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Gadsden County weighs 10% budget cuts amid uncertainty over property tax changes

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Gadsden County commissioners reviewed proposed budget reductions across multiple departments during a June 11 budget workshop as officials work to balance the fiscal year 2026-27 budget amid uncertainty surrounding potential changes to Florida's property tax system.

Finance Director Rose Raynak presented a budget overview that included a review of fund balances, ad valorem tax revenue and departmental budget requests.

According to the presentation, the county's final taxable property value for fiscal year 2025-26 was approximately \$2.47 billion. The preliminary taxable value for fiscal year 2026-27 is approximately \$2.59 billion.

Raynak also discussed a proposed constitutional amendment expected to appear on the November ballot that would affect homestead exemptions and reduce the maximum annual assessment increase for properties without home-

stead exemptions from 10% to 5%.

During the discussion, Raynak said the proposal would likely result in a tax shift rather than a tax cut. Officials also discussed limitations that could affect the county's ability to recover lost tax revenue.

Commissioners reviewed departmental budgets and efforts to meet a target of approximately 10% in reductions.

Within county administration, Raynak outlined proposed increases and decreases within the department budget. Commissioners discussed salary increases established through state legislation, with Commissioner Ron Green noting elected officials do not set their own pay.

Library Director Tabitha Washington presented the library budget. Raynak said the department could meet a 10% reduction target by reducing part-time positions.

Probation Director Temeka Rollins reported the department proposed eliminating one full-time program clerk position and making operational reduc-

tions to achieve the target. Rollins said the department could only reduce expenditures by about 5% without affecting personnel.

Jeronda Robinson presented the Human Resources budget, noting that much of the department's funding comes from salaries.

In Elderly Affairs, Director Debra Fryson said the department met the reduction target by cutting operational expenses, travel, advertising, uniforms, training and resident assistance.

Planning and Zoning Director Tim Stiell said the department met its target by removing two positions and adding one part-time position. Commissioner Brenda Holt said the county needs additional planners.

Facilities and Custodial Services reported meeting the reduction target in some budget areas.

Veterans Services Director Mike Jackson said the department could not eliminate positions but reduced conference and travel expenses. He noted that only one employee would attend some conferences



Rose Raynak, Gadsden County's finance director, presents budget information during a June 11 budget workshop in Quincy. County officials reviewed departmental spending plans, proposed reductions and potential impacts from future property tax changes as they prepare the fiscal year 2026-27 budget.

instead of two.

Extension Services Director Robbie Jones said the department could not achieve a 6% reduction across all discretionary spending categories.

Economic Development and Tourism Development Council Director T.J. Lewis reported meeting the 10% reduction target. The department reduced travel expenses and office space costs.

Emergency Medical Services Chief Ford said the department achieved a 10% reduction by elim-

inating a fiscal assistant position and reducing fuel, oil, training and education expenses. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins questioned whether vacant positions would remain unfilled, while later expressing concern about reducing staffing levels in Emergency Medical Services.

Public Works Director Curtis Young reported his department met the reduction target by reducing overtime, travel, per diem and uniform expenses.

The workshop also included discussion of pos-

sible millage rate adjustments. Commissioner Holt asked whether the county could later reduce the rate if it were set at a higher level. Interim County Attorney Louis Baptiste said that once the final budget is adopted, the county cannot subsequently increase the millage rate.

Commissioners provided direction to staff and will continue budget discussions before adopting a final spending plan for fiscal year 2026-27.

Out of the Attic Vintage Market draws shoppers to downtown Havana

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

A new monthly pop-up vintage market appears to be gaining momentum in downtown Havana.

The Out of the Attic Vintage Market, held Saturday at the Havana History and Heritage Museum, attracted more than 120 visitors by noon, according to information

provided by museum representatives.

The market is held on the second Saturday of each month at the museum pavilion and grounds. Vendors offer vintage merchandise, repurposed finds, jewelry, clothing, architectural salvage, handcrafted items and other collectibles.

The event is designed to bring visitors to downtown Havana while providing a venue for antique and vintage vendors. Shoppers attending Saturday's market also had an opportunity to visit local businesses throughout downtown.

A social media post from Havana Main Street encouraged residents and visitors to explore downtown shops while attending the market, describing the event as part of a day of activity in the historic district.

The Out of the Attic Vintage Market is scheduled to continue on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Havana History and Heritage Museum.



Vintage glassware, collectibles and antique household items are displayed for sale during the Out of the Attic Vintage Market at the Havana History and Heritage Museum. The monthly market is held on the second Saturday of each month and features vendors offering antiques, vintage finds and handcrafted goods.



