

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

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146th year, 10th Issue — \$1

## Two students arrested for Lake Butler school threat

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Union County Sheriff's Office said it arrested one middle school student and one elementary school student after Lake Butler Elementary received a threat through voicemail on Friday, Sept. 13.

The agency said both minors were taken into custody before classes started. "The students do) not pose a threat to the school district," the office said. "They are both charged with a felony crime."

Following the incident, Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger said the acts are serious, "and we no longer live in a day and time in which we can excuse threats as 'kids are just going to be kids.'"

The schools chief said staff members are emphasizing to students the seriousness of making threats, and he asked parents to preach the same message to their children.

## Bradford warns of spreading false threats

Bradford County School District posted the following request on social media following the online circulation of false threats:

"Dear Parents and Guardians, We want to take a moment to address an important issue that has surfaced in recent days regarding false threats against schools that are being circulated on social media. Recently, a threat mentioning BHS along with a second post mentioning a 3-day plan has spread across the state and country. Law enforcement, including the FBI, has confirmed that the specific threat is not credible. We want to emphasize the importance of how these situations are handled. The safety of our students and staff

is always our top priority. We take every potential threat seriously and work closely with law enforcement to quickly assess the credibility of any information we receive. However, the sharing of unverified social media posts, even when intended to alert others, can cause widespread disruption and unnecessary fear within our school community.

We encourage all students and families to follow the simple yet vital principle: if you see something, say something. Reporting potential threats to school administrators or law enforcement is the proper and safest course of action. Sharing these posts on social media only inflames the situation and can lead to serious consequences. Spreading false or unsubstantiated information is disruptive to the learning environment and creates stress for students, staff, and families alike. Our district has a zero tolerance

policy when it comes to false threats and the sharing of such threats. This includes taking screenshots of random threats found on social media sites and posting them to your personal page. Students who are found to be involved in, making or circulating these posts will face serious disciplinary actions. This is not only to maintain order and calm within our schools, but underscores the importance of responsible behavior both online and in our community.

Please take a moment to speak to your child about the importance of reporting any concerns to an adult rather than sharing on social media. Together, we can help ensure that our schools remain safe, focused environments where students can learn and thrive without unnecessary fear or disruption.

Thank you for your continued support and keeping our schools safe."

## Too much money?

Councilman complains about Keystone's \$3.15 million cash balance

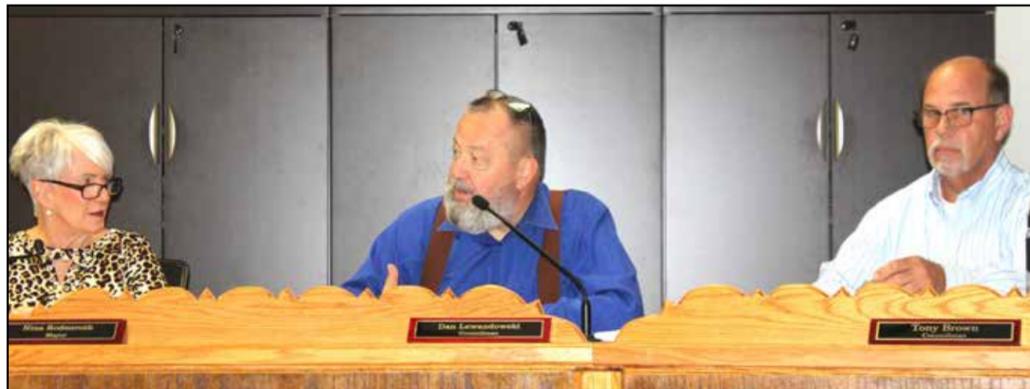
BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights Councilman Dan Lewandowski convinced his colleagues to approve the municipality's rolled-back millage rate after pointing out that the city has \$3.15 million in cash.

The city council held its first budget hearing on Sept. 3. It advertised a tentative millage of 4.2901, a 10.43% increase over the rolled-back rate of 3.9512.

The rolled-back rate is a calculation that brings the same tax dollars next year as for this year, excluding new construction, additions, deletions, annexations, and improvements to taxable properties. The Florida Department of Revenue defines any rate above the rolled-back rate as a tax increase.

City Manager Charlie Van Zant told the council that the proposed rate of 4.2901 would bring in an additional



Keystone Heights Councilman Dan Lewandowski (center) during the city's final millage and budget hearing on Sept. 16. Also pictured are Mayor Nina Rodenroth and Councilman Tony Brown.

\$39,525 in revenue to the city over the rolled-back rate and that there are 685 taxable parcels within the city.

"If you divide 685 into that everybody's property bill is different — the average (increase over the rolled-back rate) on those 685 parcels is \$57 and change," he said.

Mayor Nina Rodenroth, Vice Mayor Christine Thompson and City Attorney Rich Komando said the city has been assessing the 4.2901 rate for up to a decade.

Komando added that while the proposed rate is an increase over the rolled-back rate, the prices of goods and services the municipality buys

have also risen.

"For example, like we just did the demolition of the old China Chef," he said. "The demolition on that a couple of years ago would have been \$10,000. Now we're looking at \$30,000. So, your cost of goods and services goes up too."

The city attorney added that some of the city's cash is encumbered because it belongs to the Community Redevelopment Agency, is part of an enterprise fund or is committed to a specific project.

Lewandowski argued that the city's proposed budget with the rolled-back rate forecasts a surplus of \$140,000.

"So, if we go with the rolled-back, we still are in really good shape," he said. "I just don't see why we're asking for more money when we don't need it. There is no projection for this need, none. There's no project we have, no strategic plan, there is no reason to ask for this extra \$40,000. We've got all pay raises covered. We've got all the projects we have planned covered, and we have plenty of money in the bank. To me, it sounds like we're greedy."

Councilman Tony Brown said he favored the proposed 4.2901 rate.

See CASH, page 3

## Warning: Union school district facing budget crunch

Families may have to pay for extras

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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The Union County School District's finance director warned school board members that the district's budget is getting tighter and that a change in mindset is essential for the school system to maintain board-mandated fund balance levels. Superintendent Mike Ripplinger said the district may no longer be able to fully bear the costs of some extracurricular activities and may ask families or organizations to pick up part of the tab.

Renaë Prevatt told the school board during a September 10 workshop that the district's final adjusted fund balance will be four percent of revenues, below the five percent target set by the board. She added that further reserve erosion is likely unless district officials cut spending.

Prevatt blamed the potential budget crisis on teacher salaries that have risen faster than state appropriations to school districts. The finance director said that before both instructional and non-instructional pay schedules rose, the district realized significant savings when it replaced a retiring teacher with a younger, less expensive instructor. That is no longer the case.

Prevatt added that over the last two

or three years, extra federal dollars spurred by the COVID-19 Pandemic masked the growth of expenses without the corresponding revenue increase.

### Cutting back on books

The finance director said she and her staff have been scrutinizing expenditures more diligently and that she is trying to instill a miserly attitude in administrators and district personnel.

"We have, for lack of a better term, really been micromanaging, really looking at each line item a lot closer this year," she said. "Mr Ripplinger or myself have sat down with each of

the principals, even from purchasing curriculum down to hey, do we need 180 books, or can we get away with 170 or 175? That sort of thing. And I can definitely say that our school-level administrators and even the special programs administrators are all very mindful of, just because they have a line item in the budget, that is not their goal to spend (that amount)."

Ripplinger said the school district is not alone in struggling to maintain adequate reserves. He told board members that other local governments and school districts across the state face the same challenges the Union County district is encountering.

See CRUNCH, page 4



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## WORTH NOTING

### Celebrate Garden Club's birthday

This month, Alligator Creek Garden Club celebrates its 15th birthday. Please come help celebrate on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 2 p.m. at the Bradford County Senior Center, located at 1805 N. Temple Ave. Bring a small plant to share, if you have one, and prepare to take a new plant home with you. Also, bring a friend, with or without a plant. For more information, call Pat Caren at 352-339-3673.

### Open auditions

Auditions are being held Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Woman's Club of Starke for upcoming plays. Please call 904-263-2622 if you have any questions, or just be at the Woman's Club at 6:30 Thursday night.

### Men's program and choir anniversary

Greater Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church will be having a Pre-Men's Program on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. The choir anniversary will be held Sunday, Sept. 22, at 3 p.m.

### Dems meet Sept. 23

The Bradford County Democratic Party will meet on Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. All registered Democrats are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at Capital City Bank conference room, located on U.S. 301 North in Starke. For further information, please contact bradfordcodec@gmail.com.

### UC Historical Society

The Union County Historical Society will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the Historical Museum, located at 410 W. Main St. in Lake Butler.

Bryan McElroy will present a program on artifacts that he has discovered. It will be an interesting time to view the artifacts and listen to his information about how he has found them throughout his life. Please plan on attending. Light refreshments will be served.

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# Those struggling with substance abuse will have a new bridge to services

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County commissioners have engaged additional substance abuse assistance services to serve patients locally.

Ashley Tozier, senior vice president of medical services at Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, appeared before the board recently with Sara Mihlfeld, vice president of medication assisted treatment services.

The county had just \$87,000 in additional money provided through the state to fight opioid abuse in Bradford County. The commission previously assigned

the bulk of the available funding for Bradford County Fire Rescue to build a Community Paramedicine Program that could help get patients into treatment.

Meridian's pitch was to make that treatment available locally with unspent funds.

According to Tozier, although Meridian has had a local office for mental health counseling since the 1970s, that hasn't included a substance abuse treatment program.

"We've been working with the fire rescue, Commissioner Spooner and some others to try to kind of come up with a plan to get this going," she said.

The funding would pay for a locally based counselor to perform intake assessments for potential patients. That would include evaluating the need for medication assisted treatment and providing in-person individual and group therapy.

Through telehealth at the local office, patients would be evaluated by an existing addictions medicine physician working with Meridian for access to medications like Vivitrol or buprenorphine, which can help opioid addiction avoid relapses.

Meridian would also dedicate its own funding to provide a local peer support specialist. This would be an individual with lived mental health or substance abuse recovery experience who could provide personal support, resources and referrals.

For example, Tozier said the peer support specialist would be active in a Jail Bridge Program, meeting with inmates who struggle with addiction and educating them about the various services available to them. Individuals who opt in could walk away from their confinement with a counseling appointment — a bridge to

services.

"We're currently implementing this in other areas, working with Gilchrist and Putnam. It is something that's rather new and seems to be so far very beneficial for those struggling with these substance use difficulties," she said, adding that Sheriff Gordon Smith has already committed to participation.

Similarly, they could offer a Hospital Bridge Program, partnering with HCA's emergency room here in Starke. When an individual with a substance abuse issue is admitted, the peer specialist would respond with the same information about assistance. This would complement fire rescue's work with these individuals through the paramedicine program.

"The peer support specialist would go into the hospital to meet with the individual and educate them on substance use services, and then bridge them to the appropriate level of care," Tozier said. That could be admission into a detox facility or introduction to medication assisted treatment. They could go to a bridge house for a temporary residential stay or be

connected to outpatient services — whatever is appropriate for the individual.

Tozier said they also have a memorandum of agreement with the Community Paramedicine Program, which will refer patients they encounter to Meridian's locally available services. Meridian doesn't have a home-based program, but that is often where paramedics encounter individuals in need of help.

"So ultimately, it's meeting individuals where they are at to encourage engagement and treatment, and again, that bridge to services," she said.

Meridian's sources of funding for these services are available, but limited, Tozier explained. It receives SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) funding through LSF Health Systems as a service provider. Is also bills Medicaid and other insurance providers. These, along with funding available for the uninsured, will be used to provide the peer specialist and addictions medicine physician.

But the \$87,000 request of the remaining funds provided to the county for substance abuse would primarily provide the

office-based counselor services.

"Right now, we do not have in our budget a counselor dedicated to substance use services here, and that really is crucial to get an individual enrolled in the program and further continue those services in person," she said.

Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner said having counseling and medication assisted treatment available in Starke would be a win-win for everyone.

According to BCFR Chief Ben Carter, the available funding is money unspent at the end of the prior fiscal year. Commissioner Danny Riddick asked if Meridian would be returning to request another \$87,000 next year. According to Tozier, they are working with fire rescue and looking for grants to continue funding future services.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty said that overtime the opioid abatement money will diminish, and so Meridian's struggle will be how to keep the program going.

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## Democratic Women meet Sept. 26

The Democratic Women's Club of the Lakes Area will meet on Thursday, Sept. 26. Tony Connolly, the Democratic candidate for Florida House District 20, will speak at 7 p.m. District 20 covers southern

Clay as well as all of Putnam counties. All Democrats are welcome, and doors open at 6:30. Meetings are held at the Melrose Center, 309 State Road 26 in Melrose. For further information, please call 352-235-4161.

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# Bradford commissioners in the weeds over mowing

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Whether it was disapproval or a desperate plea for assistance, the ability for Bradford County Public Works to keep up with the summer demands for roadwork have been a hot topic during recent discussions.

The struggle spanned three meetings, with Commissioner Kenny Thompson attempting to declare an end to perceived attacks upon the department during the commission's Sept. 11 budget workshop.

Disagreement actually began during the Sept. 3 county commission meeting with the usual praise awarded for the road department's efforts. County Manager Scott Kornegay said the department had been "really been put to the test" following the rainfall during the recent tropical storm. Kornegay said the department performed outstanding work.

"I just want to thank Jason Dodds and his team for going above and beyond and doing the amazing work that they did," he said.

Kornegay talked about Dodds' contributions to the county as director of public works, saying his level of certification in construction, engineering and inspection services has saved the county more than \$3.1 million that otherwise would have been paid to a private firm.

"Just by having Jason on the payroll, he's saved Bradford County over \$3.1 million in the last couple of years," he said. "I think it's important for the board to recognize, I think it's important for the public to know, what a valuable asset Jason is."

The comments were echoed by Commissioner Danny Riddick, who said, "I've been thinking about this quite a bit over the past couple of weeks, and I'll ride around and see what's going on, and it's amazing what the road department gets done. I mean, that is a well-run machine. Even if Jason's out sick or whatever, it just continues to keep going."

Beyond construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure, Riddick said employees respond to emergencies at all hours of the day and in many conditions when called upon, and Dodds is there with them operating chainsaws in the rain to clear roads or operating a mower to battle the summer growth.

But it was mowing — or the lack of it — that drew criticism from Commissioner Diane Andrews. She didn't disagree with the accolades for Dodds and his department. In fact, she said they were deserved. But she had brought photos depicting the roadside overgrowth of grass and weeds in her district, which she had been calling to get the department to address prior to the beginning of her recent reelection campaign.

"I called repeatedly asking for them to come out and mow some of the areas, and nobody came. So, I would call again and again. Days turned into weeks. Weeks turned into months. And because I was trying to get out and go door to door, I saw many of my roads," she said, referring to the roads in District 5. On her own road, the weeds were many feet taller than her, she said, and even a 12-foot campaign sign was obscured by the overgrowth.

"I would go into housing areas. I wouldn't even ask people for their support, because I was so ashamed of the condition of those roads," she said.

Andrews suggested — since it was decided her photos would not be shown during the meeting — that someone visit District 5 and see for themselves.

"I don't know why this has happened. Like I said, it was in the middle of an election. I was kind of wanting to put my best foot forward," she said. "I understand that they're very busy, but to you (Kornegay) and to Jason, I both recommended hiring new or more employees."

Currently the department is staffed at 13 to serve the entire county. That's about half the department's former size.

"If we had 23, we need to hire 23 because we can't keep up with the work that needs to be done. We can't keep up with mowing. We definitely can't keep up with cleaning out ditches and culverts," she said.

Andrews questioned whether a serious look had been taken at scheduling.

"I have always supported Jason and I continue to support him. What I would like is for you to take a deeper look at what's going on, because District 5 is part of Bradford County, too, and it deserves to be treated the same way," she said.

"I know that we're quick to explain that there's 300 miles of road, and is that long, yes, but you need to find out what we

can do to change that," Andrews continued, saying her suggestion of using inmate work squads to "quadruple" the county's road workforce — one employee supervising four inmates — has been ignored.

She said she recognizes the department struggles to keep up with the work, but the board needs to find a way to help.

Later that evening, the discussion continued following the board's budget hearing. Kornegay presented a list of all the work performed by the road department during the months of July and August, broken down by each commissioner's district. He said the breakdown showed an equal distribution of manpower.

The county manager also presented a request to purchase two new mowers and hire three additional employees.

Commissioner Chris Dougherty, referencing spending cautions from the clerk of courts' finance department, objected to adding any more money to the budget to spend six months of the year mowing.

Noting the financial difficulty, Riddick was still in favor.

"I know it's tough to spend the money, but at the same time, if we don't do this, then we need to get off Jason's back," he said. With just 13 employees, the department is responsible for trash pickup, mowing, ditch and road maintenance and more.

"They take care of all that. They do everything for the county," he said.

Not approving a new fee to fund fire protection and remaining at a property tax rate of 10 mills, Riddick said the board had two options — stop complaining or go into debt and purchase the mowers.

Andrews asked for Kornegay's opinion, and he said as a fiscal conservative, he agrees with Clerk Denny Thompson that the county "can't keep going down the road we're going when it comes to spending."

