

The Chattahoochee News-Herald

Snead's Sentinel

Because Great Communities Deserve Great Community Newspapers

Sheriff suspends Gadsden County's use of Flock cameras

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Gadsden County Sheriff Morris A. Young has temporarily suspended deputies' use of the Flock camera system, citing the need to balance the technology's law enforcement benefits with privacy and constitutional protections.

Young issued the directive Sept. 1, temporarily suspending the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office's use of the automated license plate reader system while its use is evaluated.

The announcement comes as questions surrounding automated license plate readers have increased across Florida. The Florida Department of Transportation issued a memorandum Aug. 31 revoking permits for automated license plate recognition systems installed within rights of way on the State Highway System and giving affected agencies 30 days to remove them.

The Sheriff's Office did not say its suspension was prompted by the state transportation department's action.



A Flock Safety automated license plate reader is mounted along a roadway. The Gadsden County Sheriff's Office has temporarily suspended deputies' use of the Flock camera system while reviewing policies and safeguards.

Young said Flock has been a valuable investigative tool for the agency, helping investigators solve homicides and violent crimes, locate wanted individuals and fugitives, and develop investigative leads.

"Our responsibility is not only to protect our community, but also to ensure that we do so within the law and with

respect for the constitutional rights of every person we serve," Young said. "While this technology has proven to be a valuable investigative resource, we must ensure its use is consistent with proper policy, legal requirements, and the rights of our citizens."

The Flock system is operated under a subscription funded by the Gads-

den County Board of County Commissioners and used by the Sheriff's Office as an investigative resource.

County commissioners approved an agreement in March 2024 associated with the Sheriff's Office for 25 Flock Safety devices. The agreement included 20 fixed Falcon license plate readers and five portable Falcon Flex

cameras. The initial two-year agreement totaled \$162,000 and provided for a 30-day data retention period.

The Sheriff's Office said the temporary suspension will allow the agency to evaluate the system and ensure appropriate measures are in place to balance law enforcement needs with privacy, civil liberties and constitu-

tional protections.

"Public safety and constitutional rights are not competing priorities," Young said. "We have a responsibility to protect both."

The directive suspends the Sheriff's Office's use of the system. The agency's announcement did not state that the cameras themselves are being physically removed.

Two Flock Safety license plate readers were publicly mapped along the U.S. 90 corridor in Chattahoochee in late August, according to a community-generated camera map. The map is not an official inventory of cameras operated by law enforcement.

The state transportation department's action is separate from Young's directive and applies to automated license plate readers located within state highway rights of way. It does not constitute a statewide ban on Flock cameras.

The Sheriff's Office said it will provide additional information as appropriate regarding the status and future use of the Flock system.

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City of Midway officials and community leaders break ground on the \$8 million U.S. 90 and Dover Road improvement project. The project will realign Dover Road with Martin Luther King Boulevard, add a traffic signal and include other roadway improvements.

Work begins on \$8 million U.S. 90 project in Midway

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Work is beginning on a more than \$8 million road project at U.S. Highway 90 and Dover Road in Midway.

The project will realign Dover Road with Martin Luther King Boulevard and add a traffic signal at the intersection.

Other work includes turn lane improvements,

resurfacing, drainage upgrades, sidewalks, pavement markings and lighting. Florida Department of Transportation construction records show the project also includes a new southbound left-turn lane and adjustments to existing turn lanes on U.S. 90.

Midway and state transportation officials held a groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 9 at the intersection to mark the start of

construction.

Mayor Ella Parker Dickey, a lifelong Midway resident, said she has wanted to see improvements made at the intersection for years.

"I have been a lifelong resident of the City of Midway and have long hoped to see a safer intersection for our residents and the thousands of motorists who travel through our community each day," Dickey said. "I am grate-

ful to the Florida Department of Transportation for bringing this project to life and moving forward with construction."

City Manager Henry Grant said city officials are glad to see the project move into construction after the planning and design process.

"Our Midway team is extremely excited to see this project move from planning and design into

construction," Grant said. "The realignment will help motorists navigate this intersection more safely and efficiently."

North Florida Asphalt is the contractor for the project.

Drivers should expect some delays and other traffic impacts during construction. Grant asked residents and motorists to be patient while the work is underway.

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LOCAL

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CASE No. 24000726CAA
ONITY MORTGAGE CORPORATION F/K/A PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNORS,
CREDITORS AND TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE OF JOAN E. BRIDGES A/K/A JOAN
E. BRIBBES A/K/A JOAN E. BRIOGES A/K/A JOAN BRIDGES A/K/A JOAN TURNER
BRIDGES (DECEASED), ET AL.
DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

#20286
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated
May 15, 2026, in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Gadsden
County, Florida, on October 8, 2026, at 11:00 AM, at South steps of main courthouse
(facing Hwy 90): 10 E. Jefferson St., Quincy, FL 32351 for the following described prop-
erty:
COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER
OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 7,
TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST AND RUN NORTH 02 DEGREES AND 50
MINUTES EAST 1760.0 FEET, THENCE RUN NORTH
89 DEGREES AND 45 MINUTES WEST 1534.5 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGIN-
NING. FROM SAID POINT RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES
AND 45 MINUTES WEST 1034.5 FEET, THENCE RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 42
MINUTES AND 30 SECONDS WEST 200.0 FEET.
THENCE RUN NORTH 84 DEGREES AND 00 MINUTES EAST 84.2 FEET,
THENCE RUN SOUTH 68 DEGREES AND 00 MINUTES EAST
ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF A PROPOSED ROAD 764.2 FEET, THENCE RUN
NORTH 27 DEGREES AND 00 MINUTES EAST 538.5
FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING LYING AND BEING IN THE EAST HALF OF
SAID SECTION 7, GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA.
TOGETHER WITH A 1990 MOBILE HOME WITH VIN NUMBERS ALBUS13911A
AND ALBUS13911B

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the
property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports
the surplus as unclaimed. The Court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale.
Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.

