

The Chattahoochee News-Herald



Sneads & Sentinel

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Judge awards \$34.7 million in civil negligence case stemming from Havana internet café shooting

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Gadsden County circuit judge has entered a final judgment awarding more than \$34.7 million in damages to Deeanna Owens, the plaintiff in a civil negligence case arising from a November 2023 armed robbery at a Havana internet café.

According to court records, Judge David Frank entered the final judgment on Dec. 23, 2025, ordering Fortune MGT 2023 LLC to pay \$34,712,676.62 to Owens. The judgment followed a jury trial held

Dec. 9, 2025, in which jurors found in favor of Owens and against the defendant. The amount awarded consists entirely of principal damages and will accrue interest at Florida's statutory rate of 8.65 percent, adjusted annually, until fully paid. The court retained jurisdiction to issue further orders related to enforcement and collection.

The civil case stems from a Nov. 14, 2023, incident at an internet café located at 6688 Florida Georgia Highway in Havana. Owens, who

was working at the café at the time, was shot and injured during an armed robbery involving two assailants. Court filings allege the business failed to provide adequate security measures despite knowing the café was located in a high-crime area and that a prior armed robbery had occurred weeks earlier at the same location.

The complaint states that the defendants, Fortune MGT 2023 LLC and Evan's Quality Grocery Meats and Deli, owed a duty of reasonable care to employees and patrons, including

Owens. The lawsuit contended the defendants were negligent by failing to:

- Provide sufficient security to prevent foreseeable violent acts.
- Warn employees or contractors of the risks to their safety.
- Properly utilize security devices or criminal history data to guide safety measures.
- Implement adequate security policies, procedures, and staffing.

The court found that these failures created an unreasonably dangerous environment, directly

resulting in Owens' injuries. Owens was represented by Morgan & Morgan, who filed the complaint on her behalf in Gadsden County Circuit Court.

This civil judgment is separate from a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the widow of the security guard, Lewis Butler, who was killed in the same robbery. That case resulted in a \$779 million jury verdict against the same business entities. Butler's death led to renewed calls for the proposed Lewis Butler Act, aimed at increasing public

safety requirements and regulating internet cafés operating as alleged illegal gambling establishments.

In the criminal case, Tyrone Washington was convicted of first-degree

murder in Butler's death and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. A co-defendant, Kelvin Brown, is expected to face trial at a later date.

With the final judgment in Owens' case, the civil trial phase is complete, though additional proceedings related to collection and enforcement are expected.

Community rings in the New Year at annual Brunch in the Park



Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Residents of Gadsden County welcomed 2026 with food, music and



fellowship during the 5th Annual New Year's Day Brunch in the Park, held Thursday, Jan. 1, at St. Hebron Park in Quincy.

From late morning through the afternoon, families, friends and neighbors gathered to celebrate the start of a new year in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. The event featured a variety of food, games for all ages, prize giveaways and music by DJ Woadie, who kept the crowd

energized throughout the day.

Commissioner Alonetta Simpkins, who sponsored the event alongside Radiant Life Changers Inc., said the annual brunch is rooted in connection and community spirit.

"This brunch was about more than food—it was about fellowship, unity, and setting the tone for the year ahead," Simpkins said. "I'm truly grateful to everyone who came out to

celebrate the community, and especially to the volunteers who helped make the day possible."

Now in its fifth year, the New Year's Day Brunch in the Park has become a tradition for many families, offering a space to reflect, reconnect and begin the year on a positive note. Attendees could be seen sharing meals, socializing and enjoying the park's open space while children participated in games and

activities. Simpkins noted that this year's turnout reflected both growth and deeper community engagement.

"Compared to last year, you could really feel the growth and the togetherness," she said. "The goal this year is to keep building unity, creating positive spaces, and bringing our community together in meaningful ways."

As the afternoon continued, the

event underscored the importance of community-centered gatherings that encourage unity across Gadsden County.

"As we continue working to move Gadsden County in a positive direction, I will always push for unity," Simpkins said. "This is what makes Gadsden County who we are—a small town with a big heart."



Community Calendar

January

Great Big Table

- Sunday, Jan. 11
- 3:30 - 5 p.m.
- 306 N. Madison Street, Quincy

To pick up food, please go behind the church and drive through the pick up line.