"But Commissioner Riddick is absolutely correct when he says that if we're not going to increase our spending to cover an additional level of service, then we need to be happy with where we're at, because where we are is where we are," he said.

Referring to the mowing that took place over the summer, Andrews again challenged others to see the overgrowth, saying she had no reason to lie.

"I have been a supporter of

Jason and his crew ever since I got here, and will continue, but the truth is the truth, and right now it's a mess. It's a mess, and we're not wet, and it could be mowed, but it's just not," she said, suggesting inmate work squads again or assigning a couple of employees to do nothing but mowing.

"We refuse even talk about it," she said, advocating a schedule change that would place some employees who would normally be off duty on Friday onto mowers and giving them Monday off instead.

Andrews said she couldn't stop talking about these issues. "How would somebody even ask me to do something like that? Because I have to do my job, whether anybody else does their job or not. And so, I can't. I can't make that promise, Mr. Riddick," she said.

Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner said the issue is not confined to a single district, explaining a recently mowed area can be overgrown once again before the rest of the county is complete. It is a matter of health and safety, she said, as well as growth and economic development when it comes to selling Bradford County. But she was confident they could address it by working together.

Dougherty brought it back to the cost of providing services.

"You know, nobody wants to pay our fire assessment. Well, you know, now we're talking about, people want their roads graded and mowed and ditches cut, everything else. I mean, at what point are we talking about a roadway assessment?" he asked. "Everybody wants certain things, but they certainly don't want to have to pay for it. And I don't want to have to pay for purchasing two more mowers when we're in a situation that we're just, you know, not good financially."

Unable to reach a consensus, the discussion continued again at the Sept. 10 budget workshop, this time with Commissioner Kenny Thompson present on the dais and ready to sound off.

"Every department in this county is valuable, but this department has been kicked. It has been belittled, it has been talked about, and we've got one of the best road superintendents that this county's ever had," he said, pointing out the number of hats Dodds wears. "This man has helped this county — unreal.

And far as people ridiculing him, and the board's ridiculing him, this stops tonight," he declared, thanking Dodds for what he gets done with a small crew.

"You ain't got no army, but look what y'all do when the storm comes," Thompson said, mentioning the sleepless nights. "This man worked around the clock, but then you got people on this board that ridicules him. This is wrong board. This is wrong. We ought to appreciate him for what money he is making and this county's giving him. His heart is in this county, so let's take care of him. Don't ridicule a man that's working and, hey, best thing we ever had."

Dougherty agreed.

"I just want to echo exactly what Commissioner Thompson said. And I think that there's been some instances where some employees have been contacted directly. I think that's wrong. I think that there's a chain of command. Your employees answer to you. You answer to the county manager. The county manager answers to us, and that's it. And nobody should be called for special favors," he said. "I'm sorry if you've been put in that position, and I will back you 100%."

Dougherty said whether before or after Dodds, the phones don't stop ringing, but Dodds is doing the best with what he has, and that is appreciated. One day, with growth, the county could have a larger tax base and be able to provide more resources to all its departments, he said.

Riddick recently shared with a concerned constituent that the county has 13 road department employees and two mowers. District 5 alone takes 18 days to mow. And from one starting point it takes 45 days to get around the entire county and start again.

Andrews spoke up again.

"I would just like Jason to know that I won't be calling anymore," she said. "I'll call Mr. Kornegay, and everything that we need done will run through his office. As well as Brooker received the message that you couldn't help with projects anymore, so at least you won't have to worry about that. So as far as our end (of the county), we will eliminate that pressure off of you, OK?"

Dodds, who was present to answer any budgetary questions

for the board responded to Andrews' comment about Brooker, saying it was regarding work on the planned fire station. He said he didn't have staff to commit for that long of a period, but that was not to say the road department would not continue to efforts to help Brooker, Hampton and Lawtey.

Discussion returned to the reason for the budget workshop, and there was a presentation about using reserve funding to purchase a used mower and hiring an additional employee. Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden said the board could do so at its pleasure.

"The only thing I'm going to continue to repeat is that you all have not yet addressed fire rescue operations. We still have not set a budget workshop, or a workshop, to discuss that budget, and that spending that has been bleeding for the last few years. And so, I'm going to continue to caution every time we increase our spending and remind you all that we have got to address that budget," she said, speaking up later for her use of the word "bleeding." She said she didn't mean to imply any funds had been mismanaged, as that is not the case. "In fact, I would say they're very responsible. It's more of that as a big department that takes a lot of funding, and we haven't identified yet how to address that."

There was no consensus to increase the public works budget for next year but continue working to look for ways to support the department. As Riddick said, if you don't sharpen a dull axe, you will work yourself do death, and that is what is happening to the road department.

In other business:

—Kornegay said he and Dodds met with MHD Rockland at the Douglas building on U.S. 301 South, which the county acquired from the state and which the aerospace company intends to lease as an expansion of its operations at the Keystone Heights Airport. Kornegay said the company will only require half of the 25 available acres, leaving the remaining land for potential county development.

The county has also provided a first iteration of the lease agreement for MHD Rockland's review.

## CASH

Continued from page 1

He said that during his tenure on the council, there had been times when the city was in "panic mode" over a shortage of cash, and he wanted to ensure the municipality avoided future crises.

"Yes, we are healthy," he said.

"But you never know when you're not going to be healthy, and I'm for keeping it the way it is."

Lewandowski countered that the city has over \$3 million in the bank to cover any unforeseen events.

"Just our checking account is

\$2.4 million," he said. "Our CD accounts are another \$740,000. We have \$3.15 million in cash assets. How much do we have to have before we'll reduce the rate? Five million?"

With that, the retired Air Force colonel moved that the council approve a tentative rate

of 3.9512. His motion passed 3-2, with Speedy Kussler and Thompson joining Lewandowski and Rondenroth and Brown voting against.

The five-member panel approved the 3.9512 millage rate for the second time during the council's September 16 final budget hearing.

## Brooker prepares for new fire station equipment

BY CAROL MOSLEY  
Special to the Telegraph

The town of Brooker is taking steps to prepare for their new fire station and equipment promised by the state.

The September meeting began with the opening of sealed bids for clearing the property where the fire station will be located. The town purchased the distressed property, along with responsibility for clearing any debris left behind and preparing the space for future use.

The lowest bid was offered by Southern Roots, a local Bradford company. Two other bids came in substantially higher. Owner, Jassy Crews, was on hand to answer any questions of the council. Mayor Gene Melvin asked if they were sure they could do the job for the bid price, since the other two were so much higher. Crews said she walked the site along with council member, Steve Acree, and was certain they could do the work requested.

See BROOKER, page 6

**"Autumn"**

*Tis autumn time of the year again,  
When animals begin tuckin' in  
The nuts and seeds nature did provide  
They put them in the trees to hide  
The green leaves have a touch of gold  
They'll soon be darkened by the cold  
The touch of frost is very near  
But it's still a good time of the year.*

— Henry Hodges  
Lawtey, FL

**BHS HOMEcoming**

The Bradford High School

**2024 Homecoming Parade**

is

**Friday, September 27 at 1:00 pm.**

Lineup begins at 12:00 pm.

Parade entry forms can be picked up at  
the BHS front office  
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# Bradford Cowboys complain about stadium rental fees

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

A youth sports group is experiencing was shocked when its new season began, and it was told there would now be a fee to hit the field.

Rodney Mosley, emphasizing the Bradford Cowboys Athletic Association has been active around 50 years, hasn't been charged for using facilities at Bradford High School in that time. He said when the plans were being made to update the football field, the former school district administration told them the community would not be charged for using it.

That has changed, placing the organization in a difficulty situation.

"I'm here tonight because the

fees that we're being charged to use the field is basically going to put the organization out of business," he told the school board Sept. 9. As a nonprofit group, they rely on fees, donations and sponsorships to survive. The true cost, including uniforms and equipment, is around \$25,000 to \$30,000, he said. They've been raising around half of that amount and are just trying to keep the organization afloat.

Now, a one-time field rental, including the cost of security and custodial services, will be \$1,000. Mosley said they have always paid for security and custodial services, but again repeated the cost of renting the field would put them out of business.

"The organization is celebrating 50 years of being in the community, being a service to

the community kids throughout the last 50 years," he said, noting the Cowboys feed many football players into the high school's athletic program.

"I feel, and I know a lot of other people feel, this organization is a cornerstone in this community," Mosley said.

"I have been volunteering for 14 years," said Brandy Addison on behalf of the Cowboys. "It's very hard in this community for us to even get money and funds for these kids to participate. Most of us on the board are actually taking money out of our pocket to even make this organization work for our community, for the youth in our community. So, I just want to say that I feel like this is the fees are outrageous."

She said the school board should consider how much the

volunteers are doing to keep kids out of trouble.

Willie Brown, one of the organization's founders, said the youth have been playing on the field without a fee for 49 years. This year they found out they were being moved to the practice field. Now kids are wondering why they can't play at the stadium.

"That's why we're here tonight, trying to get some consideration. And like I said, these fees for us to play is ridiculous. You know, we can't afford it," he said.

The school board revised the facility usage fees in May. They start at \$100 for a classroom or \$200 for a cafeteria but jump to \$700 or \$800 for use of the new facilities at Bradford Elementary School. The high school auditorium and football

field start at \$500 but increase if the sound system is needed. The football field plus press box and lights is \$800. Security adds \$35 an hour, and custodial is \$100-plus, depending on weekend or holiday hours.

Superintendent Will Hartley suggested the board needs to further workshop the fees in the future, stating the use of new facilities should command a greater price.

Hartley said the district is in a phase of improvements — a new football field and a new school. It is working on a new high school, which will have a new gym.

The Cowboys continue to play for free on the practice field after paying a \$500 deposit charged to everyone, which is refundable if there is no damage. But damage is something the district has had

to deal with, he said, including a burn in the field and broken backs on the reserved seating.

Hartley said there have also been physical altercations resulting calls to law enforcement to assist onsite security.

When facilities are damaged, the renter must pay, but the superintendent said it is district employees that must make the repairs.

Hartley said in the future they can discuss lower fees for older facilities while sticking by the discussion in May that everyone needs to pay, especially considering increasing demand.

"The more and more people that come, everyone can't come for free," he said.

# Save Our Lakes discusses tree removal, water project, fishing pier

BY JENN SAMSEL  
Special to the Monitor

If you grew up in Keystone Heights in the 1950s, 60s, or 70s, you would remember how high Lake Geneva was. It was Boater Central, and people from all over would flock to Keystone Heights.

Today, Lake Geneva looks entirely different. Little Lake Geneva is separated from Lake Geneva, the boat ramp is inaccessible, and Nelson's Point has become a nature park, but soon, Lake Geneva will look like it once did: one giant lake.

At the Save Our Lakes meeting at the First Baptist Church on Tuesday, Sept. 10, Vivian Katz-James, the group's president, gave an update on the Geneva Project. The endeavor focuses on removing trees in the lakebed.

## Trees in lakebed of Geneva

Florida has been experiencing an active rainy season. As the water continues to rise, the trees in Lake Geneva will fall, causing

hazardous problems for boaters and kayakers.

Katz-James said, "Myself, along with County Commissioner Betsy Condon, met with Senator Jennifer Bradley, Representative Bobby Payne, the director of the Water Management District, and the assistant director, who was in contact with (the Florida Department of Environmental Protection) to obtain the permit needed and have the state approve the tree removal process," she said, "There is progress being made."

The state is responsible for the trees. Save Our Lakes is looking to have about 30 acres of trees removed from Lake Geneva, which would include Little Lake Geneva on S.R. 100, across from the B.P. Station and County Road 214, Nelson's Point, and another section of Lake Geneva.

Katz-James said, "The Water Management District is very optimistic that we might have something back from F.D.E.P. in a couple of weeks."

Scott Slater, a Save Our Lakes board member, said that

once approved by the state environmental agency, his group would contract with Heritage Timber. This company harvests biomass and, in return, sells it to Gainesville Regional Utilities.

G.R.U. owns and operates the 102.5-megawatt Deerhaven Renewable Generating Station biomass facility.

It's important to note that the tree removal process will be conducted with the utmost care for the environment. The project team will ensure that the natural habitat is preserved and that removing trees does not disrupt the local ecosystem. The project could take up to two weeks to be completed.

While the city and the county are in the process of working with DEP, it's important to note that the public can only remove trees on their properties if they have received a permit from the county or city.

Some residents have mixed reactions to the Geneva Project. They worry about the cost, the environmental effects, and losing their privacy.

Katz-James went on to say, "Before anything gets done, the community will have an opportunity to hear more about the tree removal process."

She added that she is working on having DEP and Fish and Wildlife officials at the November or January Save Our Lakes meetings to speak with the community.

Lake Geneva has always been a public lake for boaters, but over the decades, the lake receded. Mother nature took charge, growing trees and enclosing boaters' access. Once the trees are cleared, the lake will again be open to the public.

## Black Creek project 70% complete

The Black Creek Pipeline project is making significant strides. By January 2025, water should start flowing into Lake Brooklyn.

Katz-James said, "The Black Creek intake pump station is 98% complete, and the pipeline is 90% complete, with only about

another two miles to go. The treatment plant is 45% complete, and despite some delays in materials, the first flows into Lake Brooklyn is expected in January. Overall, the project is 70% complete, and we're ahead of schedule."

Lake Brooklyn's water level is 110.9 ft, and Lake Geneva's is 94.3 feet. The increase in water levels is not from the pipeline; it is primarily due to all the significant rainfall in Florida in the past month or so. Hurricane Debbie was a large contributor to the rise in water levels, and it's important to note that this is a temporary situation and not a result of the pipeline project.

## Fishing Pier

Keystone Beach will soon have a brand-new fishing pier.

Slater estimated the cost of the structure at Keystone Beach at around \$200,000. He is looking to reduce the price by reducing labor and material expenses.

"We have approximately \$100,000 committed to the

fishing pier and will be working on obtaining additional funding over the next few months," he said.

Slater also mentioned that the new pier will be A.D.A. compliant and have sitting areas, providing a more enjoyable and accessible fishing experience for the community.

"To give you an idea, this is a 150-foot fixed dock and 40-foot gangway," he said. "The city has given us our blessing to proceed, and so the next stage is to draft a final design that now goes to F.D.E.P., which has to sign off on that permit."

The project is expected to start in 2025.

Save Our Lakes will host a Black Creek Water Resource Development Project celebration at Camp Immokalee on October 25 from 3 to 7 p.m. There will be food, music, fun, and more. Lake Region Kiwanis will cook the food.

# Union keeps millage at state maximum

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

The Union County Board of Commissioners met in a public hearing before their regular September meeting to set the ad valorem millage rate for the county for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

There were no public comments concerning the millage rate. The board voted 4-0, with Commissioner Jimmy Tallman absent due to illness, to pass a resolution setting the county millage rate at 10 mills. The rolled-back rate for the year was 9.5475, would have been. The state maximum for county millage is 10 mills.

The board went on to discuss the final budget proposed for the year, which had been compiled

by Union County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Kellie Hendricks Rhoades and her staff.

Rhoades commented on two amendments to the budget document related to the disbursement and receipt of grant funds related to three road construction projects under the FDOT SCRAP grant program totaling \$10,777,839.

The three projects are NW 89th Ave, CR-18 and a project working on 92nd, 146th and 152nd Avenues. The second amendment removed the design funds from the budget as they have already been paid in the current fiscal year, with a total of \$624,517.

In the main budget document revenues and expenses are itemized by source (for revenues) and funds to be paid out (expenses). The General Fund is the mainstay of the budget for county operations and services, while individual departments, such as the road department and the offices of the constitutional officers are handled separately

with their own revenues and expenses (and often with transfers in from the general fund to cover expenditures).

For the coming fiscal year, the county expects a total of \$12,044,827 to flow into the general fund. This money comes from a number of sources, including ad valorem (property) and other taxes, such as infrastructure/discretionary surtaxes and the communications services taxes. There is income from fees charged for licenses and permits, charges for services, fines and forfeitures and miscellaneous revenues.

Also included in general fund revenue are transfers into the fund from other county programs and departments, like the SHIP program and the building department, as well as interest payments, officers budget excess and rents and royalties.

Using all these varied sources of revenue, the general fund pays for the business of running the county government. These

budgeted departments and services include legislative expenses (the operation of the board of commissions), finance and administration, comprehensive planning, governmental services, the dispatch call center (911), and public safety. Also included are welfare and human services, court administration and maintenance of the courthouse facilities.

Funds are transferred from the general fund to other funds. These include the county road department, EMS, Solid Waste, the Extension Service, Parks and Recreation, cemetery maintenance, E-911, animal control, the volunteer fire department, and emergency management. These transfers total \$2,173,673.

Grant and appropriation monies coming into the county coffers must be accounted for separately in the budget. These

revenues and expenditures include the appropriation for the new Providence Fire Station (\$793,975), Florida Recreation Develop Program (FRDP) grants (\$190,000), the Brownfields Grant (\$309,048), the Public Safety Complex appropriation (\$8,940,352), the Agricultural Education Complex Phase III Grant (\$485,794), the Courthouse Security Grant (\$319,054), the Courthouse Restoration Grant (\$374,996) and the Fire-Rescue Station appropriation (\$2,250,000). All these grants and appropriations to be put to use in the coming year total \$13,399,844.

