

The Chattahoochee News-Herald

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Snead's Sentinel

Because Great Communities Deserve Great Community Newspapers

Gadsden voters to reconsider half-cent school sales tax in November

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Gadsden County voters will once again decide whether to approve a half-cent sales tax for public school facilities, two years after a similar proposal narrowly failed at the ballot box.

The School Capital Outlay Sales Surtax will appear on the Nov. 3 general election ballot. If approved, the measure would authorize the Gadsden County School Board to collect the additional half-cent sales tax for 15 years.

Gadsden County's combined sales tax rate is currently 7.5%, according to information published by the school district. Approval of the referendum would increase the rate to 8%.

The district estimates the tax would generate approximately \$2.36 million annually based on sales tax collections during the most recent 12-month period.

Money generated by the tax would be dedicated to capital needs rather than the school district's general operating expenses.

The district's plans include renovations, repairs and modernization of schools and other district facilities, technology upgrades, reducing the use of portable classrooms where appropriate and improvements to athletic fields, including accessibility and safety projects.

Florida law allows school districts to impose a school capital outlay sales surtax of up to a half-cent with approval from a majority



of voters. State law restricts the money to eligible capital expenses, including construction, reconstruction and improvements to school facilities, technology and certain school bus expenses. The money cannot be used for operational expenses.

Eligible charter schools would also receive a share of the revenue based on their proportionate share of district enrollment, as required by state law.

A District Facilities Committee would review facility needs and make recommendations

to the superintendent and School Board about how the money should be used. The district says the committee would include district officials, a School Board representative and at least two community members.

The November vote will

mark the second time in two years that Gadsden County voters have considered the proposal.

In November 2024, the half-cent tax failed by 366 votes. Official election results show 10,510 voters, or 49.14%, supported the measure, while 10,876 voters, or 50.86%, voted against it.

The 2026 ballot language asks voters whether the School Board should be authorized to levy the tax to upgrade aging schools and district facilities through repairs and modernization and to improve school safety and learning environments.

If approved by a majority of voters, the tax would remain in effect for 15 years. Continuing it beyond that period would require voter approval.

Gadsden voters decide local races in primary election

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Alonzetta Johnson-Simpkins and Michael K. Brown won Democratic primaries for the Gadsden County Commission, while Rodney Moore and Tracey Stallworth advanced to November in the District 2 School Board race following the Aug. 18 primary election.

According to results from the Gadsden County Supervisor of Elections Office, 9,677 ballots were cast among the county's 26,641 registered voters, for a turnout of 36.32%.

Johnson-Simpkins won the Democratic primary for County Commission District 2 with 979 votes,

or 63.70%. Anthony "V" Viegbesie received 392 votes, or 25.50%, while Amanda Lightfoot received 166 votes, or 10.80%.

The Democratic primary for County Commission District 4 was considerably closer. Brown received 709 votes, or 40.03%, edging Brenda Holt, who received 676 votes, or 38.17%. Jeff McNeely finished third with 386 votes, or 21.80%.

Brown won the Democratic nomination.

The District 2 School Board race will continue in November after none of the four candidates received a majority.

Moore led the nonpartisan contest with 889 votes, or 38.45%, followed by Stallworth with 761 votes, or 32.92%. Jefferson Flores received 346 votes, and Donnie Washington received 316.

Moore and Stallworth will face each other in the

Nov. 3 general election.

Charlie D. Frost won the District 4 School Board race outright, receiving 1,064 votes, or 52.54%. Jamel L. David received 961 votes, or 47.46%.

Green carries Gadsden, Marsh wins circuitwide

Gadsden County voters strongly favored Rashad Green in the race for 2nd Judicial Circuit judge, Group 13, but J. Lee Marsh prevailed across the six-county circuit.

Green received more than 63% of the Gadsden County vote, compared with about 36% for Marsh.

Across the 2nd Judicial Circuit, however, Marsh received 46,325 votes, or 51.27%, while Green received 44,033 votes, or 48.73%, according to the Florida Division of Elections.

The circuit includes Franklin, Gadsden, Jef-

erson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla counties.

Gadsden and district differ in Republican congressional race

Amanda Marie Green won both Gadsden County and the districtwide Democratic primary for Florida's 2nd Congressional District.

Green received 2,925 votes, or 42.86%, in Gadsden County, ahead of Brice Barnes, Yen Bailey and Nicholas Zateslo. Districtwide, Green received 21,462 votes, or 33.49%, to win the Democratic nomination.

The Republican primary had a different outcome in Gadsden County than across the district.

Luke Murphy received the most Republican votes in Gadsden County, while Austin Rogers finished second locally. Districtwide, however, Rogers won the Republican nomination with

26,726 votes, or 30.47%. Murphy finished fourth districtwide.

Rogers and Green will face each other in November.

Statewide races

Gadsden County voters also participated in primaries for governor, U.S. Senate, chief financial officer and commissioner of agriculture.

