

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, May 29, 2025

114th Year — 3rd Issue — \$1

Union County Honors the Fallen



See Union County news inside

From farmer's market to pickleball

Lake Butler eyes county land for park

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Dan@BcTelegraph.com

Lake Butler's city manager asked Union County commissioners to consider selling a parcel of land that formerly housed a farmer's market, so the city could build pickleball courts on the lot.

Kim Hayes pitched the idea to county commissioners during their May 19 meeting.

"We've had a lot of citizens approach me and the mayor about pickleball and a skate park in the community," Hayes told commissioners. "So, our problem is land— having the property to do those activities on."

Hayes added that the county owns a parcel by Jackson's Building Supply that would be ideal for a city park.

The triangular, one-acre parcel, bounded by Southwest 1st Terrace, Southwest 2nd Street, and Southwest 6th Avenue, used to house a farmer's market.

The city manager added that the city needs a parcel with enough room for the courts, parking, restrooms, and lighting.

Commissioner Donna Jackson told Hayes she would oppose the county selling the farmer's market site.

"As a commissioner, I'm not

interested in getting rid of the Jackson's property because it is so utilized by the community, and for us to give it up is to give up allowing our citizens that opportunity to use it," Jackson said. "And I would love, personally, to see a farmer's market go back in there."

Hayes added that she and other city officials also want the farmer's market to return. She said that she is looking into bringing festivals to Lake Butler and recently visited Green Cove Springs to see that city's tree festival.

"People have come to me (from) the city and county," Hayes said. "They want to see more activities, and they want to have more festivals, things like that. So, we are trying to get that started in the city."

Jackson, as well as Commissioner Channing Dobbs, offered alternatives to Hayes, including using part of the city's spray field parcel for recreation and the county's recreation park, which backs up to the city's spray field.

Commissioner Mac Johns was favorable to Hayes's idea, adding that now, the county receives no revenue from citizen activities on the triangular parcel.

"Citizens setting up their vendors



The triangular, one-acre parcel, bounded by Southwest 1st Terrace, Southwest 2nd Street, and Southwest 6th Avenue, used to house a farmer's market.

and all that," he said of activities now occurring on the land. "Yeah, that's fine. But we don't make any money. We don't issue permits, and there's a guy down there running one heck of a tree business right now because he has no overhead, and he's pretty much taken over a quarter of that lot, and again, we're not making any revenue from it."

Johns added that Hayes's idea

would improve the lot and the area around the parcel.

Hayes said that if the county wanted to work toward selling the parcel, an independent appraisal would have to be performed.

The county property appraiser now values the one acre at \$42,262.

Hayes and commissioners agreed to talk further about the idea.

CareerSource seeks office in Lake Butler

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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A board member of CareerSource of North Central Florida told the Lake Butler City Commission that his organization is looking for office space in town.

The state's regional workforce board connects job seekers with employers. According to the organization's website, the agency now has offices in Gainesville, Lake City, Starke, and Old Town.

Eugene Dukes told commission members during their May 20 meeting that CareerSource is looking to open offices in each of the counties it serves.

"And (one) would be here in Union County, it would be open five days a week, eight to five, and it would be manned," he said.

Dukes added that two or three people would staff the office, and that in addition to career services, the office would assist Union County residents with Veterans benefits and other social services.

"So, it would basically be a one-stop shop," he said.

Dukes said CareerSource has ample funding for the office and that in the past, Union County residents have not gotten their fair share of services offered by the organization.

The board member suggested that the old railroad depot might be a good spot for the office.

"It would be centrally located," Dukes added. "It would be providing a service that (brings) state and federal dollars... to these clients."

"If we need to lease it or rent it or pay utilities, we would be also willing to do that," Dukes said. "But my feeling is that the less we have in rent or lease or whatever, the more we'll have left over to provide for our clients. But it would be a true service that, in my opinion, we've never had before."

Dukes said he was not looking for an immediate response from commissioners to the idea, but that CareerSource hoped to begin the project in July.

Bid exceeds budget for SW 92nd Street resurfacing



BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Union County Coordinator Jimmy Williams told county commissioners during their May 19 meeting that the county only received one bid to resurface Southwest 92nd Street and that the bid exceeded a Florida Department of Transportation grant by around \$700,000.

The two-lane begins at State Road 121 near Ward Timber and the Union County Riding Club. It runs north and east for approximately one mile to Southwest 146th Lane.

"We got one bid from Preferred Materials, and it was \$2,213,000, I think, and some change," the coordinator told commissioners. "We only had \$1.5 (million) budgeted for that from DOT."

Williams explained that the project's costs were estimated years ago and that since the estimate was made, inflation had driven up construction costs.

He added that he is working with state officials to amend the budget for the project.

Lake Butler splash park 'a mess'

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
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Lake Butler City Manager Kim Hayes told the city commission during its May 20 meeting that the engineers who originally installed the splash park at Lakeside Park now refuse to touch the facility.

"Matter of fact," she added, "we can't even get them to call us back."

Hayes said that because so many people have repaired, modified, and switched parts, replaced pumps, and rewired the park's circuitry since its original construction, the engineers said they will not touch the project now.

Mayor Melissa Hendrix said that the current problem with the facility is that water pumps keep burning out.

"It used to be a three-phase," she said, "and they went and took it out and put in a one-phase. That's why it keeps burning up, right? It's not strong enough."

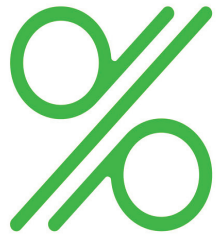
Hayes said that different people have worked on the splash park through the years.

"Everybody came up with their own ideas, I guess all these years, and it is a mess," she said. "Just to be honest with you. I can't find anybody who will touch it. We're trying to find some motors."

Vice Mayor Rondell Huggins told his colleagues he wanted to know how much the city had spent on repairs before investing additional funds into the park.

"We've spent a lot of money on that," he said. "I love the kids, and I wish I had that when I was down there when I was a kid. It was just light sand and a lot of black water. But is it really worth it to keep getting somebody to go in there and make a repair, or should we start from the ground up? Maybe we can apply for a grant or something."

Public Works Director Jason Dodds told commissioners that a Starke-based plumbing company is evaluating the park. He said he would present options to the commission at its next meeting.



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WORTH NOTING

Family histories sought for new book

The Union County Historical Society is hard at work on a second book about the county's history and the families that made it happen.

Members are actively collecting family histories and information on Union County history. To inquire about the project or to submit a family history item, interested parties can email the society at theucbook@gmail.com.

Pastor's anniversary at New Covenant

New Covenant Baptist Ministries invites the public to celebrate the ninth anniversary of Pastor Jeffrey T. and Sister Daffany Jones on Sunday, June 22, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Minister Dwayne Bailey of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Providence will speak at the morning service, and the Rev. Alvin Greene and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Lake City will lead the afternoon service. Dinner will be served.

Assistance for veterans

An American Legion Post 56 Service Officer is available to assist veterans by providing information concerning available benefits and other needs. Walk-ins are available at the American Legion Hall on Edwards Road in Starke every Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., or call Al Hunter at 407-494-9694 for an appointment.

'Emotions in Motion' STEM Camp enrolling

This summer, children in grades 2 through 8 are invited to dive into an exciting world of science, technology, engineering and math at the "Emotions in Motion: STEM Adventures from the Inside Out" summer camp. Hosted by 12G Mentoring, this engaging and educational camp will run from June 16 to July 25, operating Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Church of God by Faith Community Learning Center, 721 Old Lawley Road in Starke.

Inspired by the animated film Inside Out, the camp promises a creative blend of emotion-themed activities and hands-on STEM learning. Participants will explore topics such as neuroscience, gaming, artificial intelligence, project-based learning and engineering design challenges. Curriculum and supplies will be provided, ensuring all campers are equipped for success.

Registration is \$75 with a \$150 weekly fee. Scholarships available upon request. Families can register online at www.iamstemcamps.com. For more information, please contact Edrick Hamilton at 12gibt.12gip@gmail.com.

Weekly deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. • Phone 904-964-6305 • Fax 904-964-8628

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Another fun-filled summer at the library will end with a splash

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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The Bradford County Public Library is highlighting some of the many programs it has going on this summer. There is something for everyone — kids, teens and adults.

Children’s summer reading bags are available beginning June 2 through June 30. Teens can pick up their reading calendars from June 6–12 to participate in the summer reading and drawing contest. There is also a reading contest for adults running from June 2–July 28, with a prize drawing on the 29th.

Among the June events are neon glow painting for all ages on June 2 at 11 a.m. and June 3 at 4:30 p.m. Sign up by calling 904-368-3211.

Ages from 8-14 can learn how to make and manage money at the Little Money Makers Program on June 4 at 4 p.m. Kids from 0-12 can come meet some animals on June 5 at 11 a.m., but all ages are invited to come read

to shelter animals on June 10 at 11 a.m.

For \$40 per signup, teens and adults can learn how to make sourdough bread in a June 6 workshop at 11 a.m. Prepayment is required.

All ages are invited to the library’s new Makerspace on June 10 to make butterfly houses. Contact the library to reserve a timeslot. When you do, reserve a seat for the next day to make a card for Father’s Day.

Kids 0-12 will enjoy card tricks, disappearing acts and more at the Dadian Magic Show on June 12 at 11 a.m. Teens can come June 13 at 1 p.m. to learn how to make boba tea and a cute keychain.

Ages 10-18 can come meet animals — this time reptiles, courtesy of Santa Fe Teaching Zoo — on June 17 at 10 a.m.

Children’s Book Bingo for kids 6-12 will take place at 11 a.m. on June 18. A mobile gaming truck will be on site for ages 6-14 on June 20 at 11 a.m.

One of the summer highlights

will be an opportunity for teens and adults to meet Jay Woodyly from “The Walking Dead” and “Stranger Things” and learn all about zombie special effects and makeup. That takes place at 2 p.m. on June 24.

June will finish up with a petting zoo and pony rides on June 26 at 11 a.m. for kids 0-12, and pop socket craft for teens on June 27 at 1 p.m.

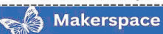
While at any of these events, you can also pick up a calendar for July, which will feature more books, and crafts and animals and magic — all culminating in the End of Summer Bash, a water program for kids 0-12 on July 31 at 11 a.m.

The library recently announced new hours, which are Mondays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library will be closed for lunch on Saturdays, however, from 12 to 1 p.m.



Bradford High reunion for 1949 and 1950

The BHS classes of 1949 and 1950 held their 76th and 75th reunion at the Downtown Grill on May 15. There were a total of 10 classmates present. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Pete Douglas, Grace Dickinson Malone, Peggy Tilley Godwin, Dolores McKnight Koretz, Manez Dodd Priest and Marian McRae Conner from the Class of 1950, and (back row) Drew Reddish, Lewis Haines, Clifton Griffis and Vivian McRae Harley from the Class of 1949.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 All Ages Neon/Glow PAINTING 11 AM Sign up 368-3921 Activity with Kathy	3 All Ages Neon/Glow PAINTING 4:30 - 6:00 PM Sign up 368-3921 Activity with Kathy	4 Ages 8 - 14 Little Money Makers 4 PM 	5 Ages 0 - 12 Animal Tales 11 AM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Melanie & Tonya	6 Teens & Adults Sourdough Bread Workshop 11 AM Take & Bake \$40 per person, prepay Contact Kathy	7 
8 	9 All Ages Shelter Animals 11 AM - 4:30 PM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Melanie & Tonya 	10 All Ages Shelter Animals 11 AM - 4:30 PM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Melanie & Tonya 	11  Strawberry Moon Tonight 	12 Ages 0 - 12  Dadician Magic Show 11 AM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Melanie & Tonya	13 Ages 13 - 18 Make Boba Tea & Keychain Craft 1 PM - 2 PM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Amy	14 
15 	16 Ages 10 - 18 Santa Fe Teaching Zoo 10 AM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Amy	17 Ages 10 - 18 Santa Fe Teaching Zoo 10 AM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Amy	18 Ages 6 - 12 Book Bingo 11 AM Walk-ins Welcome With Melanie & Tonya	19 	20 Ages 6 - 14 Game Truck 11 AM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Melanie & Tonya	21 
22 	23 Teens & Adults Zombie Make-Up Artist/Actor Jay Woodyly 2 PM - 3:30 PM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Amy or Kathy 	24 Teens & Adults Zombie Make-Up Artist/Actor Jay Woodyly 2 PM - 3:30 PM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Amy or Kathy 	25 Ages 0 - 12 Petting Zoo & Pony Rides 11 AM Walk-ins Welcome 	26 Ages 0 - 12 Petting Zoo & Pony Rides 11 AM Walk-ins Welcome Adults  Book Discussion 12 PM All the Colors of The Dark At Cedar River	27 Ages 13 - 18 Craft: DIY Pop Socket Craft 1 PM - 2 PM Walk-ins Welcome Contact Amy	28 
29 	30 	Children, Teens, & Adults: Summer Reading begins in June! Participate to win prizes!				



