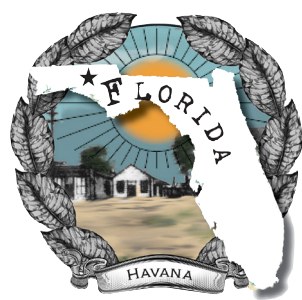


The Chattahoochee News-Herald



& Sneads Sentinel

Because Great Communities Deserve Great Community Newspapers



Greensboro teacher arrested after physical altercation with 9-year-old

FABRIZIO GOWDY
Gadsden County News Service

A Greensboro Elementary School gym teacher is facing a child abuse charge after security camera footage allegedly showed him dragging a nine-year-old male student across the cafeteria floor.

Edward Wayne Lee II, 54, was arrested by the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office and charged with abuse of a child without great bodily harm, a third-degree felony that carries a maximum sentence of five years according to Florida statutes. The alleged incident occurred on March 31 just before 8 a.m.

According to the narrative presented in the 13-page arrest report, the student complained to Lee that a classmate had kicked him, which Lee told him was not true. Upset by Lee's response, the student began slamming his food tray and drink on the table.

According to one school employee quoted in the

report, Lee began yelling at the student, loudly telling him "you met your match today." Multiple witnesses claimed they observed Lee grab the student in the chest area by his clothes and drag him out of the cafeteria, which was corroborated by security camera footage in the cafeteria.

When Lee returned to the cafeteria after removing the student, he was confronted by food service workers who protested his alleged treatment of the student.

"The next time I'm going to let you come out there and see if you can do things better, I'm trained for this," Lee is said to have responded.

Lee told police he was not upset or angry at the student, but felt he had to remove him from the cafeteria to prevent him from "endangering" others. As evidence of his state of mind, he claimed that just moments before the altercation, he had been consoling another student who was feeling

sad because she felt ugly.

GCSO was first called to the school the day the incident occurred by Principal James Mills, who was notified of the incident by a member of the staff. The following week, investigators conducted interviews with all employees who witnessed the altercation, as well as the student himself, and reviewed security camera footage of the incident.

After reviewing security camera footage and interviewing school staff and the student himself, police arrested Lee on April 13 and took him to the Gadsden County Jail.

According to the arrest report, a May 2018 investigative report from the Department of Children and Families claimed Lee had aggressively confronted and forcibly pushed a student into a seat while employed at a school in Tallahassee. Lee quickly resigned from that position after being confronted by the school's

principal.

"The Gadsden County School District would not have been aware of the 2018 incident, as the matter was reported solely with the Florida Department of Children and Families and not to the Florida Department of Education," Gadsden County School District Public Information Officer Kynadi Harris told the Gadsden County Times.

Donny Young, who has coached high school football alongside Lee, says he should have shown more self-control and restraint, but is a good person. He recounted how Lee went "above and beyond" to help his son.

"He showed up everyday and gave his all for the development and guidance of those kids," said Young. "I will never condone abusing a student, but I don't think a moment of poor judgment should demonize him or neglect the years of service he has provided for so many kids



Photo courtesy Gadsden County Sheriff's Office
Edward Wayne Lee II, 54, was arrested by the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office and charged with abuse of a child without great bodily harm on April 13 for an event that allegedly occurred at Greensboro Elementary School on March 31.

in Gadsden County."

In a statement, the Gadsden County School District condemned Lee's alleged actions.

"The action displayed does not reflect the standards and expectations we have for individuals who serve our students. The district has zero tolerance for conduct that compromises the

safety, dignity, or well-being of our students, and appropriate action has been taken in response."

Lee, who did not respond to a request for comment, made his first appearance April 14 in front of Judge Kathy Garner and posted a \$5,000 bond. No future court dates are set as of this writing.

Sneads Town Council tees up fee increases for garbage collection and mosquito spraying

FABRIZIO GOWDY
Gadsden County News Service

The Sneads Town Council voted unanimously April 15 to hold public hearings to consider increasing fees for solid waste collection and mosquito spraying.

According to Bill Rentz, the city manager, the town has not increased solid waste fees in a couple of years and has lost a modest sum last year on commercial garbage collection. Currently,

residents are charged \$22 per month for weekly pickup of one cart, while the commercial rate for business is \$68 per month for a two-yard dumpster picked up weekly.