By: Deputy Clerk of the Court
Prepared by: Charlotte Willeby
Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC
600 West Hillsboro Boulevard
Suite 600
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to partici-
pate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain
assistance. Please contact Susan Wilson, at 301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL
32301, Phone 850- 577-4401 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance,
or immediately on receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance
is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
2t: 9/17, 9/24

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, MUNICIPAL POINT CAPITAL LP, the holder of the fol-
lowing 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: 517 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 935 P 421 (LIFE ESTATE); OR 571 P 660 OR
567 P 757 OR 420 P 1045 COMM AT SEC OF THE NW1/4 OF NE1/4 OF NE1/4 OF
SECT 15-3-4, THEN N 415.37 FT TO BEGIN, N 87°19' 27» W 107.12 FT, N 336.37 FT
TO SOUTHERN BNDY OF LANDS DESC. PER OR 308 P 631- 633, S 88°22'44» E
107.04 FT, S 338.34 FT TO THE P.O.B.
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-15-3N-4W-0000-00112-1300
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: RUBY DERICO
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate 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 7TH Day of OCTOBER
2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Dated this 27TH Day of JULY 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk
4t: 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, AVK REAL ESTATE LLC, the holder of the fol-
lowing 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: 769 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 782 P 1604 OR 100, P. 237 BEGIN AT NWC
OF LEROY BATES LOT. RUN E. 100 FT., N. 150 FT., W. 100 FT., S. 150 FT. TO P.O.B.
IN SECTION 3-3N-6W.
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-03-3N-6W-0000-00433-0200
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MOSELLE BUTLER
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate 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 7TH Day of OCTOBER
2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Dated this 27TH Day of JULY 2026.

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Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk
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lowing 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: 838 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LOTS 2, 3 AND 4 BLOCK 15 IN HARDING
HEIGHTS.
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-09-3N-6W-0540-00015-0020
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ROY DAWKINS C/O TERRY MANUEL
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate 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 7TH Day of OCTOBER
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lowing 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: 1550 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 690 P 932 OR 625 P 1791; OR 567 P 1427
OR 3 P 652 LOTS 2, 3, 4, BLK. 4 ROCK SPRING SUBDV.
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-12-2N-4W-1050-00004-0020
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DANIEL MORGAN
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate 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 7TH Day of OCTOBER
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lowing 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: 1552 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 707 P 47 OR 606 P 1137 OR 567 P 1427 OR
3 P 652 LOTS 9 & 10 BLK. 4 ROCK SPRING SUBDV.
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-12-2N-4W-1050-00004-0090
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: DANIEL MORGAN
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall
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2026 at 10:00 a.m.
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lowing 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: 1662 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 421 P 845 COMM AT NEC OF SECT 23-
2N-4W, S 01°13'16» E 20 FT TO SLY R/WAY OF COX LANE, THEN S 89° 29'36» W
239.74 FT, S 01°00'34 « E 105 FT TO BEGIN, S 01°00' 34» E 207.44 FT, S 89°29'36»
W 420 FT, N 01°00'34» W 207.44 FT, N 89°29'36» E 420 FT TO P.O.B.
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-23-2N-4W-0000-00111-0300
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: WILLIE LEE HALL; JEREDINE A HALL
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate 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 7TH Day of OCTOBER
2026 at 10:00 a.m.
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lowing 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: 1898 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LOT E-COMM AT INTERSECTION OF THE
WEST BNDY OF SECTION 9-1N-2W WITH THE N BNDY OF U.S. HIGHWAY #90;
N 00 DEG 10 MIN 15 SEC W ALONG THE W BNDY & 4 FT E & PARALLEL TO
FENCE LINE 740.22 FT, N 01 DEG 18 MIN 18 SEC W ALONG W BNDY & 4 FT E
673.18 FT, N 00 DEG 13 MIN 47 SEC W 485 FT, N 89 DEG 40 MIN 53 SEC E 153.38
FT TO POB. N 89 DEG 40 MIN 53 SEC E 153.38 FT, S 00 DEG 10 MI
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-09-1N-2W-0000-00223-1000
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: BUFORD WALKER SR; JACQUELYN WALKER

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

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Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk
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lowing certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The
certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names
in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 1903 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 573 P 28; OR 573 P 23 OR 338 P 603, 616
AND 626. LOT 33 HAYWARD-DUPONT UNREC SUBDV
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-09-1N-2W-0000-00232-3300
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: SAMUEL L HAYWARD TRUST AGREEMENT; JAC-
QUELYN DUPONT WALKER
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate 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 7TH Day of OCTOBER
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certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names
in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 1904 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 573 P 28; OR 573 P 23 OR 338 P 603, 616
AND 626. LOT 34 HAYWARD-DUPONT UNREC SUBDV
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-09-1N-2W-0000-00232-3400
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: SAMUEL L HAYWARD TRUST AGREEMENT; JAC-
QUELYN DUPONT WALKER
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall
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certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names
in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 1908 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 573 P 28; OR 573 P 28 OR 338 P 603, 616
AND 626. LOT 43 HAYWARD-DUPONT UNREC SUBDV
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 4-09-1N-2W-0000-00232-4300
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: SAMUEL L HAYWARD TRUST AGREEMENT; JAC-
QUELYN DUPONT WALKER AS PR OF THE ESTATE OF K.S. DUPONT
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate 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 7TH Day of OCTOBER
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in which it was assessed are as follows:
CERTIFICATE NO: 2069 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2024
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 654 P 1260; OR 53, P. 504 LOTS 3 & 4 BLK.
G. MOSSY OAK ACRES. OR 409 P 1405
PARCEL ID NUMBER: 5-0L-OR-05-1280-0000G-0030
NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: NELL HOOPAUGH
Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certi-
ficate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall
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LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Jimmy Ashmore.... (850) 539-5690
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John Ledbetter, Manager
820 W. Jefferson St. • Quincy, FL 32351
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SCRABBLE G R A M S SOLUTION

P ₃	A ₁	R ₁	O ₁	L ₁	E ₁	E ₁	RACK 1 =	59
C ₃	O ₁	N ₁	S ₁	U ₁	L ₁	T ₁	RACK 2 =	62
R ₁	O ₁	S ₁	I ₁	L ₁	Y ₄		RACK 3 =	9
M ₃	O ₁	O ₁	N ₁	E ₁	Y ₄	E ₁	RACK 4 =	86

PAR SCORE 140-150 TOTAL 216
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Chattahoochee Lions Club donates to two elementary schools



From left, Sneads Elementary School Principal Kristy Halley, Chattahoochee Lions Club member Paul Mazzotta and Assistant Principal Leslie Linton pose following the club's donation to the school. The funds will be used to purchase materials for educational projects.



