

# Bradford County Telegraph

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146th year, 8th Issue — \$1



On the evening of Labor Day, dozens of people gathered at the high school parking lot. Photo: Jean Samsel.

## Community prays, raises money for injured athlete

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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Several prayer vigils and fundraising efforts sprang up after Ryder Trull, a freshman at Keystone Heights High School, was seriously injured in a traffic crash at State Road 100 and Sunrise Boulevard on Monday, August 26.

According to the student's grandfather, Trull's sister Bryanna suffered a cut and concussion and was released from a hospital the same day of the crash. Ryder suffered a skull and multiple facial fractures.

The 14-year-old two-sport star also has strong ties to the Melrose Youth Sports Association, where he pitched and his father coached. The sports group raised money for the family at



**The 14-year-old two-sport star also has strong ties to the Melrose Youth Sports Association, where he pitched and his father coached. The sports group raised money for the family at the organization's concession stand on Friday after the crash.**

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One group is collecting money for t-shirts that will express support for the family. A couple collected donations at the Union County-Keystone Heights varsity football game on August 30.

As of press time, Trull's parents reported on social media that they are

receiving positive reports from their son's physicians.

The athlete's mother, Casey, teaches junior-high pre-algebra at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School. Two days after the accident, the school asked students to wear blue to show support for the JV quarterback.

Keystone Heights's First Baptist Church has held several events to pray for Trull.

On the evening of Labor Day, dozens of people gathered at the high school parking lot not only for Trull, but also for another student killed in a Gainesville traffic crash and for Bryce Daniels, an offensive lineman on the varsity football team who was seriously injured during the team's Friday, August 30 game with Union County.

## Union Commissioner Tallman injured in explosion

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County Commissioner Jimmy Tallman was life-flighted to U.F. Health Shands last week after an explosion caused second and third-degree burns over his upper body.

Sheriff Brad Whitehead said the accident occurred at the Worthington Springs area commissioner's business, North Florida Custom Meats.

"He has a smokehouse that's run by propane," said the sheriff. "What we think happened is (the light in the smoker) went out, and it filled the room up with gas. When he went to ignite it, it basically was like a bomb that exploded and burned him. My understanding is that he has second and third-degree burns."

Whitehead added that, according to Tallman's brother, he has been and will continue to undergo skin graft surgeries.

The sheriff also said that based on his experience with the Florida Fire Marshal, he knows that severe burns are painful.

"Probably one of the most painful things," he said, "just with dealing with patients over the years."

The sheriff said that Tallman's injuries could have been worse because, at the time of the blast, he was looking away from the smoker.

Whitehead said that Tallman's workers rendered aid and called 911. Union County Fire Rescue units were the first responders on the scene, and his deputies assisted firefighters in getting Tallman to an airstrip in Worthington Springs for a helicopter flight to Gainesville.

Whitehead said that in addition to his 16 years on the county commission, Tallman is well-known in Union County for supporting youth and sports programs.



Union County Commissioner Jimmy Tallman

"Just a great guy and a great community person," the sheriff said of Tallman. "He has four kids, three boys and a girl. And they're all, I mean, just a beautiful family."

Before Sardis Baptist Church Pastor Paul O'Steen led commissioners in prayer for Tallman on Tuesday, September 2, board chair Channing Dobbs said he was heartbroken over his colleague.

"I've looked up to him for a long time," Dobbs said. "He's honest. He's one of the hardest-working men I've ever met in my life, and he stands up for what he believes is right, even if everyone else thinks it's wrong. If he thinks it's right, he doesn't bend."

The board chair said Tallman had been a mentor to him and added that in his 16 years on the county commission, Tallman only missed one meeting, and that was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## As more pop up, code enforcement targets illegal dwellings

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
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Sheriff Gordon Smith and code enforcement officer Corp. Glenn Ward addressed the Bradford County Commissioners Sept. 3 about residents living in unsafe and illegal conditions in campers, RVs and sheds.

They emphasized the need for stricter enforcement to ensure the safety of the community and compliance with local and state regulations.

Sheriff Smith opened the discussion

by acknowledging that the problem is not new, but has become increasingly urgent.

"It's something I've dealt with my entire career," Smith said, referring to people living in makeshift accommodations. He recounted incidents where such living conditions had tragic outcomes, including a fire that resulted in loss of life. Smith expressed concern for vulnerable populations, particularly children, living in what he described as "deplorable conditions."

"It's great until we go and have to help a lady with three kids living in a portable shed in deplorable conditions. Not all campers are old and dilapidated, but I can tell a lot of them we're dealing with I wouldn't let them use it for a dog house," he said.

Ward, who has been actively involved in addressing these issues, detailed the dangers posed by these living situations. He highlighted several safety concerns, such as the use of extension cords to power sheds and RVs, which pose significant

fire hazards. Ward also pointed out that many of these structures are not equipped to withstand severe weather, such as hurricanes, making them dangerous shelters during storms.

Ward also discussed the public health risks associated with inadequate sanitation in these "homes."

"Some are dumping sewage straight on the ground," he said, raising alarms about potential contamination of the local water supply. He emphasized the

See CODE, page 3

## WORTH NOTING

### Concerned Citizens selling fish dinners

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County will be raising funds this Saturday, Sept. 7, through sales of fish dinners and sandwiches. The sale will take place at the RJE Complex, 1080 N. Pine St. in Starke, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Church of God food distributions

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

### Food distribution at RJE

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 8:30 a.m. at the RJE Complex on Pine Street in Starke.

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

### Legion flea market in Hawthorne

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

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If you would like to help to the Trull Family, Keystone Heights Jr. Sr. High School is accepting donations.

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editor@bctelegraph.com • BCTelegraph.com •



# Roads, not utilities for High Ridge, say leaders

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
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The Clay County Commissioner, who represents the Lake Region and a community leader in High

Ridge Estates, asked Clay County commissioners last week to prioritize roads over water and sewer utilities in the neighborhood east of Keystone Heights.

The county's Community and Social Services director, Gabriel Gunn, told commissioners that the county staff has been working to secure a Federal Environmental Protection

grant to fund additional road paving in the neighborhood. She added that staff has also been communicating with Clay County Utility Authority officials to estimate the costs of bringing water and sewer service to High Ridge Estates.

Commissioner Betsy Condon told her colleagues that in meetings she has had with neighborhood residents, the conversations begin and end with roads.

"There are 20 miles of dirt roads that have no infrastructure in High Ridge," she said, "and so they have no under drainage. They get these large gullies that will swallow a whole car. And we've had cars that go underwater and have to be fished out."

Condon said some residents

go without trash pickup service because the roads are impassable for garbage trucks.

She also said paying for water and sewer service is not feasible for many of the neighborhood's cash-strapped residents.

"I am not in favor, in any way, of this (commission) doing anything for (High Ridge residents) that causes them to have another bill, which is what CCUA would do for them if we don't improve their roads."

Carey Morford, Pastor of the Mission of the Dirt Road, thanked commissioners for the county's improving involvement in the neighborhood.

"When I started Mission in 2016, our vision was to see the High Ridge neighborhood transformed into a healthy, strong, revitalized community,"



Carey Morford, pastor of the Mission of the Dirt Road, thanked commissioners for the county's improving involvement in the neighborhood.

she said. "Many people believed that was a pie-in-the-sky dream."

She added that, over the last eight years, the county staff's attitude toward the neighborhood has changed from indifference to compassion.

She singled out Assistant County Manager Chereese Stewart for increasing residents' awareness of Community Development Block Grant funds available for home rehabilitation.

Morford said the EPA grant the county could apply for would be a game-changer for the neighborhood.



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Code enforcement shared photos of a closed case depicting a camper that was being used as housing.

## CODE

Continued from page 1

importance of ensuring that all dwellings meet basic health and safety standards to protect both the residents and the broader community.

Economic fairness was another issue raised during the discussion. Ward noted that while homeowners pay property taxes based on the value of their homes, those living in RVs, sheds and campers often only pay taxes on the land, leading to significant disparities.

“Homeowners are paying more for the same services your neighbor is getting and using,” Ward said, pointing out the unfair burden placed on compliant taxpayers. Not all cases involve rundown campers. Some are quite expensive RVs that have been purchased instead of investing in permanent housing. The officials also touched on

the impact these living situations have on community resources. Ward described repeated calls for emergency services to properties, including calls about substance abuse, domestic disputes and violence. He also mentioned instances where individuals are exploiting others by renting out these accommodations, people paying \$300 to stay in a tent.

Despite the challenges, both Smith and Ward stressed that their approach is not about punishment but about compliance. They have worked to help residents find safer, legal housing options before taking more drastic measures like cutting off electricity or initiating foreclosure proceedings.

“We’re about being compassionate, but we’ve got to do something about the others,” Ward said, acknowledging the delicate balance between enforcement and empathy.

Ward proposed potential exemptions for temporary, safe setups during hunting

seasons, ensuring that these are properly regulated. Temporary stays during the construction of permanent housing can also be permitted. However, he and the sheriff made it clear that the overall goal is to ensure safety and compliance across the board.

In closing, Sheriff Smith warned that more aggressive enforcement actions are on the horizon, particularly for those who continue to resist compliance. “We’re going to take some hard action on and enforce it,” he said, making it clear that the county is prepared to take a firmer stance to protect its residents and uphold community standards.

Commissioners will likely face pushback from affected residents as the crackdown intensifies. However, the officials remain committed to ensuring that all residents have access to safe, legal and healthy living conditions.



Sewage from the camper was daring to a nearby canal, according to code enforcement.

## Union sheriff warns of arrest warrant scam

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Union County Sheriff’s Office said scammers are targeting residents, using names familiar to actual deputies and claiming that the people they call have missed a court appearance or jury duty and could soon be arrested.

“These scam calls even leave phone numbers to call back and ‘verify’ with a voicemail that they represent local law enforcement,” the agency said.

The office added that the scammers have tried to convince people to obtain a pre-paid credit card, gift card, or digital currency to transfer money “to post bond” for a fictitious arrest warrant.

The office also said scammers have attempted to obtain personal information, like social security numbers or bank card numbers.

“The Union County Sheriff’s Office will not call you to inform you about a warrant, missing court, or especially to obtain money for any reason,” the agency said. We do not call to fund-raise, and we do not accept money by phone for any purposes.”

The agency said many of the calls have been traced overseas.

“These scammers do their best to convince you to give them your personal information or access to banking, credit, pre-paid, or gift cards to obtain money from you,” the office said. “Do not fall for these scams. Hang up on them!”

## Enter conservation photo contest

The Suwannee River Water Management District wants your help to raise awareness of the beauty and significance of our natural resources by participating in a district lands photo contest.

The district invites photographers of all skill levels to capture the spirit of district-owned lands and help spotlight the need for their conservation and protection. Winning photos will be featured in an upcoming District Lands calendar for 2025, which will highlight district initiatives and other water management activities.

“Through this contest, we want to highlight the importance of preserving and protecting our natural resources for future generations,” said Hugh Thomas, executive director of the District. “Whether it’s a sunset at Mallory Swamp, the crystal-clear waters of Telford Spring, the towering pines of our Ellaville Tract, or wildlife such as pine snakes at Mattair Springs, photographs have the ability to help develop

a deep appreciation of Natural Florida and encourage people to help keep these resources safe.”

The contest will take place through the months of August and September. Submittals began Aug. 21, and all entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 20 for consideration. Submissions must be taken on district-owned lands and will be judged by a four-person district panel during the month of October.

Thirteen photos will be selected – a cover photo and 12 monthly photos. Photographers whose photos are chosen will receive credit for their work and receive a framed copy of their photo. Additionally, winning photos will be featured on district social media platforms.

Winners will be announced by the end of October.

For more information and submission guidelines, please visit <https://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/1625/2025-District-Photography-Competition>.

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# It's not over: Bhajan taking on Hartley to become superintendent

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

Alan Bhajan, the nonpartisan candidate for the superintendent of schools in Bradford County, has outlined a strong critique of the current educational administration, expressing concern over school closures and a lack of leadership.

Despite incumbent Superintendent Will Hartley's landslide win in the Republican primary last month, Bhajan remains confident about his campaign and the message he's bringing to all voters.

In a recent interview, Bhajan emphasized the importance of addressing what he sees as significant issues in the local education system. Central to his message is his opposition to the closure and consolidation of schools, which he argues is



Alan Bhajan

causing unnecessary hardship for young students.

"We're seeing the closing of elementary schools without

public consultation," Bhajan said, noting the difficulties that long commutes pose for younger children, including increased exposure to bullying and other safety issues.

Bhajan also criticized the current superintendent's plan to build a new junior-senior high school, a move he believes is a thinly veiled attempt to close an academically failing middle school to avert state intervention.

"This will force 11- and 12-year-olds into the same environment as 17- and 18-year-olds, which will bring a host of new problems," Bhajan argued, pointing to potential safety concerns and the academic struggles that could arise from such a decision.

Drawing on his background in education, including his experience as a principal and education officer in Guyana, Bhajan highlighted the importance of transformational leadership in turning around struggling schools. He cited his own success in raising the performance of his middle school science students as the reason the school's grade improved from a D to a C. It's proof of his ability to inspire academic improvement, he said. Without it, the school would have received another D and entered the state's turnaround process.

According to Bhajan, his efforts have not been without personal cost. After his success with the science class, he said he was let go from the middle school and faced obstacles in securing a position at the high school — a move he believes is politically motivated, given his opposition to the current administration.

Bhajan's campaign is set to ramp up in the coming weeks, with the launch of a new website and the deployment of volunteers to knock on doors. His primary message to voters is clear: "The education of our children should be the top priority, not maintaining the status quo or benefiting the powerful at the expense of our kids."

Bhajan is urging Bradford County residents to consider the future of their children's education when casting their

votes, rather than simply voting based on popularity or tradition. "It's time for a change in leadership," he said, "one that prioritizes the well-being and academic success of all students."

## Alan Bhajan in his own words

### Challenges

"Well, we're looking at the immediate challenges that are facing education in Bradford. One of the things we're seeing is the closing of schools. They started with the closing of elementary schools, and then they're trying to centralize elementary education in Starke. What that does, it creates hardship for our most vulnerable, our five-year-old, six-year-old kids who have to travel long distances now. And so, we find a lot of parents are choosing to have their student seek education in alternative ways, whether online or in charter schools and stuff like that."

