

# UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, June 12, 2025

114th Year — 5th Issue — \$1

## Making an impact in Union County



See Union County news inside



Shipping container owner gets extension to move it

See Union County news



Sounding off on fired coach's firing  
See Union County news

## School district to balance budget by cutting 40 jobs

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

At press time, the Union County School Board was set to vote on a package of budget cuts totaling \$1.5 million that would balance its budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year based on current revenue estimates.

The cuts include eliminating 40 jobs, many of which are now unfilled.

The job cuts include 10 from the district's daycare, Tiger's Den, 16 teaching positions, seven from student support services, three deans, and several from maintenance

and food services.

Finance director Renee Prevatt said the cuts include contracted services, nonrecurring building repairs, textbook purchases, and software licenses.

The finance director also said the district recently learned how to bill Medicaid for mental health counseling services.

Board members Chris Hodgson and Becky Raulerson brought up the issue of cutting more positions from the district office.

Superintendent Mike Ripplinger responded that some district positions, like the district safety director, are mandated by state law. He also said some district personnel do more than one job, citing one example where one person serves as the district's director of personnel and secondary education.

Prevatt said that in addition to continuing to look for savings in the 2025-2026 budget, she is also eyeing the district's spending plan for the following year.

She said that although 2025-2026 would be a light year for textbook purchases, the district would have to invest significantly in books the following year. She also warned the board that changes to the state retirement system's DROP program would increase the district's retirement costs in future years.

Ripplinger and Prevatt emphasized that the big question mark remaining in the district's budget is the amount

of funding the state will provide for each student, which, at press time, still had not been determined by state lawmakers.



Union County School Board Member Chris Hodgson



Union County School District Finance Director Renee Prevatt

## Nonprofit helps children on removal day

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Sherrie Steadman of the Isaiah 117 House said children removed from homes awaiting placement by the state may sometimes languish in a police station, a conference room floor, or in a patrol car for hours.

That's where her Baker County-based nonprofit, the Isaiah 117 House, comes in.

"A lot of people don't realize when children are removed from their home for whatever reason, they sit in the DCF office to wait for their placement, whether that is a relative that they find that will say yes to those children, or whether that is an actual foster home that says yes to those children," she said during a recent community meeting in Lake Butler. "Sometimes we work with (FHP) if they've pulled over a parent on the interstate, and they have to take those children to the trooper's office until DCF comes and gets them. We don't want any children ever waiting in an office."

Isaiah 117 provides children a place to stay while the state finds them more permanent lodging.

Steadman said her organization services 13 counties, adding that a Union County child had recently stayed at the facility for eight days.



Sherrie Steadman of the Isaiah 117 House said children removed from homes awaiting placement by the state may sometimes languish in a police station, a conference room floor, or in a patrol car for hours.

## Senior citizens on the move



Doris Thomas and Alicia Maxwell of Union County Senior Citizens on the Move.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Union County's Alicia Maxwell and Doris Thomas leads a group of seniors who are determined to stay active.

"It's an organization that's for people who are 60 and older," Maxwell said during a recent community meeting in Lake Butler. "We call it meet, breathe, and eat. We meet every third Wednesday of each month at the housing authority."

Senior Citizens on the Move also educates seniors about topics like Medicare, Medicaid, elderly abuse, and resources available to seniors.

Maxwell said she is also involved with the Consolidated High School Alumni Association, which was the black school that used to be at the site of the current Lake Butler Elementary.

"And one of our ways of giving back is we partnered with the school of helping them with their mentorship program, where we provided snacks, and an award ceremony," she said.



## WORTH NOTING

### Father's Day at Magnolia Missionary

The Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Raiford will hold its annual Father's Day worship service on Sunday, June 15, at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:theucbook@gmail.com).

### Hospital has program for seniors

Lake Butler Hospital has a program for those 55 and older to keep them active, sharp and connected. Gather practical health wisdom to make your days brighter and more independent. Laugh, learn and grow with folks who share your zest for life. Each event will include delicious snacks, keepsakes and a chance to win prizes.

The program takes place every second Thursday each month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Lake Butler Hospital. Let them know to expect you by calling 386-496-9277.

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# UNION COUNTY

## Making an impact in Union County

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Around 100 community and business leaders gathered at Pine Grove Barn on Shadd Farms on Wednesday, May 4, for the inaugural meeting of the Union County Impact Initiative.

Organizer Tina Lloyd said she thought of bringing together the group after attending a meeting in Alachua about how that community addressed mental health needs and the demand for other social services.

"I said, Union County needs something like this," she recalled thinking, "because there are a lot of things that you, this group, are probably not aware of."

### 134 homeless children

Lloyd then recalled another recent meeting in which a school district employee revealed that there are 134 children registered with the school district as homeless.

"That was very eye-opening to me," Lloyd said. "And then you try to think, How can we give to support that? If people don't know, how can they support it?"

The executive director of the ACORN Clinic added that the Union County Impact Initiative would host monthly networking events to discuss needed social services in the county and devise solutions to service gaps.

Lloyd introduced the group of women who helped her organize the event: Demetrise Thomas of Lake Butler Hospital, Ann Hendricks, president of the Lake Butler Woman's Club, Alexandra Pritchett of Nextran and president of the Lake Butler Rotary Club, Lisa Huggins, a Rotary member and an owner of CTC Delicious Barbecue, Mendy Whitaker of Shadd Trucking and a founding member of United for a Cure, Rotarian Amanda Fort of the Union County Housing Authority, Taylor Casey of the ACORN Clinic, and Terry Jarvis of Culture House Church.

In addition to leading the impact initiative and the Brooker-based ACORN Clinic, Lloyd is also president of the WoodmanLife Club in Gainesville and is treasurer of the Lake Butler Rotary Club.

Lloyd said she initially intended to launch the Union County Impact Initiative with a small meeting at Gather, Jennifer Thomas's Main Street coffee shop and meeting venue.

"We put it on Facebook and within three hours we had 50 people registered," Lloyd said, "so, it's like, okay, well let's do this another way."

Lloyd added that Carissa Emery offered space at Pine Grove Barn for a larger meeting,



Organizer Tina Lloyd said she thought of bringing together the group after attending a meeting in Alachua about how that community addressed mental health needs and the demand for other social services.

and WoodmanLife paid for lunch, which Gather provided.

### Already making an impact

Lloyd said she hoped local businesses would drive the impact initiative.

She gave attendees a folder of handouts, one of which explained how businesses could contribute to strengthening the community, such as creating jobs, donating goods, services, or space, promoting health and wellness, being a voice in the community, supporting education and youth development, and championing equity and inclusion.

The folder also included examples of groups already impacting Union County, with a flyer promoting a July 19 community-wide back-to-school bash, and materials outlining the efforts of Gather and the nonprofits Promised Land Family Ministries, Isaiah 117, ACORN Clinic, and Union County Senior Citizens on the Move.

### A thriving Union County

Lloyd also read the mission statement of her new group.

"The Union County Impact Initiative empowers local businesses to drive economic growth, social equity, and improve health outcomes by fostering collaboration, innovation, and community leadership," she told the audience. "Through strategic partnerships and tailored support, we aim to reduce disparities and create sustainable opportunities for all residents."

"We envision a thriving Union County," Lloyd continued, "where businesses serve as catalysts for inclusive prosperity, bridging gaps and economic, social, and health equity."

Lloyd said her team envisions Union County as united, resilient, and empowered, with every individual and enterprise contributing to a vibrant and sustainable community.

"I think that speaks very much to what we want to do in this county," she said.

### Not just trying to sell insurance

Reid Carswell, the director of public relations at Lake Butler Hospital, showed the group a 30-second video highlighting the initiative's goals and directed the audience to the website UnionCountyImpact.org for more details on the effort.

Donna Harris of WoodmanLife concluded the meeting with an overview of her organization. Lloyd introduced Harris by telling the audience that WoodmanLife donated \$25,000 to United for a Cure, a Lake Butler-based cancer support group.

Harris introduced her agents to the audience and emphasized her company's community support.

"We're not just insurance agents that are going out there trying to sell insurance," she said. "We're agents that are going out there to try to find out where Woodman can help the best. And they're visiting members and asking them, 'What organizations are you a part of? What's important to you?'"

and yard waste, the city's public works department would pick up other items, like furniture and appliances, charging the homeowner for the pickup.

## Lake Butler approves 3-year garbage contract

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

During a special meeting on May 29, Lake Butler City Commission members approved a new three-year contract with GLP Environmental for trash pickup within the city.

One issue that commissioners discussed during the meeting was the type of waste GLP would pick up and how homeowners must prepare yard waste before the company would remove tree limbs and leaves.

Commissioner Annette Redman said someone left a mattress by the road near her home. She asked what the procedure was for GLP to pick the mattress up.

"That won't be them," replied Mayor Melissa Hendrix, referring to GLP. "The only thing in the contract that they're responsible for is yard limbs and stuff in certain bundles."

Hendrix added that while GLP would pick up household

## Shipping container granted four-month extension

Lake Butler code enforcement officer gives May update



City of Lake Butler officials gave the owners of the land behind Sunrise Food Store until August 1 to remove this shipping container from the property. Lake Butler's City Hall can be seen in the background of this photo.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Lake Butler officials granted the owners of a property with an illegal storage container unit behind Sunrise Food Mart a four-month extension to August 1 to remove the container.

In his written report to Lake Butler City commissioners before the commission's May 20 meeting, Code Enforcement Officer Lyn Williams reported that an August 23, 2024, complaint caused his first contact with the property owner that same month.

"(The) owner inherited the container decades ago when he purchased the property," Williams wrote. "Was unaware of current violation and will have it removed."

Williams said he received no response from a December 2024 letter he wrote regarding the violation, and he mailed a second letter on February 28.

The officer added that in March-April, 2025, Lake Butler's city manager granted the property owner a four-month extension to August 1 to remove the container.

Williams reported two additional violations with container-storage units, one on East Main Street and another near Lake Butler Elementary School.

The officer wrote that in February, he was informed that a container-storage unit was moved onto 350 East Main Street in violation of city codes. Webb Capital and Investments owned the parcel, and Williams mailed a letter of violation to the owner on February 28.

The following month, the city granted the owner an extension

to move the unit.

"As of April 1, 2025," Williams wrote, "confirmed that container unit has been removed from property. Issue resolved."

Williams wrote that on April 10, city officials complained about a container-storage unit behind Lake Butler Elementary School on County Road 231.

He reported that the parcel belonged to an estate, adding that he had taken photos of the violation and had mailed a letter to the property owner on April 10.

Other code enforcement issues reported by Williams were,

### Long-running feud between neighbors

Williams reported that between October 2024 and April 2025, Felicia Harvey complained about alleged violations next to and across from her house on Southwest Fifth Street.

"Many of the issues are not code enforcement but those addressing beautification are

being addressed," Williams wrote. "Spoke to Mrs. Barbara 'Jackie' Johns on 10/24/24, and she has limited income but really wants to comply. Stated this was a long feud between the two parties. Stated she needs more time to bring her property in compliance."

### Right-of-way violations

Williams wrote that he met with the city manager about an alleged illegal home-based business named Rose N Shine Trucking operating on South Lake Avenue. However, Williams determined that the company was allowed to operate within the town and was issued an occupational license.

"But they are also in violation of parking semi-truck trailers in right of way for city and on school property," he added.



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## Sky-D's Place set to launch in Lawtey

BY MELISSA PYLE  
Special to the Telegraph

There will soon be more than speed limits to slow travelers down as they drive through Lawtey. Sky-D's Place is set to open on June 17, and Skylar Davis is excited to launch his second restaurant serving up his spin on homemade classics like fried chicken, a secret recipe meatloaf, that Davis says is "the best you've ever tasted," and his homemade spaghetti sauce that he likes to call "country boy meat sauce."

The new restaurant will serve the same burgers and wings that have made his Clay County restaurant Dalton's Sports Grill popular, but the main fare will be country cooking. Davis loves fresh ingredients and made-from-scratch recipes that will be on the menu at the new Lawtey restaurant.

Davis said his philosophy "There are no strangers here, just friends you haven't met yet," guides his overall approach to business and life. So much so that he painted it on the wall. The location, which previously housed Barnyard Diner and Slice-n-Dice BBQ, has undergone several upgrades,

the most visible one being the large, covered patio area that, in addition to inside seating, will help welcome up to 90 hungry new friends at Sky-D's.

### Family connections & small-town charm

Davis said he'd been wanting to open a second restaurant, and when his food service provider told him about the Lawtey space, he was instantly interested because the location was great, and his wife, Emily, has local connections. Emily grew up in Lawtey near the Tatums' sawmill, attended Northside Christian Academy, but moved to Middleburg after high school. The couple met when she began working at Dalton's Sports Grill.

So, the city has family roots, but Davis said it was a phone call to Lawtey City Hall that had him hooked. He said he couldn't believe that when he called city hall for information on the utilities an actual person answered the phone with just the words "city hall."

"I knew right then I was where I wanted to be — a small town,"

he said.

Davis said the irony is, it's exactly a 23-minute drive from his front door to either of his restaurants. He took that and the small-town support system as a good sign to move forward with the expansion.

### Challenges, goals and a mouthwatering menu

Davis has been in the restaurant business since January 2017 and said it's not for the faint of heart. He's faced flooding from Hurricane Irma, COVID shutdowns and a relocation. He said the restaurant business is not for the weak.

"You just have to take a punch on the chin and just keep moving," he said.

His goals are to provide delicious food served up with remarkable tableside service. Davis and his team take pride in making personal connections. He said he wants his servers to make eye contact. Although he's young, at 35 he prefers the old-school touch, with just pen and paper because that creates a human connection with customers.

That special touch is evident when talking about the restaurant's country cooking recipes. Davis' eyes light up when he talks about the fresh ingredients he uses. Everything



Skylar Davis is opening his second restaurant this month in Lawtey.

must be made to order. The squash or green tomatoes aren't cut, battered or fried until the customer decided what they want. With the exception of corn nuggets, the restaurant will not serve any frozen, premade items. Everything else will be from scratch, and as Davis said, "made with love."