In the governor's race, Democrat David Jolly and Republican Byron Donalds won their respective statewide nominations. Gadsden County voters also favored both candidates in their respective party primaries. Jolly received 64.03% of the county's Democratic vote, while Donalds led the Republican field in Gadsden with 38.24%.

Democrat Angie Nixon and Republican incumbent Ashley Moody advanced in the U.S. Senate race. Nixon received

80.04% of the Democratic vote in Gadsden County, while Moody received 83.83% of the county's Republican vote.

Annette Taddeo won the Democratic nomination for chief financial officer and will face Republican Blaise Ingoglia in November. Both also led their respective party primaries in Gadsden County.

In the race for commissioner of agriculture, Democrat Joey Mendoza Atkins and Republican incumbent Wilton Simpson won their parties' nominations. Atkins received 56.60% of the Democratic vote in Gadsden County, while Simpson received 74.39% of the county's Republican vote.

Gadsden County results are from the Gadsden County Supervisor of Elections Office. Circuitwide, congressional district and statewide results are from the Florida Division of Elections.



SHOP LOCAL

Primary over, Gadsden voters look toward November election

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

With the Aug. 18 primary election over, Gadsden County voters can now look ahead to the Nov. 3 general election.

Several local races will be decided in November, along with federal and statewide contests.

Gadsden County races

County Commission, District 2

- Alonzetta Johnson-Simpkins, Demo-

- crat
- Jeanette George, writer-in

County Commission, District 4

- Michael K. Brown, Democrat
- Marcella Blocker, Republican

School Board, District 2

- Rodney Moore
- Tracey Stallworth

School Board races are nonpartisan. County Commission and School Board races are district-specific, meaning not every Gadsden Coun-

ty voter will see each local contest on their ballot.

Federal races

U.S. Senate

- Ashley Moody, Republican
- Angie Nixon, Democrat
- Other qualified general election candidates, if applicable

U.S. House, District 2

- Republican nominee
- Amanda Marie Green, Democrat
- Other qualified general election candidates, if

- applicable

State races

Governor and lieutenant governor

- Byron Donalds, Republican nominee
- David Jolly, Democratic nominee
- Other qualified general election candidates

Chief financial officer

- Blaise Ingoglia, Republican
- Annette Taddeo, Democrat

Commissioner of agriculture

- Wilton Simpson, Re-

- publican
- Joey Mendoza Atkins, Democrat
-

Also on the ballot

Depending on their precinct and applicable districts, voters may see additional races, constitutional amendments and judicial retention questions on their November ballots.

The general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. The deadline to register to vote for the election is Oct. 5.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, TAX LIEN FUND LP, 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: 32 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2023

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 809 P 1413 OR 547 P 1286; OR 547 P 1284 BEGIN 275 FT. N OF SE CORNER OF LOT 108 CALLOWAYS SURVEY, RUN E 66 FT S 50 FT. W 66 FT. N 50 FT. TO P.O.B. OR 312 P 1271 IN SECTION 33-4N-6W. OR 510 P 85 OR 525 P 732

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 1-33-4N-6W-0000-00224-0100

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BILLY RAY AUSTIN

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 24TH Day of JUNE 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1077 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2023

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 718 P 458 OR 436 P 732. DB 111, P 293 LOTS 9 & 10, BLK. D, HILLSIDE PARK. UNIT #2 OR 378 P 936.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-07-2N-3W-0690-0000D-0090

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: WANDA HUTLEY-GEATHERS

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 24TH Day of JUNE 2026.

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1078 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2023

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 718 P 459 OR 436 P 735. OR 55, P. 498 LOTS 11 & 12, BLK. D, HILLSIDE PARK. UNIT #2 (PER OR 383 P 1479)

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-07-2N-3W-0690-0000D-0110

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: WANDA HUTLEY-GEATHERS

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1447 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2023

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 918 P 651; OR 907 P 1552; LOT 9 IN BLOCK K, FAIRMONT SUBDIVISION OR 409 P 897.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-12-2N-4W-0980-0000K-0090

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: LANZIO 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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 24TH Day of JUNE 2026.

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Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, FIG 20, LLC, 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: 1498 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 894 P 1220; OR 64, P. 571 BEGIN 248 FT. N. & 352 FT. E. OF NEC OF LOT 52, ROBERTS CITY RUN E. 85 FT., S. 210 FT., W. 85 FT., N. 210 FT. TO THE P.O.B. IN SECTION 12-2N-4W.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-12-2N-4W-0000-00423-0700

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BERNARD CLYDE MCGEE SR

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 24TH Day of JUNE 2026.