"It's really a hardship for those young ones to travel, and then they're exposed to bullying and other sort of violence in the buses and in school. And now the superintendent is saying that he's building a junior and senior high school, sort of a composite. What he isn't saying is that that means he's closing down the middle school, and the middle school students are now going to go to high school. Now that's a whole other issue, because he has failed to solve the problems in middle school and the school was supposed to go to turnaround by the state intervention. But if you don't have a middle school and you can't have a turnaround, and he escapes accountability there. Now we're going to move our 11- and 12-year-olds into the same facility with 17- and 18-year-olds, and that's going to bring a whole different basket of problems."

### The middle school

"Well, for the last couple

of decades, the middle school has not been performing academically well. It also has disciplinary problems, bullying, truancy. It has substance abuse problems. But the main issue is the academic performance of the students."

"For the last couple of years, the middle school has been rating on a D, and last year, we had officials from the state that came in and tried to get the school to perform better, and the threat was, if the school maintained a D, they would have been what they call a turnaround intervention by the state, where the state comes in and takes control of school and dictates what has to be done."

"But what happened this year was that one particular class, the science eighth grade class, did so exceptionally well that it shifted the entire grade of the school from a D to a C, just one class. I was teaching that class."

### Leadership

"This guy says his leadership model is to employ people and let them do their best. Now, what is that? You know, in terms of leadership, that's called a laissez-faire approach. We basically don't offer any leadership, and that's what we have."

"I have proven that the students can perform. I've worked with some of the best teachers in my career right here in Bradford. But what's missing is leadership and transformational leadership because our head teachers, our principals, as we call them here, our principals mean well, but they need guidance. They need training. They need to become transformational leaders, to motivate and support their staff to get the kids where they need to. And that's lacking. All you need to do in Bradford is to be friends with the superintendent and your job is secure."

"Most of my career was in Guyana, that's in South America, but I've been principal of a teacher's training college. I've been an education officer, which is above a superintendent of schools, because I worked directly with the government of

Guyana, to get into schools and make these interventions, to turn around schools and have better student performances."

### Bullying and safety

"It's an easy fix, but what our people are saying here is that, oh, we're going to use established protocols to deal with bullying. No, that's after the fact. You're not stopping bullying by using protocols to deal with bullying. Okay, you had that you have to be, take an initiative, make an immediate intervention to stop it. Something drastic has to be done. And I know what to do because I've done it before."

### Message to voters

"Their loyalty should be to their kids, to their children. Right now, what is being pushed around is an appeal to loyalty of personality, somebody that's popular and who's saying, 'Oh, you need to reelect me because it hasn't been done in decades.'"

"No, that's not a good reason. You haven't shown any vision. You're not showing any initiative that you're going to take. You know, no reason how you're going to improve education in the students. So, I would like Bradford parents — and even other voters who are not parents — to think of what's more important, and that is the education of their students and the safety of their students. And that's where their loyalty should be, and that's how they should think, you know, critically and make their vote not based on feelings, not based on who's popular."

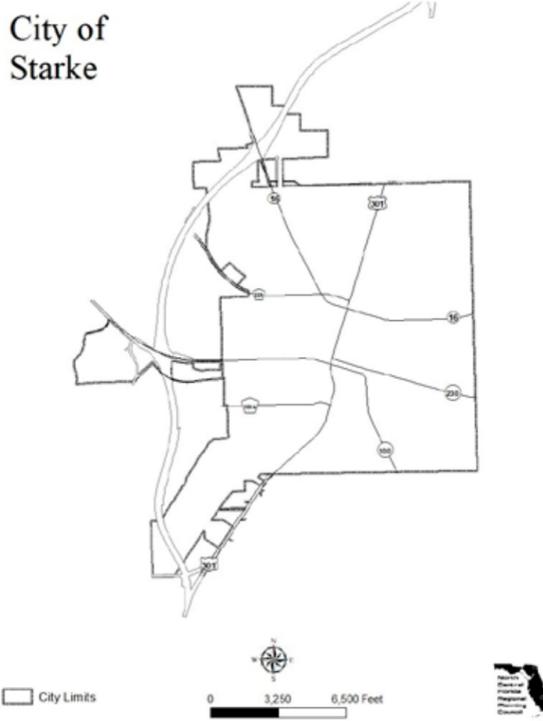
"Another thing I'd like to say is that our incumbent superintendent has identified a number of problems with the school, such as safety, such as student performance. But after four years, that's on him. He's responsible for that."

"That's not on the students. I demonstrated that. That's not on the students. The students can do it and do it like really well. That's on leadership or lack thereof."

## 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 text of the City of Starke Land Development Code, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, as follows:

LDC 24-02, is an application by the City Commission to amend the text of the Land Development Code by amending Section 1-12 entitled Definitions to add definitions for Above-ground Fueling Station and Electric Distribution Substation; by amending Section 4 to add electric distribution substation as a permitted use in certain zoning districts in accordance with Section 163.3208, Florida Statutes, as amended; by amending Section 4 to add above-ground fueling stations as an accessory use to electric distribution substations in certain zoning districts; by amending Division 4 entitled Miscellaneous Provisions to add Section 4-219 entitled Electric Distribution Substations to include supplementary requirements consistent with Policy A.1.28 of the Comprehensive Plan; and by amending Division 4 entitled Miscellaneous Provisions to add Section 4-220 entitled Above-ground Fueling, Gas, or Chemical Storage Tanks to include supplementary requirements for above-ground storage tanks.



A public hearing will be conducted by the City Commission to consider the amendment and enactment of the ordinance adopting the amendment on September 17, 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. 2024-16

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, LDC 24-02, BY THE CITY COMMISSION, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 1-12 ENTITLED DEFINITIONS BY ADDING DEFINITIONS FOR ABOVE-GROUND FUELING STATION AND ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 4 BY ADDING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION AS A PERMITTED USE IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 163.3208, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED;

PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 4 BY ADDING ABOVE-GROUND FUELING STATIONS AS AN ACCESSORY USE TO ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATIONS IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING DIVISION 4 ENTITLED MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BY ADDING SECTION 4-219 ENTITLED ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATIONS BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS CONSISTENT WITH POLICY A.1.28 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING DIVISION 4 ENTITLED MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BY ADDING SECTION 4-220 ENTITLED ABOVE-GROUND FUELING, GAS, OR CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE TANKS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; 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 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.

# Abortion debate on November ballot

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

As Florida gears up for the November ballot, a proposed constitutional amendment on abortion is poised to take center stage.

Amendment 4, if passed, would enshrine the right to abortion within the state's constitution, countering recent legislative efforts that have sought to limit access. The issue has ignited debate, with both supporters and opponents mobilizing to sway public opinion in the lead-up to the vote.

The proposed amendment seeks to establish a state constitutional right to abortion up to the point of fetal viability, generally considered around 24 weeks of pregnancy. This move comes in response to Florida's recent 6-week abortion ban, which was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis in April 2024 and which replaced the 2022 15-week abortion ban.

The amendment, if approved, would override this law and prevent future legislative efforts to impose stricter abortion

regulations.

Proponents of the amendment argue that it is essential to protect women's health care and reproductive rights in Florida. They emphasize that the current 6-week ban, which does not include exceptions for rape or incest, imposes undue burdens on women and girls, particularly victims, those in vulnerable situations, including in need of emergency health care such as for a life-threatening infection, a miscarriage, or a non-viable fetus, usually not discovered until later in a pregnancy. Many do not even know they are pregnant at six weeks.

Supporters also highlight the importance of keeping abortion accessible in Florida, a state that has long been a haven for those seeking the procedure in the southeastern U.S., where many states have imposed equally restrictive laws as the 6-week ban.

Advocates for the amendment also contend that it reflects the will of the people. Polling data from recent months suggest that a majority of Floridians support

some form of abortion rights. According to a survey conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) in June 2024, 54% of Florida voters said they would support a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to abortion, while 42% opposed it. These numbers suggest that the amendment has a reasonable chance of passing, although the outcome is far from certain.

On the other side of the debate, opponents argue that the proposed amendment goes too far in enshrining abortion rights. They assert that the current 6-week ban is a reasonable compromise that aligns with the views of many Floridians who believe in some level of abortion restriction. Critics of the amendment also warn that it could pave the way for late-term abortions, which they find morally objectionable. The religious perspective of many is that abortion is tantamount to the murder of the unborn.

Opponents further argue that the amendment could undermine parental rights, pointing to

concerns that minors might be able to obtain abortions without parental consent or notification if the amendment passes. This, they argue, would be a significant shift from current Florida law, which requires parental consent for minors seeking an abortion.

As the November vote approaches, both sides are ramping up their efforts to sway public opinion. While recent polling suggests that the amendment has a solid base of support, the outcome remains uncertain. The PRRI poll indicates that the margin between supporters and opponents is relatively narrow, and voter turnout will be crucial in determining the final result.

Florida has a history of closely contested elections, and the vote in this presidential election year is expected to be no different. The amendment requires a 60% supermajority to pass, which adds another layer of complexity to the equation. This threshold means that even if a simple majority of voters supports the amendment, it may still fall short of the required mark.

# New cell phone tower eyed for Lake Butler

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

The city of Lake Butler may soon be home to a cellular phone tower, which would provide better reception for local residents and bring funds into the city's coffers.

At its Aug. 20, 2024, regular meeting, the Lake Butler City Commission heard a live video presentation from Arcadia Towers, a company that builds cell towers and then rents space on them for equipment from service providers.

The company representative told commissioners that his company specialized in partnering with small cities and school districts, leasing land from these government entities to

build towers on and sharing the profit made from the payments of service providers.

The proposed towers would be located on city property. Two locations proposed would be on city hall property and another southwest of the city near the old airstrip. A third tower, location to be determined, would need to be placed somewhere within 1-1½ miles of the other two to ensure complete coverage.

Construction of the towers could also be done on private property, but then the city would not benefit financially as the funds would go to the property owner.

Commissioner Joe Stapleton said he estimated the city's share of the profit to be about \$475

a month for each tower/tenant (provider). He also noted that the city could be paid for maintaining the fenced area around the tower, garnering more income.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fred Sirmones to have City Attorney John Maines look into the possibility of competitive offers and also look over the agreement proposed by Arcadia Towers. The motion passed the board unanimously.

In other discussion and action, the Lake Butler City Commission:

### Recreation grant

Heard a report from Andy Easton, of Andy Easton Associates about an opportunity

for the city to apply for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant for work on Lakeside Park and another grant for work on the Townsend Building.

Easton said the city is a good candidate for the FRDAP funds, which is very flexible in how the funds are used. Possible uses could include renovations to the playground area and other parks of the park. He said that he needed commission approval to apply for the funds. The commission approved the application unanimously.

Easton also reported that an engineering firm would come to the next regular meeting to report

See CITY, page 6

# Hartley responds to criticism amid re-election campaign

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

In a recent interview, incumbent Superintendent Will Hartley addressed various criticisms levied by his election opponent, Alan Bhajan, as the race for school district leadership continues to Election Day.

Hartley received more than 70% of the vote in the Republican primary and plans to maintain his focus on the ongoing work within the school district.

## School closures and financial decisions

Hartley strongly defended the controversial decision to close certain schools, including the potential closure of the middle school, which Bhajan has criticized. Hartley emphasized that his opponent lacks an understanding of the financial realities facing the district.

“We have overwhelmingly more facilities than comparable districts, which has caused excessive overhead and wasted taxpayer money,” Hartley explained. It has restricted the district’s ability to offer competitive teacher salaries.

He added that the proposed combination of a junior-senior high school adjacent to the technical college is not only a financially prudent decision but also one that provides students with better access to educational resources.

## Academic performance and turnaround claims

In response to Bhajan’s claim that the middle school was at risk of entering a turnaround due to poor academic performance, Hartley dismissed these concerns, highlighting the school’s improved grades and trajectory towards a “B” rating. “The middle school is not in jeopardy of being in turnaround,” Hartley stated, adding that recent performance data shows promising trends continuing this year.

Hartley also addressed Bhajan’s assertion that his own teaching had averted a decline in the school’s science performance. Hartley refuted this, revealing that due to concerns over student performance in Bhajan’s class, the district had reassigned



Will Hartley

students to other teachers mid-year.

“We had to completely change the way science was taught because of the issues in his class,” Hartley said.

While not specifically addressing Bhajan’s job loss, he said, “We don’t typically get rid of teachers that are high performing.”

## Safety and school environment

Addressing concerns raised by Bhajan about the safety of younger students in a combined junior-senior high school, particularly regarding bullying and potential risks for younger girls, Hartley dismissed these as misconceptions or political tactics. He clarified that any new facility would be designed to keep younger and older students separate, ensuring their safety. He pointed to Bradford Elementary as an example, where the fourth-grade through sixth-grade students are segregated from the younger students.

## Leadership style and district challenges

Hartley rejected Bhajan’s characterization of his leadership style as “laissez-faire” and “hands-off,” pointing to his active involvement in district operations. “I have people who have worked in other districts tell me they’ve never seen a superintendent as involved as I am,” Hartley said, suggesting that the recent positive results across the district speak to the effectiveness of his leadership.

Finally, Hartley addressed

Bhajan’s claims that issues like bullying and truancy are driving students out of the district. Hartley acknowledged that while bullying is a serious issue, it is often over-simplified in political discourse.

He noted that the district handles all reported cases in strict accordance with the code of conduct, but emphasized that some claims of bullying do not meet the state’s definition, being instead isolated incidents.

When the district knows, it takes action, but sometimes students don’t know how to advocate for themselves. Hartley said many times schools see problems first through social media.

He also said that, contrary to Bhajan’s claims that parents are pulling their students into alternative programs, district enrollment has actually increased.

As the election approaches, Hartley remains confident that his track record and ongoing initiatives will resonate with voters.

## Will Hartley in his own words

### On election success

“I would be lying if I didn’t say I was extremely confident. I mean, really moving forward, we’ll do the things we’ve been doing. We’ll keep our signs out and keep spreading the word and that type of stuff. But as far as anything beyond what we did in the primary, we’re really just going to be business as usual and continue to do the work at the school, which I think is really the most important.”

“I mean, I continue to believe that the person in my position pretty much wins or loses in the four years you’re there. So I think we just keep doing what we’re doing, and I think everything will be fine.”