The town is proposing raising the monthly residential fee by \$1 and increasing the two-yard dumpster rate to \$75. Rentz said the town has conducted a study, and the proposed rate increase would make Sneads' fees about the same as most other nearby municipalities.

Councilwoman Kay Neel said the town eventually plans to explore garbage collection providers other than the current provider, Waste Pro.

"Once the contract is up, we plan on shopping

around for the best prices," said Neel.

Council members also voted to hold a public hearing to raise fees for mosquito spraying.

The town currently charges just 50 cents for the service, but Rentz said supplies alone cost \$10,000 annually — which does not include gas and overtime. Last year, the 50-cent fee brought in just \$4,400, which is why the council is proposing increasing the spraying fee to \$1.50.

"We have the only guy in the area with a mosquito spray license, and it's not easy to get one," Rentz told the council.

Both public hearings will be held at next month's town council meeting,

Election Results

In the April 14 municipal election, Neel defeated challenger "Pug" Charles with 61 percent of votes cast — 123 to 78. Charles ran a campaign focused almost entirely on preventing the Sneads Police Department from being eliminated.

Neel thanked all those who voted for her, and chided critics who "hide behind Facebook." She encouraged residents to contact her any time, saying her number is "everywhere."

Fellow incumbent Tim Perry won reelection unopposed. Both Perry and Neel will be sworn in for another two-year term at the May council meeting.

In other business:

- The council unanimously authorized the purchase of a new \$60,000 bypass pump. Council members agreed with Rentz's assessment that purchasing a pump was more cost-effective than paying \$2,000 per month to rent one.

- Council members heard an update on planned \$4.3 million drainage improvements intended to reduce flooding on the north side of town, which is currently 75 percent through the planning process. According to Gene Nobles with DHM Melvin Engineering, there will be substantial construction that residents may find disruptive and frustrating,

but the improvements are badly needed.

- The council unanimously approved an annual consulting contract for engineering services by DHM Melvin, whose services are billed hourly and are mostly grant-funded.

- Sneads recently completed its water tank inspection and cleaning required every five years by the Department of Environmental Protection. According to Rentz, the tanks were very clean and the process went smoothly.

Councilman Mike Weeks missed Wednesday's meeting because of car problems. The next town council meeting will be May 12 at 5 p.m.

Gadsden County secures \$4.4 million grant for new EMS facility

Gadsden County News Service

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners announced it has been awarded a \$4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to fund the construction of a new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facility.

The investment is

expected to enhance the county's ability to deliver timely, high-quality emergency response services to residents and visitors across Gadsden County. The Gadsden County EMS Department currently operates six emergency response vehicles daily and responds to an average of 8,000 calls annually, illustrating the

high demand for reliable services.

Interim County Manager Reginald James said the funding is a major step toward modernizing the county's infrastructure.

"This grant represents a major step forward in strengthening our emergency response infrastructure," said James. "EMS services are

a critical and essential service we provide to our citizens, and we are committed to equipping our team with the most modern equipment and facilities possible to meet the growing needs of our community."

The new EMS building will feature improved operational capacity, enhanced working conditions for

first responders, and a centralized, modern design intended to support rapid response and coordination during emergencies.

The Board of County Commissioners stated it remains committed to investing in public safety and ensuring that Gadsden County residents receive the highest level of emergency care.



LOCAL

Community Calendar April

Thursday, April 23

- **Found Word Buttons for Teens:** In celebration of National Poetry Month, teenagers can create unique buttons using words from retired library books. The workshop runs from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of the Quincy Public Library, 300 W. King St., Quincy.
- **Gadsden County Planning Commission Meeting:** The commission will meet to review land use and development

applications. The session begins at 6 p.m. at the Edward J. Butler Governmental Complex, 9-B E. Jefferson St., Quincy.

- **CDBG First Public Hearing:** Gadsden County will hold its first public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant. The hearing starts at 6 p.m. at the Edward J. Butler Governmental Complex, 9-B E. Jefferson St., Quincy.
- **City of Gretna CDBG Workshop:** A

Fair Housing Workshop and second public hearing for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant will be held for the city of Gretna. The session begins at 6:30 p.m. at Gretna City Hall, 14615 Main St., Gretna.