Chattahoochee Lions Club member Paul Mazzotta presents a donation to Chattahoochee Elementary School Principal Zola Akins. The donation will help the school purchase materials for educational projects.

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

The Chattahoochee Lions Club recently made financial donations to

Chattahoochee Elementary School and Sneads Elementary School to help support educational projects for students.

The donations will al-

low the schools to purchase materials for use in student projects and other educational activities.

At Sneads Elementary School, Lions Club

member Paul Mazzotta presented the donation to Principal Kristy Halley and Assistant Principal Leslie Linton.

Mazzotta also present-

ed a donation to Chattahoochee Elementary School, where Principal Zola Akins accepted the contribution on behalf of the school.

The Chattahoochee Lions Club serves the Chattahoochee area through community service and local outreach efforts.

Havana proposes 2027 budget with major wastewater investments

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

The Town of Havana is proposing a fiscal year 2026-27 budget that keeps the town's property tax rate unchanged while directing millions of dollars toward wastewater and other infrastructure improvements.

The proposed budget covers Oct. 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2027. Town Manager Leigh Davis wrote in her budget message that the spending plan was developed with the goals of maintaining the town's financial stability, addressing operational and infrastructure needs and continuing town services. Town officials also

considered rising costs for fuel, materials and health insurance, as well as new unfunded state mandates.

Overall operating spending would increase 2.3%, or \$348,904, from the current budget. Of that amount, \$246,050 is tied to approved or anticipated grant funding for infrastructure. The remaining approximately \$102,000 is spread across the town's funds and reflects increased operating costs.

The proposed property tax rate is 3 mills, the same as the current year. The budget also includes a \$1,500 cost-of-living adjustment for employees, down from the adjustment provided this year.

Wastewater infrastructure is a major focus of the proposed spending plan. According to Davis' budget message, grant funding will provide approximately \$7.4 million for lift station rehabilitation and another \$850,000 for improvements to the wastewater treatment plant.

The budget also calls for increased right-of-way tree trimming, repairs to the wastewater equalization tank and replacement of a door at the Waterworks Building. Funding for professional services would also increase as the town works to modernize operations and improve efficiency.

The General Fund is proposed at approximately \$2.23 million, nearly unchanged from the current year. Revenue from property taxes is projected at \$371,006, up from \$348,754 in the current budget.

Police Department spending would increase from about \$1.25 million to \$1.29 million. Regular salaries are proposed at \$734,305, while overtime would increase from \$12,000 to \$27,000. Health insurance costs for the department would rise from \$95,405 to \$118,650.

Fire Department spending would decrease slightly, from \$63,554 to \$62,984. The town is also proposing \$365,000 for

garbage and recycling services, unchanged from the current budget.

Administration spending is proposed at \$166,263, up from \$147,653. The budget includes \$15,000 for professional services, compared with \$6,000 this year, and \$23,000 for the Community Redevelopment Trust, up from \$15,000.

The Special Revenue Fund, which accounts for several grant-funded projects, is proposed at approximately \$8.03 million, an increase of \$246,050. Funding listed in the budget includes money for storm drainage, lift station and water projects, treatment plant improvements and other

infrastructure work.

In her budget message, Davis also noted several developments during the current fiscal year, including the opening of the Public Safety Complex, an improved fire insurance rating, a new fire service support contract with Gadsden County, continued investment in the town's electric system and voluntary annexations.

The Town Council held its first public hearing on the proposed budget Sept. 14. The second and final public hearing, when the council is scheduled to consider final adoption of the budget, is set for Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. at Havana Town Hall, 711 N. Main St.

Laura Demakowski McAlpin, LFD

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Orlando woman dies after I-10 crash in Gadsden County

A 28-year-old Orlando woman died following a single-vehicle crash Friday afternoon on Interstate 10 in Gadsden County, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

The crash occurred around 1:41 p.m. Sept. 12 near mile marker 168.

According to the Highway Patrol, the

woman was driving a sedan eastbound in the inside lane when the vehicle left the roadway and entered the median. The sedan struck several trees before coming to a final rest.

The vehicle caught fire after the crash.

The driver was taken to HCA Florida Gadsden Hospital, where she

was pronounced dead from injuries sustained in the crash.

A 15-year-old girl from Orlando who was riding as a passenger was taken to Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare with minor injuries. Both occupants were wearing seat belts, according to the Highway Patrol.

The inside eastbound lane was temporarily closed while investigators worked at the scene. All travel lanes have since reopened.

Gadsden County Emergency Services and Gadsden County Fire Rescue assisted the Florida Highway Patrol at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation.

Remember your loved one....

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\$5

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

The Herald

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Every once in a blue moon, I learn something from the computer. Not often, of course, because they change the rules on how to use it about three times a day, and I never was that fast.

But I love that YouTube channel. Oh man. And I believe, after watching ‘way more episodes than my eyes and brain could handle, that I’ve stumbled on a hidden truth.

How to mess around in dirt and rocks and get filthy, and create something that the headline assured me would be worth millions. And in my spare time!

So I’m sharing this with all of you. First of all, you have to move to south-east Asia ... somewhere. Shrieking monkey calls are optional, but still a good idea.

Then you look in the house or the trash bin or the county dump until you find a container of some sort. You know, an old flat tire or a Remington noiseless typewriter, or maybe a wastebasket that you want to change into a million bucks.

Then you dig a hole near your jungle home and pour water in it. A lot of water and a lot of that gray stuff that comes in a paper bag with Cambodian writing on it so you can’t guess what it says. But boy, does it work! You get some window screen that no one wants, line the wastebasket with it, and pour in the concrete.

While it’s still setting up, you take a railroad spike and use it to carve million-dollar symbols on the wastebasket. When it dries, you flip it upside down and plant flowers in it.

I can’t wait to start. All I really need is a southeast Asian kid about 12 years old who doesn’t mind getting his hands dirty. Why didn’t they tell us these things earlier, so it wouldn’t take so long to make that million bucks.

Oh well ...

Brought to you by “Whimsy Castle,” Slim’s most recent novel. Available online at Amazon.com.



NURSE JUDY’S NOOK

Judy Conlin

The Party Girl

A mad Nurse Judy (my militant alter ego) rushed into my office this morning, almost foaming at the mouth.

“Are you writing a Nurse Judy article?” she demanded.