### School consolidation

“Well, one thing that I can say is He obviously doesn’t understand the financial side of anything, especially talking about closures. One of the things that I immediately found out when I got into the position was comparing us to like-size districts, we have

overwhelmingly more facilities than most do, which is what has caused a lot of overhead and a lot of, in my opinion, wasted taxpayer money. And at the end of the day, it’s why in our district, we haven’t been able to pay teachers as much as some of the surrounding smaller districts like us.

“So, it’s just moving forward and having a combination junior-senior high school, especially having it right there with the technical college, it’s not only in the best interest financially for the district, but it also solves a ton of problems that we’ve had in the past of busing kids back and forth to the tech college, and it gives all of our students, middle school and high school, just the best access to everything that’s happening there at the tech college. So for a lot of reasons, I believe it’s the best decision, and the people at the Department of Education also agree with us on that.”

### On academics

“I don’t know if he looked at this year’s school grades, but they’re not in danger of turnaround. In fact, they’re, they’re actually moving towards a B, and I would expect that to continue. Actually, I know a lot of our PMI data is showing increases from last year’s PMI data, so we continue to build on that and have some of the same growth that we had last year. We should continue to move forward, but the middle school is definitely not in jeopardy of being in turnaround.”

### About the science performance

“I guess this is where I can be extremely honest. He can claim whatever scores he wants to claim, but the people at the middle school will 100% agree and back me on this. Halfway through the year, we saw what was happening with the performance of the students in his class, and we actually moved other teachers into science, and we took a lot of his students away from him that were at jeopardy of not being, proficient. We moved them into other teachers’ classes. So he can claim whatever he wants to claim, but we had to completely change the way science was taught at the middle school the second half of the year because of his class.”

“The thing about the eighth-grade science test is a big majority of the standards that are taught are seventh grade standards. So it should be that, especially given the second half of the year, it should be that they’re going back in sixth- and seventh-grade standards and reviewing all of that.”

## Consolidation and student safety

“It doesn’t concern me at all, honestly, because if you look at the construction of the new Bradford Elementary, you see how the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders are completely away from the younger students on that campus. And building a junior-senior high school, that would be the vision — that you have one large campus, but within that large campus there’s separation of those younger kids and older kids.”

“It would never, it would never be the intention to have them all right there in one building together, of course. I mean, I think that that’s a misconception and maybe just kind of a political ploy that he would like to play, I guess, or maybe it’s just a lack of understanding, I’m not sure, but I would have no concerns with that, because, I mean, in my mind, I understand the vision of how we would want a facility like that constructed, and it would never be To combine the younger students with the older ones.”

## Leadership style

“Well, I don’t think you would find any one that would honestly say that I’m hands off. In fact, I have people that work for me, that have worked for other districts, that will tell me that they’ve never seen a superintendent do as much as I do, or be on campus as much as I am. And as far as saying that the principals are not equipped, I don’t know, I would just have to say, look back at the results that have happened over the last couple of years. And I think that speaks for itself.”

## Bullying

“So our enrollment is up this year, and it’s just, it just continues to be one of the things — I think we saw it in the primary election also. When you don’t really have something to run on and you can’t come up with your

own platform, people tend to always gravitate towards ESE and bullying, because you could go to any district in the country, and people could say that those are issues.”

“The reality is something like bullying when we’re aware of those issues, we treat them straight by the code of conduct, but a lot of times it’s lack of student advocacy for themselves and not knowing about things until after the fact. A lot of times we see things for the first time on Facebook. And so when things are addressed properly and going through the proper chain of command, we always handle those things. It’s the ones that you know you don’t even know about happening. And sometimes it’s true bullying, and sometimes it’s really not by the definition the state’s given. It’s a one-time event that’s happened one time between the student and other students, but it’s easy today to say it’s bullying. So we take all of that so serious. It’s just a matter, I think, of not only working with parents to understand when things happen, we need to know, but also that every single situation is not truly bullying, but we handle them all seriously nonetheless.”

## On the negativity

“It seems to be very, very much like the primary. If you’re not going to have your own platform where you have specific solutions to problems, it’s very easy to try to just throw out negative connotations and have people grab hold of them and say, ‘Yeah, yeah, yeah, that’s happening,’ or whatever. But I think much like the primary, that’s not going to be enough to work.”

## Election Day

“I think number one is just to realize that come November, my name will be on the on the ballot again, and it’ll be time to vote again, but number two, that we’ll continue to do the same things that we’ve done over the last four years, which is to make decisions in the best interest of our students. Every single time, that won’t be something that we all agree on, but they can always know that in the end, that’s why I make the decisions that I do, and we’ll just continue to do that same thing moving forward.”

## Register for Livestock Forages and Field Day

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

updates and expert presenters. Topics will include:

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

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

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



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# Auditor: Lake Butler's financial position deteriorating

Warning of impending emergency

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Times

At its regular meeting on August 20, 2024, the Lake Butler City Commission received its annual audit report for the fiscal year period of Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023.

During the presentation, the auditor from James Moore noted that the city is still recovering from the misspending of the previous city manager but that the financial condition of the city is not positive.

The general fund balance was at a three-year low, at \$462,887 (down from \$466,220 at the

end of the previous year, which was down from \$542,511 the year before). The CRA funds were also in a deficit of \$9,815. Despite this, the audit received an unqualified opinion.

Material weaknesses were observed, mainly in the internal controls for the fuel purchasing system, the journal entry controls, and the payroll process. However, the City Finance Director, Dave Mecusker, stated that these matters had been dealt with when first noted by the auditors. It was pointed out in the audit report that all but three of the material weaknesses from the previous fiscal year's audit had been addressed and corrected.

These weaknesses included credit card abuse, questioned costs, the property exchange

between Johnny Welch and the city, Internal Revenue Service noncompliance, employee leave records, the bidding process, audit solicitation, and the ARPA grant funds.

Overall, the audit states that for the 2022-23 fiscal year, the city was in a financial condition, indicating a deteriorating financial condition that could lead to various emergency financial situations.

This is in the process of being corrected, beginning with the firing of the previous city manager and general belt-tightening on spending in the subsequent budget for the current fiscal year.

All of the misspending, questionable spending, transfers from one account to another to cover excess spending and the misuse of grant funds has stopped.

Currently, the city is meeting its debt obligations, staying within the limits of a tight budget, looking for new sources of revenue, and watching all spending very closely.

Mecusker and the auditors said it is on the road to recovery, but there are still more miles to travel before everything is in great shape again.

New City Manager Kimberly Hayes responded to the auditor's concerns in a representation

letter, outlining the steps the city has taken to shore up deficiencies and correct noted problems.

The city finance department is reviewing all account balances with an emphasis on year-end closing adjustments, which will be reviewed monthly/quarterly to provide accurate accounting information. A policy has been established that all city vehicles will be reviewed monthly/quarterly to provide accurate accounting information. A policy has been established that all city vehicles will be used for city business only. Each city employee assigned a vehicle will maintain a fuel/maintenance log that the public works director reviews, the finance director, and the city manager before any invoices are approved or paid. A new policy will provide additional

review and approval for journal entries and electronic fund transfers. Inventory and fixed asset procedures are being updated and will be implemented as of Sept. 30, 2024. The administrative assistant position to the city manager has been re-established, and human resources responsibilities have been assigned to it, including supervising payroll matters. Utilizing city employees as contractors have been stopped, and the city has opened six new checking accounts to care for grant funds properly.

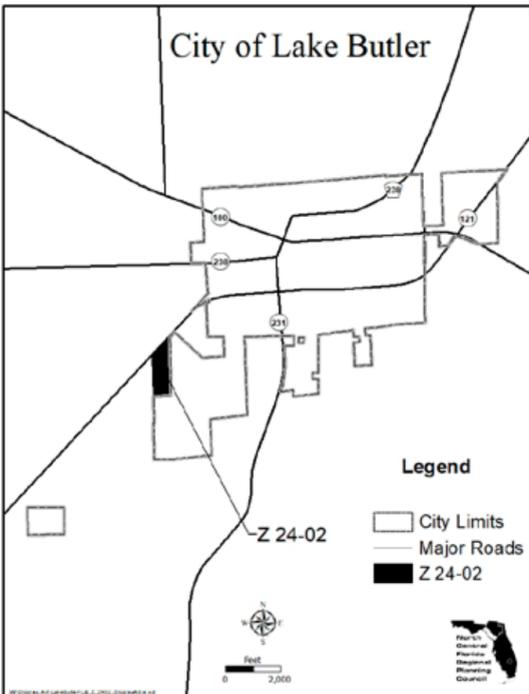
## NOTICE OF ZONING CHANGE

The City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida proposes to regulate the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Lake Butler Land Development Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, as follows:

Z 24-02, an application by the City Commission, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district on certain lands from COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME-1 (RSF/MH-1) to CITY COMMERCIAL GENERAL (CG) for the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at Southeast corner of said Section 36; thence North 01°24'13" West 984.65 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning; thence South 88°45'17" West 666.69 feet; thence North 01°24'49" West 1,458.59 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 121; thence North 42°46'14" East 957.10 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121 to the East line of Section 36; thence South 01°24'13" East 2,146.89 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 27.60 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. The public hearing will be held on September 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall, located at 200 Southwest 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, RELATING TO THE REZONING OF TEN OR MORE CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, Z 24-02, BY THE CITY COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME-1 (RSF/MH-1) TO CITY COMMERCIAL, GENERAL (CG) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the City Manager, City Hall located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

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

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the Office of the City Manager at 386.496.3401 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).

## CITY

Continued from page 4

on the proposed use of funds from a new grant applied for to help make necessary repairs to the historic building.

The board then unanimously approved, on second reading, an ordinance to rezone the property where the old public works building was located from residential to commercial. This will allow the building and property to be sold as a commercial property, already zoned as such, thus allowing the city to recoup funds spent on the development of the building by the former city manager.

### Tax millage and rental fees

The commission voted unanimously to keep the ad valorem tax millage charge by

the city at 3.25 mills with no rollback.

Also, a topic of discussion was the matter of rental fees and restrictions on the scheduling of the city's rental properties. The board, after voting several months ago to raise the rental fees to be more in line with what other governmental bodies in the area are charging. Originally the board agreed to honor the existing fees/rental agreements already made, but then it came to their attention that some of these paid reservations were dated four or more years in advance. Discussion first addressed creating a limit on how far in advance reservations would be accepted then moved the question if reservations made before the reservations were made should be charged the new rates or those in effect when the reservation was made. The setting of a limit to how far in reservations would be accepted in the future was tabled until the

next meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rondoll Huggins that all should pay the current rate for the rentals and not be "grandfathered" to what the rates were at the time the reservation was made and his motion passed the board unanimously.

### Updates to city policies

During the meeting several resolutions were passed to update language in city policies and documents to comply with state and federal guidelines. Not changing the language could result in the city not being eligible for certain grants (such as CDBG) and FEMA funding. All these resolutions passed unanimously.

Commissioners also unanimously agreed to donate \$500, to be taken out of the salaries, to the Union County

High School Spirit of Union County Band.

The board also adopted a resolution accepting the donation of the hold jail holding cell, made by the Whitehead and O'Steen families.

City Finance Director Dave Mecusker informed the board during his report that in the city budget was in balance and he was working on the budget for the coming new fiscal year. He said he has also been working with the auditors on their recommendations for more transparency and separation of fund into individual line items.

As the meeting ended, commissioners thanked all the city workers for the many hours they worked during the time the area was under the effects of Hurricane Debbie and complemented them on the thoroughness and speed of their work.

## Union superintendent thanks Woodman Life

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County Schools Superintendent Mike Ripplinger recognized Brad Elixson of Woodman Life during the school board's Tuesday, August 27 meeting.

The superintendent said Elixson and Woodman Life have been major supporters of the school district, especially its athletic programs.

"Last year, he was recognized at one of our football games for giving a

sizable donation to not only our high school softball team but also our football team," Ripplinger said. "That money, especially for the football team, was used to make some incredible renovations to the boys' locker room on the varsity side of our field house."

Ripplinger said today was move-in day for the varsity players, who were treated to rubber flooring, wood lockers, and LED lighting in their refurbished dressing area.



Superintendent Mike Ripplinger and Brad Elixson

## The legacy of Labor Day in the US

Every year, on the first Monday of September, the United States celebrates Labor Day, a federal holiday that honors the contributions and achievements of American workers.

For many, it's a day that marks the end of summer, a time for barbecues, parades and a long weekend getaway. But beyond the festivities, Labor Day carries a rich history that reflects the struggles and triumphs of the American labor movement.

### The origins of Labor Day

The roots of Labor Day trace back to the late 19th century, a period of intense industrial growth and social change in the United States. As factories and railroads expanded, so did the workforce. However, this rapid industrialization came at a significant human cost. Workers toiled in grueling conditions — often for 12 to 16 hours a day, six days a week, with little regard for their safety or well-being. Child labor was rampant, and workers had few rights or protections.

In response to these harsh conditions, labor unions began to form. These organizations sought to improve wages, reduce working hours and secure better working conditions for their

members. The labor movement gained momentum, leading to strikes, protests, and clashes with employers and law enforcement.

The first Labor Day celebration took place on Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. Organized by the Central Labor Union, the event featured a parade of 10,000 workers who marched from city hall to Union Square. The day was dedicated to the strength of the trade and labor organizations and included speeches, picnics and demonstrations of solidarity.

### The struggle for recognition

While the New York celebration was a success, it was just the beginning. Labor unions across the country began advocating for a national holiday to honor workers. The idea of Labor Day gained traction, but the movement faced significant opposition from industrialists and politicians who feared it would encourage further unrest.

The turning point came in 1894, during the Pullman Strike, a nationwide railroad strike that disrupted commerce and led to violent clashes. In response, President Grover Cleveland deployed federal troops to break the strike, resulting in the deaths of several workers. In an effort

to repair relations with the labor movement, Congress swiftly passed legislation making Labor Day a federal holiday. On June 28, 1894, Cleveland signed the bill into law, and the first official Labor Day was celebrated that September.

### The meaning of Labor Day today

Over the decades, Labor Day has evolved from its radical origins into a more mainstream celebration. It has become less about the labor movement and more about a general appreciation for the American worker. Today, it serves as a reminder of the progress made in workers' rights and the ongoing fight for fair wages, safe working conditions, and job security.