The new restaurant menu

will include daily specials: Taco Tuesday, 75 cent Wing-Night Wednesday, Homemade Spaghetti Thursday, Shepherd's Pie Friday, Bone-in Fried Chicken Saturday, and Sunday will spotlight his secret recipe meatloaf. Davis said he was also excited to have the only restaurant in Bradford offering fried venison on the menu.

Skylar and Emily Davis, along with their Sky-D's crew are eagerly anticipating reconnecting with old friends, making new ones, and creating a new stopping place where all who enter will be served up small-town charm, unbelievable flavor, and a large side of love.

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## Annexation required for utilities under new ordinance

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
mark@bctelegraph.com

In a move that could reshape how city utility services are extended to surrounding areas, the Starke City Commission approved the first reading of an

ordinance requiring annexation in exchange for city utilities.

Under the ordinance, utility services — including electric, potable water, wastewater, and natural gas — would be extended to properties beyond city boundaries if owners agree to annexation. The policy aims to expand Starke's footprint while ensuring that those who benefit from its utilities also contribute to the city tax base and comply with its development regulations.

—Per the ordinance,

annexation must be completed before utility connection.

—Noncontiguous properties may still connect to utilities at outside-city rate schedules, though they could bear the construction costs.

—Properties ineligible for annexation at the time of service may sign agreements to annex once they become eligible.

Franchise fee agreements with Florida Power & Light and Clay Electric limit the expansion of Starke's electric utility outside of

the city limits, however, demand for water and sewer service from new residential and commercial developments could continue to grow.

The city planning department will review all annexation requests, which will then undergo two public hearings before final approval.

The final vote on the ordinance will take place following a second public reading at a future commission meeting.



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## Revive Awareness Day

The Florida Department of Health in Bradford and Union counties observed Revive Awareness Day on Friday, June 6, 2025, and reminds residents that naloxone (Narcan) is a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Floridians can find naloxone for their community by calling DOH-Bradford at 904-964-7732 and DOH-Union at 386-496-3211.

DOH-Bradford offers naloxone (Narcan) at the following location:  
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Starke, FL 32091

DOH-Union offers naloxone (Narcan) at the following

location:  
DOH Union  
495 W Main St.  
Lake Butler, FL 32054

### Signs of an overdose

All Floridians need to know the signs of an overdose, which include:

- small, constricted "pinpoint pupils."
- falling asleep or losing consciousness.
- slow, weak or not breathing.
- choking or gurgling sounds.
- cold or clammy skin.
- discolored skin, especially lips and nails.
- limp body.

### What to do if you think someone is overdosing

If you suspect someone has overdosed, call 911 immediately.

Administer naloxone (Narcan) if available, lay the person on their side to prevent choking, and try to keep them awake and breathing until emergency assistance arrives.

### If you or a loved one need help

The Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network is the first of its kind in the U.S. and aims to eliminate the stigma of addiction and treat substance use disorder as a disease, with the same level of continuous care. Floridians battling with addiction can utilize the CORE Network (www.floridacorenetwork.com) for stabilization and to receive medication assisted treatment from a network of specialized medical experts that will help guide them on a sustained pathway to healthy success.

## NFLT thanks governor, cabinet for land conservation efforts

North Florida Land Trust is celebrating a huge win for conservation as Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Cabinet approved the strategic acquisition of more than 78,000 acres of conservation lands, including over 76,000 within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor.

The O2O is 1.6 million acres of public and privately owned forested land that stretches 100 miles from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest.

The biggest conservation project encompasses a more than 61,000-acre conversation easement that is a working forest in Baker and Union counties in the core of the O2O. It stretches from the Raiford Wildlife Management Area to the Osceola National Forest.

Protecting the land secures a contiguous landscape for a wide range of species, including the Florida black bear, and helps safeguard significant aquifer recharge, wetland habitats and rural forestry economies. The second largest conservation easement is over 14,000 acres in Baker and Bradford counties, also within the O2O that connects to Jennings State Forest and Camp Blanding Military Training Center.

"This is a truly historic pair of acquisitions, not only in size but they are the key pieces in the O2O Wildlife Corridor," said Allison DeFoor, NFLT president and CEO. "This will both protect the environment and keep the land in agriculture."

Through the years, NFLT leaders have met with legislators to advocate funding for

conservation in Florida and in 2023, the legislature allocated \$400 million dedicated to conservation.

DeFoor added, "This could not have been possible without former Florida House Speaker Paul Renner and former Florida Senator Rob Bradley. When we met with Paul during his tenure to express the importance of this specific project in the O2O corridor and its importance to North Florida, he took the lead in securing \$400 million in funding for the O2O wildlife corridor and defending it. Rob has also been a long-time supporter of conservation in Florida and was quietly pivotal in this success."

With today's move by the governor and Cabinet, the land protected in North Florida has now reached more than 100,000 acres.

# Animal Tales told at the library

BY MELISSA PYLE  
Special to the Telegraph

The Bradford County Library has kicked off its summer program and it's already been a showstopper with one of the highlights being the Animal Tales show last Thursday.

Lead naturalist Nick Petryk captured the children's attention with various animals ranging

from the scary, hairy tarantula to the funny, baby lemur. Those in attendance were educated and entertained and even had the chance to pet a few of the animal friends.

The Animal Tales program is available to come to you, just contact them at [www.AnimalEdZOOcation.com](http://www.AnimalEdZOOcation.com).

The library will continue many

exciting programs throughout the summer and encourages everyone to stop by and pick up a calendar or check out their programs listed on the website [www.newriverlibrary.org/bradford](http://www.newriverlibrary.org/bradford) or their Facebook page. Upcoming events will include reading to shelter animals, a magic show, Santa Fe Teaching Zoo and zombie makeup.



What is any animal show without a chance to line up and touch a snake? These kids didn't want to miss their chance to walk away with their own animal tales after attending this summer program.



Are you brave enough to pet a blue tongued skink? This guy is! The library's summer programs not only educate, but also help children have small adventures. Check out this summer's events at [www.newriverlibrary.org/bradford](http://www.newriverlibrary.org/bradford).



This creature wowed the crowd at the Animal Tales show on Thursday. The great horned owl showed off, but don't worry, his handler, Nick Petryk had him under wraps. The crowd learned that the grip strength of this guy was 600 pounds per square inch!

## Collection site closings

Bradford County solid waste collection sites will be closed Thursday, June 19, for Juneteenth. They will reopen Friday, June 20, at 10 a.m.

## 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.

## Magnified VBS at New River Baptist

Join New River Baptist Church, located at 16703 SW 144th Ave. near Brooker, for Vacation Bible School beginning Sunday June 22, and continuing through Thursday, June 26. "Magnified" Vacation Bible School will be for kids 3 years old through fifth grade.

Kids will learn about Jesus by discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things. Each evening will begin with a meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by Vacation Bible School from 6-8. For more information, please call 904-796-2359.

## Foster, adoption classes

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

### How to report a problem with a Clay Electric outdoor light

If you are aware of an inoperative or malfunctioning outdoor light on Clay Electric Cooperative's lines, call **1-800-224-4917** to report the problem; login to MyClayElectric, click Submit an Inquiry, then Other Issues/General Inquiry, then Outdoor Light Problem; or email [contactus@clayelectric.com](mailto:contactus@clayelectric.com) to report the problem.

When reporting the problem, you will need to provide the following information so the co-op can make the appropriate repair, and contact you should there be any questions:

- (1) Specific street address where the outdoor light is located
- (2) A description of where the outdoor light is located on the property
- (3) A description of the nature of the malfunction or failure of illumination of the outdoor light
- (4) Sufficient contact information, including your name, address, telephone number, and account number (if a Clay Electric Cooperative member)



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## Sounding off on coach's firing

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

Citizens lined up at the June 10 Union County School Board meeting to express their opinions on the firing of Union County High School football coach Andrew Thomas.

Mike Jackson started off the lineup by emphasizing that the most important consideration was the student-athlete.

He then complained about the lack of quality equipment for the program and warned about the risk of injury. He also criticized coaches using profanity under Thomas's watch and said his son quit the team, and the squad dwindled to under 20 players after the spring game.

Steve Hoard, who has coached in Union County for years, asked audience members to refrain from attacking one another. He also rebuffed claims about the program he had seen on social media.

"Being in that locker room and being around for over five years, a lot of things that I've read on social media or heard people say, I never saw, never heard," he said. "Now that didn't mean that I heard or saw every single thing that happened."

Hoard added that Thomas and his family invested in Union County and loved the school system.

"Does that mean they're perfect?" he continued. "No, myself, none of us are perfect."

Agriculture teacher Tom Williams said he had worked with Superintendent Mike



Ripplinger for decades and Mr. Ripplinger's character,"

Steve Hoard

trusted his judgment.

"I've had the opportunity to work with our superintendent of schools for 25 years and in that time I've seen him in the good times and the difficult times," Williams said, adding that he has seen Ripplinger give money to students and pray for them.

"I've witnessed a man that had the fortitude and the resilience to make difficult decisions and difficult times and difficult environments that we live in today," he said.

Lem Lane told Ripplinger that he disagreed with the decision to fire Thomas and said the reasons the superintendent gave for the dismissal were vague. Lane then refuted some of the reasons he had heard Thomas had been let go, including team culture, a shrinking roster, and the use of profanity.

Aaron Dukes criticized the timing of the termination.

Nobody's calling into question

less than half the time required by horse and wagon. The boat had the advantage that it could carry more than several wagons.

## Spraying arsenic to kill hyacinths

No one knows for sure how they got here, but water hyacinths were giving the boaters trouble even back then. They clogged the canal and rapidly closed on Lake Alto when the brothers decided they had better do something before their boat could not move. Hearing that arsenic would kill the weed, they decided to spray it on all the hyacinths and rid the area of the pest.

"Everyone wants to know how come I'm still living," El said when interviewed in 1989. "Where we cooked that arsenic up on the banks of the canal, it killed every pine tree."

They rigged up a sprayer on a 55-gallon drum, and using a mix of six pounds of arsenic to 12 pounds of sal soda, they "sprayed hyacinths on one side of the boat and drank water from the other."

One of the brothers would pole the boat around while the other would pump the sprayer and put out eight barrels daily. It was backbreaking work, and the arsenic solution would frequently blow back in their faces, but it didn't seem to do them any harm.

After spraying, the hyacinths would turn black, die, and sink to the bottom of the lake, and within a few weeks, the boats could again navigate through the waterway.

"In those days, we didn't know

he said. "I do call into question his decision. I think it was a bad decision. I think it was the decision that sabotaged our 2025 football season. And I'm standing up here today not to criticize Mr. Ripplinger personally because as Mr. Williams said, he has made a difficult decision, but sometimes difficult decisions can be made in error and sometimes a good man can make a bad decision."

Scott McDaniel praised Thomas for the improvement in players' behavior and the coach's personal contributions to their wellbeing.

McDaniel also accused Ripplinger of treating the coach unfairly, acting on parents' complaints without giving the coach a chance to respond.

"I would hope that when someone complains about a principal, you don't just rain down on their head, but that you speak to them," he said.

how bad that stuff was," El said. "These days, we wouldn't even think of doing something like that!"

## The trials of hauling freight on the canal

Business was sporadic. During orange picking season, good money could be made hauling oranges to the rail head in Waldo for shipment to northern markets. The boat averaged two trips a day with more than 200 fruit boxes on board, making more than \$100 a day.

During the summer, business was often slack, and the boat usually averaged only about two weekly trips hauling farm produce and passengers. Sometimes, during the summer, the water level would drop so low that the boats had trouble clearing the sand bars. When this happened, El and his brother unloaded the boat and carried the freight across the sandbars by hand.

Later, his brother left the business, and El became the boat captain. He said that in those days, good deckhands were paid \$1.50 a day in wages, and they really earned their pay.

Telling of their problems, he said, "One night, we were coming through the canal about 10 or 11 at night, and where the bridge was over the canal, it was pretty shallow, and somebody had thrown a fish trap there. When the boat went over it, the propeller picked it up and wired it up. There wasn't anything you could do except build a fire on the bank, take off your clothes, crawl under the boat, disconnect everything, pull it out, take an ax, and cut all that trap off."

## Better roads sideline City of Melrose

In the early 1920s, the road system began to improve, and trucks started becoming a more dependable and faster means of transportation. The freight business shifted to trucks, and by 1924, the old City of Melrose was unable to make enough to earn her keep, and the line was discontinued.

Once her work had been completed, the City of Melrose was moored just outside Melrose Bay. Nobody seems to know how it happened, but she eventually sank and now rests in the mud below the water's surface.

El worked in a grocery store in Keystone Heights for a couple of years and picked up some fundamentals that helped him in later years when he had his own store.

## Keystone Inn was social hub until 1954 fire

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Monitor

The old Keystone Inn is no more, and few, if any, residents of the area will mourn the passing of what it became over the years, but many still regret the loss of what once was and could have been again if only the building had been reached in time and restored.

Built in the early 1920s by Keystone Heights founder John J. Lawrence, the Inn was initially intended as a resort residence that would provide prospective land buyers a place to stay while considering their purchases.

Lawrence's brother, Jess, supervised the construction, and his nephew, Stewart Stevens, served as construction superintendent. Men from several local families worked on the construction crew, including members of the Sargent, Stanley, and Baker families. Don Pangborn cut the wood for the windowsills by hand. Ed Wiggins, owner of a Green Cove Springs hardware store, contracted to furnish the plumbing and wiring. The building was originally planned as a two-story structure, but it was decided to add a third floor at the last minute.

The total cost of construction, when completed in 1923, was \$50,000.

## Grand opening

At the time, the Inn was reported to be modern in every way, with large rooms, connected baths, hot and cold running water, electricity, and telephones. While architecturally austere and utilitarian in a strict New England style, the interior was still notable for its staircase and large fireplace.

The Inn held its grand opening on New Year's Day of 1924 but held a special New Year's Eve banquet the night before for local dignitaries.

About 150 people attended.

