

The Chattahoochee News-Herald



& Sreads Sentinel

Because Great Communities Deserve Great Community Newspapers



PumpkinFest brings fall fun to Downtown Havana this weekend

Janice Eakin
Gadsden County News Service

Get ready to celebrate autumn in style as PumpkinFest, Havana’s premier family festival, returns for its 25th year on Saturday, Oct.11, 2025. The beloved event, which drew more than 7,000

attendees last year, is set to transform the downtown streets into a festive autumn wonderland. This year’s festival is a silver jubilee celebration, promising a day packed with activities for all ages. Attendees can look forward to a full day of fun,

with over 100 vendors and more than 20 food and beverage vendors offering a wide variety of treats and handcrafted goods. The downtown merchants, coffee shops, ice cream shops, and restaurants will

See Fest on page A2



Photo by Erin Hill

PumpkinFest brings the community together for a weekend of pumpkins, crafts, and family fun. Don’t miss the 25th year on Saturday, Oct. 11.

County commissioners approve property tax increase, despite pushback

Fabrizio Gowdy
Gadsden County News Service

On Sept. 30, the Gadsden County Commission approved the 9.0 millage rate tentatively adopted at its first budget hearing on Sept. 15. The 3-1 vote in favor of keeping the mill rate the same came in spite of significant public pressure to approve the rollback rate of 8.6383. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins was the lone “no” vote. Commissioner Shawn Wood stepped out of the room for a few minutes and missed the vote; it is unclear why the board did not wait for Wood to return before conducting the vote.

Simpkins and Wood voted against the 9.0 rate at the Sept. 15 budget hearing. “I still stand where I stood a couple weeks ago, I still stand with the rollback,” said Simpkins, drawing applause from members of the public in attendance. Like the first budget hearing, the meeting was once again well attended by rollback proponents. “I really would like to see Gadsden County take a step in the right direction by cutting back instead of asking for more,” said Quincy resident David Wesolowski. Several speakers argued that Gadsden’s mill rate is significantly higher than neighboring counties of

similar sizes. According to the Florida Department of Revenue, it is true that most surrounding counties have lower mill rates. Multiple speakers also warned that seniors would be among those hit hardest by not approving a rollback. That included Teresa Bajoczky, a process server for the 2nd Judicial Circuit, who became visibly emotional during her public comments. “I’m the one who gets to go knock on doors, I’m the one who all these old people who get over-taxed and booted out of their houses [see] ... the old people can’t do it,” said Bajoczky. According to Bajoczky, since Covid, she has

served significantly more property for foreclosure and tax sales. She also noted that her property taxes on her 1,100-foot lake house in Gadsden County hit \$1,600 last year, which has led her to consider selling it and purchasing property in Wakulla County instead. Havana resident and gold tech mechanic Dylan Turner rose to specifically challenge the county’s handling of the 10 Massey-Ferguson tractors it has deemed not repairable. Turner questioned whether the tractors really couldn’t be repaired, and even offered to volunteer his time to investigate. He also asked why the county is leasing

equipment when it could save money over time by purchasing it. “It makes me question who’s actually looking over the service department of these things ... that spending seems outrageous,” said Turner. In response to the pressure from speakers, Commissioners Eric Hinson, Brenda Holt, and Ronterious Green said they felt the public’s pain but crucial services including police, fire, and EMS had to be funded. “I want to be clear again, we are not increasing the millage rate—it was 9.0 last year. I too look forward to being able to roll back, I’m not sure it’s possible to do it this

budget,” said Green. Hinson also pointed out that the county’s budget would be increasing the number of nighttime deputies on patrol from two to five. He said public safety should be a priority and was worth the investment. According to Finance Director Rose Raynak, her department was asked as late as the day before to review all 96 county budgets, and that 76 of those budgets were slated to receive the same amount of funding as the previous year. She also stated that the mill rate has hovered around 9.0 for the last twenty years.

Chattahoochee Main Street celebrates service and support at annual banquet

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Chattahoochee Main Street held its Annual Volunteer, Member, and Sponsor Appreciation Banquet on September 18 at the Florida State Hospital Recreation Center. The Hawaiian-themed event gathered

Chattahoochee Main Street members, volunteers, sponsors, and local leaders for an evening recognizing contributions to the organization’s downtown revitalization and community programming efforts. Keika McMillan, Director of Volunteer Services for Florida State

Hospital, delivered the keynote address. McMillan spoke on the importance of volunteering, collaboration among community groups, and civic engagement in Chattahoochee. **Awards presented during the banquet included:** • Volunteers of the Year:

Mike Wheaton and Beth Merryfield • Junior Volunteers of the Year: Lily McDaniel, Luke Bell, and Sarahjane Baxley • Outstanding Supporter of the Year: Dusty Treasures, represented by Danielle Edenfield, David Pippin, and Julie Harrison All attendees were

recognized for their ongoing support of Chattahoochee Main Street’s initiatives. Local officials and community leaders attending the banquet included Dan Paasch, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Ashley Moody; Gadsden County Commissioner Shawn

Wood; Chattahoochee City Councilwoman Ann Williams; and Chattahoochee City Manager Robert Presnell. The event underscored the partnership between city leadership and Chattahoochee Main Street’s volunteer-driven efforts.



Board members Ira Daniels, Gena McDaniel, Amy Watson, Pamela Medley, and Isaac Simmons (not pictured Jennie Hari)



Junior Volunteer Luke Bell and April Tiller



Junior volunteer Lily McDaniel and Gena McDaniel



Volunteers of the Year Mike Wheaton and Beth Merryfield



Guest speaker Keika McMillan with her family



Outstanding supporter, David Pippin for Dusty Treasures

Community Calendar

October

How to Eat Healthy on a Budget

- Wednesday, Oct. 8
- 11 a.m.
- 732 S. Pat Thomas Parkway, Gadsden County Public Library, Quincy (Main Branch)

This event focuses on eating healthily while maintaining a budget.

Gadsden County Planning Commission Meeting

- Monday, Oct. 13

- 6 p.m.
- 9 West Jefferson, Street (Edward J. Butler Governmental Complex, Quincy)

Planning commission meeting to review land use, zoning, etc.

UF/IFAS Garden & Farm Fall Festival

- Saturday, Oct. 11
- 9 a.m.
- 155 Research Road, (UF/IFAS North Florida

Research & Education Center) Quincy

Contact UF/IFAS Gadsden County Extension Office for vendor registration for fall festival (farmers, local artisans).