Great Big Table

- Wednesday, Jan. 14
- 3 p.m.
- 306 N. Madison Street, Quincy

The tradition continues. The Bruner Family Bluegrass Group will be playing Christmas

music on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 9 a.m. Bell and Bates Home Center! Sing-a-long and enjoy.

Blood Drive at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

- Sunday, Jan. 18
- 10:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
- 10 W. King St., Quincy

Join the congregation of St. Paul's as we have our 1st blood drive of 2026. We welcome you to join as we continue to build on the 53.8 gallons donated all time at our church.

Sign up at [oneblood.org](#)

or call 850-877-7181 to make an appointment. Just mention the St. Paul's Quincy drive on January 18th when you make your appointment.

We welcome you to join us for giving the gift of life giving blood, a free shirt, and getting a \$20 gift card for donating!

Stem Kids

- Saturday, Jan. 24
- 11 a.m.
- 732 S. Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy

Fun science experiments for ages 6 and up.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	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	2	3	4	5	6	7

Holidays

1st - New Year's Day
19th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Take Sweetness to New Heights In the New Year

(Family Features) Whether you can't quite give up on the holiday treats or the festivities are continuing into 2026, these Easy Lemon Blueberry Bars offer a light, fruity bite. The melted white chocolate drizzle is just what gatherings with loved ones call for. Visit [Culinary.net](#) for more delicious desserts to enjoy this year.

Easy Lemon Blueberry Bars

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

1 stick butter, melted

1 box lemon cake mix

2 eggs

1/3 cup fresh blueberries
2/3 cup white chocolate chips, divided
1/3 cup chopped pecans

Heat oven to 350 F. In bowl, combine butter, cake mix, eggs, blueberries, 1/3 cup white chocolate chips and pecans.

Butter 7-by-11-inch pan and spread mixture evenly into pan. Bake 30-35 minutes.

Let cool then melt remaining white chocolate chips and drizzle over bars.

Tip: If melted white chocolate chips are too thick, add a little oil before drizzling.



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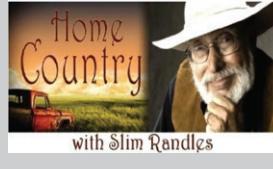
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It was Herb who first saw Janice Thomas, the art teacher, come in.

«She's putting something up on the bulletin board,» Herb said.

«Wonder what it says,» said Doc.

«Might be something from school,» Herb said.

Steve is of a more practical way of thinking. «You ever thought about going over there and seeing what it is?»

Steve got up and walked over and read the poster. He came back.

«It's an art show,» Steve said. «For anyone who wants to enter.»

«Haven't had an art show here in a long time.»

«Those city guys who moved in the Johnson place, remember?»

«That was an art show?»

«Maybe.»

«You know,» Dud said, «there's more than one way to do art. You take Jim Kennedy now. The way he can pick up a little stick with his backhoe. How many people can do that? I think that's a kind of art.»

«You're right, Dud,» said Herb. «You ever watch Grant when he's fly fishing?»

The members of the Mule Barn truck stop's philosophy counter and world-dilemma think tank nodded in agreement.

«Poetry, that is,» said Doc.

«Dang near magic, to my mind,» said Steve.

«How about the cream gravy here at the Mule Barn?» said Dud. «I don't know what they put in it, but you could eat a cardboard box if it had that gravy on it.»

«I've never had better.»

«Then there's Steve,» said Doc.

«Me?» said the cowboy.

«You boys ever see anyone put a better rein on a horse than Steve?»

Steve blushed. «Now come on!»

«It's true, Steve.»

«That,» said Doc, «is art, too. Maybe art, maybe something like ballet almost, the way a horse moves when Steve's trained him.»

«I guess there's more than one kind of art in the world,» said Herb, «and I guess I personally know some artists.»

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At The Pump

local, state, and national

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\$2.81 per gallon

Gadsden County Average

\$2.68 per gallon

Jackson County Average

\$2.61 per gallon

Leon County Average

\$2.60 per gallon

Numbers based
on AAA Gas Prices report, as of Dec. 7, 2025



NURSE JUDY'S NOOK

Baby, it's cold outside

making sure that I'm not using a whiny or complaining voice. I am merely doing research to help scientifically solve a problem I have. She immediately, as usual, uses this to argue with me.

“There is a lot about cold weather that is good,” she says.

“Like what?”

“You don't have to mow your grass as much.”

“I don't mow my lawn. The gardener does.”

