

# County reserves equal 9.7 months of operations

## COUNTY AUDIT Continued from page 1

more than 40 funds across its operations, the primary fund through which the government operates is the general fund.

The county finished the year with \$12,747,602 in assets within the general fund, along with \$331,624 in liabilities, leaving a total fund balance of \$12,415,978.

The unrestricted reserves, which includes assigned and unassigned funds, totaled \$11.9 million.

"I always look at and see what percent of your normal expenditures are those two funds," Powell said. "They represent 78.2% of your general fund expenditures, which equates to about 9.7 months of expenditures. So, you have healthy reserves there."

For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the county's general fund revenues exceeded expenses by \$1,230,082, representing 7.47% for the fund's revenues. In the prior fiscal year, the county had a net gain of \$624,479,

or 4% of revenues. "You have a little bit bigger excess this year, probably attributable to the COVID grant funds that were received in excess of the prior year. But, you clearly increased your reserves for the general fund by \$1.2 million.

Across all of the funds, the county ended the year with \$33.3 million in assets and \$4.4 million in liabilities.

The county's total fund balance was \$28.9 million, although \$10.4 million of that total is restricted funds that "cannot be spent except as provided by the laws or ordinances that have been placed on those," Powell said.

Overall, across all funds, revenues exceeded expenses by \$4,084,890, representing 10.5% of revenues, although Powell noted that most of the money outside of the general fund was restricted.

"These funds are the ones you spend a majority of your capital outlay," he said.

The county spent \$6.9 million on capital projects during the 2020-21 fiscal year, up from \$6.2 million the prior year.

"Over the two years, you have about \$13 million in capital improvements, which means you are keeping up with your infrastructure," Powell said.

The county's capital assets total \$183.2 million, which have accumulated depreciation of \$100.7 million.

"That means your assets are about 55% depreciated,

which I would place as average for a county your size," Powell said. But that also shows the reason you need to keep building reserves because that \$100 million will eventually need to be replaced.

"Overall, your capital assets increased a little bit, which means you had more capital outlay than you recorded depreciation."

As far as debts, the county has no outstanding loans or bond issues, which Powell called "very good news."

"You do have capital leases, which are \$511,917," he said, adding that it was mostly road maintenance equipment.

Also on the liability side, the county's share of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) net liability was \$5.7 million.

"Now, if we had last year's (report), it would have been like \$20 million," Powell said. "But, in this one year -- and it was due to a very good stock performance -- your share decreased \$14.6 million.

"I want to say the return FRS had last year was close to 30%," he said.

"Wait until next year's audit," County Attorney Conrad Bishop quipped.

"You're right," Powell said.

The final part of the audit report was the management letter, which had no prior-year findings or current-year findings for the commission or the constitutional officers.

"This was a positive year," Powell said in conclusion.

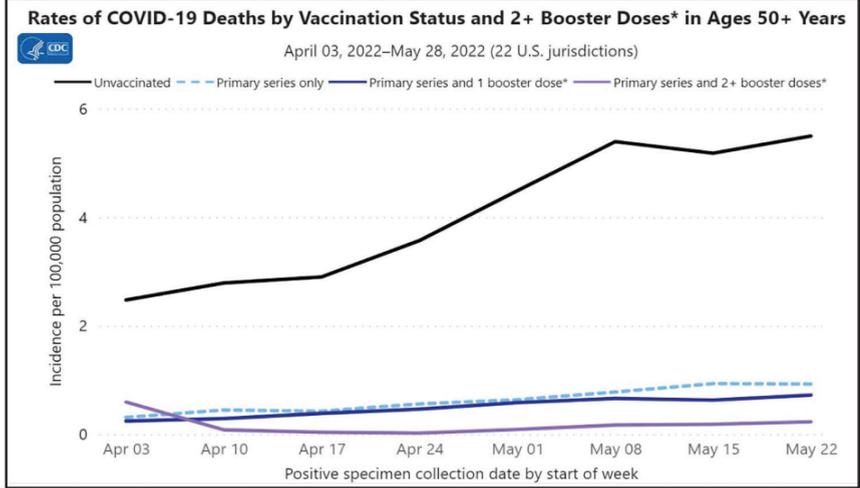
# 72% of Floridians have received COVID shot

## COVID Continued from page 2

have received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 222.7 million (67.1%) have received the full initial series. Meanwhile, 107 million people have received a booster dose, while 50.2% of the total booster-eligible population has not yet received a booster dose.