National Hook-up of Black Women, Inc. Domestic and Gun Violence Awareness Walk

- Saturday, Oct. 11
- 9 a.m.
- 203 5th Ave. East (Havana Community Park)

Join the National Hook-up of Black Women, Inc., Gadsden Chapter in partnership with Handle With Care Dolls, Inc. to help bring awareness to domestic and gun violence.

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Short Takes

October Twilight Concert featuring music by Tim Kelly of Latitude 30

The Quincy Main Street October Twilight Concert is Tuesday, October 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Bwembya Market, 23 N. Madison St., featuring the music of Tim Kelly of the Latitude 30 band. Dinner catered by Faison’s Way BBQ - your choice of pulled chicken or pork served with Cole Slaw and Baked Beans. Beer and wine available. Come mingle and enjoy an evening of music, delicious food, fellowship, and support Quincy Main Street’s mission of revitalizing the downtown square.

Get your tickets at <https://quincymainstreet.org/twilight-concert-tickets/> Ticket deadline is Sunday October 19.

UF/IFAS Garden and Farm Family Fall Festival

Celebrate Fall at UF/IFAS! The UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, FL is once again

hosting the Garden & Farm Family Fall Festival, Saturday October 11, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Quincy Main Street and the Quincy Music Theatre will be on hand promoting our organizations and the Quincy History, Mystery, and Ghost Tour.

There will be live performances, farm tours, local vendors, a fall plant sale extravaganza, and local and state organizations. Plus hand-on science activities and a Kids Fun Zone with multiple activities for the little ones, a petting zoo, and Free pumpkins!

This is a Free Event and everyone is welcome! Stop by the QMS and QMT table and say “Hello.”

UF/IFAS is located south of Quincy on Pat Thomas Parkway and 155 Research Rd, Quincy FL.

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida announces the 2026 AgVocator Scholarship Program

Farm Credit of

Northwest Florida recently announced the opening of its 2026 AgVocator Scholarship Program, reaffirming its commitment to investing in the future of agriculture and rural communities in Northwest Florida.

This year, one exceptional student will be awarded a scholarship of up to \$20,000 to support their academic journey. Eligible applicants include high school seniors, college freshmen, and sophomores who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and a strong dedication to serving rural communities.

In addition to the top award, two additional finalists will each receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

The application period is now open and will close on January 31, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

For more information about the scholarship program and to apply online, please visit <https://www.farmcredit-fl.com/scholarships>.

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also be open, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

The schedule is brimming with classic PumpkinFest traditions and new memories to be made. Starting at 11 a.m., the popular Pie Eating Contest will challenge both children and adults to a messy but delicious showdown. At noon, participants can show off their creative costumes in the Costume Contest for children and adults. Organizers note that pets will not be included in this year’s contest. The

day will culminate with the Scarecrow Contest Awards at 3:30 p.m., honoring the most imaginative and well-crafted entries.

Children will have a dedicated space for activities, including a Petting Zoo and Pumpkin Painting. The Havana Merchant’s Association is sponsoring a special free entry for children 12 and under to celebrate the 25th anniversary, which also covers most children’s activities, with the exception of face painting.

An entry fee of \$5 will be

collected for individuals aged 13 and above. Parking will be available in several locations to accommodate the large crowd, including free parking at local church parking lots and the Havana Community Park (accessible from 6th Ave E). For any questions regarding the event, the public can reach out to Festivals. HavanaMainStreet@gmail.com.

PumpkinFest’s 25th anniversary is shaping up to be a landmark event for the community. Don’t miss out on the festivities



LOVE
WHERE YOU
LIVE



Keep
Gadsden
COUNTY
Beautiful

BULKY TRASH
PICK-UP DATES



SHAWN
WOOD

DISTRICT THREE

OCTOBER 13 -
OCTOBER 16, 2025

PLACE ITEMS IN THE RIGHT OF WAY PRIOR
TO THE SUNDAY OF YOUR DISTRICT'S WEEK.
MONDAY - THURSDAY ONLY

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE FURNITURE AND
WHITE GOODS, SUCH AS REFRIGERATORS AND MATTRESSES.
NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE OR YARD DEBRIS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

BULKY ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP ON
COUNTY MAINTAINED ROADS ONLY! NO CITY OR STATE ROADS.

If you have any questions regarding items acceptable for pickup, please contact the
Public Works Department at (850) 875-8672

LOVE
WHERE YOU
LIVE



Keep
Gadsden
COUNTY
Beautiful

BULKY TRASH
PICK-UP DATES

The Gadsden County Public Works Department will be performing the **FALL BULKY** item pickup service beginning **September 29 through October 31, 2025**, for residents in the unincorporated areas of the County. This service will be performed on a district-by-district schedule. Acceptable items include furniture and white goods, such as refrigerators and mattresses.

DISTRICT ONE • COMMISSIONER HINSON
SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 2, 2025

DISTRICT TWO • COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS
OCTOBER 6 - OCTOBER 9, 2025

DISTRICT THREE • COMMISSIONER WOOD
OCTOBER 13 - OCTOBER 16, 2025

DISTRICT FOUR • COMMISSIONER HOLT
OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 23, 2025

DISTRICT FIVE • COMMISSIONER GREEN
OCTOBER 27 - OCTOBER 30, 2025

PLACE ITEMS IN THE RIGHT OF WAY PRIOR
TO THE SUNDAY OF YOUR DISTRICT'S WEEK.
MONDAY - THURSDAY ONLY

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE FURNITURE AND
WHITE GOODS, SUCH AS REFRIGERATORS AND MATTRESSES.
NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE OR YARD DEBRIS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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Court curbs searches based on pot smell

Jim Saunders
News Service of Florida

Pointing to laws allowing use of medical marijuana and hemp, a state appeals court Wednesday reversed course and said police officers can't search vehicles only on the basis of smelling cannabis.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal's main opinion said that for "generations, cannabis was illegal in all forms — thereby rendering its distinct odor immediately indicative of criminal activity." But the opinion said legislative changes have "fundamentally changed its definition and regulation" and made cannabis legal to possess in multiple forms.

Citing the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, the appeals court backed away from what it described as a "plain smell doctrine" related to cannabis.

"In light of significant legislative amendments

to the definition and regulation of cannabis, its mere odor can no longer establish that it is 'immediately apparent' that the substance is contraband," Judge Nelly Khouzam wrote in an opinion fully joined by nine other judges.