“Yes, I am,” I said defensively.

“You didn’t write a Labor Day article last week,” she said.

“So?”

“Why not?”

“Because we weren’t doing anything special, so I had nothing to write about. What difference does it make to you what I put in my column?”

Her face gets red and her eyes bug out. “It’s the only way I know what’s going on in our lives. I depend on the columns to know when a holiday is coming up so I can prepare for it.”

“And why would you be preparing for a Labor Day holiday? You haven’t done a bit of labor in your whole life.”

She looks me in the eye. “I

am the one who makes holidays fun. I dress for whatever occasion is being celebrated. I show up for the celebration looking stunning. I schmooze with the guests. I get the music and the dancing going. I pass out the hot dogs, hamburgers or canapés or Christmas cookies, whatever is relevant for the occasion. I am everyone’s favorite party girl.”

“Well, there was no party.”

“That’s what I’m complaining about. You didn’t even decorate, which would have given me a clue that a celebration was coming up. You didn’t even hang up an American flag. That would have worked. You hung up a Seminoles flag.”

“The Seminoles had a game that night, and I planned for us to watch that and eat chicken wings.”

“Did you consult me? No, you didn’t. I am not a football fan. How can you dress up for that? You just put on a

Noles T-shirt and a cap. That is not Nurse Judy’s style. Besides, they lost, and I don’t eat your greasy chicken wings. Too much fat. That’s why you’re so fat and dowdy and why I am still a stunner.”

“Whoa, there, lady. Now you’ve gone too far. Whether they lost or not does not matter. They are our team, and we are loyal to them no matter what.”

“They are your team, not mine,” she says. “I will not be loyal to them. I hope they get beaten badly by the Gators this year. What do you think of that?”

It’s my turn to have a bright red face with bulgy eyes. She has gone too far. You cannot say such a thing and live in the Tallahassee area.

My voice is trembling. “You take that back,” I scream. “You take that back or get out of my house and out of my life forever.”

There is dead silence. Nurse Judy has never seen me like this. She is struck dumb, but only for a moment.

“Even if I take it back, they still could lose,” she starts off.

“Out,” I say.

“I suppose they could win,” she says hesitantly.

“Out,” I say.

“OK, OK. I’ll cheer for them no matter what,” she says.

“Good,” I say. “Now get into FSU garb, and I’ll give you a red, white and blue cupcake to celebrate Labor Day. But this fall, we are a football family, and we will have a party every game day, and I promise no fatty wings.”

She thinks about this, but only for a moment. Then her eyes light up.

“Well, let’s get in the car and get to an FSU store. I need some new girly FSU clothes.”

I sigh. I won, or did I?

**More later,
Judy
www.nursejudyonfo.com**

‘Do you think I’m silly?’

Nancy Kennedy

When the phone rings here at the newspaper, you never know who’s on the other end and what the person will say.

That’s why we keep an antacid dispenser in the newsroom. (Not really.)

I remember a call from a woman who sounded greatly distressed.

She apologized for bothering me, but she had lost her wedding rings.

“Do you want me to help look for them?” I asked, a bit confused.

“Oh, goodness no,” she said.

Then she spilled out her story. It had happened several months before, when she was going through cancer treatment.

“I wasn’t thinking right,” she said. “I was making meatloaf and didn’t want to gum them up, so I took them off.”

Not wanting to leave them on the counter, she put all five rings, her wedding set with a solitaire and two bands welded together and two newer rings, in the pocket of her jeans.

Because her brain was muddled, she forgot about the rings in her pocket and later hung the jeans over a stepladder in her closet and forgot about them.

“I didn’t even notice I wasn’t wearing them,” she said.

Time went by, and she decided to take some things and donate them to a thrift store. Without thinking, she grabbed the jeans along with everything else.

“When I finally noticed I wasn’t wearing my rings, I looked everywhere at least 40 times,” she said. “I was afraid to tell my husband. I kept thinking they’d show up.”

For weeks she cried as she tried to remember where she put them.

Then she cried when she remembered the meatloaf.

She was crying when she called me.

“I didn’t cry when the doctor told me I had cancer, but I’m crying over this,” she said. “Do you think I’m silly?”

I told her no. Those rings meant something to her, something beyond mere jewelry.

Her husband had offered to buy her a new set, but she didn’t want a new set.

She wanted the set she lost, the set she loves.

A week or so earlier my pastor had preached from Luke 15, where Jesus talks about lost sheep, lost coins and a Father waiting for a lost son.

As the woman who lost her rings cried and told me her story, I felt her grief.

“I’m telling myself that maybe someone who doesn’t have anything found them and she’s wearing them and they’re mak-

ing her happy,” the woman said. “Or someone who needed money for food or medicine. I hope it’s something like that, something from God.”

After we hung up, I wrote the story for the newspaper.

As I wrote, I thought about how God grieves over His lost creation. I thought about Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, longing to gather its people as a hen gathers her young under her wings. (Matthew 23:37)

It’s been more than 10 years since that phone call, but every once in a while I think about it.

I still wonder if the woman ever found her rings. If she did, I imagine her crying tears of joy and thankfulness.

Maybe God cries those kinds of tears.

I think maybe He just might.

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

COMICS AND PUZZLES

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JUMBLE

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

DMUYD

RBETE

NRYEGT

GELEAL

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

When the company's board members voted to raise prices, the ---

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

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: DITCH PICKY HELMET CANCEL
Answer: Memorizing lines for the play would require a lot of effort. She'd need to — KEEP THAT IN MIND

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

All those in favor of adding a 10% upcharge on our menu items, raise your hand. I guess they'll have to eat that up. Oh, that's rich! Just like us!

7/21

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.

PTU

KGNI

MAHR

OGDO

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THE BATS LOVED BEING UPSIDE DOWN IN THE CAVE THEY CONSIDERED THEIR ---

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 the answer here:

Jumbles: PUT KING HARM GOOD
Answer: The bats loved being upside down in the cave they considered their — HANGOUT

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SCRABBLE G R A M S

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A1E1E1O1L1P3R1

O1U1T1C3L1N1S1

I1O1Y4L1S1R1L1

E1E1O1O1Y4N1M3

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 216

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

01-06

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.