Labor Day is also a reflection of the changing nature of work in the United States. The industrial jobs that once defined the American economy have largely been replaced by service-oriented and technology-driven careers. Despite these changes, the core values of Labor Day — respect for hard work, the dignity of labor and the importance of solidarity — remain relevant.

As people enjoy a long weekend and mark the unofficial end of summer each year, it's

worth taking a moment to reflect on the history of Labor Day and the sacrifices made by those who came before. The holiday is not just a day off; it's a testament to the power of collective action and a tribute to the millions of workers who have built and continue to build this nation.

### The future of Labor Day

Looking ahead, the future of Labor Day may involve a renewed focus on the issues facing today's workforce. With the rise of the gig economy, automation and remote work, new challenges and opportunities are emerging. Workers today continue to advocate for fair treatment, just as they did over a century ago.

As the landscape of labor changes, so too might the meaning and observance of Labor Day. Yet, no matter how it evolves, Labor Day will always be a day to honor the men and women who contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the United States. It's a day that reminds us that the strength of a nation lies in the hands of its workers.

# Promised Land gives away school supplies

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
*Special to the Times*

Promised Land Family Ministries held its annual back-to-school backpack giveaway last month, providing 160 K-12 students with backpacks and school supplies free of charge.

Over 300 people attended the event, including kids, parents, and volunteers. Guests first signed in with volunteers from the Lake Butler Women's Club, and then adults socialized while their youngsters got in line to select their backpacks and collect a variety of school supplies. Play areas with games were available for the young people, and seating in the shade was the main attraction for the adults.

Lunch was provided to all,

and then several drawings were held for toys and gift cards. Even the youngsters whose ticket stub number was not called got a small prize. There were also free jars of peanut butter for anyone who wanted some.

Promised Land Family Ministries would like to thank all its volunteers and the event sponsors: the Lake Butler Woman's Club, the Rays of Hope Foundation, Winn-Dixie, Walmart, the Florida Peanut Federation, Lake Butler McDonalds, and Canvas Church.

Promised Land Family Ministries is a non-profit organization that teaches young people the connection between faith and farming. They host several events yearly for families

with educational programs for young people. All events are faith-based. In the future, Promised Land hopes to increase the programs and services they provide for the community, including summer day camps and after-school programs. The organization has received a grant from Clay Electric to build another building to provide more cover and shade for those attending their events. They are raising funds for a dedicated educational facility and have already received a donation of a complete, installed septic system for the project, courtesy of Andrews Site Prep.

As further proof of their dedication to the community, Promised Land Family



Trinity Barnes, Deirdre Pearsall, Trionna McBride, Motion Meeze and Tempestt Odum work together to get the school supplies laid out and ready for the young people to make their selections.

Ministries has started a monthly food giveaway, seeing and trying to help meet a need in the community. The next food event is set for Thurs. Sept 26, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome.

# Lender explains perils and rewards of house-flipping, rentals

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
*dan@bctelegraph.com*

A hard money lender explained to a Keystone Heights civics group how he finances house flippers and rental property rehabilitations.

Rob Shackelford, owner of 3 Shacks Capital Partners LLC., told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that he answered a newspaper classified ad about a job posting as a senior at St. Augustine's Flagler College.

"I was looking in the management and professional section and saw an ad that said 'investment consultant wanted, no experience needed. We'll train,'" recalled the now 48-year-old. "So, I called the number. It was a company expanding from Orlando into Jacksonville, and I thought it was about stocks. Well, it was actually real estate investment."

Shackelford said his first day in his new job was November 26, 2001, so, he has spent nearly half his life in the real estate business.

"It changed my life," he said of the 2001 phone call. "I've made money, and I've also lost money on some deals."

Lake Region realtor Branden Waters, who introduced the speaker, added that he knows several young people in their 20s who are making money turning over properties.

## From rentals to lending

Shackelford said he spent much of his career building, selling, and renting multi-family housing. His last portfolio was a collection of 200 rentals in Northwest Jacksonville.

The Keystone Heights High School graduate said that the stress of managing toilets, tenants, and property taxes in the low-income, high-crime area led to his departure from property management and his entry into lending.

"The nail in the coffin for me was 4th of July," he recalled. "It's storming. I lived in High Springs at the time. I was on a roof in Jacksonville trying to put a tarp on a roof in a torrential downpour with fireworks and



Lake Region Realtor Branden Waters (left) introduces Rob Shackelford to the Keystone Heights Rotary Club.

gunshots going off, and I'm like: Dude, I'm the boss. This isn't going to work anymore."

Shackelford said that after selling the portfolio, he recruited additional investors to fund the types of real estate deals he used to initiate.

## Banks will not touch them

The businessman who recently purchased the two-story office building at 240 South Lawrence Boulevard, also known as the Paul Newell Building, said he fills a need not met by banks.

"Banks will not touch them because of the condition of the properties," he said. "A lot of these properties need roofs. They need full electrical upgrades. The way they smell, the way they look, holes in the walls, plumbing that has to be gutted and re-piped, they need HVAC. They won't pass a four-point inspection to get insurance."

Shackelford said that, to date, he has not had a single missed payment in his \$26 million portfolio with over 300 loans. He cautioned, however, that his fund is relatively new and that credit risk is now rising because the real estate market is softening.

Shackelford credited his, thus far, perfect underwriting track record to the fact that he not only analyzes each deal that comes before him but also the borrower behind the deal.

The lender said that instead of paying for online background checks of his potential borrowers, he performs his own customized background checks, a skill he honed while renting homes for 15 years.

"They may decline them because of something like a DUI," he said of the online services. "Whereas I can probably overlook that as long as there's not five of them. So, I got really good at finding people and finding information about people. And so I do the due diligence on the borrowers as well. We try not to lend to anyone that looks like they've had a checkered past with arrests, drugs, assaults, or any financial defaults, especially recent."

The lender said his deals must comply with a strict financial model he has developed.

## Watchdog

Shackelford said that besides providing funding for real estate entrepreneurs, he uses his

a watchdog for his borrowers, warning them of the business's pitfalls.

He added that unscrupulous contractors and title problems knock many people out of the house rehab and rental businesses.

"I keep the wolves off the sheep," he told the civic club. "The sheep can't live in peace if there's a bunch of wolves. So, I try and guide them, especially the newer investors. I don't want to see anybody be what I call a one-and-done. You can lose a lot of money really quick and you can't get it back. And if you're brand new, you can't recover from that."

"You may have saved for like 5, 10, 15 years to do a deal," he continued. "You always wanted to buy a fix-and-flip or buy a rental, but if you don't buy it right, or if you buy something that's got tax liens and you don't know what you're doing, it's over right from the beginning and your nest egg's gone."

## Relationships are key

Shackelford said he finances deals on properties from Southern Georgia to Orlando, coast to coast.

He added that one of his most valuable features is a long-term relationship with his investors and borrowers, something his competitors, like New York-based funds, do not offer.

"My biggest competitors are institutional lending funds like Kiavi, and there are a couple of others. As soon as anything happens in the market, the guys sitting in New York on the 87th floor, they're going to get scared. They're going to shut it down, and then all those relationships are going to disappear," he said. "That's why, pay a little bit more, come see me; I'm not going anywhere. We're going to have a personal relationship."

industry experience to act as

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## SRWMD awards funding

The Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board has approved more than \$550,000 in funding for projects aimed at enhancing and addressing water resource management across the region.

The funding supports four projects under the Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) program. This initiative focuses on key areas such as flood protection, water quality, water supply and the preservation of natural systems. The approved projects will be carried out in Gainesville, Archer, Cross City and Columbia County.

"The RIVER program offers local governments an opportunity to receive cost-share funding for projects that advance our core mission," said Hugh Thomas,

executive director of the district, in the release. "These projects exemplify the power of local partnerships in protecting and restoring our water resources."

Since 2013, the district has funded 81 RIVER projects, with a total investment of nearly \$8.7 million.

The newly approved projects are:

Cross City Flood Management Improvements – Cross City: A \$66,891 project aimed at improving the stormwater management system near Ruth Rains Middle School, west of County Road 351.

Holly Hills Stormwater Pond Improvements – Archer: This \$55,930 project will enhance stormwater management features to reduce flooding risks.

Rum Island Stabilization and Boardwalk – Columbia County: With a budget of \$212,900, this project will repair existing erosion controls, add riverbank stabilization and protect 117 linear feet of the spring pool

bank.

Oakmont Reclaimed Water Extension, Phase 6 – Gainesville: A \$226,542 project to extend reclaimed water lines to 158 homes and common areas, offsetting 0.055 million gallons per day of groundwater used for irrigation.

These initiatives reflect SRWMD's ongoing commitment to safeguarding the region's vital water resources.

## Market at Melrose

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

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

# 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

Paul Douglas Barber, 34, of Bartow, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 27 for DUI.

Shirone Kennard Bonnett, 45, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 26 for a parole violation.

Demarcus Emmanuel Brown, 20, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 27 for selling or delivering opium and possession of opium.

Wendi Darlene Crews, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 26 for probation violations.

Colin Ray Depew, 23, of Palm Coast, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 25 for lewd and lascivious behavior.

Kameron Lee Ingram, 29, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 27 for a probation violation.

Thomas Joseph Levasseur, 23, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 25 for an out-of-county warrant.

Richard Allen Lotzkar, 69, of Hawthorne, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 27 for disorderly conduct.

Eric Thomas Marsh, 55, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 29 for an out-of-county warrant.

James Lee Martin, 56, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 27 for possession of cocaine and possession of drug equipment.

Neshawn Victoria Miles, 21, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 27 for an out-of-county warrant.

Brian Wayne Ogle, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 24 for a probation violation.

Edwin Glen Vickery, 39, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on August 24 for withholding support.

Marion Hershel Waldron, 48, of Starke, was arrested by FHP troopers on August 29 for driving without a license.

### Union

Jessica Marie Clark, 39, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 26 for an out-of-county warrant.

Charles Arthur Futch, III, 39, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 27 for a probation violation.

Robert Thomas Kingsbury, 18, of Raiford, was arrested by Union deputies on August 31 for a probation violation.

Vontavis Tyrea Meyers, 31, of Cocoa, was arrested by Union deputies on August 30 for a probation violation.

Jessica Manuela Ortega, 40, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on August 28 for a probation violation.

Tony Ronnell Vic, 35, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Union deputies on August 29 for a probation violation.

### Clay

Peter Andrew Bany, 43, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 26 for trespassing on critical infrastructure property.

David Wayne Lepole, 48, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 26 for trespassing on critical infrastructure property.

Jody Stevens Curtis, 61, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on August 30 for failing to stop and remain at

a crash involving serious bodily injury.

## State executes murderer, rapist

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Department of Corrections executed a man convicted of murdering a Florida State University student in 1994 and raping his sister while the siblings were camping in the Ocala National Forest.

Loran Cole died by lethal injection on Thursday, August 29, at Florida State Prison.

According to press accounts, John Edwards, 18, and his older sister set up camp in the National Forest on February 18, 1994, when Cole, then 27, and William Paul, then 20, walked up on the siblings.

The two men overpowered the brother when the siblings were walking to a pond to photograph alligators. Paul sexually assaulted the sister. John Edwards died from a slashed throat and head trauma.

The sister was found the following morning after chewing through ropes with which the two men had tied her. She had been sexually assaulted multiple times.

Paul pleaded to kidnapping, rape, and murder and was sentenced to life.

Cole denied killing the 18-year-old college student. His lawyers argued that the murder weapon had Paul's fingerprints on it.

They also said while appealing Cole's death sentence that the abuse he endured while living at the Dozier's School for Boys, a reform school in the Florida panhandle, justified the vacating of his death sentence.

The Department of Corrections said that before the execution, Paul received two visitors: his son and a pen pal.

In a text to his mother, Ryan Cole, 36, called his father's execution a nightmare. The mother shared the text with a Tallahassee Democrat reporter.

"Saying goodbye to my dad was the hardest thing I've ever done," Ryan Cole wrote to his mother, according to the newspaper. "I am being punished

for something that I believe now is something my dad didn't even do...They want somebody to blame in order to give somebody else peace, but they are taking peace from somebody else."

The victims' parents, Timothy and Victoria Edwards, said in a statement that their son's death was "the darkest times in our lives" and that they "are void of feelings and empathy for Mr. Cole."

## Not guilty by reason of insanity

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 38-year-old Lawtey woman was adjudicated not guilty by reason of insanity and was committed to the custody of Florida's Department of Children and Families for treatment.

Judge James Colaw ruled that when Vera Washington Thompson threw an ax at a vehicle, tried to shoot a motorist with a Glock 27, and threatened a deputy with the ax and the firearm on April 11, she was suffering from schizophrenia and unable to distinguish right from wrong.

The judge made the ruling based on a report by a clinical and forensic psychologist. Colaw involuntarily committed Thompson to the custody of the state agency and ordered that the woman not be released without a court order.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies he saw Thompson as he approached his home in the area of Lawtey's Peetsville Cemetery, and Thompson used landscaping timbers to block his retreat from the narrow lane.

The victim added that Thompson attempted to fire the handgun in his direction, but the weapon misfired. She then threw the ax at his vehicle, breaking the driver's side headlight.

Deputy Michael Gillick reported that when he arrived at the victim's residence, Thompson pointed what appeared to be a black rifle toward his patrol vehicle.

"Thompson began yelling as I took cover behind my car, stating that she is the only law around her," the officer wrote in the report. "I gave Thompson several orders to place the gun on the ground and approach my patrol car."

"Thompson responded by walking away from my location to the carport area of the residence. Thompson then retrieved what appeared to be a black handgun and a small ax from the carport. Thompson waved the gun in the air and stated, 'It's police issued. I told you I was the only law'."

Gillick added that when the office's SWAT unit arrived, he relinquished the scene to the unit, which took the defendant into custody.



Kassie Leighana Gilliam pleaded to unlawful desertion of a child.

## Abandoned child after traffic crash

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

A 34-year-old Starke mother was sentenced to 13 months in prison after pleading to leaving her child with a stranger after a traffic crash.

Kassie Leighana Gilliam pleaded to unlawful desertion of a child.

