with the latest loss occurring against host Corinth Christian on Sept. 9 by a score of 3-0 (25-20, 25-21, 25-22).

The Lions (3-3) started the season with a 3-1 (25-14, 25-14, 24-26, 25-19) win over visiting Hawthorne on Aug. 20 and followed that with a 3-2 (25-23, 24-26, 14-25, 25-16, 15-13) win at First Assembly on Aug. 22.

In the First Assembly match, Addyson Wilson had 13 service aces, eight kills and three assists. Mackenzie McRaney and Brianna Bradshaw had seven and four aces, respectively.

Anne Amis led the team in digs with seven, while Ashlyn Crews recorded three assists.

Hope lost 3-1 (25-21, 25-11, 20-25, 25-10) at First Coast Christian on Aug. 26 and then returned home and lost 3-1 (12-25, 25-14, 25-15, 25-22) to Northside on Aug. 27.

Wilson and McRaney had nine and six kills, respectively, in the match against Northside. McRaney also had six aces, while Wilson added five assists.

The match also featured nine assists from Crews, six aces from Bradshaw and two blocks from Aubrianna Clark.

On Sept. 5, the Lions got 15 kills from Wilson in defeating visiting Gainesville Christian Community 3-0 (25-15, 25-13, 25-21).

Savannah Jewell and Autumn Hunt had nine and seven aces, respectively, while Crews had six assists.

Hope played Westwood Christian this past Tuesday and will travel to play Hawthorne on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 5 p.m. It'll be the first of three straight road games, with the Lions traveling to play High Springs' First Christian on Friday, Sept. 13, at 5 p.m. and then traveling to play Live Oak's Westwood Christian on Monday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m.

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, Hope hosts First Christian at 5 p.m.

| BUDGET SUMMARY  |                           |                         |                         |                         |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bradford County Board of County Commissioners - Fiscal Year 2024-2025   |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| <b>* THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF BRADFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE 9.3% MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.</b> |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| GENERAL FUND  | 10.0000                   |                         |                         |                         |
| SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS   | 0.0000                    |                         |                         |                         |
| <b>ESTIMATED REVENUES:</b>  |                           | <b>GENERAL FUND</b>     | <b>SPECIAL REVENUE</b>  | <b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b> |
| Taxes:  | <b>Millage Per \$1000</b> |                         |                         | <b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>  |
| Ad Valorem Taxes  | 10.0000                   | 13,873,000.00           | -                       | 13,873,000.00           |
| Sales & Use Taxes   |                           | 3,763,875.00            | 1,460,000.00            | 5,223,875.00            |
| Licenses & Permits  |                           | 194,000.00              | 1,143,300.00            | 1,337,300.00            |
| Intergovernmental Revenue   |                           | 4,618,050.00            | 27,698,425.00           | 32,316,475.00           |
| Charges for Services  |                           | 60,000.00               | 6,173,269.00            | 6,233,269.00            |
| Miscellaneous Revenues  |                           | 160,100.00              | 113,934.00              | 274,034.00              |
| Fines & Forfeitures   |                           | 119,000.00              | 20,500.00               | 139,500.00              |
| Other Sources   |                           | 29,000.00               | -                       | 29,000.00               |
| Less Reduction  |                           | (1,137,101.00)          | (547,410.00)            | (1,684,511.00)          |
| <b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>  |                           | <b>\$ 21,679,924.00</b> | <b>\$ 36,062,018.00</b> | <b>\$ 57,741,942.00</b> |
| Transfers In  |                           | \$ -                    | \$ 13,337,822.00        | 13,337,822.00           |
| Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets   |                           | \$ 15,320,151.00        | \$ 7,477,799.00         | \$ 22,797,950.00        |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS &amp; BALANCES</b>   |                           | <b>\$ 37,000,075.00</b> | <b>\$ 56,877,639.00</b> | <b>\$ 93,877,714.00</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>   |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| General Government  |                           | \$ 18,688,825.00        | \$ 366,361.00           | \$ 19,055,186.00        |
| Public Safety   |                           | 144,225.00              | 13,580,261.00           | 13,724,486.00           |
| Physical Environment  |                           | 561,573.00              | 6,632,990.00            | 7,194,563.00            |
| Transportation  |                           | 864,486.00              | 22,787,697.00           | 23,652,183.00           |
| Economic Environment  |                           | 302,449.00              | 2,246,466.00            | 2,548,915.00            |
| Culture/Recreation  |                           | 105,434.00              | 1,504,408.00            | 1,609,842.00            |
| Human Services  |                           | 808,918.00              | -                       | 808,918.00              |
| Other   |                           | 56,729.00               | -                       | 56,729.00               |
| Court Related   |                           | 123,525.00              | 752,488.00              | 876,013.00              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>   |                           | <b>\$ 21,656,164.00</b> | <b>\$ 47,870,671.00</b> | <b>\$ 69,526,835.00</b> |
| Transfers Out   |                           | \$ 15,343,911.00        | \$ 9,006,968.00         | \$ 24,350,879.00        |
| Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets   |                           |                         |                         |                         |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES</b>  |                           | <b>\$ 37,000,075.00</b> | <b>\$ 56,877,639.00</b> | <b>\$ 93,877,714.00</b> |
| <b>TRANSFERS, RESERVES &amp; BALANCES</b>   |                           | <b>\$ 37,000,075.00</b> | <b>\$ 56,877,639.00</b> | <b>\$ 93,877,714.00</b> |
| THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED, AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.                                |                           |                         |                         |                         |