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

Puzzle solutions on page 2

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES
©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

GOOD TECHNIQUE

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ A 9
♥ A 9 4
♦ 10 7 6 5
♣ 10 9 6 2

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

WEST
♠ Void
♥ Q J 10 8 7
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ Q 8 7 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 5 3 2
♥ 2
♦ A K 4
♣ A 5 4

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♠ Pass 1NT Pass
3♠ Pass 4♠ All pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♥

We haven't visited our friends at the club's Saturday night duplicate in a while, but they were hard at work when Hard Luck Louie declared this deal. He won the opening heart lead with dummy's ace and counted what he thought were 10 easy tricks. He cashed dummy's ace of spades and learned that 10 tricks would be a

problem due to the horrid split in trumps. Louie ruffed a heart in hand, followed by the ace, king of diamonds and the ace of clubs. He exited with a diamond to West's jack as East shed a low heart. West did not make the mistake of leading another heart. He correctly led a club to East's king. East exited with the 10 of spades to Louie, who led his last club. West won as East shed his king of hearts and Louie could not make his contract. "I hate my life," said Louie. "Four spades was colder than cold, almost, and I still went down."

When Lucky Larry played this deal, he also won the heart lead with dummy's ace. He immediately ruffed a heart in hand and then led the king of spades. Had both opponents followed, he would have drawn the trumps and claimed 10 tricks. When West showed out, however, he cashed the ace and king of diamonds, and the ace of clubs. He crossed to dummy with the ace of spades and ruffed another heart in hand. He claimed two more tricks with his two high spades and scored up his contract. Technique!

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

- Across**

1 "Jurassic Park" resin
6 Big name in champagne
10 Pigpen
13 Glacier-climbing tool
14 First word of a fairy tale
15 __ vez: again, in Spanish
16 Arbitrary allowance for error
18 Sonnet or ode
19 Phony
20 Margaret of "Fire Island"
21 Play parts
23 Ivy in New Haven
24 Poker player with the tallest stacks
26 Out of __ world
28 Not online, online
29 Dove's sound
31 Prefix similar to quad-
33 38-Down dispenser
35 Talk a big game
36 Sweet treats for a valentine, or what the starts of 16-, 24-, 47-, and 59-Across are
40 Inning's six
41 Tyrannosaurus __
42 Many Omanis
43 Shivered syllable
44 Barinholztz who won "Celebrity Jeopardy!" in 2023
46 Community FYIs
47 Rite of passage for a Jewish boy
51 Cheeky answers
- 55 Legal scholar
56 Organ with a lobe
57 Desert flora
58 Shortly, shortly
59 Words on a novelty apron
62 Piffing
63 Uffizi display
64 "Love that"
65 NNW opposite
66 Body positive activist
Holliday
67 Brick-and-mortar work-er?

Down

1 Honda luxury line
2 Olympian's aspiration
3 French loaves
4 Struck through
5 Penalty caller
6 Sweet rice cake
7 In first place
8 Prefix with hotel or tourist
9 Less verbose
10 Crustacean eaten by sea turtles
11 Moving sidewalk creators?
12 Thanksgiving tubers
13 Not without risk
15 Opinion piece
17 German cries
22 Berkeley, briefly
24 Bologna bye-bye

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				30
	26	27				28			29		
	31	32			33	34			35		
36					37			38	39		
40					41			42			
43			44	45		46					
	47		48		49	50			51	52	53
55					56			57			
58					59	60		61			
62					63			64			
65					66			67			

25 Long ride, for short
27 Bits of time?
30 Need to repay
31 Band wagons?
32 Like a limited edition
33 Hardware chain that celebrated "100 Years of Helpful" in 2024
34 "appreciate u"
35 Mensches
36 __ for apples
37 Lose sleep, maybe
38 Money
39 "Your Song" singer Rita

44 Online convos
45 Apt candy for a snack break?
46 Take different paths
48 Like peaches in summer
49 Cocktail twists
50 Bouquet bearers
52 Sneeze sound
53 Oktoberfest mug
54 Verb in a bread recipe
55 Scone spreads
57 John of "Argyle"
60 Anger
61 That guy

Robbie Jones

and helped replenish soil moisture. Yet while the rain has brought relief, it has also created new problems. In Florida agriculture, the challenge is often not just too little rain or too much rain. The real challenge is dealing with rapid swings between the two.

The drought had already left its mark before summer rain arrived. Dry conditions slowed pasture growth and reduced available forage for livestock. Some hay producers harvested lower yields than normal, while row crop

growers watched young plants struggle under moisture stress. Irrigation systems ran longer hours, increasing fuel and operating costs. In some areas, pond levels fell significantly, raising concerns about water supplies for livestock and crops.

When the rain finally arrived, many producers welcomed them with open arms. Soil moisture improved quickly, and drought-stressed pastures responded with new growth. Irrigation demands dropped, helping farmers save both

water and money. Ponds and small water bodies began to refill, providing much-needed relief after months of dry weather. Even so, the recent rainfall does not mean the drought is completely over. Drought is not erased overnight. Some areas of Florida still have long-term rainfall deficits, and deeper soil moisture levels may take longer to recover. Rainfall has also varied greatly across the state, with some communities receiving much more precipitation than others.

As often happens in Florida, the return of rain has brought a different set of concerns. Warm temperatures, frequent rainfall, and high humidity create ideal conditions for many plant diseases. Fungal and bacterial pathogens thrive when leaves remain wet for long periods. As a result, growers across the state

are paying closer attention to disease pressure in crops.

Peanut producers, for example, often see increased concerns about leaf spot diseases during wet and humid periods. Corn growers may need to monitor fields for diseases such as southern rust. Vegetable producers can face problems with fruit rots, leaf spots, and bacterial infections when rainfall is frequent. Even crops that survived the drought may now face yield losses if diseases become severe.

The same weather conditions that favor crop diseases can also affect livestock operations. High humidity makes it harder for animals to cool themselves, increasing the risk of heat stress. Cattle and other livestock may become less productive when temperatures and humidity remain high for extended periods. Wet

conditions can also lead to muddy feeding and watering areas, creating management challenges for producers.

Rainfall has also encouraged the rapid growth of weeds. Many weed species thrive after periods of abundant moisture and compete with crops for nutrients, sunlight, and space. Insect populations may increase as well, requiring farmers to scout fields more frequently and make timely management decisions.

