November 12 2026
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The Chattahoochee News-Herald
& Sneads Sentinel
Because Great Communities Deserve Great Community Newspapers

Released footage shows Quincy police chief's DUI arrest

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Newly released police body camera and dashboard camera footage shows Quincy Police Chief Brian Alexander driving on the wrong side of a highway, acknowledging that he had been drinking and expressing concern about his career during a July traffic stop that ended in his arrest on a charge of driving under the influence.

The footage became public just days after Alexander returned to his position as police chief following a three-month suspension without pay.

The recordings, made public Nov. 5, document Alexander's encounter with a Chattahoochee police officer shortly after 11 p.m. in July.

Alexander, who had been sworn in as Quincy's police chief approximately one month earlier, was driving an unmarked police vehicle on U.S. Highway 90 when an officer observed him traveling on the wrong side of the road.

As the officer approached the vehicle, he questioned Alexander about his driving.

Alexander acknowledged that he had briefly fallen asleep behind the wheel.

When asked whether he had consumed alcohol, Alexander initially acknowledged drinking a small amount before telling the officer he had consumed two drinks.

The officer conducted field sobriety exercises, including an eye examination, a heel-to-toe walking test and a one-leg balance test.

During the encounter, Alexander expressed concern about the consequences of being arrested.

"You know this is going to destroy me," Alexander told the officer.

The officer explained that allowing Alexander to leave without taking enforcement action would send the wrong message to other officers.

"I can't be the guy that doesn't set the example for them," the officer said.

Alexander was subsequently arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. The footage also shows him contacting his wife to retrieve the police vehicle before he was transported to jail.

Alexander returned to work Nov. 2 after City Manager Roger Milton announced his decision to reinstate him, effective at 8 a.m. that morning.

In a letter to Mayor Robin Wood and city commissioners, Milton said he had reviewed the circumstances surrounding Alexander's arrest and remained confident in his ability to lead the department.

Milton described the incident as a lapse in judgment involving a personal matter and said Alexander had already faced disciplinary consequences.

The city manager also indicated that a written reprimand would be placed in Alexander's personnel file.

Alexander's reinstatement did not resolve the criminal charge stemming from his arrest.



BRIAN ALEXANDER

Milton's letter did not specify which evidence was considered during the city's review or address city policies governing the use of police vehicles.

Former Gadsden County jail employee arrested on contraband charges

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

A former Gadsden County Sheriff's Office employee was arrested Monday on charges of smuggling tobacco products and cellphones into the Gadsden County Jail, according to the Sheriff's Office.

La'Shonjanae Murphy, 27, was arrested Nov. 9 following an investigation into allegations that she unlawfully brought prohibited items into the county detention facility.

Murphy faces one count of smuggling tobacco products into a county detention facility and two counts of smuggling cellular phones or portable communication devices into a county detention facility.

According to a news release issued by the Sheriff's Office, the alleged incident occurred Oct. 20.



Murphy resigned from the agency the following day, Oct. 21.

Investigators established probable cause for her arrest, according to the release.

The Sheriff's Office did not specify Murphy's former position at the jail, how the alleged contraband was discovered or whether any inmates were involved.

The investigation remains ongoing, according to the Sheriff's Office.

This is an ongoing story. Additional details will be provided as they become available.

School officials, officers charged over unreported sex abuse allegations

Court records detail differing accounts of how a complaint against a Gadsden County school resource deputy was handled.

Erin Hill
Gadsden County News Service

Two school administrators and two law enforcement officials face criminal charges after investigators determined that allegations of sexual abuse involving a Gadsden County High School student were discussed during an April 2025 meeting but never reported to Florida's child abuse hotline.

The charges against Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Lt. Christopher Daniels, former Gadsden County High School Principal Tamika Hughes-Leeks, former Assistant Principal James Darren Vernon and Lt. Tiffany Parsons-Buckhalt stem from an investigation into former school resource deputy Sedale Canidate, who was arrested in July on charges involving sexual misconduct with students.

Arrest warrants issued Nov. 4 accuse the four officials of failing to report suspected child sexual abuse after attending an April 11, 2025, meeting during which a student disclosed allegations against Canidate.

The affidavits filed by the State Attorney's Office describe an investigation in which responsibility for handling the student's complaint was passed between school administrators and law enforcement officers. Some officials told investigators they believed the allegations had already been investigated or reported. Others questioned the student's credibility.

Investigators found no corresponding report to the Florida Department of Children and Families and no official police report documenting the disclosure.

The records also allege that concerns about Canidate had surfaced before the April meeting.

A meeting involving the accused deputy

According to the affidavits, the April 11 meeting included Daniels, Parsons-Buckhalt, Hughes-Leeks, Vernon, the student and Canidate.

The student disclosed allegations of sexual abuse involving the deputy, who had been assigned to Gadsden County High School.

The matter became the subject of internal discussions about who should handle the complaint.

Hughes-Leeks told investigators that the student's mother had previously approached her at a store, upset that allegations involving her daughter had not been addressed by an earlier school administration.

She said she notified Superintendent Elijah Key, who directed that the matter be referred to law enforcement personnel.

During the April meeting, Hughes-Leeks said she stopped the discussion after learning that Canidate was the subject of the complaint and asked him to leave the room. She also requested that Daniels and Parsons-Buckhalt step outside before the matter was turned over to Daniels.

Hughes-Leeks told investigators she believed the allegations had already been reported and investigated during the previous school year.

Lieutenant questioned student's allegations

The affidavit against Daniels describes how the complaint was handled after the meeting.

Daniels was identified as the person responsible for investigating the allegations.

On May 7, 2025, nearly a month after the student's disclosure, Daniels prepared a memorandum to Sheriff Morris A. Young addressing the complaint.

The memorandum outlined questions about the student's account and expressed doubts about whether the alleged incidents had occurred as described.

Daniels wrote that the information available to him did not support the allegations.