"Accordingly, the plain smell doctrine can no longer establish probable cause based solely on the odor of cannabis. Rather, we now align the Fourth Amendment analysis for cannabis with the test that applies to other suspected contraband, such that its odor is a valid factor to be considered along with all others under the totality of the circumstances."

Three other judges wrote or joined concurring opinions, including Judge J. Andrew Atkinson, who wrote that what is "pertinent to the resolution of this case on its facts is that an officer who smells either raw cannabis or the smoke from burnt or burning cannabis has encountered an odor that is no more

likely to be indicative of criminal activity than licit use of a legal substance. On this record and under the statutes as they currently read, that smell, in isolation, does not give rise to probable cause to justify a search."

But Judge Craig Villanti, in a dissent joined by Judge Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe, wrote that changes over the past decade to allow medical marijuana and hemp products "did not wholesale decriminalize the possession of marijuana." Villanti pointed to safety concerns about people driving while impaired by cannabis.

"People who traverse our Florida highways are entitled to share the roads with sober and safe drivers," Villanti wrote. "The majority interpretation of the law and wholesale erosion of well-developed, reasonable Fourth Amendment analysis will only undermine the evolved public expectation that law

enforcement will continue to protect them as they motor along Florida's highways."

The Hillsborough County case stemmed from law-enforcement officers in 2023 stopping a car in which Darrielle Ortiz Williams was a passenger. Officers smelled cannabis and searched the car, finding bags that included cannabis.

Williams, who was on probation at the time, also was found to have a drug known as "molly" in a plastic bag in a sock. A circuit judge found that Williams had violated probation. That led to the appeal, which was considered by the full appellate court.

Wednesday's opinion reversed course from a 2021 decision by the 2nd District that said police were still able to conduct searches based on smelling cannabis. But it put the Tampa Bay-area court in line with an opinion issued last year by the 5th District Court of Appeal.

The 2nd District also took a step known as certifying a question of "great public importance" to the Florida Supreme Court to resolve the issue.

In a twist in Wednesday's opinion, the court declined to suppress the evidence in Williams' case because the court said "our precedent expressly permitted the search at the time it occurred" and "law enforcement was acting in objectively reasonable reliance on binding appellate precedent."

Florida voters in 2016 passed a constitutional amendment that allowed the use of medical marijuana. Lawmakers subsequently passed legislation to put the amendment into effect and also have allowed use of other hemp products.

In his dissent, Villanti wrote that he hopes the Supreme Court will address the issue about searches but also pointed to the possibility of the Legislature getting involved.

"I am equally hopeful

that the Florida Legislature is aware of the dilemma that was inadvertently caused by the widespread acceptance of hemp and legalization of medical marijuana," he wrote. "I invite the Legislature to review this issue and to consider that its recent legislation legalizing cannabis for medical purposes has made it easier for nefarious individuals to engage in criminal activity. Because I believe this is a great injustice to the citizens of Florida, I dissent from the majority's conclusion that we have no choice but to recede from the 'plain smell' doctrine."

The main opinion was joined by Chief Judge Matthew Lucas and Judges Stevan Northcutt, Morris Silberman, Robert Morris, Anthony Black, Daniel Sleet, Susan Rothstein-Youakim, Andrea Teves Smith and Suzanne Labrit.

In addition to Atkinson, the concurring judges were Patricia Kelly and Edward LaRose.



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It's always been easier for me to help others
than to help myself

As a Veteran, when someone raises their hand for help, you're often one of the first ones to respond. But it's also okay to get help for yourself. Maybe you want or need assistance with employment, stress, finances, mental health or finding the right resources. No matter what it is, you earned it. And there's no better time than right now to ask for it. **Don't wait. Reach out.**

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RFP 26-01 PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK (CMAR) SERVICES FOR THE EMS-QUINCY FACILITY
ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: October 2, 2025
RELEASE DATE: October 2, 2025
PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 @ 3:00 PM
PROPOSALS DUE TO BOCC: Monday, November 3, 2025 @ 11:00 AM

Sealed proposals will be received at the Gadsden County Purchasing Office, 5B East Jefferson Street, Rm 204, Quincy, FL 32351 until Monday, November 3, 2025 @ 11 AM local time. All proposals will be opened and read aloud on Monday, November 3, 2025 @ 11:15 AM local time. Proposals received after said time will be returned unopened.

This is HUD/CDBG grant funded project for the construction of a fully designed Emergency Management Services (EMS) facility at 264 Joe Thomas Road in Quincy, Florida.


The RFP 26-01 documents and any addendum issued will be posted on the County's website at www.gadsdencountyfl.gov or can be obtained by contacting the County's Procurement Office at procurement@gadsdencountyfl.gov. Proposers are responsible for checking the County's website for updates and addendums to the RFP 26-01.

A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted Respondent list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted Respondent list.

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid; reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part; re-bid a project, in whole or in part; and to accept a proposal that in its judgment is the lowest and best bid of a responsible bidder with all decisions being made based upon what Gadsden County believes to be the best interests of its ratepayers, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion. Gadsden County further reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as may be required to meet the needs of Gadsden County, at the unit price which was bid.

- **Gadsden County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status and disability/handicapped status in employment or provision of service.**
- **Gadsden County is an Equal Opportunity Employer**
- **MBE/WBE businesses are encouraged to participate.**
- **Gadsden County strictly enforces open and fair competition.**

ADA - Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodation by the County due to a disability should call the Purchasing Office at 850-875-7243 or 850-627-4053 at least five (5) business days prior to any pre-response conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the County Purchasing Office by the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).



LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ITB# 26-04 – FAIRBANKS FERRY MILL AND RESURFACING PROJECT
ADVERTISEMENT BEGIN DATE: October 9, 2025
RELEASE DATE: October 9, 2025
MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Thursday, October 23, 2025 @ 10:30 AM
PROPOSALS DUE TO BOCC: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 @ 3:00 PM

Sealed proposals will be received at the Gadsden County Purchasing Office, 5B East Jefferson Street, Rm 204, Quincy, FL 32351 until Thursday, November 12, 2025 @ 3:00 PM local time. All proposals will be opened and read aloud on Thursday, November 12, 2025 @ 3:00 PM local time. Proposals received after said time will be returned unopened.