The following day, the first of many New Year's Day open house dinners was held at the Inn, a tradition that continued until the facility could no longer accommodate all of the members of the growing Keystone Heights community.

## Visitors included governor, U.F. football team

For many years, the Inn served as

the hub of the social community in Keystone Heights. The men set up a board of trade in the dining room after dinner, with the women retiring to the lobby and eventually organizing a woman's club, with the Inn serving as the headquarters of the convention of the National Federation of Woman's Clubs during the late 1920s, hosting representatives from clubs in every state.

The Keystone Heights Rotary Club also held meetings at the Inn for many years. At that time, the owners of the Inn were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walrath.

Over the years, many celebrities came to stay at the Inn, including Florida Governor John W. Martin and State Attorney General J.B. Johnson.

Students from the University of Florida used the Inn for many social events, and the football team would stay there on the eve of their homecoming game. The players faced a 9 p.m. bed check to ensure their readiness for the next day's matchup.

By the 1950s, the Inn's heyday was over, with fewer guests each year.

Eventually, the Inn stopped serving meals because of the few guests on hand to consume them.

## Decline and fire

Keystone Heights City Councilman Bill Beam remembered the Inn with fond memories — he lived there for a week when first coming to the area with Dupont.

"I came to the Inn in July of 1951 with a group of six or eight other engineers with Dupont,"

Beam said. "At the time, there was only one motel in Starke: the Temple Motel, and we just preferred to stay at the Inn."

Beam remembers coming in from work and sitting out on the porch with his fellow engineers, drinking a cold beer and enjoying the view of the lake. He said that, on occasion, a porter would come out and ask the men what they would like to drink. While most ordered beer, Beam said that occasionally, someone would ask for a whiskey.

"The porter would say, in a solemn voice, 'Now you fellows know that this is a dry county and we can't be serving any drinks here, but Mr. Smith has a bottle in here on the shelf, and if one of you would like a drink out of it I'm sure he wouldn't mind, so long as you leave a little something to help him buy his next one,'" Beam recalled.

Beam said that in 1951, the Inn no longer had a standard menu for its guests; they would be asked each morning and evening what they would like to have. He also remembers the wake-up calls given by Inn staff, delivered as shouts and loud rappings on each guest's door at the appointed time.

Beam was also on hand at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1954, the night of the fire, which signaled the beginning of the end for the Keystone Inn. As a Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department member, he lived near where the city tennis courts are today.

"I heard the alarm that the Inn was on fire, and several of us went straight there to battle the blaze," Beam said. "We went up to the second floor and shot water from a hose up through a hole in the floor up to the third floor. When the truck arrived, others came to help, but we really couldn't do much."

"It was the hottest fire I have ever seen. I remember the hermit bombs in WWII; this fire was as hot as that," he continued. "Even though we had the newest firetruck in the county, we just didn't have the equipment to fight it. We didn't have jackets or boots or anything like that."

## A boat they called 'The City of Melrose' and its captain

BY BARNEY BARCO  
Special to the Monitor

(This article was reprinted from the 110<sup>th</sup>-anniversary issue of the Telegraph in 1989.)

He might not have been the oldest man in Melrose, but "El" Robinson was most certainly the town's oldest resident in 1989 in terms of years spent there.

Born Jan. 19, 1899, in a house on the west side of town, Elwell spent his entire life here except two years when he went to New Jersey to work in a laundry plant. His father came to the area right after the Civil War to work for Capt. D.E. Maxwell, president of the Seaboard Railroad Capt. Maxwell had extensive orange groves west of Melrose, and the senior Robinson cared for them.

Young Elwell went through the eighth grade at the Melrose Union School and then went to work for his older brother, who was the captain of a freight boat on Lake Santa Fe.

The boat, a beautiful cypress launch with a 50-foot keel, was built by Tom Birt, grandfather of the Rev. Al Vaught, and called the "City of Melrose." It carried freight and passengers up through Lake Santa Fe into Lake Alto through the canal and unloaded at the railway docks in Waldo. At that time, the trip usually took about two hours,

## Woman's Club celebrates 100 years



"It's only fitting on today's celebration that we also dedicate the clubhouse in her honor," Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin said of Tina Bullock, while handing over to her a metal plaque that will be posted on the clubhouse. "She has been a guiding light, offering not only her time but also her wealth of knowledge. This space will forever be a living tribute to her legacy." Also pictured (left) is Janice Goetzman. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The Keystone Heights Woman's Club celebrated its 100 years of service to the Lake Region during a January 20, 2024 ceremony.

President Brooklyn Hayes-Yelin recognized longtime members, including 50-year member Tina Bullock, 28-year member Joan Vaughn, 24-year member Joanne Motter, 15-year member Barbara Crawford, 14-year member Sally Linton, 13-year member Darlene Hart, Mary Lewis: 10 years and Maria Walker.

## Three clubhouses and 50 years

Longtime club leader Tina Bullock told the crowd that the organization's first clubhouse was built in 1924.

"The land was donated by

the Lawrence Development Company, and a 20 by 30 building was used," she said.

The following year, a larger building was constructed on a lot purchased from the Community Church.

"For the next 37 years," Bullock said, "it was used as a community center."

In 1958, the club joined the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, and the first Keystone Heights Junior Women's Club was formed.

In 1962, a fire destroyed the clubhouse near Community Church, which also housed the first public library in the city.

The church bought the lot back and provided interim space for the club until 1969, when H.T. Williams and Charles Oliver donated the former site of the Chautauqua Opera House, and Triest Construction built the club's current home.

In 1974, the Junior Woman's Club launched the Keystone Heights Christmas Parade, which, 50 years later, still exists and is operated by Lake Region Kiwanis.

In 1985, the first junior club dissolved.

Bullock said that throughout the last century, the club has provided scholarships to deserving students, and supported animal rescues, the Lake Area Ministries food bank, the Seeds of Grace book bus, and countless other worthwhile projects.

"A house is just a house until a family moves in and makes it a home," she said. "And this building is just a building until the members and community make it a club of its own."

## A fusion of

See CLUB, page 7



**OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE**  
JUNE 17, 2025  
8:00AM TILL 12:00

We wish to inform you that the Bradford County Tax Collector's office will be closed on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, from 8:00am to 12:00 for a scheduled training session. During this time, our team will be unavailable to respond to inquiries. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation,  
Teresa G. Phillips, CFC

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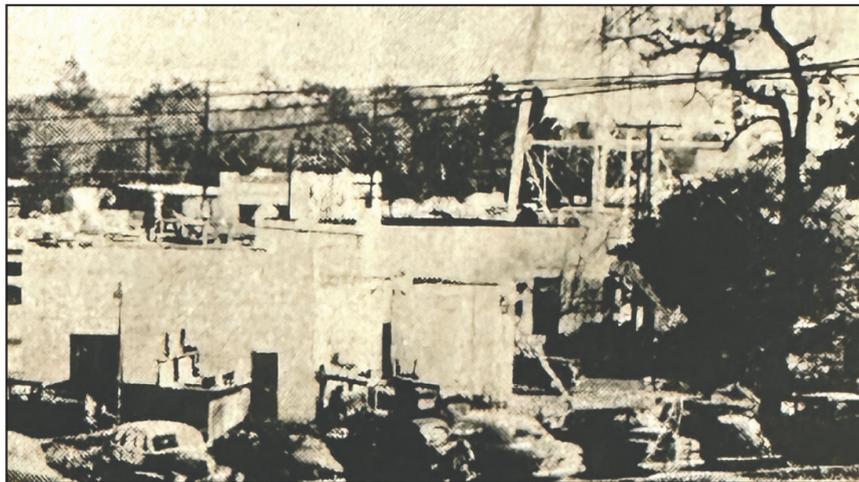
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# Lake Region

## Wiggins provides spark to bring Clay Electric to life



The Clay Electric Cooperative parking lot in the 1950s.

BY LARRY HORNE  
Clay Electric Cooperative

This story first appeared in the monitor's April 13, 2000, edition and has been updated.

In the 1920s, Ed Wiggins, an agent for the Lawrence Developing Company, established a small power plant in the new City of Keystone Heights. In 1925, the company decided to exit the power business, so Wiggins purchased the plant.

In the next few years, Wiggins extended the powerlines to Lake Geneva, Hillcrest, Putnam Hall, Grandin, Florahome, Lake Swan, and Lake Rosa, all from a small 115-kilowatt plant in Keystone Heights.

However, Keystone Heights was growing and needed the plant's full capacity, and the other areas were also growing. So, he needed more money for expansion than the little plant could provide.

It was 1936, and the money for investment was not too

plentiful. But actually, more was available locally than at first seemed possible. The trouble was that the source of the local cash wanted control. They didn't want to finance Wiggins's expansion. They tried to buy him out. He held back because Wiggins was motivated more by the desire to help the new area grow than a wish to make a profit. Besides, he wanted to investigate a new possibility, a new federal program, the Rural Electrification Administration.

After an REA representative visited Keystone Heights, it was decided that an REA loan could be made. However, the government official suggested that expansion must be more significant than Wiggins had envisioned. What the REA representative wanted seemed more than he could undertake, so he agreed when the REA suggested that he sell out, not to a commercial power company but to a new

cooperative.

The first meeting to learn about this plan was held in Gainesville. The meeting was well attended, and there was advanced publicity over WRUF, so the group decided to try it. Full of enthusiasm, the group started a sign-up in Clay, Alachua, Putnam, Columbia, Union, and Marion counties. As sometimes happens, the excitement fizzled out. The only spark left was Wiggins. He refused to give up.

In fact, he spent his own time and money—\$85—on a set of maps prepared by UF students, for example, to breathe life into the co-op. He placed dots on the maps for each signed-up and prospective user and went to Washington. He received much encouragement and some good advice but no money. Returning to Keystone Heights, Wiggins employed an electrical engineer to help with a broad and intensive

sign-up campaign.

### It's official

With new maps, REA gave the go-ahead signal, and on December 9, 1937, the co-op received its state charter.

The cooperative's incorporators then met on December 21, 1937, at the Keystone Inn to adopt bylaws and elect officers. F.W. Doying of Keystone Heights was elected president, F.W. Budington of Middleburg was vice president, and James Hauser of Keystone Heights was secretary-treasurer. The other incorporators were Alberta Miller of Brooker, R.F. McGill of Peniel, D.E. Roberts of Worthington Springs, and W.G. Watkins of Florahome.

At that meeting, Wiggins was named project superintendent. Later, however, the REA did not approve the selection of Wiggins because the cooperative would be purchasing the Keystone Power and Light Company, which Wiggins owned.

### First construction loan and annual meeting

With a formal organization and a good sign-up, the REA approved its first loan to the new co-op on February 10, 1938. This was \$205,000 for 143 miles of line in Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Putnam and Union counties.

The first annual meeting for the cooperative members was in January 1939, a little over one year after the co-op was organized. The meeting minutes indicate that 343 customers were taking current, 245 miles of line were built, and 415 customer services were installed.

At the first annual meeting, Horace Zetouer of Alachua County expressed great desire for his area to receive electric service and "as speedy action as possible."

### Milestones

Other milestones in the cooperative history include, 1964-the cooperative

opened its Orange Park office. Two years later, Clay Electric opened its Gainesville district office. Four additional district offices were established by 1973 in Keystone Heights, Palatka, Salt Springs, and Lake City.

In 1984, Seminole Electric's generating plant near Palatka began operations. Previously, Clay Electric purchased power from private investor-owned utilities.

1990-The 100,000th member of Clay Electric joined the co-op. Three years later, the cooperative and JEA agreed to transfer all Clay County accounts to the co-op and all Duval County accounts to JEA.

In 2009, Ricky Davis became the fifth co-op general manager and has served in that position since. Davis was previously the Orange Park district manager and then director of operations. Previous general managers were A.G. "Pat" Loudon, 1940-1962; E.T. Martin, 1962-1983; Tommy Millican, 1983-1989; and Bill Phillips, 1989-2009.

## CLUB

Continued from page 6

### legacies, values, and wisdom

The celebration also marked the merger of the Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club. Bullock recognized the outgoing board members, including co-presidents herself and Sally Linton, Secretary Charlotte Evans, Corresponding Secretary Karen Lake, Treasurer

Patricia Hatch, and Card Party Chairs Darlene Harp and Maria Walker. Bullock added that Walker is also the club's 2023 Volunteer of the Year.

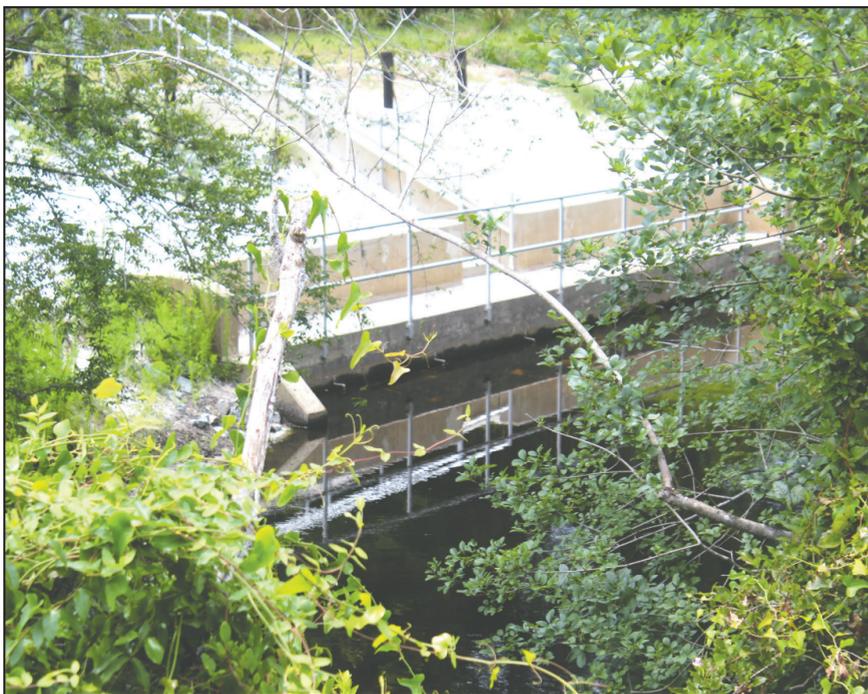
Bullock said that several years ago, as she watched many community organizations, especially those with clubhouses such as the Lions Club and the Jaycees, close their doors, she began to look at the inevitable for the Woman's Club and had many sleepless nights.