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Outdoor movies at St. Mark’s

Join a nostalgic evening of outdoor movies with cartoons at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church on May 28 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Relive old memories and make some new ones. Free tickets are available for a hot dog and beverage.

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In our last lesson we discussed what the scripture says about the New Birth or being Born-Again. We discussed the Biblical fact that every man is rotten in his heart and separated from God. Our golden text is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man (person) be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation), old things are passed away, behold all things have become new.” Here in this verse Paul is speaking about the spirit of man being reborn. A person should know without a doubt if they’re truly born-again or not. We’ll take a look at a few Bible evidences of the New Birth. First, you will be changed within the depth of your being. The “inward man”, the spirit of man will be changed and made a new creation. Now if you’ve never been changed like this in the very depth of your being, in your spirit man, then it is certain that you have never been born-again. Secondly, you will have the witness of the Holy Spirit in your life that you are indeed a child of God. Romans 8:16 the Bible says, “The Spirit Himself (Holy Spirit) bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God.” If the Holy Spirit really lives inside of your spirit you will know it. Thirdly, you will be free from the guilt and condemnation of sin and you’ll have a desire to live and walk in the Spirit.

Romans 6:12-13 says “Let not sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

In verse 18 we read “Being then made free from sin, you have become the servants of righteousness.” If you are truly “saved”, born-again and are “in Christ” then you will have a desire to serve God, to please God and to really know Him and develop an intimate relationship with Him. The Bible tells us in 1 John 5:18, “Whoever is born of God (born-again) does not commit sin but whoever is born of God keeps himself and the wicked one (Satan) doesn’t touch him.” For the person who is truly born-again, Galatians 5:24 says “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Many people, including Christians are quick to say, “don’t judge me”, but Paul said “many sleep (die) and are weak” because they would not judge themselves. Galatians 5:24 is a wonderful verse to ask yourself daily, “am I fulfilling this verse in my life?”

By now you should know without a doubt whether you are born-again or not. If you’re not sure then you are not saved and you are not ready for heaven or the return of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that you’ll get ready right now. Get ready, get ready, get ready!!!! Make Jesus your Lord today. JESUS IS COMING SOON!

God bless!

Pastor Rick Norman

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Lake Region

‘We cannot do this life alone’ Memorial Day in Keystone Heights

KHHS graduates say goodbye

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights High School Class of 2025 celebrated its departure from the campus it had called home since the seventh grade while paying tribute to a classmate they lost last year.

Class President Melanie Crabtree told her classmates they were ending one chapter in their lives and beginning another.

She advised her classmates to look back fondly on the good memories they made during high school and on the silly and foolish pranks they pulled on campus.

“We want to be able to look back and remember the silly things we did and how far we’ve come and how much we’ve grown,” she said. “That is called maturity. Learning from something dumb and becoming better because of it.”

Three salutatorians

Keystone’s Class of 2025 had three salutatorians: Tristan Dukes, Michael Golden, and Emily Weiner. Each presented an address to the graduates.

Dukes said high school wasn’t about just textbooks and tests.

“It was about growth,” he said, “about discovering who we are. We faced challenges we didn’t expect, from tough exams to uncertain times, and yet here we are, stronger and wiser.”

Golden proclaimed that each of his classmates was a star.

“Right now, you are shining brightly, and you’ll shine even brighter in the future as you grow and pursue your goals,” he said. “Currently we are here together as one big constellation, but now our paths will diverge as we go live our own lives. However, I know that our paths will converge again someday. Whether it’s seeing each other walking by on the sidewalk, working together at a company, or hanging out at the park. We will meet again. So, when the day where we meet again comes, let us meet again as stars.”

Weiner advised her classmates to appreciate each relationship in their lives.

“Upholding your relationships is one of the most important things you can do in your life,” she said, “and I’m sure every person here who has made it past graduation can attest to that.”

Be Great

Valedictorian Curran Capper said the Class of 2025 should appreciate the little things in life and embrace their imperfections.

He also exhorted his classmates to aim high.

“Be great,” he declared. “The world doesn’t need good people. It needs great people. Greatness lives inside all of us. Everyone has a passion, a faith, a reason to be great. So do whatever it is that makes you great because that’s who we are. Work hard, achieve your dreams, and live for success.”

Parents of deceased student accept diploma

Before giving the commencement message, Principal Laurie Burke presented a diploma to the parents of Ayden Graff.

Graff was killed in a September 1 traffic crash in Gainesville. He also attended Santa Fe College.

Also killed as a result of the head-on collision was 17-year-old Calin Coates, a senior at Q.I. Roberts Junior-Senior High School in Putnam County.

Burke told the audience that Graff was a classmate, a friend, and a part of the senior class’s hearts.

“Though his time with us was cut far too short,” Burke said, “the impact he made will never be forgotten. As we celebrate this milestone, we carry Ayden in our hearts, knowing that he will always be a part of the class of 2025.”



Principal Laurie Burke (right), Assistant Principal Spencer Johnson (second from left), and Assistant Principal Melanie Rodriguez (second from right) lead the school’s staff onto the field.



Keystone Heights High School Band Director Justin Coker leads the band in “Pomp and Circumstance.”



Keystone Heights High School Principal Laurie Burke presents a diploma to the parents of Ayden Graff, who was killed in a traffic crash last September.



Valedictorian Curran Capper

Surround yourself

In her message, Burke, like Weiner, emphasized the importance of relationships.

“Always remember,” she said, “the people you surround yourself with is the person you become. So be around loving, successful, positive, supportive, accountable, and responsible people and be this person to others.”

“Be thankful for the awesome support system that showed up here for you tonight, as well as some who could not come,” she added. “And remember, we cannot do this life alone.”

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

It was a bittersweet day filled with solemn reflection as the community united to honor the courageous lives lost in combat in Keystone Heights, reminding us all of the profound sacrifices made for our freedom.

On Monday, May 26, the City of Keystone Heights, AMVETS Post 86, and American Legion Post 202 produced the city’s annual Memorial Day service at the Keystone Veterans Memorial Pathway, within the Keystone Heights cemetery.

The ceremony opened with the Keystone Heights JROTC honor guard presenting the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance led by the American Heritage Girls. Pam Saxon sang the National Anthem.

Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth commenced the event with compelling opening remarks, setting the stage for the impactful insights shared by



Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth



Col. James Booth



The OBrien Family at AMVETS Post 86 following the ceremony. (l-r) Justin, Sarah, Joesph and James.

speaker Col. James Booth.

“We gather with family and friends to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our great country. Let us embrace the opportunity to begin this Memorial Day with unity, joy, and celebration,” said Mayor Rodenroth.

“Let’s just think of what this flag behind me today represents,” added Booth. “The flag of our nation, the fabric of our nation. That protection of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

At the event’s conclusion, Brittany Mask presented a Congressional Record insert

on behalf of Congressman Aaron Bean. This was followed by closing remarks from Commander Mark Alexander of AMVETS Post 86.

The program included a special musical performance by Pat Tenney of the First Coast Highlanders, a TAPS tribute by Roger Smith, and a closing prayer led by James Taylor, Pastor of the Keystone Heights Methodist Church.

After the ceremonies, everyone was invited to AMVETS Post 86 for a special lunch featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, coleslaw, and baked beans.

Fire displaces Melrose family



According to Clay County Fire Rescue, the fire broke out at 7950 Brush Hill Lane, Melrose, around 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 23, leaving the residents displaced. No pets or people were injured.

Matthew Moriarty of Putnam County Fire Rescue said that Clay County Fire Rescue requested mutual aid.

Putnam County sent two engines, one tanker, and West District Captain Johnson to assist.

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It was unknown what the cause of the fire was at this time.

UNION COUNTY

Union County pays tribute to its fallen veterans

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

American Legion Post 153 leaders remembered Union County residents who gave their lives for their country during a May 26 ceremony at Lake Butler's Masonic Lodge.

Post Adjutant Brian Reagan welcomed the crowd of around 80 to the event, and Post Chaplain Gene Gordon delivered the invocation. Boy Scout Troop 140 and Cub Scout Pack 140 led the Pledge of Allegiance and the parade of services, marching with flags of each armed military service.

The Union County High School JROTC color guard raised the flag to half-staff and presented the colors later in the ceremony.

Post 153 Commander Mitchell Bishop read the names of each Union County service member killed in the line of duty, and Post Vice Commander Shawn Newsom placed a wreath at the memorial facing Main Street.

Reagan then made an impassioned tribute to prisoners of war and those missing in



Post 153 Commander Mitchell Bishop read the names of each Union County service member killed in the line of duty, and Bishop concluded the service by explaining the history of Memorial Day and reflecting on the holiday.



Members of American Legion Post 153 and the Lake Butler Woman's Club. (L-r) Brian Reagan, Cathryn Reagan, Jean Waters, Jane Russell, Betty Emerick, Jane Griner, Jean Brannen. Monica Bayer, Helen Green, Margaret Reeves, Lynn Bishop, Ann Hendricks. Rebecca Hall. Margo Van Peterson, Judge Mitchell Bishop, Landon Bishop, and Shawn Newsom.



Post Adjutant Brian Reagan welcomed the crowd of around 80 to the event, and made an impassioned tribute to prisoners of war and those missing in action.



Post Chaplain Gene Gordon delivered the invocation.



Left: Boy Scout Troop 140 and Cub Scout Pack 140 led the Pledge of Allegiance and the parade of services, marching with flags of each armed military service.

Ceremony of Hope 37 graduate from Union adult education



Haiden Barringer proudly shows off his diploma



Casey Crawford is thrilled to have graduated and made her family proud.

"These guys' resilience and their determination to keep plugging along—we are so proud of them," said Chris Mecusker, Director of Union County Adult Education. "A lot of them have had different life events and obstacles they have had to overcome."

The Union County Adult Education Center offers an alternative path for those who were unable to complete a traditional high school experience. With a flexible, student-centered approach and dedicated staff, the program prepares adult learners for the GED exam, which now earns them an official Florida high school diploma—signed by state officials.

"Our Adult Education Center serves adults who, for one reason or another, through events in their lives, weren't able to get a traditional education," Mecusker explained. "They come to us. We do live teaching three nights a week, three classes a night, and we have live teachers teaching math and reading. Basically, we prepare them for the GED exam."

Unlike a traditional 174-day school year, students at the center work at their own pace—some finishing in a few months,

others over several years.

"We try to get them in and out because it's our job to help them try and get their diploma. That's our job," Mecusker said. "We help them set goals and then help them achieve them."

This year's graduation marked the end of an era for longtime educator and program coordinator Eugene Dukes, who is retiring after an astounding 51 years in education. Dukes has been a tireless advocate for the recognition of trade school paths and technical careers, offering students a broader vision for their future beyond traditional academia.

"There are so many students who, for whatever reason, fall through the cracks," Dukes

See ADULT, page 7

Right: The Union County High School JROTC color guard raised the flag to half-staff and presented the colors later in the ceremony. (L-r) Command Sergeant Major Hunter Smith, Cadet Lt. Col. Chloe Harris, Capt. Lillie Lane, and Cadet Major Jayden Timm.



Right: Post Vice Commander Shawn Newsom placed a wreath at the memorial facing Main Street.





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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

Johnnnie Bellflower, 44, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 21 for a probation violation.

Andre Bradford, 43, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 21 for a probation violation.

Jorge De Jesus Chavez Lopez, 30, of Waldo, was arrested by FHP troopers on May 17 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Moreen Cunningham, 37, of Tellico Plains, Tennessee, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 17 for failure to appear.

Jonthay Gray, 25, of Alachua, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 19 for a probation violation.

Rabinonn Hankerson, 46, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 22 for selling cocaine, possession of cocaine, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, and possession of drug equipment.

Jason Harden, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 23 for battery.

Tracy Holmes, 50, of Middleburg, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 18 for

DUI.

Shannon McNeill, 41, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 19 for withholding support.

Chelsea Norris, 35, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 18 for a probation violation.

Angela Smith, 40, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 19 for a probation violation.

Turage Stephenson, 32, of Fort Pierce, was arrested by FHP troopers on May 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Brandon Van, 40, of Tampa, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 20 for a probation violation.

Tyree Young, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 19 for resisting an officer, burglary, aggravated stalking, obstruction of justice, and criminal mischief with property damage.

Union

Victoria Lee, 44, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 23 for possession of marijuana.

Dillon Elixson, 29, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 20 for failure to appear and a probation violation.

