

# Feeding a ballot every six seconds for four straight hours

## RECOUNTS Continued from page 1

into the machine, joined shortly thereafter by the handful of ballots examined by the canvassing board and deemed acceptable. While this was happening, other staff members uploaded the data from memory cards in separate tabulating machines that had been used to count early votes. These results were the first to become available on the supervisor of elections' website, as well as on physical printouts handed out to those at the elections office at 7:12 p.m.

Additionally, data from the 14 voting precincts was sent to the elections office, and by 7:43 p.m., the second wave of results became available, now including everything but the roughly 2,300 mail-in ballots. Up until this point, everything was going as planned for Southerland and her staff. The only steps left were for the canvassing board to complete its evaluations, after which the two mail-ballot tabulators would produce their "totals tape" and the memory cards would be taken to upload the data. This is also when the

problems started. When a staff member turned on the first mail-in vote tabulator, it refused to boot up. Several additional attempts also failed. According to Southerland, they had two options at that time. First, they could take the 1,149 ballots in that particular tabulator and feed them all again into the second mail-ballot tabulator, in which they had just fed the last round of ballots. However, the machines only accept a ballot every six seconds, meaning it would take nearly two hours to feed all of the ballots. Their second option was to take a different tabulator, which had already had its memory cards removed, and insert the memory cards from the machine that would not boot up. Elections staff brought in a tabulator that had been used to count early votes. The memory cards were inserted into the new tabulator, and it also failed to boot up. A call was made to the equipment's vendor to see if there was any other option available, short of re-feeding the 1,149 ballots and delaying the results by at least two hours. According to Southerland, the vendor representative suggested attempting to upload the data into their system, skipping the "totals tape" step. Southerland said they were told that the data should be intact and accurate, and they could print a different report to replace the "totals tape." However, when they tried to retrieve the data off the memory cards, they could not be read. Therefore, she was left with only one option - re-feeding the ballots through a tabulator. This is when a mistake made in haste -- as Southerland later described -- turning a two-hour wait into an eight-and-a-half hour delay. Instead of taking the ballots from the first mail-in ballot tabulator, staff instead mistakenly took the ballots from the early-voting tabulator they had rolled into the room when attempting to get the memory cards to work. Beginning around 8:30 p.m., Southerland and her staff took turns over the next two hours feeding the wrong ballots into the second mail-

in ballot tabulator one at a time. According to Southerland, she didn't realize a mistake had been made until the number of ballots in the tabulator reached and then exceeded what should have been the combined total of mail-in ballots from the two machines. As that realization spread among those present in the room -- which included staff members and the canvassing board -- there were several long moments of silence as the magnitude of not only what had happened, but also what would be required to undo the mistake, settled in. The ballots in the tabulator now included the original 1,000-plus mail-in ballots, as well as the more than 1,000 early vote ballots they had just spent two hours feeding into the machine. Those would ultimately have to be sorted, one-by-one, to separate the two sets of ballots. Then, once they were certain only mail-in ballots remained, they would have to be re-fed into a tabulator, along with the 1,149 ballots they had originally intended to re-feed before the mistake was made. Totalling some 2,300 ballots, re-feeding them into the machine would take more than four hours, in addition to the time it would take to sort and count the ballots. There were two factors working in Southerland's favor as she and the rest of her staff worked to rectify the situation. First, the ballots are labeled as to what type of vote they are (early or mail-in), making it possible to sort the ballots correctly. Second, elections officials knew exactly how many early ballots had been cast, giving them the ability to confirm all early-voting ballots had been successfully removed. However, before beginning these tasks, Southerland went outside to the parking lot to explain what had just happened to the handful of candidates and representatives waiting for results. By this time, it was nearly 11 p.m., but with the amount of work ahead of her and her staff, it would be many more hours before the final results would be ready. For the next 90 or so

minutes, the ballots were sorted. Then, to verify that they had successfully removed all of the early ballots, staff counted both the early votes from the tabulator and all of the other early votes -- ultimately reaching the exact number they expected. At roughly 12:30 a.m., elections officials once again started feeding in the mail-ballots. Around 5 a.m., the complete unofficial results were posted online, ending the longest election night in recent memory. "I know what it feels like to be a candidate waiting for election night results, and I know what it feels like to be a voter interested in the outcome of a race," Southerland said in a social-

media post shortly after the final results were made available. "I always strive to provide election night results as quickly as possible, and as much as this office plans and prepares, sometimes things happen that you can't plan for. "As our Supervisor of Elections, it is very important to me to ensure the results being provided are accurate, so out of an abundance of caution, we as a canvassing board decided to re-run all the mail ballots cast. This was a slow process, but again accuracy is of the greatest importance, and I know that each of you, whether you are a voter or a candidate in this election, would agree," Southerland stated.

## Obituaries



CMSgt Horace Kelmer "Buddy" Phillips

### CMSgt Horace 'Buddy' Kelmer Phillips

CMSgt Horace Kelmer "Buddy" Phillips, 88, passed away on Aug. 6, 2020, at the VA hospital in Gainesville.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Horace Alton Phillips and Marie (Blue) Phillips; and his first wife, Victoria Grace (Cheek) Phillips of San Antonio, Texas.