"I worried and then prayed," she recalled, "and that prayer

was answered two years ago as Dana Bennett Eatmon, whose mom was also a junior back in the day, talked to me about forming another junior club."

Bullock said the new group formed and proved volunteerism is alive and well as the new group put its time, energy, and resources to work.

## Water project is ready, but Black Creek is not



The Black Creek Water Resource Development Project's intake apparatus in the north prong of Black Creek.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

A Division director for the St. Johns River Water Management District said that although the district is ready to begin pumping water from the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project into the Lake Region's Alligator Creek which leads to Lake Brooklyn, it cannot at this time because of low flows and low water levels in the creek.

"We are ready to put water into Alligator Creek," Dale Jenkins told the district's governing board during a June 10 meeting, "which would eventually flow to Lake Brooklyn, but we've got to have enough flow in

Black Creek, and we don't. The extended period of dry weather has put the flow in Black Creek below 25 (cubic feet per second), so we're hoping that pretty soon, the rain will start coming. We're getting into that time of year. So as soon as that happens, we'll be ready."

Jenkins told governing board members that the project is essentially complete with the exception of the treatment plant within Camp Blanding.

He added that two of the six treatment cells at the facility are operational, which means that if Black Creek flows were satisfactory, the district could disburse Black Creek-filtered

water into the Etoniah Chain of Lakes.

Jenkins said the district has tested water from both operational cells, which meet all the criteria of permits issued for the project.

"Moving on to cell number three," he briefed the governing board, "everything's in place in cell number three. It's ready for media, and it is getting media. It's about 65% filled right now."

He reported that Cell 3 should be operational by mid-July.

Jenkins added that the piping in Cell 4 is complete and the cell is being filled with stone. He reported that piping is being installed in cells 5 and 6.

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

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- \* Share interesting facts about Bradford County.
- \* All of this in a climate controlled location.
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To find out more

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



# 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

#### Missed appointment

Cicera Barnett, 32, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 5 for a conditional release violation.

According to court papers, the defendant was originally arrested by Lawtey police on May 1, 2024, for driving an unregistered vehicle, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, and driving with a revoked or suspended license.

On June 13, 2024, County Judge D. Tatum Davis revoked Barnett's pre-trial release because she missed an appointment with a forensic mental health specialist as required by her pre-trial release and made no effort to contact Meridian Behavioral Health.

Karen Buhler, 66, of Hampton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 4 for a probation violation.

Richard Casper, 64, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for an out-of-county warrant.

Radues Cull, 42, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for a probation violation.

Jason Harden, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Lisa Hunt, 38, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 4 for failure to appear.

Leslie Johnson, 63, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Kaeli Jones, 35, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

#### Accused of punching wife in the face

Rochak Kunwar, 28, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 31 for battery and simple assault.

According to an arrest report, deputies noted bruises on the victim's arms, which the victim said were from a separate incident and the injuries were also caused by her husband.

"The victim also had swelling and light bruising on the right side of the face," wrote a deputy in the report. "(She) stated that Rochak punched her in the face tonight when they were having dinner."

The officer added that, according to the victim, the couple got into an argument, and the defendant threw a water bottle at the victim, but missed. She claimed that the

defendant punched her in the face and told her he wanted to kill her.

"(The victim) alleged that Rochak also grabbed her by the neck, however, she was unable to recall if her airway was blocked or not," wrote officers. "There were no visible signs of injury on the victim's neck."

According to deputies, the defendant admitted to officers that he and his wife were arguing over sending money to a family member overseas. He claimed he threw the water bottle at the refrigerator, not at his wife. Rochak denied all allegations of battery and assault made against him.

According to deputies, when asked about the bruises on his wife, the defendant responded, "I don't know, probably like hit by a door or something."

William Martinez, 25, of Ocala, was arrested by Lawtey police on June 5 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Karl McKinley, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on May 31 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and possession of a weapon by a convicted felon.

#### Arrested for shoplifting

Veronica Seymour, 38, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 2 for larceny.

According to court papers, a loss prevention officer at Starke's Walmart told Starke police on May 1, 2023, that Seymour stole \$319.31 worth of merchandise from the retailer. The store employee further claimed that during the previous month, Seymour attempted to take around \$600 in goods from the store. Police did not arrest Seymour due to an apparent seizure, and she was instead transported to a hospital.

A judge issued an arrest warrant for Seymour in October 2023.

Noah Shores, 25, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 5 for larceny, burglary, and trespassing.

Edward Smith, 39, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 3 for withholding support.

Michael Smith, 44, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 6 for a probation violation.

#### Accused of striking household member

Najeeb Smith, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 4 for domestic battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim claimed Smith slapped and punched the victim.

"Investigation revealed that the victim and the suspect were engaged in an argument," wrote a deputy. "At some point during the argument, the suspect battered the victim by striking the victim with

his hands/fist. During this investigation, I observed a small cut on the inside of the victim's upper lip."

Kevin Thomason, 54, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 6 for an out-of-county warrant.

Jessie Wimer, 47, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on June 6 for larceny, possession of drug equipment, resisting an officer, and criminal mischief with property damage.

### Union

Abraham Arreola Galvan, 23, of DeLeon Springs, was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

#### Said to have lied about boyfriend's whereabouts

Melissa Campbell, 38, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 7 for resisting an officer without violence.

According to an arrest report, while deputies were searching for Campbell's boyfriend in a residence near the Department of Corrections' Reception and Medical Center, the defendant misled the officers about the boyfriend's whereabouts, lying that he was not in the home, and leading them to areas of the house she knew the boyfriend was not hiding.

Deputies later found the boyfriend, Eric Knight, behind a closed door that Campbell told them had been accidentally locked.

Richard Casper, 64, of Starke, was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for a probation violation.

Angela Dickinson, 21, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 8 for smuggling contraband into a detention facility.

Adam James, 46, of Archer, was arrested by Union deputies on June 6 for a probation violation.

#### Toddler reveals Dad's violation

Eric Knight, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 7 for contempt of court.

According to an arrest report, a judge had issued a no-contact order, preventing Knight from being near his two-year-old daughter after Knight was arrested for putting the two-year-old's life in danger.

A case worker told Union deputies that Knight was arrested for driving over 130 mph while the child was in his vehicle.

The case worker added that while conducting a home check on the toddler, the child told her that her father was in the same home where she was.

Deputies located Knight, hiding in the home.

Lavell Strong, 28, of



Barnett



Kunwar



Seymour



Najeeb Smith



Mike



Hagin

Archer, was arrested by Union deputies on June 3 for failure to appear.

#### Deputies- Man shoved wife in chest, slapped her in the face

Michael Thornton, 43, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on June 5 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant's wife told deputies that after she questioned the defendant about why another family member suddenly left the home, Thornton became angry and shoved her in the chest four times, even after she backed away.

The woman said that after she called 911, her husband slapped her in the face, and she slapped him in return.

### Clay

#### Anniversary dinner ends with van in flames

Willie Hagan, 50, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 2 for arson.

According to an arrest report, when deputies arrived on scene, they found a van fully engulfed in flames, with

Clay County Fire Rescue attempting to extinguish the fire.

The defendant's girlfriend told deputies she and Hagan began to argue after an anniversary dinner, and that her boyfriend was "extremely intoxicated."

Neighbors of the victim said they heard arguing next door and began monitoring their exterior security cameras.

"I viewed the footage," wrote Deputy Mason McClain in the report, "which showed several clips leading up to the fire and during the fire. The vehicle that the defendant sets fire to is observed just out of frame."

McClain added that although the video does not capture Hagin setting the vehicle on fire, "he was observed being the only one around the van during video clips, and then after it was lit. He was heard in the audio of another clip saying, 'I'm just going to sit back and enjoy the music.'"

Lisa Hunt, 38, of Melrose, was arrested by Clay deputies on June 3 for failure to appear.

#### She wouldn't give him the vape

Mark Mike, 32, of Charleston, West Virginia, was arrested by Clay deputies on

## Lake Region Kiwanis celebrates 35 years

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
dan@bctelegraph.com

In May 2024, the Lake Region Kiwanis Club celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event at the Montgomery Conference Center.

In the organization's newsletter, Karen Lake reported that 33-year member Tina Bullock organized the party, which included several games. Guests included former Lt. Gov. Laura Dean, square dance caller Bill Chestnut, former Mayor Tony Brown, and former members Jude Sorano, Betty Hodges, Keith Hatch, and Rebecca Farmer.

After the meeting, Bullock said that the club's only remaining charter member is Johnny Mason, founder of Johnny's Barbecue.

Bullock recalled that her involvement with Kiwanis began in 1992 when she was the Assistant Principal at Keystone Heights Elementary School.

"Laura Dean was doing the Terrific Kid program," Bullock said. "She and I were on the stage, and when I saw the first kid come up there for Terrific Kid, I leaned over to her, and I said, my gosh, what a great organization, and look how excited these kids are, and I just went on and on.

So, at the end of the program, she said, I'd like to introduce our newest Kiwanis member, and she introduced me at that time. I joined the week after that."

Over the next three decades, Bullock would hold every office in the club except treasurer and represent the group as Lt. Governor.

The group's mission is to improve the world, one child, and one community at a time.

Although Lake Region Kiwanis organizes the Keystone Heights Christmas and Our Country Day Parades, Bullock maintains that its most significant impact remains the character-building Terrific Kids program, which recognizes elementary school students for positive behavior and builds self-esteem and perseverance.

"I know the parades are kind of our signature pieces," Bullock said, "but the Terrific Kids are always up there too because we've been doing that for so long. I think Badger Moring got us started in that, and the Starke Club picked it up from us."

Bullock said the program has touched thousands of Lake Region students over the past 30-plus years.

"We now have parents who come up and say, I was a Terrific Kid," Bullock stated. "It's touched so many kids,

and I like it because they don't have to be straight-A students. They just have to try to improve and achieve and do the best they can."

Bullock said Lake Region Kiwanis's sponsorship of K-Kids at elementary campuses and Key Club at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School has also fulfilled the nonprofit's mission.

"K-Kids teaches students about volunteerism and leadership," she said. "We have clubs at Keystone Elementary and McRae."

Bullock said the club took over organizing the Christmas parade in the 1980s after the Junior Woman's Club launched the event in the early 1970s and ran it until the club disbanded.

She added that the Kiwanis' involvement with the Our Country Day Parade occurred because Noel Thomas was Commander of American Legion Post 202 and President of Lake Region Kiwanis simultaneously. When the post wanted to start an Independence Day parade and sought help, Thomas recommended that the Kiwanis Club step in.

Bullock now serves and has for years served as the announcer for both processions.



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# NFTC's Geiger retires from job that didn't feel like work

Editor's note: The interview for this story took place before the school year ended.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Mark Geiger has worked for 23 years at North Florida Technical College, but in a sense, he hasn't worked a day.

That's how much he has enjoyed teaching the school's welding program. Except for times when he was sick, Geiger said he never once thought, "Man, I don't want to work today."

Geiger's now ready to enjoy a different type of day as he will retire at the conclusion of this

school year.

"I really enjoyed what I did," Geiger said, "but my boat's ready to go fishing."

That's not to say it was an easy decision for Geiger to tell himself now is the time to walk away.

"Working with these students, you know you're doing something good," Geiger said. "There's nothing better I could be doing than teaching these students a trade."

Yet there was a time in his life when he never would've envisioned himself as a teacher.

"I would've told you you were nuts," he said.

It made sense, though, for someone who had so much

knowledge to share.

## Industry experience

Geiger worked at Boone Welding in Gainesville, but he didn't begin his career there as a welder.

"I actually started out there sweeping the floor," he said. "I started in maintenance, just as a job to do when I got out of high school."

He did become a welder and wound up doing all the company's tig welding and special-metals work for eight years.

Geiger eventually became the company's general manager and vice president his final eight



Mark Geiger is retiring after 20-plus years as the instructor of North Florida Technical College's welding program.

years there.

"You just start at something, and you give it your all," Geiger

said. "If you see that you're making progress, you continue to do it."

Boone was bought out by a waste company, so the job "just kind of went away," Geiger said.

"I had the opportunity to buy the business, but it was tough managing that company for eight years," Geiger said, adding, "I worked hard at that job. I gave it everything I had."

## Going into teaching

J.T. Mahoney, who taught welding at Santa Fe College, offered Geiger a teaching position, which he said he's glad he accepted.

Geiger said he was scared

during his first year of teaching, but after that, he described being an educator as "relatively easy."

"Everything I learned at Boone I've brought to the classroom," Geiger said.

Teaching at Santa Fe lasted a couple of semesters. Geiger was then contacted by Jim Ward, who was the administrator at North Florida Technical College. Ward was friends with Geiger's father, W.C., who taught agriculture at Alachua's Santa Fe High School. NFTC was in need of a welding instructor.

Geiger admitted he wasn't aware the school in Starke.

"I did not know it was on the

See GEIGER, page 10

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## GEIGER Continued from page 9

map, but I've tried to put it on the map," he said.  
He certainly liked what he saw when he visited the school, which had had all-new welding equipment.  
"The lab was set up to the T," Geiger said. "I was just really elated when I got the opportunity to come up here and work."

### Preparing students for career success

The welding program at NFTC consists of students who are currently in high school or who are adults. Geiger said his students have always gotten along and willing to help each other out — something he encourages them to do.  
"I teach teamwork," Geiger said, adding, "It's going to be just like that in the shop (as part of a job). You've got to be a part of the team."  
Students in the NFTC program gain experience doing work for customers. Geiger said people

will bring equipment such as lawnmowers by to be repaired by students. The cost, if any, is minimal.  
"The kids get so much out of it," Geiger said. "It's hard to charge money when the kids just learn so much. We do charge some, but I also do so much for free around here."  
Geiger said his students have probably built a dozen grills/smokers for people in the community.  
"We cook on every one before leaves out of here to make sure it works," Geiger said. "That's a requirement of building a smoker — me getting at least 10 pounds or 20 pounds of chicken quarters and making sure it's worthwhile."  
The knowledge and the experience students leave the program with are in demand. Geiger said the United States needs more than 200,000 welders.  
"Our kids have a job when they get out of here," Geiger said.