# Tigers record another shutout in win over Santa Fe

BY CECE THOMAS  
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor



**Eli Llanes scored the final touchdown of the game and was the Tigers' second-leading rusher with 68 yards. It was the fourth straight week (counting the preseason kickoff classic) that Union played a larger school. The Tigers will do so again against Baldwin on Sept. 13. File photo by CeCe Thomas.**

Donuts for breakfast. That's what the Union County High School defensive players were promised they could enjoy on Monday morning by Head Coach Andrew Thomas after the second straight game in which an opponent was held to donuts on the scoreboard.

The Tigers defeated visiting Class 2A Santa Fe 45-0 on Sept. 13, one week after defeating 2A Keystone Heights 35-0.

It was Union's fourth straight win over rival Santa Fe.

"We came out flying around on both sides of the ball," Thomas said. "Offensively, we did things we thought were there on film and executed well. Need to protect the ball more consistently, but overall did well and controlled the line on the defensive side of the ball."

The Tigers (3-0) travel to play Class 2A Baldwin (2-1) on Friday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. If you count the preseason game, this will be the fifth straight week the Tigers will play a larger school.

Santa Fe (0-3) won the coin toss and deferred to the second half, so the Tigers got the ball first. The Raiders' kickoff did not go 10 yards so, so the Tigers got the ball at the Santa Fe 48-yard line. Drew Simmons took the ball all the way to the 26-yard line for a first down. However, Trenton Klein, on a quarterback keeper, fumbled the ball, which the Raiders recovered just outside of the red zone.

Santa Fe's quarterback kept the ball on a counter all the way to Union's 33-yard line. The defense then made a good play that caused the Raiders to lose 2 yards. On a bad snap, the ball is continually knocked backward until the Raiders recovered back at their own 49-yard line. The quarterback is able to contain another high snap, but just gets back to the line of scrimmage, bringing up fourth-and-26. A high Santa Fe punt is downed at the Tigers' 42-yard line.

Klein, on a draw, hangs onto

the ball this time for a first down at the Raiders' 44-yard line. Simmons carried for a 9-yard gain and then got the call again, picking up a first down at the 29-yard line. Alec McClellan picked up another first down at the 12-yard line. Klein then kept the ball for a touchdown. The Tigers went for two, with Klein keeping the ball again for a successful conversion, making the 8-0 with 6:18 left in the first quarter.

Santa Fe got the ball back and worked hard for a first down. The Raiders had the ball at the Tigers' 30-yard line. The defense made two good stops in a row to make that made it third-and-long. Bryan Tyson then sacked the quarterback, making it so the Raiders needed more than 20 yards to pick up a first down. Santa Fe punted.

The Tigers' Simmons took it all the way on the next offensive play for another touchdown. The Tigers led 16-0 with 2:12 to go in the first quarter.

The second quarter started with an amazing play by Klein, where he broke loose and went all the way for a 60-yard touchdown. The Tigers successfully went for two, putting them up 24-0.

Klein finished with 97 yards rushing.

Santa Fe got the ball back on the 36-yard line. The Raiders carried the ball for a first down

before the Tigers' Ibn Williams made the tackle. Starting the next play on their own 42-yard line, the Raiders lost yardage on a tackle made by Gavin Jenkins and Ashton Newsom, resulting in b third-and-14. The Tigers then recovered a fumbled snap at their own 47-yard line.

Klein had a huge pass completion to Jenkins for a first down at the Raiders' 15-yard line. Newsom had a fumble on a carry, but the Tigers recovered for a first-and-goal at the 5-yard line. Simmons carried it in for a touchdown, with the extra point by Carter Whitehead being good. The Tigers led 31-0 with 6:13 left in the second quarter.

With the second quarter coming to an end, Klein completed a pass to Bo Thomas for a first down at the Tigers' 48-yard line. Later, on a third-and-14 play, Klein who was 6 of 6 for 186 yards, completed a pass to McClellan, setting up fourth-and-6 at the Raiders' 48-yard line. Williams then made a big catch-and-run, going all the way for a touchdown. Whitehead again kicked the extra point for a 38-0 lead.

The Raiders received the second-half kickoff, but a tackle for loss by the Tigers forced Santa Fe into a second-and-14 play from their own 1-yard line. Santa Fe eventually punted from

the end zone, with McClellan returning the ball to the Raiders' 29-yard line.