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Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1588 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 797 P 559; OR 761 P 817 OR 580 P 104; OR 445 P 1937. OR 9, P. 402 LOT 2, BLK. 26, SPRINGSIDE. LIFE ESTATE.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-12-2N-4W-1090-00026-0020

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: SHADRICK J JACKSON

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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Clerk of the Circuit Court
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BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1828 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 764 P 211 (WILL) OR 20 P 80 OR 204 P 3 COMM AT THE NEC OF SE1/4 OF SECTION 35-2N-6W; THENCE RUN NORTH 351 FT; WEST 348 FT; SOUTH 01°40' W 272 FT TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING; SOUTH 86°35' W 291.50 FT; SOUTH 03°15' W 268.60 FT TO A ST JOE PAPER CO MARKER; NORTH 76°52' E ALONG SR 12, 308 FT; THENCE RUN NORTH 01°40' E 215.71 FT TO THE POINT OF B

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-35-2N-6W-0000-00411-0500

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HEIRS OF LLOYD ROGERS C/O PAMELA ANN JOHNSON

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1866 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: BEGIN 445 FT W & 488 FT S OF NEC OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4, RUN S 139 FT., W 156.69 FT., N 139 FT., E 156.69 FT TO THE P.O.B. OR 317 P 654 IN SECTION 7-1N-2W.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-07-1N-2W-0000-00141-2000

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: JACQUINTA ARONDA LLOYD ETAL, LEFRAUN LLOYD, C/O RHONDA LLOYD

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1883 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: DB 101, P. 194-SE1/4 OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4. LESS PART TO DOT PER OR 173, P. 407. {OR 413 P 1525 PIPELINE ESMT.} IN SECTION 8-1N-2W.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-08-1N-2W-0000-00224-0000

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CHARLES FIELDS EST C/O NANCY BRADLEY

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1939 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 38, P. 533-DB 82, P. 153- 5 ACRES IN N.W.C. OF E1/2 OF NW1/4. IN SECTION 18-1N-2W.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-18-1N-2W-0000-00212-0100

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: LAWRENCE REESE C/O BRENDA HOUCHINS

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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CERTIFICATE NO: 1975 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 510 P 716 LOT 48, BLOCK A, MIDWAY FOREST PER PLAT BOOK 2 PAGE 79

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-12-1N-3W-1510-0000A-0480

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: CARRIE COLSTON

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

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CERTIFICATE NO: 2018 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 771 P 1279 OR 579 P 550 OR 564 P 730 COMM AT NEC AND RUN S 89 DEG 09 MIN 49 SEC W 478 FT, S 16 DEG 19 MIN 49 SEC W 674.9 FT, S 22 DEG 11 MIN 49 SEC W 207.53 FT, S 34 DEG 12 MIN 29 SEC E 337.34 FT TO BEGIN. S 34 DEG 12 MIN 29 SEC E 150 FT, S 62 DEG 01 MIN 02 SEC W 150 FT, N 34 DEG 12 MIN 29 SEC W 150 FT, N 62 DEG 01 MIN 02 SEC E 150 FT TO POB. OR 300 P 1290 IN SECT.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-02-1N-5W-0000-00114-0800

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ARETHA WARD; BRIAN WARD

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 2ND Day of SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____

Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Puzzle Solutions

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Puzzles on page 5.

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A	L	O	E	O	R	E	O	S	E	V	A	L
W	E	B	A	D	D	R	E	S	S	T	R	I
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SCRABBLE G R A M S SOLUTION

H ₄	E ₁	X ₈	A ₁	G ₂	O ₁	N ₁	RACK 1 =	86
F ₄	O ₁	R ₁	G ₂	O ₁	T ₁		RACK 2 =	10
B ₃	E ₁	J ₈	E ₁	W ₄	E ₁	L ₁	RACK 3 =	85
C ₃	L ₁	E ₁	M ₃	E ₁	N ₁	T ₁	RACK 4 =	61

PAR SCORE 165-175
TOTAL **242**
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Obituary



Ella Jean (Driver) Butler

Ella Jean (Driver) Butler, 93, passed away peacefully at her home in Deltona, Florida on July 15, 2026 surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on May 15, 1933, in Gibson, Florida, Ella Jean was the daughter of the late Leonard and Marcia Driver.

Ella Jean grew up close to her older brother Carl and loving parents that gave her a childhood filled with love and joy which she treasured.

She graduated from Havana High School and married Donald L. Butler, of Havana, Florida, on December 7, 1951. They made their home there until moving to Thomasville, Georgia, in 1967.

Ella Jean was employed in the Admissions Department at Thomas Technical School, where she made many friends and worked for many years before retiring. She was widowed in 1995 following 44 years of marriage to Don. After her retirement, she moved to Deltona, Florida, to be closer to her daughter and other family, where she remained until her peaceful passing.

Ella Jean will be remembered for her kind heart and devotion to her family. Her greatest accomplishment was the family she loved so deeply. She found joy in the simple things in

life: sharing afternoon coffee and meaningful conversations, getting lost in a good book, and spending precious time with those she loved.

Known by many names throughout her life, she was affectionately called “Mama”, “Meemaw”, “Grandma at the pool”, and “Gigi”. Each name reflects the many lives she touched and the countless memories she created.

Ella Jean’s memory will be forever cherished by the five generations of family whose lives she impacted. She will be deeply missed, always loved, and never forgotten.

Ella Jean’s final months were the best they could be due to the compassionate care she received from nurses, therapists, and doctors who provided her home health care, for which she was extremely grateful.