After serving in the Florida Army National Guard in his hometown of Jacksonville during high school, he tried to enlist in the active duty Army to serve in early days of the Korean War. He also received a Congressional nomination to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., by the late Senator Claude Pepper, but elected to fulfill his patriotic duty by enlisting for service in the Air Force.

CMSgt Phillips served 26 and one-half years in the Air Force, rising to the highest enlisted rank of chief master sergeant (CMSgt) which represents 1 percent of the entire enlisted force -- a remarkable achievement.

He later continued serving the Air Force as a civil servant as a budget director in several assignments, culminating his career at the Air Force's Technical Applications Center at Patrick AFB. Legend had it, if Mr. Phillips bled, it would have been Air Force blue.

The chief is survived by: his loving wife of nine years, Beverly Phillips; his children, Colonel Dan and Ros Phillips of New Braunfels, Texas; his daughter, Regina and Brian Esch of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and his son, Scott Phillips of Thomasville, Ga.

Grandchildren surviving CMSgt Phillips include: Kyle and Eric Esch of Colorado Springs, Duncan Phillips of Bailey, Colo., Heath and Emily Phillips of Omaha, Neb., Caelan and Ainsley Phillips of New Braunfels, and Cadet 2nd Class Grady Phillips of the Air Force Academy Colorado.

Mr. Phillips is also survived by six great-grandchildren residing in Colorado.

The celebration of CMSgt Phillips's life will be held and announced at a later date due to the ongoing health issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

All arrangements are under the direction of Burns Funeral Home of Perry.

Friends may sign the online guest book at [www.joepburnsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.joepburnsfuneralhomes.com).



1400 N. Johnson Striping Rd. Perry, FL 32347 (850) 584-4140

### MURPHY WILL RETIRE THIS YEAR

After working in the clerk's office for the past 27 years, Knowles will now take over for Murphy at the end of this year.

Murphy, who announced she will retire after completing her ninth term in office, endorsed Knowles to succeed her.

### MURPHY WILL RETIRE THIS YEAR

When the mail-in ballots were finally counted after 4:30 a.m., Knowles added 445 more votes to his lead, receiving 1,331 votes compared to 886 for Hunter.

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### GLOVER LED IN MAIL BALLOTS

Beshears had a strong showing at the polls with 1,126 votes, coupled with 879 early votes. However, Beshears fell further behind when mail-in ballots were counted, totaling 865 -- 505 less than Glover's 1,370.

### BEACH EARNED 70% OF THE VOTE

Register. According to unofficial results, Beach garnered 2,701 (70%) of the 3,852 total votes cast, while Register pulled in 1,151 (30%).

Incumbent Property Appraiser Bruce Ratliff is retiring after serving three terms in office.

### APPROVAL NEEDS 3 VOTES

The public can participate in the virtual meeting by using Zoom and clicking on a link available on the City of Perry's Facebook page or website at [www.cityofperry.net](http://www.cityofperry.net), where there will also be a call-in number and pass code to allow the public to participate by phone.

### (continued from page 10)

• Connie Johnson, Unit F68 Household goods  
• Ingram, Patricia, Unit D34 Household goods  
Purchases must be paid for at time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is where is and must be removed and unit cleaned at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.  
Dated this 12th day of August 2020.

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2019-CA-000427

CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR CMLTI ASSET TRUST, Plaintiff, v. HORACE B. CROWDER; AFK/A H.B. CROWDER; MARTHA L. CROWDER; et al. Defendant(s).  
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order Resetting the Foreclosure sale entered on July 7, 2020 and entered in Case No. 2019-CA-000427 in the Circuit Court of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in Taylor County, Florida, wherein CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR CMLTI ASSET TRUST, is the Plaintiff and HORACE B. CROWDER A/K/A H.B., CROWDER; MARTHA L. CROWDER; and UNKNOWN TENANT #1, are the Defendants. The clerk of the Court, ANNIE MAE MURPHY, will sell to the highest bidder for cash at the back steps of the Taylor County Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Perry, FL 32348, on September 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM, following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:  
THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE WEST 5/8 OF BLOCK 12 OF THE HENDRY ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PERRY, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA.

And commonly known as 1100 S Washington Street, Perry, FL 32348 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 WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.  
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on Aug. 7, 2020.  
ANNIE MAE MURPHY  
As Clerk of the Circuit Court Taylor County, Florida  
Marti Lee  
Deputy Clerk