“Well, you don't have to pay him as often,” she says

“I still pay him as frequently for other things he does,” I say in a lilting voice and sporting a big smile so I can't be mistaken for being negative. “Is there anything else?”

“Oh yes,” she continues without taking a breath, “you don't have to run the air conditioner.”

“But you have to turn on the heat.” The smile is having a hard time staying on my face.

“What else?”

“You get to watch more television.”

“Is it good to be a couch potato?” I ask as if this is a scientific question.

She ignores that and continues on. “There's no danger from bears. They're hibernating.”

“When have we ever seen a bear near us?” I ask still trying to be a scientific questioner.

“There are no mosquitos, or ticks, or chiggers” she says triumphantly, and they cause disease and certainly are around here.”

I think about that. She's right. I don't have bites all over me every time I go out. I don't have to check my skin every night before going to bed.

Back when I still was able to complain, I complained about this all spring, summer and fall. Maybe cold wasn't all bad.” I pasted a phony smile upon my face. “Perhaps you're right,” I say, adding “for once” under my breath.

“Of course, I am,” she says. “I love cold weather.”

“Why do you love it? I ask, thinking it's something to be tolerated, not loved.

“Because you always must take me shopping to get embroidered sweaters, furry coats and capes, fluffy earmuffs and lacey fringed scarves. Sometimes you even buy me pretty boots.”

I suddenly remember. This was always one of my best complaining sessions. All this shopping for a card-carrying, selfish diva I could go on for hours. This resolution was going to be the end of me.

All I could do was bite my tongue and say, “Get in the car.”

This is going to be a long hard year. (Just saying, not complaining.)

More later,
Judy
www.nursejudyinfo.com

From the Editor's Desk

Keeping our local paper alive with your help

Erin Hill

I grew up in a house where Wednesday nights were special. That was the night we made the short trip to the store to pick up our local weekly newspaper. I still remember flipping through the pages as soon as we got home. The first page I turned to? School news—stories about classmates, sports, and the little victories that made our town feel alive.

As I got older, my focus shifted. The classifieds became my favorite section. I was a teenager looking for an after-

school job, and those small ads weren't just print. That newspaper was more than paper and ink. It was a thread that tied all of us together.

Times have changed. High-speed internet, social media, tablets, and smartphones mean news travels instantly, and often, it bypasses our local stories. But while the world has sped up, the heart of our community hasn't. Families are still celebrating first birthdays, milestone anniversaries, engagements, and weddings. Graduates are still walking across stages. Neighborhoods

are still organizing events, fundraisers, and gatherings. But now these momentous milestones are just posted on Facebook. How can you put that in a scrapbook for your grandchildren?

That's where you come in. Local news doesn't write itself. It thrives on your stories, your photos, your milestones.

When you submit a piece of news, be it a new baby, a wedding, or a school honor, you're keeping our community connected. You're helping preserve a local tradition that matters, one that no social

media feed can fully replace.

We don't sell newspapers. We sell news, news about the people, the families, the schools, and the businesses that make this community home. And while the medium may have changed, the message remains the same: our stories matter.

So, share your news with us. Let's make sure the next generation of readers grows up picking up their local paper, not just scrolling past their community. Together, we can keep our local paper alive and thriving—one story at a time.

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Grace Notes

The Word for 2026 is: 'Begin'

Nancy Kennedy

A few weeks ago, my pastor announced that we are going to read the Bible together as a church.

He gave two options: the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, or just the New Testament.

I signed up for the New Testament only — because of Leviticus.

I've never been able to read through that Old Testament book with all its detailed instructions for proper sacrifices, regulations about clean and unclean foods, and what to do about boils and mildew, among a thousand other things that have no relevance to 21st-century life.

I imagine there's something in Leviticus that's beneficial to my soul, but I haven't been able to stay awake long enough to find out.

Here's the truth: In the past 45-plus years I've read the Bible (minus Leviticus) many times — but not consistently. Not daily.

Years ago, a woman called me about speaking at her church's women's event and asked rather brusquely, "How much time do you spend in the Word every day?"

My face got hot and my heart pounded. I gulped and said, as lightheartedly as I could, "Oh, probably not as much as I should."

The conversation went downhill from there. She didn't call back, and I didn't get the gig.

Sometimes when people post pictures of their open Bible and a cup of coffee on social media, with a pithy caption like Can't start my day without either of these!, I feel that same familiar shame.