Ella Jean is survived by her children, Lynn B. Gainey and Dawn B. Neighbors; her daughter-in-law Pattie Butler; her grandchildren, Jason Lewis (Brandi), Cole Gainey (Heather), Aubrey Gainey (Justin Shmalberg), Jody Lane (Ashley), Jen Mobley (Keith), and Rhett Woods; her great-grandchildren, Hannah Hopkins (Tyler), Erin Lewis, and Norie Shmalberg, Mac Mobley, Laney Mobley, Klara Lane, and Finton Lane; and her great-great-grandson, Nolan Hopkins; cousins, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband Donald L. Butler, her son Micheal L Butler, her son-in-law Tommy Gainey, her brother Carl Driver and sister-in-law Betty Driver, brother-in-law Pat Butler and sister-in-law Helen Butler Conger, brother-in-law Jimmy Warner and sister-in-law Mary Ann Warner.

Arrangements for a service to be announced at a later date.

Laura Demakowski McAlpin, LFD

“Our Family Serving Your Family”

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850-593-9900
www.mcalpinfuneralhome.com

Back To School Bully Prevention

Starting back to school can be a stressful time for many students and parents too. Bullying is often a big concern for many parents and is certainly a challenge to overcome.

First, we must know the difference between being “bullied” or “picked on.” There is a big difference between the two, however both are stressful regardless.

Without getting into a dictionary definition, bullying is when someone specifically looks for a certain person and continues to physically and/or mentally causes them harm or discomfort.

Getting “picked on”, which is more common, but often mistaken for bullying is when kids randomly bother others with the intent of making them uncomfortable physically or mentally. This could come in the form of randomly calling others names, taking others property, and/or physical harm/discomfort.

Regardless of which one your child might be battling with, we need to arm them with ways to increase their confidence, and the skills to diffuse negative situations.

Step 1: Assure your child that it is not their fault. No one sets themselves up to be bullied or picked on. School and other places where people congregate should be a safe place, but that is not always the case. Encourage them to talk to you with challenges and be a good listen. How they view their world and how we view it is much different. As adults, it might be easy for us to stand up for ourselves, but for kids it can be very difficult. Their minds are still developing and they have their own fears and insecurities. Parents who are good listeners, ask open ended questions and other help need any help is all the support they need. Telling them to stand up for themselves or “don’t take anyone’s crap” is not the right approach.

Step 2: Find your people. Everyone is different. What might be considered normal in school is not necessary normal in the world outside of school. Help your child know where to look for friends who they might connect with. The kids who are playing at recess by themselves are usually great friend material. They just don’t want to compete with other kids in the friend groups, so they choose to play alone.

Step 3. Why don’t your kids stand up for themselves? They don’t have a problem at home with their siblings!!! This has been a question I have put very much thought into. Siblings are family and no matter what (most of the time) you fight, you get over it, you move on. That is what siblings do. You know your brothers and sisters aren’t going anywhere. Beside will most likely forget what you were fighting over a few hours later and move on. Friends are different. You don’t want to lose them. You want people to like you, so kids often justify their “so-called

See Back To School on page 6

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners announces the availability of its proposed Statement of Activities for the USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program, Fiscal Year 2026, for public review and comment.

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners proposes to submit a USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) preapplication for funding to support housing rehabilitation activities in Gadsden County.

The proposed HPG program will provide assistance for the repair and rehabilitation of eligible housing occupied by low- and very-low-income households within Gadsden County. Proposed rehabilitation activities may include roof repair or replacement, electrical repairs, foundation and structural repairs, heating and cooling systems, water and wastewater/septic improvements, insulation and energy-efficiency improvements, accessibility modifications, correction of health and safety hazards, and other necessary rehabilitation to bring homes up to applicable standards and codes.

The proposed Statement of Activities is available for public review at:
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
1-B East Jefferson Street
Quincy, Florida 32353

The Statement of Activities may also be reviewed online at:
<https://www.gadsdencountyfl.gov/departments/growth-management/ship-program>

Members of the public and other interested parties are invited to review the Statement of Activities and submit written comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
August 20, 2026, through September 3, 2026

Written comments should be submitted by **September 3, 2026**, to:
Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1799
Quincy, Florida 32353
Email: SBurns@gadsdenCountyFl.gov
Phone: 850-662-3306

Comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed and considered by the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners prior to submission of its HPG preapplication to USDA Rural Development.

Published: August 20, 2026
Gadsden County Times

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*Bookmarks are printed and shipped every Thursday. Orders placed after Thursday, will be processed on Thursday of the following week.