A blindside hit on the Tigers resulted in a penalty and a first-and-21 play. C.J. Ivey got 9 of those yards back on a run. Thomas then got the handoff, but fumbled, with the Raiders recovering at their own 48-yard line.

Santa Fe completed a pass for a first down, but a holding penalty then backed the Raiders up into a second-and-20 play. Santa Fe eventually punted.

Colt Thomas entered the game at quarterback to start the fourth quarter. The Tigers' offense lined up as if to go for it on a fourth-and-4 play, but the Raiders ended up getting a penalty for encroachment, resulting in a first down. A fumble by Bo Thomas was recovered by the Tigers.

After a Colt Thomas handoff to Eli Llanes, the Tigers had third-and-8. Llanes, who had five carries for 68 yards, broke free for a run to the Raiders' 5-yard line.

Two plays resulted in lost yardage, with the Tigers eventually facing fourth-and-goal from from the 17-yard line. The Tigers went for it, with Colt Thomas completing a pass to Llanes for a touchdown with three minutes left in the game.

Newsom led the Tigers' defense in tackles with eight. Tyson and Garrett Jackson each had five.

The Tigers now prepare for a Baldwin team that's coming off a 42-0 win over winless KIPP Bold City. The Indians opened the season with a 45-14 win over Class 4A Englewood, but then lost 33-26 to Class 2A Palatka.



**Andrew Thomas, who's in his fifth year as head coach, has the Tigers off to a 3-0 start. File photo by CeCe Thomas.**

## Northside Christian Eagles improve to 4-1 in volleyball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Despite the fact that most of its players are freshmen and sophomores, Northside Christian Academy's volleyball team is off to a strong start this season, improving to 4-1 with a 3-1 (25-20, 25-7, 13-25, 25-14) win over visiting First Assembly Christian on Sept. 5.

The Eagles, who are coming off a season in which they won the South Eastern Christian Conference West Division championship, led 7-4 in the first set before scoring five straight points with Jordan Padelford serving. Padelford had three aces during that span.

It was 14-8 in favor of Northside when First Assembly put together a run to make it a one-point game before the Eagles' Briley Parrish recorded a kill for side-out.

Parrish later had another kill for a side-out, resulting in a 21-19 Northside lead with Alexi Welsh serving. The Eagles added a point to their total when Brooklyn Cooper had a kill off a Leona Harden assist. First Assembly forced side-out with a kill, but then allowed a free ball to hit the floor, giving the serve back to Northside.

A passing error by First Assembly gave Northside a 24-20 lead. Jodey Garrison then made plays off two consecutive kill attempts by First Assembly, keeping play alive until Cooper ended the set with a kill off a Harden assist.

The second set was a dominating Northside win. The Eagles led 5-3 before scoring four straight points with Emma Crews serving. Cooper had a block and a kill off a Crews assist during the span, which also included a back-row kill by Parrish.

It was an 11-4 when Northside went on an 8-0 run that included five aces by Padelford.

Welsh scored the winning point on a tip.

Coach Todd von Weyhe went deep into his bench to give players some experience during the third set. Northside trailed almost throughout and found itself in a big hole after First Assembly had two 5-0 runs to go up 21-8.

The fourth set was a close affair until the Eagles began slowly pulling away. A Maddy Burke kill off a Crews assist put Northside up 14-10. Cooper had two kills that helped the Eagles stay ahead and build a five-point lead.

It was 18-13 when Northside scored six straight points with Padelford serving. Two of those points were off aces, while another came off a Cooper kill.

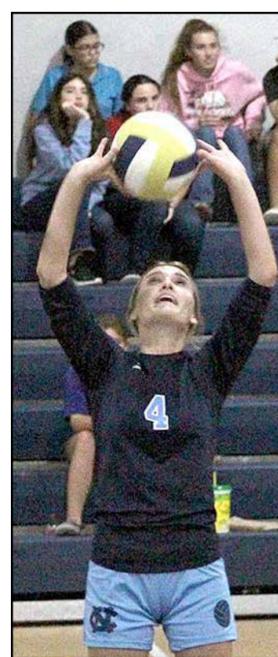
First Assembly did force side-out with the Eagles one point away from the win, but Cooper put an end to the match with a kill off a Crews assist.

The Eagles played First Christian and Gainesville Christian Community this past Tuesday and will travel to Live Oak to play Westwood Christian at 5:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, Northside travels to Jasper to play Corinth Christian at 5:30 p.m.



**Jodey Garrison drops to the court to receive a serve. Baliegh Bradley (background) is also pictured.**



**Emma Crews prepares to set for one of her teammates.**



**Brooklyn Cooper recorded the winning kills in the first and fourth sets.**



**Alexi Welsh (center) prepares to take a swing as teammate Leona Harden (far right) looks on. Welsh had a tip for the winning point in the second set.**

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The Bradford 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.....  | \$ 12,911,021 |
| B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes..... | \$ (194,092)  |
| C. Actual property tax levy.....   | \$ 13,105,113 |

**This year's proposed tax levy.....** \$ 14,045,335

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

**September 17, 2024  
5:30 P.M.  
at the  
Bradford County Courthouse  
North Wing, Commission Meeting Chambers  
945 North Temple Avenue  
Starke, Florida 32091**

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

# Tigers sweep Indians, win 3rd straight

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School's volleyball team seems to have shaken off its slow start, having now won its third match in a row with a 3-0 (25-20, 26-24, 25-19) defeat of Class 3A Keystone Heights on Sept. 9 in Lake Butler.