Budgets for other departments include: the E911 Fund (\$591,304), Emergency Management (\$394,144), Emergency Medical Services (\$2,233,647), the Volunteer Fire Department (\$162,510), the Local Library (\$209,306, most of which is supplied by

the recently re-approved ½ mill ad valorem tax), Library State (\$121,093, fund from the state to support the library), Solid Waste (\$1,361,687), Animal Control (\$95,441), Mosquito Control (\$137,481), the Road Department (\$10,354,243), the Building Department (\$179,678), the Extension Office (\$165,390), Parks and Recreation (\$113,801), Cemetery Maintenance (\$104,658), Local Housing Assistance (SHIP) (\$958,791), funds assigned for jail construction (\$237,491), County Law Enforcement (\$39,000), State Law Enforcement (\$1,568,751) and the Sheriff's Surcharge (\$32,085).

It takes a great deal of money to run a county, even one as small as Union. The grand total for the 2024-25 fiscal year, including grants, ad valorem taxes, state funds and internally generated revenue? \$37,165,476.

# CRUNCH

Continued from page 1

## Families may have to pay

The superintendent added that as positions become vacant throughout the year, he will think twice before filling them with new employees. He also said that students' families or community groups may have to start sharing the financial burden for costs the district now fully pays, like transportation to athletic events or extracurricular activities.

"We have assumed costs that generally, in most other places, those costs are borne by students, their teams, organizations," he said. "Just to give you an example: whenever a student goes on a competition trip, we always pay for that. We pay for the transportation, and that is a huge blessing. Most other places don't do that."

The superintendent added that now, the district pays for event



**Finance Director Renae Prevatt blamed the potential budget crisis on teacher salaries that have risen faster than state appropriations to school districts.**

ticket takers, allowing teams to pocket all gate and concessions revenues. He said that in the future, schools' athletic departments may have to share in that cost.

Ripplinger acknowledged that district officials would likely face a backlash if it asked parents

to share in costs previously borne solely by the school system.

"I understand if we begin to go down that road," he told board members, "even if not that they pay their fair share, but we begin to say we need you to shoulder a little bit of this burden, that is not going to be a well-received message, but we may get to the point where something like that may have to happen."

## 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.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

City of Hampton Fiscal Year 2024-2025

\*THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF HAMPTON ARE 15% MORE THAN LAST YEARS TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

	GENERAL FUND	WATER FUND	TOTAL
CASH RESERVE CARRY FORWARD	\$ 535,740.00	\$ 73,200.00	\$ 608,940.00
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>			
TAXES MILLAGE RATE AD VALOREM @ 2.00 (Per \$1000)	\$ 25,508.45		\$ 25,508.45
CHARGES FOR SERVICES		\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
GRANTS	\$ 100,250.00	\$ 1,386,598.75	\$ 1,486,848.75
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$ 210,372.00		\$ 210,372.00
LICENSES & FEES	\$ 25,020.00		\$ 25,020.00
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 5,328.00	\$ 408.00	\$ 5,736.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 367,378.45</b>	<b>\$ 1,507,006.75</b>	<b>\$ 1,874,385.20</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND RESERVES</b>	<b>\$ 903,118.45</b>	<b>\$ 1,580,206.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,483,325.20</b>
<b>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>			
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 149,730.00	\$ 72,744.00	\$ 222,474.00
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	\$ 126,669.00	\$ 67,200.00	\$ 193,869.00
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 63,084.00		\$ 63,084.00
CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$ 7,800.00		\$ 7,800.00
GRANTS	\$ 100,250.00	\$ 1,386,598.75	\$ 1,486,848.75
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 447,533.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,526,542.75</b>	<b>\$ 1,974,075.75</b>
CONTINGENCY RESERVES	\$ 455,585.45	\$ 53,664.00	\$ 509,249.45
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND RESERVES</b>	<b>\$ 903,118.45</b>	<b>\$ 1,580,206.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,483,325.20</b>

THE TENTATIVE ADOPTED/ AND/OR FINAL BUDGET ARE AT THE TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD.

# Land conservation, sheriff, school board on Lake Region ballot

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A rematch of the 2020 sheriff's race, a school board runoff, and a land conservation referendum top the local races Lake Region voters will be asked to decide in the upcoming general election.

Former Clay County Sheriff Darryl Daniels is trying to regain his old job from first-term Sheriff Michelle Cook.

Gov. Ron DeSantis removed Daniels from office in August 2020 after he was arrested for evidence tampering and giving false statements to law enforcement.

Prosecutors said the sheriff ordered deputies to wrongfully arrest his mistress, falsely accusing her of stalking him. Two years later, a Green Cove

Springs jury acquitted him of the charges. Daniels is now running with no party affiliation.

In another county-wide race, Jim Hughes and Robert Alvaro are in a runoff for the District 2 School Board Seat. In the August nonpartisan election, Alvaro received 30.14% of the vote, while 24.45% of voters supported Hughes. The top two vote-getters beat Matthew Mitchell and Sharon Flowers.

## Clay County referendum

In addition to the presidential election, Clay County voters will be asked to vote on a referendum, which would designate 0.2 mills of the county's tax revenues for land acquisition.

According to a July resolution passed by the board of county commissioners, the 0.2 mills would be used to repay \$45 million in bonds over 20 years. The county would issue the bonds to finance land acquisitions for conservation within Clay County.

The ballot measure reads as follows:

“CLAY COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION REFERENDUM TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, FORESTS AND FARMS

To acquire and manage lands that protect water quality in rivers, lakes, creeks, and drinking water sources; conserve wildlife habitat, natural areas, and working forests and farms; reduce flooding; and provide

outdoor recreation, shall Clay County issue general obligation bonds up to \$45 million, maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding legal maximum rates, payable from ad valorem tax up to 0.2 mills, with annual audits, citizen oversight, and full public disclosure of spending?

\_\_\_YES  
\_\_\_NO”

## Other referendums and races

State constitutional amendments address hunting and fishing rights, legalizing the recreational use of marijuana, making school board races partisan, abortion rights, tying automatic increases in the homestead exemption to

inflation, and repealing public campaign financing for state elections.

In federal races, Democrat Debbie Murcarse-Powell is challenging incumbent Republican Senator Rick Scott, and Democrat LaShonda “L.J.” Holloway is trying to unseat first-term Republican Aaron Bean for the District 4 seat.

With State Rep. Bobby Payne termed out, Democrat Tony Connolly and Republican Judson Sapp are vying to represent Florida House District 20.

## Early voting times, dates, and locations

The Clay County Supervisor

of Elections said early voting for the November 5 general election will be available from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week from October 22 through November 2.

Lake Region residents may vote at the Keystone Heights City Hall.

Voter rolls close on October 7, so those wishing to vote must register by then.

Other early voting locations in Clay County are the Health Department in Fleming Island, the Middleburg Civic Center, the Supervisor of Elections Office in Green Cove Springs, the Eagle Landing Residents Club, the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, and the Orange Park Library.

# Four final amendments deal with, elections, taxes and hunting

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Amendments 1, 2, 5 and 6, the other final four we're addressing here, range from changes to how school boards operate to tax exemptions and campaign finance reforms.

Below is a look at the details and the arguments on both sides for each amendment.

## Amendment 1: Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards

Amendment 1 proposes a shift from the current nonpartisan school board elections to a partisan system, where candidates would be affiliated with political parties.

Currently, school board candidates run without any official party designation. If passed, this measure would allow candidates to campaign with their party labels displayed on the ballot, like elections for the state legislature and other offices.

*Pros:* Proponents of Amendment 1 argue that adding

party labels would increase transparency for voters, giving them a clearer sense of each candidate's political ideology and platform. They believe that political affiliation is a strong indicator of how a candidate might approach critical issues like school funding, curriculum standards and teacher policies.

This could give voters more context and a better understanding of a candidate's values and goals, leading to more informed decision-making.

Additionally, some supporters believe that party affiliation will foster greater accountability, as voters could more easily hold school board members responsible for their decisions based on their party's principles.

*Cons:* Opponents worry that injecting partisanship into school board elections could further polarize an already contentious political environment. School boards are meant to focus on nonpolitical, student-centered issues like curriculum, teacher pay, and student safety, but opponents argue that a shift to partisan elections could

lead to decisions driven more by political ideology than educational outcomes. They fear that local school boards will become battlegrounds for national political agendas, overshadowing the practical needs of students and teachers.

Furthermore, critics argue that partisanship might discourage qualified, independent candidates from running, limiting the pool of potential leaders in education.

## Amendment 2: Right to Fish and Hunt

Amendment 2 seeks to establish the right to hunt and fish as a constitutionally protected activity in Florida. This would formalize hunting and fishing as a key aspect of the state's cultural and recreational heritage, making it harder for future legislation to limit or ban them.

*Pros:* Supporters of Amendment 2 view the measure as a way to safeguard a longstanding tradition in Florida. Many Floridians see hunting and fishing as integral to their way of life, contributing to both recreation and the economy. The

amendment, they argue, would prevent future administrations from enacting overly restrictive regulations that could harm these activities.

Proponents also emphasize the importance of wildlife management, saying that hunting and fishing help to maintain balanced ecosystems by controlling animal populations. They contend that formal recognition of these rights will ensure their continuation for future generations.

*Cons:* Critics of Amendment 2 argue that this measure is unnecessary because hunting and fishing rights are already well protected under existing laws. They believe that elevating these activities to constitutional status could complicate efforts to impose necessary environmental regulations in the future. Conservationists worry that this amendment could make it harder to enact rules designed to protect wildlife populations and habitats, especially in the face of overhunting or environmental changes.

Opponents also argue that the state should prioritize conservation and ecosystem preservation rather than guaranteeing rights that are already widely accepted.

## Amendment 5: Annual Adjustment to the Values of Certain Homestead Exemptions

Amendment 5 proposes to adjust Florida's homestead property tax exemption each year by linking the value of the exemption to the cost of living. Currently, primary residences — those the owner lives in — are eligible for a \$25,000 homestead exemption off the just value of their property, which exempts that amount from all taxes. Up to another \$25,000 exemption is applied on a homestead's value between \$50,000 and \$75,000, exempting that amount from all taxes except those levied by school districts.

If passed, the amendment would adjust the value of the second exemption based on inflation. If the inflation rate was 5%, that would increase the amount of the second exemption from \$25,000 to \$26,250.

School district taxes would also be exempt from this annual

adjustment.

*Pros:* Advocates for Amendment 5 highlight the potential tax relief it would offer to homeowners, particularly those in middle- and lower-income brackets. By increasing tax exemption, the amendment would allow residents to keep more of their earnings, making homeownership more affordable, especially as property values rise in many parts of Florida. This could help both retirees and working families, who might be struggling with higher living costs.

Supporters argue that the tax relief could stimulate local economies by increasing disposable income and consumer spending.

*Cons:* Opponents of Amendment 5 warn that while homeowners may see immediate tax relief, the measure could have long-term negative impacts on local governments. Since property taxes are a crucial source of revenue for public services, including schools, first responders and infrastructure projects, reducing the taxable property base could result in significant budget shortfalls. Critics argue that this could lead to cuts in vital public services or force local governments to raise revenue in other ways.

Additionally, some argue that the increased exemption would largely benefit wealthier homeowners, who already receive larger tax breaks under the current system, while renters and low-income residents would see little to no benefit.

## Amendment 6: Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement

Amendment 6 seeks to repeal the section of Florida's Constitution that provides public funding for statewide candidates who agree to abide by voluntary spending limits in statewide elections — that is the governor, attorney general, chief financial officer, and commissioner of agriculture.

Currently, under an amendment adopted by Florida voters in 1998, candidates who limit their campaign spending can receive taxpayer-funded financial support to level the playing field with opponents who

might otherwise outspend them.

*Pros:* Supporters of Amendment 6 argue that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund political campaigns. They believe public financing of campaigns is an unnecessary burden on taxpayers, especially when these funds could be directed toward essential public services like education, health care or infrastructure.

Proponents also claim that the current system is outdated and ineffective, as wealthier candidates or those with significant private fundraising capabilities can often outspend publicly funded candidates anyway. By repealing this provision, Florida could eliminate a program that many argue no longer serves its original purpose and does not reflect the realities of modern political campaigns.

*Cons:* Opponents of Amendment 6 argue that the public funding system is a critical tool for maintaining fair elections, as it allows candidates with fewer financial resources to compete against wealthier opponents. They worry that eliminating this option would increase the influence of big money in politics, as candidates would be forced to rely more heavily on private donations. Critics contend that without public financing, political campaigns would become even more dominated by wealthy donors and special interests, making it harder for grassroots candidates to gain traction.

Additionally, opponents argue that public funding helps to reduce the potential for corruption by offering candidates an alternative to courting large donors in exchange for political favors.

As voters weigh the potential impacts of these four amendments, they will also face decisions on Amendments 3 and 4, which focus on abortion rights and marijuana legalization. Each of these constitutional amendments requires at least 60% voter approval to pass, a threshold intended to ensure that significant changes to the state constitution reflect a broad consensus.

# NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

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

## Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy	\$22,019.00
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes	( 934.00)
C. Actual property tax levy	\$22,953.00

**This year's proposed tax levy \$26,851.00**

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

**September 24, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
at  
**City Hall**  
**5784 Navarre Ave**  
**Hampton, FL 32044**

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



## Hope SGA announces See You at the Pole

Introducing Hope Christian Academy's Student Government Association and officers: (seated, l-r) SGA President Alyssa Hunt (senior) and Vice President Ellie Amis (senior); (front) Lesly Salvidrez (freshman), Matthias Reyes (seventh grade), Jacob Elmore (eighth grade), Madeline McCloud (eighth grade), Natalie Lowe (sophomore); (back) Chaplain Lucas Grider (freshman), Adam White (junior), Secretary Anne Amis (sophomore), sponsor Adina León, Landen Perry (junior), Aubrey Scott (seventh grade). The first student-coordinated event will be See You at the Pole on Sept. 25. Photo: Virginia Denmark.

# BROOKER

Continued from page 3

The other two bidders were from out of town and had not actually seen the site.

Crews said they have a reputation of doing a good job at a reasonable price. "We'd rather see you spend the extra funds on the new fire station or other community needs," said Crews.

There are seven total lots that will accommodate the new fire station along with housing for two employees. The structural design has yet to be determined, but there are a few drawings to give conceptual examples.

The grant for equipment will come this year in the amount of \$652,500. A shiny new engine will be purchased at \$475,000, leaving some extra for purchase of a brush truck. Those funds need to be spent in one year. The approximately \$500,000 allocated by the state for the structure will not come until next year, but those funds have seven years for the amount to be expended. The county could provide an EMS vehicle until Brooker can get its own.

According to Mayor Melvin, since the grant was given specifically to Brooker for initiating a fire station in town, the land and equipment will be titled to Brooker and leased to

the county for some minimal sum, such as one dollar. But the fire truck will say "Brooker" on it.

The grant does not provide funding for operations nor personnel. The cost of running Brooker's upcoming station was included in the recently proposed assessment, but that was not adopted by the county commission. The commissioners want more time to evaluate all the options.

Brooker did not hold a second reading on the proposed assessment since the county itself declined to impose any assessment for the 2025 budget.

"It would not have been fair to ask the people of the town

to agree to it when there is no fire station yet. But," Melvin pointed out, "there is no way the Town Council could agree to the proposed 100% funding at over \$300. The residents of Brooker could not afford that."

The county says it will hold workshops that will allow them to hear from residents as they determine an assessment for 2025.

Cpl. Glenn Ward, Bradford code enforcement officer, said a number of properties in the town are being cleaned up, and he anticipates greater compliance moving forward.

Meanwhile, the town noted an increase in their insurance rates of about \$12,000, bringing that

expense to almost \$31,000 per year. A resolution was passed for water rates, increasing the rate for the first 3,000 gallons by one dollar to \$26 per month. Each additional 1,000 gallons will be \$1.75. The new rates will begin on Oct. 1.

The first hearing took place for the adoption of millage and budget. The tentative tax rate is 0.2503 mills and tentative budget is \$192,300 for the General Fund and \$118,000 for the Water Fund, with a total of \$310,300.

The final public hearing on millage and budget will take place on Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.

# Strawberry plant presale

The UF/IFAS Extension in Bradford County and the Master Gardener Volunteer Program are selling bare-root strawberry plants. Presales of these San Andreas variety plants are taking place now. Get 10 plants for \$6 or 50 plants for \$25.

Please call 904-966-6244 to reserve your plants. Payment by cash or check only is due by Oct. 15. Plants will arrive around the third week of October, and buyers will be contacted when to pick them up.

# Highly Rated Local Businesses!

**Craig Falstreux Heating & Air, Inc**  
228 S Walnut St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(352) 792-4426



"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."

**Victory Way Church of God**  
205 SW Magnolia Ave,  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
(941) 718-7006



*Victory Way*  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 AM**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 10:30 AM**  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH DURING MORNING WORSHIP**  
**SUNDAY NIGHT: 6:00 PM**  
**THURSDAY NIGHT: 7:30 PM**

**Andrews Site Prep**  
(386) 867-0572



Services 20 different counties!  
"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."