The Project consists of approximately 100LF of floating turbidity barrier, 150 LF of a standard integral pile jacket and 820 pounds of structural steel rehab. The specifications of the procurement are stated in ITB# 26-04.

Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:30 AM, Eastern Time, Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the Public Works Office located at 1284 High Bridge Road, Quincy, Florida 32351.


The ITB# 26-04 and any addendum issued will be posted on the County's website at www.gadsdencountyfl.gov or can be obtained by contacting the County's Procurement Office at procurement@gadsdencountyfl.gov.

A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted Respondent list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted Respondent list.

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The sign in front of the gas station says “Unleaded, 3.39, special on Colt .357 Magnum, six-inch barrel.”

Visitors here in the valley do a double take when they see Vince’s sign there at what we all know as “the gas station gun shop.” That’s because Vince doesn’t believe in being deprived of his passion while earning a living. His passion: guns. His living: pumping gas.

We had all known of his passion for many years. He is the perennial president of the local rod and gun club, plans nearly all their annual spaghetti feeds to raise money for targets. If you want to go hunting, all you need to do is pull up in front of Vince’s house on the edge of town with some hounds in the back of the truck in the evening and honk the horn. You don’t even need to call ahead.

The combination business began about three years ago when an out-of-town customer pulled up to the gas pumps, walked inside to pay Vince, and saw the owner sitting there polishing a 1911 Government Model .45 auto.

CPR wasn’t necessary, but it did give Vince some thinking to do.

“I looked around in here,” he said, “and saw all this wall space. What did I have on it? Fan belts, stacks of motor oil containers, those little air fresheners shaped like pine trees. What a waste! So I put that stuff out in the repair side of the station and nailed up this knotty pine. Looks pretty good, doesn’t it?”

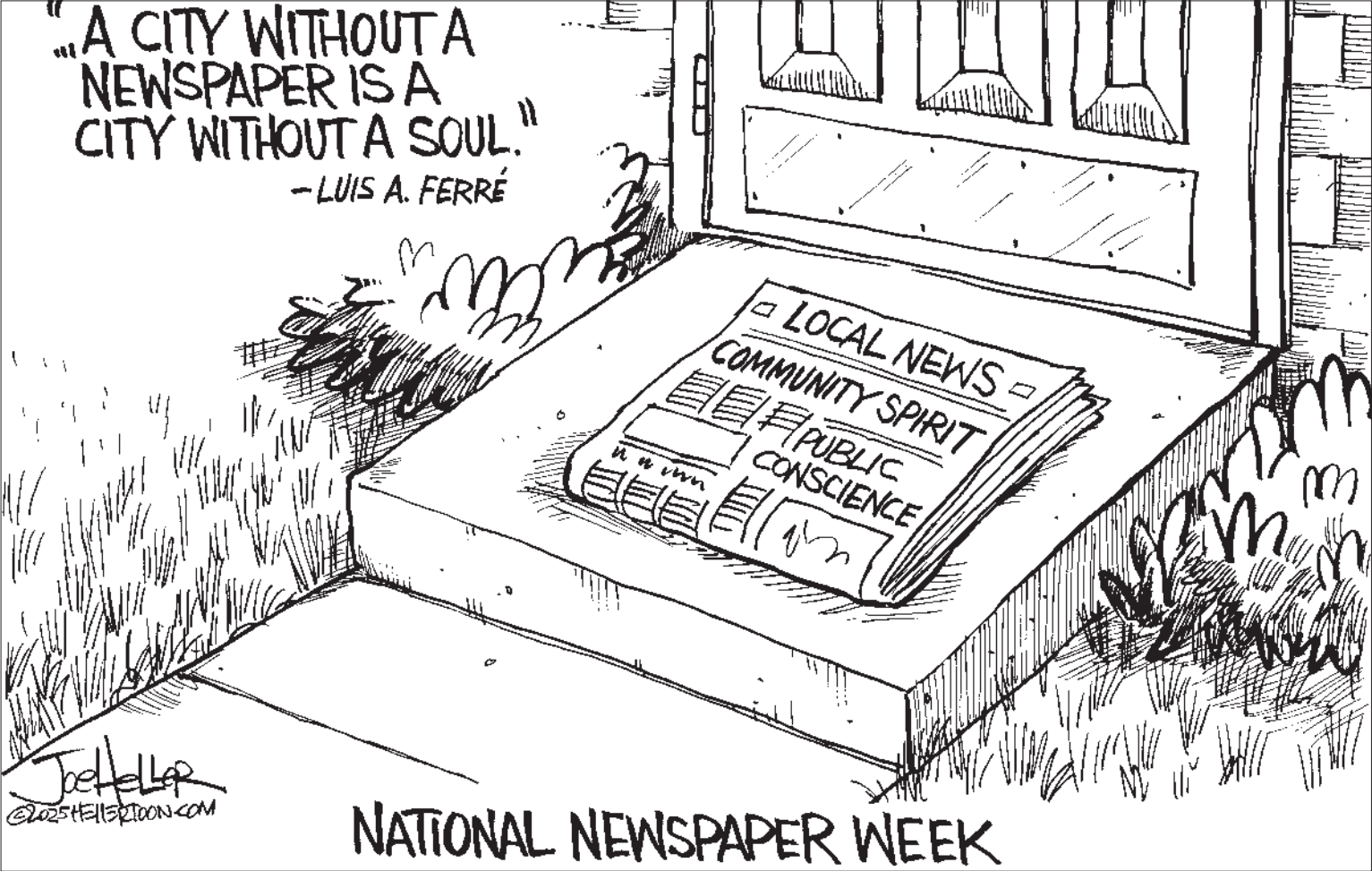
“Then I got my federal firearms license, bought a bunch of ammunition and some guns, and set it up.”

He says he’s always sure to put a gun ad up on the big white sign, along with the gas prices, so people won’t be surprised when they walk in and find him cleaning a Model 70 behind the counter.

“I actually do okay in the gun business here,” he said. “It isn’t enough to be a gun shop on its own, really. We aren’t a big enough town.”

And then he grinned and said, “And I’ve never been held up.”

At The Pump
<i>local, state, and national</i>
National Average
\$3.12 per gallon
State Average
\$3.00 per gallon
Gadsden County Average
\$2.89 per gallon
Jackson County Average
\$2.86 per gallon
Leon County Average
\$2.92 per gallon
<small>Numbers based on AAA Gas Prices report, as of Oct. 9, 2025</small>



Local Newspapers Keep Communities Strong

Dean Ridings
America's Newspapers

Strong communities don’t just happen. They rely on connection—residents knowing what’s going on, businesses reaching the customers who keep them open, and citizens having the facts to make good decisions. Local newspapers provide that connection in ways no other source can.