Saturday, April 25

- **Havana Market:** The Havana Main Street Farmers and Artisans Market features local produce, crafts, and goods from regional vendors. The market is open from 10 a.m. to 2

p.m. at 204 NW 2nd St., Havana.

- **4th Annual Plant Swap:** Residents are invited to bring healthy plants or cuttings to swap with fellow gardeners. The event runs from 10 a.m. to noon at the Quincy Public Library, 300 W. King St., Quincy.
- **DEA Drug Take Back:** Local law enforcement agencies will host a collection site for the safe disposal of expired or unused prescription medications. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, 339 E. Jefferson St., Quincy.
- **Havana Cigar Days:** This annual event celebrates the region's heritage as the former

«Shade Tobacco Capital of the World» with exhibits, demonstrations, and community history. The celebration runs from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Havana Shade Tobacco Museum, 204 2nd St. NW, Havana.

- **Exhibition Closing:** Today is the final day to view the 49th Southern Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Gadsden Arts Center & Museum, 13 N. Madison St., Quincy.

Sunday, April 26

- **Yoga with Cedrita:** A community yoga session open to all skill levels. The class begins at 5 p.m. at Bwembya's Market, 1011 W. Jefferson St., Quincy.

Tuesday, April 28

- **Quincy Municipal Election:** Polls for the city of Quincy municipal election will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at designated precincts.

- **Election Canvassing:** The canvass of vote-by-mail returns for the Quincy municipal election will begin at 6 p.m. at the Supervisor of Elections office, 16 S. Madison St., Quincy.

Wednesday, April 29

- **Tourist Development Council (TDC) Meeting:** The TDC will hold a general meeting to discuss tourism initiatives and funding. The meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. at the Edward J. Butler Governmental Complex, 9-B E. Jefferson St., Quincy.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No. 202025CA000888AXXXCX

MARGARET DELGADO,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ANNIE BELL LODMAN;
BARBARA LODMAN WOODSON;
and the unknown heirs,
 devisees, grantees, creditors, and all
 other parties claiming by, through,
 under, or against the grantees named
 in that certain deed dated August 18,
 1954, recorded in Official Records
 Book 108, Page 32, of the Public Records
 of Gadsden County, Florida, including
 any such unknown parties who may be
 deceased; and all parties having or
 claiming to have any right, title, or
 interest in the property described herein,
 Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
(Constructive Service - Real Property)

TO:

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, CREDITORS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST CLARA LODMAN (DECEASED); AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST ANY OF THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, WHETHER AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, CREDITORS, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; AND ANY AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST ADVERSE TO PLAINTIFF IN THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title to the real property described below has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit, in and for

Gadsden County, Florida, Case No. 202025CA000888AXXXCX. This action seeks to determine all claims to the subject property. The Complaint seeks a final judgment quieting title to the above-described property in favor of Plaintiff and determining that Defendants and all persons claiming by, through, under, or against them have no right, title, or interest therein.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, and run 345 feet West; thence North 1005 feet for Point of Beginning; thence North 345 feet, more or less, to the North line of said Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence West 315 feet; thence South 345 feet, more or less; thence East 315 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Gadsden County Parcel ID Numbers:
2-29-3N-4W-0000-00341-0000
2-29-3N-4W-0000-00341-0100

RESPONSE DEADLINE AND SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS

YOU ARE REQUIRED to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Complaint upon Plaintiff's attorney named below within twenty (20) days after the first publication of this Notice, and to file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY:

ANTHONY ROBINSON, ESQ.
Florida Bar No. 0122438
BICO Legal and Compliance Consulting, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
1001 Brickell Bay Drive, Suite 2700
Miami, Florida 33131
Telephone: 786-796-6708
Email: info@bicolegalcompliance.com

DEFAULT WARNING

If you fail to file written defenses within the time required by law, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which may result in the Court entering a Final Judgment quieting title to the subject property without further notice to you.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

This Notice of Action is issued pursuant to §§ 49.08 and 49.10, Florida Statutes, and applicable provisions of Chapter 50, Florida Statutes. This Notice shall be published once each week for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Havana Herald, a newspaper qualified under Chapter 50, Florida Statutes, and of general circulation in Gadsden County, Florida.