I don't want to feel that way about Bible reading. I want to love it so much that I can't start my day without it.

But I'm just not there. Yet.

A Christianity Today article once asked, "If Leviticus or Jude suddenly disappeared from Scripture, would we notice?"

The author, Ted Olsen, wrote: "When the early church fathers spoke or wrote, they breathed the language of Scripture. They could not greet each other without quoting Jesus or Paul. They used Scripture not just to refer to God, but to describe their interpersonal relationships, daily tasks — their entire world.

"To ask them to speak without reference to Scripture would be like asking us to speak without using words with the letter e."

If Leviticus fell out of my Bible, I might notice it missing, but it wouldn't make much difference. But I would miss the tiny book of Jude, especially its rich benediction at the end:

"To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy...."

Able to keep me from falling.

He presents me before His glorious presence.

Without fault — blameless and unblemished.

And with great joy. Triumphant joy and unspeakable delight. (Jude 24, Amplified Bible)

"To our one God, our only Savior, through Jesus Christ our Master be all glory and majesty... now and to the end of all time. Yes." (Jude 25, The Message)

I really do love the Word of God when I take time to digest it. I just haven't taken the time — at least not regularly.

But I've signed up to read the Bible every day in 2026 with others in my church, so I'm going to begin.

Who knows? I might just be surprised to find that I can't start my day without it.

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

LOOKING BACK

20 YEARS AGO

Long-time Havana pastor and community leader William Maxwell, 86, died January 8 at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare. A native of Bradfordville, he was pastor and member of Pilgrim Rest M.B. Church in Havana. "He was one of the greatest men to live and serve the community and county, said Havana Town Councilman Vernell Ross. "He did it in many ways: religious, political, social, economic."

40 YEARS AGO

A group of concerned citizens vocally opposed a school-based health clinic at Shanks High School in Quincy, claiming the clinic condoned teenage sex by providing contraceptives, gynecological examinations, counseling about sexuality, sex education, pregnancy testing and prenatal care, pediatric care for infants and adolescents, and possibly a free day care for children of students.

60 YEARS AGO

A \$100,000 suit attacking Florida prison segregation laws and charging Gadsden County officials with "conspiracy" to deny equal protection and treatment was filed in U.S. District Court by CORE attorney John D. Due, Jr. on behalf of James Fortson and "all others similarly situated." Fortson was the son of Rev. W.H. Fortson, president of the Havana chapter of the NAACP.

Bill T. Rogers, assistant coach and teacher at Quincy High School, was selected to fill the head coach and teacher vacancy in the school that was created by the transfer of Carlos E. Deason to the position of director of the Adult Education Program.

70 YEARS AGO

A total of 265 high quality cattle were slated to be shown by FFA and 4-H Club members and commercial cattlemen at the upcoming West Florida Fat Cattle Show and Sale in Quincy, making it the biggest in the twelve-year history of the event.

Friends of Ruth "Sug" Staggers missed her efficient service and happy disposition when they visited the Havana Post Office, as she resigned her position and moved with her daughter, Pat, to Tampa.

J.H. Hyatt, principal of Havana High School, was installed as president of the Kiwanis Club. Billy Miller was installed as vice-president and W.L. Williams as secretary.

Gadsden County Lieutenant Receives "Everyday Heroes Award"

Staff Report
Gadsden County News Service

Lt. Christopher Daniels of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office was recognized at the 7th Annual Restoring Hope Training Summit in Orlando, receiving the "Everyday Heroes Award" from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

The award honors law enforcement

officers for bravery, service, and contributions to local communities and youth. Lieutenant Daniels was one of 21 officers in Florida selected for the distinction.

Sheriff Morris Young congratulated Daniels on the recognition, noting his selection as part of the statewide group of honorees.



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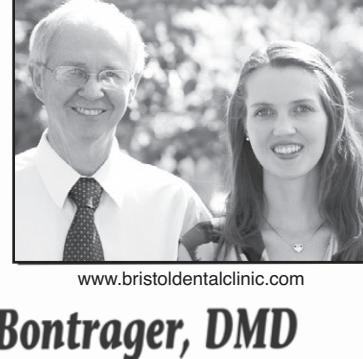
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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, 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 the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 577 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2020