In Florida, 15.9 million people (72%) have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

In Taylor County, 10,162 (45%) have received at least one dose.



The above chart, courtesy of the CDC, shows national COVID-19 death rates among patients ages 50 and older based on vaccination status.



Scott Powell of Powell & Jones CPA (above left) presented the county audit to the Taylor County Commission during a recent meeting.

# 'Government should work for people'

## MITCHELL Continued from page 1

Department Pension Fund, and as volunteer member of Taylor County Dreamers and Doers.

Mitchell is a program specialist with the Florida Department of Education, a position she has held since

2019. Before joining the Department of Education, she worked as a claim analyst with the Florida Office of Attorney General, worked as a Social Studies teacher at Taylor County High School and as the Sexual Assault Coordinator with Refuge House.

"I believe my experience in collaboration with community partners, such as churches, local organizations, law enforcement and private business, has afforded me the opportunity to look closely at and to see and hear the needs of our communities," Mitchell says.

When asked why she is seeking election to the city council, Mitchell replies, "If elected, I will focus on strategic growth, establishing government partnership and strengthening a sense of community that reflects Perry's unique diversity and character."

"I strongly believe government should work for and with the people. Government should not only pass laws that govern its people, but it should establish relationships and programs that will aid its citizens in building a city for which future generations will love to call home," Mitchell said.

One of her goals is to "establish internship programs that offers

opportunities for high school and college students.

"The interns will gain experience in city government and foster valuable professional relationships through meaningful work, while expanding and refining their skills," Mitchell said.

She also plans to "strengthen government partnerships and relationships with non-profit organizations, businesses and the local workforce agency to build community engagement and public safety programs to provide a network of education and employment programs for youths and adults.

"I would also like to develop a grants department that will seek state and federally-funded grants to support infrastructure for repavement of city roads, as well as building sustainable and affordable housing," Mitchell states.

"I want to establish programs that will revitalize our communities, beautify our city and encourage businesses to develop here in Perry," she concluded.



(Above) Ventriloquist Jacki Manna (center) performed to a rapt crowd Tuesday as part of the library's Summer Reading Program. She is shown with library manager Jo Ann Morgan. (Right) Young fan Brighton Beach was mesmerized by the show.



# Look who was new in 1987: Peacock, Thomley & Wheeler

## GLANCE AT THE PAST Continued from page 8

Volunteer Fire Department; **Irvin Hill**, North District Volunteer Fire Department; **Mark Starnes**, Buckeye Cellulose Corporation; **Jack Satterwhite**, Nuttall Rise Volunteer Fire Department; **Bill Craft**, Taylor Beaches Volunteer Fire Department; and **Donald Bowden**, West District Volunteer Fire Department.

## FAIRCLOTH WINS AGAIN

Ford Motor Company announced that Faircloth Ford was the winner of the coveted Distinguished Achievement Award for 1986.

The award was given to dealers who represented Ford in services, parts and

sales merchandising in an outstanding manner.

Faircloth Ford was the only dealer in the Zone I region to receive the award for 1987.

It was the 11th year the dealership had won the award.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**Louis Bidwell Peacock** Mr. and Mrs. Dave (Cinda Gilpin) Peacock announced the birth of their son, Louis Bidwell, on July 14, 1987, at Tallahassee Community Hospital.

The new arrival weighed eight pounds, two ounces at birth and was 19 and one-fourth inches long.

Grandparents included A.B. and Bobby Murphy of Perry, and Roy and Sue Peacock of

Immokalee, Fla.

**Phillip Charles Thomley** Tommy and Sheila (Schmid) Thomley of Trenton announced the birth of their son, Phillip Charles, on July 2, 1987, at Alachua General Hospital.