According to an arrest report, on September 22, 2023, a witness located on State Road 100 between Starke and Keystone Heights told a deputy that he had hired the defendant to do some work for him and that as she was pulling into his driveway, her car was struck by another vehicle.

Gilliam then left the scene, leaving her child with the witness, but she did not return.

Deputies took the child to the sheriff's office, and the mother later told deputies she fell asleep at her boyfriend's, and her phone went dead.

Gilliam's case was initially transferred to the county's mental health court but was transferred out after the defendant failed to appear.



Dustin Earl Parrish, 39, of Lake Butler, was arrested for grand theft after a Newberry woman accused him of stealing Louis Vuitton and Gucci purses from her home.

## Lake Butler contractor accused of stealing Louis Vuitton, Gucci purses

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 39-year-old Lake Butler man was arrested for grand theft, burglary, and dealing in stolen property after a Newberry woman accused him of stealing Louis Vuitton and Gucci purses from her home.

According to a complaint, Dustin Earl Parrish was hired by the Alachua County woman in May to work on her home.

The victim said that Parrish worked in her home while she was there on May 13. However, while she was away the following day, a neighbor spotted the defendant inside the house.

On May 15, the victim reported around \$10,000 worth of the luxury merchandise missing from her bedroom.

When contacted by Alachua deputies, the defendant denied taking the handbags and pointed to a co-worker, Patricia Lynn Brandt of Lake Butler, as the possible thief.

The Newberry woman discovered that Brandt sold one of the victim's Louis Vuitton purses to Lake City Cellular through Facebook Marketplace. The deputy reported that

Lake City Cellular acted as an unlicensed pawnbroker in the transaction.

According to the complaint, Brandt told deputies she worked with Parrish on the Newberry renovation and posted the offer on Marketplace while in Parrish's truck. Brandt added that Parrish told her the property owner owed him money for his labor and implied that the purses were payment. The Lake Butler woman claimed that she didn't know the items were stolen.



Malcolm Jamal Newby, 38, pleaded to possession of cocaine and to his third conviction of driving with a suspended or revoked license on August 28.

## Sentenced to 5 years for Bradford crimes, then arrested for Alachua charges

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

After being sentenced to five years in prison for driving with a suspended license, failure to appear, and possession of cocaine, a Starke man was arrested and sent to Gainesville to face domestic battery and other charges in Alachua County.

Malcolm Jamal Newby, 38, pleaded to possession of cocaine and to his third conviction of driving with a suspended or revoked license on August 28. The plea also included an admission that he failed to appear for a May 16, 2022, trial for the charges that resulted from a November 30, 2021, traffic stop.

According to an arrest report, a Starke police officer saw the defendant driving a silver Dodge pickup near Starke's Delta Food Store when the lawman knew his driver's license had been suspended. The officer reported that after stopping the defendant on Old Lawtey Road, he found 0.27 grams of a rock-like substance on the floorboard of the truck, and the substance tested positive for cocaine.

Judge James Colaw sentenced Newby to five years for the driving and drug charges, in addition to no-showing his trial.

After the sentencing hearing, deputies drove the defendant to Gainesville, where he was booked into the Alachua County Jail on charges of domestic battery by strangulation and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

According to a complaint, on March 13, the defendant accused his girlfriend of cheating, and he threatened her with a spatula.

The victim told police Newby always carried a small handgun with him and that he said he was "waiting on the right time" to use it.

The victim claimed that Newby's attacks continued as the night progressed, with the defendant choking the victim and leaving a bruise on her left eye.

## September sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of September, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations: U.S. Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.



**Russ WADE**  
Attorney at Law

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**8** *Florida A&M Rattlers vs. Miami Hurricanes*

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**9** *Arkansas Razorbacks vs. Oklahoma St. Cowboys*

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**10** *Mississippi State Bulldogs vs. Arizona State Sun Devils*

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**11** *South Florida Bulls vs. Alabama Crimson Tide*

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**12** *Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles vs. Georgia Bulldogs*

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Biz 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Biz 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Biz 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**13** *Washington Commanders vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers*

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Bulldozer Award: Offensive Lineman of the Week

**16** *Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets vs. Syracuse Orange*

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**17** *Colorado Buffaloes vs. Nebraska Cornhuskers*

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**18** *Green Bay Packers vs. Philadelphia Eagles*

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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, follow up tie-breaker will be used if necessary. Results will be tabulated on Monday and winners notified by telephone. Don't forget to list a phone number where you can be reached. INFO: 904-964-6305. [GATORS WILL BE USED FOR TIEBREAKER.]

# Addison scores twice for BHS in 29-14 win over Dunnellon

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Gino Addison rushed for more than 100 yards and scored two touchdowns, while Jeremiah McKenzie blocked two punts in the Bradford High School football team's 29-14 win over visiting Class 3A Dunnellon on Aug. 30.

It was the second of what will be four straight games against schools in larger classifications to open the season. The Class 2A Tornadoes (2-0) will host 3A South Sumter (1-1) on Friday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m. A home game against 6A Mandarin follows on the next Friday.

Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said he and his coaches talked two days prior to playing Dunnellon (1-1) about what would constitute a "good night." The answer was to win by two scores.

It was indeed a good night. "We knew how physical they were. We knew how hard they were going to play," Rodgers said. Then, alluding to Bradford's 44-0 win over Dunnellon in 2022, he said, "A couple of years ago, they got embarrassed. A lot of those guys were starters as 10th-graders. Now, they're seniors. I knew they were going to play hard."

"To come out two touchdowns



Jeremiah McKenzie (left) gets a piece of the ball for his second blocked punt of the game.

up is good."

The visiting Tigers, after falling behind 15-0, were able to make it a one-score game twice, but the effectively sealed the win with a touchdown drive that spanned the third and fourth quarters and consumed nearly nine minutes. The 14-play drive consisted of nothing but runs. In fact, Bradford only attempted two passes in the second half, rushing for 197 yards on 31 carries after halftime.

Bradford averaged 6 yards per carry.

"One of our strengths is our offensive line," Rodgers said. "Those guys have lifted so hard in the (last) three years. They're strong. They're in great condition. It shows at the end of games when we're able to chew up the clock."

"That's our game. That's who we are."

Dunnellon, after receiving the opening kickoff, gained two first downs, but the drive stalled at the Tigers' 41, with Jeremiah Hill and Trente Jenkins teaming

up to tackle running back Sean Martin for no gain on third-and-4. McKenzie blocked the ensuing punt, with Jy'Quez Cason scooping up the ball and taking it into the end zone for a score at the 7:58 mark of the first quarter. Bradford lined up as if to kick the extra point, but kicker Cy Cubbedge received the snap and threw a pass to Marlin Haywood in the end zone for two points and an 8-0 lead.

Bradford went three-and-out on its first series, but put together a 67-yard touchdown drive on its second. The Tornadoes faced the possibility of punting after only three plays again, but a facemask penalty on Dunnellon negated a sack on third-and-6 and gave Bradford a third-and-1 play. McKenzie picked up the first down on a 5-yard run. Cason took the Tornadoes into Dunnellon territory on the next play, breaking free for a 14-yard run to the Tigers' 39.

The Tornadoes later faced two fourth-down plays, with McKenzie (lined up at quarterback) carrying the ball on both. He first picked up a first down with a 14-yard run to the 17. Then, on fourth-and-5 at the 12, he gained the first-down yardage and more, carrying the ball into the end zone for a touchdown with 4:48 remaining in the second quarter. Cubbedge kicked the extra point for a 15-0 lead.

Bradford was penalized



Gino Addison (far left) picks up tough yards on the Tornadoes' final scoring drive, which was capped by Addison's second touchdown of the night.

for unsportsmanlike conduct following the touchdown, with the penalty yardage assessed on the kickoff. The kickoff went out of bounds, with the Tigers electing to force a re-kick. The eventual result was an 18-yard return by Jeffery Vickers that put Dunnellon at the Bradford 43-yard line.

Dunnellon's first play following the kick saw Martin take a pitch and scamper down the sideline for a 16-yard gain. After an offside penalty against Bradford, Dylan Donahoe had a 9-yard run for a first down at the 13. Another offside penalty gave the Tigers first-and-5. Donahoe had a 4-yard run, but was then stopped for no gain by Duke Lewis. On third-and-1, Donahoe got the call again and scored on a 4-yard run to make it 15-6 with 54 seconds remaining until halftime. A bad snap prevented Dunnellon from kicking the extra point.

The Tigers gained no yardage on their first three

plays of the second half, with Jenkins, McKenzie and Reese Wainwright making tackles on two run attempts before an incomplete pass forced a punt attempt. McKenzie came up with his second block, with Mikey Oliver falling on the ball at the Dunnellon 35.

"We've been special on special teams the last three years," Rodgers said. "That's a credit to Coach (John Staples). He does a lot of work with it. Every single day we work on special teams, and it shows."

Addison promptly ripped off a 26-yard run following the punt block, setting up first-and-goal at the 9. He carried two more times, with his second attempt resulting in a 6-yard touchdown at the 5:21 mark of the third quarter. Cubbedge added the PAT to make the score 22-6.

Dunnellon closed the gap less than three minutes later. Tony Tanner had a 45-yard run to the

See BHS, page 15

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



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# Simmons has 3 TDs in Tigers' 35-0 win over Indians

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Union County dominated both sides of the ball during its visit to Keystone Heights on Aug. 30, scoring 35 and holding the Indian offense scoreless.

It only took the Tigers (2-0) 2:15 to break onto the scoreboard. Five plays after Union took possession on its own 40, quarterback Trenton Klein connected with Gavin Jenkins for a 25-yard reception, taking the ball to the Keystone 18. From there, Klein and Jenkins hooked up for the game's first score. The Tiger quarterback rushed in from 2 yards out for the two-point conversion, giving Union an 8-0 lead with 9:44 left in the first quarter.

Klein finished the game with 10 completions on 13 attempts for 128 yards and one touchdown.

After the Tiger defense forced a Keystone Heights punt on the subsequent possession, Union got the ball on its own 49. The Tigers executed a perfect double pass, completely fooling the Indian defense, but the receiver

dropped the ball in the open field. That disappointment was short-lived, however, when, on the next play, Drew Simmons bolted for a 51-yard touchdown run. Union's two-point conversion attempt fell flat with an incomplete pass, leaving the Tigers with a 14-0 lead with 6:38 left in the first quarter.

Simmons led the Tigers in rushing with nine carries for 135 yards and three touchdowns.

Play was stopped for approximately 25 minutes when Keystone offensive lineman Bryce Daniels suffered a lower-leg injury. Players from both teams went onto the field to offer their support and prayers for the sophomore.

Union took possession on its own 42 after Keystone's punt when play resumed. From there, the Tigers launched an eight-play scoring drive, which concluded with a 35-yard Simmons gallop. Carter Whitehead's extra point was true, and Union took a 21-0 lead with 2:06 left in the first quarter.

The closest Keystone (1-1)

came to scoring was at the end of the first quarter, when the Indians marched from their own 38 to the Union 8. The 11-play drive was marred by unsportsmanlike-conduct and targeting penalties assessed against the Tigers. However, after being pushed to their 11-yard line, the Tiger defense stiffened, backing up Keystone a yard over the next three plays and corraling Keystone's Jackson Parmeter after the Indian kick holder picked up an errant snap on an attempted field goal.

Union limited the Indians to 34 yards rushing and 60 yards in total offense.

Klein led the Tigers in tackles with four solos and one assist, and Connor Bresee had three solo tackles and one assist.

Thirteen Tigers recorded at least one defensive stop in the game.

After stopping the Indian threat, Union took over on its own 2 and drove 98 yards on 18 plays for its fourth touchdown. C.J. Ivey capped the drive with a 5-yard run, but the Indians



Union's Drew Simmons (second from left) carries the ball for one of his three touchdowns. Also pictured are Union linemen Maddox Wheeler (far left) and Matthew Rogers (second from right).

blocked the PAT, giving the Tigers a 27-0 lead at halftime.

Union's final score came with 6:33 left in the third quarter when Simmons ran in from 18 yards. Klein converted on the two-point attempt with a 2-yard scramble,

leading to a final score of 35-0.

Union Head Coach Andrew Thomas said his offense ran his game plan perfectly.

"I thought we executed well and had the emphasis to come out kind of hot and try and strike

early, and we did well," he said. "Got the ball first and was able to score quickly and get off the field."

Thomas added that the plan

See GAME, page 14

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"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."

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"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"

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"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."

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Sept. 5, 2024

## BRADFORD

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

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

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

8/15 4tchg 9/5-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 915  
Year of Issuance: 2018  
Parcel Number: 04198-0-00000  
Case Number: 2024-TD-0012  
Description of Property: Beginning at the NE corner of the SW 1/4 of SE 1/4, run thence West 405.8 feet for Point of Beginning; thence run South 670.6 feet, thence West 401.9 feet, thence North 670.6 feet, thence East 504.8 feet to Point of Beginning. Lying and being in Section 30, Township 6 South Range 22 East.

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

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

8/15 4tchg 9/5-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 967  
Year of Issuance: 2018  
Parcel Number: 04432-0-00000  
Case Number: 2024-TD-0011  
Description of Property: A part of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:  
Commence at the NW Corner of said NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 for point of beginning; from point of beginning this described, run South 0°58' East 420 feet to a point; thence run South 89°58' East 315 feet to a point; thence run North 0°58' West 320 feet to a point; thence run North 89°58' West 200 feet to a point; thence run North 0°58' West 100 feet to a point; run thence North 89°50' West 415 feet to point of beginning. SAVE AND EXCEPT therefrom any portion thereof lying within the right-of-way of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad.

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

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

8/15 4tchg 9/5-BCT

### BID

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

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

Equal Opportunity Employer, Fair Housing, Handicap Access Jurisdiction.

8/22 3tchg 9/5-BCT

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

File No. 04-2023-CP-000109 PAXMX PROBATE DIVISION  
IN RE: ESTATE OF JERRY W. WOODS, Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
The administration of the Estate of

JERRY W. WOODS, deceased, Case No: 63-2008-CP-000109 PAXMX is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 945 Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF-A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with the Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
The date of the first publication of this Notice is August 29, 2024.