Duncan Lloyd, 22, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 20 for vehicle theft.

Jeremy Robinson, 39, of Piedmont, South Carolina, was arrested by Union deputies on May 24 for resisting an officer without violence, possession of marijuana, and disorderly intoxication.

Brian Rodgers, 36, of Orlando,

was arrested by Union deputies on May 25 for attaching a tag not assigned.

Jennifer Southerland, 44, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 21 for failure to appear.

James Todd, Jr., 31, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on May 21 for a probation violation.

Clay

Andrew Barr, 22, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 22 for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug equipment.

Michael Lane, 45, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Christine Clardy, 64, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 20 for battery on a person 65 years or older and resisting an officer without violence.

David Curry, 65, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 20 for domestic battery.

Joshua Reed, 37, of Melrose, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 22 for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug equipment.

James Young, 52, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 20 for battery by strangulation and domestic battery.

Mark Wise, 42, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on May 22 for possession of methamphetamine and possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana.

ADULT Continued from page 6

said. “For many years, we’ve had a one-way street. Everybody was supposed to go to college, everybody was supposed to do the same thing over and over and over, but you were getting the same results—which was not very good.”

Dukes passionately emphasized that the diploma students receive from the program carries the same weight as any traditional high school credential.

“We still call it a GED, but it hasn’t been a GED in years. It is a Florida high school diploma,” Dukes explained. “You can take our diploma and do anything that you want to do with it. You can pass the ACT or the SAT; you can go to the University of Florida tomorrow. Or if you want to go to Lake City or Santa Fe.”

Before stepping off the stage for the final time, Dukes extended a genuine thanks to the community. “I want to thank the citizens of Union County for allowing me to be here fifty-one years,” he said.

Among the night’s standout stories were those of students who had battled incredible odds and emerged stronger than ever.

Makinly Lacy, who spent two and a half years in the program, credited her best friend for helping her stay the course.

“My best friend. She really helped me and she reminded me all the time that I’m important and I know what I can do,” Lacy said. “If I believe in myself, I can succeed.”

Lacy now plans to pursue a career as a 911 dispatcher—a meaningful role she is excited to embrace.

For Casey Crawford, who spent three years working through the program, the journey was deeply personal. “I feel accomplished. I feel great. I feel like a lot of weight is off my shoulders,” she said.

Her toughest challenge? Math. “I’ve been working on my math; that was my last test I had. I took it five times, and I finally passed it on the fifth time,” she shared.

But it was her late father and grandfather—both in law enforcement—who fueled her determination.

“My dad kept me going. My dad passed away and that’s the whole reason I am where I’m at today. Thinking of my dad,” Crawford said. “My papa also passed away. Thinking about my dad and my papa kept me going.”

She now has her sights set on a future in criminal justice or possibly welding—two paths that would allow her to honor her family legacy and passion for hands-on work.

Brothers Ashtyn and Chayce



Brothers Ashtyn and Chayce Latocha graduate together.



Coordinator Eugene Dukes, Superintendent Mike Ripplinger, and Director Chris Mecusker look on at this year’s graduates.

Latocha also took the stage together. Ashtyn, who started the program first, inspired his brother to follow in his footsteps. He now plans to pursue a career in the technology industry.

Chayce, who initially enrolled with Florida Virtual School but struggled to keep up, found a lifeline through the Adult Education Center. With his brother’s encouragement, he completed the program and is now looking ahead to a bold future—perhaps even in professional wrestling.

Another graduate, Haiden Barringer, has a clear vision for what’s next: plumbing. His path is one that reflects the growing respect for skilled trades as not only viable but lucrative and fulfilling careers.

As Mecusker noted, “HVAC, plumbing, EMT—all of those are technically not college programs, but yet they start at sixty, seventy, eighty-thousand dollars [per

year.]” The evening was a stirring reminder that success doesn’t follow a single path—and that it’s never too late to chase your dreams.

“We have one graduation at the end of the year,” Mecusker said. “And every year, we are inspired by the lives we see transformed through this program.”

With friends, family, and proud instructors looking on, the Class of 2025 proved that determination, support, and a second chance can be a powerful combination. Their journeys weren’t easy—but they finished strong.

As the applause echoed through the high school auditorium, it was clear this night wasn’t just about diplomas. It was about hope. About new beginnings. And about 37 individuals who chose to believe in themselves—and now get to write their next chapter.

Death of Melrose letter carrier results in new law



State Rep. Judson Sapp (standing left of seated DeSantis) said he was grateful to the governor for providing a ceremonial bill signing that honored the memory of Pam Rock, Michael Millett, and all dangerous dog victims.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law a bill that requires the immediate impoundment of dangerous dogs, mandates insurance coverage for dogs that have attacked people, and raises

Act during a ceremony on May 21, surrounded by members of Rock’s family.

The 61-year-old Melrose letter carrier was killed in August 2022 after being attacked by five dogs in Putnam County.

According to a news release by State Rep. Judson Sapp, the dogs had a known history of aggression, and their owner had previously attempted to surrender them to animal control without success.

Also in attendance was the family of Michael Millett. Michael, an 8-year-old boy from Volusia County, was killed by a dog while riding his bicycle in his neighborhood in January of this year.

Sapp said he was grateful to DeSantis for providing a ceremonial bill signing that

honored the memory of Pam, Michael, and all dangerous dog victims.

“This legislation is not just a policy change; it’s a proclamation to every Floridian that their safety matters,” said Sapp. “Pamela’s tragic death was a preventable loss, and with this act, we aim to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again.”

Sapp said the new law introduces several key measures, including

-Mandatory Impoundment: Dogs that have severely injured or killed a person must be immediately confiscated and held during investigations

-Owner Accountability: Owners of dogs classified as dangerous after investigation due to an attack are required to obtain at least \$100,000 in liability insurance upon release back to owner, and ensure their pets are securely confined.

-Microchipping and Identification: Dangerous dogs must be microchipped, and removal of the chip constitutes a third-degree felony.

-Public Awareness: Animal shelters must inform potential adopters if a dog has been declared dangerous, ensuring transparency and public safety.



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

public awareness of the problem of hazardous animals. DeSanits signed the Pam Rock

50 years in Woman’s Club

At a recent meeting of the Lake Butler Woman’s Club, members were awarded membership pins for service. Betty Emerick and Harriett Maines were recognized for their 50 years of service to the community and the club. Joining the club in 1975, they have been in continuous service since that time. Both have served in many offices in the club, including treasurer and president. Second Vice president and Membership Chairperson, Lisa Huggins, and current President, Ann Hendricks, were on hand to congratulate the pair for their continuing service.



(L-r) Lisa Huggins, Betty Emerick, Harriett Maines, Ann Hendricks



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BHS graduation: carry lessons forward, set aside fear

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School’s top two graduates talked of the memories they and their fellow Class of 2025 members made throughout the past four years, but also provided encouragement and well wishes moving forward as part of their speeches at the school’s May 23 commencement at David Hurst Stadium.

Valedictorian Carolyn Adams brought up the “big question” for her and her classmates: “What’s next?”

“If there is one thing that I want you all to do after tonight, it’s going to be letting go of fear,” Adams said. “I was actually told a Bible verse that relates to this very well, and I wanted to include it in my speech. Joshua 1:9 says, ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid and discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’”

Adams said the same verse happened to also be referenced during baccalaureate — after she had decided to include it in her speech.

“Whether this was a coincidence or not, there is no doubt that tonight you are meant to walk away from this field sure of yourself and knowing there is nothing to be afraid of.

“So, talk to that person you always wanted to reach out to. Go to that college you’ve been anxious to apply for. Take that job opportunity when it is given to you.

“No matter if you are accepted or rejected, you’re going to be just fine. Let go of the stress about the future and realize you will find yourself where you were meant to be.”

Adams also took the time reflecting on each year at BHS. She said as incoming freshmen, she and her classmates were either glad to be leaving middle school behind or “terrified” to be going to high school.

You learn a lot about yourself freshman year,” Adams said. “Everything feels new because it is new. A lot of things were happening for the first time



Valedictorian Carolyn Adams



Salutatorian Jessica Brown



Reese Wainwright (right) hugs Jaden “Chop” Hankerson after they officially became graduates.



Jakyiah Dean (right) dances with Salutatorian Jessica Brown as they celebrate being graduates.

for many of us. During those moments, you find out who your true friends are, and you’re starting to figure out who you’re going to be as a person.”

The year included the first involvement in homecoming activities, which saw the class win the parade float competition and place second in the Tornado Whirl skit competition, and the experience of “many great things,” like the boys basketball team winning a state championship.

“At this time, we really were just soaking in life,” Adams said. “We truly had no idea how quickly this time would pass by.”

In talking about sophomore year, Adams said she and her classmates had gained confidence in themselves, adding, “Most of us were starting to learn how to drive, and freedom was starting to feel real good.”

She also described the year as “messy,” referencing homecoming in which the class didn’t do as well in the float and skit competitions.

“Honestly, we were all probably just trying to get through the 10th grade,” Adams said.

Adams said during junior year, she and her classmates were preoccupied with thoughts of being seniors the following year, deciding upon careers and preparing for the future.

“Life was starting to get serious,” Adams said. “Still, we

were able to have fun.”

The valedictorian admitted she couldn’t recall much about her junior year, but did say, “Some of my favorite memories of friends happened my junior year. Whether it was talking to each other too much in class or going to Walmart because there was nowhere else to go.”

Adams said senior year included thoughts of participating in events for the last time.

“Our last homecoming week ever, we finally won skit, and we won in float, too,” she said.

“After Tornado Whirl, our parents held up our pictures high and walked on the field for us, while everyone watching cried.”

Things quieted down for a while for the seniors before “everything happened so fast” after spring break, Adams said, adding, “It was like the countdown to graduation day finally began.”

In closing, Adams said, “Now, let’s savor this moment and celebrate what we’ve accomplished. We did it, Class of 2025. We are graduating. We really made some great memories together these last four years.

“You all should be so extremely proud of yourselves. I know that I am.”

Capable and ready

Salutatorian Jessica Brown described graduation as “bittersweet,” saying, “We are leaving behind familiar

classmates, faculty and friends who feel like family, and memories that will remain with us forever. From spirited pep rallies to those unforgettable lessons — not just in textbooks, but in life — we have grown together, laughed together and supported one another.”

Yet she and her fellow graduates, she said, are ready to move forward into the future.

“Our high school years have been a testament to resilience, whether it was adapting to change, facing setbacks or pushing ourselves beyond limits we never thought possible. We proved that we are capable of extraordinary things.

“As we step into this next chapter of our lives, whether it’s college, careers, services or pursuing dreams that may not even have a name yet, let us carry with us the lessons we’ve learned. Let us chase passion over perfection, embrace failures as steppingstones to success and never lose sight of the power of love, kindness and hard work.”

Brown said the members of the Class of 2025 are ready to step out into the world, “not because we have all the answers, but because we’ve learned how to ask the right questions.”

“We are ready to take on the world, and I have no doubt that each and every one of us will

leave our marks in ways that will inspire generations to come because we remember that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God, and He has equipped us with everything we need to be successful in life,” Brown said.

Like Adams, Brown took the time to reminisce, first by asking her classmates if they remembered getting lost or pretending to not be lost on their first day at BHS and how seniors “looked like actual adults.”

“Four years ago, we stepped into high school full of nerves and maybe a little excitement,” she said, adding, “It felt like the beginning of something big, and it was.

“As I look across this stadium this evening and across this field, I see a sea of faces, each carrying a unique story — stories of perseverance, challenges, laughter, late nights and triumphs. What started as a sea of unfamiliar faces became friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.”

Meeting challenges, reaching potential

BHS Principal Chris Coffey and Bradford Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley both talked of obstacles and how they can be overcome as well as beneficial.

“As you step out into this big and sometimes challenging world, remember, life won’t always be easy,” Hartley said. “Embrace the hard moments, face challenges head on and see them not as obstacles, but as opportunities to grow.

“Never let a setback define you or deter you from your goals.”

Coffey said, “Understand there will be challenging days ahead. The good thing about life is we are not defined by those challenging days, but by how we respond and grow from those times.”

The principal told the graduates to be “resilient enough to persevere when you want to quit,” while also advising them to “identify your gifts, abilities and passions and find a career that aligns with those.” He encouraged students to continue to exemplify the BHS pillars: Present, Respectful, Responsible, Productive and Safe.

Coffey said the students are not going out into the world alone.

“As you continue this journey, remember that you have the belief, love and support of your family, friends and teachers,” he said. “Although you are leaving Bradford High School, you will always be a member of the Tornado family.”





Bradford High School JROTC cadets (l-r) Shyann Bresee, Kayden Shifflett, Monique Burr and Kaleb Bass posted the colors.