According to investigators, Daniels did not obtain a formal case number, make a report to the Department of Children and Families or complete an official police report concerning the student's disclosure.

See 4 officials face on page 6

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LOCAL

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Gadsden County, Florida and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Gadsden County, Florida and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Gadsden County, Florida and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

2t: 11/12, 11/19

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 150 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2022

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 337 P 355. COMM AT THE NWC OF SECTION 08-3N-2W AND RUN E 3326 FT., W 207.43 TO BEGIN; THENCE RUN W 171.96 FT., S 105 FT., E 171.96 FT., N 105.0 FT TO THE P.O.B.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-08-3N-2W-0000-00122-1200

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: HEIRS OF LEE B PARKER

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 DECEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 10TH Day of SEPTEMBER 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 576 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2021

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 550 P 1038; OR 548 P 1514 OR 468 P 650. OR 330 P 629, OR 440 P 425 THE S1/2 OF LOT 2, BLK 43 MAP OF GRETNA DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT CONCRETE MONUMENT #2400 MARKING THE NEC OF BLK 63, MAP, OF GRETNA, RUN NORTH 68*00'26» E 69.98 FT , MARKING THE NWC OF BLOCK 53, THENCE N 68*00'26» E 559.81 FT ALONG THE S/LY BNDRY OF A 60 FT R/WAY FOR BEECH ST, THENCE LEAVING SAID

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-32-3N-4W-0430-00043-0021

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: ESTATE ANNIE MAE 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 DECEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 10TH Day of SEPTEMBER 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GENE OPHEIM, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

CERTIFICATE NO: 1587 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2021

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 504 P 1524, OR 513 P 881 OR 406 P 456, OR 445 P 1727 OR 286 P 1262 OR 404 P 1196. BEGIN AT SWC OF THE N1/2 OF THE SE1/4 OF SECT 23, RUN E 1158 FT, N 1195 FT, N 125 FT, E 356.70 FT TO POB. E 75 FT, S 125 FT, W 75 FT, N 125 FT TO POB. OR 405 P 1665. OR 409 P 1711.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 3-23-2N-4W-0000-00412-0700

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: EDWIN STARKS

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 DECEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 10TH Day of SEPTEMBER 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GADSDEN COUNTY, 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: 682 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2020

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 799 P 1834 OR 45, P. 464 COMM. AT NEC OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4 RUN S. 522 FT. TO BEGIN, N. 83* 0' W. 152 FT., S. 93 FT., E. 150 FT., N. 75 FT. TO THE P.O.B. IN SECTION 30-3N-4W. OR 743 P 384 OR 743 P 364

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-30-3N-4W-0000-00411-1100

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: WILLIE I BENNETT JR ET AL; OLA MAE BENNETT; DONALD BENNETT

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 DECEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 12TH Day of AUGUST 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GADSDEN COUNTY, 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: 824 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2020

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 274, P. 115 BEGIN AT SEC., RUN W. 1325 FT., N. 6* E. 2130 FT., W. 16 FT. TO BEGIN, RUN W. 240 FT., N. 182 FT., E. 238.5 FT., S/LY TO POB. IN SECTION 28-3N-5W.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-28-3N-5W-0000-00412-0100

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: B H HARDAWAY III ET AL

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 2ND Day of DECEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 12TH Day of AUGUST 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, GADSDEN COUNTY, 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: 2419 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2020

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 802 P 1895 BEGIN AT THE NWC OF C O LOCKE & NANCY LOCKE'S RESIDENCE LOT AND RUN SOUTH 50 FT TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE RUN SOUTH 50 FT; THENCE EAST 66 FT THENCE NORTH 50 FT; WEST 66 FT TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. LYING IN SECTION 33-4N-6W. OR 690 P 1422 OR 690 P 1424 OR 689 P 227 OR 540 P 1106 OR 449 P 779, OR 325 P 340 ALSO A STRIP OF LAND COMBINED FROM 33-4-6-22

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 1-33-4N-6W-0000-00224-0200

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: WANDA S SPOONER; 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 DECEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 12TH Day of AUGUST 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

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: 821 YEAR OF ISSUANCE: 2022

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: OR 137 P 636 COMM AT THE INTERSECTION OF N LINE OF SECT 10 AND THE W R/W LINE OF SR #269-A. RUN S 25 DEG E 242.7 FT TO POB. RUN S 25 DEG E 105 FT., W 259.7 FT., N 94.5 FT., E 215 FT TO POB. IN SECTION 10-3N-6W.

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 2-10-3N-6W-0000-00122-0100

NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: MARIAN GAINER-REDISH (ET AL)

Said Property being in the County of Gadsden, State of Florida. Unless such certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder at the courthouse door on the 2ND Day of DECEMBER 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dated this 16th Day of SEPTEMBER 2026.

NICHOLAS THOMAS
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Gadsden County, Florida

BY: _____
Ann Marie Johns, Deputy Clerk

4t: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

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Havana, FL 32333

Puzzle Solutions

Don't Peek. Puzzles on page 5.

H	A	C	K	■	R	E	M	O
A	L	O	E	■	T	R	I	P
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7	3	5	8	2	4	1	9	6
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1	8	7	4	9	5	6	3	2
3	6	2	1	7	8	9	5	4
5	9	4	2	3	6	7	8	1
2	4	8	6	1	9	5	7	3
9	5	1	7	4	3	2	6	8
6	7	3	5	8	2	4	1	9

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

I1	N1	S1	I1	D2	E1	R1	RACK 1 = 58
O1	U1	T1	S1	W4	I1	M3	RACK 2 = 86
R1	E1	Z10	O1	N1	E1		RACK 3 = 15
U1	F4	O1	L1	O1	G2	Y4	RACK 4 = 68

PAR SCORE 150-160 TOTAL 227

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Spread the word: It's Peanut Butter Challenge time



The Peanut Butter Challenge is an annual jar collection for local food pantries hosted by UF/IFAS Extension and Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension. Launched in Florida Panhandle counties in 2012, the challenge has expanded statewide.