**C & S Site Prep**  
22787 NW 34th Ave,  
Lawtey, FL 32058  
(352) 235-1210



Land Clearing, Driveway, Culverts, Excavation, Ponds, House Pads, Drainage, Grading, Erosion Control, Dirt, Lime Rock, Asphalt, Sand, Crushed Concrete, 57 Stone

**Bradford County Eye Center**  
292 Lafayette St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-8076



"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!"

**DLP Bank**  
811 S Walnut St, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-7830



Member FDIC  
"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!"

**Big Teal Cleaning**  
12696 US HWY 301 South  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 903-6746



"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"

**Durrance Pump**  
864 N Temple Ave STE C,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-7061



"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!"

**Hometown Health & Wellness**  
110 Nightingale St,  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
(352) 664-7702



"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."

**The Chiropractic & Injury Clinic of Starke**  
601 E Call St, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-8018



"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."

**The Struggle Bus Mobile I.V.**  
www.strugglebusventures.com



"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!"

**Robert's Insurance**  
986 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 452-7784



EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES  
"Always a great place to visit and get help, thanks!"

**Bradford County Sheriff's Office**  
945-B N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 966-6161



Sheriff, Gordon Smith "No Cure"  
"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."

**Ford's Land Clearing Inc.**  
(352) 260-2387  
Servicing Starke, Keystone, and surrounding areas!



"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."

**Hearing Aids Today**  
450 S Lawrence Blvd,  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
(352) 877-4471



Affordable Hearing Solutions  
"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!"

**Bradford County Public Library**  
456 W Pratt St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 368-3911



"I love the staff here. They are always kind & helpful to me & my 3 girls. We go in to just grab a few books & stay an hour just to chat with everyone & check out all the upcoming events they offer."

**Turners Automotive & Transmission**  
135 Commercial Cir, Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
(352) 473-3404



"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."

**Phillip McDonald Plumbing**  
740 S Orange St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-3737



"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."

**CJ Appliances**  
442 W Call St, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 452-1968



New, Open Box, Scratch and Dent  
"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."

**Jackson Building Supply Inc.**  
937 S Walnut St,  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-6078



"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."

**Teal Tile Carpet One**  
131 N Cherry St, Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-7423



"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."

**NO LIMITZ**  
Our Possibilities are Endless!  
3 Stores to Serve You!  
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421 W. Madison St Starke 904-454-1483  
430 W. Call St. Starke 904-454-1013  
**5-star rated!**

# Shop Small Craft Fair attracts big ‘why’ for vendors

*Family, Friendship, and Entrepreneurship  
Homemade from the Heart*

**BY AMBER CRAFT**  
Special to the Telegraph

The First Seasonal Shop Small Fall Craft & Yard Sale kicked off Sept. 7 at the Bradford County Fairgrounds with a whole lot more than crafts and homemade preserves. Each vendor brought with them a special story as to why they are entrepreneurs. For many, their “whys” ranged from doing it for family to spending time strengthening friendships, but all had in common a desire to serve the community with their homemade crafts and delicious food treats.

## Entrepreneurship Passed Down Through Generations

Terrasa Wood, founder and coordinator for the event, explained that her idea to hold a small-style craft fair was to raise money to take her family of 14 on a Disney vacation, something she and her husband try to do every year. But she also saw it as an opportunity to teach her grandchildren an important lesson on the power of entrepreneurship, something her grandmother instilled in her growing up and a lesson she has passed down to her own children.

“Kelsey, my daughter, is my why. She makes memory bears and quilts. She’s at home, she’s disabled, but she does all this. And then my grandbabies are my why. I want them to learn that they’re not gonna get handed everything in life. My grandmother did it with me. We shelled peas, we [preserved] jelly, you know, we sold veggies on the side of the road. We did all that. And I want them to understand that that is a concept that we need to keep alive, that they need to be able to be self-sufficient, take care of themselves, especially because they’re six females... but I just want them to know that they can be an entrepreneur.”

Terrasa’s big ‘why’ allowed several more vendors to showcase their businesses and handmade crafts.

## An ‘Itchy’ Problem Becomes A Soothing Soul Mission

Dawn Blind, Owner of Natural Nonsense, an all-natural ingredient soap and wax melts business, found her “why” by chance. She was trying to help her best friend find relief from her eczema when she began researching the chemicals in commercial products and discovered that many were harmful to humans.

“Originally, my best friend and I started this business because she had eczema that was really bad, so we were trying to find a natural way to get rid of the chemicals that would upset her skin. We went down the rabbit hole of how many chemicals are in all of our cleaning products. So, I started researching how to make all-natural soaps, and from there, now I’ve got magnesium lotions and sprays that are a



**Ricky Smith and Jerry Waters**

natural way that may help you sleep, that may relieve muscle soreness and tension. I’ve used them before for a headache.”

Blind also discovered how some of these commercial products affected her own health.

“All these chemicals are causing cancers and skin conditions. I make my own natural deodorant. When I ran out, I had to go back to store-bought. I felt sick, and the only thing I changed was the deodorant.”

Now, her business is picking up steam due to the awareness that others are having about chemicals in commercial products that aren’t the healthiest.

“I started with the soaps, and maybe down the line, I might branch out, but for now, I’m trying to get the soaps to start. I do wax melts also just because they’re 100% soy so they don’t have store-bought chemicals that release chemicals into the air that you breathe.”

What started as helping her best friend find relief from eczema grew into a larger why. “I’m trying to get more people to be healthier,” Blind said. (You can find her products on her Facebook page: Natural Nonsense).

## Honoring Her Mother’s Creative Legacy

Lorri Lee, owner and designer of Tricia’s Precious Gems, has dedicated her purpose to honoring her late mother, who was diagnosed with Stage 2 metastatic breast cancer in 2014 before passing away in 2017 from the disease.

“Tricia’s Precious Gems is actually in honor of my mother. Her name is Patricia Lee, and

her family called her Tricia. So that’s how the business name came about. Also, our logo is a butterfly, a colorful butterfly. Me and her, we both shared a love for butterflies, and she told me she used to paint butterflies and she would enter them into the art shows they used to have here at the fairgrounds.”

Lee said her mother was involved in a variety of crafting interests.

“She had a passion for art and home decor. She was a singer, songwriter, fashion designer, anything creative she loved to do, especially cooking, that was her thing.”

Lee didn’t realize honoring her mother through creative crafting would evolve into a business.

“I didn’t know it would come to this. I started off with the pens, the beaded pens, and then it kind of evolved into what you see today. So, I think it’s just an honor, and it’s also keeping her name and memory alive.”

Her crafting products include rhinestone mugs, personalized tumblers, and other gifts in various colors and designs.

Looking forward, Lee stated that she wanted to raise community awareness on the importance of early detection in breast health.

“Breast cancer can impact anybody, any race, gender, because I’m hearing a lot of cases with men being diagnosed with breast cancer... So my thing is, I want to bring awareness to breast health. So, every piece that I sell, especially during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and it just so happened to be her birthday month, every piece I sell, a portion will go to the Susan G. Komen breast cancer organization.” (You can find her at triciaspreciousgems.com)



**Lorri Lee**



**Terassa Wood**

## Just A Couple of ‘Fat Kids’ with A Hankering For BBQ

Take a couple of charismatic best friends with a 15-year friendship acting as the special sauce and in competition with

each other to win, and you would perfectly describe Ricky Smith and Jerry Waters, co-owners of 2 Fat Kids BBQ.

These two show up because they love to compete in chili and barbecue cook-offs, so they joined forces and searched for a name. “We come from a chili competition. We cooked chili

together, and we didn’t have a name,” Smith said.

“We were thinking about cooking barbecue; there’s two of us, and we’re both fat, so that was an easy call,” Waters added.

They enjoy showing up at

**See CRAFTS, page 8**

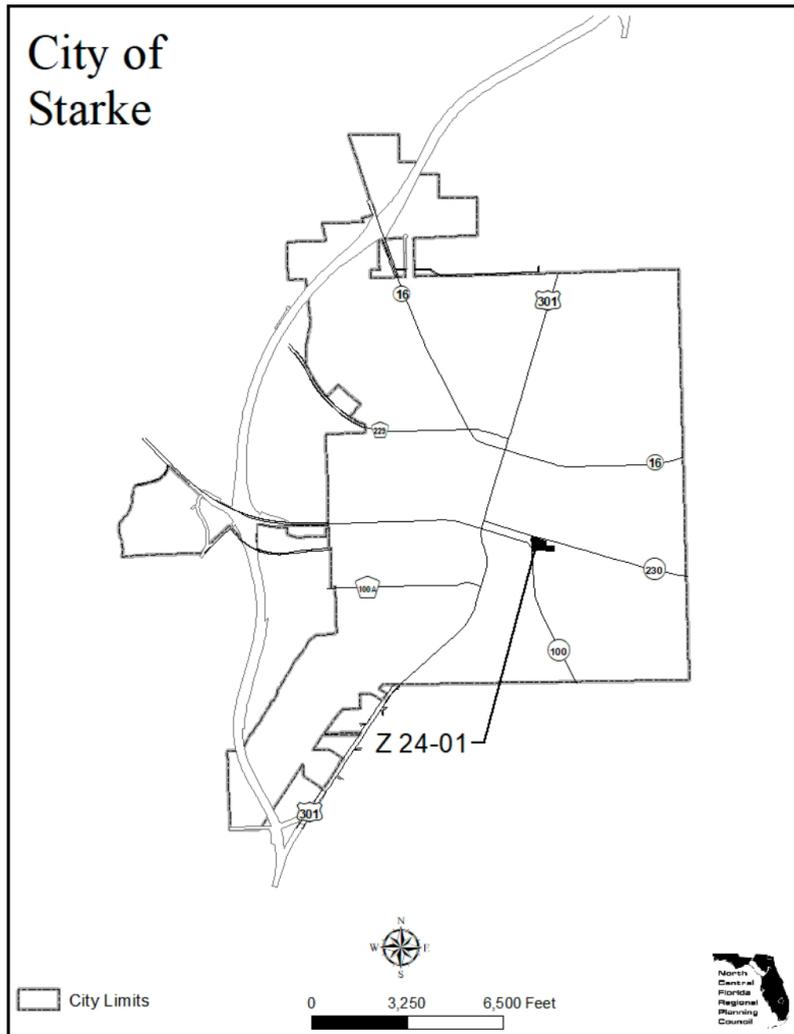
## NOTICE OF ZONING CHANGE

The City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida proposes to change the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending the Zoning Map of the City of Starke Land Development Code, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, as follows:

Z 24-01, an application by the City Commission and Kingsley Development I, LLC, to amend the Zoning Map of the Land Development Code by changing the zoning district from MULTI-FAMILY, RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2B) and SINGLE-FAMILY, MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT (R-1C) to PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PUD) in accordance with a Preliminary Development Plan dated July 19, 2024, revised on August 15, 2024, on the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described, as follows: Commence at the Southwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 28; thence Easterly 38.89 feet, along the Southerly boundary of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 28, to the Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 100 (Water Street) for the Point of Beginning (being at the beginning of a curve, concave to the West and having a radius of 143.15 feet); thence Northwesterly, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), and, along the arc of said curve, 51.97 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 14°25’46” West to the end of said curve; thence North 24°40’15” West 37.21 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), to the beginning of a curve, concave to the East and having a radius of 148.14 feet; thence Northerly, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), and along the arc of said curve, 105.77 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 03°51’37” West; thence North 17°34’02” East 24.42 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence continue North 17°34’02” East 53.63 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence North 34°49’48” East 32.94 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), to the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 230 (East Call Street); thence South 16°45’01” West 25.00 feet, along said jog of the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street); thence South 73°36’03” East 251.90 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street) to the Westerly right-of-way line of Redgrave Street; thence South 73°38’26” East 52.33 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street) to the Easterly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street; thence South 00°05’19” East 12.33 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street to the Northwest corner of Block 1 of City Park Subdivision as recorded in the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida; thence North 88°47’36” East 265.78 feet, along the Northerly boundary of said Block 1 of City Park Subdivision as recorded in the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida; thence South 72°40’42” East 26.37 feet; thence South 01°19’59” West 174.14 feet; thence South 68°40’10” West 291.94 feet, along the Southerly boundary of said Block 1 of City Park Subdivision as recorded in the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida, to the Easterly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street; thence South 87°52’12” West 48.95 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street and the Northerly right-of-way line of South Street; thence South 88°36’50” West 411.25 feet, along the Northerly right-of-way line of said South Street; thence North 65°23’03” West 22.75 feet to the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence North 04°16’18” West 87.05 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence South 85°55’11” West 3.96 feet; thence North 03°58’35” West 101.44 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), to the Point of Beginning. Subject to the right-of-way of South Saint Clair Street (0.77 acres).

Containing 5.13 acres, more or less.



The first of two public hearings will be conducted by the City Commission to consider the amendment and conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the amendment on October 1, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AS AMENDED; RELATING TO THE REZONING OF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 24-01, BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAID ACREAGE; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM MULTI-FAMILY, RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2B) AND SINGLE-FAMILY, MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT (R-1C) TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PUD) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment and the ordinance adopting the amendment.

Copies of the amendment and ordinance adopting the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

# 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

Sarah Montgomery Banks, 41, of Gainesville, was arrested by FHP troopers on September 12 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Cody Kent Barnett, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 13 for stalking.

Brison Ellis Bynum, 24, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 10 for battery.

Taylor Lee Callan, 25, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 7 for possession of marijuana.

William Casey Carter, 34, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 13 for probation violations.

Matthew Scott Culverson, 33, of Saint Augustine, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 9 for a probation violation.

Jason Wayne Ellis, 43, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for child neglect.

Tonya Dawn Ellis, 43, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for child neglect.

John Marcus Erwin, 48, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for DUI and possession of drug equipment.

Matthew Cole Gibson, 32, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for vehicle theft and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Sherese Nicole Harris, 31, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for failure to appear.

Victor Ladaris Johnson, 49, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 10 for a conditional release violation.

Lisa Bruno Jones, 45, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 13 for possession of drugs.

Robert Brad Kerce, 39, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 9 for delivery or distribution of drugs.

Michael Keith Krites, 58, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 7 for DUI.

John Edward Lubin, 31, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford

deputies on September 13 for resisting an officer.

Fred Markham, 56, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 9 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Gwantasha Shantel Marshall, 47, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 11 for an out-of-county warrant, resisting an officer, making a fault report and larceny.

James Lee Martin, 24, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 13 for trafficking in drugs, trafficking in amphetamine, trafficking in cocaine, and possession of marijuana.

Dewayne Edward McBride, 42, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 9 for failure to appear and an out-of-county warrant.

Tommy Lee Morris, 47, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for a probation violation.

Joseph Daniel Morrison, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for a probation violation.

James Allen Roberts, 52, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 10 for disorderly intoxication.

Gerald Wyman Starling, 47, of Glen St. Mary, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 9 for a probation violation.

John Robert Stout, 33, of

Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 8 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and resisting an officer.

Troy Blaine Tetstone, 36, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 8 for an out-of-county warrant.

James Gordon Walker, 49, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 9 for possession of drugs, battery, and smuggling contraband into a corrections facility.

Anderson Williams, 40, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 8 for hit and run and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Taevon Devonte Williams, 30, of Jacksonville, was arrested by FHP troopers on September 7 for vehicle theft, possession of marijuana, and smuggling contraband into a jail.

Jessica Lee Yates, 43, of Sanford, was arrested by Bradford deputies on September 12 for an out-of-county warrant.

### Union

Jason Lee Deraway, 28, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on September 10 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Moisey Cherrite, 37, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on September 10 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Jerry Edward O'Steen, 31, of Alachua, was arrested by Union deputies on September 10 for a probation violation.

James Levi Meredith Jr., 30, a Department of Corrections inmate, was arrested by Union deputies on September 10 for smuggling contraband into a prison.

Cody Wayne Andrews, 32, of High Springs, was arrested by Union deputies on September 11 for failure to appear.

Juan Cruz Ortega, 32, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 11 for possession of drugs and using a two-way communications device while committing a felony.

Brian Michael Meadows, 49, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 11 for possession of drugs and selling drugs.

Mary Jacqueline Marshall, 44, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 11 for selling cocaine, using a two-way communications device while committing a felony, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Coney Frances Robinson, 57, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 11 for possession of drugs and using a two-way communications device while committing a felony.

Jessica Danielle Elixson, 45, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 11 for selling methamphetamine, using a two-way communications

device while committing a felony, and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Adrian Damien Henderson, 19, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 14 for battery.

Kanye Dea'jhun DeSue, 19, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 14 for battery.

Brannon Fillmore Moody, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 15 for possession of cocaine and possession of drugs.

Thomas Gerardo Ortega, 38, of Worthington Springs, was arrested by Union deputies on September 10 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Brian Michael Meadows, 50, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on September 11 for trafficking in methamphetamine, possession of drug equipment, and keeping a structure as a public nuisance for drug activity.

### Clay

Ansony Manuel Reyes Avila, 20, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 9 for operating a vehicle without a valid license.

Daniel James Spivey, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on September 10 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

## CRAFTS

Continued from page 7

local craft fairs to supplement expenses for their hobby. "We cook at competitive barbecues, and competitive barbecue is an expensive hobby, so we do things like this so we can do our expensive hobby," Smith explained. "We both love high-stress situations, so we seek them

out, and this is it."