Personal Representative  
ELEWYN WOODS  
4525 SE 3rd Place  
Keystone Heights, Florida 32656  
Personal for Representative Attorney  
CURTIS A. "LEX" SANDERS  
407 West Georgia Street  
Starke, Florida, 32091  
(904) 964-2020/fax: 964-9400  
Florida Bar No: 0625647  
8/29 4tchg 9/19-BCT

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on 09/20/2024 10:00 am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items:

Unit 120 Belonging to J. Kasgnot  
Unit 59 Belonging to M. Johnson  
Unit 110 Belonging to V. Atkinson  
Unit 43 Belonging to K. Larsen  
Unit 60 Belonging to N. McCutchen  
9/5 2tchg 9/12-BCT

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at a public hearing on September 17, 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. A copy of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-16  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, LDC 24-02, BY THE CITY COMMISSION, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 1-12 ENTITLED DEFINITIONS BY ADDING DEFINITIONS FOR ABOVE-GROUND FUELING STATION AND ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 4 BY ADDING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATIONS AS PERMITTED USE IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 163.3208, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 4 BY ADDING ABOVE-GROUND FUELING STATIONS AS AN ACCESSORY USE TO ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATIONS IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING DIVISION 4 ENTITLED MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BY ADDING SECTION 4-219 ENTITLED ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATIONS BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS CONSISTENT WITH POLICY A.1.28 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING DIVISION 4 ENTITLED MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BY

ADDING SECTION 4-220 ENTITLED ABOVE-GROUND FUELING, GAS, OR CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS BY ADDING SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE TANKS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

9/5 1tchg-BCT

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a Budget Workshop for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year budget on September 10, 2024, at 5:00 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.

9/5 1tchg-BCT

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on September 17, 2024, at 6:30 PM 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.

9/5 1tchg-BCT

## UNION

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that J. R. Davis, Jr., as Trustee of the J. R. Davis Trust the holder(s) of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE #: 71  
YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2018  
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: 21-06-18-45-000-0410-0  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:  
Parcel No. 41 of Upland Pines Plantation, Union County, Florida: The Westerly 164 feet of the following described property:

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

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MARY R MILLING & JAMES Z STRIPLING  
Said property being in the County of Union, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to the law, the property described in such certificate will be sold to the highest bidder in the Courthouse lobby at 11:00 A.M., the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.  
Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.  
Kellie Hendricks Rhoades  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Union County, Florida  
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to

participate in this proceeding should contact (386) 496-3711.

8/15 4tchg 9/5-UCT

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

Plaintiff,

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

Defendants.  
NOTICE OF ACTION  
TO ALL DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF THE filing of a Complaint against you to quiet title to the following described property in Union County, Florida: THE EAST 17.5 ACRES OF THE NORTH 420 YARDS (1260 FEET) OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS AND EXCEPT THE EAST 50.00 FEET THEREOF FOR COUNTY ROAD NO. 241 RIGHT OF WAY  
Union County Parcel Identification Number: 09-06-18-00-000-0010-0  
You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on M. Aaron Dukes, the Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 328, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, on or before the 3rd day of October, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either immediately before service on Plaintiffs' attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
DATED this 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@circuitt8.org](mailto:interpreter@circuitt8.org)

8/29 4tchg 9/19-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 2024 CA 000059  
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC,  
Plaintiff,  
VS.  
UNKNOWN HEIRS BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY  
THROUGH UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER SCOTT FOSS, DECEASED; et al.,  
Defendant(s).  
NOTICE OF ACTION  
(Publish in The Union County Times)  
TO: Unknown Heirs Beneficiaries, Devisees, Surviving Spouse, Grantees Assignee, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees, And All Other Parties Claiming An Interest By Through Under Or Against The Estate Of Christopher Scott Foss, Deceased  
Last Known Residence: Unknown  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in UNION COUNTY, Florida: A PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE NORTH 3/4 OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 19 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, AND RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19, A DISTANCE OF 739.25 FEET; THENCE CONTINUE RUNNING SOUTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 395.61 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF

THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND: THENCE RUN SOUTH 01 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 352.26 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 79 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 190.36 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. S-238 -A; THENCE RUN NORTH 01 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 380.95 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION WITH SAID NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 OF NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 19; THENCE RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 204.39 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiff's attorney, at 5300 West Atlantic Avenue Suite 303 Delray Beach, FL 33484, on or before September 26, 2024, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

Dated on August 22, 2024  
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES  
AS CLERK OF THE COURT  
BY: CRYSTAL NORMAN  
AS DEPUTY CLERK  
8/29 2tchg 9/5-UCT

CPA 24-02, an application by the City Commission, to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use classification from COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY (less than or equal to 2 dwelling units per acre) to CITY COMMERCIAL for the property described, as follows:  
A parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at Southeast corner of said Section 36; thence North 01°24'13" West 984.65 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning; thence South 88°45'17" West 666.69 feet; thence North 01°24'49" West 1,458.59 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 121; thence North 42°46'14" East 957.10 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121 to the East line of Section 36; thence South 01°24'13" East 2,146.89 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning.  
Containing 27.60 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 Office of the City Manager, City Hall located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.  
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the Office of the City Manager at 386.496.3401 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).

9/5 1tchg-UCT

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131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091  
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

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**UNION COUNTY TIMES**  
USPS 648-200  
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131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091  
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Subscription Rate in Trade Area  
\$52.00 per year:  
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\$52.00 per year:  
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# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Sept. 5, 2024

## UNION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**

BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning the amendment, as described below, will be heard by the City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Lake Butler, Florida, at a public hearing on September 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida.

Z 24-02, an application by the City Commission, to amend the Official Zoning Atlas of the Land Development Regulations by changing the zoning district on certain lands from COUNTY RESIDENTIAL, (MIXED) SINGLE FAMILY/MOBILE HOME-1 (RSF/MH-1) to CITY COMMERCIAL, GENERAL (CG) for the property described, as follows:

A parcel of land lying in Section 36, Township 5 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows: Commence at Southeast corner of said Section 36; thence North 01°24'13" West 984.65 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning; thence South 88°45'17" West 666.69 feet; thence North 01°24'49" West 1,458.59 feet to the Southerly right-of-way line of State Road 121; thence North 42°46'14" East 957.10 feet, along the Southerly right-of-way line of said State Road 121 to the East line of Section 36; thence South 01°24'13" East 2,146.89 feet, along the East line of said Section 36 to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 27.60 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 Office of the City Manager, City Hall located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the Office of the City Manager at 386.496.3401 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 (voice) or 1.800.955.8771 (TTY).

9/5 1tchg-UCT

**REGULAR MEETING NOTICE**  
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located at City Hall located at 200 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.

9/5 1tchg-UCT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
CASE NO.: 24000018CAAXMX  
MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021-NMR1,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
PATSY JO BROOKER F/K/A PATSY JO ADDISON; DONALD K. BROOKER; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 and #2, and ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, et al.,  
Defendant(s)

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

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 27, 2024, entered in Civil Case No.: 24000018CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021-NMR1, Plaintiff, and PATSY JO BROOKER F/K/A PATSY JO ADDISON; DONALD K. BROOKER, are Defendants.

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, in the Front Lobby of the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 at 11:00 AM, on the 23rd day of January, 2025, the following described real property as set forth in said Judgment, to wit:

COMMENCE WHERE WEST LINE OF GOVERNMENT LOT 7 INTERSECTS THE CENTERLINE OF STATE ROAD 238, THEN NORTH 33 FEET TO NORTH LINE OF SR 238, THEN EAST 581 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THEN CONTINUE EAST ALONG STATE ROAD RW LINE 210 FT, THEN NORTH 210 FEET, THEN WEST

210 FEET TO LAND DESCRIBED IN OR BOOK 76 PAGE 224, THEN SOUTH 210 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. (SECTION 30 TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH RANGE 20 EAST)

TOGETHER WITH MOBILE HOME VIN NO. HMLL2814B1521425A AND HMLL2814B1521425B. If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you fail to file a timely claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After the funds are reported as unclaimed, only the owner of record as of the date of the Lis Pendens may claim the surplus.

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

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@court8.org

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on August 29, 2024  
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES  
CLERK OF THE COURT

By: Crystal Norman  
Deputy Clerk  
Attorney for Plaintiff:  
Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire  
Popkin & Rosaler, P.A.  
1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard  
Suite 400  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
Telephone: (954) 360-9030  
Facsimile: (954) 420-5187

9/5 2tchg 9/12-BCT

**Public Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Northeast District Office  
Draft Air Permit No. 125000-003-AC  
New River RNG LLC, New River Landfill RNG Plant  
Union County, Florida

**Applicant:** The applicant for this project is New River RNG LLC. The applicant's authorized representative and mailing address is: Suparna Chakladar, Senior Vice President, New River RNG LLC, New River Landfill RNG Plant, 5087 Junction Road, Lockport, New York, 14094.  
**Facility Location:** New River RNG LLC operates the existing New River

Landfill RNG Plant, which is located in Union County at 24276 N.E. 157th Street, Raiford, Florida.

**Project:** The New River Landfill RNG Plant is an existing renewable natural gas (RNG) production facility. The RNG Plant converts landfill gas from the New River Regional Landfill into a pipeline quality natural gas equivalent. Combustion equipment associated with the RNG plant includes a thermal oxidizer unit and an open candlestick flare used for flaring gas that does not meet the pipeline specification. The facility is proposing revisions to the underlying permit for the open candlestick flare to provide operational flexibility. There will not be a change in air emissions as a result of this project. The facility remains classified as a true minor source of air emissions.

**Permitting Authority:** Applications for air construction permits are subject to review in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 403, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and Chapters 62-4, 62-210 and 62-212 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The proposed project is not exempt from air permitting requirements and an air permit is required to perform the proposed work. The Permitting Authority responsible for making a permit determination for this project is the Northeast District Office. The Permitting Authority's physical address is: 8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100, Jacksonville, Florida 32256. The Permitting Authority's mailing address is: 8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100, Jacksonville, Florida 32256. The Permitting Authority's telephone number is 904/256-1700.

**Project File:** A complete project file is available for public inspection during the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except legal holidays), at the physical address indicated above for the Permitting Authority. The complete project file includes the Draft Permit, the Technical Evaluation and Preliminary Determination, the application and information submitted by the applicant (exclusive of confidential records under Section 403.111, F.S.). Interested persons may contact the Permitting Authority's project engineer for additional information at the address and phone number listed above. In addition, electronic copies of these documents are available on the following web site: <https://fddep.dep.state.fl.us/air/emission/apds/default.asp>.

**Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit:** The Permitting Authority gives notice of its intent to issue an air construction permit to the applicant for the project described above. The applicant has provided reasonable assurance that operation of the equipment will not adversely impact air quality and that the project will comply with all appropriate provisions of Chapters 62-4, 62-204, 62-210, 62-212, 62-296 and 62-297, F.A.C.

The Permitting Authority will issue a Final Permit in accordance with the conditions of the proposed Draft Permit unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. or unless public comment received in accordance with this notice results in a different decision or a significant change of terms or conditions.

**Comments:** The Permitting Authority will accept written comments concerning the proposed Draft Permit for a period of 14 days from the date of publication of the Public Notice. Written comments must be received by the Permitting Authority by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on or before the end of this 14-day period. If written comments received result in a significant change to the Draft Permit, the Permitting Authority shall revise the Draft Permit and require, if applicable, another Public Notice. All comments filed will be made available for public inspection.

**Petitions:** A person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative hearing in accordance with Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Petitions filed by any persons other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the Public Notice or receipt of a written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who asked the Permitting Authority for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of that notice, regardless of the date of publication. A petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above, at the time of filing. A petition for administrative hearing must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received) with the Agency Clerk in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, [Agency\\_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us) before the deadline. The failure of any person 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. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the approval of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Permitting Authority's action is based must contain the following information: (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known; (b) The name, address, any email address, telephone number and any facsimile number of the petitioner;

the name, address any email address, telephone number, and any facsimile 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 will be affected by the agency determination; (c) A statement of when and how each petitioner received notice of the agency action or proposed decision; (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so state; (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes 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 (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action. A petition that does not dispute the material facts upon which the Permitting Authority's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301, F.A.C.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Permitting Authority's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this Public Notice of Intent to Issue Air Permit. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the Permitting Authority on the application have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

**Extension of Time:** Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., 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, or via electronic correspondence at [Agency\\_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Agency_Clerk@dep.state.fl.us), before the 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:** Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

9/5 1tchg-UCT

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ing Saturdays and Holidays. Starting schedule of 30 hours per week until training is completed then a flexible full-time schedule of 60 hours in a two-week pay period. Applications for employment are available at New River Regional Landfill, 24276 NE 157th Street, Raiford, FL, from the NRSWA Website at [www.nrswa.org](http://www.nrswa.org) or by calling the NRSWA office at 386-431-1000. Deadline for submitting an application will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. New River Solid Waste is a drug-free workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE CITY OF LAWTEY is taking applications for a Maintenance Supervisor. Applicants must be able to pass and maintain a

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# Obituaries

## Mattie Anderson

Mattie Sue Anderson, 68, of Starke passed away Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, at her residence in Gainesville. She was born in Starke and attended the local schools of Bradford County. She attended Springhill Church of Gainesville and Church of God by Faith in Starke. She retired as a surgical tech from Shands University Hospital.

Survivors are a daughter, Tori Kelly; brother, Alphonso Covington; two sisters, Johnnie Mae Robins and Sandra Covington; two grandsons; and many nieces, nephew, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

The cortege will form Friday, Sept. 6 at 4:30 p.m. at Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke. Memorial services will be Saturday, Sept. 6, at 5 p.m. at Church of God by Faith, 730 Old Lawtrey Road, Starke. Services will be officiated by Rev. Alvin Green.

Arrangements by Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke.



PAID OBITUARY

## Rudolph Coleman

Rudolph Valentino "Trigger" Coleman, 88, of Starke passed away Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at Windsor Manor. He was born in Starke, attended the local schools of Bradford County and served in the U. S. Army. He was given the nickname "Trigger" while playing basketball at R.J.E. He attended Mt. Moriah Community Church in Starke.

Survivors are two sons, Darren R. Coleman and Michael A. Coleman; five daughters, Katrina Coleman Bythewood, Deborah Coleman, Gayle Coleman, Shandah E. Coleman and Retania Faye Coleman; three grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

The viewing will be Friday, Sept. 6, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Mt. Moriah Community Church (across from Haile Funeral Home). The cortege will form Saturday, Sept. 7, at 955 E. Brownlee St., Starke. The funeral service will be 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Mt. Moriah Community Church, with Rev. Alvin Green officiating. Interment will be at Oddfellow Cemetery.