Unopened jars of peanut butter can be donated at the Gadsden County Extension Office through Nov. 20.

In 2025, nearly 45,000 pounds of peanut butter were donated statewide, approximately the weight of a school bus. Organizers expect the 2026 challenge to surpass that amount.

Whether creamy or crunchy, peanut butter is a favorite in kitchens everywhere, and it is not just for sandwiches. From smoothies and cookies to savory dishes, peanut butter offers flavor and versatility.

Just 2 tablespoons can provide up to 8 grams of protein, along with a variety of vitamins and minerals. Although peanut butter is relatively high in calories, it can be part of a healthy diet when eaten in moderation.

Looking for a quick, nutritious snack? Try this simple peanut butter and banana wrap.

Peanut butter and banana wrap

Ingredients:

1 whole wheat tortilla

2 tablespoons peanut butter

1 banana

Directions:

Spread peanut butter evenly over the tortilla.

Place the banana along one edge of the tortilla.

Roll tightly and slice into bite-sized pieces, or enjoy whole.

This snack provides protein, fiber and natural sweetness, making it an option for breakfast, lunchboxes or an afternoon snack.

Peanut butter collection began in October and will continue through Nov. 20. Distribution to local food banks and organizations in Gadsden County will begin in early December.

Organizations interested in receiving donations or helping distribute peanut butter to those in need may contact the UF/IFAS Gadsden County Extension Office at 850-875-7255.

Sharlee Whiddon is the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent for UF/IFAS.

Laura Demakowski McAlpin, LFD

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Sudie "Sue" Porter

Sudie "Sue" Porter, 88, of Havana, Florida, passed away Nov. 3, 2026.

A service will be held Monday, Nov. 16, 2026, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Havana, with interment at Woodland Cemetery in Havana. Faith Funeral Home is in charge of the funeral arrangements (850-539-4300 or www.faithfuneralhome.com).

Sue was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, on Nov. 4, 1937, to the late Marvin and Ruth Porter. She moved to Havana as a child and graduated from Havana High School. On Feb. 22, 1958, she married Guy Martin. They raised five children together. She lived in Macclenny, Florida, for many years before retiring to her hometown of Havana.

Her children were the highlight of her life. She also loved flowers and spending time working in her yard.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Tim Martin.

She is survived by her children, Susan Lewis (Randy), Teresa Martin, Andy Martin and Fred Martin (Kay Craven); her grandchildren, Michael Martin, Daniel Lewis (Chelsea), Cassie McAlister (Mark), Julie Martin, Cody Martin, Jennifer Martin and Jesslynn Owens (Zachary); and her great-grandchildren, Madison Vogelsong, Dallas Lewis, Troy Lewis, Landry Lewis, Presley Yarborough, Nash Yarborough, Savannah McAlister and Noah Higginbotham.

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MEETING NOTICE The next regular meeting of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners will be on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m. The following items have been agendaed: Swearing in on Newly Elected Commissioner Michael Brown, District 4, Re-Elected Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2 Awards, Presentations, and Appearances: Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman Consent: Ratification Memo, October 15, 2026, Special Meeting, October 20, 2026, Regular BOCC Meeting, Approval of 2027 Holiday Schedule, Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien, Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP), Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2026-2027 Items Pulled 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. Approval of Resolution 2026-048 General and Debt Service Budget Amendments for FY2026, Approval of Resolution 2027-001 General and Debt Service Budget Amendments for FY2027 General Business Approval of Resolution 2026-046 Grant Budget Amendments for FY2026, Approval of Amendment 1 to the Emergency Employee Meals and Feeding Policy During Declared Emergencies and Natural Disasters, Acceptance of Deed for property at Joe Adams Rd. from City of Quincy for the construction of the EMS Quincy Facility, Approval of the Hammond Design Group Work Authorization to Provide additional Professional Architectural Services for the Boys and Girls Club Design Package at Strong Rd., Approval of revised PEMT Letter of Agreement with Gadsden County Emergency Medical Services and Agency for Healthcare Administration for FY26-27, Approval of EPA Brownfields Grant award from the Office of Brownfields and LandRevitalization 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.)

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSED CHANGES TO ITS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

THE CHANGES WIL BE DISCUSSED AT THE BOARD'S NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 17, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 9 EAST JEFFERSON STREET, QUINCY, FLORIDA.

Public comment for the meeting should be submitted via email to citizenstobeheard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 10:00am on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 in order to allow sufficient time for provision to the Gadsden county commission prior to the meeting.
Any comment submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

The Purpose of the Public Hearing will be to amend the following budgets:

General Government and Special Revenue Fund

A FINAL DECISION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL BE MADE AT THIS MEETING.
A SUMMMARY OF THE CHANGES ARE:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS
REVENUE	+ (-)	+ (-)	+ (-)
Fund Balance	(924,098)		
Charges For Services			
Intergovernmental Revenue			
Transfers In			
Miscellaneous Revenue			
Net Change	**(924,098)**	**-**	**-**
EXPENSE			
General Government		533,761	
Public Safety		122,809	
Economic Environment			
Human Services			
Transportation			
Culture/Recreation		267,528	
Net Change	**-**	**924,098**	**-**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSED CHANGES TO ITS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.

THE CHANGES WIL BE DISCUSSED AT THE BOARD'S NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 17, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 9 EAST JEFFERSON STREET, QUINCY, FLORIDA.