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: PER OR 793 P 191 PRCL 3 NEW FOR 2014 COMMENCE MARKING THE NWC OF SECT 14 AND NEC OF SECT 5 3N-4W AND RUN THENCE N 89°12'27" E ALONG NORTH BOUNDARY OF SECR 14 169.75 FT THENCE LEAVING NORTH BOUNDARY RUN S 00°03'14" W 673.97 FT TO POB. FROM POB CONTINUE S 00°03'14" W 751.85 FT TO A PT ON THE NORTHERLY ROW BOUNDARY OF CTY RD 272 SAID PT LYING ON A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTHERLY WITH A RADIUS OF 3784.83 FT, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 02°31'23" FOR AN ARC LENGTH OF 166.67 FT (CHORD OF ARC BEING N 85°05'41" W 166.65 FT); THENCE LEAVING ROW BOUNDARY RUN N 00°08'20" E 756.10 FT TO A PT ON THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF SECT 15-3N-4W; THENCE N 88°41'11" E 166.02 FT TO POB CONTAINING 2.9 AC MORE OR LESS.;

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-14-3N-4W-0000-00230-0200

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HEIRS OF DAVID BROWN

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 4TH Day of FEBRUARY 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 25TH Day of SEPTEMBER 2025.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 1/1, 1/8 1/15, 1/22

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, 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 the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 878 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2021

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LOT 40 OCHLOCKONEE ESTATES RECORDED OR 816 P 1086 OR 810 P 22 OR 740 P 1315 OR 648 P 185 OR 291 P 1127

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-12-2N-2W-0572-00000-0400

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HEATHER COMBS FULTZ

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 4TH Day of FEBRUARY 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 14TH Day of NOVEMBER 2025.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 1/1, 1/8 1/15, 1/22

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PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-12-2N-2W-0572-00000-0400

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BEATRIZ LAMAR BUSTAMANTE

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 4TH Day of FEBRUARY 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 14TH Day of NOVEMBER 2025.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 1/1, 1/8 1/15, 1/22

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, 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 the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 1903 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2020

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 646 P 1890, COMM AT THE NEC OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 AND RUN W 115 FT THEN S 00 DEG 06' E 127 FT TO BEGIN; THENCE S 00 DEG 06' E 30 FT, W 202.01 FT., S 00 DEG 06' E 163.65 FT., W 193.65 FT, N 00 DEG 06' W 193.65 FT., E 395.66 FT TO THE P.O.B. OR 323 P 1844 IN SECTION 23-2N-4W.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-23-2N-4W-0000-00421-1000

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DONZELLAR WOODWARD HARLEY

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 4TH Day of FEBRUARY 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 14TH Day of NOVEMBER 2025.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 1/1, 1/8 1/15, 1/22

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, IDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC, 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 the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 1945 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2023

Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 1/1, 1/8 1/15, 1/22

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, 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 the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 586 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2020

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 779 P 1131 OR 740 P 886 SPLIT FROM 14-3-4-230-05-X FOR 2011 DESC'D AS FOLLOWS: LOT 2 A TRACT OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 14-3N-4W, SAME BEING A PORTION OF LANDS AS DESC'D IN OR 384 P 1339, GADSDEN CO. COMM AT THE NWC OF SECTION 14, SOUTH 88°18'36" W ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF OF SECT 15 AND SAID OR 384 P 1339 A DIST OF 165.43 FT TO THE NWC OF SAID LANDS, THENCE RUN SOUTH 00°02'58" W ALONG THE WEST BOUNDARY OF OR 384 P 1339 A DISTANCE OF 674.05 FT TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING NORTH 88°42'35" E 170.95 FT; SOUTH 00°07'10" W 255.10 FT; SOUTH 88°42'35" E 170.65 FT; NORTH 00°02'58" E 255.09 FT TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. (CONTAINING 1 AC) LOT 4 A TRACT OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 14-3N-4W, SAME BEING A PORTION OF LANDS AS DESC'D IN OR 384 P 1339, GADSSEN CO. COMM AT THE NWC OF SECTION 14, SOUTH 88°18'36" W ALONG THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF OF SECT 15 AND SAID OR 384 P 1339 A DIST OF 165.43 FT TO THE NWC OF SAID LANDS, THENCE RUN SOUTH 00°02'58" W ALONG THE WEST BOUNDARY OF OR 384 P 1339 A DISTANCE OF 929.14 FT TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING NORTH 88°42'35" E 170.95 FT;