Shoppers browse vendor booths inside the pavilion during the Out of the Attic Vintage Market in downtown Havana. Organizers reported that more than 120 visitors attended the event by noon Saturday.



LOCAL

Community Calendar

June

Thursday, June 18

• **Blackberry Field Day**
University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Gadsden County hosts Blackberry Field Day at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time at the North Florida Research and Education Center, 155 Research Road, Quincy.

The event will feature blackberry production demonstrations, research updates and educational presentations for growers and agricultural professionals.

Tuesday, June 23

• **Chattahoochee Main Street Public Meeting**
Chattahoochee Main

Street hosts a public meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Chattahoochee Main Street office, 316 W. Washington St., Chattahoochee. Guest speaker Ty Smith, executive director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, will discuss initiatives affecting the community and provide updates on Chamber activities. Admission is free.

Sunday, June 28

• **GCBA Patriotic Musical**
The Gadsden County

Baptist Associational Choir presents a patriotic musical honoring America's 250th birthday at 6 p.m. at Quincy First Baptist Church, 210 W. Washington St., Quincy.

• Celebrate America Fireworks Extravaganza

El Bethel Church hosts the Celebrate America Fireworks Extravaganza at 6 p.m. at Sneads Park, 2360 Legion Road, Sneads. The free community event celebrating America's

250th birthday will feature musical guests Weeks Revival and The Nelons, along with a fireworks display.

Tuesday, June 30

• America History Trivia Night

The Gadsden County Public Library System hosts America History Trivia Night at 6 p.m. at the William A. "Bill" McGill Public Library, 732 S. Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy. Participants will compete for prizes focused on American and Florida history.

Registration is requested by calling 850-627-7106.

Wednesday, July 1

• America 250 Birthday Celebration

The Gadsden County Public Library System hosts an America 250 Birthday Celebration at 3 p.m. at the William A. "Bill" McGill Public Library, 732 S. Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy. The event will celebrate America's 250th anniversary with free books, snacks and patriotic giveaways.

Florida Power & Light offers tips to reduce energy costs during summer heat

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

As temperatures rise across Florida, Florida Power & Light is encouraging customers to take steps to manage energy use and reduce cooling costs during what is expected to be a hotter-than-average summer.

According to Florida Power & Light, some areas of the state are already experiencing heat index values in the triple digits as summer

begins. AccuWeather forecasts above-average temperatures this summer, along with increased cooling demand as El Niño influences weather patterns.

The utility company noted that cooling costs can account for up to 60% of a household's energy bill during the summer months. To help customers stay comfortable while managing expenses,

Florida Power & Light shared several energy-saving recommendations.

The company recommends setting thermostats between 75 and 78 degrees when at home and up to 82 degrees when away. Florida Power & Light said raising the thermostat by one degree between 75 and 78 degrees can reduce monthly cooling costs by 3% to 5%.

Ceiling fans can also help lower energy use. The company said fans can make occupants feel 3 to 4 degrees cooler while using less energy than air conditioning. During the summer, ceiling fans should rotate counterclockwise and be turned off when rooms are unoccupied.

Florida Power & Light also advises homeowners to inspect windows and doors for drafts.

The company estimates that nearly 30% of unwanted heat enters homes through windows. Sealing gaps with caulk or weather stripping and keeping blinds or curtains closed during the hottest parts of the day can help keep indoor temperatures lower.

To reduce indoor heat and energy consumption, the utility recommends using smaller appliances, such as air fryers, instead

of conventional ovens.

The company also suggests washing clothes in cold water rather than hot water. Florida Power & Light estimates that an average household can save up to \$160 per year by making the switch.

Florida Power & Light encourages customers to review their energy use and adopt energy-saving habits as summer temperatures continue to climb.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Dwight G. Angel, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of: National Registry of Gunsmiths Located in the County of: GADSDEN In the city of: Havana State of: Florida Intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at QUINCY, Florida, this 9 day of June, 2026. 1t: 6/18

GADSDEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a WRIT OF EXECUTION

issued in the County Court of GADSDEN, Florida, in the cause wherein RUBEN GOMEZ AND FIRST STOP AUTO SALES LLC is Plaintiff and 31556 BLUE STAR LLC is Defendant, being Case Number 2023CA461 in the said Court. I Morris Young, as Sheriff of Gadsden County, Florida, have levied upon all the right, title and interest of the Defendant, 31556 BLUE STAR LLC, in and to the following described property, to-wit:

31556 BLUE STAR HIGHWAY, MIDWAY, FL, FORMER ACE SALVAGE YARD. PARCEL #4-08-1N-2W-0000-00411-0100.

I shall offer this property for sale, at CITY OF MIDWAY, County of Gadsden, State of Florida, on JULY 21, 2026 at the hour of 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as possible, I will offer for sale all of the said Defendant's, right, title and interest in aforesaid property at public auction and will sell the same, subject to taxes, all prior liens, encumbrances and judgments, if any, to the highest and best bidder for

CASH IN HAND PLUS FLORIDA STATE SALES TAX, if applicable. The proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the above described execution.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Civil Clerk at (850) 875-8818 no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceedings. If hearing impaired (TDD) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service.