However, it isn't all about competing. Smith and Waters explained that they both hold high-stress jobs that take up much of their time, but this is how they spend time together as friends.

"We've been friends for about 15 years. This lets us spend time together doing something we both enjoy." (You can find 2 Fat Kids BBQ on Facebook)

## Looking to the Future of Heart-Centered Community Craft Events

Wood is pleased with the vendor turnout and looks forward to hosting more events to allow vendors to share their crafts and "whys" with the community.

"So, it really came together

really, really quick, which I'm grateful for. I would like it to be double the size of vendors next time." She added, "I'm real big about shop small, and we've got so many crafters locally that everybody's trying to make ends meet. And if I can help them in any way do that, that's what we're gonna do."

Wood's next event is the Grand Opening of the Star Center Fall Event on Saturday, October 12, in Middleburg. For information on how to sign up to be a vendor, contact Terrasa Wood at 904-769-9462.



Dawn Blind



# Russ WADE

## Attorney at Law

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

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate

BUDGET SUMMARY				
Suwannee River Water Management District - Fiscal Year 2024-2025				
THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ARE 4.3% MORE THAN LAST YEARS TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.				
I. ESTIMATED REVENUES AND BALANCES	MILLAGE PER \$1,000	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	TOTAL BUDGET
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>				
AD VALOREM TAXES (Rollover-back rate)	0.2936	\$ 6,085,787	\$ 1,008,994	\$ 7,094,781
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>				
Federal Revenue		-	7,473,000	7,473,000
State Revenue		4,632,000	47,694,239	52,326,239
District Revenue		90,000	20,288	110,288
Permit and License Fees		223,000	-	223,000
Investment Income		130,000	-	130,000
Timber Sales		-	1,300,000	1,300,000
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>		<b>11,160,787</b>	<b>57,496,521</b>	<b>68,657,308</b>
<b>TRANSFERS IN/(OUT)</b>				
<b>BEGINNING FUND BALANCE/RESERVE PROJECTED</b>		<b>12,950,004</b>	<b>12,827,083</b>	<b>25,777,087</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 24,110,791</b>	<b>\$ 70,323,604</b>	<b>\$ 94,434,395</b>
<b>II. EXPENDITURES</b>				
WATER RESOURCES PLANNING & MONITORING		\$ 7,463,257	4,123,000	\$ 11,586,257
ACQUISITION, RESTORATION & PUBLIC WORKS		1,874,820	51,429,120	53,303,940
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS & WORKS		-	10,391,632	10,391,632
REGULATION		2,335,426	-	2,335,426
OUTREACH		211,283	-	211,283
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT		2,138,740	-	2,138,740
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 14,023,526</b>	<b>\$ 65,943,752</b>	<b>\$ 79,967,278</b>
<b>ENDING FUND BALANCES/RESERVES</b>				
		10,087,265	4,379,852	14,467,117
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS AND FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 24,110,791</b>	<b>\$ 70,323,604</b>	<b>\$ 94,434,395</b>

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

## Annual dance brings back Crooked Counsel

The Lakes Area Annual Community Dance will be held at the Keystone Heights Woman's Club building at 6747 Woman's Club Drive, about two blocks off State Road 21. 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. Tickets are \$20, and can be reserved by texting 352-240-5181. Light refreshments, beer and wine will

be available for a donation.

## 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.

## 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.

## NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Suwannee River Water Management District has tentatively adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

This notice is applicable to the following counties:

All of: Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union  
Parts of: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Jefferson, Levy, Putnam

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

Monday, September 23, 2024 at 5:05 p.m.  
at: 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060

For view only, this meeting may be attended through electronic media by following the instructions at the following link:  
<https://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/>

**GAME ON 2024: FOOTBALL CONTEST!**

**YOU COULD WIN \$50 CASH**

IN THE WEEKLY TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR

**FOOTBALL CONTEST**

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**2 Dixie County Bears vs. Keystone Indians**

**BRYAN'S ACE HARDWARE**  
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Keystone Heights 352-473-4006 Starke 904-964-4642

**3 Fort White Indians vs. Union County Tigers**

**SPIRES IGA**  
610 SW 1st Street  
Lake Butler  
386-496-3361

**4 UCLA Bruins vs. LSU Tigers**

**CRAIG FALSTREAUX HEATING & AIR**  
134 E Call St. Starke, FL  
904-964-7555

**5 California Golden Bears vs. FSU Seminoles**

**REDDISH & WHITE, CPAs**  
134 E. Call St. Starke, FL  
904-964-7555

**6 Florida Gators vs. Mississippi State Bulldogs**

**CLYATT WELL DRILLING**  
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386-496-2488

**7 Miami Hurricanes vs. South Florida Bulls**

**WILLIAMSON'S FOOD STORE**  
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352-475-1144

**8 Arkansas Razorbacks vs. Auburn Tigers**

**EVAN DOUGLAS CONSTRUCTION, INC.**  
352-745-0935

**9 USC Trojans vs. Michigan Wolverines**

**JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY**  
Starke Lake Butler  
904-964-6078 386-496-3079

**10 Michigan St. Spartans vs. Boston College Eagles**

**TEAL TILE**  
131 N. Cherry St.  
Starke, FL  
904-964-7423

**11 Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets vs. Louisville Cardinals**

**DURRANCE PUMP**  
864 N Temple Ave. • Starke  
(904) 964-7061

**12 N.C. State Wolfpack vs. Clemson Tigers**

**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 9/20/24\***  
DROP BY OR EMAIL US YOUR ENTRY see rules below\*\*\*

Biz 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Biz 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 17 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**This Weeks Winner: Valery Davis missed 1 Congratulations!**

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

**13 Utah Utes vs. Oklahoma St. Cowboys**

**THORNTON & CO. REALTY**  
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Lake Butler, FL  
904-364-6890

**14 Denver Broncos vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers**

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MurrayFordStarke.com STARKE, FL

Murray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram 904-964-3200

**CLEMONS FIELD SERVICES**  
21280 NW 62nd Ln, Starke, FL 32091  
(352) 494-0122

**Bulldozer Award: Offensive Lineman of the Week**

Garett Jackson Ridge Bradley Jackson Herman

**16 Baltimore Ravens vs. Dallas Cowboys**

**QUALITY PLUMBING**  
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**17 Chicago Bears vs. Indianapolis Colts**

**NORTH FLORIDA PHARMACY**  
405 S. Lawrence Blvd  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
352-478-2057

**15 Miami Dolphins vs. Seattle Seahawks**

**PIPELINE CONSTRUCTORS INC.**  
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\* CONTEST RULES 1. Anyone (except Telegraph/Times/Monitor employees and their immediate family members) is welcome to enter. One entry per person per week please. Persons winning one week are not eligible to win again for at least three weeks. 2. When picking up winnings, the winner will have their photograph taken for the paper. 3. Entry must be on an official form from the BCT/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, followed by 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.]



Jy'Quez Cason (left) returns the opening kickoff for Bradford. He scored both of the team's fourth-quarter touchdowns and finished with 145 all-purpose yards.

## BHS scores twice in 4th to defeat 6A Mandarin 18-13

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Jy'Quez Cason scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, capping drives of 80 and 78 yards as the Bradford High School football team defeated Class 6A Mandarin 18-13 on Sept. 13 in Starke.

It was expected to be a tough battle for the Class 2A Tornados (4-0) against a fellow state runner-up from last season. Mandarin (3-1) was ranked number two in 6A by MaxPreps and near the top or at number one in various other polls.

You would've found few high-school media outlets picking Bradford to win. Some predictions had Mandarin scoring 30-plus points and winning by double digits, even without senior quarterback Tramell Jones, an FSU commit who was injured in week two.

"Our guys have won 30 out of the last 33," Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said. "They expect to win. Somebody asked me if this would be a surprise if we won tonight. I just told him I'd be surprised if we lost, to be honest with you."

The Mustangs took a 13-6 lead in the third quarter on a 50-yard touchdown pass, but that play accounted for all but 10 of their second-half total yards.

Mandarin was averaging 48 points per game, but Bradford's defense forced the Mustangs to go three-and-out on seven of their 11 possessions.

While the defense was doing its job, the offense was wearing Mandarin down with a rushing attack that averaged 5 yards per carry in the second half.

"That's what we like," Rodgers said. "We're gritty. We're tough. We don't mind trying to wear you down in the end. Our kids believe in the fourth quarter. They believe in the weight room. They believe in being physical."

"If you believe that, you've got a chance to win them all." Mandarin went three-and-out on its first series, with Bradford's Trevis Johnson recording a 9-yard sack and a holding penalty also hurting the Mustangs' cause.

The Mustangs' second drive didn't begin with much promise as the Tornados' Reese Wainwright made a tackle for a 3-yard loss. Mandarin, though, was able to pick up two first downs on a 14-yard reception by Jaime Ffrench and a 23-yard reception by Ethan Sherman. The Mustangs later faced third-and-5 at their own 43 when Jeremiah

McKenzie dumped Ffrench for a 10-yard loss on a pass play, forcing a punt.

Bradford, which has a bye week before hosting District 5-2A opponent Keystone Heights for homecoming on Friday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m., began its third offensive series with a pair of Iyen Addison runs that netted 7 yards. McKenzie then had a 24-yard run for a first down at the Mandarin 28. A 7-yard run by Gino Addison had an additional 15 yards tacked on because of a personal foul, giving the Tornados another first down at the 11-yard line. Gino Addison had two more runs for 5 yards, while McKenzie gained 4 yards on a carry to the 2. Bradford lined up to go for it on fourth down and drew the Mustangs offside. That left the Tornados inches shy of a first down, but they drew Mandarin offside again. On first-and-goal from the 1, Branden Williams carried the ball into the end zone to put Bradford up 6-0 at the 8:39 mark of the second quarter. The PAT was no good.

After forcing the Mustangs to go three-and-out on the ensuing series, Bradford began a drive at its own 39. A fumble at the 47-yard line was scooped up by Mandarin's Drake Stubbs and returned for a touchdown. A penalty on the return negated the score, but the Mustangs had a first down at the Bradford 30. Runs by Shaunquize Foster helped move Mandarin to the 13 before the Tornados' Tyler Berry intercepted a pass to end the scoring threat.

"Huge," Rodgers said of the play. "That's what tough teams do. That's what tough, gritty kids do. They find a way."

Mandarin's last possession of the half began at its own 39 with 1:33 on the clock. Quarterback Knox Annis threw two straight incompletions before hooking up with Ffrench for a 42-yard gain to the Bradford 19. Ffrench, a University of Texas commit, was injured on the play and never returned, finishing with five catches for 55 yards.

Trente Jenkins tackled running back Deion Winstead for a 2-yard loss following the big pass play, but the Mustangs set up first-and-goal at the 1-yard line on Annis' 20-yard pass to Sherman. Donte Perry scored on a run from there. Winstead kicked the extra point to give Mandarin a 7-6 lead with 31 seconds remaining until halftime.

Mandarin's offense ran just

three plays on each of its first two drives of the second half, producing only 3 yards. The first play of their third possession, though, saw Annis, who was under heavy pressure most of the night, throw a deep pass to Brysen Wright for a 50-yard touchdown that put the Mustangs up 13-6 at the 6:52 mark of the third quarter. The PAT was no good.

"He stepped into that throw in a clean pocket," Rodgers said. "He made a great throw to (Wright). We weren't going to let that happen again."

The Tornados didn't, as Mandarin gained just 7 yards on three possessions the remainder of the game.

Bradford's offense struggled to start the second half, gaining a total of 23 yards on their first three drives.

The Tornados' fourth possession began on their own 20 with 2:49 to play in the third quarter. Bradford gained 1 yard on two Iyen Addison carries, but benefitted from a 5-yard penalty against Mandarin. McKenzie was tackled for no gain on a third-and-4 play, but a personal foul committed by the Mustangs gave the Tornados a first down.

Bradford found itself in a long-yardage situation when Zack Paulk was sacked for an 8-yard loss by Mandarin's Kindrid Outland, but picked up a first down on a 19-yard reception by Cason. It was the first of three consecutive plays that produced first downs, with McKenzie picking up one on a 12-yard run and Williams picking up the other on a 28-yard run to the 8-yard line. Cason scored on a run from there at the 10:12 mark of the fourth quarter. The Tornados unsuccessfully went for two after an offside penalty against the Mustangs.

Rodgers said he didn't hesitate in making the decision to go for two.

"I wanted to go for the win, but I still knew we had plenty of time left," Rodgers said.

The game was halted for 15-20 minutes when Bradford's Graceyn McClellan was injured during the ensuing kickoff. He was transported to the hospital. His mother, via Facebook the following day, reported that McClellan was doing good and that it looked as if he had "a pretty good concussion."

Once play resumed, Mandarin completed 1 of 3 pass attempts

See BHS, page 12

## BHS drops 2 of 3 in volleyball

Bradford High School did get a win over Hawthorne, which completed a season sweep of the Hornets, but it came in the midst of two losses that dropped the Tornados' record to 2-7.

The Tornados hosted Keystone on Sept. 10, with the Indians winning 3-1. Bradford bounced back with a 3-0 win at Hawthorne on Sept. 11, but then lost 3-0 at Suwannee on Sept. 16. Bradford played at Hilliard on Wednesday, Sept. 18, and will then play at Baldwin on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

## KHHS volleyball team falls to 4-10

Keystone Heights High School competed in the Sept. 13-14 Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association River City Classic,

going 1-1 on the first day before ultimately finishing 1-4.

The Indians (4-10) began play with a 2-0 (25-16, 25-12) loss to Orange Park on Sept. 13. Keystone then defeated Rickards 2-1 (14-25, 25-21, 15-6) that same day.

Keystone dropped all three matches it played on Sept. 14, losing 2-0 (25-15, 25-18) to Union County, 2-1 (14-25, 25-22, 15-7) to St. Johns Country Day and 2-0 (25-13, 25-13) loss to Savannah, Georgia's Calvary

Day. The Indians entered the tournament off a 3-1 (25-7, 25-19, 19-25, 25-21) road win over Bradford on Sept. 10.

Keystone played Union this past Tuesday and will host Eastside on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m., following a junior varsity match at 6 p.m. The Indians then travel to play Interlachen on Monday, Sept. 23, and Baker County on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Both matches begin at 7 p.m. following JV matches at 6 p.m.

# KHHS coach helps create 1A Public Golf Championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Year in and year out, the public schools with the best boys golf teams aren't going to challenge for a state championship. Most likely, those teams won't even qualify for the Florida High School Athletic Association's state tournament.

That's the harsh reality. Teams from schools such as Bradford, Keystone Heights and Union County simply can't make an impact on a class dominated by private schools.

"Our kids need something for their own," KHHS Coach Ryan Begue said.

They do now, with the creation of the Florida Class 1A Public School Golf Championship, which will be held Oct. 25 at Quail Heights Country Club in Lake City.

Begue describes it as "a championship that is on an even playing field." Rankings on iwannamaker.com that take

into count team average and course difficulty will be used to select the top eight public-school teams. The top six individuals who aren't members of those teams will play in the public-school championship as well.

"I'm really excited about it," Begue said.

The 1A public schools, which are still part of the FHSAA, were allowed to have a championship tournament as long as the word "state" isn't used. The tournament also doesn't interfere with the FHSAA postseason. The public-school championship will be played prior to the start of FHSAA district tournaments.

"We still want to be a part of the FHSAA," Begue said.

Begue said he began thinking of an event for public schools only when he considered his inaugural season as the KHHS coach in 2023. The Indians had a 13-5 regular-season record and added seven more wins in claiming their third consecutive

district championship before the season ended with a seventh-place finish at the regional tournament.

To qualify for state, teams either have to place in the top two at a regional tournament or earn an at-large bid.

"We weren't even sniffing that," Begue said of an at-large bid, noting that despite its successful season, Keystone was still ranked outside of the top 40 in Class 1A.

Begue said in a closer examination of Class 1A boys golf, less than 40 of approximately 143 teams are "traditional public-school teams." He then looked at the rankings of teams in all three of golf's classifications, discovering that the private schools that play in 1A were "predominantly better than the 2A and 3A schools."

"Some of these kids are coming from across the country and from

See GOLF, page 12

## BHS' Devore, UCHS' Elixson tie for 1st in Sept. 10 match

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford and Union County competed in a girls golf match on Sept. 10 at The Country Club at Lake City, with the Tornados' Kaylee Devore and the Tigers' Zoe Elixson finishing tied for medalist honors.

Devore and Elixson each made par on one hole to finish at 51.

Bradford's Sarah Rantz placed third with a score of 53.

The Tigers had a full team with three more players participating, giving Union a team score of 261. Kerissa Seay and Katelyn Seay were fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores of 63 and 70, while Madison Starling shot a sixth-place score of 77.

## BHS' Spratlin is 1st in match with UCHS and First Christian

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's Cody Spratlin was the medalist in a Sept. 10 boys golf match at The Country Club at Lake City

that included First Christian and Union County.

First Christian topped the Tornados as a team with a score of 200 to Bradford's 201.

Spratlin had a birdie and made par on five holes to finish with a score of 39. He was three strokes ahead of First Christian's Brayden Pedersen.