Public comment for the meeting should be submitted via email to citizenstobeheard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 10:00am on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 in order to allow sufficient time for provision to the Gadsden county commission prior to the meeting.
Any comment submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

The Purpose of the Public Hearing will be to amend the following budgets:

General Government and Special Revenue Fund

A FINAL DECISION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL BE MADE AT THIS MEETING.
A SUMMMARY OF THE CHANGES ARE:

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS
REVENUE	+ (-)	+ (-)	+ (-)
Fund Balance			
Charges For Services			
Intergovernmental Revenue		542,885.00	
Transfers In	455,545		
Miscellaneous Revenue			
Net Change	**455,545**	**542,885**	**-**
EXPENSE			
General Government	227,510		
Public Safety	203,860		
Economic Environment			
Human Services	24,175.00		
Transportation			542,885
Culture/Recreation			
Net Change	**455,545.00**	**-**	**542,885**



When Steve and Dud got up to go get a paper, it left just Doc and Bert sitting at the philosophy counter of the Mule Barn truck stop. Bert turned his head and smirked a little, being careful not to let Doc see him. Doc also didn't see Dud outside, punching in a number on his cell phone while Steve stood by as a cheerleader.

"Doc," said Loretta, from the cash register, "phone call for you, Hon."

"Here? Okay…" Doc walked over and picked up the phone.

"This here Doc?" said the caller. "The Doc what lost his squirrel?"

"Uh …" Doc looked around for help. There was none. "Yes. Yes it is."

"Found your dang squirrel here, Doc. That reward thing still good?"

"Well … yes."

"Five dollars and a quarter, right? Now is that cash or check? I don't take no checks."

Doc is looking all around and looks wilderness-type lost. "Cash I guess."

"Only thing is, Doc. Need to be sure this is your squirrel, right? So can you describe him for me?"

"He's … gray."

"All gray squirrels are gray, now, ain't that right? How about any distinguishing marks? Tattoos?"

"No tattoos."

"So far so good. Now you said in the ad his name is Chipper. Well, I called him Chipper and the son of a gun bit me."

"He did?"

"What I mean to ask here, Doc, is did you and your squirrel get along? No squirrel problems? He looks like he needs a square meal to me. You feed him good?"

"What?"

"You know … like Squirrel Chow free choice, or did you put him on a nut ration? I mean, he ate like there was no tomorrow. Dang near ate up the whole five dollars and a quarter reward money in squirrel food."

Steve and Dud walked back into the café, then, with the cell phone still at Dud's ear, and the laughing began.

"You were right all along, Doc," said Bert. "In winter, everyone can use a good hoax."

Doc paid for the coffee.

Brought to you by Ol' Max Evans, the First Thousand Years by Slim Randles. From the University of New Mexico Press.

At The Pump
Local, State, and National

National Average:
$4.37 per gallon

Florida Average:
$4.06 per gallon

Gadsden County Average:
$4.03 per gallon

Jackson County Average:
$3.94 per gallon

Leon County Average
$4.04 per gallon

Numbers based on AAA Gas Prices report, as of Sept. 28, 2026.



Nurse Judy's Nook

Not the right time

Judy Conlin

Nurse Judy, my extravagant alter ego, pops into my office. I try to ignore her because she is inevitably up to no good. She won't be ignored. She sashays over to my desk and puts a hand on her elegant hip. I give in.

"Yes?" I ask.

"I must have a new gown," she announces.

"What for?" I ask, knowing she'll have an answer whether it's logical or not.

"For Thanksgiving," she says with emphasis.

"One does not get new gowns for Thanksgiving," I tell her.

"Why not? It's a holiday, isn't it?"

"Yes, it's a holiday, but it's not a dress-up-in-a-gown kind of holiday."

"Why not?" she persists. "We always dress up for other holidays."

"Not all of them," I say, then quickly add, "We do usually dress up for Christmas and New Year's. Those are big party and celebration holidays."

"We usually dress up for Valentine's Day with something new that's pink or red, don't we?"

"Sometimes we do, but it's usually something little, like a heart necklace or a red scarf," I say. "It's the same way for St. Patrick's Day. We may add a green accent of some sort, but we don't get a whole outfit."

Her face brightens.

"But we always get a whole new outfit for Easter," she says, "usually with a hat and gloves."

I can't argue with that.

"But the Fourth of July is just minor. We usually add something patriotic to something we already have."

"We dress for Halloween," she persists.

"Halloween is not for gowns. It's for costumes. Something from the dollar store or sometimes something homemade."

"This is not how I remember this," she pouts. "I remember we always make a fuss over the holidays. Thanksgiving is a big holiday. You have not explained why we don't get new outfits for that special day."

"I told you it's because it's not a gown-wearing day."

"Well, what kind of a day is it?"

"It's my favorite holiday," I say.

"Then you should have a new gown."

"No. Thanksgiving is a time for cooking wonderful food. The whole house smells wonderful. It's not the right time for gowns. You wouldn't put on an elegant gown and then go into the kitchen and start cooking, would you?"

"I guess not," she says, "but you could put one on after you were through cooking."

"It's still not the right time for a gown," I say. "Next, you're eating, and you're eating big. You don't want all that delicious, greasy food on a pretty new gown, do you?"

"What happens next?" she asks.

"We all sit around and say what we're thankful for," I tell her.

"Hurrah!" she says. "Now I can say I am thankful for a new gown."

"No," I say. "It's not the right time. You're now bloated from all the good food. You have a little gravy on your chin and some whipped cream on your nose. You're ready for a bath, some clean pajamas and a nap."

"Ah," she says. "Sounds like a wonderful holiday, new gown or not."

I agree.

More later,

Judy

www.nursejudyinfo.com

NOTICE

DR-529
R. 12/09

TAX IMPACT OF VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Rule 12D-16.002
Florida Administrative Code

Gadsden County Tax Year 2026

Members of the Board			
Honorable	Eric F. Hinson	Board of County Commissioners, District No.	1
Honorable	Alonzetta Simpkins	Board of County Commissioners, District No.	2
Honorable	Cathy Johnson	School Board, District No.	1
Citizen Member		Business owner within the school district	
Citizen Member	Ursula Hannah	Homestead property owner	

The Value Adjustment Board (VAB) meets each year to hear petitions and make decisions relating to property tax assessments, exemptions, classifications, and tax deferrals.