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-15-3N-4W-0000-00114-0400

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HEIRS OF DAVID BROWN

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 4TH Day of FEBRUARY 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 14TH Day of NOVEMBER 2025.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 1/1, 1/8 1/15, 1/22

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, 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 the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 565 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2023

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LOTS 9 & 10, BLOCK F, SAINT JOHN'S SUBDV. OR 175 P 307

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-23-3N-4W-0410-0000F-0090

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: IDA L CARR (ET AL)

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 4TH Day of FEBRUARY 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 14TH Day of NOVEMBER 2025.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 1/1, 1/8 1/15, 1/22

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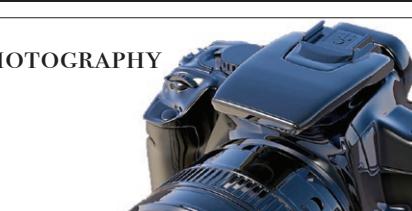
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Office

KEY

COMICS AND PUZZLES

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"But the good thing about Sims is he's least likely to be hurt on the job and file a disability claim."

JUMBLE

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

PMILE

ONAPI

CAROTF

GIOIRN

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.

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OUTDO LIGHT HOLLER SPRUCE
Answer: When their new air conditioning unit broke down so quickly, they — LOST THEIR COOL

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

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.

BYO

CTNE

IWKN

RPID

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BEING A GOOD MAGICIAN ISN'T EASY AND CAN SOMETIMES BE ---

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.

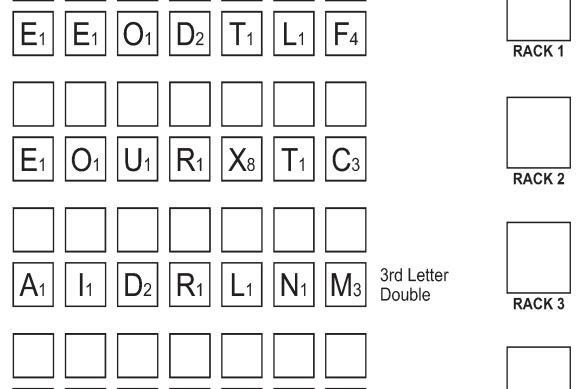
Print your answer here:

Jumbles: BOY CENT WINK DRIP
Answer: Being a good magician isn't easy and can sometimes be — TRICKY

SCRABBLE

GRAMS

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PAR SCORE 150-160
FOUR RACK TOTAL
BEST SCORE 231
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.

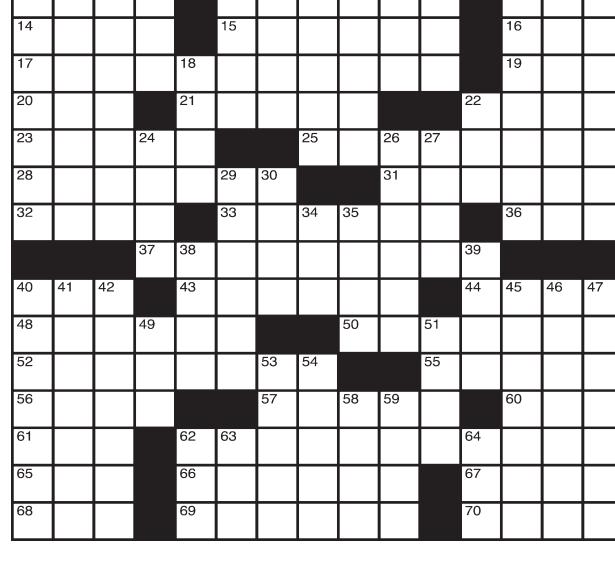
For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

11-25

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.



Puzzle solutions on page A6



Across

1 Pool or polo
5 Groups of troops
11 Understood, as a joke
14 Persian Gulf country that borders Armenia
15 Noggin
16 NPR host Shapiro
17 Vegetable patch pest
19 «Mm-hmm»
20 Lawyer's org.
21 Unwilling (to)
22 Band bookings
23 Native Costa Ricans, informally
25 Feline who lives indoors
28 Anthem heard in Nova Scotia
31 Olympic gymnast Biles

32 Vanity Fair publisher Condé —

33 Tooth's outer layer
36 Neither's partner

37 Workplace companion

40 Cable network with many reruns

43 «Good enough»