In today’s fractured media environment, trust is the rarest commodity. Confidence in “the media” is low. Only 18% of Americans say they trust news on social platforms, and fewer than one in four trust cable networks. But nearly two-thirds say they trust their local newspaper—more than double the confidence placed in most other outlets.

In an era when anyone can post anything online, that clarity makes newspapers stand apart.

Newspapers provide the facts that keep civic life running: city budgets, school board debates, and local elections that rarely

make national headlines but matter most to daily life. They also highlight the stories that make a community feel connected: high school sports, neighborhood events, new restaurants, and profiles of people who make a difference.

Your local newspapers have evolved to meet readers where they are—on websites, mobile apps, and email newsletters. What hasn’t changed are the standards. Accuracy, ethics, and accountability still guide the work. That combination of modern delivery and traditional integrity is why people continue to turn to their local paper.

The same trust strengthens the local economy. Research shows consumers act on newspaper ads more than on ads delivered by TV, radio, or digital platforms. People see local business advertising as part of the same reliable package as the news. For a small business competing with national chains and online platforms, no other channel delivers the same impact. When residents trust the paper,

they trust the businesses that support it.

The absence of a local paper leaves a mark. Voter turnout declines. Fewer residents attend public meetings. Government oversight weakens and borrowing costs rise. Small businesses lose their most effective way to reach local customers. And without a trusted source tying things together, misinformation and partisan spin spread faster, fueling confusion and division.

The opposite is true when newspapers are strong. Residents are better informed, more engaged, and more connected to each other. Businesses grow because they can reach customers in a trusted environment. Communities share a common set of facts that helps debate happen on the issues—not on whether the information is real.

But this role depends on support. Subscriptions, advertising, and community engagement make it possible for newspapers to continue earning

the trust that communities depend on. A strong local newspaper doesn’t solve every challenge a town faces, but it makes civic life, local culture, and the local economy all work better. Healthy communities are stronger when their local newspaper is strong. Supporting the paper is one of the most direct ways residents and businesses can invest in their own future.

About America’s Newspapers
America’s Newspapers is a national trade association representing nearly 1,700 members across the country. Our mission is to educate the public about the value of newspapers, protect the First Amendment, advocate for newspapers’ interests at the federal and state levels, and provide resources to help newspapers grow audience and revenue. We are committed to ensuring that newspapers continue to play a vital role in informing, connecting, and strengthening local communities.

NURSE JUDY’S NOOK Pearl

Judy Conlin

A new lady has rolled into our life. She is quite pretty; rather sporty looking; and amenable to going wherever I want to go. She is much nicer to have around than the other female person in our family. You’ve probably guessed I’m talking about that selfish diva alter ego of mine, Nurse Judy. Nurse Judy only thinks she’s pretty and sporty looking. It is all in her head. The only time she is agreeable to accompany me anywhere is when I’m going shopping or to a party. Pearl never complains. Nurse Judy always complains. Nurse Judy is constantly whining and wanting something daily. Pearl only requires attention when she gets very thirsty, but like a camel, she can go for days without requiring a drink. She can go even longer without taking some kind of medication for her joints.

Nurse Judy thinks our house is not grand enough. She would prefer a castle or palace. Pearl is contented to overnight anywhere. She is as happy camping out as she is a covered abode. She is adaptable. Nurse Judy complains when it is windy or rainy because

she’s afraid it will mess up her hair. She refuses to go out. Pearl doesn’t mind being out in any kind of weather. She is a joy to be around.

Nurse Judy loves new clothes. She has three closets stuffed with garments. They are made of satin, lace, and velvet and covered with gems, ribbons, bows, rick rack, sequins, and yes, even pearls. Then she has hats, purses, shoes, and gloves for all occasions. Pearl requires none of these things. She’s happy if what she’s wearing just gets washed occasionally. As far as accessories go, so far all she’s asked for is some floor rugs. She insists this will be a once in a lifetime request because she does not change them out ever. What a girl!

Nurse Judy has very dark brown eyes. Pearl has huge round rather golden eyes. They actually shine in the dark.

Nurse Judy hardly ever runs, and when she does, it is erratic, slow, and she’s short of breath, panting and sweating when she finishes. Pearl runs very fast, very quiet, for as far and as long as you request her to. She is such a fast runner, she is sometimes pulled over by an officer of the law, asking her to slow down for her

own safety.

Nurse Judy has boxes and boxes of shoes in all colors and designs. Pearl has one set of shoes. They are not pretty but they are sturdy. She only wears black shoes, and she only asks for new ones if she steps on a nail or if their soles become thin from her constant exercising.

I am so pleased with this new family member that I decide to discuss her many positive qualities with Nurse Judy in the hopes that she would view Pearl as a good example and improve her own behavior. This, of course, turned out to be a wasted effort.

“How can you prefer her?” she yells, “She wears the same outfit every day. Does she try and improve your frumpy looks. No, you can go out with her looking as frumpy as ever. She doesn’t care. I never criticize your driving. I don’t even know how to drive. She’s very critical of your driving and makes all kinds of noises if she doesn’t like what you’re doing. If you don’t wear your seatbelt, she has the annoying habit of nagging you until you do. If you drive off the side of the road, she pulls you back. How can you stand someone so bossy? I never say a word.”

I think about this. She’s right. I don’t like to be told what to do. I like to be independent. As I am mulling this over, she continues. “Besides, when I wanted to get some pretty tattoos and my initials on my arms, you had a fit and wouldn’t let me, but I heard that you are letting Pearl get a Seminole spear and your initials on both sides of her body. That isn’t fair.”

This jolts me. I come to my senses. Pearl isn’t a human. She is my new car. Why am I acting like she is a person. Why am I comparing her to Nurse Judy? I am a bit ashamed. That is, I am a little ashamed until it dawns on me that Nurse Judy may not be a human either. Are alter egos human? I don’t know. I finally make a decision.

“I think we can all get along together,” I say. “Once Pearl starts driving you to your special events and to your favorite shopping places, you’re going to like her too. There’s always room for one more in a happy home.