### Retired life

Geiger not only loved teaching at NFTC; he loved Starke. He

moved there from Gainesville in 2001, purchasing 15 acres near the Pleasant Grove area.  
He's looking forward to spending more time on his land, with a goal of becoming a self-sustaining farmer.  
When he's not tending to his garden, chickens, dogs and cats, he'll enjoy fishing. Geiger said his boat needed some repairs, which were recently completed, just in time for his retirement.  
Geiger enjoys all types of fishing, but especially likes taking his boat onto freshwater lakes and catching specks. Orange and Santa Fe are his favorite lakes.  
"You catch more in Orange, but to me, there are better fish out of Santa Fe," Geiger said. "I fish Orange and Santa Fe quite a bit."  
He also likes to hunt.  
"I've spent most of my life outdoors," Geiger said.  
Geiger has passed on his passion for outdoors activities to his four grandchildren, who, of course, will occupy quite a bit of his life in retirement.  
"I'm looking forward to spending time with them," Geiger said. "They all go hunting



Mark Geiger (left) chats with student Rory Matush about a trailer dropped off for repairs. Such jobs have given students practical experience before they enter the workforce.

and fishing with me. They love it, even my two granddaughters. I raised all of them around the woods and water."  
He'll enjoy being with his grandchildren and participating in various activities, but it will be an adjustment.  
"It's going to be different. I've worked all my life," Geiger said, adding, "It's a little scary when you think about it, but on the other hand, I'm tickled to death that I don't have to get up and sign in every day. I've done it for 40-plus years."  
The upside is that he couldn't have been happier with the career he had for 23 years at NFTC.  
"It's been a great ride," Geiger said. "I couldn't have had a better job."

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# Retiring teacher Ramseur ready to learn new things

Editor's note: The interview for this story took place before the school year ended.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Vivian Ramseur has had a lifelong love of learning, so you can be sure that her retirement will be filled with acquiring new knowledge.

The only change will be that she won't be inspiring children to learn also as a teacher at Bradford Elementary School.

Ramseur, who's been in the Bradford County School District since 2002, will teach her final day on May 23. Except for four years at the former Hampton Elementary School, her entire education career has been spent at Bradford Elementary/Southside Elementary.

"I'm excited, but I'm going to hate not being around the kids," Ramseur said. "It's kind of bittersweet. I'm excited that I'm retiring, but these children — you get attached to them."

Though she grew up wanting to be a teacher, Ramseur post-college life began with several jobs that had nothing to do with that profession. It was because of her desire to learn new things — a desire that has never gone away.

"I'm still that way," Ramseur said. "They keep asking, 'What are you going to do when you retire?' I say, 'I have never had a problem finding something to do. Don't worry about me. I'll be just fine.'"

## Childhood passion

Ramseur began preparing herself for being a teacher early



**Bradford Elementary School's Vivian Ramseur is retiring after a 20-plus-year teaching career, all of which was spent in Bradford County.**

in life. As a 7-8-year-old growing up in Lawtey, she'd use paper and pencil, a rock and the sidewalk or the set of encyclopedias her parents bought to teach things to her sister and brothers.

"I knew I loved learning, so I wanted you to love learning," Ramseur said.

She laughed at the memory of pointing to something and asking her siblings, "What sound does this make?"

"I was doing phonics even back then," Ramseur said.

Ramseur said she had "wonderful" role models who were educators, including Dorothy Moore and Olivia Scott.

"They were my major heroes," she said.

Ramseur's parents, Freddie and Emma Lou Bell, were role

models as well, teaching her to love others, something she was reminded of as a third-grader, when she began attending Lawtey Elementary School because of integration. Her family was the first Black family to attend the school.

"I was very blessed to have parents who taught me that skin color doesn't matter. It's how you love people and treat people," Ramseur said.

Yes, some children didn't like her being at the Lawtey school, but Ramseur said they were few.

"The majority of those kids are still friends to me today," she said.

## College experience

Ramseur, after graduating from high school, attended Santa

Fe College for a year and a half before moving to Georgia to attend Clark Atlanta University. The historically Black college offered an environment that consisted of Black people from various walks of life. She knew students whose parents were in such professions as accounting, law and medicine.

"To see that was very impressive," Ramseur said.

She also enjoyed really delving into Black history. Ramseur said in elementary school, you'd learn about such people as George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, but at Clark Atlanta University, she was becoming familiar with people she had never heard of before, such as author, poet and teacher Gwendolyn Brooks, columnist, novelist, playwright, poet and social activist Langston Hughes, and political activist Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

"Gwendolyn Brooks came to my school and did her poetry," Ramseur said. "That was just mind-boggling."

Joseph Lowery, who founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Martin Luther King Jr., was her pastor. Ramseur, who had a friend who worked with SCLC, had the opportunity to meet Coretta Scott King.

The experiences in the Peach State didn't end there. Rather than go into the classroom and put her degree in Education to work, she held jobs at a bank and florist shop and even got real-estate license.

"It was about learning different things," Ramseur said. "Real estate was learning something new. Working at the bank was

just learning something new. I've always been crafty, so learning to do flowers was just something else I could learn to do."

Ramseur eventually moved back to Florida to care for her mother. It's what she was perfectly suited for anyway. Though she loved her time in Atlanta, she is, as she described herself, one who loves "the southern, quiet living."

So, she once again enjoyed the comforts of home in Lawtey. Next, it was time to start enjoying the comforts of a career she was

always destined to be a part of.

## Teaching

When she sought a job after moving back to Florida, teaching wasn't on her mind. Instead, she wanted to work in the school system as a paraprofessional. However, when Bill McRae, who was principal at Southside Elementary School at the time, found out she had a degree in Education, he told her, "You're

See RETIRE, page 12

# Community for Schools Bingo Night is June 30

Bradford Community for Schools will be hosting a fundraising Bingo Night on Monday, June 30, at The Downtown Grill in Starke. Doors open at 5 p.m., with play beginning at 5:30 p.m.

To play is \$20 cash for 10 games. The last game is blackout for \$100.

All bingo proceeds, as well as 20 percent of the food and beverage sales, will go to Bradford Community for Schools, a nonprofit with the

mission of surrounding students with a caring community of support and empowering them to reach their full potential and achieve success in life.

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# Obituaries

## Earl Barber

Earl "Duke" Barber, a lifelong resident of Lawtey, passed away Wednesday, June 4, 2025, just days before his 86th birthday. Born on June 9, 1939, in Lawtey, he remained deeply rooted in the community that shaped his life. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bishop Ruthie Delores Barber; sister, Melense Hamilton; and brother, LeVern Barber. Their memories remain cherished by those who knew and loved them.

He is survived by his sons, Keith (Rolanda) Barber and Dominic Barber; daughters, Carmen Barber-Jamison and Tracee (Randall) McCreary; sisters, Annette Barber Burke and Leola Barber Holmes; as well as a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him. The viewing will be held Friday, June 13, at Haile Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke, 32091 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. A funeral service will be on Saturday, June 14, at 2 p.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry, 422 N. St. Clair St., Starke. A repast will be held at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, C.R. 200-B, Lawtey.



PAID OBITUARY

## Geraldine Cragg

Geraldine Brady Cragg, 88, of Starke passed away Thursday, June 5, 2025, after a brief illness. Geraldine, lovingly known as "Granny," was born Feb. 15, 1937, in Stephens County, Georgia. She graduated from South Habersham High School in 1954 and soon began working at Carwood Manufacturing Company. On Nov. 14, 1959, she married the love of her life, Andrew Cragg, in South Carolina. Together, they raised two sons, Richard and David. In 1965, the Cragg family moved to Jacksonville, where she worked as the assistant director of Woodstock Park Daycare. Later, in 1988, she and Andrew made their home in Starke. A devoted member of First Baptist Church, she faithfully served for many years as the 3-year-old Sunday school teacher, touching the lives of many young children in her community. She was passionate about caring for her family and found great joy in spending time with her loved ones. She especially loved cooking, and her kitchen was often the heart of every gathering. Her homemade biscuits and gravy were legendary, and her fried apple tarts and rich chocolate pies were treasured family favorites. Geraldine poured love and warmth into every meal she served. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ben and Ella Brady; her sisters Irene Parker, Lurlene Hart, Christine Blair, and Betty Duckett; and her brothers Roy "Buck" Brady, James Brady, and Carson Brady.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 65 years, Andrew Cragg; her sons Rick (Carolyn) Cragg and David (Kathy) Cragg; her sister, Mamie Arrendale; six grandchildren, Candace (Michael) Osteen, Jenna (Robert) Hewett, Courtney (Brad) Witt, Holly Cragg, and Jessie Cragg; and eight great-grandchildren: Michael, Madelynn, Ella, Aubrey, Knox, Oaklee, Brady, and Riley. She is also survived by countless nieces and nephews who cherished her deeply. On behalf of the family, thank you for celebrating the life of Geraldine Cragg—a devoted wife, loving mother, proud Granny, and faithful servant whose warmth, kindness, and unforgettable cooking will be lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

The family received friends at First Baptist Church of Starke on Sunday, June 8, followed by funeral services. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Pastor Jonathan Rodriguez officiated all services.

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



PAID OBITUARY

## David Gray Sr.

David Dwaine Gray Sr. passed away Monday, June 2, 2025, in his home, surrounded by family. He was 80 years old. David was a long-time resident of Lake Butler. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama on Jan. 24, 1945. He was an iron worker, who traveled the states working on major structures. After retirement, he helped with the Union County marching band until 2005. He was a 32nd degree Master Mason. He was preceded in death by his dad, Alvie Clinton Gray; mom, Virgie Mae Reese; brother, Royce Doyle Gray; and sister, Linda Y. Gray.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Pamela Ann Gray (Lindsay); two brothers, Terry Williams and Mike Williams; three children, David Dwaine (Pearla) Gray III, Alicia Dawn (Forrest) Harmon, and Catherine Renee Gray; and eight grandchildren, Menachem Thornton, Avi Gray, Riley Trowell, Annabelle Gray, Mae Brookins, Natalie Trowell, C.J. Brookins, and Lily Harmon.

This Tribute was prepared by the family of Mr. David Dwaine Gray Sr. Services were held at First Baptist Church of Lake Butler, on Monday, June 9. The family invited everyone to share memories and food as they remembered the life of David Gray Sr.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Ferreira Funeral Services, 458 S. Marion Ave., Lake City, 32025. 386-752-1234. Please leave special memories and messages of condolence for the family at our online website at www.ferreirafuneralservices.com



PAID OBITUARY

## Alicia Nooney

Alicia Renee Nooney, well-loved daughter, mother, grandmother and friend passed away Saturday, June 7, 2025. Born May 4, 1979, in Gainesville, she was the cherished daughter of Kim Belk (Randy) Martin of Ocala and James (Brenda) Nooney Sr. of Keystone Heights. She was raised and lived most of her adult life in Keystone Heights. She was a graduate of Keystone Heights High School, Class of 1997. She was a beloved mother and grandmother, not only to her daughter and grandchildren, but also to her daughter's friends, offering direction, laughter, and a sense of belonging to all fortunate enough to have been a part of her world. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Charles and Juanita Belk of Keystone Heights; paternal grandparents, Frank and Dorothy Nooney of Jacksonville; grandfather, Billy Martin of Starke and Earl Dockery of Ocala.

She is survived by her only child, Starlyn Taylor Wright and son-in-law, Seth Donahue of Keystone Heights; and was affectionately known as "GaGa" to grandchildren, Seanna, Sladen, Syppress and Klent Donahue. She is survived also by brothers, James "Jamie" (Kim) Nooney Jr. of Keystone Heights and Joseph (Victoria) Martin of Kaiserslautern, Germany; sister, Rachel LePanto of Keystone Heights; nieces, Morgan (Karsen) Nooney of Keystone Heights, Caleigh LePanto (Tristan) Allen of Trenton; nephews, James "Trace" (Saige) Nooney III and Jacob LePanto of Keystone Heights; beloved grandmother, Myrna Dockery; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, June 13. The family will receive friends at Hope Baptist Church, 3900 SE SR 100, Starke, beginning at 1 p.m., with services at 2 p.m. Interment will be at a later date. In true Alicia fashion, this will be a casual, joy-filled gathering, with pink attire encouraged in her honor.

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



PAID OBITUARY

## Anna Perry

Mrs. Anna Finley Perry, 80, of Jacksonville, passed away Sunday, June 8, 2025, in Fleming Island. She was born July 19, 1944, in Burdine, Kentucky to the late Arthur and Carrie (Baker) Finley. She had a wonderful 30-year career as a school bus driver, retiring from First Student in Duval County. She was a member of Regency Baptist Temple, where she raised her children, making sure they attended church every week. She enjoyed shopping, doing puzzles, listening to good ole country music, and going on golf cart rides. She also enjoyed reading the Sunday paper, taking trips, and playing with her "doggie," Rudy.

Left behind to cherish her memory are her daughters, Karen (Robert) Augustine and Kimberly (Joey) Knapp; and siblings, Connie Sanders, Geraldine Barker, and Grace Clark. She was lovingly called "Memaw" by nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday, June 14, beginning at 10 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. with Rev. Ed Wilds and Rev. Robert Augustine officiating. Interment will follow at Orange Springs Cemetery.

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



PAID OBITUARY

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

## RETIRE

Continued from page 11

not going to be a para. You're going to be a teacher."

Ramseur may have taken some detours, but in the end, she wound up making her childhood dream come true.

"I fell in love with it all over again," she said.

Wanting to teach had once been a passion, but Ramseur said she was "scared to death" when she first began doing it. She said she was grateful for the help she received from her fellow teachers at Southside, including Vicki McKinney.