The Rural-classification Tigers (4-4) got three kills early in the first set from Indi Knox in building a 10-5 lead. They then scored five straight points with Kamryn Southerland serving, getting two aces from Southerland and two kills from Layla Barber.

A couple of aces from Kadence Massey and a kill by Mya Jennings helped the Indians (2-6) prevent their deficit from getting larger than seven points. Keystone the scored three points with Kennedie Carlton serving to make it a 21-18 game. The brief run included a Massey kill off a Kaleigh Marquart assist and a block by Mia Rivera.

Union got kills from Knox and De'ashia Gainer to take a 24-20 lead before scoring the set-winning point on a Keystone error.

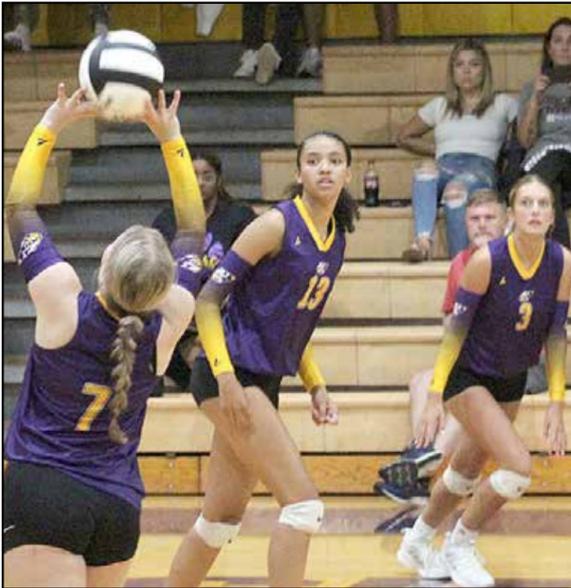
Neither team had more than a two-point lead in the second set. It was 23-21 in favor of Keystone, with the Indians having gotten three kills from Rivera to that point, while Union had four kills from Barber. The Indians held serve two points away from winning the set, but a Knox kill off a Southerland assist forced side-out.

Another Knox kill with the Tigers' Bella Johns serving tied it at 23-23. A Massey kill forced side-out for Keystone.

The Indians now needed one point for the win, but didn't get it, with Simmons recording a kill for Union. That tied the score at 24-24 and gave the serve to the Tigers' Knox. An error put Union up 25-24 before a



Union's Jailyn Simmons (far left) prepares to hit over the block attempt of Keystone's Emma Stanley and Mya Jennings.



The Tigers' Layla Barber (far right) and Jailyn Simmons (center) prepare for an attack opportunity off an Abigail Williams set.

Simmons kill off a Southerland assist resulted in the 26-24 win. Keystone got an early service

and one by Barber helped the Tigers rally and take a 10-7 lead.

The Tigers began slowly pulling away despite the Indians getting two kills each from Rivera and Riley Shuford. It was 19-14 in favor of Union when Keystone got an ace from Jennings. A block by Union's Morgan Smith helped force an eventual side-out, giving the Tigers a 20-15 lead.

Neither team could put much of a run together, with the Tigers getting a block and a kill from Smith and the Indians getting kills from Rivera and Shuford.

Union was serving with a 23-17 lead when Keystone's Emma Stanley had a kill. Marquart then recorded an ace to pull the Indians to within 23-19, but Keystone's sixth service error of the set resulted in side-out.

With a 24-19 lead and Knox serving, the Tigers closed out the sweep with a Barber kill off an Abigail Williams assist.

Williams finished with 17 assists, while Southerland had 10.

Barber and Simmons led Union in kills with 10 each, while Knox added eight. Simmons also had four blocks, while Smith led the team with five.

Bella Johns had 15 digs for the Tigers, who also got 11 from Knox, seven from Bayley Staier and six from Southerland.

The Tigers travel to play undefeated Class 4A Baker County on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 5:30 p.m.

Union and Keystone, who played Bradford this past Tuesday, both play in the Wawa Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association River City Classic on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13-14. Visit sportwrench.com for more tournament information.

See VOLLEY, page 19



Ron Hartman shows his travel bag which was previously owned by announcer Bob Kinsey.

# KHHS announcer Hartman carries on Kinsey's legacy

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

For over 15 years, Bob Kinsey called football games for Keystone Heights High School. After "the voice of the Indians left," the school named the press box in his honor and assigned Ron Hartman to fill Kinsey's shoes.

Hartman said he sees himself as carrying on the legacy that Kinsey began.