Remembering those who gave all — now and forever

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Retired Army Maj. John Crews, a member of Starke’s Jones-Langford-White American Legion Post 56, encouraged people to remember those who lost their lives in defense of this country — not just on Memorial Day or in the present, but also moving forward into the future. Crews was the featured speaker at the American Legion post’s annual Memorial Day observance at Charles J. Schaefer Veterans Memorial Park. He began by asking those in attendance to “take a moment to pause and reflect on the significance of Memorial Day, a day of remembrance and honoring the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of our nation.”

By the time he closed, Crews said the remembrance of those individuals should continue throughout our lives.

“In today’s world, we face numerous challenges, both seen and unseen,” Crews said. “It is crucial to remain vigilant, informed and prepared in the face of these uncertainties. Yet in doing so, we must also remember to uphold the principles of compassion, understanding and resilience.

“The sacrifices of our military personnel remind us every day that freedom is not free, and it demands our unwavering commitment to protect and cherish it.

“As we observe Memorial Day, let us carry forward the lessons of courage and sacrifice and unity taught by our fallen



Retired Army Maj. John Crews was the ceremony’s featured speaker.

heroes. Let us commit to a future where their sacrifices are never forgotten and where we strive to build a world worthy of their legacy.”

Crews shared the history of Memorial Day, which began following the Civil War, with communities across the U.S. honoring those from both sides who fell in battle.

“Originally known as Decoration Day, this day was a time for families and communities to visit the graves of the fallen personnel and place flowers in respect and gratitude,” Crews said. “It was not until World War I when the holiday expanded to honor all American military personnel who had perished in any way.”

The day was observed on May 30 until Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in 1968, establishing Memorial Day on the last Monday of May. The act went into effect in 1971.

“As we reflect on this history, let us recognize the profound sacrifices made by our service men and women,” Crews said. “They have chosen to stand in harm’s way so we may enjoy the freedoms and liberties we hold so



Veteran Raymond Hunt stands during the national anthem.

dear. Their courage, dedication and selflessness are the testament to the strength of the human spirit and the enduring values upon which our country was built.”

Bradford High School JROTC cadets participated in the ceremony, placing wreaths in honor of those making the ultimate sacrifice. Wreaths were provided by Jones-Langford-White American Legion Post 56, VFW posts 182 and 1016, Altrusa Club of Starke, Boy Scouts Troop 70, Daughters of the American Revolution, Downtown Merchants, City of Starke, City of Starke clerk’s office, Woman’s Club of Starke, Bradford County and Bradford County commissioners.

As at every gathering of an American Legion post, an empty chair was designated in remembrance of prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Combat elder abuse

Elder abuse is the intentional mistreatment or harming of an adult over age 60. This abuse can take many forms – physical, emotional, sexual and financial exploitation, as well as neglect. In the United States, an estimated 1 in 10 adults over the age of 60 experience some form of abuse each year. That number is likely much higher because elder abuse is often underreported – especially in underserved communities.

Abuse victims typically show emotional and behavioral red flags, such as depression, unusual fear or anxiety, or intentional isolation. Many victims are abused by someone they know or trust. It’s important to look for unusual changes in behavior around:

- family members.

- staff at inpatient facilities.
 - hired or volunteer caregivers.
 - people in positions of trust like doctors or financial advisors.
- You can help make a difference by checking in with older loved ones. The first step to preventing abuse is to look for signs of mistreatment or physical harm, including bruises, burns and other unexplained injuries.
- There may also be signs of neglect such as:
- hunger and poor nutrition.
 - poor appearance or hygiene.
 - lack of necessary medical aids like glasses or medications that a caretaker should be providing.
- There may also be indications of financial abuse, including:
- unpaid rent or other bills.
 - sudden changes to a will.
 - unusual changes in money management or habits.
 - large, unexplained financial transactions.

- allowing someone new to access bank accounts.
- If you suspect that a person is a victim of elder abuse, please report it. If you or someone you care about is in a life-threatening situation, call 911. If you suspect possible abuse – but see no immediate danger – contact your local Adult Protective Services at www.napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area or the National Center on Elder Abuse at 1-855-500-3537.
- You can also find additional local resources by searching the Eldercare Locator for your community at eldercare.acl.gov/Public/index.aspx.
- Take some time to call or visit an older adult. Ask if they are OK and listen to what they tell you. Pay attention to signs of abuse or unusual behavior. Most of all, don’t be afraid to report suspected abuse.
- Please share this information with your loved ones.

Free meals during the summer

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Kids can keep receiving free meals through the Bradford County School District and its partners this summer.

Several locations have been designated to serve meals. Below is the detailed schedule, including the names and addresses of each location, along with the dates and times that breakfast and/or lunch are being served. (Sites closed for Juneteenth and Independence Day)

Bradford High School
581 N. Temple Ave., Starke
Breakfast 7:45–8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Monday–Thursday, June 2 through July 25 (closed June 19, July 3 and 4)

Bradford Elementary School
3856 SE 144th St., Starke
Breakfast 7:30–8:15 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Monday–Thursday, June 2–27 (closed June 19)

Bradford Middle School
527 N. Orange St., Starke
Breakfast 7:45–8:15 a.m.
Lunch 11–11:30 a.m.
Monday–Thursday, June 2–27 (closed June 19)

Mt. Zion AME Church
2229 Lake St., Lawtey
Breakfast 8–8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Monday–Thursday, June 2–27 (closed June 19)



Hampton Elementary School
10501 Hampton Ave., Hampton
Lunch 11–11:30 a.m.
Snack 12–12:15 p.m.
Monday–Thursday, June 2–27 (closed June 19)

Bradford Faith Community Center
721 Old Lawtey Road, Starke
Breakfast 7:30–8 a.m.
Lunch 12–12:30 p.m.
Monday–Friday, June 16 through July 25 (closed June 19 and July 4)

Concerned Citizens of Bradford County
1080 N. Pine St., Starke
Breakfast 8–8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30–12 p.m.
Monday–Friday, June 9 through July 3 (closed June 19)



NFLT has preserved more than 83 acres near Camp Blanding

North Florida Land Trust has acquired a conservation easement that is more than 83 acres in Clay County on the southeast side of Camp Blanding, within the military installation’s Army Compatible Use Buffer zone. It is also within the ecologically important Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor.

The conservation easement on the property owned by the Hughes family was purchased for \$540,000 with funding from the Department of Defense’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program.

“The purchase of this conservation easement ensures that this property will never be developed or changed from its existing use,” said Allison DeFoor, president and CEO of NFLT. “The family will be able to continue living on and enjoying the property, while protecting its natural state. This conservation easement protects land vital to wildlife habitats and national defense. It prevents encroachment on Camp Blanding, which has been an important partner in conservation within the O2O for many years.”

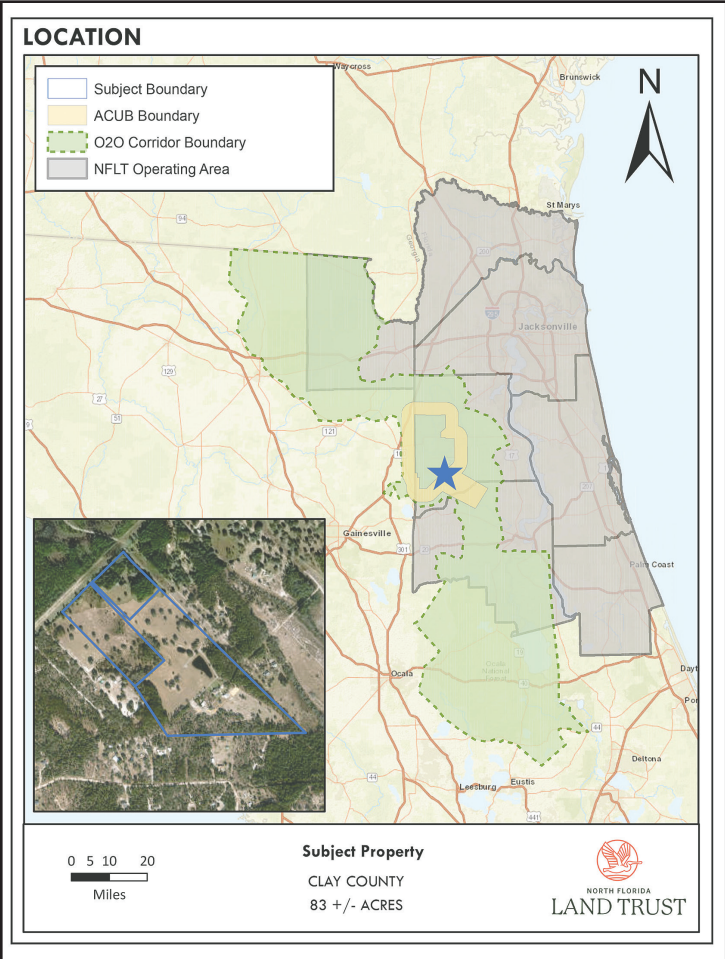
The Hughes property is near NFLT’s Milam Preserve, Smith Lake Preserve and Gold Head Branch State Park. It is the family’s primary residence and includes two homes, a horse barn, outbuildings and cross-fencing. The conservation easement agreement allows the family to continue to live on and use the land while preventing any further development of the land or more intense uses.

“I am so happy to have found NFLT to help me preserve this beautiful property and the abundant wildlife it supports,” said landowner Erin Hughes. “My family has lived in Florida since the 1880s and I am proud to help preserve at least a piece of the natural Florida they once knew. Thank you to Kim (NFLT conservation transactions manager) and everyone who helped make this happen.”

Conserving the land protects the habitats of wildlife and plant species and provides a buffer for Camp Blanding. A blend of upland pine forest and open pastureland offers habitat for many native species, including the white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and the gopher tortoise, a protected species. It also sits on the edge of an aquifer recharge area. Protecting the land will help buffer the creek system, maintain historic recharge and discharge areas, and prevent any potential flooding to the military installation that could occur with more intense uses.



A creek on the property purchased for conservation.



North Florida Land Trust will hold the conservation easement on these 83 acres, adding to the nonprofit’s successful conservation portfolio. Over the past 25 years, NFLT has helped protect more than 43,000 acres across Florida.

About North Florida Land Trust

North Florida Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing quality of life by protecting North Florida’s irreplaceable natural environment. Founded in 1999, NFLT has preserved tens of thousands of acres of land

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BHS' Brown will play flag football at Florida Gateway

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School flag football player Nichelle Brown added to her impressive accomplishments on May 21, signing to play with the best junior-college program in the country and then having her number-five jersey retired.

Brown, who just graduated on May 23, will take her talents to Lake City's Florida Gateway College, which has won every National Junior College Athletic Association championship since the postseason format was implemented for the 2023 season.

"I'm very thankful and very grateful and very excited to start this journey," Brown said.

Florida Gateway, which has a total record of 48-5 over the last three seasons, won its third straight national championship



Following her signing ceremony, Nichelle Brown was surprised when Head Coach John Staples announced that her jersey would be retired. Brown finished her four-year career with 144 touchdowns.

in 2025 by defeating Daytona State College 68-13.

"They're the Alabama of girls flag football, and they're getting a five-star player," BHS Head Coach John Staples said.

Brown led the state this past season (regardless of

classification) in receiving yards (2,220-plus), touchdowns (44) and points (266). She finished her four-year BHS career with 144 touchdowns.

Staples compared her to

See BROWN, page 13



Andrew Wilson (center) signs a letter of intent to play baseball at Emmanuel University, which is located in Franklin Springs, Georgia. Pictured at Wilson's right are brother, Logan, and stepfather Israel Hernandez. To his left are mother, Magan Hernandez, and sisters Autumn and Isabella.

KHHS' Andrew Wilson will play baseball at Emmanuel

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights High School baseball program lost Andrew Wilson for the 2024 season when he moved to another school, but Wilson returned to KHHS, helped the Indians put together a 19-9 season in that included a district championship and then became just the latest senior to earn a college opportunity.

Wilson signed his letter of intent on May 19 to play for Franklin Springs, Georgia's Emmanuel University, whose program competes at the Division II level.

"It's always been my dream to play college baseball, so I'm very thankful for the opportunity and excited that I get to continue playing," Wilson said following his signing ceremony, which took place in the KHHS cafeteria.

This marked the third signing ceremony this year for a KHHS baseball player, and it looks as

if there will be one or two more players who'll eventually sign as well.

KHHS Head Coach Chris Roach said that's a testament to the desire and work ethic of the senior group.

"It's easier to coach gamers who want to go out there and go after it rather than put somebody in a stronghold just to make them go do the game that they love," Roach said.