For many producers, one of the greatest frustrations has been managing two weather extremes within the same growing season. Earlier in the year, they were focused on drought management, irrigation scheduling, and conserving available moisture. Now they are monitoring dis-

See From Too Dry
on page 8

BUDGET SUMMARY					
TOWN OF HAVANA - FISCAL YEAR 2026- 2027					
THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF HAVANA, FL. ARE 2.0 PERCENT MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.					
General Fund	3.00				
ESTIMATED REVENUES	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	ENTERPRISE FUNDS	FIRE PENSION FUND	TOTAL BUDGET
	Millage per \$1000				
Ad Valorem Taxes	3.0000	371,006	35,000		406,006
Cash Carryforward		-			-
Sales & Use Tax		447,000			447,000
Licenses & Permits		16,000			16,000
Intergovernmental Revenue		166,000	7,995,185	12,000	8,173,185
Charges for Services		474,225			474,225
Fines & Forfeitures		6,000			6,000
Interest Earned/Other		26,500	16,900		43,400
Water Fund			758,328		758,328
Electric Fund			3,447,662		3,447,662
Gas Fund			438,250		438,250
Sewer Fund			609,019		609,019
TOTAL SOURCES	1,506,731	8,030,185	5,270,160	12,000	14,819,076
Transfers In		722,500	47,750		770,250
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets					-
TOTAL REVENUES, TRANSFERS & BALANCES	2,229,231	8,030,185	5,317,910	12,000	15,589,326
EXPENDITURES					
General Governmental Services		531,263		12,000	543,263
Public Safety:					-
Police		1,294,179			1,294,179
Fire		62,984			62,984
Physical Environment			8,030,185		8,030,185
Transportation		319,726			319,726
Culture & Recreation		13,580			13,580
Human Services		7,500			7,500
Water Fund			643,828		643,828
Electric Fund			2,775,912		2,775,912
Gas Fund			441,150		441,150
Sewer Fund			499,789		499,789
Loan Interest			56,180		56,180
Interest on Bonds-Sewer			100,800		100,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,229,231	8,030,185	4,517,660	12,000	14,789,076
Transfers Out			770,250		770,250
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets			30,000		30,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES, TRANSFERS,RESERVES & BALANCES	2,229,231	8,030,185	5,317,910	12,000	15,589,326
The tentative, adopted, and / or final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record.					

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy\$23,617,681

B. Less tax reduction due to the Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes\$1,427,607

C. Actual Property Tax Levy \$22,190,074

This year's proposed tax levy ...\$22,894,952

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a Public Hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

Tuesday, September 22, 2026
6:00 p.m.

at

**Gadsden County Commission Chambers
9-B East Jefferson St.
Edward J. Butler Building
Governmental Complex,
Quincy, Florida 32351**

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at the hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY GADSDEN COUNTY - FISCAL YEAR 2026-27						
The proposed operating budget expenditures of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners are 1.49% more than last year's total operating expenditures						
ESTIMATED REVENUES	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Debt Service Funds	Capital Projects Fund	Trust and Agency Funds	Total
Taxes Mileage Rate Per \$1,000						
Ad Valorem 8.8000	21,750,204					21,750,204
CRA	(647,000)					(647,000)
Delinquent Ad Valorem	72,000					72,000
Sales and Use	150,836	10,070,108	645,836			10,866,780
Franchise Fees						
Utility Service						
Licenses and Permits	230,000	450,000				680,000
Intergovernmental Revenue	10,727,278	1,040,660	2,557,464			14,325,402
Charges for Services	85,839	3,548,309				3,634,148
Fines and Forfeiture		5,535				5,535
Miscellaneous Revenue	769,180	1,331,531		650,000		2,750,711
Other Financial Sources	1,454,106	249,817	172,264			1,876,187
TOTAL REVENUES	34,592,443	16,695,960	3,375,564	-	650,000	55,313,967
Less 5% Statutory Withholding	(592,173)	(635,449)	(81,648)			(1,309,270)
Operating Transfers In		17,134,682				17,134,682
Appropriated Fund Balance						-
TOTAL TRANSFERS, REVENUES AND FUND BALANCE						
	34,000,269	33,195,193	3,293,916	-	650,000	71,139,378
ESTIMATED EXPENSES						
General Government	11,171,731	3,810,969	260,395	-		15,243,095
Public Safety	629,209	19,303,298	274,027	-		20,206,534
Physical Environment	552,480	173,725	31,167			757,372
Transportation		5,644,722	2,040,491			7,685,213
Economic Development	409,329	342,436				751,765
Human Services	2,203,334	2,259,782	687,836		650,000	5,800,952
Culture and Recreation	403,630	1,053,312				1,456,942
Court Related	880,560	606,949				1,487,509
Reserves	615,314					615,314
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	16,865,587	33,195,193	3,293,916	-	650,000	54,004,696
NON-EXPENDITURES						
Transfers Out	17,134,682	-	-	-	-	17,134,682
TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES AND RESERVES						
	34,000,269	33,195,193	3,293,916	-	650,000	71,139,378
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD						
*Must show at least 95% Ad Valorem Proceeds for each milage.						
C13 CRA breakout (56% Q; 40% M; 3% H) from U18-21 in GF revenue budget						
C15 (sales/use) this is communication taxes - rest of taxes are intergovernmental and in that line (fire, tourist, indigent, public works)						
C19 (intergovernmental revenue) from U80 in GF revenue budget- this includes special revenue taxes, fuel, and half-cent taxes and fiscally constrained						
C20 (charges for services) from U127 in GF revenue budget						
C22 (miscellaneous revenue) from U276 in GF revenue budget						
C23 (other financial sources) from U322 in GF revenue budget						
C25 (25% withholding) from U280 in tentative GF revenue budget						
C26 (operating trf in) from U286 in tentative GF revenue budget						
C27 (appropriated fund balance) from U314 in tentative GF revenue budget						
C32-C45 through G32-G45 from tabs showing expenditures in rest of spreadsheet that sort expenses by category; categories comes from Function in expense reports						
E15 (sales/use) from sum of Indigent, Tourism, Fuel/County Transportation, other small taxes in special budgets from sum of from County Transportation; Tourist and Building Inspection						
E18 (licenses/permits) from Building Inspection						
E19 (intergovernmental revenue) from Transportation, E911, EMP, Indigent, Fines/Forf., Judicial, Library						
E20 (charges for services) from Big Bend, Boating, Transportation, Ct. Facilities, Indigent, Fines/Forf., Mosquito, Library						
E21 fines) from Fines/Forf.						
E22 (misc. revenue) from Transportation, Ct. Facilities, E911, Fines/Forf., Landfill, Libraries, Tourist						
E23 (other sources) from Transportation						
E25 (5% withholding) from all budgets with this noted from building, court facilities, public works, E911, EMS, indigent, and others						
E26 (operating transfers in) from Big Bend, Ct. Facilities, Ambulance, Radio, Ag, EMP, EMS, Library, Landfill, Property, Sheriff, Supervisor, Tax						
E27 (appropriated fund balance)/balance cash forward) from Big Bend, Building, EMS, Fire, Judicial, Transportation, Tourist						
G19 (intergovernmental revenue) from Debt Service budgets						
G22 (miscellaneous revenue) Debt service budgets						
G25 (5% withholding) from Debt Service budgets						
G26 (operating transfers in) from Debt Service budgets						
G27 (appropriated fund balance) if any, from Debt Service budgets						
K22 from Hospital Endowment (a trust fund recognizing incoming revenue from that endowment - varies as income is received from prior year)						