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MEETING NOTICE The next regular meeting of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners will be on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m. The following items have been agendaed: Awards, Presentations, and Appearances: Consent: Ratification Memo, August 25, 2026, Budget Workshop, August 4, 2026, Regular BOCC Meeting, Items Puled for Discussion. Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit): The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all Board meetings. Citizens can speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov by noon on the meeting date. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review them prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate on the County’s website at www.gadsdencountyfl.gov. Public Hearings. General Business: Inter-local Agreement with the City of Quincy for Fire and Rescue Services, Approval of Motorola Project Maintenance Contract Renewal, Approval of Health Insurance Rates Interim County Attorney: Updates; Interim County Administrator: Updates; Discussion Items by Commissioners: Updates. (This agenda and a listing of the Receipt/File items may be viewed in electronic format on the County's website at www.gadsdencountyfl.gov.)

If a person decides to appeal any decision by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at such public meeting, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence to which the appeal is to be heard.

In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the Facilities Management Office, 9-B East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL 32351, by written request at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Telephone: (850) 875-8665 or 850-363-1360.



Joe Glidden died 105 years ago, and millions of cowboys in New Mexico would celebrate if they knew why, and if there were really millions of cowboys in New Mexico, which there aren't.

Now while you're parsing that sentence, let me explain that Joe Glidden was a farmer in Illinois and his wife, his daughter and his two sons all died before Joe was 38. In a fit of despondence, he invented barbed wire. In 1874, in another fit of despondence, the United States let him patent the darned stuff.

Depression is a terrible thing. Why else would a lonely farmer take a perfectly good coffee grinder and teach it to wrap sharp points around a piece of harmless, smooth wire, turning it into the bane of every rancher's and cowboy's existence? So it was that, since 1874, the West got fenced, and cowboys got torn up, and bluejeans had to be made stiffer, and cowboys had to find wives so their shirts could get mended, and some doctor had to invent tetanus shots.

So what happened to Joe Glidden after he came up with barbed wire? Well, he remarried, was elected sheriff of his county, became one of the richest men in the United States, and eventually owned a 250,000-acre ranch in Texas, a hotel, a bank and a newspaper.

Ain't no justice in this world.

The late Cleofes Ortiz, who was declared an official state treasure here in New Mexico, used to play old-time fiddle music for school children all over the state. This maestro of Starvation Peak always used to wait for the inevitable question to arise when one of the sharp-eyed kids would notice he was missing the end of one of his fingers. His eyes would twinkle and he'd tell the kids, "When I was a kid, we were too poor to buy violin strings, so I had to use barbed wire."

Brought to you by the biggest, most expensive sleep aid for Americans everywhere. Check your local listings for the next showing of international soccer matches.



NURSE JUDY'S NOOK

The saga continues

Judy Conlin

If you have been reading my column, you have learned about my problems since hitting 90, but you haven't seen them in sequence, so you haven't gotten the whole spectrum. Today's column is an attempt to do that and, finally, to let you know what it has done to my mental health. Here we go:

May 23: 90th birthday.

June: Routine trip to device clinic. Find atrial fibrillation for one hour, which happened in February. No one knows why it wasn't noted before. Immediately put on blood thinner.

Following week: Bleeding episode. Weak and dizzy due to blood loss. Take a fall.

To doctor.

To X-ray.

Back to doctor: No fracture, but might be a crack.

More X-rays.

Back to doctor. No fracture, may be a crack. Recommend further studies. Doing fine. Decline recommendations.

July 30: To dentist. One tooth needs to be extracted; another has an abscess and may or may not be able to be saved with a root canal. If not, will lose entire upper bridge.

Aug. 6: To extraction dentist for consultation.

Aug. 10: Tooth extraction.

Aug. 13: To root canal doctor. No abscess. No need for root canal. Hurrah!

Aug. 15: Red, itchy spot on lower leg. Think it's a bug bite.

Aug. 17: Lower leg has cellulitis. Hot, painful and itchy. To urgent care.

Medication ordered. To see primary physician in two days.

Aug. 19: To doctor. Worried about MRSA, so changes medication. To pick it up on the way home and start im-

mediately. Order not in. Wait around. Still not in. Went home.

Aug. 20: Leg feeling good. Back to pharmacy. Still haven't gotten order. Two more times. Finally get through to office. Order sent to mail-order pharmacy. Need to wait for them to send order to pharmacy and wait to have it filled. Have a milkshake. Finally get meds, but already took last dose for the day of other medication.

Aug. 20, midnight: Leg feeling good. Decide to check it to see if it is worse or improved. Now, cellulitis is on the back of my leg and difficult for me to see. I twist and squirm and try to bend things that won't bend, causing my knees to really hurt. I finally get the back of my leg in view for a moment. It sure doesn't look like Betty Grable's legs, but it looks like old Judy's scrawny leg in normal condi-

tion. I breathe a huge sigh of relief.

Just as I crawl into bed, I realize I have just looked at the back of the wrong leg.

Today: This whole 90s malady syndrome has completely unbalanced me. I hope you won't tell anyone in the medical profession about this, or my next appointment is going to be with a psychiatrist, and I don't think I could pass the simplest test for dementia at this point.

I have absolute proof that my leg is better. If you don't even know which leg is the problem, it sure can't be in very bad shape. I'll keep you posted. Don't forget to keep our secret.