If anybody is a "gamer," it is certainly Wilson. Roach said Wilson is probably the "grittiest" player he's seen in 20-plus years of coaching at KHHS. That's in reference to the amount of work Wilson puts in at whatever position he's playing.

"He's not about flash," Roach said. "He's about getting better at everything he does."

Wilson played primarily catcher and shortstop this past season, but Roach said, "You could've put him at first base, and he would've worked to be

the best first baseman he could be."

"I think for college, that's going to be helpful for me," Wilson said. "There are a lot of different spots they can put me in. If I can do every single one of them, I'll have more opportunities to get onto the field."

Wilson would prefer to play one of the two positions he mostly played at this past season, especially catcher.

"I'm a catcher. That's what I do," Wilson said, adding, "I feel like it's kind of the main role on the team. I like to be the one who always has the ball, basically."

Roach agreed that catching is Wilson's "number-one thing" and said the way he plays that position is a bit of a throwback.

"His brain to catch works really well," Roach said. "He's always watching the game. He reminds me of an old-school catcher who had to observe versus the

See WILSON, page 16



Nichelle Brown (far left) signs to play flag football at Lake City's Florida Gateway College. Also pictured (l-r) are Brown's mother, Tashemah Brown, sister, Daisha Hankerson, and niece, Kalani Canty.

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BHS' Jenkins to play football at Florida Memorial

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Trente Jenkins has been such a fixture of Bradford High School football that it'll be strange to imagine the Tornadoes without him.

Bradford's loss, though, will be Florida Memorial University's gain.

The interior defensive lineman, who just graduated on May 23, signed a letter of intent to play for the Miami Gardens college during a May 21 ceremony in the BHS media center.

"I'm just glad I get the opportunity to show my skills at the next level," Jenkins said.

Jenkins said he likes the fact that Florida Memorial is a historically Black university. In fact, it's the only one in South Florida. He also likes the coaches, who have been good at staying in touch with him every day.

He didn't want to go to school outside of Florida, so he found one in state that he feels comfortable at.

"I like the atmosphere there," Jenkins said.

Jenkins was a varsity starter for all four of his years at BHS, prompting Head Coach Jamie Rodgers to say he may have experienced more wins than any



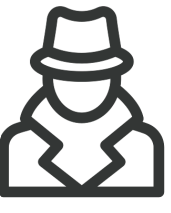
Trente Jenkins (third from right) signs a letter of intent to play football at Miami Gardens' Florida Memorial University. Pictured to his right are his brother, Darreon, his aunt, Lisa Riley, and his father, Craig Jenkins. To his left are his mother, Deanna Williams, and his grandmother, Eloise Butler.

other varsity starter in school history. The Tornadoes went 42-11 during Jenkins' four years.

One thing for certain is Jenkins played in a lot of big games, such as the Class 2S state championship his junior year. Rodgers believes Jenkins won't be overwhelmed by play at the collegiate level.

See JENKINS, page 14

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Tornadoes rack up 500-plus yards in 20-9 spring win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School got long touchdown runs from Damarion Dodd and Jarrell Harris, while Jordan Cason caught a short touchdown pass from Cy Cubbedge in the Tornadoes' 20-9 win over visiting Suwannee in a spring football game on May 15.

The Tornadoes amassed 519 total yards, while Suwannee gained 138. Bradford's defense was especially stingy on the ground, allowing 4 yards on 21 carries.

Suwannee drove inside the Bradford 20-yard on its first series, but the Bulldogs made only one more red-zone trip the rest of the game, and that was because of a fumble recovery.

Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said the Tornadoes "got it right" after making defensive adjustments after the Bulldogs' opening series and praised his team's tackling effort.

"Usually, the worst tackling you see all year is at the end of the spring because you try not to beat up other too much in the spring leading up to the game," Rodgers said. "I thought we tackled really well in the open field."

The turnover that set up the Bulldogs' second red-zone opportunity in the game was one of three lost fumbles for the Tornadoes.

We're used to being the team that gets the turnovers and takes the ball away from the other team," Rodgers said.

Still, his team came out on top, so Rodgers added, "If we can clean that up, we'll be fine."

Rodgers singled out the



LEFT: Iyen Addison (center) gets loose for a big run. Lineman Ridge Bradley (far left) is also pictured. BELOW LEFT: Cy Cubbedge (left) rolls out of the pocket after recovering a fumble. Running back Nate Raymond is also pictured.



rushing effort of the Bradford offense, which produced 316 yards on 36 carries, an average of 8.8 yards per attempt. Iyen Addison rushed for 78 yards on 10 carries, while Harris had 62 yards on six carries. Dodd

needed just one carry to earn his 65 yards.

Keshawn Kennedy also had a solid night, rushing for 44 yards on five carries.

The passing game worked pretty well, too, with quarterback

Cubbedge completing 14 of 25 passes for 157 yards and a touchdown. Jackson Parmeter took the snaps for most of the second half, completing 2 of 3 passes for 46 yards.

Bradford's offense struggled at first. The Tornadoes' first series was a three-and-out that netted minus-3 yards. Bradford's first two drives consisted of nine plays that gained 24 yards.

Suwannee, meanwhile, quickly drove downfield on its opening series. The first two plays were carries by Lou Jack Smith for 14 yards, resulting in a first down at the Bradford 46. Quarterback Thomas Sykes then completed a 24-yard pass to Jamarcus Cherry, which put the Bulldogs at the 22-yard line. Two plays later, Chase Phillips made a tackle for a loss of 4 yards. Sykes dropped back on third-and-10 and lofted a pass into the end zone that was intended for Koy Frier, but Cason picked it off.



Jackson Parmeter tackles Suwannee's Koy Frier for a loss on a pass play.

Addison got Bradford's third offensive series started in a big way, ripping off a run of 16 yards to the Suwannee 49. Cubbedge completed a 14-yard pass to Jy'Quez Cason before connecting with Jordan Cason for a 19-yard gain to the 16. After a 7-yard run by Addison, Jordan Cason caught a pass and took it in for a 9-yard touchdown with 2:50 remaining in the first quarter, putting the Tornadoes up 6-0. The extra-point kick was no good.

Jordan Cason finished with 81 yards on six receptions.

Parmeter came up big for the Tornadoes' defense on the ensuing series. He tackled Frier for a 3-yard loss on a pass play that had the Bulldogs facing a third-and-6 play. Bradford jumped offsidies, which left Suwannee needing only to gain 1 yard for a first down. Frier, briefly subbing for the injured

Sykes, was dropped by Parmeter for a 4-yard loss on a run attempt, forcing the Bulldogs to punt.

It was again Addison providing a spark on a Bradford drive with a 10-yard run. The Tornadoes appeared to have scored when Harris broke free for a 45-yard run into the end zone, but a holding penalty brought the play back. Bradford overcame the penalty and crossed midfield on a 12-yard reception by Koy Hartley for a first down at the Suwannee 39. Addison later converted a fourth-and-1 play with a 5-yard run to the 25. Suwannee's Jadayce Jones made a tackle for a 5-yard loss on the following play, but Bradford then picked up another first down, with Hartley (four receptions, 42 yards) catching a pass for a 21-yard gain to the 9.

The drive stalled, with Harris

See BHS, page 15

Indians lose to Warriors, Hornets in spring jamboree

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School's football team played Lafayette and West Nassau for two quarters each in a May 20 jamboree in Keystone, losing 14-0 to both.

The jamboree, which also included Interlachen, consisted of four matchups in all, with Interlachen playing West Nassau and Interlachen playing Lafayette. The second quarter of each game was played with a running clock.

Keystone's defense struggled against West Nassau, which had two possessions and scored touchdowns on both, but had a much better performance against Lafayette. The Indians did give up a 35-yard touchdown pass on Lafayette's first offensive play, but then held the Hornets to minus-9 yards the rest of the way.

Lafayette's other score came courtesy of its defense on an interception return.

"Defensively, we are a lot closer than I anticipated," KHHS Head Coach Steve Reynolds said. "That's probably where most kids who are returning have the most experience."

The offense was a different story. Keystone finished with 59 yards total in both games, with 40 of those coming on a run by Jagger Lancaster against Lafayette. The Indians had



Quarterback Cole Crabtree (left) scrambles away from pressure on what would be a 22-yard run against West Nassau.

eight plays that lost yardage and turned the ball over twice against Lafayette.

"We put ourselves in bad position on offense," Reynolds said, adding, "We've got to help ourselves out."

Ultimately, though, Reynolds knows spring ball isn't necessarily an indicator of how the fall season will go. He pointed out that Keystone defeated two teams in a spring jamboree in 2023 and then suffered two bad losses to open the regular season.

In 2024, Keystone defeated two teams again in the spring, only to then experience a 2-8 regular season.

Reynolds said the spring game is "really about getting kids reps" and evaluating position battles as well as identifying areas that need work moving forward.

"We've got some spots to shore up still," Reynolds said.

W. Nassau 14 KH 0

In the matchup against West Nassau, the Warriors' offense took to the field first, putting together a 75-yard scoring drive. Quarterback Pryce Arnold completed a 14-yard pass to convert a third-and-7 play, while a 9-yard run by Mo Green gave the Warriors a first down past midfield at the Keystone 46. Three straight carries by Skyler Freeman netted 33 yards, with his 23-yard run giving West

Nassau a first down at the 13-yard line. The Warriors, after getting penalized for illegal procedure, got runs of 4 and 14 yards from Green and Freeman, respectively, with Freeman's carry right through the middle of the defense resulting in a touchdown at the 6-minute mark of the first quarter.

The Warriors went for two after the score, but Avery Griffin's run came up short when he was tackled by Colton Hollingsworth, leaving the score at 6-0.

Keystone's first offensive series began with West Nassau's Levi Bowler sacking Ryder Trull for a 7-yard loss. A fumbled handoff on the next play resulted in a loss of 5 yards. The Warriors did give Keystone's offense new life, with roughing-the-passer and unsportsmanlike-conduct penalties giving the Indians a first down at their own 45, but the first play from there was a bad shotgun snap that resulted in a loss of 16 yards. After a 1-yard run by Kyle Perkins and an incomplete pass, Keystone punted.

The negative plays, of course, frustrated Reynolds.

"I don't know about Bill Walsh or Don Coryell," Reynolds said, referencing two Pro Football Hall of Fame coaches known as offensive masterminds, "but I don't have a play for third-and-21."

West Nassau began its second drive at its own 45. Tackles by Perkins and Pete Bostic helped force the Warriors into a fourth-and-5 play at the 50. West Nassau lined up to go for it, with quarterback Arnold drawing the Indians offsidies for a first down.

A fumble two plays later had the Warriors facing third-and-13, but they picked up the first down on a 14-yard reception by Kevin

Carter. Running back Andi Ataiza the put West Nassau into the red zone as he bulled through several defenders on a 20-yard carry to the 14-yard line. A holding penalty later negated a 10-yard touchdown run by Griffin, but Ataiza scored on a 7-yard run that counted with 8:04 to play. Chris Messer had a successful run on the conversion attempt, putting the Warriors up 14-0.

Quarterback Cole Crabtree had the best offensive play for the Indians on the ensuing series when he scrambled for a 22-yard gain. Hunter Crumpton had carries of 7 and 6 yards to give Keystone a first down past midfield, but a holding penalty put the Indians into long-yardage plays, with the game ending on an incomplete pass on third-and-18.

Factoring in the negative plays, the Indians rushed for just 11 yards, while its two quarterbacks had no completions on five attempts.

West Nassau gained 112 yards on the ground on 18 carries and finished with 140 total yards.

Lafayette 14 KH 0

After West Nassau and Lafayette both defeated Interlachen, Keystone took to the field again to play Lafayette and wrap up the jamboree.

The offensive struggles continued. After two run plays failed to produce any yardage, a pass was picked off by Jack Stewart and returned approximately 23 yards for a touchdown less than two minutes into the game. The Hornets, after the extra point, led 7-0.

Keystone punted on its next series after running three negative plays that resulted in a total loss of 9 yards.

One play was all Lafayette



West Nassau quarterback Pryce Arnold just gets a pass off while being pressured by Luke Bacorn.

needed to add to its point total, with Tucker Higginbotham throwing a 35-yard touchdown pass to Parker Hill. Another successful extra-point attempt capped the game's scoring.

The defense rebounded on Lafayette's next series. After the Hornets were penalized for holding, Hollingsworth made a tackle for a 2-yard loss. Luke Bacorn then had an 8-yard sack. The Hornets gained 16 yards on a pass play, but then had an incomplete pass on fourth-and-14, turning the ball over to Keystone at the Lafayette 31.

A 5-yard run by Crumpton and a 5-yard pass play from Trull to Baylor Ford helped give the Indians a first down.