Grab-and-Go Peanut Butter and Jelly Oat Bars for Busy School Days

Peanut butter and jelly is a childhood favorite for a reason. The combination of creamy peanut butter and sweet fruit has been familiar, comforting and easy to enjoy for generations.

Think beyond the traditional sandwich by turning those flavors into these snackable Peanut Butter and Jelly Oat Bars. With a texture somewhere between baked oatmeal and a soft granola bar, the bars are moist but hold together well, making them a tasty, healthy option to take on the go.

Naturally gluten-free, oats provide whole-grain carbohydrates and fiber to keep kids energized and satisfied, whether they're grabbing bars for breakfast or adding them to their lunchboxes. Peanut butter contributes protein and healthy fats for nutritional balance, while bananas and jam increase the family's daily fruit intake.

The recipe is forgiving, so feel free to experiment with extra mix-ins like flaxseed, hemp hearts or chopped nuts. To adapt it for nut allergies, swap in sunflower seed butter or a different alternative. Use whatever type of jam, preserves or fruit spread your family prefers.

Decorate the bars - and

add a little extra sweetness — by drizzling on a Greek yogurt glaze and sprinkling colorful dried berries over the top.

Find more recipes for your family to enjoy throughout the school year at Culinary.net.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Oat Bars
Recipe adapted from Sally's Baking Addiction
Prep time: 10 minutes
Bake time: 25 minutes
Servings: 16

- 1 cup mashed bananas (about 3 medium or 2 large)
- 1/2 cup creamy or crunchy peanut butter
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk (or non-dairy milk of choice)
- 2 1/2 cups old-fashioned whole oats
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- raspberry or strawberry jam, to taste
- Greek Yogurt Topping (optional):
 - 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
 - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- freeze-dried raspberries or strawberries, to taste

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Line 9-inch square baking pan with parchment paper, leaving enough overhang on sides to easily remove bars from pan. Set aside.

In large bowl or stand mixer, mash bananas. On medium speed, whisk in peanut butter, brown sugar, egg, milk, oats, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and vanilla. Batter should be thick but still pourable.

Pour mixture into prepared pan and use spoon or knife to swirl jam into batter. Bake 25-28 minutes, or until center is set.

Remove from oven and cool at room temperature 30-60 minutes then refrigerate pan until chilled, about 1 hour.

Lift parchment paper to remove bars from pan then cut into 16 equal squares.

To make optional yogurt topping: In bowl, whisk yogurt, vanilla and powdered sugar until smooth. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes before drizzling on bars. Add dried fruits, as desired.

Store leftover bars in airtight container and refrigerate up to 10 days.

Notes: Egg can be replaced with 1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce. Bars are difficult to cut before chilling.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash #18126
Source: Culinary.net



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NOTICE OF PROPOSED
TAX INCREASE

The City of Chattahoochee, Florida has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year’s property tax levy:

- A. Initially proposed tax levy 144,893
- B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes 1,473
- C. Actual property tax levy..... 143,420

This year’s proposed tax levy 150,303

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
6:30 PM
at
CHATTAHOOCHEE CITY
HALL
22 JEFFERSON ST
CHATTAHOOCHEE, FL 32324**

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.



CITY of CHATTAHOOCHEE
POST OFFICE BOX 188
22 JEFFERSON ST
CHATTAHOOCHEE, FL 32324-0188
www.chattahoocheefl.gov

CITY HALL Telephone: (850) 663-4046 Fax: (850) 663-2456	UTILITY & PUBLIC WORKS Telephone: (850) 663-4475 Fax: (850) 663-4233	PUBLIC SAFETY Telephone: (850) 663-4383 Fax: (850) 663-8510	PARKS & RECREATION Telephone: (850) 663-2123 Fax: (850) 663-3800
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Request for Proposals (RFP) 2026-01

CONTINUING MONTHLY MANAGED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The City of Chattahoochee ("City") is requesting proposals from qualified firms or individuals to provide monthly managed information technology ("IT") services, including network management and support for the City's computer infrastructure. These services shall encompass the Chattahoochee Police Department, which requires compliance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy and any additional Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requirements. All Respondents must be familiar with and able to meet the security requirements outlined by the CJIS Security Policy. Respondents should demonstrate prior experience supporting law enforcement agencies or other entities with similar security protocols. It is expected that the successful Respondent ("Contractor") will work in conjunction with and under the coordination of the City of Chattahoochee's IT Coordinator to ensure seamless IT operations and compliance across all departments. Respondents are required to self-perform the requested services.

All interested parties must register their name, email address, address and telephone number with the City to receive any future changes, additions, addendums or notices concerning this RFP.

Advertisement Date: September 17, 2026
Due Date: September 30, 2026 by 2:00 pm
Contact: Amanda Applewhite, P.O. Box 188 or 22 Jefferson St, Chattahoochee, FL 32324
aapplewhite@chattahoocheefl.gov

Any qualified individual or firm desiring to provide the required professional services should submit one (1) original, three (3) copies and one (1) digital copy on a flashdrive in Adobe PDF format in a sealed envelope marked "RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP-2026-01".

Responses shall be submitted by mail, courier or in person at City of Chattahoochee, ATTN: Amanda Applewhite, City Clerk/Interim City Manager, 22 Jefferson St, Chattahoochee, FL 32324 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., EST, Monday - Friday, excluding holidays observed by the City.