More later,
Judy
www.nursejudyinfo.com

P.S. May this be the end of the saga, please!

Today Can Be Different

Committing our dreams to the God Who loves us

Sheryl Boldt

Do you wonder if you'll ever experience the success you hope for? Do you find it difficult not to be jealous when God seems to bless others in their efforts more than He blesses you in yours?

You want to be glad for others, but you can't help wondering when it will be your turn to be recognized. If you're a pastor, when will your congregation grow? If you're an architect or engineer, when will others appreciate your designs? Or after years of struggling to pay your bills, when will you be able to take your kids on a real vacation?

As someone with big dreams, I can relate. But could it be that our view of God's plan is often short-sighted?

First Peter 5:6-7 (ESV) helps me gain the perspective I want: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the



proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."

Visualize God's hand as a canopy over you as you cuddle in His protection. Ask Him to help you trust Him as your Lord (the boss of your life) and, especially, as your loving heavenly Father.

These same verses from 1 Peter in the Amplified Classic Edition of the Bible say that

God cares for us affectionately and watchfully.

Don't you love the way God loves us?

When we commit our dreams – and disappointments – to the God Who loves us, our relationship with Him (and our faith in Him) becomes our priority. As hard as it may be to accept, sometimes our expectations aren't His plan for us, or at least not yet. Can we be okay with that?

How might shifting our focus from, "Why isn't God blessing my efforts?" to, "Lord, I give You my life for Your pleasure and purpose" change our outlook and help us serve Him more effectively?

This different perspective might help the pastor who prays for a bigger church realize that spiritual growth within his congregation is more important than attracting more people. The same goes for the architect or engineer who wants a bigger client

list. Both overlook the impact their Christ-centered work could already be having on their current clients.

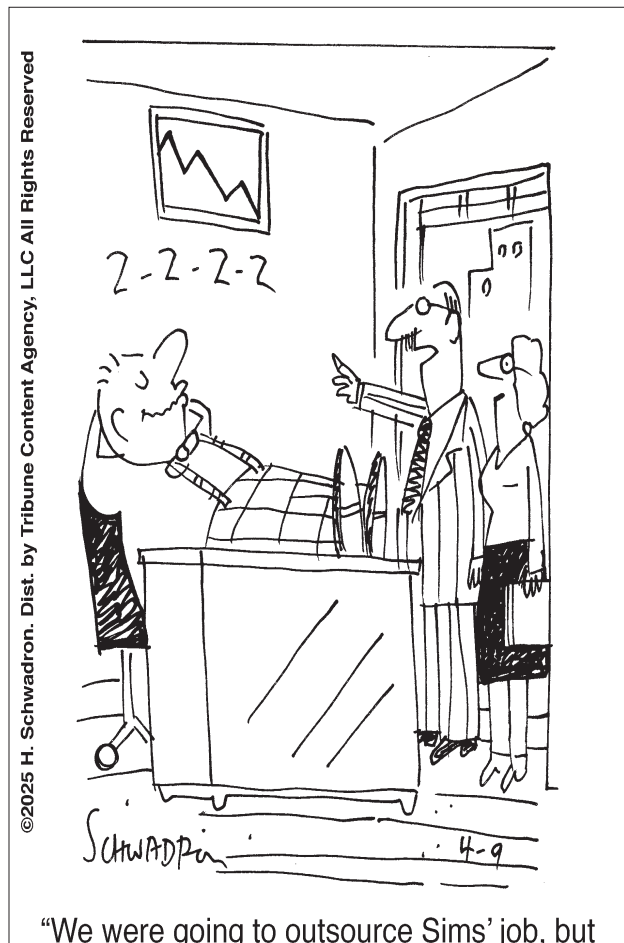
And for the mom or dad who wants to treat their children to a few days of fun, helping your children see God's faithfulness, especially during lean seasons, will benefit them in ways you can't see right now.

Wouldn't we love to peek behind the curtain to see our Father's pleasure when we serve Him at our job, in our ministry or at home with a pure heart, especially when we don't receive any recognition?

And then imagine how much greater His delight will be when we continue to trust His timing and love for us as we congratulate and pray for those who are already enjoying their hard-earned success.

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

COMICS AND PUZZLES



JUMBLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

NUHDO

TURFI

TAALOF

FIREYV

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(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's

Jumbles: ADAGE CAMEO GENIUS HOTTER

Answer: The pub advertised the upcoming darts tournament to their — TARGET AUDIENCE

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.

CYR

--	--	--

MEAF

--	--	--

SEDK

--	--	--

OJNI

--	--	--

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

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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 the answer here: A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Jumbles: CRY

FAME

DESK

JOIN

Answer: What kind of key opens a banana? — A MONKEY

Years ago, they discontinued the **Indian head** penny and put Lincoln on the **obverse** instead!

They canceled the **reverse** of the Lincoln **wheat** penny in favor of his memorial and later changed it again to a shield!

There'll be no more pennies to change now, and that'll save us taxpayers millions of dollars!