An Affidavit of Publication from the "Havana Herald" will be filed in this action

as proof of publication in accordance with § 49.11, Florida Statutes.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) NOTICE

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. At least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days, please contact:

ADA Coordinator Regina Shaw
ShawR@leoncountyfl.gov
301 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850.606.4400

If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Some accommodations, such as sign language interpreters and real-time reporting, require additional time to schedule. Rule 2.540, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, requires that you contact the ADA Coordinator at least seven days prior to your court appearance or visit to the courthouse, or immediately upon receiving notification if the time before the scheduled court appearance is less than 7 days. Please be prepared to explain the nature of your disability and suggest an auxiliary aid or service that will enable you to effectively participate in the court program or service.

LANGUAGE ACCESS NOTICE

If you do not understand this Notice of Action or require language assistance in order to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Clerk of Court or the ADA/Language Access Coordinator.

Si usted no entiende este Aviso de Acción o necesita asistencia en su idioma para participar en este proceso judicial, comuníquese con la Secretaría del Tribunal inmediatamente.

DATED this 3rd day of March, 2026.

(Seal)
NICHOLAS D. THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Second Judicial Circuit
Gadsden County, Florida
By: Judy Waddell
Judy Waddell
Deputy Clerk
(Circuit Court Seal)
4t: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23

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Puzzle Solutions

Don't Peek. Puzzles
on page 5.

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SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S. SOLUTION

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M ₃	A ₁	R ₁	S ₁	H ₄	A ₁	L ₁	RACK 3 = 62
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PAR SCORE 145-155
TOTAL **218**

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Today Can Be Different

Don't let procrastination steal your year

We're well into the second quarter of this year. Are you on track to meet your work and home goals by the end of 2026?

Or have you pushed too many things to the back burner – or worse, completely taken them off the stove?

Whether you're leading a company with a desk tray full of deadlines or managing a household with a never-ending to-do list, staying focused and following through isn't easy. For the habitual procrastinator, it can feel especially overwhelming.

Scripture speaks directly to this struggle. Ecclesiastes 11:4 (ESV) reminds us: "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap."



Sheryl Boldt

In other words, waiting for perfect conditions often leads to missed opportunities. Just as a farmer risks losing his crop by delaying, we risk unfinished goals, missed deadlines and even strained relationships when we rationalize our procrastinating ways.

Opportunities don't always wait. More importantly, the people counting on us may

eventually stop counting on us at all.

Maybe you're thinking, I don't know how to change – but I'm willing.

Pour out your heart to God. Be honest about your struggle and your need for His help. Let His grace strengthen and guide you.

Then ... act. Take steps to move forward.

At home, begin with the biggest eyesore. At work, choose the task you've been avoiding. Even five or ten focused minutes can build momentum. You might be surprised how much you accomplish when you simply start.

Tackle the most important task before the weekend arrives. Set a timer on your smartphone and make a dent in that

nagging project. If you think it will take an hour, try setting the timer for 45 minutes and challenge yourself to finish before it rings.

Here's a practical idea by Ivy Lee, a management consultant: Make a list of five tasks for the next day. Rank them in order of importance, then focus on completing the first one before moving on. That night, revise your list and repeat.

Another key to overcoming procrastination is accountability. Sharing a goal or struggle with someone can provide the encouragement you need to stay on track.

Make this week a productive one. Confidence grows with every productive minute and each "dent." Visualize yourself getting back on track, one dent at a time, by the end of this quarter.

This year will fly by even faster than last year. So ... make the most of each day. Don't let procrastination destroy what could be a great 2026.

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

Short Takes

Gadsden County Veteran Service Office to close for training

The Gadsden County Veteran Service Office will be closed on Monday, May 4, 2026, through Friday, May 8, 2026, for training, which will be given by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.

The office will reopen on Monday, May 11 2026, at 8 a.m.

If you have an appointment at the VA clinic and you're needing transportation, please call the office before noon on Friday, May 1, 2026

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CVS Pharmacy
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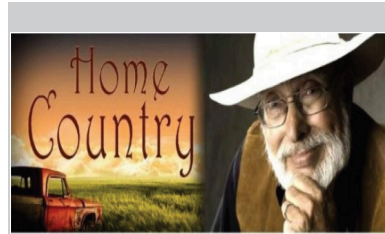
LUGARES PARTICIPANTES

Gadsden County Sheriff's Office
339 East Jefferson Street · Quincy, FL 32351

Buy-Rite Drugs
704 US-27 · Havana, FL 32333

CVS Pharmacy
12 Decatur Street · Chattahoochee, FL 32324

Guárdelos bien. Deshágase de ellos. Devuélvalos.