Summary of Year's Actions *Enter whole numbers only. Do not include commas. Example: for $1,222,333 enter "1222333"*

Type of Property	Number of Parcels: Exemptions Granted	Exemptions Requested	Assessments* Reduced	Assessments* Requested	Both Withdrawn or settled	Reduction in County Taxable Value Due to Board Actions	Shift in Taxes Due to Board Actions
Residential						$	$
Commercial	16				16	$	$
Industrial and miscellaneous						$	$
Agricultural or classified use						$	$
High-water recharge						$	$
Historic commercial or nonprofit						$	$
Business machinery and equipment	3				3	$	$
Vacant lots and acreage						$	$
TOTALS	19				19	$	$

All values should be county taxable values. School and other taxing authority values may differ.
*Include transfer of assessment difference (portability) requests.

If you have a question about these actions, contact the Chair or the Clerk of the Value Adjustment Board.				
Chair's name	Eric F. Hinson	Phone	8505195393	ext.
Clerk's name	Adriana Quijada	Phone	8508757057	ext.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation: THE HAVANA HERALD is published weekly at Quincy, FL. Its publisher is Mark Pettus, 103 W 7th Ave, Havana, FL 32333-1660. The editor is Erin Hill, 103 W 7th Ave, Havana, FL 32333-1660. Owner is Priority News Inc., 103 W 7th Ave, Havana, FL 32333-1660. Major shareholders are Mark Pettus and Colleen Sperry, 103 W 7th Ave, Havana, FL 32333-1660. There are no bondholders, mortgagees, or other security holders. Total number of copies printed during the preceding 12 months averaged 2,675, and 1,550 were printed for September 17, the issue nearest the filing date. Average mailed outside the county was 333 for the year and 69 on September 17. The average mailed in-county was 782 for the year and 288 on September 17. Average total copies sold through dealers, carriers or vendors was 1,439 during the year and 1,072 on September 17. Paid distribution averaged 2,554 for the year and was 1,429 on September 17. Total average free distribution was 121 for the year and 121 on September 17. Total distribution averaged 2,675 for the year and was 1,550 on September 17. Copies not distributed averaged 0 for the year and was 0 on September 17. Paid circulation averaged 95.48 percent for the year and was 92.19 percent on September 17. Paid electronic copies averaged 551 for the year and was 611 on September 17. Total paid print copies + paid electronic copies was 3,105 for the year and 2,040 on September 17. Total print distribution + paid electronic copies was 3,226 for the year and 2,161 on September 17. Print and/or electronic copies averaged 96.25 percent paid for the year and were 94.40 percent paid on September 17.

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$50 outside Gadsden County

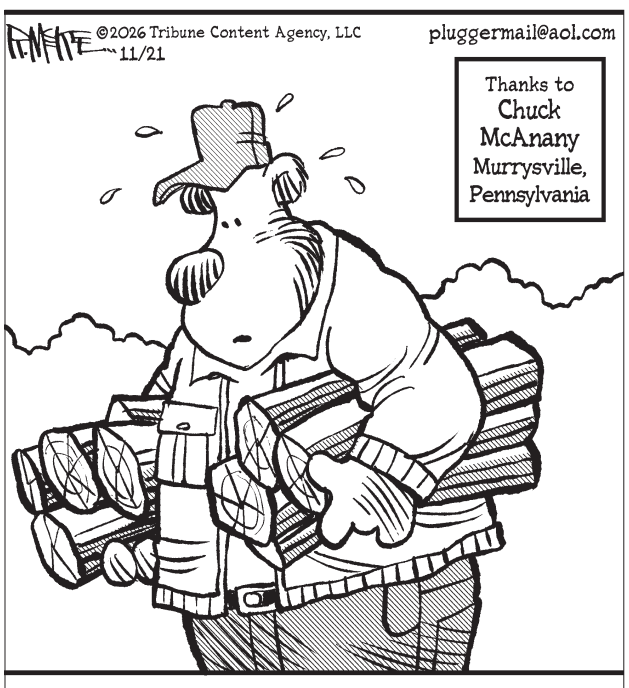
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and Advertising - 5:00 p.m. Monday

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COMICS AND PUZZLES



Firewood warms a plugger three times: cutting, hauling and burning.

JUMBLE®

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

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

TAGNR

LUFTA

DOUTIS

NODENT



THEY WERE WILLING TO WAIT IN A LONG LINE TO EAT THERE, BECAUSE THE FOOD WAS ---

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

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

Ans. here: _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLUNG SHRUG INTENT TEDIUM
Answer: No matter what numbers are added together, the total will equal — "SUMTHING"

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.

YGM

SIFH

BHTO

UCEB



WHEN KING KONG JOINED THE BASEBALL TEAM, HE WAS A ---

Color me

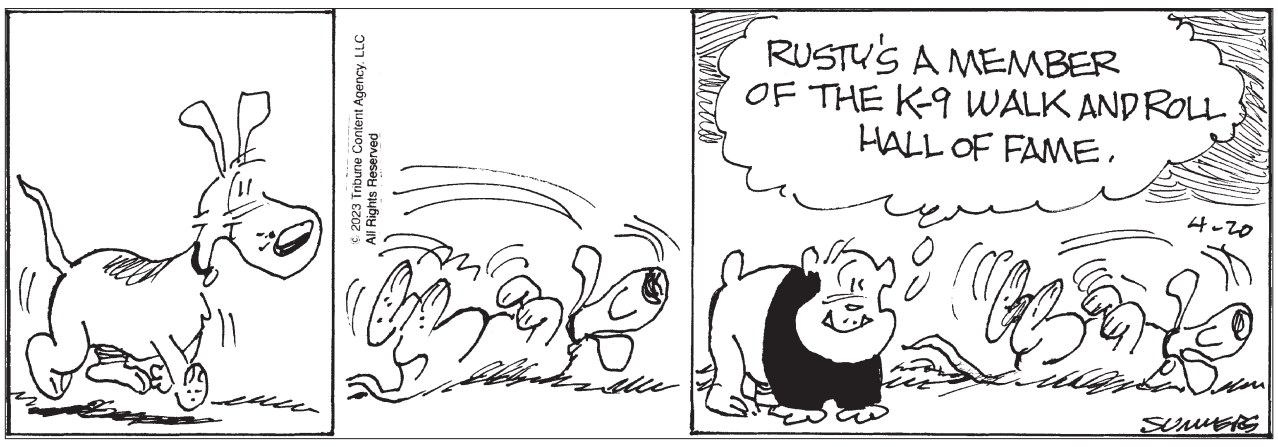
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