*More later,
Nurse Judy, a mature little lady
www.nursejudyinfo.com*

Grace Notes
Something to crow about

Nancy Kennedy

One of my favorite YouTube videos shows a crow in Russia figuring out how to sled down a snowy rooftop on a jar lid.

The bird places the lid on top of the roof, stands on it and slides down the slope — and then does it again!

It picks the lid up with its beak and this time carries it to the top of another section of the roof.

However, that doesn't work as well, so it goes back to the original spot and slides down.

It tries a fourth time, but can't get the jar lid to stay and flies away.

Also in the video, you hear the young voices of the kids who are recording the crow's antics, laughing and chattering in their foreign language.

Sometimes when I feel overwhelmed at the speed of insanity in the world, I watch videos of animals doing genius things.

Yesterday, I watched a chimpanzee in a zoo using a broom to sweep its living space. It even dipped it in a bucket of water and used the broom bristles to scrub a spot on the ground.

Another video showed a monkey named Eli brushing his teeth and another monkey putting money in a vending machine and buying a bottle of juice.

But my favorite is the sledding crow. It wasn't simply mimicking human behavior. It was thinking — and not about survival. It was thinking about having fun.

Every once in a while we get a glimpse of creation as it was meant to be — joyous and creative.

Amid the fires and floods, monster storms and the sheer violence of natural catastrophes and constant, senseless killings, God sometimes

brings us back to Eden and shows us how things once were and will be once again someday.

I think God gets a huge kick out of watching birds figure out how to have fun with a jar lid after a snowstorm.

But I think he gets a bigger kick out of watching kids in Russia discovering a sledding crow, capturing it on video, putting it on YouTube and then having someone in Florida find it on a day she needed to see it to be reminded that God sees and hears and cares.

For most of us, life has moments, even seasons, of difficulty. It's easy to think that God doesn't care.

But Jesus said that God cares even about sparrows.

"What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Not much more than that," Jesus said. "Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And he knows the number of hairs on your head! Never fear, you are far more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows (Luke 12:6-7)."

If he cares enough to let a crow in Russia have a ski vacation, how much more will he stoop from heaven to meet our needs? More than that — how much more will he find ways to show us his kindness and give us glimpses of the coming new creation?

His grace is sufficient, his mercy is great. And his delight is a healing balm as we wait with all creation, longing for the day of restoration when he makes all things new.

Maybe he'll even give us a chance to sled with the crows.

View the video on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn0OjCneVUg.

Contact Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 (leave a message) or email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

Seven Oaks Health, Big Bend Hospice name new chief nursing officer

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Seven Oaks Health, the parent company of Big Bend Hospice, has appointed Norman Pasley, MBA, MSN, RN, NHA, NE-BC, CRRN, as Chief Nursing Officer.

Pasley brings more than 30 years of healthcare leadership and clinical experience to the position, including a long career with Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH), says a press release from Big Bend Hospice.

At TMH, Pasley held several leadership roles over two decades, including Nursing Director of Outpatient

Surgery, Director of Patient Flow in Hospital Nursing Operations, Administrator of the TMH Rehabilitation Center, and Service Line Administrator for multiple services, including Home Health. During his tenure, the Rehabilitation Center earned a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and Home Health services achieved a 3.5-star CMS rating. He also oversaw the Outpatient Neurological Clinic, which served an average of 70 to 90 patients daily.

Pasley is a U.S. Army veteran who served seven years of

active duty as a Combat Medic and Licensed Practical Nurse, including time at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is board-certified as a Certified Rehabilitation Nurse and in Nursing Executive Leadership through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. He holds dual master's degrees in nursing and business administration and is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Healthcare Leadership at Florida State University.

In his new role, Pasley will oversee clinical services for Big Bend Hospice across the eight-county Big Bend region.

Obituaries

Eloise Presnell Joyner

Eloise Presnell Joyner, 82, of Quincy Florida, passed away on September 23, 2025 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Born on April 9, 1943, in Quincy, she was the daughter of the late Odell and Thelma Lewis Presnell.

Eloise was a beloved wife, mother, sister and friend whose love for life left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her. She was married to Robert "Bobby" Joyner in 1959, and together they raised two children, Trina Joyner and Bradley Joyner.

She was employed by the Quincy telephone company, where she worked for 17 years and later retired from the State of Florida. She also took to the open road as a semi-truck driver—a remarkable role at a

time when few women were behind the wheel.

A proud 33-year breast cancer survivor, Eloise lived with courage, humor, and a deep love for her family. She brought people together with her generous spirit, hosting many memorable Halloween parties for families of Robert F. Munroe Day School and organizing the cherished Lewis family Easter dinners for her large extended family.

During the holidays, she was known for hand-delivering her famous divinity candy to local businesses—a gesture that brought smiles year after year.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Robert "Bobby" Joyner; her children Trina Joyner and Bradley Joyner (Melanie); her

grandchildren, Eric Harvey (Kristina), Jessica Joyner Stevenson (Ian), Miller Joyner (Maggie); her brother Terry Presnell (Julie); sister-in-law Beth Presnell; a great grandchild Bailey Harvey and a wide circle of nieces and nephews who will deeply miss her laughter, warmth, and fun she brought to every gathering.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Rod Presnell.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 17 at 11 a.m. at New Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, 746 S. Adams St. Quincy, FL.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the New Philadelphia Presbyterian Church in the name of Eloise.

Today can be different

What if we didn't pray for our pastors?

Sheryl Boldt

What kind of impact does your pastor's influence have on your church, your community, your family? On you?

Sadly, many pastors are leaving their churches because they feel discouraged and sometimes unappreciated. Or they believe they're inadequate because they've lost the ability to influence the hearts of their congregation for God's purpose and glory.

Imagine the difference it would make if we let them know how much we appreciate their faithful service.

If each of us, especially during October, Pastor Appreciation Month, took a moment to thank our pastors and their families for all they do, it would go a long way

in encouraging them. Imagine how meaningful it would be if we sent a text, email or letter this month and periodically throughout the year.

One of the best ways to show our pastors we appreciate them is to tell them we're praying for them — and then actually do it.

Our pastors need our prayers. Like us, they need discernment to lead their families, encouragement when they feel emotionally beaten up and wisdom about their finances.

Our ministers often feel lonely. They long for close friends with whom they can honestly share their struggles without risking their credibility as a spiritual leader. We can pray that God will send them an encourager, like Barnabas was to the apostle Paul (Acts 9:27).