We wondered about the origin of the new sign down at the Read Me Now bookstore. Sarah McKinley has had the place for about five years now and has become a real asset to our valley. If you're looking for a book, she either has it or you don't need to read it.

She is picky, of course, and tends to buy the kind of books she thinks we should read and not always the ones we'd like to read. Fortunately for her, enough of us agree with her choices that we have kept her in business.

There's speculation about the new sign, naturally. The word got out around the valley about ten minutes after she hung it up, which is probably pretty slow for news to spread around here. She might have done it during a playoff game.

We all made the pilgrimage into the store to glance at it. No one was crass enough to actually ask Sarah about the wording on the sign. For one thing, it's none of our business, really. Not that that would stop us. But if we pried, that would take away all the fun we'd have out of speculating about it (sometimes known as gossip) at the barbershop, coffee shop, hair stylists and kitchens throughout the local realm.

I've heard through a good source (who swears it's true) that the sign is a direct result of a broken heart when that fellow who used to come see Sarah moved out of state. That isn't actual evidence, of course, but evidence would require asking Sarah about the sign, and that would spoil the fun.

Some say Sarah had problems with men at an even earlier age, and a few of our local ladies claim to have seen photographs in Sarah's apartment of several former swains. (Is the plural of swain swine?)

I've caught Sarah looking at us as we glance at the sign when we come in. I believe I've seen a semi smirk on her face at those times, too. But at any rate, I don't know of another bookstore that has a sign proclaiming one wall of books as being in the category of "Love and other Fiction."

Brought to you by any love secret you might have come across in Slim Randles' book "Growing Up Right."



Slippery math at the bathroom sink

By Mark Pettus
Publisher

There I was, restocking the bathroom cabinet with my latest industrial-sized haul of Irish Spring from Costco, when I noticed something peculiar. Resting side-by-side on the counter were two bars of soap that, at a glance, looked identical. But upon closer inspection, they were worlds apart. One box was printed in plain English. The other featured a bilingual spread of English and French—clearly a traveler intended for the Canadian market that had somehow migrated south to Florida.

The real surprise, however, wasn't the language; it was the weight. The Canadian bar tipped the scales at 3.7 ounces (104.8 grams). Its American cousin sat at a robust 4.5 ounces (127 grams).

My mind immediately jumped to the buzzword of the decade: shrink-flation.

We've all seen it. The cereal box stays the same height, but the bag inside gets thinner while the price remains stubbornly high. You end up paying the same for less, while the manufacturer keeps the difference. It is a subtle sleight of hand played out in grocery aisles across the country.

But as a newspaperman, I have to stick to the facts. Since I buy these in bulk lots, I cannot recall exactly what I paid for either specific batch. Without the receipts, I can't prove the "flation" part of the equation, even if the "shrink" is staring me in the face.

It left me wondering: why the discrepancy? Perhaps Canadians are simply cleaner than we are and require less scrubbing? Or maybe, because the Great White North is significantly chillier than Gadsden County, our neighbors to the north simply sweat less and don't need as much lather to get the job



Photo by Mark Pettus

done. Regardless of international logistics or the biology of perspiration, this discovery has permanently changed my shopping habits. It is a new life lesson for a new era: I'll never buy another bar of soap—or anything else, for that matter—without

checking the price against the physical dimensions of the product. In a world where the size of the packaging is an illusion, we have to be our own advocates at the checkout line. It's a slippery slope out there, and I intend to keep a firm grip on my wallet.

NURSE JUDY'S NOOK

A Good Friend

Judy Conlin

One has many friends throughout their lifetime. There are old friends we've had since we were young, workplace friends, club friends, church friends, and casual friends. No matter who they are or where we met them, we cherish them all.

My column today is about a friend I met late in my life. We usually get together at least once a week and sometimes study our theater lines or just talk about our lives and always laugh a lot.