Arrangements by Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke.

PAID OBITUARY

## Dale Dunn

Dale Robert Dunn, 73, of Keystone Heights went to be with the Lord Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, after a brief illness. He was born in Jacksonville on Feb. 12, 1951, to the late Charles and Anthlean Wray Dunn. As a young man, he was quite the athlete, earning a second-degree black belt in Judo. After graduating from Andrew Jackson High School in 1969, he began employment at JEA, where he worked as a troubleshooter for 30 years.

On March 17, 2001, he began an exciting new chapter in his life when he married Christine Ann Wesling. Together, they formed Ravenwood Farm and turned their love for animals into a lifelong passion. From North Florida Horse Rescue to Habitat for Horses to the Nemours ADAPT Program Team with mini-horse, Buc, and therapy dog, Buddie, to Pet Partners of North Florida, they dedicated themselves to rescuing and saving the countless lives of four-legged friends, as well as providing animal-assisted interventions. Whether it was rescuing horses after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, saving racehorses from the Virgin Islands in 2007, or hosting Pet Partner's World's largest Pet Walk in 2023, their efforts knew no boundaries. Dale and Chris made a powerful duo and a difference, through their generosity and compassion. He loved life and his greatest loves were for his wife, children and grandchildren. He often expressed the immense pride he felt for his family and took every opportunity to brag about their accomplishments. His sense of humor and big smile were part of his larger-than-life personality. He was always ready to provide a hug, and to be kidded by him was a sure sign that he was fond of you.

He is lovingly remembered by his children, Joseph Cooper Dunn, Courtney Dale (Rose) Dunn, Tiffany Dunn (Phillip) Wickham, and Amy Nicole Gfell; grandchildren, Ella Rose Dunn, Claire Ronnie Dunn, Addison Gfell, Alyssa Wickham; brothers, Rev. Dan (Nancy) Dunn and Don (Gail) Dunn; sister, Pamela Rogers; dear cousins; cherished friends; and the entire rescue community.

His service will be Saturday, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m. at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Keystone Heights. The family hopes to see all the friends and family who can attend to remember Dale and the phenomenal man that he was. In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be given in his name to Pet Partners of North Florida, P.O. Box 1485, Ponte Vedra 32004, or any of the following: Haven Hospice, ADAPT at Nemours, Clay County Humane Society or Twisted Oaks Rescue.

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

PAID OBITUARY



## Donald Beeman

Donald Wayne Beeman, born on Feb. 21, 1970, in Starke, passed away suddenly on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024, at his residence. He leaves behind a legacy marked by his unwavering dedication to his family and his strong character. He retired as a Sergeant for the Florida Department of Corrections, where he showed his commitment to public service and the passion for his community. Those who knew him often spoke of his big heart, kindness, and willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He was a man whose love for his family was profound; indeed, family was everything to him. If you had the pleasure of being around him, you would know of his detailed and extraordinary way of storytelling, and he was always finding a way to cut up and be a "jokester." In other words, he put people at ease when they were in his presence. An avid angler, he found joy in the great outdoors, particularly when he could cast a line and fish in the serene waters he cherished. His hobbies reflected his innate appreciation for nature and his desire to enjoy life's simple pleasures.

He is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Brenda Beeman; parents, Ernest and Brenda Beeman; son, Russell (Amber) Boulding; daughter, Rebekah (Darren) Elixson; brother, Ricky Beeman; and sister, Missy Ward. He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren, Wayne Elixson, Eli Elixson, Brianna Elixson, Sophia Elixson, Abigail Boulding, and Annalise Boulding, who brought him immeasurable joy.

A viewing will be held Friday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler. This will be followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. at the same location, with Ralph Durham of Faith Baptist Church officiating.

Donald will be remembered for his kindness, strength, and the love he so freely shared with those around him. His absence will be felt deeply by his family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Archer-Milton Funeral Home in honored to serve the family of Donald Beeman during this trying time. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



## Jean Johnson

Mrs. Jean Lavern Johnson, 86, of Starke passed away Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024, at her residence. Jean was born on Jan. 30, 1938, in Starke to the late Horace and Ruby Gunter and was a lifelong area resident. She was a member of Bible Baptist Church and loved spending time with family. She was a homemaker and assisted with the day-to-day operations of the family owned business, Johnson Feed Store, located in Starke. Preceding her in death was her husband of 49 years, Anthony Robert "Bobby" Johnson Jr.; and her daughter, Claire Gowans.

The survivors are her daughters, Alma Johnson of Starke, Shirley (John) Dixon of Starke, and April (Eric) Cagle of Starke; siblings, Jack Gunter and Ann Thornton both of Starke. Also left are her grandchildren, Victoria James, Loretta Thornton, Jennifer Snyder, Cheryl Evans, Erica Stalaker, and Eric Cagle Jr.; great-grandchildren, Kaleigh, Savannah, Kimber, David, Caleb, Chris Leigh, Timothy, Jacob, Samantha, Bradley, and Tucker. The family received friends at Bible Baptist Church on Wednesday, Sept. 4, followed by the funeral service. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Pastor Roger Worten will officiate.

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

PAID OBITUARY



## Serena Kimbrell

Mrs. Serena "Sue" Redding Kimbrell, 78, of Starke, passed away Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, at her home. Sue was born on Oct. 1, 1945, to the late Horace and Ola Mae (Andrews) Redding. She moved to Starke 26 years ago from Hilliard. She was a homemaker and a pastor's wife. She was an active member of Kingsley Lake Baptist Church and enjoyed gardening, painting, and antique restoration. Her greatest joy was her family. She adored them and spent as much time as possible with them.

Survivors are her husband of 59 years, Rev. Ronald "Ron" Kimbrell of Starke; children, Amy Elizabeth (Todd) Bourland of Elizabethton, Tennessee, and April Darlene (Nathan) Pettus of Leander, Texas; and her sister, Vivian Johns of Jacksonville. Also left are her grandchildren, Elizabeth (Timothy) Howald, Emmeline Bourland, EasterAnna Bourland, Kellen Pettus, Gwyneth Pettus, and Darby Pettus; along with her great-grandchild, Miriam Howald.

The family had a reception prior to the funeral service on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at Evergreen Baptist Church Cemetery. Graveside funeral services followed, with Pastor Jonathan Rodriguez officiating.

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

PAID OBITUARY



## Everett Pearsall

Everett passed from his worn earthly body to his heavenly home on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at home. He was born in 1952 to Ralph Pearsall and Juanita Bush Pearsall. He enjoyed "computering," cats and helping those he could. He moved to Shiloh Youth Ranch in 1970. After graduating, he stayed on and helped with the ministry to help wayward boys. After his health started failing, he moved back to Bradford County.

He leaves behind his sisters, Arbutus Johnson and Barbara Trentham, both of Starke, Mary Hunter of Melrose, and Helen Winters of Jacksonville; one brother, David Pearsall of Gaffney, South Carolina; and many nieces and nephews.

A time of home-going and celebration of his life will be Friday, Sept. 6, at 2 p.m. at Bradford Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

PAID OBITUARY

## Emma Jean Perry

Emma Jean Perry, 89, of Hawthorne died Monday, Aug. 19, 2024, at Magnolia Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Gainesville. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles P. Perry Jr.; children, Charles Perry III, and Cathy Jean Whitworth Perry; and four siblings.

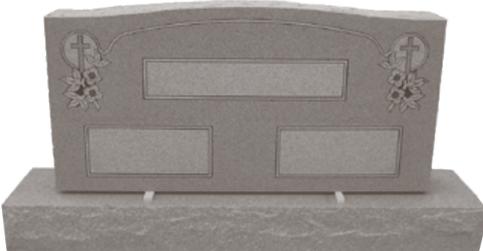
Survivors are a son, Joe Perry; seven grandchildren; and numerous extended family members.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church of Keystone Heights.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

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## Bobbie Franklin

Mrs. Bobbie Jean Franklin, 84, passed away Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, at home. She attended the local schools of Bradford County and was a member of the Church of God by Faith in Starke.

Survivors are sons, Calvin James Whitfield, Chuck Hudson, Simon McCloud and Paul McCloud; daughters, Glorita Martin, Sandra Tyson, Lorrie Cobbert, and Paula McCloud; sister, Doll Martin Burch; aunt, Ceola Hudson; and a host of grands, great-grands, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

The viewing will be Friday, Sept. 6, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. for family, and 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. for friends. The cortege will form Saturday, Sept. 7, at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Bobbie Jean Franklin. Memorial services will be Saturday, Sept. 7, at Church of God by Faith. Interment will be at Oddfellow Cemetery, Starke.

Arrangements are by Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke.

PAID OBITUARY

## Card of Thanks

Your words have comforted us, your support has strengthened us,  
and your love has sustained us.

We gracefully and sincerely acknowledge the many kind expressions of love shown to us during our period of bereavement. The many cards, flowers, telephone calls, prayers, visits and other sympathetic gestures are deeply appreciated. The kindness and love will always be remembered.

The family of  
Mrs. Lillie Mae Roddey

## Card of Thanks

The family of Donald Jackson would like to express our most sincere thanks to all the many people who offered their condolences and support during his final hospitalization and passing. Our hearts were blessed by the calls, visits, cards, flowers, food and, most importantly, your love. His life was marked by his love for people, and in his passing, that sentiment was returned tenfold. Our grief will linger, but so will the many kindnesses bestowed upon us by those whose lives were touched by our beloved  
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## GAME

Continued from page 11

was to increase the offensive tempo and stretch the field, forcing the Keystone defense to play sideline to sideline.

I'm proud of the way we played," he added. "I felt like we executed well tonight."

Keystone Coach Steve Reynolds said the Union defensive line was the best he had seen since arriving at Keystone.

"They were physical, tough, they controlled the football, and they had a good game plan," he said of the visitors from Lake Butler. "It's a tough one."

"We've got to clean up some errors," Reynolds said. "We've got a bunch of hardworking kids, good players. We've just got to clean up some errors."

Reynolds said Daniels' injury and the traffic crash critically injuring junior varsity quarterback Ryder Trull earlier in the week impacted his team.

"Of course, it affected us," he said. "But working to learn how



Union wide receiver Gavin Jenkins (far right) picks up yardage.

to overcome adversity even as we grow into men — that's what this is all about."

"That's no excuse," he added about the team's adversities. "We've got to rally and make plays."

Union hosts Santa Fe on Friday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m. The Union County Quarterback Club

will be honoring the 1974 Tigers team that was the Class 2A state runner-up.

Santa Fe (0-2) is coming off a 33-7 loss to Gainesville.

Keystone has a bye and will return to action with a road game against Newberry (1-1) on Friday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

# BCEF Leave a Legacy honors Prevatt, Register

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Lisa Prevatt and Paula Register were honored at the Bradford County Education Foundation's sixth annual Leave a Legacy event, which was held Aug. 29 at Starke's Madison Street Baptist Church.

A fundraising Dessert Dash was also part of the event, as were drawings for a 2005 Honda Rancher 350 ATV (donated by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office) and an electric scooter (donated by Robin Witt). Sherry Ruskowski won the ATV, while Brenda Donaldson won the scooter.

Natalie Whytsell, who was Bradford's 2023-24 Teacher of the Year, performed two songs.

As guests enjoyed dinner, they watched a video featuring interviews with both Prevatt and Register. Both honorees then participated in a question-and-answer session with Bradford County Judge Tatum Davis, who served as the event's emcee.

## Lisa Prevatt

At the beginning of her video interview, Prevatt talked of being born in Memphis, Tennessee, and of her family moving to Starke in 1974 after living in Jacksonville.

"I started school in the ninth grade at Bradford High School," she said. "I did graduate from there in 1977 and was a proud Tornado."

Prevatt went to what was then known as Santa Fe Community College, earning a degree in nuclear-medicine technology. She worked in that field for 10 years.

"I loved it, but after I had my first child, I did decide I wanted to have more quality time (with family) and not have to spend weekends and nights on call," Prevatt said.

As part of a family of educators, Prevatt said "it was easy to see how education was good hours for a mother and would be a good choice."

After earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at the University of North Florida, she taught for 12 years (most first and third grades) in Lawley and at Starke Elementary School. Prevatt said she remembered one year as a third-grade teacher in Lawley in which her class held an election for officers, inspired by the fact that it was an election year. Prevatt said the elected class officers, including "our now-famous County Judge Tatum Davis," went through a



Lisa Prevatt (left) answers a question asked by Emcee Tatum Davis. Prevatt was a teacher and administrator in the Bradford County School District for 41 years, including a nine-year stint as the district's assistant superintendent.

swearing-in ceremony performed by Judge Johnny Hobbs at Lawley City Hall.

"That was just such an amazing moment and so much fun," Prevatt said.

Prevatt, who was a Teacher of the Year and a University of Florida Distinguished Educator in 1998, earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. She served as assistant principal at Southside Elementary and BHS and as principal at Lawley.

After a nine-year stint as Bradford's assistant superintendent of schools, Prevatt returned to where her career began, serving as Lawley Elementary principal for four years until her retirement, wrapping up 20 years as an administrator.

"I couldn't have thought of a better way to end my career," Prevatt said, adding, "We just developed such a positive team camaraderie (at Lawley)."

Prevatt talked of school grades not being released by state during the covid year, but based on calculations, the Lawley school would've received an A by five points.

It was a good way to go into retirement.

"We celebrated that together at the welcome-back breakfast the following year," Prevatt said. "What a great way to be able to just go off into the sunset."

During her Q-and-A session with Davis, Prevatt, in response to a question about her favorite job, reiterated how special it was spending the end of her career at Lawley.

"I think I'll always just remember those last four years at Lawley," Prevatt said. "It was such a great time because the faculty and staff just jelled."

Prevatt added that in looking

at the Leave a Legacy crowd, she saw a lot of people she worked with — people who were special to her.

"I see so many wonderful colleagues who have just been a blessing in my life," she said.

When asked by Davis what one change she would make to education, Prevatt said, "For me, that one thing would be to look at the student instead of just test scores because so often there are students who have so much to give and have so much potential, but a test score is holding them back. I just feel like we need to get away from that. We've got to remember these are children. We need to respect them and find ways to lift them instead of holding them back and holding them down."