BUDGET SUMMARY

City of Chattahoochee - Fiscal Year 2026-2027

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF CHATTAHOOCHEE ARE 18.3 % MORE THAN LAST YEARS TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Estimated Revenues		General Fund	Utility Fund	Total
Taxes:	Millage per \$1000			
Ad Valorem	3.0	150,303.00		150,303.00
Sales and Use Taxes		568,500.00		568,500.00
Franchise Fees				-
Utility Fees			6,620,969.00	6,620,969.00
Licenses and Permits		4,200.00		4,200.00
Intergovernmental Revenue		1,462,000.00	1,000,000.00	2,462,000.00
Charges for Services		532,030.00		532,030.00
Fines & Forfeitures		13,000.00		13,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		51,850.00		51,850.00
Other Financial Sources				
Total Revenues		2,781,883.00	7,620,969.00	10,402,852.00
Less 5% Statutory withholding				
Operating Transfer In		2,000,000.00		2,000,000.00
Total Revenues, Transfers and Fund Balances	\$	4,781,883.00	7,620,969.00	12,402,852.00
Estimated Expenditures				
General Government	\$	916,860.00	\$	916,860.00
Public Safety		1,748,183.00		1,748,183.00
Physical Environment			5,620,969.00	5,620,969.00
Transportation		1,772,669.00		1,772,669.00
Economic Environment				-
Human Services		5,000.00		5,000.00
Culture and Recreation		339,171.00		339,171.00
Court Related				-
Reserves			-	-
Total Expenditures		4,781,883.00	5,620,969.00	10,402,852.00
Non-Expenditures				-
Operating Transfers out			2,000,000.00	1,886,085.00
Total Appropriated Expenditures, Transfers, Reserves & Balances	\$	4,781,883.00	\$ 7,620,969.00	\$ 12,402,852.00
The tentative, adopted and/or final budgets are on file at the office of the City of Chattahoochee as a public record				



Left to Right: Veronica Bishop, BaTina C. Slater, Apostle Katabia Henry, Pastor Terrence D. Milton, Mother Karen Peyton, Mother Angelia Gainous.

Bear Creek Bethel Missionary Baptist Church Hosts 5th ‘Women in Red’



Women in Red Standing Loving on the Promise of God’s Love.

Kennedy Richardson
Gadsden County News Service

Bear Creek Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was dressed in red on Saturday, Sept. 12, as women filled the sanctuary for its fifth ‘Women in Red’ worship service, centered on the theme (Standing on the Promises of God).

The service opened with a selection by the guest choir, followed by an invocation led by Sis. Veronica Bishop of New Mt. Zion AME Church and a reading of the foundational scripture, Isaiah 41:10, presented by Mother Karen Peyton of New Covenant Holy Temple Church. The scripture reminded believers not to fear because God is with them and promises to strengthen and help them.

Sis. Gekettia Harris provided the welcome and occasion, connecting the event’s theme to the daily struggles people face and encouraging attendees to give their burdens to God. “If you’re going through

something, drop it in the creek,” Sis. Harris said, adding that even when burdens become overwhelming, “Jesus, the life-guard at this creek, he can walk on water.”

Sis. Harris also tied the red attire worn by the women to the biblical account of the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5:25-34, giving additional spiritual meaning to the day’s attire.

Following praise and song, Latrice Miller of Appointee Greater Life took the podium to introduce the featured guest speaker, Apostle Katabia Henry of Greater Life in Greenville, Florida.

Apostle Henry delivered a moving message focused on understanding God’s promises both collectively and individually, encouraging attendees to recognize scripture’s personal meaning in their own lives.

“You got to make it personal and say, ‘He talking to me,’” Apostle Henry said. She emphasized that believing in God’s promis-

es requires action, adding, “We got to receive them and believe them, and walk according to them.” Throughout her sermon, Apostle Henry reminded the congregation that believers must continue trusting God during difficult and uncertain times.

The annual service also supported Bear Creek Bethel’s building fund. Proceeds from the program go toward the church’s goal of raising \$100,000 by the end of the year, with the church currently approximately \$14,000 away from reaching that milestone.

In the final remarks, Host Pastor Terrence D. Milton thanked Apostle Henry for her powerful message and encouraged the congregation to keep living according to God’s will.

“We got to continue to stand on the promises of God,” Pastor Milton said.

The service concluded with the congregation reflecting on a message of faith, perseverance, and trust in God’s promises.

From Too Dry
from page 6

eases, watching for pest outbreaks, and trying to work around wet field conditions.

Timing is another important factor. Rain is beneficial, but it cannot always undo damage that has already occurred. Some crops experienced drought stress during critical growth stages earlier in the season. Even with improved moisture conditions now, yield potential may not fully recover. In other cases, wet soil can delay field operations, making it difficult to spray, fertilize, or harvest crops when needed.

These conditions highlight the importance of staying flexible in Florida agriculture. Farmers and ranchers are accustomed to dealing with unpredictable weather, but rapid shifts between dry and wet conditions require careful planning and quick decision-making. Regular scouting, strong disease management programs, and good water management practices have become even more important during years like this one.

As Florida moves through the remainder of the summer and hurricane season, weather will continue to shape agricultural production.

Additional rainfall could further improve drought recovery in some areas, but it could also increase disease and flooding concerns in others.

This year’s growing season is a reminder that agriculture rarely faces just one challenge at a time. Florida farmers entered the summer praying for rain. They received it, but now they must manage the consequences that come with abundant moisture, heat, and humidity. Their experience illustrates an important lesson: in Florida agriculture, success often depends on adapting to whatever weather comes next.



Join Us for Great

Food & Drink Specials

Nightly!

Live Music

Charlie Morris

Friday, Sept 11th
6:30pm - 9:30pm



- 🔥 Tasty Bar Bites
- 🔥 Full Dinner Menu
- 🔥 Classic Cocktails
- 🔥 Specialty Martinis
- 🔥 Beer and Wine

Check out our store and unique merchandise!

Happy Hour 4 – 7pm Daily

Karaoke

Hosted by
Local Musician
Steven Ritter

Tuesday
Starting
at 6:30pm

Bar Bingo

Wednesdays

Fun and Prizes
starting at 6:30

Prime Rib

Thursday
5pm



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