44 Job inspection org.

48 Baltimore ballplayer

50 Walked stealthily

52 New York City rodent that went viral in 2015

55 Mixes

56 School support orgs.

57 Coral producer

60 Combat sport, briefly

61 Ad-__: improvise

62 Really fun person, or an apt descriptor of 17-, 25-, 37-, and 52-Across?

65 Subj. for some new immigrants

66 Zoo section with birds

67 Actress Russo

68 __/her pronouns

69 Prime-time soap opera set in Texas
70 Commotions

Down

1 Unit of explosive force

2 Coffee bean variety

3 Seed-filled percussion pair

4 Stop

5 __ Domini

6 Civil rights activist Parks

7 Calendar viewing option

8 Washington neighbor

9 Former quarterback Manning

10 Salt, in French

11 Judy Garland or Cher

12 Herb in Italian seasoning

13 Bettor's adviser

18 Anna's sister in «Frozen»

22 Precious stone

24 Not fooled by

26 Applied to

27 Storage tower

29 More adroit

30 Deep blue dye

34

Oft-torn knee pt.

35

Rx items

38

Seoul-based

athleisure brand

39

Billy —

40

Brings down

41

«The Great —

Baking Show»

42

Quite large

45

Read quickly

46

Spanish brother

47

Revenue source for

magazines

49 Parts of lbs.

51 «SportsCenter»

network

53 Earth Day time

54 Add up to

58 Harp-shaped

constellation

59 Celebratory shouts

62 Cushion

63 Filmmaker

DuVernay

64 Nest egg letters



A plunger orders a small ice cream cone so he won't feel bad when he orders a second one.

Finding Your Rhythm Again: Reestablishing Routines in the New Year



(Family Features) The holiday season is special, fun and often a bit chaotic, filled with family gatherings and joyful

celebrations. Once the decorations come down and chaos subsides in the new year, many families face a familiar challenge:

getting children back into their regular routines.

After weeks of excitement, travel and inconsistent schedules,

the transition back to structure can feel daunting. However, with a thoughtful approach, parents can help their children ease back into their daily rhythms, and in the process, restore calm for the entire family. Dr. Lauren Loquasto, senior vice president and chief academic officer at The Goddard School, provides this insight and guidance for parents.

even on the weekends.

If your child is resistant, teach them how their sleep routine helps their body and mind. For example: "Your body relaxes and grows stronger when you get enough sleep, so you feel good afterward."

autonomy. This doesn't mean relinquishing full decision-making power; rather, it's about offering structured, intentional choices that help them feel a sense of control over their day.

You know your child best, so you can determine when to be flexible. For example, it may not matter if they change into their pajamas right after dinner or just before bed but shifting when they go to the bathroom could completely disrupt their routine and, in turn, your day.

Reintroduce Standard Meal-times

Holiday snacking and large meals at family gatherings can disrupt normal eating habits. Reinstate regular meal and snack times to help your child feel grounded. Offer balanced options and involve them in planning or preparing meals, as they're more likely to embrace healthy choices when they have a role in the process.

Prioritize Physical Activity

After extended periods of lounging indoors – and likely an overdose of screen time – children need movement to burn energy and boost their moods. Coordinate outdoor play and family walks. If the weather isn't cooperative, move around indoors with hide-and-seek and dance sessions. Physical activity not only supports health but also helps regulate sleep and behavior.

Start with Sleep

For young children, sleep is the foundation of a successful routine. Consistent sleep supports focus, tolerance and cooperation. For optimal brain repair and growth, preschoolers typically need 10-13 hours of sleep per night, but seasonal festivities can disrupt sleep schedules, frequently leaving children overly tired.

Begin by gradually adjusting bedtime by moving it earlier in 15-minute increments each night until you resume your regular schedule. Pair this with calming pre-bedtime rituals like reading or quiet play to signal it's time to wind down. The morning routine is equally important. Strive for consistent wake-up times,

Model Behavior

Children learn by example and they are always watching their parents. If you reestablish and consistently maintain your own routines – healthy meals, quality sleep and physical activity among them – your child is more likely to follow suit.

Make it a family effort rather than a set of rules imposed on them, and make it fun. To help routines stick, consider sticker charts to track progress and incentivize independence and accountability.

Resetting routines isn't about perfection; it's about creating a supportive environment where children feel secure and prepared for what's ahead. With patience, consistency and a positive attitude, you can help your child start the new year on the right foot.

For more parenting guidance and insights, including a blog and webinar series, visit the Parent Resource Center at GoddardSchool.com.

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