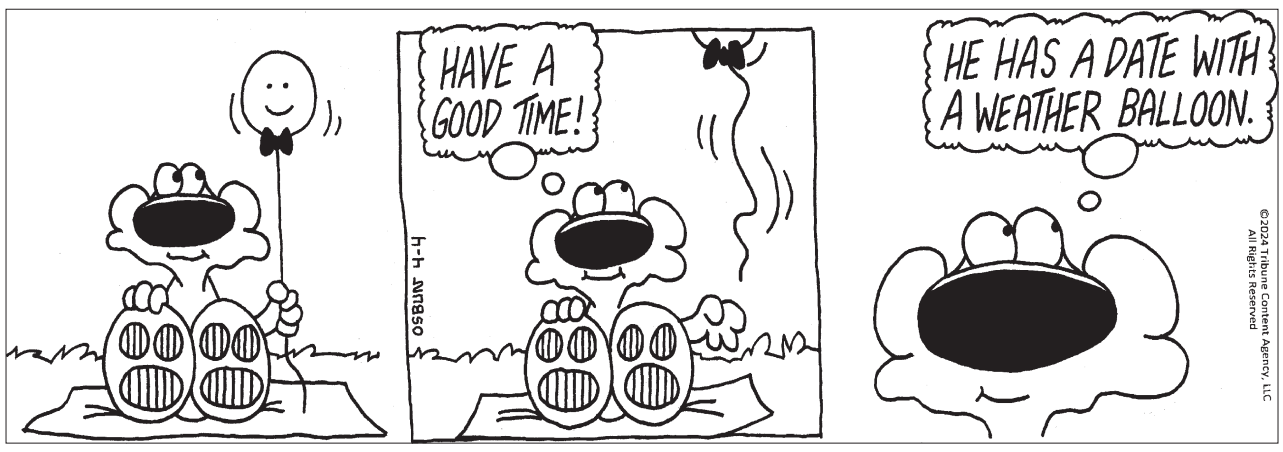
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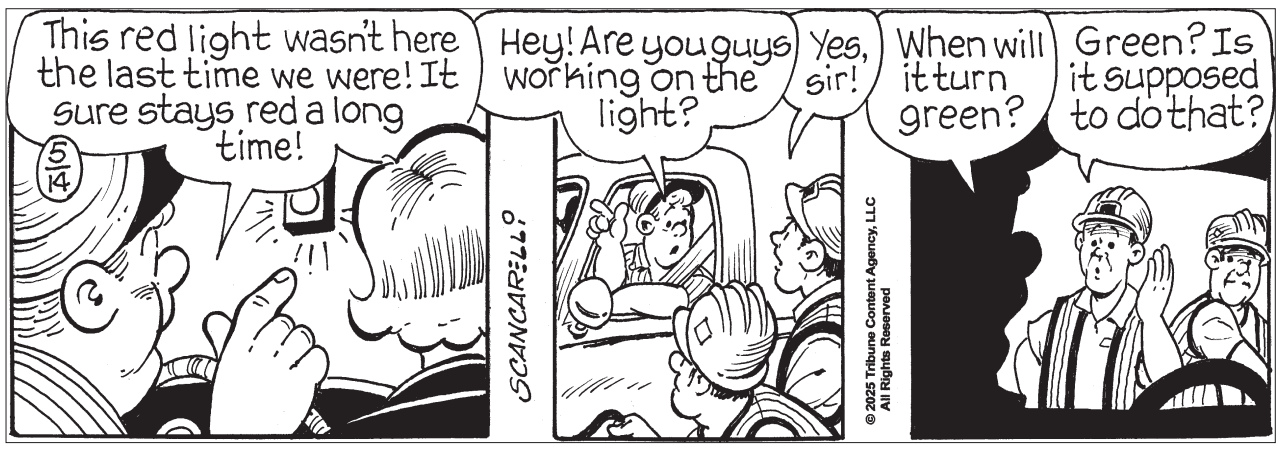
Now you're ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