Let's pray that our pastors never forget how deeply God loves them and that they experience His love, grace, and mercy every day. Amid everything happening at home, in their church, and in their community, ask God to give them faith to trust their powerful, wise, and loving Heavenly Father with all of it.

Pray that our spiritual leaders will be "filled with the knowledge of [God's] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Colossians 1:9 ESV). Then they'll be better equipped to receive the direction and discernment they need to counsel married couples and single parents, comfort the grieving and advise those in difficult circumstances.

Since the enemy would love to trip up

our pastors, intercede for them to hold on to the very Word of God that has kept their faith strong. Ask God to help them continue standing against wickedness and never lose sight of what's important. That as they cling to God's Word, they'll never compromise their convictions or water down the gospel in order to increase church attendance.

Our pastors are an integral part of our communities. They carry a huge spiritual weight. Consider how much greater this weight would be if we didn't intercede for them.

So let's pray for our pastors. Often.


Sheryl H. Boldt is a faith columnist and the author of the blog www.TodayCanBeDifferent.net. You can reach her at SherylHBoldt@gmail.com.



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Gadsden County Extension Column

Spread the Word: It's Peanut Butter Challenge Time



Sharlee Whiddon
Gadsden County News Service

The Peanut Butter Challenge is an annual jar collection for local food pantries hosted by UF/IFAS Extension and Florida A&M University (FAMU) Cooperative Extension. Launched in the Florida Panhandle counties in 2012, it is again spreading statewide this year. Unopened jars of peanut butter

can be donated locally throughout October and early November. In 2024, nearly 40,000 pounds of peanut butter was donated statewide, that's approximately the weight of a school bus, and the 2025 challenge is expected to surpass that amount! Peanut butter, whether you're team creamy or team crunchy, is a go-to favorite in kitchens everywhere and it's not just for sandwiches anymore!

From smoothies to cookies to savory dishes, peanut butter brings serious flavor and versatility to the table. Plus, it's packed with goodness, just one tablespoon can provide you with up to 7 grams of protein and over 30 essential vitamins and minerals. While it may be a little high in calories, in the right portions, it can be part of a healthy diet. It's tasty, nutritious, and super easy to use, so what's not to love?

Joining the Peanut Butter Challenge is also a fun way to show some love to peanut farmers right here in the Sunshine State. So go on, grab a spoon, and spread the peanut butter love! This year there will be collection boxes in several locations (additional sites may be added):

- UF/IFAS Extension Gadsden County Office
- North Florida Research and Education Center

- Quincy Public Library
- Chattahoochee Public Library
- Havana Public Library
- Farm Bureau Insurance Havana and Quincy
- Gadsden County BOCC Butler Building
- Otterly Southern Boutique

Peanut butter collection will take place throughout the month of October and peanut butter distribution will begin in early November to local food banks and organizations

in Gadsden County. If your organization would like to be added to our distribution list or if you would like to help distribute peanut butter to those in need, please contact the UF/IFAS Gadsden County Extension Office at 850-875-7255.

Sharlee is the family and consumer sciences agent for University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Gadsden County.

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COMICS AND PUZZLES

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“My writing coach said ‘write what you know,’ so I produced a blank book.”

JUMBLE
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RHILW
RNKIB
TCIXEE
GEEANT

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Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BENCH GRAPH REDUCE SAYING
Answer: He needed to find used parts to repair his pickup truck's V-8, so they used a — SEARCH ENGINE

JUMBLE FOR KIDS
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME!®
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

PEI
LULF
TIDR
POHE

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Color me

Now you're ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Answer here:

Jumbles: PIE FULL DIRT HOPE
Answer: When the dolphin jumped into the air and did a trick, people — FLIPPED OUT

THAT LITTLE PUPPY SURE IS CUTE!

YOU USED TO BE CUTE LIKE THAT WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE TOO, NERWIN!

I STILL AM LITTLE!

OOPS.

I STEPPED IN IT, DIDN'T I?

UP TO YOUR WAIST. BUT TWO DIPS OF BUTTER-SCOTCH RIPPLE IN A SUGAR CONE WILL RESULT IN INSTANT FORGIVENESS!

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Mr. Walle's desire to ride on a garbage truck will make a great story!

I'll call it, "Centenarian hitches ride on garbage truck!"

'Scuse me fo' protrudin', but Mr. Walt ain't no sedentaryian! He's a Methodist!

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I'M GIVING MY BODY A REST AND LETTING MY MIND DO THE WANDERING.

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SO, YOUR MOTHER AND MIDGE ARE COMING HOME TODAY AFTER A FOUR-DAY BUS TRIP TOGETHER?

YUP.

THAT WHY YOU'RE HIDING AT MY HOUSE?

YUP.

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SCRABBLE G R A M S

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PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 236

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

11-09

EDITORS: Here is the solution to today's SCRABBLEGRAM. You can print the solution on the same day elsewhere in your paper, or beneath the following day's puzzle. If you choose to run the solution elsewhere in the same day's newspaper, insert the appropriate type (below) over the SOLUTION TOMORROW line in the puzzle.

		2	8			7	
		6					1
	7		2		1	3	
2							
3		9	1		6	8	5
				4			2
		8	6		3		1
5						6	
		7			8	9	

Puzzle solutions on page A6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
16					17			18			
19				20		21					
22				23				24	25	26	
27				28			29	30			
			31			32	33		34		
	35	36						37	38		
39					40						
41				42	43		44		45	46	47
48				49		50	51		52		
			53	54				55			
56	57							58	59		
60						61			62		
63						64			65		

- Across**
- 1 Home of S.D. and the O.C.
6 Cardinals gp.
9 Hall of Famer Piazza who caught the ceremonial last pitch at Shea Stadium
13 ___ myrtle
14 MSN rival
15 Country with one of the highest life expectancies in the world
16 Dried poblano
17 Stellar essay?
19 Zero-stress period
21 Cyberhandle
22 Modest proposal?
24 «Never gonna happen, laddie!»
27 Pt. of 61-Across
28 Use a straw
29 Go around