See KHHS, page 15

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BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School had student-athletes honored in baseball, softball, tennis and weightlifting with the release of the All-Clay County teams in spring sports.

The boys weightlifting team had seven of the 13 first-team honors Keystone earned: Elijah Mize (119-pound class), Colton Hollingsworth (129), Kyle Perkins (199) and Trase Wooden (219) in traditional and Hollingsworth, Layton Wright (169) and Jackson Herman

(unlimited) in Olympic.

Keystone had seven weightlifters earned second-team honors: Mize, Perkins, Wooden and Brayden Wester (238) in traditional and Wester, Damien Dunlap (154) and Zane Leger (199) in Olympic.

Earning honorable mention in Olympic were Dylan Currington (119) and Pete Bostic (238), while Currington, Bostic, Herman and Wright earned honorable mention in traditional.

Five from KHHS were honored in baseball, with three being named to the first team:

pitcher Guage Barry, pitcher/infielder Ty Mitzel and infielder Austin Smith.

Infielder Destin Harnage was a second-team baseball selection, while catcher/infielder Andrew Wilson received honorable mention.

The flag football team had two first-team offensive selections in quarterback Alee Horton and wide receiver Riley Shuford. Wide receiver Alex Papaannou was a second-team offensive pick, while linebacker Alyssa Sanford was a second-team defensive pick.

Earning honorable mention in flag football were wide receiver Ashlyn Brown and defensive back Ashly McCarthy.

Keystone's other first-team honoree was Dalton Moore in boys tennis. The team also produced a second-team selection in Will Begue.

The girls tennis team's Whitnee Buchanan earned honorable mention.

Keystone infielder/pitcher Kadence Massey was a second-team pick in softball. Catcher Amber Wagner received honorable mention.

BROWN

Continued from page 10

University of Florida football great Percy Harvin — that special kind of athlete that you try to get involved as much as possible.

“It was about creating ways to get her the ball,” Staples said. “That was our offense. We probably had 472 plays we would draw up each game because every team prepared to stop Nichelle.”

When asked what made her so good, Brown said, “Hard work and dedication.”

Brown attended camps at Florida Gateway, with Head

Coach Ricky Hufty making an official offer to her after the third one.

“It’s a very good program,” Brown said. “I’m blessed to be able to have this opportunity.”

Since the college is a little more than 30 miles from BHS, it’s easy to imagine that Brown will have quite a fan group cheering her on at games.

“I’m very excited for that,” she said. “I can’t wait for it.”

As for what it’ll feel like when she steps onto the field for the first time as a Florida Gateway Timberwolf, Brown said, “I might be a little nervous. I definitely will be nervous, but I’ll be ready for it.”

Staples said Florida Gateway,

which scored an average of 43 points per game last season, will make use of Brown’s talents.

“She will be one of those people who helps them win a fourth (national title),” Staples said.

Because of Brown’s accomplishments at BHS, Staples announced that her jersey number would be retired.

“I don’t know that 144 touchdowns will ever be scored here again,” he said.

The signing ceremony, which took place in the BHS media ceremony, also gave Staples an opportunity to hand out awards for the season. Two were for Offensive Player of the Year and

Defensive Player of the Year. As you might imagine, Brown was presented with the offensive award, while rising senior Ar’Nayshia Griffin was the top defensive player. Griffin had 25 interceptions this past season, which tied her for first in the state (regardless of classification). She has 57 interceptions total in three years.

Earlier in May, Brown, Griffin and Staples were all honored by FloridaHSFootball.com and Jacksonville Jaguars PREP. The two players were named to the All-PREP 25 Team, with players selected from the 17 schools in the Jaguars area. Staples was named as Coach of the Year.



Head Coach John Staples (center) is pictured with Ar’Nayshia Griffin (left) and Nichelle Brown. He named Griffin the Tornadoes’ Defensive Player of the Year, while Brown was the Offensive Player of the Year.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of May 29, 2025

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO.: 2025-CP-054
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GRADY E. WATSON, JR., DECEASED.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of GRADY E. WATSON, JR., who died on April 29, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court of Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE and her attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT’S estate on whom a copy of this NOTICE is required to be served must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME 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 other creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT’S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT’S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this NOTICE TO CREDITORS is May 22, 2025.

KAREN WATSON, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
1546 SE 4th Avenue
Melrose, FL 32666
Owens Penrod, P.A.
By: /s/ VeRonica R. Owens, Esq.
Fla. Bar No.: 73568
VeRonica R. Owens, Esq.
189 South Lawrence Boulevard
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
Telephone: (352) 473-5000
Pleadings@OwensPenrod.com
VeRonica@OwensPenrod.com
Attorneys for Petitioner
Offices: Keystone Heights,
Middleburg, Tallahassee

5/22 2tchg 5/29-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To satisfy the owner’s storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on June 17, 2025. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on June 10, 2025 and end at 10AM on June 17, 2025. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952)-491-6837
Time: 10:00AM CST
A06, Norris, Chelsea, A24, Cornes, Clara, A52, Whittaker, Edward, B40, Jones, Paul
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-491-6837.

5/22 2tchg 5/29-BCT

INVITATION TO BID
SEALED BIDS will be received and accepted by the Town of Brooker, Florida, until 1:00p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2025 for the following mowing

and cleaning of all City property. The bids will be opened and read aloud on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 7:00p.m. at the regular Town Council meeting. All Bidders are encouraged to attend a pre-bid tour to be held on Saturday, June 7th at 9:00 a.m. at the Brooker City Hall/Community Center, 17435 Tetstone Avenue, Brooker, FL. No other tour will be provided. All Bidders are encouraged to submit references. Monthly bid amount total should be different for Number 1 and Number 2, due to less mowing in Number 2.

Bid #1 is for the following:
1. Months of August 2025 through October 2025 and the month of April, May, June, July 2026. (7 months):
A. Mowing and maintaining twice a month (within 2 days before 15th of month and within 2 days before end of month) the following property: Old Fire Station, Old Town hall office, Old city park, Water department, Community center property/Park, Baseball field, and tennis court area including locked in area behind tennis court.
B. Mow and weed eat once a week on Wednesday or Thursday the town property around Town Hall/Community Center.

C. Mow and maintain twice a month (within 2 days before 15th of month and within 2 days before end of month) the areas within 12 (twelve) feet of the paved roads on State, County, and Town Streets within the limits of the Town, unless not possible due to ditches or fencing or private planting, in these cases mow to fence line. All debris should be blown towards the highway.
D. On Highway 18/Charlotte Avenue and Tetstone Avenue mow up to railroad tracks from old Town Hall office to the Flashing stop sign twice a month (within 2 days before 15th of month and within 2 days before end of month).

E. Weed-eating particularly the areas around the Old Fire Station, Old city park, Water Department, and Old Town Hall Office and those other areas mentioned above that have sign posts, light poles, decorative trees, and all fire hydrants/stand pipes at least once a month.
F. Once a month remove garbage from cans at tennis court, baseball field and park.

Bid #2 same as above except once a month:
2. Bid for the month of November 2025 through March 2026 (5 months) will be the same as specified above in sections (a) through (f) with the frequency listed as once a week and twice a month being changed to once a month starting from the date of the last activity in October 2025. Bid will be for a two year period. The Brooker Town Council reserves the right to cancel with or without cause after one year. Payment will be rendered at the end of the month.
***Required with Bid - A copy of current Insurance Declaration page showing \$250,000 or more Liability coverage and Worker’s Compensation coverage certificate or exemption certificate. BIDS NOT CONTAINING THESE REQUIRED DECLARATION PAGES WILL BE REJECTED.

The identity of the bidding entity must match the certificate of insurance coverage.
***ALL Equipment including mower is to be furnished by the Contractor.
***Grass is not to be cut too short as to damage the root systems.
***No mowing is allowed on Sunday.
***There may be times when extra storm debris pickup will be necessary. A price will be determined on each occurrence
***Awarded bidder will be required to add the Town of Brooker as additional insured after receiving the bid. The Town reserves the right to check references and to accept or reject any and all bids.

If Bidder has previously worked under contract with the Town of Brooker the award of the bid shall be contingent on satisfactory performance and review on contract previously awarded. You can contact the Brooker Town hall office at 352-485-1022 if you have any questions.
Equal Opportunity Employer, Fair Housing, Handicap Access Jurisdiction

5/22 2tchg 5/29-BCT

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5/22 2tchg 5/29-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: RYAN VAN TRESS, 11653 Parker St., Brooker, FL 32622, SOLE owner, doing business under the firm name of: AMERICAN EMOTIVE, 11653 Parker St., Brooker, FL 32622 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 20th day of MAY A.D., 2025, in Bradford County.

5/29 1tchg-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING CANCELED
The City of Starke Commission Meeting for June 3, 2025 has been canceled.

5/29 1tchg-BCT

LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: ROBERT F BRITTON II, 1606 NW 19th Circle, Gainesville, FL 32605, SOLE owner, doing business under the firm name of: COLLEGE OF MISSIONARY AVIATION, INC., 1155 Orchid Ave., Keystone Heights, FL 32656 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 25th day of MAY A.D., 2025, in CLAY County.

5/29 1tchg-LRM

City of Keystone Heights
Request for Proposal (RFP)
Basketball Court Resurfacing Project
Issue Date: May 20, 2025
Response Due Date: June 6, 2025
Project Location: Keystone Heights, Florida
Project Site: 555 S Lawrence Blvd
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
1. Project Overview - The City of Keystone Heights is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the resurfacing of an outdoor basketball court measuring 50 feet by 110 feet (5,500 square feet). The current surface is bare concrete with painted lines. The scope includes surface preparation, patching, leveling, and the application of new playing surface materials and game lines.
2. Scope of Work - The awarded contractor shall provide all labor, materials, tools, and equipment necessary to complete the following scope:
Mobilization
Transport and prepare all equipment, materials, and personnel to and from the job site.
Surface Preparation
Scrape the court to remove all dirt, debris, and loose material from the concrete surface. Existing court is raw concrete with no surface, only lines.
Clean all concrete edges and borders of debris.
Sanding
Machine-sand the surface as necessary to smooth and repair uneven areas.
Pressure Washing

City of Keystone Heights
Request for Proposal (RFP)
Pickleball Court Resurfacing Project
Issue Date: May 20, 2025
Response Due Date: June 6, 2025
Project Location: Keystone Heights, Florida
Project Site: 7399 Sunrise Blvd
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
1. Project Overview - The City of Keystone Heights is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the resurfacing of an outdoor Pickleball court measuring 90 feet by 40 feet (3,600 square feet). The current surface is bare concrete with painted lines. The scope includes surface preparation, patching, leveling, and the application of new playing surface materials and game lines.
2. Scope of Work - The awarded contractor shall provide all labor,

Pressure wash the entire surface to remove mildew and surface contaminants.
Crack Repair
Apply outdoor-grade court patching materials to all cracks.
Ensure patched areas are flush with surrounding surfaces.
Paint Line Grinding
Grind down any raised existing painted lines to ensure level surface for new application.
Acid Etch
Apply acid etching to the entire court to ensure proper adhesion of resurfacing products.
Tack Coat
Apply one coat of deep patch/tack coat to promote paint adhesion.
Patching
Apply outdoor grade patching compound to:
Reduce “birdbath” water ponding areas (note: full elimination not guaranteed).
Cover and fill rough concrete spots.
Ensure all patch edges are scraped or ground smooth and not visible through the final surface.
Light sanded as necessary for blending.
Leveling Course
Apply one coat of sand-acrylic resurfacer mix over the entire court using a broad squeegee, per manufacturer’s recommended coverage.
Texture and Finish Courses
Apply two (2) successive coats of outdoor-grade, sand-filled acrylic color coating.

Use broad squeegee application per manufacturer’s recommended coverage.
Finish Colors
Final color(s) to be chosen by the City of Keystone Heights from the manufacturer’s standard color options.
Court Lines
Apply one full set of standard white 2-inch-wide basketball court regulation lines.
Clean-Up
Remove all debris, equipment, and materials from the site.
Leave the area clean and safe for public use.