The Tornados' Tucker Griffis placed fourth with a score of 51, while Avery Burgin shot a 55 to finish in a two-way tie for sixth. Bradford's Steven Carter was eighth with a score of 56.

Union's Gavin Kuhn placed ninth with a score of 59.

Grayson Jennings, who made par on one hole, placed 10th for Bradford with a score of 60, while teammate Matthew Stafford had an 11th-place score of 61.

The Tigers' Patrick Maxwell shot a 70 to finish 13th.

## Indians top 3-team field in Sept. 12 boys golf match

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Jacob Beach challenged for medalist honors as the Keystone Heights High School boys golf team defeated Palatka and Peniel Baptist in a Sept. 12 boys golf match at Palatka Golf Club.

The Indians (4-3) had a team

score of 188, which put them six strokes ahead of Peniel Baptist and 16 strokes ahead of Palatka.

Beach had a birdie and made par on one hole in finishing with a second-place score of 45. He trailed Peniel Baptist's Turner Hersey by two strokes.

The Indians' Ty Mitzel and Konner Kelly were part of a three-way tie for fourth, with each shooting a 47. Mitzel made par on three holes.

Will Begue and Jackson McDaniel placed ninth and 11th, respectively, for Keystone with scores of 49 and 52. McDaniel made par on one hole.

Nate Bardier, who made par on one hole, shot a 12th-place score of 55.

## Carter leads Tornados at Buchholz meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Steven Carter, one of three Bradford High School participants in the varsity boys race, finished in the top half of the field at the Sept. 14 Buchholz Bobcat Classic.

Carter ran a time of 20:33, which placed him 44th out of 109.

Kayden Lee and Kolson Lee also ran for Bradford, finishing with times of 25:58 and 35:18, respectively.

### BUDGET SUMMARY Town of Worthington Springs Fiscal Year 2024-2025

The proposed operating budget expenditures of the Town of Worthington Springs are .098% more than last year's total operating expenditures

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Total
	\$ 130,000		\$ 130,000
<b>Estimated revenues:</b>			
Taxes: Millage per \$1,000			
Ad Valorem Taxes - 1.9235	21,655		21,655
Sales and Use Taxes	68,860		68,860
Franchise Fees	27,350		27,350
Intergovernmental Revenues	32,794		32,794
CDBG Grant		500,000	500,000
American Rescue Plan		20,000	20,000
Fines & Forfeitures	800		800
Other Misc. Revenues	18,500		18,500
Total estimated revenues and other financing sources	169,959	520,000	689,959
Reserves for Contingencies	130,000		130,000
<b>Cash Balances, revenues and other sources</b>	<b>299,959</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>819,959</b>
<b>Estimated expenditures/expenses:</b>			
General Government	122,576		122,576
Public Safety	7,000		7,000
Transportation	9,000		9,000
Parks and Recreation	13,500		13,500
Codes/Interlocal	12,883		12,883
Capital Improvements	5,000		5,000
CDBG Grant		500,000	500,000
American Rescue Plan		20,000	20,000
Total estimated expenditures / expenses	169,959	520,000	689,959
Reserves for Contingencies	130,000		130,000
<b>Total Estimated Expenditures and Reserves</b>	<b>299,959</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>819,959</b>

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

# JB Jackson

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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

**LAKE BUTLER**  
145 SW 6th Ave.  
**496-3079**

## NCA defeats Westwood 3-0 for 7-2 record

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Northside Christian Academy's volleyball team improved to 7-2 with a 3-0 (25-9, 25-8, 25-19) win at Live Oak's Westwood Christian on Sept. 12. The win was part of a week that saw the Eagles split a pair of Sept. 10 home matches. They lost 3-0 (25-9, 25-20, 25-6) to High Springs' First Christian and defeated Gainesville Christian Community 3-0 (25-4, 25-11, 25-15).

Northside played Corinth Christian this past Tuesday and will host both Hope Christian and Micanopy Academy on Sept. 19, with matches beginning at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. The Eagles then travel to play Cedar Key High School on Friday, Sept. 20, at 5 p.m.

On Monday, Sept. 23, the Eagles travel to Jacksonville to play Victory Christian at 5 p.m.

## 3 earn medals for Indians at Bobcat Classic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School had two boys varsity runners and one girls varsity runner earn medals for top-20 finishes at the Sept. 14 Buchholz Bobcat Cross Country Classic, which was held at Santa Fe College in Gainesville.

Ryder Thomas led the boys team with a time of 17:35, which placed him ninth out of 109. Teammate Noah Yara ran a 15th-place time of 18:13.

Olivia Griffin finished 17th in the 80-runner girls race with a time of 22:36.

Keystone placed fifth out of nine in the girls team standings, getting a 29th-place time of 25:14 from Melody Tyre and a

See KHHS, page 12



Lake Butler's Reagan Williams (right) prepares to take advantage of a set by Sabella Reddish during the A-team match, which the Tigers won by defeating host Bradford 2-0. The Tigers next play at Williston on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 5 p.m.

## LBMS A volleyball team defeats BMS 2-0

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford and Lake Butler middle schools split a pair of volleyball matches on Sept. 16 in Starke, with Lake Butler winning the A-team match 2-0 (25-10, 25-22) and Bradford taking the B-team match 2-0 (25-16, 25-20).

The Tigers built a 4-1 lead in the first set of the A-team match. They then got three service aces



Kelsey Padgett served up a number of aces for the Bradford B team in its 2-0 win over Lake Butler.

from Reagan Williams as part of a 6-0 run.

A 4-0 stretch that included an ace by Latoya Hampton put Lake Butler up 16-3.

Bradford got kills from Jade Brown, Cayson Hampton and Elaina Smith, but could never put together a string of points to cut into the Tigers' lead.

Latoya Hampton had a kill that put the Tigers up 24-9, with a Bradford attack error eventually giving Lake Butler the first-set win.

The Tornadoes took a 6-3 lead in the second set and scored three straight points — including an ace — with Cayson Hampton serving to go up 13-8.

Lake Butler got an ace from Sabella Reddish and a kill from Latoya Hampton to later tie the score at 13-13 before side-out gave the serve to the Tornadoes' Shelby Williams. Bradford got two kills from Smith to go up 16-13.

It was 18-16 in favor of Bradford when the Tigers scored two points with Latoya Hampton serving.

See VOLLEY, page 16

# Tigers record 3rd shutout in 22-0 win over Baldwin

BY CECE THOMAS  
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

The Union County Tigers took an unbeaten record on the road to play a tough, Class 2A Baldwin team, coming away with a 22-0 victory in wet, sloppy conditions on Sept. 13.

Both teams struggled with their footing at times, turning the game into a slugfest that the Tigers (4-0) seemed to control throughout the night.

Both teams were able to get a couple of first downs on their opening possessions. On their second possession, the Tigers put together a 17-play drive, converting on several crucial third- and fourth-down conversions and eating up much of the clock in the second quarter. The Tigers had several good runs on that drive by C.J. Ivey and Drew Simmons. On a third-and-9 in Indians territory, the quarterback Trenton Klein connected with slot back Ashton Newsom to give the Tigers a first-and-goal.

The Indians (2-2) held the Tigers through three downs, but on fourth down, Klein sprinted left on a run-throw option play, keeping the ball and scrambling untouched into the end zone for the first score of the evening. The two-point play failed, but the Tigers were up 6-0 — a lead that would hold all night.

Union's defense was tough throughout the evening. It continued to pressure the Indians' quarterback and was able to hold Baldwin scoreless, resulting in the Tigers' third straight shutout.

"Our defense got after the QB most of the night," Union Head Coach Andrew Thomas said. "As we took the lead, it

made (Baldwin) more one-dimensional, and it allowed us to bring even more pressure. Our defensive front and backfield played well.

"Our goal was to limit their big plays and force them to drive, and they weren't able to sustain any."

The second half began with the Tigers receiving the opening kick. After a couple of first downs, the Tigers were forced to attempt a punt for the only time all night, but a high snap over Gavin Jenkins' head gave the Indians great field position. The Union defense didn't blink. Baldwin tried to establish the run, but the Tigers' defensive front and linebacker play was great and once again — even after great field position — prevented the Indians from scoring.

Union's offense took over and put together a great drive, highlighted by runs by Simmons and Bryan Tyson and a great slant catch by Jenkins. The Tigers moved into Indians territory, but the drive was stopped short inside the 10-yard line, which Thomas said really bothered him.

"Yeah, the long drive in the third quarter hurt, not being able to score there," he said. "We had a few blown assignments on some blocks and have to score in those situations, especially on the road. I was afraid not scoring there was gonna come back to haunt us."

It didn't. The Tigers' defense made sure of that.

The constant pressure took its toll on the Indians' offensive line. A bad snap and extreme hustle by Klein at linebacker resulted in one of the best defensive plays of the year. Scrambling for the loose ball, Klein wouldn't be

denied.

The Tigers took over deep in Baldwin territory, and this time made it count. On fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line, a determined offensive line plowed the way for fullback Ivey (11 carries, 40 yards) to walk in for the touchdown. The Tigers went for two, with Klein completing a pass to Jenkins. The Tigers now led 14-0 with approximately eight minutes left in the game. Fans weren't quite sure how much time remained because the scoreboard clock was down.

During the next Baldwin possession, the Tigers could taste victory and continued pressuring the quarterback. Union forced the Indians to go four-and-out, which gave the ball back to the offense with six minutes left in the game.

The offense imposed its will in just four plays, capping off the drive with a Simmons touchdown run to go up 20-0. Ivey's run on the two-point conversion gave the visitors a 22-0 lead.

Simmons finished with 121 yards on 19 carries.

Union amassed 193 rushing yards, while Klein completed 5 of 12 passes for 63 yards. Jenkins caught three passes for 44 yards.

Jesse Chaikin led the defense with seven tackles, while Klein had six.

The Tigers now turn their focus to a home game against the rival Fort White Indian on Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The Indians come into the contest with a 3-1 record, with their only loss occurring in overtime against undefeated Taylor County.

This will be the first of four straight home games for the Tigers.



Layla Barber and the Union County volleyball team went 4-1 in a JJVA tournament.

## Tigers go 4-1 in JJVA tourney

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School went 4-1 in the Sept. 13-14 Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball Association River City Classic, giving the Tigers eight wins in their last nine matches.

The Tigers (9-5) began play with a 2-1 (22-25, 25-21, 15-10) win over Class 1A Christ's Church Academy, followed by a 2-0 (25-13, 25-17) loss to Class 6A Viera.

Union bounced back with a 3-0 showing on Sept. 14, beginning with a 2-0 (25-15, 25-18) win over Class 3A Keystone Heights. Jailyn Simmons had nine kills, while Layla Barber and Morgan Smith each had six. Barber also recorded four service aces.

Bella Johns and Kamryn Southerland each had 10 digs, with Southerland leading the team in assists with 15.

Southerland recorded another double-double in a 2-0 (25-19, 25-21) win over Class 1A St. Johns Country Day with 10 assists and 10 digs.

Johns led the team in digs with 18.

Simmons and Indi Knox recorded nine and eight kills, respectively, while Barber had seven. Simmons added three blocks to her totals, while Knox had 12 digs.

Abigail Williams had nine assists.

The Tigers finally dropped a set on the tournament's second day, but were still victorious,

defeating Class 5A St. Augustine 2-1 (25-17, 22-25, 15-12). Knox had 14 digs and 10 kills, while Southerland had 15 assists and 10 digs.

Simmons had 10 kills, seven digs and two blocks, while Smith and Barber recorded seven and six kills, respectively.

Johns led the team in digs with 15.

Union entered the tournament off a 3-1 (25-22, 25-17, 15-25, 25-19) win over Class 4A Baker County on Sept. 12 in Lake Butler, getting 18 kills, seven digs and six blocks from Simmons.

It was just Baker's second loss.

Smith and Knox had 12 and 10 kills, respectively, with Smith also recording four blocks and Knox adding 15 digs and three aces.

Barber had eight kills and four aces.

Johns recorded a team-high 20 digs, with the Tigers also getting 12 from Southerland, 10 from Bayley Staier and six from Shaley Maloney.

Southerland also had 21 assists and three aces.

The Tigers played Branford and Keystone this past Monday and Tuesday and will host Lafayette on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m., following a 5 p.m. junior varsity match.

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, Union travels to play P.K. Yonge at 6:30 p.m. The JV teams will play at 5:30 p.m.

## HCA volleyball team on a 3-match skid

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Hope Christian Academy's volleyball team had a winning record after a 3-0 (28-16, 25-15, 25-21) win over visiting Westwood Christian on Sept. 10, but the Lions have since dropped three straight, with the latest loss coming by a score of 3-1 (21-25, 25-22, 25-21, 25-14) in a road match against Westwood on Sept. 16 in Live Oak.

The Lions (4-6) got eight kills and 10 service aces from Addyson Wilson in the Sept. 10 win over Westwood. Mackenzie McRaney and Brianna Bradshaw had six and three aces, respectively.

Hope traveled to play a Hawthorne High School team it had already beaten, but it was the host Hornets getting the 3-0 (25-22, 25-22, 25-19) win on Sept. 12. Wilson had nine kills, while McRaney had eight aces.

Ashlyn Crews and McRaney had five and four assists,



Brianna Bradshaw serves for the Hope varsity team. Photo by Chris Amis.

respectively.

The Lions traveled to High Springs to play First Christian on Sept. 13, losing 3-0 (25-5, 25-14, 25-6). Hope had only four kills as a team, with Wilson recording two of them.

Stats for the Sept. 16 loss to Westwood weren't available by deadline.

Hope played First Christian again this past Tuesday and will play at Northside Christian on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 5 p.m. The Lions host First Coast Christian on Friday, Sept. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, the Lions host First Assembly Christian at 5:30 p.m.

Hope's junior varsity team evened its record at 5-5 with a 2-0 (25-15, 25-11) win at Westwood Christian on Sept. 16.

The JV Lions won three in a row earlier in September, which gave them a 4-3 record. The win streak began with a 2-0 (25-11, 25-17) defeat of visiting Gainesville Christian Community on Sept. 5. Allyssa Wilson had four kills and six aces.

Kiersten Bradshaw had nine aces, while Abbie Leon had four. Grace Amis and Kinsley Bagwell each added three.

Hope defeated host Corinth Christian 2-0 (25-8, 25-14) on Sept. 9 and followed that with a 2-0 25-19, 25-6) win over visiting Westwood Christian on Sept. 10.

Wilson led the team in aces against Westwood with seven, while Bradshaw and Leon each had three.

The Lions' Sept. 16 win over Westwood Christian snapped a two-match losing streak.

Hope's JV team will play one hour prior to the varsity team's Sept. 19, Sept. 20 and Sept. 24 matches.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

The TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

### Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy.....	\$ 20,065
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes.....	0
C. Actual property tax levy.....	\$ 20,065

This year's proposed tax levy .....\$ 21,653

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

**September 24, 2024**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Community Building**  
**Worthington Springs, Florida**

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

# Indians drop to 1-2 with 48-0 district loss to Newberry

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Newberry racked up 360 yards of offense while limiting Keystone Heights to 4 in beating the Indians 48-0 in the first District 5-2A game for either team on Sept. 13 in Newberry.

The Panthers' Kaleb Woods ran for four touchdowns and rushed for 194 yards on 11 carries in the winning effort. Quarterback Kobe Johnson

added two touchdown passes, completing three throws on six attempts for 63 yards and no interceptions as the Panthers (2-2) snapped a two-game losing streak.

One of the Indians' few bright spots came at the beginning of the game when Kyle Perkins stripped the football from Johnson, forcing the Panther signal caller to fall on the ball and resulting in a big loss.

A few plays later, however, Johnson connected on his first touchdown pass, completing a 19-yard strike to Logan McCloud for Newberry's first score.

After Woods' first touchdown run, Johnson struck again, finding Javeon Long for a 31-yard scoring completion.

Woods then tacked on three more touchdowns, the last coming with 8:40 left in the game.

When asked about any bright spots for the Indians (1-2) in the losing effort, Coach Steve Reynolds said his squad played hard and tough, trying to come together while overcoming injuries.

"They need to stay together," Reynolds said. "Two losses in a row and a bye week in there. It feels like it's longer than what it really is, but it's tough, and they've got to remember to love

each other." Reynolds also said canceling the school's junior varsity schedule gives some of his younger players valuable experience.

He added that this year, the school's freshman and sophomore classes are exceptionally small. The JV season had always been in jeopardy. Add a few injuries to the ninth- and 10th-graders, and the school could not field a

competitive team. "A lot of those kids played tonight," the coach said. "A lot of those kids got reps on special teams, and we were trying to get those kids involved. They need to play." Keystone hosts Dixie County on Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The Bears (2-2) lost to Lafayette and Taylor County, but beat Trenton and Belleview.

## BHS Continued from page 10

for 7 yards and punted, resulted in Bradford starting a drive at its own 22 with 9:31 to play.

The Tornadoes then went to a wildcat-type offense, with Cason, McKenzie and Williams all taking turns receiving the snap and running with the ball. First, Cason ran for a 5-yard gain, with a personal-foul penalty adding another 15 yards. McKenzie had runs of 8, 12 and 11 yards as the Tornadoes moved to the Mandarin 27. A 17-yard run by Cason later set up first-and-goal at the 7.