During her time working Bradford schools, Prevatt was appointed to the Santa Fe College board of trustees in 2012 and then re-appointed in 2021. She was named trustee emeritus in April 2022.

Prevatt talked of working with the Santa Fe board to obtain a \$4 million grant that will go toward creating a Santa Fe nursing facility at North Florida Technical College. Prevatt said the grant will help "bring in the equipment and help renovate the buildings so that (students) will have the best possible setting for their studies."

When Davis asked her about what it means for Santa Fe College to have a presence in Bradford County, Prevatt said it helps those students who have financial or other barriers by giving them the chance to take classes locally instead of driving to Gainesville.

"For some of them, that would be a complete barrier to continue their education," Prevatt said. "It just makes a difference in those

lives."

Church has been an important part of Prevatt's life. She teaches a women's Sunday school class and is also part of a Bible club.

In looking for things to do during retirement, Prevatt said she became involved with Chesed House, a Christian women's shelter in Starke. She serves on its board of directors and teaches a Genesis Process program each week with the women Chesed House serves, "helping to heal them from hurts, habits and hangups."

"They are recovering from a variety of different challenges and setbacks they've had in their lives," Prevatt said. "I will tell you, these women are working so hard to get their lives back on course."

When Davis asked Prevatt what one piece of advice she would share with the Leave a Legacy crowd, she shared something she heard from someone else about continuing to walk in faith.

"When prayer left the school, it took quite a bit out, but somebody just reminded me — you may not be able to talk the talk, but you can walk the walk. That can make such a difference."

In closing her Q-and-A session, Prevatt said, "I just want to say, wow. I've got family, of course, here. My kids — I'm so thankful for them. The Register family is my family, too. I'm just so thankful for them."

"All of you friends and colleagues, I appreciate you being here."

## Paula Register

Register was born in Orange, Texas, and raised in Athens, Alabama. She said she met Freeman Register, who would be her husband, at a Baptist church, where her father was a deacon. She was a senior at Athens High School, while Freeman was a student at Athens College.

Their first date was on a Sunday night after a social.

"On the way back (home), we ran out of gas," Register said. "Of course, I was late getting home."

Register remembered telling the story later as an adult with her mother present.

"My mother looked at me and said, 'Did you really run out of gas?'"

Register was married in 1969 after Freeman completed Officer Candidate School at Columbus,



Paula Register (right) laughs at a comment by Emcee Tatum Davis. Register taught business classes for 17 years in the Bradford County School District and has worked to support Bradford schools as a Bradford County Education Foundation member for more than 30 years.



Debra Stephens (left) selects a cake during the Dessert Dash as BCEF member Leisa Sims looks on. Each table had someone "dash" to the dessert table to get a dessert, with the amount of money raised by each table determining the order in which the tables were called to participate.

Georgia's Fort Benning (now Fort Moore). She attended the University of North Alabama and earned a degree in Business Administration. Freeman's military service included going to Vietnam.

In the summer of 1971, the couple moved to Starke — Freeman's hometown.

"I remember the first time I came down to visit," Register said. "Of course, I'm from north Alabama. We have hills. They're not mountains, as my husband thought they were. They're hills."

"I remember when we hit Lake City and got on 100. I had never seen a road so straight and so flat. You could see forever."

Register began teaching Business Education in the old C building at BHS. It was the start of a 17-year career that included teaching at Bradford Middle School and at what is now North Florida Technical College.

"The highlight was just knowing that you were helping the kids," Register said.

Davis asked her if the skills she taught, such as typing,

budgeting and writing checks, were still important in today's "tech-savvy" world. Register said knowing how to type can still be important, with students now using computers at school and, of course, composing text messages on phones, but she wasn't sure people were utilizing some of the other things she once taught.

"So many of the young people now and even the adults live by their credit card, so I don't know that they really know how much money they have," Register said.

Register said the type of paperwork today's teachers have is much different from the paperwork she was responsible for, but the thing she shared with those who face today's challenges is a desire to teach.

"You've got to love to do it," Register said. "I did love it. I loved seeing (students) improve."

While teaching, Register also served as sponsor for Future Business Leaders of America.

See LEGACY, page 16

## BHS

Continued from page 10

Bradford 28. On second-and-2 from the 20, Malachi Bullock came down with a Dylan Curry pass in the end zone with 2:46 remaining in the third quarter. Curry eluded a sack on the two-point conversion attempt and ran into the end zone to make it a 22-14 game.

The Tornadoes answered with their time-consuming touchdown drive that covered 77 yards. It featured eight runs for 44 yards by Addison and Iyen Addison.

McKenzie picked up the drive's initial first down on a 13-yard run. A holding penalty

on Dunnellon negated a third-down sack and gave Bradford a first down at the Tigers' 43. After an illegal-procedure penalty, Gino Addison and Iyen Addison had runs of 8 and 5 yards, respectively, to set up third-and-2. Branden Williams picked up the first down on the first of his two straight 5-yard carries. A 5-yard run by Cason resulted in a first down at the 20. McKenzie was then tackled for a 1-yard loss, but Gino Addison carried defenders on a tough, 12-yard run to the 9.

Iyen Addison had a 4-yard carry before Gino Addison capped the drive with a 5-yard touchdown run with 5:40 to play. Cubbedge added the PAT for the game's final point.

Gino Addison finished with 105 yards on 13 carries, while Iyen Addison had 64 yards on 12 carries. McKenzie carried eight times for 51 yards.

Cason, Williams and quarterback Zack Paulk also had multiple carries for the Tornadoes, who finished with 278 yards on 45 attempts.

"We've got multiple backs who can run the football," Rodgers said. "We keep them fresh."

The Tornadoes' next opponent is coming off a 41-7 win over Class 6A Forest. South Sumter opened the season with a 35-28 loss to 5A Niceville, which was a regional semifinalist in Class 4S last season.



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3. Can you talk about some of the new skills you have learned in the Florida Air National Guard that have helped you in the civilian work force?  
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## Spratlin birdies twice for BHS boys against Branford and Union County

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Cody Spratlin was the medalist as the Bradford High School boys golf team earned the win over Branford in an Aug. 29 match that also featured two players from Union County at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club.

The Tornados (2-1) had a team score of 176, which put them 25 strokes ahead of Branford.

Spratlin made par on two holes and had two birdies in finishing with a score of 39. That put him five strokes ahead of teammate Charlie Zink, who made par on three holes and shot a 44.

Zink was one stroke ahead of third-place finisher Troy Tyler of Branford.

The Tornados' Steven Carter and Avery Burgin placed fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores of 46 and 47. Carter made par on three holes, while Burgin had a birdie and shot par on two holes.

Bradford's Matthew Stafford shot a 10th-place score of 57.

Union's Patrick Maxwell and Brysen Tomlinson finished with

scores of 65 and 70, respectively. 70.

## BHS' Devore and UCHS' Elixson tie for 2nd in girls golf match

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford and Union County high schools played in an Aug. 29 girls golf match that also included Branford on Aug. 29 at Lake City's Quail Heights Country Club, with the Tornados' Kaylee Devore and the Tigers' Zoe Elixson each shooting a 52 to tie for second.

Branford placed first in the team standings with a score of 218, with Union trailing by 31 strokes.

The Tornados didn't have a full team.

Devore, who made par on one hole, and Elixson were 14 strokes behind medalist Claire Bond of Branford.

Bradford's Sara Rantz tied for fourth with a score of 57.

The Tigers' Katelyn Seay, who made par on one hole, tied for seventh with a score of 62. Her teammate (and twin sister) Kerissa Seay shot a ninth-place score of 65.

Union's Madison Starling, who made par on one hole, also played, finishing with a score of

## KHHS girls get 1st win in golf

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Aubrey Brooks was match medalist as the Keystone Heights High School girls golf team earned its first win of the season, defeating Oakleaf on Aug. 29 at Eagle Landing Golf Club in Orange Park.

The Indians (1-2) had a team score of 266 to Oakleaf's 270.

Brooks shot a 57 to lead the field. She was eight strokes ahead of second-place finisher Emma White of Oakleaf.

Keystone's Zoey Gill shot a third-place score of 66, while teammate Emily Cunningham was tied for sixth with a score of 71.

The Indians' Jillian Huntley and Averi Hemphill each shot a 72 to tie for eighth.

## KHHS boys place 3rd in golf behind Crystal River, Buchholz

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School got two birdies from Ty Mitzel

in a three-team boys golf match in which the Indians placed behind Buchholz and Crystal River on Aug. 29 at Gainesville's Ironwood Golf Course.

The Indians (1-2) had a team score of 174, while Buchholz and Crystal River each finished with a score of 166.

Mitzel, who made par on three holes, placed fifth with a score of 41.

Nate Bardier and Konner Kelly each made par on four holes, with Bardier tying for sixth with a score of 43 and Kelly tying for eighth with a score of 44.

Also competing for Keystone were Jacob Beach and Will Begue, who finished with scores of 46 and 47, respectively. Beach made par on three holes, while Begue had a birdie.

The Indians' Cade Begue made par on two holes in shooting a 54.

## Tigers end volleyball skid with 3-1 victory over Suwannee

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Jailyn Simmons had 18 kills, while Abigail Williams recorded 28 assists in the Union County High School volleyball team's 3-1 (25-20, 21-25, 25-17, 25-13) win over Class 3A Suwannee on Sept. 2 in Live Oak.

Simmons also had eight

blocks and four service aces as the Tigers (2-4) snapped a three-match losing streak.

Layla Barber and Morgan Smith finished with eight and six kills, respectively, with Barber also having seven digs.

Bella Johns led the Tigers in digs with 20, while Indi Knox and Bayley Staier had 15 and 10, respectively.

Johns and Knox also had three aces each.

Union was coming off a week in which it dropped matches against Lafayette and Oak Hall.

In a 3-0 (25-9, 25-19, 25-20) loss at Lafayette on Aug. 27, Knox had seven kills to go along with seven digs, while Barber and Simmons each had six kills. Simmons also had five blocks.

Johns finished with 17 digs, while Staier and Kamryn Southerland had eight and six, respectively.

Southerland and Williams each had six assists.

The Tigers hosted Oak Hall on Aug. 29, losing 3-1 (21-25, 27-25, 25-21, 25-16).

Simmons posted a double-double with 11 kills and 11 blocks. Barber and Smith each had seven kills, with Barber adding seven digs and Smith adding five blocks.

Johns and Knox had 15 and 11 digs, respectively, while Southerland had 10. Staier and Williams added eight and six, respectively.

Southerland had 10 assists, while Williams had eight.

Union played Williston this past Tuesday and will host

Keystone Heights on Monday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 p.m. The junior varsity teams will play at 5:30 p.m.

## Bronco Classic includes BHS, KHHS runners

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford and Keystone Heights high schools had cross-country runners participate in the Middleburg Bronco Classic on Aug. 31, with the Indians' Ryder Thomas finishing 12th in the 189-member varsity boys field.

Thomas, who had a personal record of 17:33, was one of nine Keystone runners in the boys race. Also participating for the Indians were Jason Paraless 23:06, Gavin Morford 23:13, Eli Rabe 23:43, Adam Bell 23:50, Mason Gray 24:06, Hunter Gray 25:14, Alex Mahaffey 25:36 and Oliver Miller 27:12.

Bradford had two boys runners: Steven Carter, who had a time of 21:40, and Kayden Lee, who had a time of 25:35.

Keystone girls runner Olivia Griffin placed 75th out of 172 with a time of 24:28.

Also running for the Indians in the girls race were Melody Tyre 26:21, London Williams 27:16, Kenslee Phillips 27:32, Brook Gaudons 29:41, Madilyn Miller 30:08 and Clara Beth Robinson 34:13.

## LEGACY

Continued from page 15

She reminisced about taking students to competitions.

"We would go to the district, which would be either in Jacksonville or Gainesville," Register said. "Then, I carried some students to state, which was like in Orlando. Actually, some of them placed at state."

Register took on a new career when she opened and operated the Jr. Food Mart at the corner of U.S. 301 and S.R. 100 (where today's Shell station is). She later sold the store and taught a

couple of years at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center. Then, Register and her husband opened Hampton Bed and Breakfast in 1999. They operated it for 22 years, hosting and meeting people from all over the world.

One thing that has characterized Register's life is her community involvement. She's been a member of Madison Street Baptist Church for 54 years and has been in both the Rotary Club of Starke and the Bradford County Education Foundation for approximately 30 years.

"I guess I'm a people person," Register said. "That just makes you feel like you've got to do

something."

Alluding to her service with Rotary, Davis said, "There's probably not anybody in this room who hasn't bought a funnel cake from you at the fair."

Davis then asked Register how important it was to instill a sense of community service in others.

"I think if we don't pass some of that responsibility to some of the younger generation, so much of it is just going to fall by the wayside and not be important," Register said.

Register said travels with her family have created her favorite memories. She said she and her husband always had a camper or some type of motorhome.

"That's what we did with our kids," Register said. "They didn't have lots of stuff, but we went to places."

In closing her Q-and-A session, Register said she enjoyed the fact that she and Prevat were being honored at the same time.

"A lot of people don't realize we're sisters-in-law," Register said, adding, "If people looked at our picture books, we've got family that's intertwined in pictures. This is quite an honor to be able to share this tonight with her."

She left the audience with this piece of advice, which came to her as she was looking through old pictures for the education

foundation to use for the event: "I realized how blessed I really was. I think we just need to all be very mindful to live for today. We don't know what tomorrow brings."

## BCEF

The Bradford County Education Foundation, created in 1990, is an all-volunteer organization that raises funds for Bradford public schools and teachers.

BCEF President Cheryl Canova shared BCEF highlights from this past year, including raising \$100,000 through hosting World Reading Initiative events

and obtaining a \$500,000 resiliency grant.

The total amount BCEF raised through this year's Leave a Legacy is still to be determined, but the Dessert Dash alone raised \$9,400.

"I can't say enough about the education foundation and all the work that they do," Bradford Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley said. "They do an amazing job."

If you'd like to know more about BCEF, visit [bceducationfoundation.org](http://bceducationfoundation.org) or follow the "Bradford County Education Foundation" Facebook page.

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