3. **Proposal Requirements**
Proposals must include the following: Company name, address, and contact information
Proof of licensing and insurance
Experience and qualifications with similar projects
Project timeline and estimated start date
Detailed cost breakdown for each of the above 15 line items
Warranty information, if any
4. **Evaluation Criteria**
Proposals will be evaluated based on: Compliance with the scope of work
Relevant experience
Proposed cost
Timeline
References
5. **Submission Instructions**
Proposals must be received no later than **June 6, 2025**. Submit proposals to: City of Keystone Heights
Beau Wright (wright@keystoneheights.us)
555 S Lawrence Blvd
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered.
6. **Questions**
Direct all questions regarding this RFP in writing to: Beau Wright (wright@keystoneheights.us)
352-473-4807
Questions must be received by: June 2 2025

5/29 1tchg-LRM

City of Keystone Heights
Request for Proposal (RFP)
Pickleball Court Resurfacing Project
Issue Date: May 20, 2025
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Project Site: 7399 Sunrise Blvd
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2. Scope of Work - The awarded contractor shall provide all labor,

materials, tools, and equipment necessary to complete the following scope:
Mobilization
Transport and prepare all equipment, materials, and personnel to and from the job site.
Surface Preparation
Scrape the court to remove all dirt, debris, and loose material from the concrete surface. Existing court is raw concrete with no surface, only lines.
Clean all concrete edges and borders of debris.
Sanding
Machine-sand the surface as necessary to smooth and repair uneven areas.
Pressure Washing

Apply outdoor-grade court patching materials to all cracks.
Ensure patched areas are flush with surrounding surfaces.
Paint Line Grinding
Grind down any raised existing painted lines to ensure level surface for new application.
Acid Etch
Apply acid etching to the entire court to ensure proper adhesion of resurfacing products.
Tack Coat
Apply one coat of deep patch/tack coat to promote paint adhesion.
Patching
Apply outdoor grade patching compound to:
Reduce “birdbath” water ponding areas (note: full elimination not guaranteed).
Cover and fill rough concrete spots.
Ensure all patch edges are scraped or ground smooth and not visible through the final surface.
Light sanded as necessary for blending.
Leveling Course
Apply one coat of sand-acrylic resurfacer mix over the entire court using a broad squeegee, per manufacturer’s recommended coverage.
Texture and Finish Courses
Apply two (2) successive coats of

outdoor-grade, sand-filled acrylic color coating. Use broad squeegee application per manufacturer’s recommended coverage.
Finish Colors
Final color(s) to be chosen by the City of Keystone Heights from the manufacturer’s standard color options.
Court Lines
Apply one full set of standard white 2-inch-wide basketball court regulation lines.
Clean-Up
Remove all debris, equipment, and materials from the site.
Leave the area clean and safe for public use.

3. **Proposal Requirements**
Proposals must include the following: Company name, address, and contact information
Proof of licensing and insurance
Experience and qualifications with similar projects
Project timeline and estimated start date
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2. Scope of Work - The awarded contractor shall provide all labor,

materials, tools, and equipment necessary to complete the following scope:
Mobilization
Transport and prepare all equipment, materials, and personnel to and from the job site.
Surface Preparation
Scrape the court to remove all dirt, debris, and loose material from the concrete surface. Fence lines need to be cleaned.
Clean all concrete edges and borders of debris.
Sanding
Machine-sand the surface as necessary to smooth and repair uneven areas.
Pressure Washing
Pressure wash the entire surface to remove mildew and surface contaminants.
Crack Repair
Apply outdoor-grade court patching materials to all cracks.
Ensure patched areas are flush with surrounding surfaces.
Paint Line Grinding
Grind down any raised existing painted lines to ensure level surface for new application.
Acid Etch
Apply acid etching to the entire court to ensure proper adhesion of resurfacing products.

Apply one coat of deep patch/tack coat to promote paint adhesion.
Patching
Apply outdoor grade patching compound to:
Reduce “birdbath” water ponding areas (note: full elimination not guaranteed).
Cover and fill rough concrete spots.
Ensure all patch edges are scraped or ground smooth and not visible through the final surface.
Light sanded as necessary for blending.
Leveling Course
Apply one coat of sand-acrylic resurfacer mix over the entire court using a broad squeegee, per manufacturer’s recommended coverage.
Texture and Finish Courses
Apply two (2) successive coats of

outdoor-grade, sand-filled acrylic color coating. Use broad squeegee application per manufacturer’s recommended coverage.
Finish Colors
Final color(s) to be chosen by the City of Keystone Heights from the manufacturer’s standard color options.
Court Lines
Apply one full set of standard white 2-inch-wide basketball court regulation lines.
Clean-Up
Remove all debris, equipment, and materials from the site.
Leave the area clean and safe for public use.

3. **Proposal Requirements**
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Clean all concrete edges and borders of debris.
Sanding
Machine-sand the surface as necessary to smooth and repair uneven areas.
Pressure Washing

Apply outdoor-grade court patching materials to all cracks.
Ensure patched areas are flush with surrounding surfaces.
Paint Line Grinding
Grind down any raised existing painted lines to ensure level surface for new application.
Acid Etch
Apply acid etching to the entire court to ensure proper adhesion of resurfacing products.
Tack Coat
Apply one coat of deep patch/tack coat to promote paint adhesion.
Patching
Apply outdoor grade patching compound to:
Reduce “birdbath” water ponding areas (note: full elimination not guaranteed).
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Light sanded as necessary for blending.
Leveling Course
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Request for Proposal (RFP)
Pickleball Court Resurfacing Project
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Response Due Date: June 6, 2025
Project Location: Keystone Heights, Florida
Project Site: 7399 Sunrise Blvd
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
1. Project Overview - The City of Keystone Heights is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the resurfacing of an outdoor Pickleball court measuring 90 feet

Obituaries

Thelma Bay

Thelma Trieste Bay, 83, died on Friday May 2, 2025, at HCA Florida North Florida Regional Hospital. Her passing was peaceful, and she was surrounded by her family. She was born Aug. 10, 1941, in Gainesville to Mellis and May Trieste. She grew up in Waldo with her sister, Sue Trieste, on a farm. She married Herman Luis Bay on Dec. 5, 1963. They were lifelong companions and were blessed with four children, Gary, Paula, Bobbi and Brian. Thelma traveled across the United States, raising her children, while her husband was in the U.S. Air Force. After the Air Force, she and Herman started a woodworking business together. She was an avid reader, with her favorite genre being mystery. She has a long history of doing all kinds of volunteer work, including helping kids read at the Waldo Community School and crafting gifts for kids at Christmas. Thelma will be remembered for her endless kindness and her palpable charm that made every room she entered brighter. She loved everyone and everyone loved her. She was preceded in death by her firstborn son, Gary.

She is survived by her children, Paula (Fred) Pope of Gainesville, Bobbi Bay of Dahlonoga, Georgia and Brian Bay of Waldo; grandchildren, Thomas Bay, Justine Bay and Frankie Kemp; and great-grandchildren, Madison Bay and Huckston Bay. She also leaves behind many friends.

Memorial services will be held, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 31, at the Community Square in Waldo.



PAID OBITUARY

Marvin Brown

Mr. Gilbert Marvin Brown, 85, known to most as “Marvin,” of Starke passed away peacefully in his sleep Friday, May 23, 2025. He was born in Starke to the late Gib and Margaret Brown of Starke and was a resident of Starke for all of his life. He attended St. Mark’s Episcopal Church of Starke and was a member of various organizations, including the Morocco Shriners of Jacksonville and Starke Shrine Club, where he served as past Treasurer, American Legion of Starke and Rotary Club of Starke. He was an Army veteran, serving as a field artillery specialist at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Fort Knox, Kentucky during the pre-Vietnam era. He pursued his education at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, obtaining degrees in history and business administration. He maintained long careers in both banking as vice president of Florida National Bank in Starke and corrections as a classification officer for the Florida Department of Corrections in Lake Butler. Additionally, he taught economics, accounting and history at the Vocational Technical Center of Bradford-Union County in Starke. To all who knew him, he was humble, kind, loving, optimistic, intelligent, virtuous and cool under pressure. He was an excellent role model, loyal, and the epitome of a gentleman. He was voted “Most to Be Admired” of his 1957 Bradford High School class and demonstrated this moniker in all aspects throughout his life. He was family and community service oriented, had a distinct love for all people and enjoyed playing golf, eating a delicious meal, watching sports, and spending time with loved ones. He was an engaging storyteller, was enamored with his wife, Judy, and felt gratified in raising his triplets. In retirement, he loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Judith McRae “Judy” Brown; and younger brother, James Edward “Ed” Brown of Jacksonville.

He is survived by his children, Jason M. (Jami W.) Brown of Chieffland, Jennifer L. (Scott R.) Brown-Jackson of Gainesville, and Jody L. (Amy T.) Brown of Gainesville; grandchildren, Madison L. Jackson and Savannah R. Jackson, both of Gainesville and James Edward Ricketson of Chieffland; sibling, William H. “Bill” (Diane) Brown of Tallahassee; and a host of nieces and nephews and many other family members and friends.

To honor Marvin’s wishes, a private graveside ceremony for family will be planned for the near future.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Curtis A. “Lex” Sanders Attorney at Law



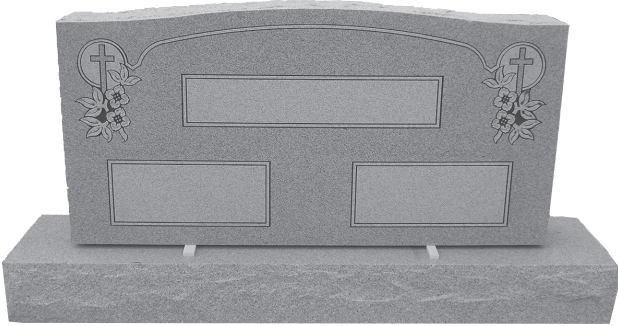
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R.D. Crawford

Mr. Robert Douglas “R.D.” Crawford, 70, of Starke passed away peacefully at his residence on Saturday, May 3, 2025, after an extended illness. He was born March 28, 1955, in Starke to Gerald and Lois (O’steen) Crawford Sr. and graduated in 1973 from Bradford High School. It is there that he met his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Donna (Davis) Crawford, and they shared 51 years of marriage. He began working at age 5, harvesting strawberries on a farm. He continued to harvest various crops throughout his childhood. In his teen years, he broke horses and worked in carpentry and masonry in the construction of homes and businesses. In April of 1974, he began his career with the Department of Corrections at Florida State Prison Main Unit. There, he promoted through the ranks to Captain. Between ranks, he took numerous classes at Lake City Community College and taught classes there as well. He was Lock and Key Sergeant; a member of the CERT team, Drug Interdiction team, SWAT team and RIOT squad, firearms instructor, defensive tactics instructor, a certified EMT, certified firefighter, assisted in writing the FDLE exam, and even fought in the Police Olympics. One of his favorite positions with the Department of Corrections was training lieutenant. He taught and trained countless correctional officers and police officers. During this time, while working two jobs, seven days a week, he volunteered his time to implement a free karate class, 1.5 hours, two nights a week to anyone who wished to attend in order to give the local children something with structure and discipline, that could be fun and rewarding, while occupying their time and keeping them out of trouble. Many adults attended the class as well and it was successfully operational for three years until his promotion to Captain on night shift. After his retirement from DOC in 1999, he was home enjoying his grandchildren, but the urge to work took hold, so he and his wife began to haul trailers across the country, beholding the sights, many times traveling alongside his brother, Gerald, with his wife Patty, making memories that would forever be cherished. He then worked various supervisory positions until his permanent retirement in 2016. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, carpentry, gardening, water sports, martial arts, playing cards, practical jokes, but, most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family. He was a man of good character and morals, loyalty, honesty, integrity, and always stood by his beliefs and principles. Always willing to lend a helping hand, with refusal to ask anything in return. He was a leader, one who led by example. He began walking the halls of FSP Main Unit at 19 years old, in the early ‘70s, when each time you entered those gates, you never knew if you were going to make it back out with your life. Though he retired in 1999 after 25 years of dedicated service, those halls will echo his name for decades to come. Douglas, as his family lovingly referred to him, was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald Leslie Crawford Sr. and Lois (O’steen) Crawford; brother, Gerald Leslie Crawford Jr.; and sister, Linda (Crawford) Luecking; as well as his loyal fur companion, Bo (Dalmatian) and spoiled brat, Ruby (Dachshund).

He is survived by his wife, Donna (Davis) Crawford; son, Michael P. Crawford; daughter, Nicole Y. (Ty) Jordan; grandsons, Dalton W. Addison, Dustin L. Addison and Nicolas T. Jordan; granddaughter, Macala C. Crawford; sister, Patricia “Trish” A. (J. Robb) Streeter; brother, Stanley (Mary Ann) Crawford; stepbrother, Gary (Debbie) Wallace; his fur buddy, Rocky (Boxer); and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

As per his wishes, there will be no memorial or funeral services. Memorial donations may be made to Bradford County Animal Shelter.