Cason, who rushed for 40 yards on six carries and finished with 145 all-purpose yards, scored a touchdown on a 6-yard run to make it 18-13 with 5:04 remaining.

"I was tired," said Cason, who added that he was taking a breather on the sideline for most of the drive. "As we got closer, I was like, 'Give me the ball, Coach.' I got it done."

Cason, McKenzie and Williams all start on defense, which is why you don't see more of the wildcat offense until late in games.

"I know everybody in the bleachers wants to know, 'Why don't you do that the whole game?'" Those guys play every down on defense," Rodgers said. "You can't do that in the first quarter and second quarter. I want (those players) to give out at the end of the game. That's when I want them tired."

Those defensive players still had a stop to make as Mandarin started the ensuing series at its own 20. Johnson had a 5-yard sack before teaming up with

Marlin Haywood to hold Josiah Watkins to a 5-yard gain on a pass play. Cason then had a near interception on third down. The Mustangs punted with more than three minutes left in the game.

Bradford, after running three offensive plays, faced fourth-and-2 at the Mandarin 48. Cason fought his way past the first-down marker on a 4-yard carry that allowed the Tornadoes to then run the clock out.

Rodgers said the Tornadoes were supposed to call a time out instead of snapping the ball on that fourth-down play.

"It was crazy. I wasn't even supposed to get the ball," Cason said. "It was just a mistake. I turned it into a big play."

Rodgers said, "We had no play called, and the center snapped it. I asked him, 'What play were we running?'" He said, "I don't know." I said, "Well, we didn't



Branden Williams (right) receives a snap. Gino Addison is also pictured.

know either. Thank God Quezzie knew."

Bradford finished with 299 yards of offense, with 206 coming on 48 rushing attempts.

McKenzie led the team with 77 yards on eight carries, while Gino Addison had 66 on 17 carries. Williams added 37 yards on five carries.

Paulk completed 6 of 12 passes for 93 yards, with Cason catching three balls for 45 yards.

Cason also had three kickoff returns for 60 yards.

The Mustangs finished with 188 yards, with Annis completing 10 of 25 passes for 159 yards.

Bradford has now defeated four schools in larger classifications by a combined score of 88-41. Their first three opponents (Baker County, Dunnellon and South Sumter) are all in the top 10 of MaxPreps' Class 3A rankings.

"It says a lot about our coaches. It says a lot about our players," Rodgers said, adding that the Mandarin win "just solidified that we're a gritty program."

## GOLF Continued from page 10

out of the country to play golf here (in Florida)," Begue said of the players at 1A private schools.

The idea for a public-school championship was pitched to some of his fellow coaches. Begue said Lafayette Coach Robbie Kerby was "really excited" and credited him with being a driving force in creating this season's inaugural championship.

"He's as much of a spearhead

on this as I am," Begue said.

Begue gave thanks to the coaches who've supported him in this endeavor and especially praised the efforts of the two other boys coaches in the Telegraph-Times-Monitor coverage area — David Duncan of Bradford and Patrick Maxwell of Union County.

"It's good to have a bunch of guys who work well together and do a good job of promoting junior golf in our area," Begue said.

Begue is seeking sponsors to help support the 1A Public

School Golf Championship, noting he wants to be able to provide trophies as well as lunch. "We want to make it special," he said.

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor or learning more, please contact Begue at ryanbegue@gmail.com.

## KHHS Continued from page 11

41st-place time of 26:43 from Brook Gaudons. Gaudons' time was a personal record.

An additional five girls runners competed for the Indians: Cali Chamberlain 27:22, Kenslee Phillips 27:31 (PR), Madilyn Miller 27:35 (PR) and Clara Beth Robinson 33:08.

The boys team placed seventh out of 15 and had eight runners besides Thomas and Yara: Graysen Bell 22:29 (PR), Jason Parales 22:49, Mason Gray 23:12, Gavin Morford 23:35, Alex Mahaffey 25:05 (PR), Eli Rabe 25:32, Hunter Gray 25:36 and Oliver Miller 25:46.

Keystone had three runners in the junior varsity girls race: Raina Daniel 39:27, Ava Blackburn 41:50 and Madylinn Michaud 43:18.

### BUDGET SUMMARY

#### TOWN OF BROOKER – FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

	GENERAL FUND	WATER FUND	TOTAL
Cash Carryover brought forward	\$10,000.	\$4,900.	\$14,900.
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES:</b>			
Taxes Millage per \$1000.			
Ad Valorem Taxes 0.2503	3,245.		3,245.
Charges for Service	2,500.	94,400.	96,900.
Intergovernmental	164,750.		164,750.
License & Fees	205.		205.
Fines & Forfeitures	200.		200.
Interest Earned/Other	11,400.	18,700.	30,100.
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>	<b>182,300.</b>	<b>113,100.</b>	<b>295,400.</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>192,300.</b>	<b>118,000.</b>	<b>310,300.</b>
<b>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:</b>			
Personal Service		76,600.	76,600.
Physical Environment	16,000.		16,000.
Transfer to General Fund		11,400.	11,400.
General Government	131,400.	25,100.	156,500.
Culture & Recreation	14,400.		14,400.
Transportation	20,500.		20,500.
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>182,300.</b>	<b>113,100.</b>	<b>295,400.</b>
RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES	10,000.	4,900.	14,900.
<b>TOTAL Estimated Expenditures &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>192,300.</b>	<b>118,000.</b>	<b>310,300.</b>

The tentative, adopted, and/or final budget is on file in the office of the above mentioned Taxing authority as a public record.

### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Town of Brooker has tentatively adopted a budget for 2024/2025.

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

September 24, 2024  
7:00p.m.

At

Brooker Town Hall/Community Center  
17435 Tetstone Ave., Brooker, FL



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## Featured Listings From Your Local Realtors!



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# Obituaries

## Kimberly Diane Alsabrook-Scramm

Kimberly Diane Alsabrook-Scramm, 52, was a resident of Keystone Heights for most of her life. Born in Columbus, Georgia on Sept. 25, 1971, she passed away with her family by her side in Gainesville, on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024. Kim was hospitalized for several years, battling a long-term illness. Known throughout the community as a humanitarian with a giant heart for animals, she opened a pet rescue called "Last Chance Renegades at Schramm Farms" in 2010. She believed every stray or abandoned creature, regardless of breed, deserved a fighting chance. From feral raccoons to house cats, her home was open to all that needed healing. Kim created a popular Facebook series called "Farm Notes," which included tips on animal husbandry and championed local rescue shelters. Fans already miss her wild stories of Simon the fowl-mouthed African Grey and daily laughing-goat pictures. But most of all, Kim is missed for her wild personality and generous heart.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Dale Schramm; son, Kolton Levi Alsabrook; parents, Kenneth Douglas Alsabrook Sr. and Barbara Gunter Alsabrook; two siblings, Tonya Alsabrook (William Kenneth) Gibbs, Kenneth Douglas (Elaine Lynn) Alsabrook II, Tracy Samson (married to Steve Greer); and the following nieces and nephews (listed in age order), Brittany Gibbs (Scott Brian) Frew, and their two children, Greyson Kenneth Frew and Cora Elizabeth Frew, Kenneth Brighton (Torri Dawn) Gibbs, Jacob (Holly) Shearsby, and their children, Sara Greer and Analise Greer, Kenneth Douglas Alsabrook III, and Hayden Cooper Alsabrook.

There will be an opportunity to visit with the family at Kenny and Elaine's home, 6794 Little Rain Lake Road, Keystone Heights 32656, on Friday, Sept. 20, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

PAID OBITUARY

## Raymond Fink

Raymond August Fink met his Savior face to face on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at his brother's home in Jacksonville, just days shy of his 62nd birthday. Born Sept. 21, 1962, in Long Island, New York, he grew from a hopeful child into a quiet, yet generous, man, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege to know him. He dedicated his professional life as a welder and heavy equipment operator for the Bradford County Road Department, where his commitment shone through in every project he undertook. His hands, always capable and steady, built not just roads, but pathways for others, a testament to his caring nature. Beyond the confines of work, he found solace and joy in the simple pleasures of life. He was an avid fisherman and gardener, relishing the beauty of the great outdoors. With a guitar in hand and a song in his heart, he frequently serenaded friends and family, his passion for music intertwining seamlessly with his profound love for witnessing and sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ. Raymond was preceded in death by his parents, James Judson Fink Sr. and Delores Ann Normoyle Turner.



He is survived by a loving daughter, Leveta (Russell) Oxby, residing in Tennessee; and three cherished grandchildren Cloe, Joseph, and Evan, whose laughter and joy brought him immense pride. His siblings, James Judson Jr. of Brooker, John Anthony Fink of Jacksonville, Dorothy Lorane (Paul) Barnett of Aster, and Barbara Jane O'Brien of Lake Butler, carry forth his legacy, holding dear the memories they created together.

To honor his memory, a visitation will be held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m. at the same location. He will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Crosby Lake Cemetery in Starke next to his parents. Pastor Kent Williams of Nolan Ridge Church will officiate the service.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Raymond Fink. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Rodney Hall

Rodney Phillip Hall of Starke, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, at 7:20 p.m. in the presence of his wife, sons and grandchildren at the age of 93. He was born Nov. 26, 1930, in Bradford County. He was the son of Clyde and Laura (Joyner) Hall. Laura came from Georgia to teach school, teaching in Duval, Clay and Bradford counties. Clyde was a third-generation Floridian from Alachua County, who came to Bradford County as a child and became a farmer. Rodney Hall had two sisters, Marjorie (Hall) Packham and Carrie Mae (Hall) Ritch, both now deceased. Mr. Hall married Janice (Dansby) Hall from Starke, who was born in Ozark, Alabama. Rodney and Janice have two sons, Stephen P. (Becky) Hall of Keystone Heights and Richard D. (Lorene) Hall of Kingsley Lake. In addition to his wife and sons, he is survived by his grandchildren, Christopher (Brianna) Hall of Ocala, Daniele (Brennan) Beckham of Starke, Tiffany (Preston) Rhoden of Keystone Heights, and Stephanie (Robert) Reed of Starke; step granddaughter, Nicole (Richard) Canipe of Starke; great-grandchildren, Curtis Reed, Nora Reed, Adalynn Rhoden, Blake Beckham, Rylee Beckham, and Liam Hall; and step great-grandchildren, Wyatt Canipe and Josie Canipe.

Mr. Hall served on the Bradford County School Board for 24 years and was the Board Chairman for many of those years. He also served as a Vice-Chairman of the Florida School Board Association. He was employed by the DuPont Corporation for 33 years as a surveyor, production supervisor, employee-relations supervisor and training supervisor. He retired from the U.S. Army and served over 41 years with the U.S. Army Reserves and Florida Army National Guard. During those years, he spent considerable time on active duty. After retirement from Dupont and the Army, he was employed by the Florida Department of Military Affairs as a museum design supervisor and museum curator. He was of the Christian faith and a longtime member of Hope Baptist Church, located in his community of Theresa. Beginning in 1947, he served as the church song leader, training-union superintendent, Sunday school teacher, grounds-committee member and building-committee member.

The family will receive friends at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Friday, Sept. 20, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral services will be Saturday, Sept. 21, at Hope Baptist Church at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Hope Baptist Church Cemetery with military honors.

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

PAID OBITUARY

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

## Jack Lakes

Jack Benjamin Lakes, 93, of Penney Farms passed away peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024. A devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and member of the community, he will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and zest for life. Jack retired from Flagler College in St. Augustine after serving as the vice president of business administration for 22 years. He oversaw all operational aspects of the college during his tenure. Before joining Flagler College, he dedicated more than 25 years of honorable service to the United States Marine Corps, retiring with the rank of major and earning commendations for his distinguished service. A true lover of the outdoors, he found great joy in fishing and boating, often spending weekends on the water, casting a line, and soaking in the beauty of nature. His passion for woodworking was evident in the beautiful pieces he crafted with care and skill, each one a testament to his artistry and dedication. He was a master gardener with expertise in cultivating vibrant flowers, vegetables, and greenery. His gardens were not only a place of beauty, but a sanctuary for friends and family to gather. For many years, Jack also took great pride in raising African Grey parrots, whose lively personalities matched his own vibrant spirit. He and his wife, Shirlee Lakes, shared a love for adventure and travel, frequently exploring new places in their RV. They relished the freedom of the open road and the excitement of discovering new destinations. In addition to these passions, he was a dedicated reader, eagerly awaiting the release of every new John Grisham novel, often immersing himself in the world of legal thrillers with enthusiasm and curiosity. He was predeceased by his first wife, Shirlee S. Lakes; his second wife, Carolyn Hinson Lakes; his sons, Greg and Randy Lakes; and grandsons, Brett and Kyle McLaughlin.



He is survived by three of his children, Jack Benjamin Lakes Jr., Janet Lakes Kittinger, and Karen Lakes Mooneyhan; his siblings, Jere Underwood, Jeff Underwood, and Judi Underwood; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A graveside Celebration of Life was held Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Jacksonville National Cemetery to celebrate his remarkable life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Jack Benjamin Lakes' honor to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation (t2t.org).

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

PAID OBITUARY

## Twilla Massingill

Twilla Sue Massingill, 60, died at her son's home in Lake Butler on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024. She was born May 6, 1964, in Clermont, grew up in Worthington Springs and was a graduate of Union County High School, Class of 1982. She was preceded in death by her mom, Patsy Roberts; her dad, Benjamin "Red" Roberts; and her brother, Kevin Roberts.



Survivors are her son, Zedric (Deanna) Merritt; two grandchildren, Hunter and Emily Merritt; and her former husband, Reid Massingill.

A Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 5:30 p.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. Friends are invited to come and tell stories of their memories with her. Her final memorialization will be by cremation under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

## Doris Smith

Doris Bernice Smith, 92, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at Windsor Health and Rehab facility in Starke. Born on Oct. 15, 1931, in Heilbron Springs, Doris was a gentle soul who carried a sweetness that touched everyone she met. Her hobbies of sewing and gardening brought her joy and fulfillment, but it was fishing—an activity she thoroughly enjoyed—that often led her to peaceful moments spent in nature, embracing the tranquility of the outdoors. A proud graduate of Bradford County High School, she remained curious and eager to learn, completing a few online college classes later in life. Her reserved yet warm personality made her a steadfast friend, and she was known for her kind spirit and loving nature. In her 55 years of marriage, she shared a deep and abiding love with her husband, Robert Ellis Smith Sr., who preceded her in death. Together, they raised a beautiful family filled with laughter and love. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Della Lang Norman; and her son, Robert E. Smith Jr.



Doris is survived by her loving children, William Turner Smith, Carol Lynne Thomas, and Dale Smith; along with her seven grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren, who all held her dear.

Family and friends were invited to celebrate Doris's life and legacy during a visitation on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler. A graveside service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m. at Long Branch Baptist Church Cemetery in Jacksonville, where Doris will be laid to rest. Pastor Jay Baker will officiate the service.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Doris Smith. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Bradley Snow

Bradley "Brad" Austin Snow, a devoted family man, passed away at his home in Jacksonville on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at the age of 54. Brad was born in Jacksonville. At the age of 8, he moved with his family to Graham, where he lived until he was 14. At that time, he moved to Green Cove Springs. He went to school in the Bradford and Clay county school systems and later obtained his GED. He proudly served our nation as a Military Police (MP) in the Army from 1988–1992. He was honorably discharged after serving both stateside and overseas following the end of the Gulf War. He held several jobs in his civilian life, but his primary employer, dating back at least 30 years, was with ASAP Plumbing based out of Jacksonville, where his most recent title was vice president and operations manager for the lift-station division. Brad had many loves – God, spending time with his family, the Florida Gators, Jacksonville Jaguars, NHRA, and, most especially, bass fishing. But there was nothing he loved more than his only child, his daughter, Amber. He was a loving and devoted father to Amber and would stop at nothing to ensure she had a blessed and happy life. He was predeceased by his grandparents, William Snow, Lura Snow Robinson, J.B. Pedrick, and Mary Duke Pedrick.



He is survived by his mother, Vickie (Tim) Crews; father, Ronald (Susan) Snow; daughter, Amber Snow and her partner, Anthony Ratliff; sisters, Lorie (Doug) Martin, Angelina Crews, Jaclyn (Pete) Hinds, Nicole (Arend) Wesseling, Kim (Brent) Tull; and one brother, Tim "Bucky" Crews; along with many nieces, nephews, and friends that he loved dearly.

A memorial service to celebrate Bradley's life will be scheduled at a later date.

PAID OBITUARY

## Gloria Starling

Gloria Marie Starling, 80, was born Jan. 7, 1944, in Bradford County to the late George and Mabel (Leach) Swanson. She passed away at her home on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024. She was a resident of Kingsley Lake for more than 40 years. She earned her high school diploma and later became a bus driver for Bradford County Schools for 35 years, impacting many lives during that time. Gloria enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and was known for her delicious cooking skills. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Starling; and brother, Michael Swanson.