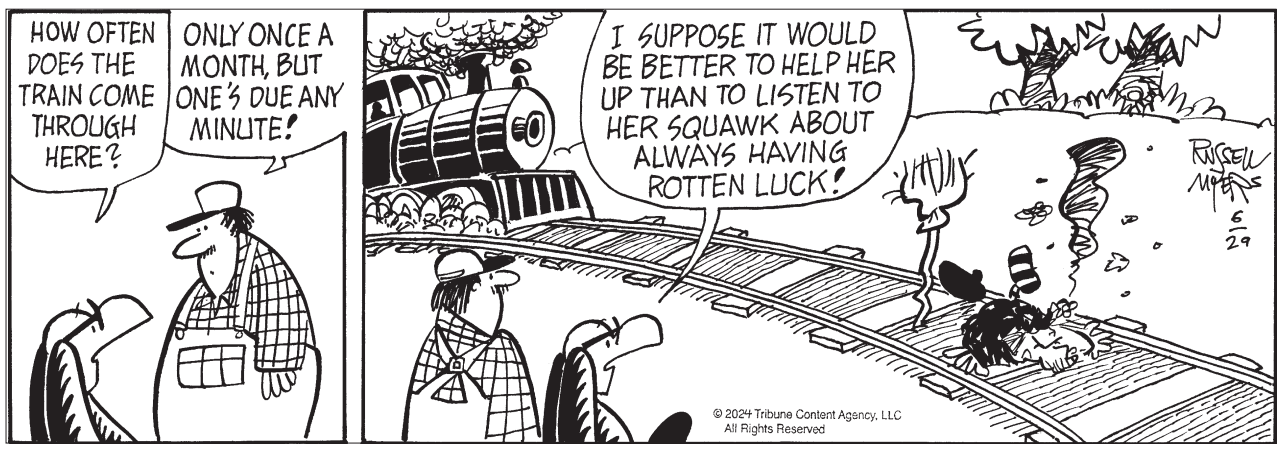
Print answer here: _____ _____

Jumbles: GYM FISH BOTH CUBE
Answer: When King Kong joined the baseball team, he was a — HUGE HIT









SCRABBLE® GRAMS

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E1 I1 I1 D2 R1 N1 S1		RACK 1
I1 O1 U1 M3 S1 T1 W4	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
E1 E1 I1 O1 N1 R1 Z10		RACK 3
O1 O1 U1 Y4 L1 F4 G2	2nd Letter Double	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 227

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

01-17

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.*

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

Puzzle solutions on page 2

Friday, February 3, 2023

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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EITHER ONE

North-South vulnerable, East deals

NORTH
♠ 8 5 4 2
♡ 10 9 5
◇ J 9
♣ A K J 5

WEST
♠ K Q
♡ Q J 8 6 2
◇ A 10 4 3
♣ 9 7

EAST
♠ 10
♡ A K 7 4 3
◇ Q 6 5 2
♣ Q 6 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 9 7 6 3
♡ Void
◇ K 8 7
♣ 10 8 3 2

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♡	1♠	2♠*	3♣
3♡	4♣	4◇	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

*Heart fit, at least invitational values

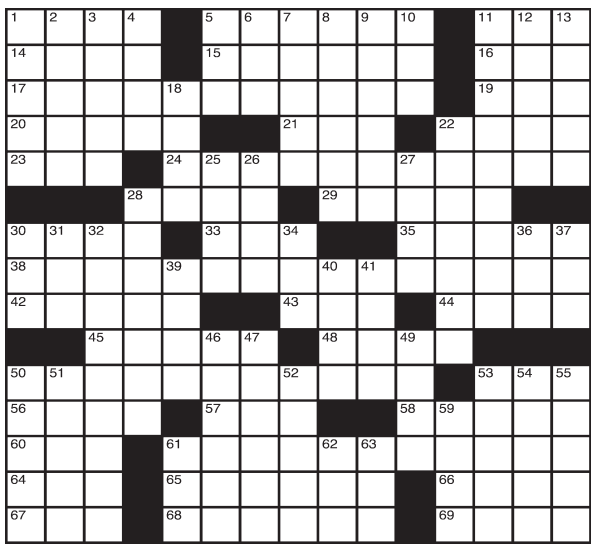
Opening lead: Queen of ♡

Today's deal features a highly competitive auction, as is frequently seen in modern expert bridge .Some days, bidding like an expert doesn't help you much. North's three-club bid discovered a side club fit for North-South. Double fits usually suggest bidding on rather than defending, but it was very hard for West to make the winning decision holding so much of his strength in spades.

South ruffed the opening heart lead in hand and cashed the ace of spades. He crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and ruffed another heart. Back to dummy again with the king of clubs and dummy's last heart was ruffed. South now had the choice of end-playing either opponent. He could lead a club to East, forcing a ruff-sluff or a diamond lead. In that case, however, South would have to guess the diamond position. Even better, South led a trump to West's king. A diamond lead from West would be into South and require no guess, so South could claim his contract. Nicely done!

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

CROSSWORD



Across

1 Cybersecurity event
5 Far off
11 Sad
14 __ vera
15 Camera holder
16 Org. with a flower on its seal
17 LI?
19 Range pts.
20 African animal with features similar to zebras and giraffes
21 Singer DiFranco
22 Verbal nudge
23 Capitol fig.
24 TE?
28 Documentary podcast about legends
29 Wrapped up in court?
30 BÃ¡nh mÃ¬ spread
33 Speaker at a gig
35 Part of Amelia Bedelia's outfit
38 R?
42 Instagram upload
43 Tabby
44 French twist, e.g.
45 "The Masked Singer" judge Ken
48 Electronic music duo __ Punk
50 AL?
53 Workplace of some RNs
56 Samovars
57 Egg __ yung
58 Lampshade-shaped candies
60 Level the playing field?
61 LY?
64 Smooch in public, briefly
65 Coin that fittingly weighs five grams
66 No longer feral
67 "That lady?"
68 Overcast, say
69 Smell

Down

1 Brand of mandarin oranges owned by The Wonderful Company
2 Cut from the same cloth
3 Podcaster O'Brien
4 "__ the change"
5 Rd. with a no.
6 Significant span
7 King with a touching story?
8 Warm-up act
9 Classic Ford named for an Italian city
10 Masthead pros
11 Triple sec and vodka cocktail
12 __ nerve
13 Use unwisely
18 Fancy wheels
22 Song that's only familiar to superfans
25 Portfolio options, for short
26 __ bra: narrow-cupped garment
27 Ski lift
28 Mail
30 __ talk
31 Spa sound
32 "Odyssey" prelude
34 Pittsburgh's __ Park
36 Chicago airport code
37 Opposite of paleo-
39 "I'm an owl!"
40 Zilch
41 Etc. kin
46 Outraged cry
47 Roller coaster sensation
49 Brain scan, for short
50 Disgruntled grunt
51 Eat into
52 Beer garden sound
53 "Odyssey" prelude
54 Pink cocktail, casually
55 Theater guide
59 Not fooled by
61 Last word of a fairy tale
62 "__ darn tootin'!"
63 Pass muster

See 1 *officials face* from page A1

The affidavit also describes a text message number that Daniels said had been provided by the student. Investigators examined his handling of that information, including whether additional investigative steps had been taken.