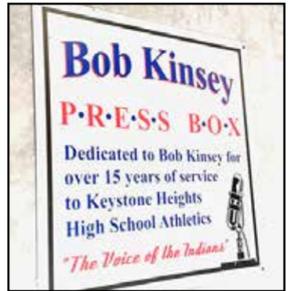
Two of his most treasured possessions are his predecessor's microphone and travel bag, which Kinsey's widow gave to him.

Hartman teaches chemistry, physics, and other sciences at the high school. He also coached golf for over a decade and operated the scoreboard for basketball games, working with Kinsey courtside.

The scoreboard job eventually led to his gig in the football press box.

"I was the scoreboard operator for basketball with Bob," Hartman recalled. "And then I would also help him spot when other people were not able to make games."

The science instructor added



Keystone Heights High School named the football field press box in honor of Bob Kinsey, who served as the Voice of the Indians for over 15 years.

that when Kinsey missed a season calling baseball games due to illness, Hartman stood in for him.

"When he got sick, he asked me to take over for him, which was very special," Hartman said. "After he died, his wife asked to meet with me, and she said that she wanted me to have his bag that he announced with as well as the microphone."

Hartman said the joy of the

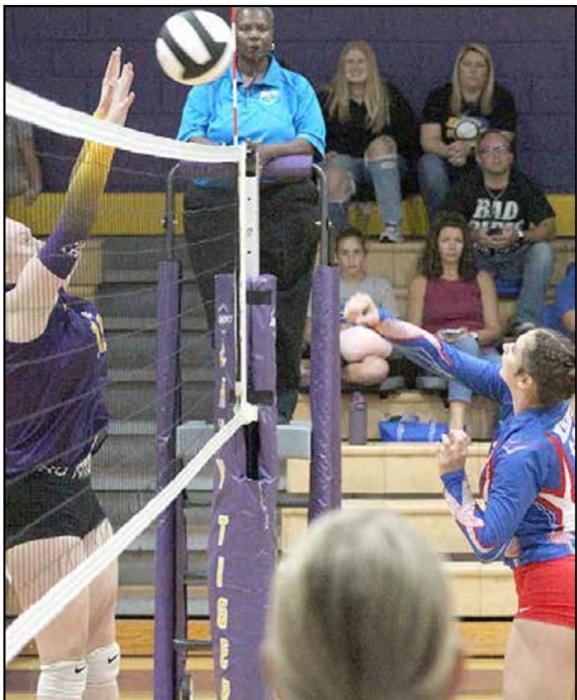
See LEGACY, page 19



Union's Layla Barber goes up for an attack.



Kaleigh Marquart sets the ball for Keystone.



Union's Morgan Smith (left) goes up to block an attack by Keystone's Kadence Massey.