The new arrival weighed eight pounds and measured 20 and three-fourth inches long.

Maternal grandparents were Charles and Shirley Schmid of Perry. Paternal grandparents were Taft and Margie Thomley of Dothan, Ala.

Great-grandparents were Annie Lou Schmid, and P.G. and Esther Roberts, all of Perry.

**Rebecca Suzanne Wheeler** Doug and Lucy Kate (Smith) Wheeler announced the birth of a daughter,

Rebecca Suzanne, on July 5, 1987, at Moody AFB Hospital at 10:06 a.m.

Suzanne weighed eight pounds, two and one-half ounces and was 22 and one-quarter inches long.

She was the granddaughter of Peggy Smith of Perry and the late Hubert Smith and the Rev. Arlon and Betty Wheeler of Kalamazoo, Mich., and the great-granddaughter of Dorothea Peevler of Cincinnati, Ohio.

## MILITARY ACTIONS

**Airman Kevin Ratliff** Airman Kevin N. Ratliff, son of Shelby Ezell and Royce E. Ratliff of Perry, graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. **Dennis C. Register**

Sgt. Dennis C. Register participated in the Strategic Air Command's annual readiness training exercise "Global Shield 87."

Register was the son of Alton and Beth Register of Perry.

His wife, Sally, was the daughter of Franklin N. and Betty J. Murray, also of Perry.

The sergeant was a 1980 graduate of Taylor County High School.

## AWARDS AND MORE AWARDS

**Dave Fraser**, on behalf of Buckeye Cellulose Corporation and Procter & Gamble, was both recipient and donor at the annual awards banquet for the Taylor Association of Retarded Citizens (TARC).

Fraser presented **TARC Executive Director Rhonda Brooks** with a check for \$3,500 to fund programs and training at the center.

Before his presentation, Fraser was presented the President's Award, which recognized Buckeye's continued support of the program.

**Cathy Westberry** accepted the Executive Award presented to the Buckeye Employees Community Service Fund for its continued support of TARC.

## FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Clowns "Joy" and "Love" entertained children at the Taylor County Public Library as part of the "Ha Ha Hullabaloo" celebration.

## LEGALS

(Continued from page 10)

THE CONSULTANTS' COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION ACT (CCNA), TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE "ELLIS STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS FROM EAST OF JEFFERSON STREET TO CENTER STREET." TO BE CONSIDERED, A FIRM/TEAM MUST

BE FDOT PRE-QUALIFIED AND SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES FOR A TOTAL OF FOUR (4) OF EACH SUBMISSION OR ALTERNATE SUBMISSION WHICH MUST BE RECEIVED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE (PACKAGE) PROMINENTLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE WITH THE WORDS "RFP# 2022-07 CEI SERVICES FOR ELLIS STREET ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS" DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF

SUBMITTALS IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST IS AUGUST 2, 2022 - 2:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME, SUBMITTALS SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO: PERRY CITY HALL - 224 S. JEFFERSON STREET, PERRY, FL 32347, ATTN: KATRINA DUCKWORTH'S OFFICE. SUBMISSIONS BY FAX OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEDIA WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE

ACCEPTED, BUT WILL BE RETURNED, UNOPENED, TO THE SENDER AT THE SENDER'S EXPENSE.

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITIES OR IRREGULARITIES IN THE PROPOSAL PROCESS. YOU MAY DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS OR SCHEDULE VISITS TO THE PROJECT SITE WITH CHESTER MCAFEE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AT (850) 584-7940 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. EST. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE/ FAIR HOUSING.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME** TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the fictitious name

statute, Chapter 20953 or Section 865.09, Florida of State, Corporation Division, Tallahassee, Florida, upon receipt of proof of publications of this notice the fictitious name, to-wit: Kupps Housekeeping Service under which we/I will engage in business. I/we expect to engage in business in Perry, Florida and our address is: 1610 S. Campbell Street, Perry, Fla., 32348. The extent of ownership is: Caffie Gaddy 100%.