PAID OBITUARY

Bonnie Higginbotham

Mrs. Jacqueline “Bonnie” Higginbotham, 84, of Lawtey passed away at her home Sunday, May 25, 2025, following an extended illness. She was born Dec. 25, 1940, in Lawtey to Nathan L. and Daisy (Futch) Starling. She was a retired hairdresser and had attended Evergreen Baptist Church for many years. She was a member of the Lawtey Cemetery Association and loved fishing, gardening, taking care of her yard, and, especially, baking and cooking for the grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Harold “Rudy” Higginbotham; their daughter, Robin Higginbotham; siblings, Evangeline Bush, Lorene Smith, Hazel Sapp, Harold Starling, Mary Crawford, Thelma Goodman, and Eugene Starling.

Left behind to cherish her memory is her son, Harold “Hal” Higginbotham; and grandchildren, Nicole Higginbotham and Casey Harden; along with great grandchildren, Cole, Madison, Karsen, Kane, Callie, Cade, Colt, and Piper, who all lovingly called her “Nanny.”

A graveside service will be held Monday, June 2, at 11 a.m. at Lawtey Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Beverly Labelle

Beverly G. “Grammy” Labelle, 83, went home peacefully to be with her Savior on Saturday afternoon, May 24, 2025, after a long battle with a variety of health issues. She was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 21, 1941, the daughter of David Boubelik and Evelyn Tucek (later Evenhuis). She was the third generation of a close-knit family who emigrated from Czechoslovakia to the United States in the early 1900s. Beverly (Bebe) spent her formative years in Illinois, Canada, Florida, and Michigan. She lived in Kalamazoo with her mother and stepfather, Edward (Bupps) Evenhuis, who had a profound influence on her life and journey as a Christian. After graduating from high school, she married her first husband, Vernon Rudolph, a young aspiring Air Force officer (later a Vietnam War veteran), and together they had three sons. After completing her bachelor’s degree, she spent most of her adult life as a nurse caring for others. In 1988, she married Arthur Labelle, a former Navy pilot and Korean War veteran and they resided together in Florida until his passing in 2012. She spent her final years living in Canterfield of Kennesaw, a retirement community in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. She had a lovely voice and enjoyed singing at any opportunity, especially in her church choir. Her favorite pastimes included long excursions to the beach, painting and cooking. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be laid to rest near her mother, stepfather and husband. She was preceded in death by her parents; stepfather; sister-in-law, Joyce Boubelik; aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her dear brother, David (Davie) Boubelik of Kalamazoo, Michigan; former husband, Vernon (Joyce) Rudolph (Joyce) of Woodstock, Georgia; three sons, Benton Rudolph (ex-wife, Carla) of St. Petersburg, Nathan (Donna) Rudolph of Lilburn, Georgia, and Burton (Ashely) Rudolph of Kinston, North Carolina; cousins, Burt and Jean Adam of Kalamazoo, Michigan; nieces and nephews, Bo (Robin) Boubelik, Mark Boubelik and Michelle (Kevin) Boubelik; grandchildren, Dylan Rudolph, Quinn Rudolph, Gabrielle Rudolph, Conner (Neydi) Rudolph, Sophie Rudolph, Scott (Danielle) Rudolph, Perry (Brooke) Rudolph, and Parker (Colleen) Rudolph; and great-grandchild, Perry Edward Rudolph.

Services will be held Saturday, May 31, at 3 p.m. at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Buddy Paterson III

Robert “Buddy” George Paterson III passed away Saturday, May 17, 2025, at his daughter’s home in Longview, Texas surrounded by his family. He was born in Starke on Dec. 17, 1953, to Helen Hope Bowers and Robert George Paterson Jr. He was preceded in death by both parents and his grandparents. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1971 after setting school records in long-distance running. He attended Brevard College in North Carolina on a track scholarship, then transferred to Western Carolina University on scholarship, where he graduated with his bachelor’s degree and was also a member of the collegiate track team. After graduation from Western Carolina, he attended graduate school and earned his master’s degree in school administration from Jacksonville University. After graduation, he returned home to Starke and worked as the physical education teacher at Lawtey Elementary School. He immediately demonstrated his extraordinary leadership skills and soon began his career in education administration as the assistant principal of Bradford Middle School. At the age of 26, he became the youngest principal in the state of Florida when he was appointed principal of Brooker Elementary School. During his career, he also served as principal of Lawtey Community School and Bradford Middle School. He ultimately was elected as the Superintendent of Bradford County Schools in 2000. After retiring from Bradford County Schools, he moved to Texas, and he continued his teaching career, serving elementary children with special needs. With his years of service in Texas, he was also able to earn a second retirement. Buddy’s impact to the educational communities he served extended beyond the classroom. He had a deep love for children and was widely respected as an empathetic and caring educator. He was known for his boundless energy and work ethic. Every child he had the privilege of interacting with was touched by his compassion, kindness and wisdom.

He is survived by his three children, two daughters, Alicia Michelle Paterson and Elizabeth Dell Paterson (Corin Barnard) and a son, Robert George Paterson IV; and the mother of his three children, Dea Moredock Paterson. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Caleb and Cameron; sister, Linda Paterson King; and brother, Larry (Terri) Paterson; and a host of extended family members.

In lieu of flowers, Buddy’s family requests contributions to the Gina’s Blessings Ministry in his memory (GinasBlessings.org). A memorial service is planned for Saturday, July 19, at Foundation Church, Starke, Florida (formerly First Methodist).

PAID OBITUARY

Shantel Thomas

Shantel Denise Thomas, 59, of Starke, died Friday, May 23, 2025, at Haven Hospice Custead Care Center, Orange Park.

She is survived by her husband, Charles “Wayne” Thomas; children, Clarissa Thomas, Max (Jennifer Wheatley) Thomas and Kaden Thomas; mother, Donna Jean Linton; one brother; two sisters; and extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, May 30, at 12 p.m. at River of Life Church, Starke. Interment will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery, Hampton. The family will receive friends on Friday, May 30 an hour prior to the services at the church.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Starke. 904-964-5757.



Alberta Young

Mrs. Alberta Crawford Young, 83, of Starke passed away Saturday May 24, 2025, at HCA Orange Park. She was born March 23, 1942, in Starke to Olbert and Grace (Glover) Brown. She attended Bradford County High School and was a homemaker. As a child, she was baptized in the Church of God. She was known for being an excellent cook and enjoyed listening to the Gaithers’ music and watching Jimmy Swaggart. Sunday afternoons were spent with Lacy watching her favorite NASCAR driver, Joey Logano. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a grandson, Eric Cowart; and former husbands, Bill Johnson and Lonnie Crawford.

Left behind to cherish her memory is her loving husband of 10 years, Lacy Young; daughters, Coleen Carroll and her devoted husband, Eric Carroll, and Deborah Sapp; along with sisters, Brenda (Doyle) Thomas and Linda Shearer. Alberta was lovingly called “Nanny” by Tina Kelso, Angel Hunsinger, and Holly (Ricky) Mendez (Ricky); along with her great-grandchildren, Zachary Adams, Jordan Cason, Amerie Matthew, Chloe Hanson, Rachel Kelso, and Brook Kelso. And we can’t forget her precious poodle, Bella. Also left behind are additional extended family members and friends that will miss her dearly.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 30, beginning at 10 a.m. at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Funeral services to celebrate her life will begin at 11 a.m., with Pastor Marty James Moon officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



JENKINS

Continued from page 11

“He’s played in huge games,” Rodgers said. “The lights won’t be too bright for him.”

Jenkins recorded 58 tackles last season, which was the second most on the team, and finished his four-year career with a total of 205. He led the Tornados in tackles for loss in 2024 with 10.

Rodgers said because of Jenkins, other players were freed up to make plays on defense.

“He demanded a double team pretty much all the time because of his strength,” Rodgers said.

Combined with that strength was a quickness that Rodgers said had Jenkins moving like a “bigger skill player.”

Jenkins’ height is listed at 6 feet, which some coaches would view as a negative, Rodgers said. However, the head Tornado said that’s a plus.

“The lowest man usually

wins on the line of scrimmage,” Rodgers said.

As he prepares to transition to playing at the next level, Jenkins said he needs to “hit the weight room hard and stay in shape,” as well as continue the type of work ethic that amounted to success at BHS.

“It’s about how hard you work when nobody’s watching,” Jenkins said.

Rodgers said Jenkins already possesses the strength necessary to play at the next level.

“What he’ll need to work on is his agility and moving side to side,” Rodgers said.

Jenkins said he’ll be nervous when he steps onto the field for the first time as a Florida Memorial Lion, but his BHS coach believes he’ll be ready to compete and force Florida Memorial’s opponents to double team him just as Bradford opponents had to do.

“He’ll be making plays,” Rodgers said.

BHS

Continued from page 12

tripping and losing 3 yards on a first-down run attempt and Addison then being held to 2 yards on second down. After an incomplete pass on third down, the Tornadoes' Tyler Sapp attempted a 27-yard field goal, which was no good.

Suwannee drove past midfield on the following series, but Bradford got a big play out of Jonathon Andrews, whose 7-yard sack had the Bulldogs facing a third-and-16 play. Sykes completed a 14-yard pass to Cherry, which set up fourth-and-2. The Bulldogs went for it, but Danny Torres made a tackle for a 1-yard loss, forcing a turnover on downs.

The Tornadoes fumbled the ball away two plays later. Suwannee, starting a drive at the Bradford 20, ran three plays for a net gain of no yards. William Slaughter kicked a 37-yard field goal to make the score 6-3 with 1:40 left in the first half.

Bradford turned the ball over on its first two possessions of the second half, which was mostly consisted of the teams' younger players. Suwannee scored after the second turnover on a 40-yard touchdown pass. The PAT was no good, but the Bulldogs led 9-6 at the 3:22 mark of the third quarter.



Jarrell Harris (right), who was the Tornadoes' second-leading rusher, bounces a run outside.

The Tornadoes retook the lead on a 65-yard drive to start the fourth quarter. Elijah Lawrence and Kennedy had runs of 6 yards each, followed by Kennedy getting his number called again for a 5-yard gain. Parmeter had a 3-yard carry before Harris bounced a run outside for a 45-yard touchdown. Sapp added the PAT to make it a 13-9 game.

After forcing the Bulldogs to punt, Bradford needed just one play to extend its lead. Dodd took a handoff and didn't stop running until he crossed the goal line 65 yards later. Sapp kicked the extra point to end the scoring, with Bradford on top 20-9 with

6:47 to play.

The Tornadoes got a 35-yard pass play from Parmeter to Aldon Sanchez on their final series and drove to the Suwannee 11-yard line before letting time expire.

Rodgers said that for the most part, he got the effort he was looking for. One of his top goals was to see players give all-out effort and prove they want to be on the field on Friday nights in the fall.

Another positive was that every player had the chance to be on the field.

"That's what the spring's about," Rodgers said. "Everybody got involved tonight."

KHHS

Continued from page 12

Hollingsworth, however, was tackled for a 5-yard loss on the next play, which was followed by three straight incomplete passes for a turnover on downs.

Keystone's defense stuffed a run play for no gain and forced Lafayette to go three-and-out. The punt had the Keystone offense starting a drive at its own 30.

The first play of that drive was Lancaster's 40-yard run, which moved the Indians to the Lafayette 30. Keystone fumbled the ball on the next play, however, with the Hornets recovering.

Lafayette had a fumble on the ensuing play, resulting in a loss of 17 yards. Keystone's Coy Campbell then intercepted a pass.

The Hornets had a 60-yard



Hunter Crumpton (far left) carries the ball, getting blocking from Trase Wooden (center) and Jagger Lancaster.

touchdown pass on the game's final play, but a penalty wiped

out the score, leaving the final at 14-0.

Last year, that wasn't the case because we played a varsity half

against Suwannee and a varsity half against Buchholz. Tonight,

we got everybody into the game, and that's always a positive."

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53 A

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WILSON

Continued from page 10

new-school, where everything's

signaled in. He watches the game very well."

Wilson batted .306 this past season. He shared the team lead for home runs (2), was second in RBI (20) and walks drawn (19)

and third in on-base percentage (.491).

The soon-to-be Emmanuel Lion said batting this past season "was kind of rough at points mentally." Wilson's goal is to get

to where he's not overthinking his offensive approach.

"Basically, just get past the mental part of it and just hit like I hit," he said. "I feel like I do better when I don't think very much."

That's part of what Wilson will be working on in transitioning to play at the next level. He said he wants to be more consistent and

hit the ball harder.

"You can't have the ups and downs," Wilson said. "You've got to have a consistent season."

Roach said that grittiness that Wilson possesses will help him as he adapts to playing college ball.

"His competitiveness is bar none," Roach said. "He's going

to go after it. His work ethic, being in the gym, being at the hitting facility — all those things are going to be a plus for him."

When Wilson steps onto the field for the first time at Emmanuel, it will literally be a dream come true.

"That's where I've always wanted to be," he said.



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