The incident I am going to talk about today shows why I admire her so much. She was coming to visit me one morning and I decided to make a little snack for us. As you know, I am not Betty Crocker, but I love to entertain. I wanted to try something new and different, but I wanted it to be easy—something I could handle but would show what a good hold I had on this entertaining business. I

sorted through recipe books, clippings, and magazines wanting to find a simple recipe that would still be impressive, I stumbled upon a recipe for an easy grape salad. I should have known that what they called easy and what was easy for me were two different things, but I started out with high hopes.

There were only a few ingredients, so I started out quite happy with myself. All you had to do to start was cream sour cream, sugar and cream cheese together. That sounded simple. It should have been but with my arthritic hands it was very difficult. It said to continue this creaming until there were no lumps. I worked and worked and worked. My arms and hands were killing me but there were still lumps.

I finally resorted to using a mixer which was not recommended, but it was all I could think of doing. Even so there were still lumps but they were smaller lumps. My aching legs from the long standing

and my aching arms and hands from creaming decided it was good enough.

It was time to add the previously washed and dried red and green seedless grapes. Well, I had only gotten a small portion of those grapes in when my bowl was running over with lumpy dough. I grabbed a larger bowl and began putting in more grapes only to have this bowl overflow also. I found a larger bowl and once again poured my mess into it and the remainder of those darned fat grapes. There was now lumpy dough all over my kitchen island, the discarded bowls, and, of course, me.

It was now time to chill this and prepare the topping of brown sugar and chopped pecans. I won't go into the details of how my chopping pecans went. Just let me say that I am still finding bits in my hair and various parts of the kitchen.

Despite all this, the following morning I felt good presenting my lovely grape salad. It looked

delicious. I dished it up all the time telling my friend how difficult it had been to make, but was worth the effort. I did not mention that it was called easy grape salad.

As she took her first bite, I waited expectantly. "Well, what do you think?" I asked.

She looked up, staring me straight in my eyes. "I wouldn't bother doing it again," she said.

I couldn't help bursting out laughing and soon we were both laughing. Most people would have mumbled some vague compliment, but this was a true friend. She was perfectly honest. She did have a second helping just to save my ego a little, but I was left with this mammoth bowl of leftovers which I've been working on for days. I can hardly waddle out to my car. Still, I am grateful for having such a good friend.

More later,
Fat Judy www.nursejudynfo.com

At The Pump

Local, State, and National

National Average:

\$4.02 per gallon

State Average:

\$3.95 per gallon

Gadsden County Average:

\$3.96 per gallon

Jackson County Average:

\$3.92 per gallon

Leon County Average

\$3.92 per gallon

Numbers based on AAA Gas Prices report, as of April 21, 2026

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Web: theherald.online
Web: chattahoocheeews.com

STAFF
Mark Pettus, Publisher
mark.pettus@prioritynews.net
Colleen Sperry, Advertising & Circulation Mgr.
colleen@prioritynews.net

Erin Hill, Editor
editor@prioritynews.net
Jasmine Green
jasmine@newlinedigital.com

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COMICS AND PUZZLES

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Schwadron 3-20

JUMBLE

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

CATKR
REDLE
SRYEJE
SDRIHA

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

There's got to be a better route. Got it! We can still make it on time.

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

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Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TWICE CHORD LATELY ALWAYS
Answer: The story the cow was telling was a — "DAIRY" TALE

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.

GTE
OFRU
ATSY
NDKU

Looks like the birds will know how old you are. Bye-bye, balloon.

My balloon!

Color me

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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 answer here:

Jumbles: GET FOUR STAY DUNK
Answer: What goes up and never comes down? — YOUR AGE

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Osburn 2-23

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Russell Myers 5/25

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Scancarrell

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Summers 3-16

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A1 E1 O1 L1 C3 T1 L1
A1 O1 O1 T1 C3 R1 S1
A1 A1 H4 M3 L1 R1 S1
A1 E1 E1 E1 R1 B3 V4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 218

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

12-13

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.