/s/
Morris A. Young, Sheriff
Gadsden County
/s/
Deputy Sheriff
4t: 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 7/9

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Puzzle Solutions

Don't Peek. Puzzles on page 5.

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C ₃	L ₁	U ₁	B ₃	M ₃	A ₁	N ₁	RACK 1 =	69
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B ₃	E ₁	G ₂	U ₁	I ₁	L ₁	E ₁	RACK 3 =	70
A ₁	E ₁	R ₁	O ₁	B ₃	I ₁	C ₃	RACK 4 =	61

PAR SCORE 155-165
TOTAL **213**

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Gadsden Arts receives grant for America250 exhibitions



Clyde Butcher, Florida Bay, photograph



Clyde Butcher, Clam Shell Orchid, photograph

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

The Gadsden Arts Center & Museum has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts through its Celebrating America250 initiative, Arts Projects Honoring the National Garden of American Heroes.

The funding will support exhibitions and related programming that highlight the contributions and lasting influence of notable Americans as the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The grant will help support two exhibitions scheduled during 2026. The first, *Generations: A Solo Exhibit by Julie Torres*, is currently on display through July 11. The exhibition reflects the legacy of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg through artwork that examines law, civic life, freedom, equality and empowerment.

Torres, a Tallahassee native, is known for woven screenprint pieces that combine traditional quilt patterns with selected text from U.S. Supreme Court cases.

Two public events connected to the exhibition are scheduled for June 25. A Dine & Discover Luncheon titled *History, Art, and Civic Life* will feature Torres discussing one of her works, followed by a conversation with Tiffany Baker, museum director of the Florida Historic Capitol Museum. Later that evening, the museum will host a public Wine & Cheese reception where visitors can meet the artist and view the exhibition.

Reservations for the luncheon are available through June 17 at gadsdenarts.org.

Admission to the evening reception is free for members and \$5 for nonmember adults.

A second exhibition, *America's Everglades: Through the Lens of Clyde Butcher*, is scheduled to open Sept. 25. The exhibit will feature photographs taken over three decades that document the Florida Everglades and its biodiversity.

The opening reception will include a presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Jack E. Davis, who will discuss the environmental significance of the Everglades, the conservation legacy

of President Harry S. Truman and the work of photographer Clyde Butcher.

Additional educational programs connected to the exhibition will focus on conservation, biodiversity and Florida history. Program partners include St. Francis Wildlife Association, Tallahassee Museum and Museum of Florida History.

In announcing the award, National Endowment for the Arts Senior Advisor Mary Anne Carter said the agency is supporting communities nationwide as they recognize individuals whose

contributions have helped shape the nation's history.

The grant is part of a broader national effort tied to President Donald Trump's executive order commemorating America's 250th birthday and establishing the National Garden of American Heroes. The National Endowment for the Humanities is supporting the design and creation of the statues that will make up the garden, while the National Endowment for the Arts is supporting 50 arts projects across the country that honor the individuals selected for recognition.

Gadsden County Extension Column

Savor summer safely: Tips for healthy and delicious grilling

As temperatures rise and backyards fill with the aroma of sizzling food, summer grilling becomes a centerpiece of outdoor gatherings. Whether it's a family cookout, neighborhood barbecue, or a picnic in the park, grilling offers a chance to enjoy flavorful meals and meaningful connections. But along with the fun comes an important responsibility, keeping food safe while embracing healthy cooking practices.

Warm weather creates the perfect environment not just for outdoor celebrations, but also for bacteria. Summer conditions, combined with the challenges of outdoor cooking, increase



Sharlee Whiddon

the risk of foodborne illness. Handling raw foods, keeping ingredients at safe temperatures, and maintaining clean preparation areas are essential steps for a successful cookout.

Fortunately, a few simple guidelines can help keep summer meals both safe and enjoyable.

Food safety experts emphasize four basic principles that can make all the difference: Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill.

First, start with good hygiene and keep things clean. Washing hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is a critical step. Clean utensils, cutting boards, and grill surfaces before and after use to prevent bacteria from spreading. When water isn't readily available, hand sanitizers or disinfecting wipes can serve as temporary solutions.