"She taught first grade right next to me," Ramseur said. "Every day, she would come over and check on me."

McKinney would ask Ramseur what she did in her class each day, offering encouragement and suggestions.

"She just trained me to be a good teacher," Ramseur said.

Ramseur is not only grateful for the teachers who helped her, but also for all the administrators she worked under, describing them as "just awesome principals

who encouraged you and gave you insight on what you needed to do." She took any suggestions on how she could improve seriously.

"I've always loved learning, so if there was another way that I needed to do something to improve my learning environment for my students, that's what I was going to do," Ramseur said.

Ramseur taught second, third and fourth grades throughout her career. She also filled the roles of reading interventionist and (this past year) ESE interventionist.

As is the case for any teacher, Ramseur lived for those moments where students finally grasped something they were struggling with.

"It's just a sigh of relief (for me)," Ramseur said, "but it's also an excitement for them because once they get it, then they want to do more."

## Retirement

When it comes to thinking about what she'll do during retirement, Ramseur said all the home projects that have been put off over time can finally be

## Harry Stallings

Harry C. Stallings of Gainesville passed away at E.T. York Hospice House on Friday, May 30, 2025. He was 82 years old. Born in Cordele, Georgia on Sept. 2, 1942, as the youngest son of Tom C. and Esther T. Stallings, his family moved to Starke when he was in the fifth grade. After graduating from Bradford High School in 1960, he married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Ann Phillips, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Starke. They would have celebrated 65 years of marriage on July 4 of this year. Harry commuted to work from Starke to Gainesville for the next seven years, then moved his family to Gainesville in 1967. His employment with Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) lasted 40-plus years, retiring as a lab supervisor at Deaverhen Generating Station on July 4, 2003. As an active member of CWA Local 3170 (Public Employees of Gainesville and Alachua County FL), he was on the bargaining team that negotiated and brought to fruition a pension plan for all rank-and-file employees. He fought for and succeeded in fair and equitable testing practices for job advancement. His focus was on the "little people" (you know — "us worker bees") throughout his Union affiliation and served as Secretary-Treasurer for almost 20 years. An avid sports fan, he coached City League football during the '70s, with his primary focus being sure every one of his young athletes had a chance to "get on the field and play." No player sat on the bench the entire game. And those who needed a ride home from a game or practice got one from Coach Stallings! Active in Eastside High School Sports Boosters, he was among a group of parents who raised the money for purchasing a van shared by the school's minor sports. He was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of Bradford Lodge No. 35, Starke since 1975. Hunting, fishing, camping, working in his vegetable and herb garden, cooking, grilling and drinking with his buddies were many of the activities enjoyed by this big guy. He was very interested in outer space and our mysterious universe. He absolutely LOVED dancing and socializing. This husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather loved his family and always said they were his greatest treasure. He was predeceased by his oldest son, Luke; brother, Tom C. Stallings Jr.; parents, Tom and Esther Stallings; sister-in-law, Jane Allen; and brother-in-law, Freddie Dinkins.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Ann Stallings of Gainesville; daughter and son-in-law, Lissa (Tim) Boone of Belleville, Illinois; daughter and partner, Lauri Stallings and Rick Carvlin of Palmetto, Georgia; son, Linc Stallings of Lansing, West Virginia; granddaughters, Isla (Linc) Noelle and Ashley Boone of Portland, Oregon; great-granddaughter, Evelyn (Ashley) Trillum; grandson and wife, Jarrod (Andi) Boone of Ames, Iowa; sister, Melissa Griggs of Hiwassee, Georgia; sister and brother-in-law, Susan (Hunter) Sahler of Riverview; sisters-in-law, Carolyn Stallings of Keystone Heights, Rebecca Christopher of Winter Haven and Anna Dinkins of Lakeland; brother-in-law and wife, John (Donna) Phillips of Moniac, Georgia; and many nieces and nephews. Harry is also greatly missed by his devoted golden retriever, Lizzie, and her sidekick, Miss Lona, a terrier mix nicknamed "Tripp" because Harry decided "that dog is a real trip." Sounds just like Harry!

So dear family and friends: Mark your calendar, dress comfortably and join us for a celebration of Harry's life on Friday, July 11, at Milam Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation is from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., with services at 5:30 p.m. A social gathering and light supper will be held afterward for family and friends at the home of Chris and Jaya Brew. Inurnment will be at Crosby Lake Cemetery, Starke, on Saturday, July 12, at 11 a.m. For those who wish, contributions may be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 N.W. 90th Blvd., Gainesville 32606, or to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1212 N. Church St., Starke 32091.

Arrangements are in the care of Milam Funeral and Cremation Services, 311 S. Main St., Gainesville 32601. 352-376-5361 www.milamfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

## William Sutton II

William James Sutton II, 53, of Starke, passed away Friday, April 4, 2025, at Orange Park Hospital. He was an organ donor. He was preceded in death by his father, the late William James Sutton Sr.

He is survived by his mother, Alice Rigdon Sutton; and children, William James Sutton III, Isabella Sutton, Suniva Smith, and Angelique Smith.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, June 14, at 2:30 p.m. at Kingsley Lake Cemetery, Mary Dot Lane, Starke. A Celebration of Life dinner will be held at 3:30 p.m. at Kingsley Lake Civic Center, 6109 Kingsley Lake Drive, Starke.

addressed. As a self-professed list maker, she said, "I have my long list of things. My husband (Byron) is already afraid that I'm going to have him working a lot when I retire."

Traveling will be part of the next chapter of her life as well as the upcoming wedding of one of her sons. (Ramseur has three children: Emmali, James and Calvin.)

Of course, time will be spent learning new things.

"I want to learn how to tile," Ramseur said. "I've always wanted to do a tile backsplash for my kitchen."

Ramseur wants to take an interior-design class or intern with an interior designer. She's also considering taking a class so she can learn how to do her own taxes.

"I can do mine, and I can probably help somebody else do theirs, too," she said.

You may also find her still showing up at Bradford Elementary School.

"I know how hard it is to get enough teachers certified to do testing, so I've considered going back to help with testing," Ramseur said.

Even if she's not at the school, she'll still have children as a part of her life. She has two grandsons: Nehemiah and Titus.

Ramseur said the fact that she's retiring probably won't affect her much on her last day because it won't feel much different from the last days of previous school years. After all, she's used to taking a break during the summer.

It'll be two or three weeks before the new school year starts that it'll hit her. She won't be going through her usual routine of preparing for another year of teaching.

Ramseur said she just may have to sleep in late on the first day of the 2025-26 school year.

"I won't have to get up at 5, so that will be a beautiful thing," she said.

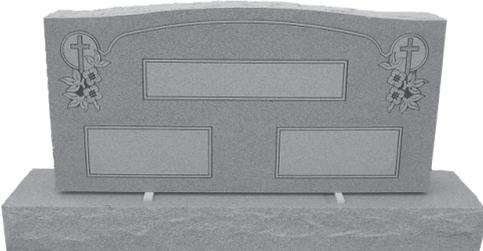
She won't stay in bed too long, though. Ramseur said she's an early riser anyway who can't sleep past 8 a.m.

The earlier she starts the day, the more time available to her to satisfy her craving for learning and doing new things.

"I can't help myself," Ramseur said.

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# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 12, 2025

## BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
CASE NO.  
042024CA000430CAAXMX  
Division No.  
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE OF CIM TRUST 2022-R3

Plaintiff,  
vs.  
FOREST GARBER SR, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FOREST G. GARBER, JR., UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY L. GARBER, UNKNOWN TENANT 1 9736 NW COUNTY AND UNKNOWN TENANT 2 9736 NW COUNTY, et al,

### Defendants NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment dated April 29, 2025, and entered in Case No. 042024CA000430CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for BRADFORD County, Florida, wherein Wilmington Savings Fund Society, Fsb, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely In Its Capacity As Indenture Trustee Of Cim Trust 2022-r3 is the Plaintiff and FOREST GARBER SR, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF FOREST G. GARBER, JR., UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY L. GARBER, UNKNOWN TENANT 1 AND UNKNOWN TENANT 2, the Defendants. Denny Thompson, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for BRADFORD County, Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 in accordance with section 45.031, Florida Statutes on **June 26, 2025**, the following described property as set forth in said Order of Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE S 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID S 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 AND RUN SOUTH 00 36' 01" EAST, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 763.81 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 57' 17" EAST, 24.13 FEET TO THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 225 (FORMERLY STATE ROAD 225) FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING (SAID POINT ALSO BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A COUNTY). FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE SOUTH 89 57' 17" EAST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL (O.R. BOOK 212, PAGE 75), 411.49 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET AT AN INTERSECTION WITH A NORTHERLY PROLONGATION OF THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN O.R. BOOK 137, PAGE 44 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE SOUTH 00 36' 01" EAST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY PROLONGATION AND ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL (O.R. BOOK 137, PAGE 44) AND PARALLEL WITH THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTH OF THE NE 1/4, A DISTANCE OF THE WESTERLY

BOUNDARY OF SAID S 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 A DISTANCE OF 114.98 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET ON THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL (O.R. BOOK 137, PAGE 44), THENCE SOUTH 89 39' 07" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY 412.10 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET ON THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF SAID COUNTY ROAD 225, THENCE NORTH 00 17' 40" WEST, ALONG LAST SAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY, 117.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.. IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK OF COURT BEFORE OR NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A TIMELY CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF THE RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.

If the sale is set aside, the Purchaser may be entitled to only a return of the sale deposit less any applicable fees and costs and shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's Attorney.  
DATED at BRADFORD County, Florida, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.  
RUBIN LUBLIN, LLC  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
2313 W. Violet St.  
Tampa, Florida 33603  
Telephone: (813) 656-8801  
Fax: (813) 656-8802  
ELeMailService@riseup.com  
By: /s/ Brittany L. Harvey  
Brittany L. Harvey, Esq.  
Florida Bar No. 124795  
24-F000027/TL  
Published in: Bradford County Telegraph  
6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY  
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION  
CASE NO. 24000272CAAXMX  
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
ELIZABETH MARIE COODY, et al.,  
Defendant.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered April 28, 2025 in Civil Case No. 24000272CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT in and for Bradford County, Starke, Florida, wherein PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC is Plaintiff and Elizabeth Marie Coody, et al., are Defendants, the Clerk of Court, DENNY THOMPSON, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Lobby, Starke, FL, 32091 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 26th day of June, 2025 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:  
Lot 7 and Northerly 1/2 of Lot 6, Block 27, Livingston, Truby and Company's Addition to Starke, in Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, as per the Plat recorded in Deed Book J, Page 232, of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.  
Any person claiming an interest in

the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.  
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was: [check all used]  
(x) E-mailed (x) Mailed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, to all parties on the attached service list.  
By: /s/ **Morgan B Lea**  
Morgan Lea, Esq.  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
225 E. Robinson Street, Suite 155  
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Phone: (407) 674-1673  
Fax: (321) 248-0420  
Email: MRService@mccalla.com  
Fla. Bar No.: 96405  
Published in: Bradford County Telegraph Inc.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.  
24-10244FL 6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY  
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION  
CASE NO. 24000138CAAXMX  
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
BENJAMIN JACOB BUCHBERGER, et al.,  
Defendant.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered February 24, 2025 in Civil Case No. 24000138CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT in and for Bradford County, Starke, Florida, wherein FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION is Plaintiff and Benjamin Jacob Buchberger, et al., are Defendants, the Clerk of Court, DENNY THOMPSON, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Lobby, Starke, FL, 32091 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 26th day of June, 2025 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

A parcel of land lying in Lot 1 "Woodlawn" according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 17, in Section 11, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:  
Commence at the Southwest corner of said Lot 1 and run N 00°32'54"W, along the West line of said Lot 1, also being the West line of said Section 11 and the centerline of NW 22nd Avenue (66' R/W) for a distance of 295.00 feet; thence run N 89°15'42"E for a distance of 33.00 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod located on the Easterly R/W line of said NW 22nd Avenue for the Point of Beginning.  
From the Point of Beginning thus described run N 00°32'54"W, along said Easterly R/W line of NW 22nd

Avenue and parallel with the West line of said Lot 1, for a distance of 363.80 feet to a found 1/2" iron rod located on the North line of said Lot 1; thence run N 89°15'39"E, along said North line of Lot 1, for a distance of 262.00 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run S 00°32'54"E, parallel with the West line of said Lot 1, for a distance of 363.80 feet to a set 1/2" iron rod; thence run S 89°15'42"W for a distance of 262.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.  
Subject to any covenants, easements, and/or restrictions of record.  
The above described parcel being the same lands as described and recorded in ORB 1712, Pages 464-465 of the public records of said County, LESS and Except that portion lying within the right of way of NW 22nd Avenue.  
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.  
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was: [check all used]  
(x) E-mailed (x) Mailed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, to all parties on the attached service list.  
By: /s/ **Morgan B Lea**  
Morgan Lea, Esq.  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
225 E. Robinson Street, Suite 155  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Phone: (407) 674-1673  
Fax: (321) 248-0420  
Email: MRService@mccalla.com  
Fla. Bar No.: 96405  
Published in: Bradford County Telegraph Inc.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.  
23-08047FL 6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 23000527CAAXMX  
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF TREEHOUSE SERIES V TRUST,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
ROBERT P. MARSHALL, et al.,  
Defendant(s).

### NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment in Foreclosure entered on May 1, 2025 and entered in Case No. 23000527CAAXMX in the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein ROBERT P. MARSHALL, are the Defendants. The Clerk of the Court, DENNY THOMPSON, will sell to the highest bidder for cash at the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091 on July 24, 2025 at 11:00am, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:  
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE NE

1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 225 (A 100 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY) AND THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 16 (A 100 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY) IN SAID NE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 26; THENCE RUN S 90 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E. ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE ROAD NO. 16, A DISTANCE OF 638.73 FEET; THENCE RUN N 83 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 17 SECONDS W A DISTANCE OF 300.47 FEET; THENCE RUN N 88 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 21 SECONDS W A DISTANCE OF 896.81 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED PARCEL OF LAND; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 57 SECONDS E A DISTANCE OF 209.20 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE AFORESAID NE 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 26; THENCE RUN S 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 05 SECONDS W, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 208.22 FEET; THENCE RUN N 00 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 57 SECONDS W A DISTANCE OF 209.20 FEET; THENCE RUN N 89 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E A DISTANCE OF 208.22 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 1987 FLEETWOOD DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME ID # AFLC22AG480512344 AND AFLC22BG480512344 and commonly known as: 7400 NE 221ST TRAIL, STARKE, FL 32091 (the "Property"). ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

**IMPORTANT**  
IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS AN ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A COURT PROCEEDING OR OTHER COURT SERVICE, PROGRAM, OR ACTIVITY, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE PRESENTED ON THIS FORM, IN ANOTHER WRITTEN FORMAT, OR ORALLY. REQUESTS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY USING THE FORM AVAILABLE; VIA EMAIL TO ADA@CIRCUIT8.ORG; BY MAIL TO ADA COORDINATOR, ALACHUA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 201 EAST UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ROOM 410, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601; OR ORALLY BY PHONE AT 352-337-6237. PLEASE MAKE REQUEST AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE, BUT PREFERABLY AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE OR OTHER COURT ACTIVITY. IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, PLEASE CALL 711.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**  
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served via e-mail upon all parties registered to receive notification via the service list for this action maintained by the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal Governed or via U.S. Mail to those parties on the

attached service list on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2025.  
GHIDOTTI BERGER LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
10800 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 201  
Miami, FL 33161  
Telephone: (305) 501-2808  
Facsimile: (954) 780-5578  
By: /s/ **Johanni Fernandez-Marmol**  
Jason Duggar, Esq.  
FL Bar No.: 83813  
Christophal Hellewell, Esq.  
FL Bar No.: 114230  
Anyia E. Macias, Esq.  
FL Bar No.: 0458600  
Tara Rosenfeld, Esq.  
FL Bar No.: 59454  
Johanni Fernandez-Marmol, Esq.  
FL Bar No.: 1055042  
fcpleadings@ghidottiberger.com  
6/5 2tchg 6/12-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 679  
Year of Issuance: 2022  
Parcel Number: 02949-0-00310 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-001  
Description of Property: Lots 10 and 11 of Block C in Blanding S/D and Lot 12 Except West 150' of S 1/2, also described in Official Records Book 113-043-3000- 2/26/73  
Name in Which Assessed: HERMINIGILDA B DEKEYZER  
Name on last tax roll, if different: HILDA DEKEYZER (DAUGHTER) %MELY CLARKE  
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Bradford County, Florida  
BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk

Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.  
DATED: June 3, 2025  
DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025  
6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

**CITY COMMISSION**  
The City of Starke Commission will hold a budget workshop on June 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm. The workshop will be held at 209 North Thompson Street in the Commission Room. Public participation is welcomed.  
6/12 1tchg-BCT

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on June 20th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Towing storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.  
2015 KIA VIN# KNDJN2A24F7151067  
2010 FORD VIN# 2FMDK3JC4ABA36193  
6/12 2tchg 6/19-BCT

# Classified Ads - 904-964-6305



Where one call does it all!



Class Ads 6/12/25

40 Notices

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

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

47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

**SPACE FOR LEASE- STARKE, FL- Close to Downtown 1800 +/- Sq. Ft. Professional, General Office, Insurance, Realtor, Attorney, etc. Two rest rooms, space**

flexible for small business  
Rent \$1,400.00  
utilities not included  
Call - 904-964-7404

50 For Rent

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

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

**4BR/2BA for rent in country. \$1500/ mo plus security. 352-745-1189**

**WATERFRONT Home on Lake Geneva. 2BR/1.5BA with kitchen,**

dining and living room combination. Full brick fireplace in living room. Large washer/dryer room for possible office or small bedroom. Fenced in yard with trash pick up. \$1500/mo. plus deposit. Caregiver and maint. jobs available to reduce rent. 352-278-4578.

**2BR/1BA HOME. 696 Epperson St. \$1000/mo., first, last & deposit. No pets. 904-796-7906.**

**HERITAGE VILLAS**  
Accepting Applications for 1 & 2 BR Apts  
607 Bradford Court  
Starke, FL 32091  
904-964-6216  
TDD 771  
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

**Lake Butler Apartments 1, 2, 3 & 4 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**  
HC & Non-HC accessible.  
1005 SW 6th St.  
Lake Butler, FL  
**386-496-3141**  
TDD/TTY 711  
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!  
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.  
Equal Housing Opportunity

57 For Sale  
**12 foot x 50 inch wire filled gate, 2 inch x 4 inch mesh. Black. Never installed. \$100. 352-215-7117**

**2013 Transit Connect, 161k miles,**

**Orangewood Apartments**  
801 South Water Street  
Starke, FL 32091  
904-964-4214  
TDD/TTY 711  
Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance!  
1, 2, & 3 bedroom HC & Non-HC accessible apartments.  
This Institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.  
Equal Housing Opportunity

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Southern Villas of Starke**  
Ask about our  
1&2 BR Apartments HC & non-HC Units. Central AC/ Heat, on-site laundry, playground, private, quiet atmosphere.  
Located on SR-16, 1001 Southern Villas Dr. Starke, FL  
Call 904-964-7295  
TDD/TTY 711  
Equal Housing Opportunity

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65 Help Wanted  
66 Investment Opportunity  
67 Hunting Land for Rent  
68 Rent to Own  
69 Food Supplements  
70 Money to Lend  
72 Sporting Goods  
74 Computers & Computer Accessories  
Reach All 3 Counties Bradford • Union • Clay  
Worded Classified Ad up to 25 words is \$10  
Classified Display Ad is \$7.35 per col. inch  
Deadline for Classified ads - **Tuesday 12 noon**  
904-964-6305  
classads@bctelegraph.com  
WE ACCEPT  
MasterCard, Visa, American Express

**Set Right Mobile Homes**  
Specializing In Relocations, Re-Levels, Set-Ups & Disposal  
Rodney A. Carmichael, Owner  
Email: set\_right\_homes@yahoo.com  
904-364-6383  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Lic# IH/1025656

**WELL DRILLING**  
QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1964  
**24 Hr. PUMP SERVICE**  
**964-7061**  
STATE LICENSE #1305  
**DURRANCE PUMP**

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of June 12, 2025

## BRADFORD

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 64 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 00544-0-00103 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-002 Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in the NW 1/4 of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Northwest corner of said NW 1/4 and run North 89° 41' 35" East along the Northernly boundary thereof, 1639.47 feet to a concrete monument found on the Westerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 229; thence South 37° 51' 01" East along said Westerly boundary, 1188.41 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described, continue South 37° 51' 01" along said Westerly boundary, 473.00 feet to a found iron rod; thence run South 00° 15' 53" East, 13.47 feet to a concrete monument found at the Southeast corner of the N 1/2 of said NW 1/4; thence run South 89° 44' 28" West along the Southerly boundary of said N 1/2 of NW 1/4, a distance of 1112.21 feet to a set iron rod; thence run North 64° 30' 08" East, 910.59 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Name in Which Assessed: AMY ANDRE; MONTELUIS PIERRE NEWTON; GLADYS FENELON Name on last tax roll, if different: AMY ANDRE ET AL All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 322 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 01268-0-00106 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-003 Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in Lots 45 and 52 of Woodlawn, in Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 22 East as per plat recorded in Plat Book 1, page 17 of the public records of BRADFORD COUNTY, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at a concrete monument found at the Southeast corner of said Section 19 and run North 01 degree 21 minutes 56 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 2664.18 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of Lot 33, thence South 89 degrees 32 minutes 33 seconds West, along the Northernly boundary thereof, 349.34 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of the W 1/2 of said Lot 33; thence South 01 degree 30 minutes 46 seconds West, along the Easterly boundary thereof, 660.27 feet to an iron rod found at the Southeast corner thereof; thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 49 seconds West, along the Southerly boundary of said West 1/2 and along the Southerly boundaries of Lots 34 and 35, a distance of 1690.33 feet to an iron rod found at the Northeast corner of said Lot 45 for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described, run South 00 degrees 49 minutes 42 seconds East, along the Easterly boundary thereof and along the Easterly boundary of Lot 52, a distance of 819.93 feet to an iron rod set on the Northernly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225, said Northernly boundary being on a curve, concave to the Southeast and having a radius of 7689.49 feet; thence Southwesterly, along said Northernly boundary and along to arc of said curve, 630.24 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 71 degrees 46 minutes 08 seconds West to an iron rod set at the beginning of a curve, concave to the Northeast and having a radius of 50.00 feet; thence Northwesterly, along the arc of said curve, 82.24 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of North 49 degrees 46 minutes 14 seconds West to an iron rod set on

the Easterly boundary of the right of way of County Road 225-A; thence North 05 degrees 33 minutes 18 seconds East, along said Easterly boundary, 971.40 feet to an iron rod set on the Northernly boundary of said Lot 45; thence South 89 degrees 41 minutes 49 seconds East, along said Northernly boundary 555.52 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Name in Which Assessed: WILLIAMSON LAND DEVELOPMENT INC Name on last tax roll, if different: WILLIAMSON LAND DEVELOPMENT

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 08/20/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 1086 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 06203-A-04100 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-004 Description of Property: Lot 41, GENEVA LAKE ESTATES, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, Pages 36A and 36B of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida, Name in Which Assessed: DENNIS MAHONEY Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/17/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. ENG: DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate Number: 431 Year of Issuance: 2022 Parcel Number: 01872-0-01400 Case Number: 04-2025-TD-005 Description of Property: 35 5S 22 LOT 14 IN PEETSVILLE Name in Which Assessed: MARTHA J WHITLEY Name on last tax roll, if different: MARTHA J WHITLEY (DEC) % VERONICA WHITLEY All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 09/17/2025, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: June 3, 2025 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JUNE 5, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; JUNE 19, 2025; JUNE 26, 2025 6/5 4tchg 6/26-BCT

### NOTICE OF TELEPHONIC PUBLIC HEARING

The Capital Trust Authority (the "CTA") has been requested by Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation, and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and/or one or more related and/or affiliated entities (collectively, the "Borrower"), to issue its Health Facilities Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds, in one or

more series of tax-exempt qualified 501(c)(3) bonds or taxable bonds, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$950,000,000 (the "Bonds"). For the purposes of Section 147(f) of the Code, notice is hereby given that, in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service Revenue Procedure 2022-20, a telephonic public hearing will be held by a hearing officer on behalf of the CTA on June 19, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. CDT/12:00 P.M. EDT, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, using the telephone conference instructions provided herein. The purpose of the hearing is to take public comments regarding the issuance of the Bonds by the CTA, the nature and location of the Project (hereinafter defined) and the plan of finance.

The plan of finance contemplates that the CTA will issue, in respect to the Project, not exceeding \$950,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of its Bonds, in one or more series of tax-exempt qualified 501(c)(3) bonds or taxable bonds, and loan the proceeds of the Bonds to the Borrower for the principal purposes of:

(i) financing and/or reimbursing the cost of acquiring, constructing, improving and equipping certain healthcare facilities of the Borrower, as generally described below (the "Project");

(a) a new health care facility in St. Johns County, Florida, to be known as the "Durbin Park Hospital and Health Park Development," consisting of an acute care community hospital, and other related health care facilities, located on a new 42.5 acre health and wellness campus at the southwest corner of the intersection of Peyton Parkway and Flagler Health Way in St. Johns, Florida, with the initial address of 100 Flagler Health Way, St. Johns, FL 32259, including related facilities, fixtures, furnishings, and equipment, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000,000;

(b) a bed expansion project at UF Health Leesburg Hospital in Lake County, Florida, consisting of 48 new acute care beds located at 600 E. Dixie Avenue, Leesburg, FL 34748, including facilities, fixtures, furnishings, and equipment, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$70,000,000;

(c) renovations to and equipment for various units within UF Health Shands Hospital's north tower located at 1600 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608, including renovations to and equipment for two pediatric units located on the fourth floor of the north tower, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$21,000,000; and

(d) a new acute care patient tower, which will be located adjacent to UF Health Shands Hospital's existing south tower hospital at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608, including facilities, fixtures, furnishings and equipment, which will be financed with proceeds of the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000,000.

(ii) refunding all or a portion of certain indebtedness of the Borrower:

(a) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2007A (Shands Healthcare Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$40,395,000 (the "2007A Bonds");

(b) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds (Shands Healthcare Project), Series 2008A, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$49,990,000 (the "2008A Bonds");

(c) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Series 2008C Health Facilities Revenue Bonds (Shands Healthcare Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$13,125,000 (the "2008C Bonds");

(d) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2014A (Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc. at the University of Florida Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$250,000,000 (the "2014A Bonds");

(e) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2014B (Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc. at the University of Florida Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$50,000,000 (the "2014B Bonds");

(f) Alachua County Health Facilities Authority Health Facilities Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2016A (Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc. at the University of Florida Project), currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$24,150,000 (the "2016A Bonds");

(g) City of Leesburg, Florida Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds (Central Florida Health Alliance Projects), Series 2011, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$41,315,000 (the "2011 CFHA Bonds");

(h) Sumter County Industrial Development Authority Hospital Revenue Bonds (Central Florida Health Alliance Projects), Series 2014A, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$40,385,000 (the "2014A CFHA Bonds");

(i) Sumter County Industrial Development Authority Hospital Revenue Bonds (Central Florida Health Alliance Projects), Series 2014B, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$19,765,000 (the "2014B CFHA Bonds"); and

(j) City of Leesburg, Florida Hospital Revenue Refunding Bonds (Central Florida Health Projects), Series 2017, currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$23,020,000 (the "2017 CFHA Bonds").

(iii) funding a debt service reserve fund for the Bonds, if deemed

necessary or desirable;

(iv) funding capitalized interest for the Bonds, if deemed necessary or desirable;

(v) funding swap termination payments, if deemed necessary or desirable; and

(vi) paying certain costs of issuing the Bonds, including, but not limited to the cost of credit enhancement.