## Budget Summary City of Lake Butler Fiscal Year 2024-2025

| Revenue                   | FUNDS   |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  | Total              |
|---------------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
|                           | General | Water              | Wastewater       | Downtown Redev   | Solid Waste     | Street Improv    |                    |
| Millage per \$1000        |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Ad Valorem Taxes          | 3.25    | \$154,620          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$154,620          |
| Sales and Use Taxes       |         | \$236,857          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$236,857          |
| Franchise Fees            |         | \$167,179          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$167,179          |
| Utility Service Taxes     |         | \$157,762          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$157,762          |
| <b>Total Sources</b>      |         | <b>\$716,418</b>   |                  |                  |                 |                  | <b>\$716,418</b>   |
| Licenses and Permits      |         | \$8,000            |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$8,000            |
| Intergovernmental         |         | \$235,915          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$235,915          |
| Charge for Services       |         | \$106,018          | \$376,423        | \$980,197        | \$26,154        | \$270,450        | \$1,759,242        |
| Other                     |         | \$7,550            | \$200            |                  | \$5,000         | \$120            | \$12,875           |
| Rents                     |         | \$38,500           |                  | \$2,230          |                 |                  | \$40,730           |
| Other Financing Sources   |         | \$15,940           |                  |                  |                 | \$16,932         | \$32,872           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>      |         | <b>\$1,128,341</b> | <b>\$376,623</b> | <b>\$987,427</b> | <b>\$26,159</b> | <b>\$270,450</b> | <b>\$2,806,052</b> |
| <b>Expenditures</b>       |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| City Commission           |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Salaries and Fringes      |         | \$90,569           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$90,569           |
| Operating Expenditures    |         | \$10,551           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$10,551           |
| <b>Total</b>              |         | <b>\$101,120</b>   |                  |                  |                 |                  | <b>\$101,120</b>   |
| City Manager              |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Salaries and Fringes      |         | \$143,101          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$143,101          |
| Operating Expenditures    |         | \$14,998           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$14,998           |
| <b>Total</b>              |         | <b>\$158,099</b>   |                  |                  |                 |                  | <b>\$158,099</b>   |
| Finance                   |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Salaries and Fringes      |         | \$59,798           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$59,798           |
| Operating Expenditures    |         | \$129,007          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$129,007          |
| <b>Total</b>              |         | <b>\$188,805</b>   |                  |                  |                 |                  | <b>\$188,805</b>   |
| Legal Contractual         |         | \$60,000           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$60,000           |
| Planning and Zoning       |         | \$7,000            |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$7,000            |
| Elections                 |         | \$0                |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$0                |
| Code Enforcement          |         | \$18,494           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$18,494           |
| Law Enforcement-Cont.     |         | \$75,000           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$75,000           |
| Fire-Contractual          |         | \$0                |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$0                |
| Crossing Guards           |         | \$28,344           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$28,344           |
| Cemetery-Supplies         |         | \$1,000            |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$1,000            |
| Public Works              |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Salaries and Fringes      |         | \$145,359          | \$158,949        | \$320,651        |                 | \$49,515         | \$674,474          |
| Operating Expenditures    |         | \$149,580          | \$215,674        | \$631,006        | \$26,159        | \$204,003        | \$1,243,474        |
| <b>Total</b>              |         | <b>\$294,939</b>   | <b>\$374,623</b> | <b>\$951,657</b> | <b>\$26,159</b> | <b>\$253,518</b> | <b>\$1,917,948</b> |
| Animal Control            |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Salaries and Fringes      |         | \$2,573            |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$2,573            |
| Operating Expenditures    |         | \$6,428            |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$6,428            |
| <b>Total</b>              |         | <b>\$9,001</b>     |                  |                  |                 |                  | <b>\$9,001</b>     |
| Parks and Recreation      |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Salaries and Fringes      |         | \$64,790           |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$64,790           |
| Operating Expenditures    |         | \$121,749          |                  |                  |                 |                  | \$121,749          |
| <b>Total</b>              |         | <b>\$186,539</b>   |                  |                  |                 |                  | <b>\$186,539</b>   |
| Reserve:                  |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| Transfer Out              |         |                    |                  |                  |                 | \$16,932         | \$16,932           |
| Capital                   |         |                    | \$2,000          | \$35,770         |                 |                  | \$37,770           |
| Earnings                  |         |                    |                  |                  |                 |                  |                    |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b> |         | <b>\$1,128,341</b> | <b>\$376,623</b> | <b>\$987,427</b> | <b>\$26,159</b> | <b>\$270,450</b> | <b>\$2,806,052</b> |
| Net                       |         | \$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.

# VOLLEY

Continued from page 18

Following tournament action, the Tigers host Branford on Monday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m., with the JV teams playing at 5:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, Keystone hosts Union, with the JV teams playing at 6 p.m. and the varsity teams playing at 7 p.m.

## Previous Union, Keystone results

Union entered the Sept. 9 Keystone match off a 3-0 (25-16, 25-20, 25-14) win over visiting Williston on Sept. 3 that included 22 assists from Williams and 15 kills from Simmons.

Simmons also added four aces and two blocks to her totals, while Staier recorded a team-high 10 digs to go along with three aces.

Knox had eight digs and five kills, while Barber and Johns each had eight digs. Barber also had five kills.

Smith finished with seven kills.

The Indians dropped their first four matches before finally getting a win, defeating Crescent City 2-0 (26-24, 25-20) in an Aug. 31 tournament at Clay High School.

Massey and Rivera each had a team-high eight digs, with Rivera adding 13 kills.

Marquart recorded 20 assists, while Stanley had two blocks.

Keystone made it two in a row with a 3-2 (27-25, 22-25, 23-25, 25-21, 15-7) win at Newberry on Sept. 3.

Rivera had 18 kills, while Jennings had five kills and five service aces.

Marquart and Massey had five aces each as well. Marquart also recorded 32 assists, while Massey and Kaylee Paschall shared the team high in digs with eight each.



Union's Bella Johns receives a serve as Indi Knox looks on.



The Tigers' Indi Knox prepares to send the ball over the net.



Keystone's Mia Rivera (left) receives a serve as Kennedie Carlton looks on.

Kyleigh Kitchen added five digs.

Prior to the Union match, the Indians lost 3-0 (25-20, 25-19, 25-23) to visiting Baker County on Sept. 5.

Marquart had 25 assists, while Stanley and Mackenzie Castelvocchi each had seven kills.

Rivera recorded eight digs.

# LEGACY

Continued from page 18

job is watching the athletes and interacting with the students.

"They love to hear their names called out," he said of the athletes. During the school day, they will walk up to me and say, 'You called my name last night. You called my name last night.'"

Hartman also said he enjoys working with his scoreboard operator, Sherman Carnes.

"We have a pretty good time up here," Hartman admitted.

Carnes teaches honors chemistry on the Orchid Avenue campus, in addition to standard and honors Algebra II.



Math and science teacher Sherman Carnes said he is active in extracurricular activities because it's his way of honoring the students.

He calls volleyball games in the gym and flag football games from the press box. He also coaches the school's robotics team and emcees the Miss Keystone Heights High School Scholarship Pageant.