Second, be sure to avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meats away from ready-to-eat foods

like fruits, vegetables, and cooked items. Use separate cutting boards and utensils and never place cooked food back on plates that previously held raw meat. Store raw foods in leak-proof containers, especially when using coolers.

Next, always ensure food has been grilled to the correct temperature. One of the most common grilling mistakes is relying on color or texture to determine doneness. Use a food thermometer to ensure safe internal temperatures:

- Poultry: 165°F
- Ground meats: 160°F
- Steaks, seafood, and whole cuts: 145°F

Using a thermometer not only ensures safety

but also helps prevent overcooking, keeping foods juicy and flavorful.

Finally, ensure your food is chilled properly and stays out of the "danger zone." Bacteria multiply rapidly between 40°F and 140°F, known as the "danger zone." To stay safe, be sure and refrigerate or place perishables on ice within two hours or just one hour if temperatures exceed 90°F. Keep coolers shaded, closed, and well-stocked with ice packs.

Before firing up the grill, give grates a thorough cleaning and preheat them to reduce bacteria. Keep raw meats refrigerated until cooking time, and handle marinades carefully.

Never reuse marinades that have touched raw meat unless they've been boiled.

Beyond safety and nutrition, grilling offers something deeper, a chance to slow down and connect. The sights, sounds, and smells of food cooking over an open flame create a sensory experience that encourages mindfulness and presence.

From the crackle of the grill to the laughter of family and friends, outdoor cooking becomes more than meal preparation, it becomes a shared ritual. Taking time to enjoy the moment,

Grilling
on page A6

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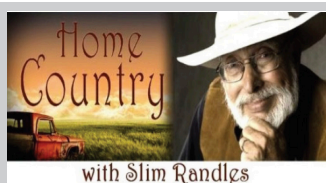
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Recently we left Emily of the fantastic cheekbones and Dewey the accident prone, happily locked together in a kiss after Dewey stumbled over a root.

"Emily," Dewey said, "I have a confession to make to you. I don't have a neurotic fascination with manure."

"You don't?"
 "No." He kissed her again and they both smiled. "It's my business. I supply fertilizer to people's gardens. That's what I do. When I told you I was in manure, I meant the manure business. They call me the fertilizer king, actually."

She smiled. "Wow! That's wonderful! I was a bit concerned about falling for a guy who had a ... thing ... for manure. You know. But it's what you do!"

They kissed again.
 "But won't this mess up your doctoral thesis? I thought that was why you wanted to see me. Your tape recorder and all that ..."

"Dewey," she said. "I have a confession to make to you, too. I'm not writing a doctoral dissertation on you. I don't want a doctorate. I want you."

His index finger reached up and traced each delectable cheekbone gently, and she smiled at him some more.

"I want you, too," he said. "But there is something else I need to confess."

"There is?"
 "Yes. You see, I have little ... accidents. I'm kinda clumsy. I'll try really hard to do something right, but the next thing you know the truck's in a mud hole or a cow's in a tree, or I've vaccinated Dud for blackleg, or ..."

"I'll have to hear about that cow one of these days."

"Anyway, I wanted you to know."