Did you get paid to say that, Gertie?

I was around then!

SCAMCARE!!

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HELLO, BUMPER. DID YOU COME TO WATCH ME USE THE LEAF BLOWER?

HMM... COULD THIS SUCKER KNOCK A CAT OFF A TREE LIMB?

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4-6

I'M WRITING A RAP SONG, GAYLORD!

LET'S HEAR IT!

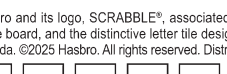
"YO." THAT'S ALL I HAVE!

MAYBE I'M TOO OLD FOR RAP!

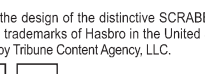
YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR THE WALTZ!

RUSSELL MYERS
6/17

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A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	G ₂	X ₈	N ₁

O ₁	O ₁	U ₁	G ₂	R ₁	T ₁

E ₁	E ₁	E ₁	J ₈	L ₁	W ₄

E ₁	E ₁	M ₃	L ₁	N ₁	C ₃

Double
Word Score

3rd Letter
Triple

rack 1

rack 2

rack 3

rack 4

PAR SCORE 165-175

BEST SCORE 242

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.

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

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	56	57
58								59						
60					61		62	63						
64					65					66				
67					68					69				

- | | |
|--|--|
| 45 Ozs. and lbs. | 18 «My man!» |
| 47 Sacks | 22 Happy hops |
| 50 Presentation on recycling? | 24 Alien-seeking org. |
| 54 Slip past | 25 Market ahead of time |
| 58 «Faster!» | 27 Fleeting trend |
| 59 Brunch order | 29 LGA alternative |
| 60 Potatoes, in South Asian cuisine | 30 Not prone to infatuation, for short |
| 61 Presentation on the Indiana WNBA team? | 31 Keep out |
| 64 Pixar protagonist who has one small fin and one large fin | 34 Lend a hand |
| 65 Liechtenstein currency | 35 Splash of color in a water garden |
| 66 Like Southern California skies during June Gloom | 36 Lodge |
| 67 Wax-wrapped cheese | 38 Place where things are always breaking? |
| 68 Gets together? | 39 Forensic anthropologist/writer |
| 69 Corridor | Reichs who inspired the TV |

- Down**
- 1 Cried like a crow
 - 2 «Five Feet of Fury» pro wrestler
Bliss
 - 3 Unpaid worker
 - 4 Like some intricate wedding
gowns
 - 5 Some admins
 - 6 Make a boo-boo
 - 7 «Da 5 Bloods» director
 - 8 __ nova
 - 9 Stand up for (oneself)
 - 10 «I vote we say no»
 - 11 «Love Sux» singer Lavigne
 - 12 Spoonbill habitat
 - 13 Colloquialism

- 18 «My man!»
22 Happy hops
24 Alien-seeking org.
25 Market ahead of time
27 Fleeting trend
29 LGA alternative
30 Not prone to infatuation, fo
short
31 Keep out
34 Lend a hand
35 Splash of color in a water garden
36 Lodge
38 Place where things are always
breaking?
39 Forensic anthropologist/writer
Reichs who inspired the TV
series «Bones»
40 Diner staffer
41 Game with a spinoff called Do
46 Packs
48 Seasonal worker
49 Santa's transport
50 Old Scottish title
51 Was extremely sweet?
52 Bakery emanation
53 Copycat's activity
55 Extremely
56 Window sticker
57 ___ alcohol: hand sanitizer ingred
dient
59 Tolkien brutes
62 Many a shuttle
63 Fnv. insert

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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ROAD TROUBLE

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 10
 ♥ A K Q J 6
 ♦ A K Q J 7
 ♣ A

WEST	EAST
♠ Q J 8 7 5	♠ K 9 6
♥ 10 7	♥ 9 8 2
♦ 9	♦ 10 6
♣ K 10 7 6 3	♣ J 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ 4 3 2
 ♥ 5 4 3
 ♦ 8 5 3 2
 ♣ Q 9 8

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♦*	Dbl	Redbl**	Pass
2♠	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	7♦	All pass	

*One major and one minor, at level 2 or 3
 **Bid your major

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

East-West had a very unusual agreement. They used an opening bid of two diamonds to show a weak two-suited hand with one major suit and one minor suit. This is similar to a Michael's Cue Bid after an

opponent opens one of a major. North could not have been pleased to pick up the hand of a lifetime and hear an opponent open the bidding. What could he do? He started with a double.

East redoubled, which conventionally asked West to bid his major. West did so and the bidding came back to North. What now? Three hearts would not be forcing and four hearts would be an underbid. North cue bid three spades just to make a forcing bid. Poor South was now forced to find a bid with his miserable hand. South had no choice but to bid his emaciated four-card diamond suit and was promptly raised to a grand slam! We imagine he was anxious to see the dummy, not to mention the need to change his shorts.

He caught a decent dummy. He won the opening spade lead with dummy's ace and drew the trumps in three rounds. He cashed five heart tricks in dummy, discarding the remaining two spades from his hand. He ruffed dummy's last spade and claimed. Whew!