"This year, I'll probably also be announcing girls' basketball," he said.

Carnes said he is active in extracurriculars because it's his way of honoring the students.

"At Keystone Heights, the culture is such that our highest-performing students are also some of our best athletes," he said. "It's a way to give them our support in everything that they do."

Carnes is now in his fifth year at KHHS.

# BHS

Continued from page 16

39 as time was running out in the half. After receiving a high snap and getting pressured by the Tornadoes' Trevis Johnson, Walker had a pass into the end zone broken up by Haywood. The Raiders had time left for one play and decided to send Dylan Leonor onto the field to attempt a 56-yard field goal. Johnson blocked the kick, with Haywood eventually scooping up the ball and taking it in for a touchdown. Cubbedge added the PAT as Bradford went into halftime leading 14-0.

Rodgers gave kudos to Special Teams Coach John Staples and praised the job he and all the coaches on the staff do in preparing the Tornadoes in all phases of the game.

"Our coaches are unbelievable," Rodgers said.

The Bradford defense made a big play at the start of the second half. On South Sumter's second play from scrimmage, Turner caught a pass and was tripped up by Branden Williams. Turner fumbled the ball, which was recovered by Johnson at the Bradford 32.

South Sumter was able to force the Tornadoes to punt and get the ball back. Bubba Boone's 36-yard reception moved the Raiders from their own 31 to the Bradford 33. After Malakhi Boone later converted a fourth-and-1 play with a 2-yard run to the 22, Walker connected with Stanley Young on an 18-yard pass play to the 4-yard line. Turner scored on a run into the end zone from there, putting South Sumter on the board at the 6:34 mark of the third quarter. Leonor kicked the extra point to make the score 14-7.

Jy'Quez Cason returned the ensuing kickoff 24 yards to set the Bradford offense up at its own 26. Iyen Addison promptly ripped off a 25-yard run. He got the ball again on the next play, somehow coming out of a pile of defenders and sprinting his way to a 49-yard touchdown with 5:46 remaining in the third quarter, putting the Tornadoes up 20-7. The PAT was no good.

Iyen Addison finished with 100 yards on 12 carries.

An unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty following the touchdown and a 16-yard kickoff return had the Raiders starting a drive at the Bradford 40. A 35-yard catch-and-run by Turner helped set



Trevis Johnson (left) chases South Sumter quarterback Blaine Walker and would eventually get the sack.



Offensive lineman Cayden Carter (right) grapples with South Sumter's Jay Stawder.

up first-and-goal at the 8-yard line. Travion Overton had a 3-yard run to the 5 before an incomplete pass in the back of the end zone on second down. Landen Sherman, who was in at quarterback, was held to no gain on a third-down run. The Raiders went for it on fourth down, with Haywood breaking up a pass at the 1-yard line.

The teams traded punts until Bradford put together a 66-yard scoring drive in the fourth quarter. Haywood, who caught four passes for 81 yards, helped the Tornadoes overcome a holding penalty with a 56-yard reception at the South Sumter 10-yard line on a third-and-long play. Iyen Addison had three straight carries before McKenzie

plunged into the end zone from 2 yards out with 3:34 left in the game. McKenzie's run on the two-point conversion added the final points to the 28-7 win.

Bradford's ground game produced 212 yards on 41 carries.

The Tornadoes finished with 325 total yards, with Paulk completing 8 of 13 passes for 113 yards.

South Sumter gained 234 total yards.

Bradford is allowing an average of nine points per game, but will now host a Mandarin team that is averaging 48 points per game. The Mustangs, who are coming off a 41-0 win over Sandalwood, have won their three games by a combined score of 145-13.

# 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 ..... \$ 154,955
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes ..... \$ 358
- C. Actual property tax levy ..... \$ 154,597

**This year's proposed tax levy ..... \$ 162,758**

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

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**  
**5:30PM**  
at  
**200 SW 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054**

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

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# ZOO

Continued from page 11

we've learned and discovered and sending it to zoos all over the country so they can start to practice this with their animals."

Woodling said the zoo's otters, for example, can tell zookeepers what type of fish they want to eat. Other animals, such as parrots and tortoises are using the buttons as well.

## Healthcare

A baby red-footed tortoise was

introduced next. The species is native to the northeastern part of South America.

"This little one is a really good example of why it's important that our students learn about health care," Wolf said. "Baby animals have a lot more complex needs than their adult counterparts."

"Also, tortoises have really complex health needs in the first place. We're very fortunate to have the University of Florida Small Animal Hospital in Gainesville because they are really wonderful turtle and tortoise specialists."

Wolf said UF veterinarians and students visit the Santa Fe Zoo every other week to examine the animals, with the Santa Fe students also getting to be a part of that.

"You'll see (UF) students listening with their stethoscopes and looking, while our students are holding (the animals)," Woodling said.

Wolf said, "Several of our students end up going into zoo healthcare. A lot of the zoo medicine technicians at the University of Florida are our graduates."