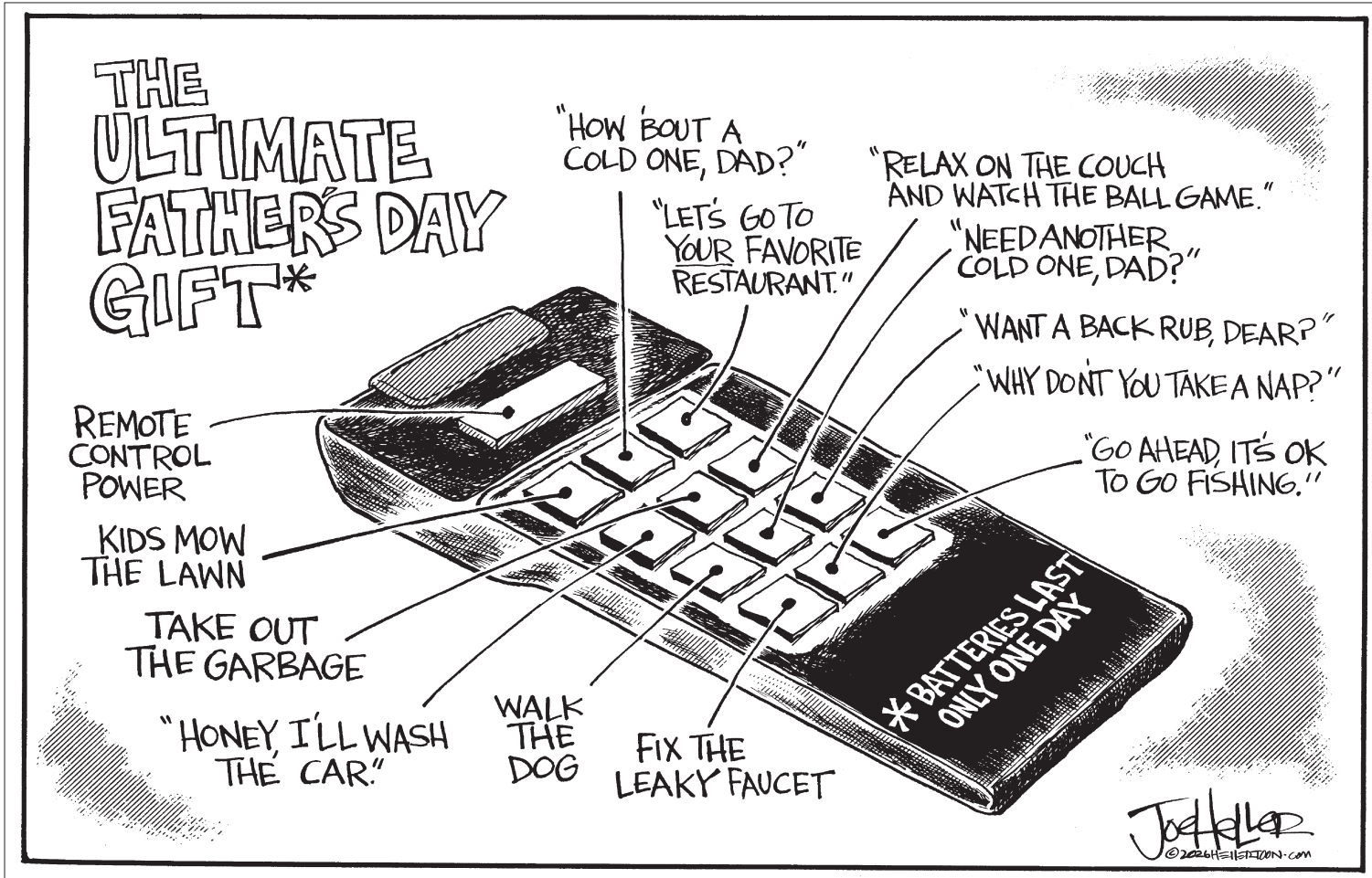
"Isn't that why we're lying here on the shoulder of the road, kissing and smiling and why I have a rock in the small of my back?"

"Yes."
 "I kinda like it, Honey."

They tried to pull apart to get more comfortable but something held them together. They both looked down at the fishing fly that had joined their shirts together. It was that stonefly nymph on a number 6 streamer that Marvin Pincus tied to help Dewey find a girlfriend.

Sometimes there's magic on a warm spring night.

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When you tell God you love Him

"I love You, Father."

When I say this short sentence, it changes my day. Every time I express my love for my heavenly Father, silently or out loud, it makes my heart happy.

Whether I'm making sales calls, writing my weekly column, loading the dishwasher, preparing for my Women of the Word group, or dealing with difficult relationship issues ... Whenever I pause to tell my heavenly Father how much I adore Him, even the most challenging task or the most painful trial feels less overwhelming.

The simple act of expressing my love for God – for the all-powerful, yet all-merciful, God – gives me a broader view of God's sovereignty in the midst of a trial. It helps me to

see my earthly relationships more clearly, including my role in conflicts. My outlook and mood become brighter, more joyful and hope-filled.

When we take our focus off our feelings, our mundane tasks, our trials – off us – and place our focus on Someone so big, so powerful, and so loving, we see everyone and everything differently.

No matter what I'm going through, I can worship God "in the waiting" because I trust His love for me. Almighty, holy, incredible God – my heavenly Father – loves me. This is why I can't help but tell Him what He means to me.

I suspect my female readers might find it easier to express their love. But what if we recalled several passages in

Psalms where David, a brawny man's man, had no problem recognizing and declaring his solid love for God? Including Psalm 18:1 (ESV): "I love you, O Lord, my strength."

So try it. In your own words or using David's, tell God you love Him, keeping in mind all the reasons why you do. And if you can, declare it out loud!

Did you feel it? When you expressed your love for your heavenly Father, did you become more aware of His presence – and sense His profound love for you?

How could telling the God of the universe, the Creator of all things – your Father – "I love You" throughout your day change your relationship with Him? How could it change your day? How could

it change you? During Father's Day week, why not accept the Tell-God-I-love-You challenge for seven consecutive days and discover the difference it can make?