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper.)

MEETING NOTICE

The Gadsden County Planning and Community Development – Housing Division will hold a Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC/AHAC) Meeting on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the BOCC Meeting Chambers. County staff will provide updates to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee on current SHIP and CDBG housing projects, grants, additional funding opportunities, and housing surveys. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for members of the community to offer input on potential housing projects and program elements for consideration within Gadsden County. For more information, please contact **Sonya Burns, Housing Coordinator**, at (850) 875-8659 or sburns@gadsdencountyfl.gov.

The meeting location is handicapped accessible. Any person requiring assistance, including persons who are hearing or visually impaired, should contact the Facilities Maintenance Department at (850) 875-8658 at least five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting so that assistance can be provided. A language interpreter will be provided for any non-English-speaking person wishing to attend the meeting.

Publication: Week of August 27, 2026
Gadsden County Times | Twin City News | Havana Herald

Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office shares fraud prevention tips with seniors



Lt. Christopher L. Daniels of the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office speaks to attendees about scams targeting senior citizens during a recent senior program at St. Luke Primitive Baptist Church.

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

The Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office recently provided senior citizens with information on how to recognize scams and protect themselves from fraud during a senior program at St. Luke Primitive Baptist Church.

Lt. Christopher L. Daniels spoke during the program on “Crimes Against Seniors: Scams.” Attendees also received fraud prevention materials outlining common scams and steps residents can take to protect their personal and financial information.

The Sheriff’s Office warned that although scams target people of all ages, senior citizens are often targeted the most.

Among the common schemes highlighted were imposter scams, gift card scams, online and email scams, home repair scams and sweepstakes and lottery scams.

Imposter scams involve someone pretending to be from the government, a business or even a family member in trouble. Residents were also warned about scammers who request payment through

gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency or payment apps.

The materials encouraged residents not to act quickly when someone pressures them to send money or provide information. Scammers often create a sense of urgency to keep potential victims from taking time to question the situation.

Residents were advised not to provide personal information such as Social Security numbers, bank account information, passwords or credit card numbers to unverified people. The Sheriff’s Office also recommended avoiding suspicious links in emails, text messages and social media messages.

Another warning involved caller identification. The materials explained that scammers can use computer software to make phone calls and emails appear to come from legitimate companies, government agencies or other organizations. Residents were encouraged to independently find an organization’s contact information and verify a request before responding.

The Sheriff’s Office also advised residents to be cautious of anyone claiming

they have won a prize but must pay money to receive it. Legitimate businesses and government agencies will not require payment with gift cards, according to the materials distributed at the program.

Seniors were encouraged to discuss suspicious requests with a trusted friend or family member before sending money or providing financial information. Residents were also advised to use multifactor authentication when available and regularly monitor accounts and credit.

The program included recognition of Annie Lee Riggins-Chandler as the August Community Service Award honoree. Ransom Chandler, her son, escorted her during the program. A special dedication also honored Lady Dominique Jackson, and Minister Barbara G. Thomas presented a tribute to the honoree.

The event also included an August birthday celebration and a “Prime Time Feud Off.”

Anyone who believes they have been the victim of fraud is encouraged to report it to the Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office at 850-627-9233.

Back To School
from page 2

friends behavior or reverse it in their head and think maybe they did something to be treated that way. We most likely all have had a friend we thought was close with us to finally realize they weren’t a good friend at all! Teach your kids that true friends look out for you, support you and have your best interest in mind. They apolo-

gize when they upset you whether they think they did anything wrong or not. Add examples if ever possible to help your child understand.

Step 4. Think about enrolling your child into a program that boosts their confidence and has coaches who will be great mentors. How you carry yourself is a major factor in projecting confidence. Make sure whatever activity you choose, com-

petition is part of their training. Regardless of your results, competitions offer many great life skills and developmental lessons that are essential to life and boost confidence long term.

Follow these guidelines and be patient. You will see a lasting change in your child that will help them sore in life and give you the peace of mind ever parent wants for their child.

Join Us for Great

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Nightly!

Live Music

Dominic Milner

Friday, August 28th
6:30pm - 9:30pm

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- Full Dinner Menu
- Classic Cocktails
- Specialty Martinis
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Steven Ritter

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Thursday
5pm

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TOWN OF HAVANA

— NOW HIRING —

TOWN CLERK

The **Town of Havana** is now accepting applications for the position of **Town Clerk**. This full-time position is responsible for ensuring the accurate and efficient administration of town records, services and official business.

IMPORTANT: RESUMES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT AN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION— WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.TOWNOFHAVANA.COM.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

FULL-TIME POSITION

JOIN OUR TOWN TEAM

APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED:

BY MAIL: Town of Havana, P.O. Box 1068, Havana, FL 32333

IN PERSON: Town Hall, 711 N Main Street, Havana, FL 32333

BY EMAIL: manager@townofhavana.com

The Town of Havana is an Equal Opportunity Employer.