During a July 20, 2026, interview, Daniels acknowledged that he had not contacted the Department of Children and Families about the allegations.

Investigators also examined statements suggesting that Daniels and other officials had relied on previous assessments of the student's credibility.

The criminal charge against Daniels alleges that he knowingly and willfully failed to fulfill his reporting obligation.

In a statement provided to Gadsden County News Service, the sheriff's office said Daniels surrendered at the Gadsden County Jail following an investigation by the State Attorney's Office for the 2nd Judicial Circuit.

Young said law enforcement officers have a duty to report crimes associated with allegations of child abuse and that failure to fulfill those responsibilities carries serious consequences.

The sheriff also said an arrest does not establish guilt and that Daniels is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

Daniels was placed on administrative leave Friday, Nov. 6, pending an administrative review, according to the sheriff's office.

School safety official believed complaint had been transferred

Parsons-Buckhalt, who held school safety responsibilities and served as a reserve lieutenant with the Quincy Police Department, also faces a charge of failing to report suspected child sexual abuse.

Her affidavit describes responsibilities that included school safety oversight and reporting certain incidents involving students and employees.

During an interview with investigators, Parsons-Buckhalt acknowledged being aware of complaints involving Canidate during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.

She said she understood that Daniels had taken responsibility for investigating the April complaint and believed the matter had been referred to the sheriff's office.

According to the affidavit, Parsons-Buckhalt also recalled being advised that the student's previous allegations had been found to lack credibility.

Investigators documented a statement attributed to her in Daniels' memorandum questioning the validity of the student's allegations.

The affidavit alleges that Parsons-Buckhalt nevertheless had an independent responsibility to report suspected child abuse.

Assistant principal questioned timeline

Vernon, who was serving as assistant principal, also attended the April meeting.

During a January 2026 interview, Vernon told investigators he had been aware of allegations involving the student but believed there were inconsistencies in the timeline because Canidate had not been assigned to the school during part of the period described.

According to the affidavit, Vernon said the complaint went no further.

Investigators allege that Vernon and Hughes-Leeks failed to report the disclosure despite their responsibilities as mandatory reporters.

Investigators found no record of a report

At the request of the State Attorney's Office, investigators searched Department of Children and Families records for reports involving the student, Canidate and personnel associated with the school.

The search found no corresponding hotline report before November 2025.

Investigators also checked law enforcement and school records but located no official report documenting the April allegations.

Under Florida law, individuals who know or reasonably suspect that a child has been abused must report that information to the state's central abuse hotline.

An internal conversation, referral to a supervisor or informal assessment of credibility does not replace that reporting requirement.

The four defendants are accused of violating those obligations.

November complaints led to investigation

The April allegations resurfaced after two other female students approached Gadsden County High School teacher Charles Hobbs II on Nov. 10, 2025, with complaints about Canidate.

The students described inappropriate comments and interactions involving the deputy.

Hobbs explained his responsibility as a mandatory reporter, and the complaints were subsequently brought to school officials and reported to the Department of Children and Families.

Investigators examining those complaints learned of the earlier allegations and began reviewing how the April meeting had been handled.

The investigation resulted in Canidate's July 10 arrest on charges including sexual battery by a law enforcement officer, lewd and lascivious conduct and attempted solicitation of lewd or lascivious conduct.

His case remains open, with a case management hearing scheduled for Jan. 19, 2027, before Circuit Judge Ronald Flury, according to court records.

Canidate is represented by attorney Courtney Freeman. He has not been convicted of the charges.

Court records show cases remain open

Court records show that all four defendants were charged Nov. 4 with failure to report suspected child abuse, abandonment or neglect under Florida Statute 39.205(1).

The cases were assigned to Circuit Judge Ronald Flury. Arrest or notice-to-appear documents and probable cause affidavits were filed, and bench warrants were executed Nov. 4.

Records show that Vernon and Parsons-Buckhalt entered written pleas of not guilty Nov. 6.

Vernon, represented by attorney Adam Komisar, also filed a request for discovery and demanded a jury trial.

Parsons-Buckhalt, represented by attorney John M. Leace, filed demands for discovery, a jury trial, a copy of the charging information and statements of particulars.

The docket records provided for Daniels and Hughes-Leeks show arrest documents and release-on-recognizance slips filed Nov. 5 but do not list pleas as of those entries.

All four cases remain open, with no disposition recorded.

Superintendent addressed allegations in July

During a July school board meeting, Gadsden County Schools Superintendent Elijah Key told board members that allegations involving Canidate had been reported to the Florida Department of Children and Families by three school administrators. He identified Franklin, former Principal Tamika Hughes-Leeks and former Principal Marlon Ball.

Key also explained that he relied on Quincy Police Lt. Tiffany Parsons-Buckhalt to make the report. However, he said he could not find anything in writing showing that one of the principals he had previously named had received the allegation.

Key said the allegations were referred to law enforcement because Canidate was employed by the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office.

The district's policy says employees must report suspected child abuse to the state hotline immediately. In a memo to staff, Key said notifying a supervisor does not fulfill that requirement.

At the board meeting, Key read the section of School Board Policy 2.80 that directs the superintendent to forward qualifying complaints to the Department of Children and Families.

The arrest affidavits state that investigators found no corresponding report to the state's child abuse hotline following the April 11, 2025, meeting attended by Hughes-Leeks and three other officials who now face criminal charges.

Hughes-Leeks told investigators she had notified Key about the allegations before the meeting and believed the complaint had already been reported.

The affidavits do not establish whether the reports Key referenced in July concerned the same disclosure discussed during the April meeting.

Attempts to reach Key and the State Attorney's Office for comment were unsuccessful. Neither had returned calls as of Tuesday's deadline.