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT COURT ADMINISTRATION, 173 NE HERNANDO AVE., RM. 408, LAKE CITY, FL 32055, 386-758-2163 OR ADAMAIL@JUD3.FLCOURTS.ORG AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTIFICATION IF THE TIME BEFORE IS SCHEDULED APPEARANCE. IS LESS THAN 7 DAYS; IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 711.  
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via e-mail upon all parties registered to receive notification via the service list for this action maintained by the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal Governed By The Florida Courts E-Filing Authority or via U.S. Mail to those parties on the attached service list on this 7th day of August, 2020.  
GHIDOTTI I BERGER LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
1031 North Miami Beach Blvd North Miami Beach, FL 33162 Telephone: (305) 501 2808; Facsimile: (954) 780.5578  
By: /s/ Tara Rosenfeld Chase A. Berger, Esq.  
Florida Bar No.: 083794 Tara L. Rosenfeld Florida Bar No.0059454

fcpleadings@ghidottiberger.com SERVICE LIST CASE NO. 2019-CA-000427  
Horace B. Crowder A/K/A H;B. Crowder 1100 S Washington Street Perry, FL 32348  
Martha L. Crowder 1100 S Washington Street Perry, FL 32348  
Unknown Tenant #1 1100 S Washington Street Perry, FL 32348

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2020-CP-273

IN RE: ESTATE OF MITCHELL LEE WOLOK Deceased.  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The administration of the estate of Mitchell Lee Wolok, deceased, whose date of death was May 17, 2020, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 108 N Jefferson Street, Perry, FL 32347. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR

### MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is August 21, 2020.  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
Personal Representative:  
LAW OFFICE OF KNELLINGER & ASSOCIATES  
Sarah E. Evander, for the Firm  
Florida Bar Number: 1003250  
2815 NW 13th Street, Suite 305  
Gainesville, FL 32609-2865  
Telephone: (352) 373-3334  
Facsimile: (352) 376-1214  
sarah@knellingerlaw.com  
carin@knellingerlaw.com  
Personal Representative:  
Miriam S. Wolok  
316 W Lawrence St.  
Helena, MT 59601

### SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NOTICE OF MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Suwannee River Water Management District will meet on the following dates and times to discuss the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Millage and Budget. All dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please view our website at [mysuwanneeriver.com](http://mysuwanneeriver.com) for the most current information.  
Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board Meeting Dates  
9/08/2020 (Tuesday) Governing Board Meeting: 3:00 PM  
First Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tentative Millage and Budget: 5:05 PM  
9/21/2020 (Monday) Workshop &/or Committee Meetings: 3:00 PM  
Final Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Millage and Budget: 5:05 PM.

### AGENDA LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 25, 2020  
TO: Lafayette County School Board  
FROM: Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Regular School Board Meeting, August 25, 2020 in the Lafayette High School Cafeteria beginning at 6:00 PM. CDC guidelines on social distancing will be practiced during the duration of the meeting.  
CALL TO ORDER  
Prayer  
Pledge to the Flag  
1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA  
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
3. CONSENT ITEMS  
3.01 Approve LHS & LES personnel to transport students for the 2020-2021 school year  
3.02 Approve Contractual Agreement for Behavioral Services with Kim Lucker-Greene of Behavioral Solutions Consulting  
3.03 Approve Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement between The District Board of Trustees of North Florida College and The District School Board of Lafayette County  
3.04 Approve requests for the following students to participate in the dual enrollment program at NFC for the 2020-2021 school year: Davis Jackson, Josseline Garcia-Franco, Kaiya Richardson, and Marley Singletary  
4. ACTION ITEMS  
4.01 Approve personnel items:  
(1) Recommendations-Instructional, Non-Instructional, Substitute Workers  
4.02 Approve Student Council fundraiser, Little Miss LHS pageant on 9/12/20  
4.03 Approve items to be removed from active inventory  
4.04 Approve the 2019-2020 Annual School Health Report for Lafayette County  
4.05 Approve FSBA Advocacy Committee Member and Alternative for 2020-21  
4.06 Approve for advertising: Revisions/New school board policies: Policy # Status Policy Title  
3.06 Revision Safe and Secure Schools  
3.25 Revision Background Screening for Contractors  
3.30 Revision Automatic External

Defibrillators  
4.18 NEW Exertional Heat Illness  
5.29 Revision Notification of Involuntary Examination  
5.40 Revision Children of Military Families  
6.10 Revision Employment Defined  
6.103opt1 Revision Appointment or Employment Requirements  
6.103opt2 Revision Appointment or Employment Requirements  
8.27 Revision School Construction Bid Process  
8.272 Revision Prequalification of Contractors for Educational Facilities Construction  
8.01 Revision Safety  
5.121 Revision Use of Time Out, Seclusion, & Physical Restraint for Students with Disabilities  
4.07 Approve Small School District Council Consortium annual participation fees for 2020-2021  
4.08 Approve bills for payment  
4.09 Approve budget amendments  
5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION  
5.01 Principal's Monthly Financial Report on Internal Funds  
5.02 July Invoices 2020  
5.03 Financial Statement  
5.04 Gifted Program, Boys Track Coach  
6. CITIZEN INPUT  
The Lafayette County School Board will hear any citizen who wishes to address the Board, on a one time basis, pertaining to a relevant topic. If the Board wishes to hear more about the topic, that topic will be scheduled for a future Board meeting. Each speaker is limited to three minutes and the time dedicated to this topic will not exceed twenty minutes.  
ADJOURNMENT  
ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE OR SHE MAY NEED TO INSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.