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

Puzzle solutions on page 2

- Across**
- 1 «One-Punch Man» genre
 - 6 Diving acronym
 - 11 Pampering retreat
 - 14 Wheel of Fortune setting
 - 15 Goes the distance
 - 16 Isn't missing
 - 17 Remark from a revolutionary?
 - 19 PC «oops» key
 - 20 Serengeti pack animal
 - 21 «I feel seen!»
 - 22 Calligraphy array
 - 25 Feature of a broken remote?
 - 29 Karate belt level
 - 30 Alternative to seed
 - 31 Didn't strike out, say
 - 32 Scare off
 - 34 Wales who co-founded Wikipedia
 - 35 One gold doubloon?
 - 40 Book that may hold personal records
 - 41 Move furtively

- 43 Home of the world's busiest airport
- 46 «__ of course»
- 48 Brew in a 42-Down
- 49 Asset in bartending school?
- 51 Remnant
- 52 Cold, hard cash
- 53 Overwhelmingly
- 55 Greedy figure
- 56 Nitwits from the past?
- 62 39-Down alum
- 63 Many a seventh grader
- 64 Match, in grammar
- 65 Some ER figures
- 66 Metallic sound
- 67 Pointless, or a phonetic hint to five of this puzzle's long answers
- Down**
- 1 Parent company of Cricket Wireless
- 2 «Pass»
- 3 403(b) alternative
- 4 Some lepidopterans
- 5 «Keep Commerce Human» company
- 6 Surreptitious assent
- 7 Crème de __
- 8 Service gp.
- 9 Window unit meas.
- 10 Egyptian snake
- 11 Form-fitting dress
- 12 Dijon denial
- 13 Way up
- 18 Office posting
- 21 Decide not to retire
- 22 Licenses, e.g.
- 23 County east of Sonoma
- 24 Tangled clump
- 26 Cry at the end of the week
- 27 Get no laughs, say
- 28 Maximal
- 30 Activity where newcomers practice «pizza» and «french fries»
- 33 «Phooey»
- 34 Elation
- 36 «Great» detective of kid-lit
- 37 Nickname for Mom's mom
- 38 Salty drop
- 39 New Haven school
- 42 See 48-Across

- 43 Tough HS science class
- 44 Past a certain cutoff
- 45 «__ Mansion»: Nintendo series
- 46 Believing, so to speak
- 47 Sports org. revived in 2022 after a 37-year hiatus
- 50 Playwright Henrik
- 51 Jason Momoa's «Game of Thrones» role class
- 54 Sign-off from an admirer
- 56 Org. concerned with price-fixing
- 57 Rice University athlete
- 58 __ salt
- 59 Tulsa sch.
- 60 French article
- 61 Catch

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5/2

You're a pluggger when your birthday cake only gets a candle for each decade.

Autism Acceptance: NextStep adults thrive

By Tammy Dasher

She sits on the edge of her seat, across the table from me, white knuckling her purse straps. The scene was familiar—long years of sitting across a table from pre-k teachers with worried frowns, or from special educators at endless IEP meetings, or maybe the middle school principal when the bullying was so bad, or more recently the high school guidance counselor tallying up his credits. It was familiar, but it was uncomfortable.

“You know the prayer of moms with kids with special needs?” she asks. I do know it: God, please let me live just one day longer than my child so I can always make sure he is cared for and loved in this world that can be so cruel. When I nod she continues, “I don’t even need one day; I pray I live just one minute longer than my child.”

Though her words are sad, she doesn’t cry. She looks at me with the eyes

of a mom who has fought long and hard for her son. While weary from always feeling like the only one in his corner, her eyes let me know she still has plenty of fight left when it comes to her boy.

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and the autism community is lighting it up blue, wearing red instead, proudly displaying their puzzle piece t-shirts, and embracing the neurodivergent infinity symbol. It is the month when parents can find resources and advocates at the numerous events held in parks, libraries, and schools all over the country.

At NextStep at Endeavor Academy in Marianna, Florida, every month is the perfect month for showing acceptance for neurodivergent people. NextStep is a two-year transition program for autistic adults which focuses on employment, independent living, and community connection. Since 2022 we have had

hundreds of enrollments in our full-time Transition Academy and our part-time short courses. Our social short course, Stepping Out with NextStep, currently has nearly 40 participants in our groups in Marianna, Tallahassee, Panama City, and Dothan. 100% of our Transition Academy participants have been competitively employed upon graduation and remain so to this day.

I tell the mom across the table from me all this. “He stims,” she says. “Everybody stims,” I respond gently, “and we don’t mind that here.”