Maintaining animals' health

can be difficult and dangerous, Woodling said. She cited white-handed gibbons as an example, saying that if a gibbon needed an antibiotic, it's not simply a matter of filling a plastic syringe and inserting it into the animal's mouth.

"That's just not going to happen," Woodling said. "They're very strong. They bench press their body weight all day long. If they don't want to do something, they're not going to do it."

That's where training comes into play. Woodling said gibbons are taught to drink juice from syringes, which makes them willing to allow a syringe to be placed in their mouths.

"It's not something super novel," Woodling said of the concept, "and they actually associate something very positive with that experience."

Healthcare efforts and the fact the animals are in captivity can lead to long life spans. Woodling said the zoo has had parrots that lived for more than 50 years. It had an ocelot that lived to 26. In the wild, they live to be 10-15.

"We had to euthanize," Woodling said of the ocelot. "She didn't just die. We just had to make that choice one day."



Jade Woodling, the conservation education curator at the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, shows off a European glass lizard during a program at the Kiwanis Club of Starke's Aug. 27 meeting. Kiwanis member Bear Bryan is pictured in the background.



Kiwanis Club member Jade Woodling (far right) of the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo gives Kiwanis members Brad Smith (far left) and Kenny Clark the chance to touch a European glass lizard. Pictured in the background (l-r) are club guest Marty Shaw and club member Patricia Evans and her husband, Joey.

## Not a snake

Kiwanis Club members got to see one of the oldest animals at the zoo — a European glass lizard, which resembles a snake.

"She has earholes, which snakes don't have," Woodling said. "She also has eyelids, and she might blink at you. A snake does not have eyelids. They don't blink."

Woodling said European glass lizards, unlike snakes, have stiff, bony like scales, which are called osteoderms. European glass lizards' bodies, therefore, are less flexible than those of snakes.

A glass lizard can detach its tail, which Woodling said makes up approximately half of its body, in order to escape a predator. Woodling said that was basically a last resort, with Wolf adding, "In the wild, they would probably just retreat and burrow away."

Each Kiwanis Club member was allowed the chance to touch the glass lizard. Woodling said the animal had been meeting people for most of its life.

"She's not fearful of people," Woodling said.

## A friend to animals and the community

Woodling said those at the Santa Fe Zoo want to do their part to improve the health of the planet and the animals living on it.

"We do a lot of work with communities around the world and our local community to help protect areas and even to help support the communities that are making differences for animals in their areas."

Santa Fe has one of the handful of zoos that is breeding Guam rails — birds that became extinct in their native home of Guam.

"These guys were extinct in the wild as late as 2017," Woodling said. "They were no longer found in Guam because after World War II cargo ships brought an invasive snake onto the island."

Guam rails raised at the Santa Fe Zoo and other zoos have been released into Guam's neighboring islands.

"Now, they've been uplisted to critically endangered, which is only the second bird in history (to be uplisted)," Woodling said. "The first one was the California condor. Both of those were zoo breeding programs."

Woodling said the zoo has animals that have been rehabilitated from injury, but unable to be released back into the wild.

The zoo hosts several events throughout the year. It recently held Brew at the Zoo, which features craft beer, food, live music and, of course, animal encounters.

Boo at the Zoo, a trick-or-treat event for children, takes place on Halloween from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Admission is one canned or non-perishable food item per person, with items then donated to local food banks.

"It's a very family friendly event," Woodling said, adding that it's not scary. "Our zookeepers decorate the whole zoo in different themed areas."

If you've ever wondered what it's like to work at a zoo, Santa Fe has a Zookeeper for a Day program, which offers the chance to work alongside a zookeeper for a morning. The program is available for animal enthusiasts ages 9 and up.

The zoo also offers animal encounters and hosts birthday parties, school groups and private tours.

For more information on the zoo and its events, please visit [sfcollge.edu/zoo](http://sfcollge.edu/zoo).

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## Testimonial:

### 1. Can you tell me why you love your job?

*There are many reasons I love my job. It's allowed me to expand my view on the communications world. Through my job I've been able to have new experiences, meet new people, and have had the opportunity to expand my skill set beyond what I believed was possible.*

### 2. Can you tell me what benefits from the Florida Air National Guard have helped you the most?

*I would say that the education benefits have been the most helpful. Prior to enlisting I was having trouble finding somewhere I could study and get Certifications without spending vast amount of money. Since enlisting I've been able to take several classes and I am preparing to take multiple certifications and commence my first year on college.*

### 3. Can you talk about some of the new skills you have learned in the Florida Air National Guard that have helped you in the civilian work force?

*Thanks to the experiences that the Florida Air National Guard has granted me I've been able to learn a variety of new and useful skills. I was able to learn the networking and cyber security. These are skills I use daily especially in my pursuit of a carrier in the IT field. Another very important skill that we learn no matter what job you have is communication. This has been by far the most advantageous skill I've learned. Its helped me through all aspects of the work force.*

Respectfully,  
XXXXXXXXXX,XXXXX  
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