Spend time thanking God for specific ways He has shown up for you. I know some of your trials were painful and didn't have a good ending. But, if you can (with the Holy Spirit's help), ask God to reveal how He loved you and carried you through those times.

And allow His love for you to bring healing where you need it most.

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

NURSE JUDY'S NOOK

It ain't over till it's over

Judy Conlin

I'm sure you remember me talking about my shiny red toaster that I got years ago. If you don't, you are not the faithful reader that I believed you to be. I will refresh your memory.

Years ago, I bought a shiny red toaster that amazed me. When I put those first slices of lovely rye bread into its slots and pushed the handle, I was not prepared for what happened next. When that toaster popped, it threw that toast clear across the room. I think it would have buttered it for me if I could have accurately calculated the placement of the butter dish, but I was never very good at math.

As time went on, the shooting range of my toaster's reach steadily decreased, causing many adjustments in its placement on my counter. It seemed to me that the toaster and I were deteriorating with age together, and I did not choose to chastise it for its

lesser performance because I knew what it felt like to no longer perform as I had in the past.

Eventually, the toaster did not throw its toast at all, and I gave up square dancing. It was a bit sad, but time marches on. I still had toast for breakfast, and I still performed in theater. We were both slowing down, which was age-appropriate. We have gone along like this for quite a while, realizing that nothing lasts forever.

I was congratulating myself on having such a good attitude about aging when a funny thing happened the other morning. I put my lovely rye bread in the toaster slots and went to prepare my eggs. Just as those eggs were cooking to the perfect consistency, I heard a terrible, ghostly moaning sound. At that exact moment, two perfectly toasted pieces of rye flew into the air and made a water landing in the dishpan of dirty dishes.

You can bet I was surprised, but I didn't know how to react.

Should I congratulate the red beauty on her daring-do feat, or should I call a toaster doctor to try to fix what had caused her so much pain? The sound of that excruciating moan lingered in my head. I could see that her internal wires were sagging from the effort, but her exterior was shining ever brighter with pride. It was a dilemma.

There was also another dilemma. There was no way those two products of her miracle pop were now edible. No one wants sodden toast topped with dishwasher, suds and scum. I still had those lovely eggs waiting for me, but no one can eat eggs without toast. I was in a bind, and I knew it.

Nurse Judy, my impish alter ego, was lurking nearby.

"Got a problem?" she asked with a smirk.

"No, no," I assured her. "The toaster had a little problem. That's all. Now I need some toast."

"Well, put some bread in the

toaster and make some," she said.

"Oh, I can't," I said. "She made such a big effort that she hurt herself. This might kill her."

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," she said. (She does latch onto someone else's quotes.) "Remember when someone at the Moose asked you to dance and you could hardly walk? Well, you danced and twirled and amazed yourself, but you were in agony afterward. You also bragged about that forever. Let the toaster have her moment and make yourself some toast."

I did what she said, and Red Beauty popped up my toast right into the toaster. But I think she had a smile on her face.

We oldsters do have our pride, you know.

More later,

Judy

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\$3.99 per gallon

Gadsden County Average:

\$3.98 per gallon

Jackson County Average:

\$3.94 per gallon

Numbers based

on AAA gas price data as of June 16, 2026.

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COMICS AND PUZZLES

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“Polls give you a slight lead: 65% of voters say you’re a disgrace to humanity, and only 55% say that about your opponent.”

JUMBLE

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

PEOEL
URHYR
REDVOO
SOF CIA

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

I'm so sorry, I'm going to need a few more days to finish your chair. I appreciate your understanding.

THE UPHOLSTERER WORKED ALONE, SO WHEN SHE GOT SICK, THERE WAS NO ONE TO ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WEIGH CHILD POORLY CENSUS
Answer: After seeing what he had picked out to wear to dinner, she had a few — CHOICE WORDS

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.

HTA
REGM
GNLU
LUBL

Go away!
Ow! They're starting to bite me.
I'm staying in the tent.

THEY HAD A GOOD TIME CAMPING EXCEPT WHEN THE MOSQUITOES WOULD ---

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 answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Jumbles: HAT GERM LUNG BULL
Answer: They had a good time camping except when the mosquitoes would — BUG THEM

WOULD YOU RATHER SMELL A FRESHLY WASHED AND POWDERED BABY, OR A BRAND-NEW CAR?

I'LL GO WITH THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!

THE BABY, UP UNTIL DIAPER TIME, THEN THE NEW CAR!

We need to get you back home, Walt!

Yeah! Gertie will be worried about you!

Isn't she worried about both of you birds?