She will be deeply missed by her son, Otis Starling; daughter, Cheri Starling (Randy Chesser); grandchildren, David (Gretchen) Brooks, O. J. Starling (Colleen Leebove), and William (Carla) Starling; as well as her great-grandchildren, Brianna Brooks, Caleb Brooks, Benton Starling, Baylor Starling, and Presley Faulkner. She is survived by her brothers, Robert and Alfred Swanson; niece, Jennifer Davis; great-nephews, Jacob, Joshua, and Jonathan Boulris, and Cody and Cade Swanson; as well as a great-niece, Ciera Arndt.

The funeral services to celebrate her life were held on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home with Pastor Steve Conner officiating. Interment followed at Kingsley Lake Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation with the family was held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Gloria's memory will forever be cherished by all those who knew and loved her. Rest in peace, Gloria Marie Starling.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Visit us on the web at [bctelegraph.com](http://bctelegraph.com)

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



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# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Sept. 19, 2024

## BRADFORD

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 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  
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 PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on October 16, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on October 09, 2024 and end at 2PM on October 16, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storageasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837

Time: 02:00PM CST  
A21, Wilson, Kelley, B13, Sofield, Ashley, B55, Bass, Glenda, B74, Jackson, Theresa  
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storageasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card. We do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837.

9/19 2tchg 9/26-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING  
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on October 1, 2024, at 9:30 AM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured - no firearms or weapons are permitted.

9/19 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: 1027  
Year of issuance: 2018  
Parcel Number: 04716-0-00201  
Case Number: 2024-TD-16  
Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in the Southeast 1/4 of Southwest 1/4 of Section 5, Township 7 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of said Southeast 1/4 of Southwest 1/4 and run South 88° 49' 33" East, along the Northerly boundary thereof, 404.70 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning.

From the Point of Beginning thus described continue South 88° 49' 33" East, along said Northerly boundary, 581.14 feet to a found iron rod; thence South 00° 13' 19" West, 205.63 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 57° 32' 33" West, 124.67 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 73° 29' 35" West, 166.06 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 87° 24' 23" West, 74.94 feet; thence South 00° 15' 11" West, 30.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 88° 49' 33" West, 231.52 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 00° 15' 11" East, 151.38 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Above described parcel being conveyed with an easement for ingress and egress more particularly described as follows:

Commence at an iron rod set at the Southeast corner of above described parcel for the point of beginning and run South 69° 28' 56" East, 549.39 feet to an iron rod set on the Westerly boundary of the right of way of Lincoln City Road; thence South 22° 07' and 54" West, along said Westerly boundary, 25.01 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 69° 28' 56" West, 549.11 feet; thence North 67° 32' and 33" West, 123.79 feet; thence North 73° 29' and 36" West, 160.55 feet; thence South 87° 24' and 23" West, 71.98 feet; thence North 00° 15' and 11" East, 25.03 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 87° 24' and 23" East, 74.94 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 73° 29' and 36" East, 166.05 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 57° 32' and 33" East, 124.67 feet to the point of beginning.

Above described parcel being subject to an easement for ingress and egress more particularly described as follows:

Commence at an iron rod set at the Southwest corner of above described parcel for the point of beginning and run North 00° 15' and 11" East, 30.00 feet; thence South 88° 49' 33" East, 231.52 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 00° 15' and 11" West, 30.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 88° 49' and 33" West, 231.52 feet to the point of beginning.  
Note: Prior Deeds and PA show 67° 32' 33" West (Line 4 of legal). Current Deed shows 57 degrees.

Name in Which Assessed: DALE E HASTINGS SR  
Name on last tax roll, if different: All 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:Kyrrah Smith  
Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: September 10, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: September 19, 2024, September 26, 2024, October 3, 2024, October 10, 2024

9/19 4tchg 10/10-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING  
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on October 1, 2024, at 9:30 AM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured - no firearms or weapons are permitted.

9/19 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: 778  
Year of Issuance: 2018  
Parcel Number: 02843-0-01500  
Case Number: 2024-TD-17  
Description of Property: IA parcel of land containing 0.86 of an acre, more or less, and lying in the NW 1/2 of NW1/4 of Section 27, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, in the City of Starke, Bradford County Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 27 and run South 89 degrees, 40 minutes and 32 seconds East, along the Northerly boundary thereof, 39.06 feet to the Easterly boundary of the right-of-way of Old Lawtey Road; thence South 0 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 590.74 feet to the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 0 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 100.0 feet; thence North 89 degrees, 23 minutes and 55 seconds East, 374.21 feet; thence North 0 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds West, parallel with said Easterly boundary, 100.0 feet; thence South 59 degrees, 23 minutes and 55 seconds West, 374.21 feet to the Point of Beginning. Name in Which Assessed: MARTHA J WHITLEY  
Name on last tax roll, if different: All 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 11/20/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson,  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Bradford County, Florida  
BY:Kyrrah Smith,  
Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: September 10, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: September 19, 2024, September 26, 2024, October 3, 2024, October 10, 2024

9/19 4tchg 10/10-BCT

89 degrees, 40 minutes and 32 seconds East, along the Northerly boundary thereof, 39.06 feet to the Easterly boundary of the right-of-way of Old Lawtey Road; thence South 0 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 590.74 feet to the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 0 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 100.0 feet; thence North 89 degrees, 23 minutes and 55 seconds East, 374.21 feet; thence North 0 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds West, parallel with said Easterly boundary, 100.0 feet; thence South 59 degrees, 23 minutes and 55 seconds West, 374.21 feet to the Point of Beginning. Name in Which Assessed: MARTHA J WHITLEY  
Name on last tax roll, if different: All 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 11/20/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson,  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Bradford County, Florida  
BY:Kyrrah Smith,  
Deputy Clerk  
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: September 10, 2024  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: September 19, 2024, September 26, 2024, October 3, 2024, October 10, 2024

9/19 4tchg 10/10-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of City of Starke, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on September 30, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

Z 24-01, an application by the City Commission and Kingsley Development I, LLC, to amend the Zoning Map of the Land Development Code 1by changing the zoning district from MULTI-FAMILY, RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2B) and SINGLE-FAMILY, MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT (R-1C) to PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PUD) in accordance with a Preliminary Development Plan dated July 19, 2024, revised on August 15, 2024, on the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described, as follows:

Commence at the Southwest corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 28; thence Easterly 38.89 feet, along the Southerly boundary of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 28, to the Easterly right-of-way line of State Road 100 (Water Street) for the Point of Beginning (being at the beginning of a curve, concave to the West and having a radius of 143.15 feet); thence Northwesterly, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), and, along the arc of said curve, 51.97 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 14°25'46" West to the end of said curve; thence North 24°40'15" West 37.21 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), to the beginning of a curve, concave to the East and having a radius of 148.14 feet; thence Northerly, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), and along the arc of said curve, 105.77 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 03°51'37" West; thence North 17°34'02" East 24.42 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence continue North 17°34'02" East 53.63 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence North 34°49'48" East 32.94 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), to the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 230 (East Call Street); thence South 73°27'15" East 223.95 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street), to a jog in the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street); thence South 16°45'01" West 25.00 feet, along said jog of the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street); thence South 73°36'03" East 251.90 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street) to the Westerly right-of-way line of Redgrave Street; thence South 73°38'26" East 52.33 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 230 (East Call Street) to the Easterly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street; thence South 01°32'24" West 107.79 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street; thence South 00°05'19" East 12.33 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street to the Northwest corner of Block 1 of City Park Subdivision as recorded in a Public Records of Bradford County, Florida;

thence South 72°40'42" East 26.37 feet; thence South 01°19'59" West 174.14 feet; thence South 68°40'10" West 291.94 feet, along the Southerly boundary of said Block 1 of City Park Subdivision as recorded in the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida, to the Easterly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street; thence South 87°52'12" West 48.95 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of said Redgrave Street and the Northerly right-of-way line of South Street; thence South 88°36'50" West 411.25 feet, along the Northerly right-of-way line of said South Street; thence North 65°23'03" West 22.75 feet to the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence North 04°16'18" West 87.05 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street); thence South 85°55'11" West 3.96 feet; thence North 03°58'35" West 101.44 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (Water Street), to the Point of Beginning. Subject to the right-of-way of South Saint Clair Street (0.77 acres).

Containing 5.13 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

9/19 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION  
CASE NO. 24000225CAAXMX  
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF ANGEL OAK MORTGAGE TRUST 2022-5, MORTGAGE-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2022-5,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
LESTER DE JESUS ESTEVEZ AND CYNTHIA SILVA, et al.  
Defendant(s),  
NOTICE OF ACTION - CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE  
TO: LESTER DE JESUS ESTEVEZ, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LESTER DE JESUS ESTEVEZ,

whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:  
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 28 AND 29, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST AND BEING PORTIONS OF WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1 PAGE 17 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID SECTION 29 AND RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 29, FOR A DISTANCE OF 1317.98 FEET TO THE NE CORNER OF LOT 49 OF SAID WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 13 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 49, FOR A DISTANCE OF 661.52 FEET TO THE NW CORNER OF SAID LOT 49, ALSO BEING THE SW CORNER OF LOT 48 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 48, FOR A DISTANCE OF 336.32 FEET TO THE SE CORNER OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF LOT 47 OF SAID SUBDIVISION; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 14 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE THEREOF, FOR A DISTANCE OF 676.11 FEET TO SW CORNER THEREOF; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 17 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE THEREOF, FOR A DISTANCE OF 332.51 FEET TO THE NW CORNER OF SAID LOT 47; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOTS 47 & 48, FOR A DISTANCE OF 1335.92 FEET TO THE NE CORNER OF SAID LOT 48, ALSO BEING THE NW CORNER OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 28; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 42 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE THEREOF, FOR A DISTANCE OF 666.70 FEET TO THE NE CORNER THEREOF; THENCE RUN SOUTH 02 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EAST LINE THEREOF, FOR A DISTANCE OF 661.57 FEET

TO THE SE CORNER THEREOF; THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 28, FOR A DISTANCE OF 12.36 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 84 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 523.00 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 07 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 38.64 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 13 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 127.56 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF WAY OF A COUNTY GRADED ROAD KNOWN AS NW 41ST AVENUE. SUBJECT TO ANY PLATTED STREETS OF SAID WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION. TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS ALONG THE SOUTHERLY 30 FEET OF THE EASTERLY 560.66 FEET OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, LYING WEST OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTHWEST 41ST AVENUE (A COUNTY MAINTAINED ROAD), BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, (PRIOR FILE)

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 or before (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at County, Florida, this 13th day of September, 2024.  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: KANETRA JENKINS DEPUTY CLERK  
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
PRIMARY EMAIL: firmail@raslg.com  
THIS NOTICE SHALL BE PUBLISHED ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.  
PUBLISH IN: BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH

9/19 2tchg 9/26-BCT

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD  
The City of Starke Planning & Zoning Board will meet on September 30, 2024 at 5:30 pm at 209 North Thompson Street.

9/19 2tchg 9/26-BCT

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9/19 2tchg 9/26-BCT

**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

Editor: Mark J. Crawford  
Sports Editor: Cliff Smalley  
Advertising: John R. Tillman  
Typesetting: Mary Goadge  
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston  
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goadge  
Front office Asst:

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

**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

Editor: Dan Hildebrand  
Sports Editor: Cliff Smalley  
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Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goadge  
Front office Asst:

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

**Union County Times**  
USPS 648-200  
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.  
**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:**  
**Union County Times**  
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091  
uctimeseditor@gmail.com  
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628  
John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Mark J. Crawford  
Advertising: John R. Tillman  
Typesetting: Mary Goadge  
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston  
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler  
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goadge  
Front office Asst:

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

# Legal Notices

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

Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024. Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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.

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 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@circult8.org

8/29 4tchg 9/19-UCT

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

NEW RIVER BOARD MEETING

The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the DLP Bank, 811 S Walnut St., Starke, FL 32091 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, 9/19 1tchg-UCT

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NOTICE OF ORDER GRANTING VARIANCE

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its determination pursuant to section 120.542, Florida Statutes, in Office of General Counsel case number 23-1349, to grant a permanent variance to RMC Property Group, LLC from Rule 62-521.400(1)(l), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Rule 62-521.400(1)(l), F.A.C., prohibits the siting of an underground storage tank (UST), as regulated in Chapter 62-761, F.A.C., within a five hundred (500) foot radial setback distance around a potable water well. The permanent variance will allow the installation of four Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), as regulated in Chapter 62-761, F.A.C., within the wellhead protection area of the City of Lake Butler Water Treatment Plant production well, Well#1, identified by Florida Unique Well Identification number AA14600 and Public Water Supply identification number 2630203. The USTs may not be installed within 300 feet of Well #1. Well #1 is located at 640 SW 4th Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination; A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision; A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate; A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida

32399-3000, or via electronic correspondence at Agency\_Clerk@FloridaDEP.gov. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

In accordance with rule 62-110.106(3) of the Florida Administrative Code, petitions for an administrative hearing must be filed within 21 days of publication of this notice or receipt of written notice, whichever occurs first. However, any person who has previously asked the Department for notice of this agency action may file a petition within 21 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon. Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, this process may result in a modification of the agency action or even a denial of the request for a variance or waiver.

A copy of the Order may be obtained by contacting: Sydney B. Cummings

at 850-245-8633 or sydney.cummings@dep.state.fl.us during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. 9/19 1tchg-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 at 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 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

8/29 4tchg 9/19-UCT

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

commercial space or specialized space. \$800/mo., first, last & deposit. Call 904-964-6305 for info.

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323

NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR/2BA SW, 3BR/2BA DW Lake Butler. No pets. 18 acres for sale. Starke-Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

AVAILABLE SOON; Keystone 3BR/2BA on 1 acre, also near Starke 1BR/1BA with FPL utilities. Call/text for info 904-613-5715.

FOR RENT in Starke on Sampson Lake. 3BR/1.5BA \$1200/mo. 1BR/1BA \$950/mo. 2BR/1BA \$950/mo. 904-263-9645.

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

47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

TURN KEY BEAUTY SALON. Located at 144 W. Call Street, next to Walgreens. \$700/mo. 1st, last & security. Call 904-964-6305. OFFICE FOR RENT. Located next to post office. Turn key for

Class Ads 09/19/24

40 Notices

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

commercial space or specialized space. \$800/mo., first, last & deposit. Call 904-964-6305 for info.

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53 A Yard Sales

Massive Multi-Family Garage Sale! 20637 NE 24th Loop Lawley Between Strawberry Acres & Lawley Dump Road Friday & Saturday 8AM-3PM Christmas, Halloween Decor, Multi Family Clothes, Pet Supplies, Home Decor, Toys, .50 bins & much more!

57 For Sale

2016 BASS Tracker Pro 175 Team, 17ft. long, 60hp Mercury 4 stroke,

trolling motor, Lawrence GPS depth etc., 2 live wells, trailer. \$13,500. 941-713-3253

PUPPIES 4 sale. Half shepherd & maremma mix. 6 weeks old, 3 males, 4 females. \$250/each. 352-473-0228

65 Help Wanted

P/T JOB, house cleaning, errands, limited personal care. Must be able to lift 20lbs. Must have reliable transportation, cell phone w/ data. Applications call 352-281-0260 between

10am-6pm.

BRADFORD COUNTY Public Library is hiring a Part Time LTA 1 - Circulation Desk Starting pay is \$15.00 per hour, 25 hours/week. Must be 18 or older with a high school diploma.

Must have strong computer skills including Microsoft Office proficiency; excellent customer service skills; previous library experience preferred. Schedule includes morning and evening hours. Resume preferred. Applications can be

picked up at the Bradford County Public Library starting Friday September 20th at 9am and returned by October 4th 2:00pm. Applications are also available at bradford-countyfl.gov/employment and indeed.com.

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Class Ads 09/19/24

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### VOLLEY

Continued from page 11

Bradford went up 20-18 on a Gabby Smith ace, but Lake Butler would tie it up again, with Emily Hunt making a diving dig of a Bradford spike that kept play alive and led to an eventual point. Kennedy Arnold had two straight aces for the Tigers as

they went up 23-21. A Bradford attack error added another point. Lake Butler scored the match-winning point when the Tornados couldn't make a play on a free ball. The B-team match began with two aces by Bradford's Kelsey Padgett. The Tornados' Raelynn Alexander later had a kill to put her team ahead 10-6. Bradford scored seven of the

set's next 10 points, getting a kill from Kamari Haygood and two aces from Padgett. Aubrianna Thomas recorded another two aces for the Tornados, which put them up 20-10. A 3-0 stretch with Za'mariyah Glover serving left Bradford one point away from winning the set. The Tigers got an ace from Jalie Walker as they scored two points to make the score 24-16. A service error resulted in the winning point for Bradford. Alexander and Padgett each had an ace to help Bradford take a 9-3 lead in the second set. Lake Butler trailed 16-10 when it got an ace from Boccaneli, but a tip by Bradford's Padgett forced side-out. Halen McKinney then had two aces for the Tornados, stretching their lead to 19-13. The Tigers cut Bradford's lead to four before getting two aces from Lea Elixson as part of a 3-0 run that made the score 20-19 before a side-out. That was as close as the Tornados would allow Lake Butler to get. Bradford got an ace from Callay Carter to go up 22-19 and later, with Thomas serving, scored the winning point on a Lake Butler attack error. Bradford played Palatka this past Tuesday and will travel to play Keystone Heights on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 5 p.m. Lake Butler travels to play Williston on Sept. 24 at 5 p.m.



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