Autism acceptance is more than a celebratory month at NextStep. It appears daily in our interactions with the adults we serve. We recognize and value the unique characteristics that come with an autism diagnosis, and we also appreciate the unique characteristics we all have that make us human. Acceptance is something all of us are looking for—



we all want to be seen and heard and valued. In his book “Flourish: The Art of Building Meaning, Joy, and Fulfillment,” author Daniel Coyle writes about what makes a meaningful life. Connecting with others is key; finding acceptance where we can “let our armor down” is the first step.

I look past the mom’s shoulder into our NextStep common area and kitchen, thinking about all the parent conversations I have had over the years. We’re Scared to Let Her Near the Stove was pulling a pound cake out of the oven, We Don’t Think He’ll be Able to Hold a Job was headed to the restroom to change into his work uniform, and We’re Heartbroken He’s Never Had a Friend was

playing Battleship with his buddy. Across the way at NextStep Apartments, I’m Worried He Will Never Be Independent was putting his groceries away in his kitchen, I’m Afraid She Won’t Ever Be Able to Drive was getting into her truck to go to work, and I Just Want Him to Experience All the Things Other People Get to Experience was getting ready to go out to dinner with friends.

Just like you and me, people with autism thrive when they feel accepted and valued. When the right supports are paired with meaningful work, they are some of the most loyal employees you will ever have. When taught with patience and evidence-based practices, they will succeed in ways you never dreamed

possible. When mastery of skills turns to fluency with skills, they will feel safe enough to strive for goals with confidence. When parents have hope that there are places like NextStep, they can let their armor down a bit, too.

I smile at the mom across from me then, getting up and moving away from that table between us. “Come and talk to our students,” I say, leading her toward them and already imagining all the wonderful accomplishments He Stims will be making in his next two years at NextStep.

Tammy Dasher is the director of NextStep at Endeavor Academy. She can be reached at TDasher@NextStepatEndeavor.org.

Hundreds attend Gadsden County’s annual hurricane prep event

Leo Torres
Gadsden County News Service

Gadsden County Emergency Management partnered with the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners on Saturday for the 7th annual Hurricane Preparedness Health and Safety Fair, held at United Natural Foods, Inc. in Quincy.

LaShun Mitchell, a grant coordinator for the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners, said the fair offered batteries, blankets, household supplies, diapers, pet products, and other essentials to residents.

About 500 people attended, and by the end of the event nearly all supplies had been distributed. Attendees

were also able to receive healthcare screenings and blood pressure checks.

“I think it just says that Gadsden County cares about their people,” Mitchell said. “They want people to know that as a community, we come together, we love you, we support you. If you need it and we have it, you can have it.”

E m e r g e n c y

Management Director Tashonda Whaley said the fair is held each year ahead of hurricane season, which begins June 1.

“This is our county; we all were born and raised here. We try to look out for our neighbors,” Whaley said. “We take pride in our county, and we just want people to be prepared, be safe, have a plan, and look out for each other.”

Whaley encouraged residents to know their nearest shelter, review their insurance policies, and secure food and water supplies in advance. She

also urged families with medically dependent members to register for the county’s special-needs services.

The Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office also participated. Col. Bobby Collins, law enforcement bureau chief, said the agency’s top priority is community safety. He witnessed firsthand the consequences of inadequate preparation during Hurricane Michael.

“Be prepared and start preparing now — not when the storm comes,” Collins said.

Veneka Brown, mental health and substance abuse coordinator for the Sheriff’s Office, reminded residents to consider the needs of loved ones with mental health conditions.

“We’re encouraging all family members that if you have someone suffering with mental health, make sure you have a plan for them because that’s very important,” Brown said. “For people who suffer from anxiety and depression, make sure you have your meds, and make sure you have the number for your provider and counselors.”

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- 🔥 Full Dinner Menu
- 🔥 Classic Cocktails
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- Prime Rib**
Thursday 5pm

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Photos courtesy of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
Residents line up to receive emergency supplies at the 7th annual Hurricane Preparedness Health and Safety Fair hosted by Gadsden County Emergency Management and the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners on Saturday in Quincy. Organizers encouraged families to make preparedness plans and secure essential items in advance of hurricane season.

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- Support local businesses, restaurants and non-profits
- Improve access to needed medical and social services
- Recruit, Support and Retain our town personnel
- Ensure sound budget, policy and management decisions

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