No! We're responsible, level-headed, upstanding, trustworthy, gentle...

You can stop, Mutt! He walked off!

PEG, WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S WILSON.

HE GOT AN "A" IN SEX EDUCATION.

AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE HAPPY OR ALARMED.

OKAY, EVERYBODY PICK A NUMBER FROM ONE TO FOUR.

SCRABBLE GRAMS

Hasbro and its logo, SCRABBLE®, associated logo, the design of the distinctive SCRABBLE brand game board, and the distinctive letter tile designs are trademarks of Hasbro in the United States and Canada. ©2024 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 213

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

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.

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

Puzzle solutions on page 2

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		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mule, for one
 - 5 Unruly group
 - 8 Bygone fliers
 - 12 Lawman Wyatt
 - 13 Stop -- dime
 - 14 Ornamental jug
 - 15 Heart charts
 - 16 Business card no.
 - 17 Calf-length
 - 18 Stop
 - 20 Son of Erik the Red
 - 22 «War and Peace» author

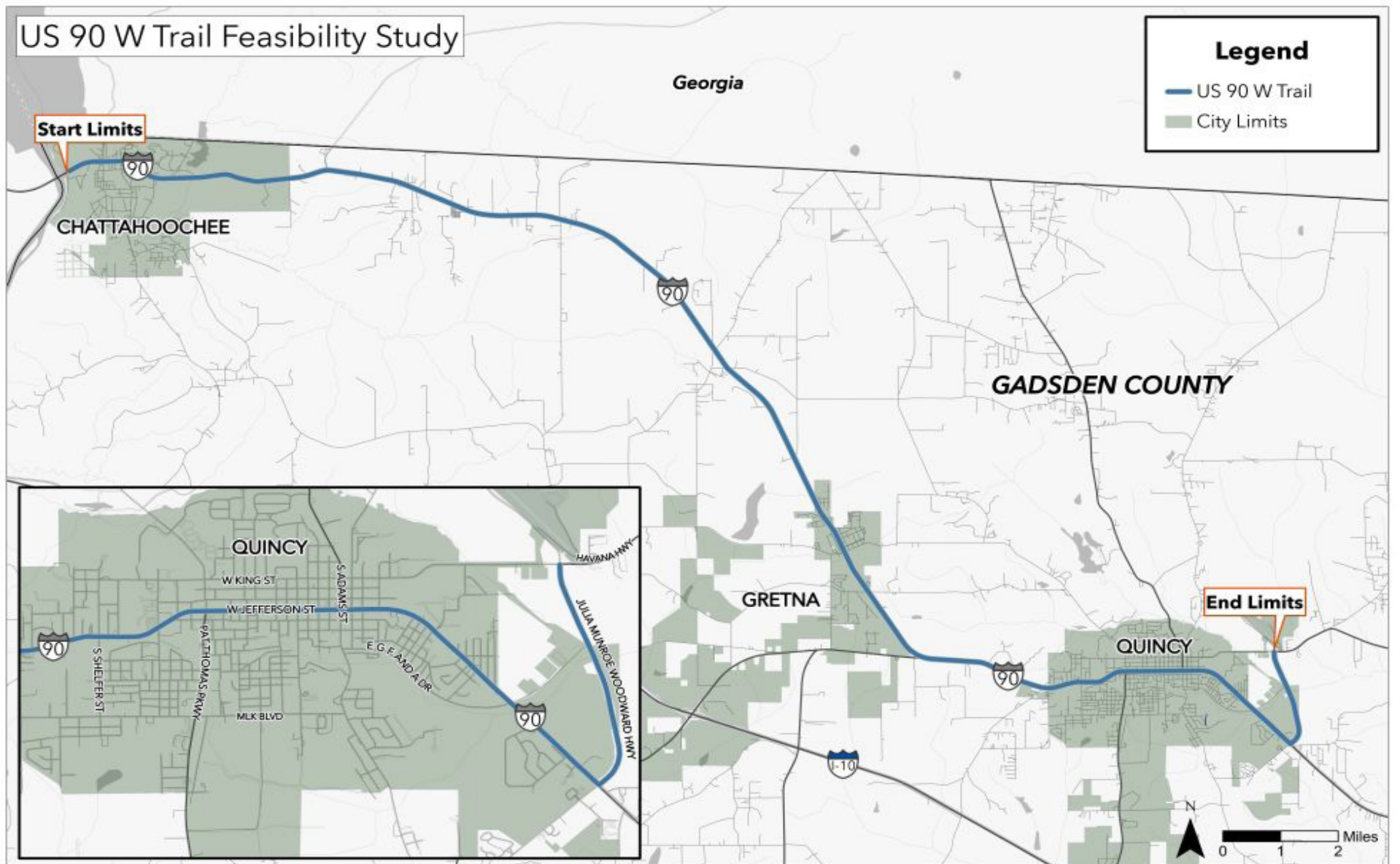
- 26 Violin stroke
 - 29 Cyclades island
 - 30 British verb ending
 - 31 Subject, usually
 - 32 Fellow
 - 33 Healthy
 - 34 Internet address
 - 35 Continent north of Afr.
 - 36 Disinfectant brandfile:///
 - 37 Oscar-winning actress in «The Fighter»
 - 40 Arizona tribe
 - 41 Prisoner
 - 45 Conspiracy
 - 47 Corn core
 - 49 Big-screen format
 - 50 -- song (cheaply)
 - 51 Lincoln nickname
 - 52 Zilch
 - 53 Swindles
 - 54 Dogpatch adjective
 - 55 Musician's jobs
- DOWN**
- 1 Future flower
 - 2 Cod cousin
 - 3 PTA and NEA, e.g.
 - 4 Delta follower
 - 5 Slogan
 - 6 Count starter
 - 7 Inflated party prop
 - 8 Big rigs
 - 9 Fans of pop icon Taylor
 - 10 -- Talks (online lecture series)
 - 11 Lanka lead-in
 - 19 Stitch
 - 21 Golf's Ernie
 - 23 Pageant crown
 - 24 City on a fjord
 - 25 Holler
 - 26 «E Pluribus --»
 - 27 Skin opening
 - 28 Megaphone's kin
 - 32 «Suffs» or «Rent», e.g.