The 2007A Bonds and 2007B Bonds were issued for the purposes of financing and refinancing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located (i) on the Borrower's primary medical center campus with a primary address of 1600 S.W. Archer Road, Gainesville, Florida and including adjacent and proximate facilities with primary addresses of 1505 and 1515 S.W. Archer Road, Gainesville, Florida (collectively, the "Primary Medical Campus");

(ii) on the campus of UF Health Shands Psychiatric Hospital and UF Health Shands Rehab Hospital located at 4101 N.W. 89th Boulevard, Gainesville, Florida (the "Psychiatric Hospital Campus");

(iii) on the campus of Shands AGH (now closed) located at 801 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida (the "Shands AGH Campus");

(iv) on the campus of the UF Health Surgical Center located at 3480 Hull Road, Gainesville, Florida; (v) on the campus of Shands Starke Regional Medical Center located at 922 E. Call Street, Starke, Florida (the "Starke Campus"); and (vi) on the campus of Shands Live Oak Regional Medical Center located at 1100 11th Street S.W., Live Oak, Florida (the "Live Oak Campus").

The 2008A Bonds were issued for the purpose of financing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the Primary Medical Campus.

The 2008C Bonds were issued for the purposes of refinancing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located (i) on the Primary Medical Campus, (ii) on the Psychiatric Hospital Campus, (iii) on the Shands AGH Campus, (iv) on the Starke Campus, and (v) on the Live Oak Campus.

The 2014A Bonds and 2014B Bonds were issued for the purpose of financing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the Primary Medical Campus.

The 2016A Bonds were issued for the purpose of refinancing a portion of the 2007A Bonds.

The 2011 CFHA Bonds were issued for the purpose of refinancing the cost of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located (i) on the main campus of the Leesburg Regional Medical Center at 600 East Dixie Avenue, Leesburg, Florida (the "LRMC Campus"); and (ii) on the main campus of The Villages Regional Hospital located at 1451 El Camino Real, The Villages, Florida (the "TVRH Campus").

The 2014A CFHA Bonds were issued for the purpose of financing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the TVRH Campus.

The 2014B CFHA Bonds were issued for the purposes of financing and refinancing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the LRMC Campus and the TVRH Campus.

The 2017 CFHA Bonds were issued for the purpose of refinancing the costs of certain capital improvements to the Borrower's healthcare facilities located on the LRMC Campus and the TVRH Campus.

All facilities financed and refinanced with proceeds of the Bonds will be owned and operated by the Borrower, or an affiliate thereof or another entity chosen by the Borrower.

The Bonds, when issued, will be special, limited obligations payable solely out of the revenues, income and receipts pledged to the payment thereof and derived from financing agreements with the Borrower, and none of the CTA, Alachua County, Florida, Lake County, Florida, Sumter County, Florida, St. Johns County, Florida, Suwannee County, Florida and Bradford County, Florida (collectively, the "Counties") or the State of Florida (the "State") will be obligated to pay the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the Bonds except from the payments of the Borrower. The Bonds and the interest thereon shall never

(i) pledge the taxing power of the Counties, the State or any other political subdivision, public agency or municipality thereof within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory provision, (ii) constitute the debt or indebtedness of the CTA, the Counties, the State or any other political subdivision, public agency or municipality thereof. CTA has no taxing power. Issuance of the Bonds is subject to several conditions including satisfactory documentation and receipt of necessary approvals for the financing.

INTERESTED PERSONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE USING THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW. PRIOR TO SAID TELEPHONIC PUBLIC HEARING, WRITTEN COMMENTS MAY BE DELIVERED TO THE CTA AT 315 FAIRPOINT DRIVE, GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA 32561. ATTENTION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

### INSTRUCTIONS: TOLL FREE DIAL IN NUMBER: 1 (888) 667-1808

At the date and time fixed for said telephonic public hearing all who appear by telephone conference will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the Project, the plan of finance and the proposed approval of the issuance of the Bonds. Comments made at the public hearing are for the consideration of the parties providing an approval of the issuance of the Bonds and the plan of finance but will not bind the CTA or such parties as to any action the CTA or such parties may take. All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made with respect to the proposed approval of the issuance of the Bonds, they will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. All interested persons are invited to present their comments on the date and time set forth above.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, AS AMENDED, ALL PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED AND WHO NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TELEPHONIC PUBLIC HEARING BECAUSE OF THAT DISABILITY SHOULD CONTACT THE HEARING OFFICER AT (850) 934-4046 AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING, EXCLUDING SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

6/12 1tchg-BCT

### NOTICE OF ELECTION TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS

NOTICE is hereby given as provided by the Charter of the Town of Worthington Springs, Florida, that a municipal election will be held in the said Town of Worthington Springs on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday in July 2025 the same being July 15, 2025, for the purpose of electing the following officers of the said Town of Worthington Springs to serve for the term as hereinafter stated, to wit: Candidates for Town Council shall qualify for Council Seats one, three and Five.

Seat One for a term of four (4) years  
Seat Three for a term of four (4) years  
Seat Five for a term of four (4) years

Elector must qualify to become a candidate between June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>. An affidavit can be signed at the Town Hall on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or you may contact the Clerk, Pat Harrell at 352 316-6776 to make arrangements to sign documents. To qualify the Elector must be a Registered Voter in the County, live in the Town limits and have been a Resident for six months or more. Election will be held at the City Hall located at 11933 SW 36 DR and State Road 121 in Worthington Springs, Florida on Tuesday, July 16, 2025 and the polls will be open at 7:00 am and close at 7:00 pm.

6/12 1tchg-BCT

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of NANCY ELIZABETH LUKE, deceased, whose date of death was April 25, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for UNION County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054-1600. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.221, Florida Statutes.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 is June 5, 2025.

Deceased.  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The administration of the estate of NANCY ELIZABETH LUKE, deceased, whose date of death was April 25, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for UNION County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054-1600. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 is June 5, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative: GEORGE H. GWYNN E-mail Addresses: George.Gwynn@WilliamsGautier.com, Patricia.Howell@WilliamsGautier.com Florida Bar No. 357573 Williams, Gautier, Gwynn, DeLoach & Kiker, PA 2010 Delta Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32303 Telephone: (850) 386-3300 Personal Representative: Jacqueline Luke 1905 Mallory Square Tallahassee, Florida 32308 6/5 2tchg 6/12-UCT

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2025-CP-0001

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN ANTONIUS TABAH, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of JOHN ANTONIUS TABAH, deceased, whose date of death was May 30, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.221, Florida Statutes.

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

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN 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 is June 12, 2025.

Attorney for Personal Representative: s/ Marilyn A. Cangro Belo Marilyn A. Cangro Belo Attorney Charles Tabah Florida Bar Number: 22390 5745 SW 75th Street #363 Gainesville, Florida 32608 Telephone: (352) 448-4500 Fax: (352) 448-4510 E-Mail: [lyan@mcbelolaw.com](mailto:lyan@mcbelolaw.com) Secondary E-Mail: [eservice@mcbelolaw.com](mailto:eservice@mcbelolaw.com) Personal Representative: CHARLES TABAH 17527 NW 240th Terrace High Springs, Florida 32643 6/12 2tchg 6/19-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE  
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located in City Hall at 200 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Street Lake Butler, FL 32054. 6/12 1tchg-UCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on June 6, 2025:

American Land & Lakes, 5206 Paylor Ln, Lakewood Rch, FL 34240-2204 has submitted an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application number ERP-125-250933-2. The project is located in Union County, Section 6, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, and includes 5.68 acres of impervious area on a total project area of 6.78 acres.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

PUBLISH: no later than June 19, 2025 tm 6/12 1tchg-

# Kramer honored at SFC Foundation event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford County's Chuck Kramer was one of the recipients at Santa Fe College Foundation's Pillars of Service Awards luncheon, a May 23 event at the Hilton University of Florida that also encouraged attendees to support foundation scholarships.

Kramer, the general manager and morning personality at WEAG 106.3-FM, which he and his family own, joined the Climb for Cancer Foundation, Katie Belanger, Carrie Lee, Héctor Puig and Kristina Ramer as recipients of the inaugural awards. Pillars of Service replaces the longtime Women of Distinction awards program.

Portia Taylor, who retired as the college's vice president of student affairs in 2012, provided the event's welcoming remarks, saying, "These honorees represent the very best of us, enriching our communities, uplifting others and inspiring future generations. Their strength and their perseverance ripple outward, transforming lives and building stronger, healthier and hopeful communities."

Attendees watched a video presentation that highlighted each honoree. Kramer talked about how Bradford County and Starke, in particular, were welcoming when he and his family moved from New Jersey in the fall of 1991.

"It's a pleasure to be a part of the community," Kramer said. "I'm involved in various organizations here."

Brenda Thornton, a Starke Realtor and photographer, was interviewed, saying, "He literally is involved in so much in the community." She added, "We're just really proud of him."

Also interviewed was Starke City Commissioner Bob Milner, who talked about how so many in the community count on Kramer each morning for local news and



Chuck Kramer (left) receives a Pillars of Service Award from Santa Fe College President Paul Broadie. Photo by Matt Stamey of Santa Fe College.

weather as well as to "find out what's going on."

In speaking of Kramer and his family, Milner said, "They have touched so many aspects of the Bradford County community and have been so effective in investing in others so that countless others in Bradford County have benefitted."

Kramer, Milner and Thornton all talked of the death of Kramer's daughter Danielle, who was killed at the age of 20 in a 2007 traffic accident.

"When that event happened, it was very heartbreaking for the family and the community," Thornton said. "So many people just rallied around the Kramers. It really showed how much our community cares about them."

Kramer said Cheryl Canova, the former director of the Santa Fe College Andrews Center in Starke, encouraged him and his wife, Mary, to endow a Santa Fe scholarship in Danielle's name, which they did.

"Every two years, we're always included in the (scholarship) selection process," Kramer said.

Thornton said the scholarship is a plus for Bradford students who struggle to find the financial means to go to college.

"This is one avenue they can really count on to go to the next level," Thornton said.

Santa Fe College President Paul Broadie, who spoke prior to the video presentation, said Kramer and his family are helping make students' dreams come true, while also honoring the memory of their daughter, who was a Santa Fe student.

"When tragedy struck his life, he and his family said, 'I'm going to touch another life.' They established a scholarship in the name of their daughter," Broadie said, adding, "Her legacy lives on and has a tremendous impact."

## Teamwork makes Santa Fe a success

Broadie took the time to talk about the highlights of Santa Fe College, such as student success and its transfer rate of students to the University of Florida. He also mentioned that Santa Fe earned an award for workforce development and was one of two Florida public colleges to earn a new Opportunity for Colleges and Universities designation by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

The Carnegie designation recognizes colleges "for excellence and being models for the nation for high access, high student success and high earnings for graduates," Broadie said.

The credit, the president said, goes to many. First, he asked the faculty and staff members present to stand, saying, "We talk about our faculty, which is incredible day in and day out, having an impact. We talk about our staff — incredible, giving of themselves to advance someone else's educational dreams. Incredible."

Broadie also talked of the importance of the community through donations and partnerships that are "all focused on changing a life, taking helplessness and turning it into hope, and taking a dream and turning that dream into reality."

"It's all of us pulling on the rope in the same direction to have a transformational impact," Broadie said.

Broadie thanked his board of trustees, which includes Bradford County's Mike Goldwire and Jeff Oody. Emeritus trustees include Bradford's Arley McRae and Lisa Prevatt.

"I get to serve with the most incredible trustees," Broadie said. "I tell my colleagues all the time, 'My trustees are better than yours.'"

The president gave kudos to Vice President for Advancement Sherry Houston and her team for "incredible organizing and planning and incredible leadership" regarding the Pillars of Service event and upcoming plans for celebrating the college's 60th anniversary.

"For 59 years, we have been the community's college," Broadie said. "We will never stop being the community's college."



# Rhoden, Brown to compete at 4-H State Horse Show

Bradford 4-H member Saylor Rhoden won Speed Events Ground Handling in the junior division at the Area North 4-H Horse Show in May. She also placed second in Western Horsemanship and Western Pleasure and fourth in Keyhole. Rhoden will advance to the July 10-12 Florida 4-H State Horse Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa.



Cassidy Brown, like Saylor Rhoden, is a junior Bradford County 4-H member who qualified for the Florida 4-H State Horse Show. At the Area North 4-H Horse Show, she placed third in Barrel Race, fourth in Pole Bending and fifth in Stake Race.

## 'Be a hero,' invest in SFC scholarships

The mission of the Santa Fe See HONOR, page 16

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**Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.**

# HONOR

Continued from page 15

College Foundation is to inspire, cultivate and assist private donors to enrich students and the community through scholarships, program enhancements and facilities support.

Taylor spoke specifically on scholarships, saying, "We distribute almost 600 (scholarships) a year, with the value exceeding \$1.6 million. "At Santa Fe College, it costs approximately \$2,500 per year to take classes toward an associate degree and a little over \$3,000 toward the baccalaureate degree. Plus, you have lab fees. You have

books. Then, you have some things that sometimes are just out of the students' control. Much like our own economy, we have things that come up. "These scholarships help our students." Taylor said every student has a dream — one that can become a reality through a scholarship. "Your investment opens the

door to educational opportunities, providing students with the keys to a better life and, in turn, enriching our communities," Taylor said. The return on a Santa Fe College Foundation investment is seen daily, Taylor said, mentioning some of the people we interact with, such as dental hygienists, nurses, EMTs, police

officers and firefighters. "The students we have now will continue to be in our communities and serve our communities," Taylor said. "We need you to help our students." Those at the Pillars of Service luncheon were provided an opportunity to make a donation online via a provided QR code or to submit a check in a provided

envelope. "I want to thank you for your support in the past and thank you in advance for the support you're going to give our students in the future," Taylor said. Please visit [sfcollege.edu/foundation](http://sfcollege.edu/foundation) if you'd like to donate or to learn more about the Santa Fe College Foundation.

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