- 31 Spotter's confirmation
34 «Can do!»
35 Compliment a nice thatching job?
39 Eldest Brady boy
40 Sea salt
41 Hit Ctrl+R, say
44 Little gripe
45 Fig. on a mountaintop sign
48 Waste watchers org.
49 June celebrant's social media posts?
53 Harangue
55 Singer-songwriter Billie
56 Comparison shop at BevMo?
59 Martini's vermouth partner
60 Tackle box supply
61 Pre-Sierra Mac platform
62 Subsequently
63 Refuse
64 Satisfied, as expectations
65 Turn on
- Down**
- 1 Rapsallions
2 Like Scrooge
3 Flora that's tricky to transplant
4 Garden pest eaten by hoverfly larva
5 2022 World Cup Golden Ball winner
6 Power ___
7 Rome landmark
8 Writer Mario Vargas
9 Christmas trio
10 Big little tech release of 2005
11 Actor Penn
12 Turn off
15 Dried meat snack
18 Balkan native
20 Native Ohioans
23 L'escrime equipment
25 «Never gonna happen, bud»
26 Repair shop fig.
30 «___ Things»: Oscar-winning Lanthimos film
31 Who Othello declares

- «is most honest»
32 «Give ___ go!»
33 Yours, biblically
35 Get ready to cook
36 Many a wedding guest
37 Name in a Beethoven title
38 Untaxed investment options
39 Hurdle for M.A. hopefuls
42 ___-ski
43 Lure
45 Label founded by
- Clive Davis
46 ___ of two evils
47 Part of a summer camp uniform
50 Kick to the curb, for one
51 Crowded
52 Like a kite
54 Totally gross
56 Deg. held by Wilson, but no other U.S. president
57 Tuna tartare topper
58 Tel. no. addition

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A plugger finally finds the perfect sleeping position minutes before his alarm goes off.

Jaguars remain winless against Trojans



Photo courtesy of Mark Liles
Gadsden County High School Jaguars face-off against the Lincoln High School Trojans.

Leo Torres
Gadsden County News Service

It was another night of defeat for Gadsden County Friday, falling 30-21 to the Lincoln Trojans at Gene Cox Stadium.

The Trojans (4-2) were red hot on offense coming into the matchup, as they took down the Leon Lions 70-0 the week before. They didn't have the same level of success against the Jaguars (0-5), though they still generated 365 all-purpose yards. Junior running back Ashton Callahan, who has been filling up the stat sheet for the Jaguars this season — finished with 118 yards on 15 carries.

It started off well for Gadsden County as they punched in a quick goal-line touchdown to put the Trojans on their toes. Lincoln responded quickly with a touchdown of their own before Callahan

showcased his vision, breaking past multiple defenders for six to bring the score to 14-7.

Lincoln's wasn't done though — senior Tadarius Huggins broke away for his own rushing touchdown, weaving through defenders to tie the game. Gadsden scored one final time before Lincoln took control in the fourth to seal the game. Despite allowing 30 points, the Jaguars were formidable on defense and provided plenty of stops to give their offense a chance.

Senior quarterback Jaeyon Wimes didn't have a lot to do in the matchup, but he did average 22.5 yards on each of his throws to finish with a modest QBR of 109.7. Senior Jaguar Rymar Tripeauh had an interception in the game, something for the defense to build on as they prepare to host Florida State University High School this upcoming Friday.

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Total Points:

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From produce to promises: Uraina’s Haven transforms Gadsden County events

A local couple turns a former packing plant into a premier venue, bringing wedding dreams to life.



Jasmine Green
Gadsden County News Service

Where vegetables once moved through conveyor belts and workers sorted produce, brides now walk down aisles and families celebrate life’s milestones. Uraina’s Haven, Gadsden County’s newest premier event center, has transformed a 27,000-square-foot former packing plant into a multipurpose venue that owner Denisha Keaton calls a love letter to her community.

The journey to opening day wasn’t quick. Keaton and her husband, who serves as her business partner, spent two years searching for the perfect location before discovering the old produce facility. What they found was more than just square footage—it was potential

wrapped in concrete and steel.

“We knew we wanted to create something special for Gadsden County,” Keaton said.

The couple has already renovated half of the expansive property into flexible spaces designed to accommodate everything from intimate birthday parties to elaborate wedding receptions and family reunions. The remaining space holds even bigger dreams—Keaton envisions possibly adding a bed-and-breakfast or expanding the event center operations.

But Keaton isn’t rushing to complete every project at once. Instead, she’s taking a measured approach that reflects a deeper philosophy about entrepreneurship and community building.

“I want to enjoy the fruits of our labor in real time,”

she explained. “That means networking with other small business owners in Gadsden County, building relationships, and growing together.”

That collaborative spirit was on full display October 5th when Uraina’s Haven hosted its inaugural bridal expo. The event, featuring sponsorships from David’s Bridal and Men’s Wearhouse, brought together vendors from across the region to create a one-stop shop for engaged couples planning their big day.

The expo’s centerpiece was a fashion show that allowed soon-to-be brides and grooms to see the latest trends come to life on the venue’s floors. Attendees browsed booths staffed by cake decorators, photographers, bartenders, and wedding planners—each offering pieces of the puzzle that couples need to



bring their vision to reality.

For Keaton, the bridal expo represented more than a successful first event. It embodied the mission behind Uraina’s Haven: creating a space where the community can gather, celebrate, and support local businesses simultaneously.

As the venue continues to establish itself in Gadsden County’s event landscape, the Kentons remain focused on their dual commitment—to their business and to their neighbors. The old produce plant may no longer sort vegetables, but in its new life, it’s cultivating something equally valuable: connections, celebrations, and community pride.

For information about booking Uraia’s Haven or upcoming events, interested parties can contact the venue directly.



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October Yard of the Month Winners announced

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Havana Garden Club’s October Yard of the Month honors have been awarded to local residents and businesses whose landscaping efforts are brightening up the community.

The residential Yard of the Month goes to Tom and Sharon Johnson of 909 First Street for their beautiful display of yellow lantana. Although the Johnsons have only lived in their home for a few years, their yard already looks well established and carefully maintained.

The commercial Yard of the Month is awarded to Patsy Harrell Realty, located at 105 N. Main Street, where vibrant blue plumbago plants are currently in full bloom. David Kirkland with Florida Farm Bureau was also recognized for helping to keep the

The commercial Yard of the Month is awarded to Patsy Harrell Realty, located at 105 N. Main Street.

flowers watered and thriving.

Community members are encouraged to submit nominations for future

Yard of the Month awards. To recommend a neighbor—or yourself—call 850-539-8191 and leave a message.

The residential Yard of the Month goes to Tom and Sharon Johnson of 909 First Street