- 33 Cheyenne's state
- 35 Mentalist's gift
- 36 Cariou of «Blue Bloods»
- 38 Smidgens
- 39 Slander in print
- 42 Mine, in Marseille
- 43 Tart flavor
- 44 Alimony recipients
- 45 USMC rank
- 46 Privy
- 48 Japanese sash

Thanks to Paul Sherban Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Pluggers pick a slalom pathway down the road because they know where all the manhole covers are.

Proposed US 90 trail study would connect Quincy and Chattahoochee



A map released by the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency shows the proposed route of a 22-mile multi-use trail being studied along the U.S. 90 corridor between Chattahoochee and Quincy. Public meetings are scheduled in both cities to gather community input on the project.

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

A proposed multi-use trail stretching approximately 22 miles along U.S. 90 could eventually provide a paved connection between Quincy and Chattahoochee for walk-

ers, runners and bicyclists. The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency is conducting a feasibility study to determine whether a paved trail can be developed along the U.S. 90 corridor in western Gadsden County.

According to project information released by the agency, the proposed trail would be 10 to 12 feet wide and would extend from River Landing Road in Chattahoochee eastward to State Road 12 and the Quincy Bypass, also known as Julia Mun-

roe Woodward Highway, in Quincy.

A map released as part of the study shows the route generally following the U.S. 90 corridor through Gadsden County, passing through or near the communities of Chattahoochee, Gretna and Quincy.

Transportation planners say the study is evaluating the feasibility of constructing the trail and gathering public input before any decisions are made about future development.

Supporters of multi-use trails often cite benefits such as expanded recreational opportunities,

improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, tourism potential and alternative transportation options. The current study is intended to determine whether such a project is practical along the corridor.

The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency is encouraging residents to participate in upcoming public engagement meetings to learn more about the proposal and provide feedback.

Two public meetings have been scheduled:

Chattahoochee public meeting
5 p.m. Wednesday, June 17

Chattahoochee City Hall
22 Jefferson St., Chattahoochee

Quincy public meeting
5 p.m. Thursday, June 18

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners meeting room
9 E. Jefferson St., Quincy

Officials said the same information will be presented at both meetings.

The feasibility study is the first step in determining whether the proposed trail can move forward. No construction timeline has been announced.

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Boxing Machine
Skee Ball
Duck Claw
Board Games
A-Holes
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Prime Rib Thursday open mic night at 6:30pm
Live Music Most Fridays beginning at 7pm
Sunday Wine Special most wine bottles half price all day

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Grilling
from page A3

savor seasonal ingredients, and appreciating the outdoors can make summer gatherings even more meaningful.

With a little preparation and attention to food

safety, summer grilling can be both safe and satisfying. By following simple guidelines and embracing fresh, healthy ingredients, you can turn every barbecue into a celebration of good food, good health, and great company. So this summer,

fire up the grill, gather your loved ones, and savor summer, safely of course!

Sharlee Whiddon is a family and consumer sciences agent for UF/IFAS Extension Gadsden County.