

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Watch out for investment scams



By Cory Taylor

How widespread is this activity? Consider this: Investment fraud losses totaled more than \$4.5 billion in 2023, according to the FBI's Internet Crime Report.

Here are some common types of scams:

- **Cryptocurrency** – Not all cryptocurrency offers are scams, but many are. The scammers will contact you via social media, claiming they've made a lot of money in crypto and are willing to help you do the same. They may direct you to a website or app to invest, but the "company" taking your money may not even exist, and, after taking your money, may disappear.
- **Investment programs** – These programs claim to have "proven" strategies that can enable you to get

rich by investing in financial products. But these strategies are dubious at best and can cost you thousands of dollars that could otherwise go into an investment plan based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- **Real estate** – Typically, a real estate scam tries to get you to invest in a "world-class" or "luxury" property development, but these properties may take years to build, if they're built at all. Also, various real estate "seminars" claim they can teach you how to get wealthy by buying and selling real estate, but these programs are expensive and usually worthless.
- **Gold and other precious metals** – Scammers who call themselves "rare coins"

merchants may try to sell you gold coins, bullion or other types of precious metals, claiming that these assets will always go up in value (which isn't true) and that "now is the best time to act." You can find legitimate ways to invest in precious metals, possibly through mutual funds, but you'll need to determine whether these assets can be an appropriate part of your investment portfolio.

So, how can you avoid these scams? Here are some suggestions from the Federal Trade Commission:

- **Don't be pushed into snap decisions** – Scammers will pressure you to act quickly because "space is limited" in an investment offering or a "special deal" won't last long.

If someone won't give you time to consider an offer, it's not worth considering.

Be suspicious of "risk-free" claims

All investments carry risk, and no variable investments can claim to provide "guaranteed returns." If an individual or organization downplays the risk of an investment and doesn't want to provide risk disclosures, just walk away.

Ask about licensing or registration

Legitimate investment professionals must be registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and be licensed by your state's securities regulator before they can sell you any investment product. You can check the status of

an individual or firm by using FINRA's BrokerCheck tool at brokercheck.fina.org.

Do some research

You can search online for the name of the company or individual offering you an investment opportunity. By entering terms such as "review," "scam," "fraud" or "complaint," you may well find that other people have experienced problems or been victimized.

To achieve your financial goals, you'll likely need to invest for decades — so, be wary of scammers who claim to offer a shortcut to success.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Cory Taylor, who can be reached by calling (850) 223-0999.

LEGALS

(Continued from page 10)

law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **Dated this 13th day of September, 2024
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-052

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Mikon Financial Services, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 574
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R05418-000
LEG 0000.17 ACRES – JERKINS HEIGHTS – LOT 6N BLK 5 SECTION 26 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07. Name in which assessed: LOUIS LEE & JOHNNIE MAE CLAYTON
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-053

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Mikon Financial Services, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 423
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R04674-000
LEG 0000.27 ACRES – HOMEHAVEN SUB – LOTS 1 & 2 BLK 7 LESS RW WILSON ST – ALSO – BEG AT NW COR BLK 1 MILLDALE SUB RUN S87DW ALG RW 25.03 FT TO E BDY BLK 7 HOMEHAVEN SUB TH S00DE ALG E BDY 186.99 FT TO ELY RW OF QUAIL ST TH S20E ALG RW 25.05 FT TH N89DE 16.28 FT TO W BDY

OF BLK 1 MILLDALE TH N00DW ALG W BDY 213.42 FT TO POB – OR 808-384 – OR 247-771 – INC D OR 380- 527 – TD 781-314 OR 800-813 SECTION 25 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07. Name in which assessed: REBECCA DIANNE RAY
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-054

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Assembly Tax 36, LLC, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 930
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R07985-000
LEG 0001.00 ACRES – COM NE COR OF SE ¼ OF SE ¼ RUN – W 50 FT TO W RW SR S- 356 TH S ON – SD RW LN 210 FT FOR POB TH W 210 FT – S 210 FT E 210 FT N 210 FT TO POB – OR 646-38 DC 694-418 – HMST 13 DOYLE KING SECTION 32 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 08
Name in which assessed: ANELIA FUTCH, BRENDA HODGES, DOYLE KING & DARREL KING
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-055

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Assembly Tax 36, LLC, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number 480
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R04957-220
LEG 0000.13 ACRES – A B MCRAE SUB – LOT 7 BLK 12 – OR 113-937 OR 729-26 SECTION 26 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: CURTIS & ANNIE R JONES
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-056

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Assembly Tax 36, LLC, the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 721
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R06343-800
LEG 0020.00 ACRES – S ½ OF SE ¼ OF SE ¼ - OR 344-74 670-823 695-749 HW – LESS ¼ INT IN OGM RGTS IN – OR 366-575 – DC 784-297 DC 868-324 PR OR 813- 429 SECTION 21 TOWNSHIP 06 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: KELLY W FACER
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-057

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

follows:
Certificate Number 143
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R02408-725
LEG 0000.99 ACRES – LEON WARD URS – LOT 26 – OR 666-488 QC OR 740-339 SECTION 12 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: FRANK MASSEY
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-058

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE Technologies, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 864
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R07324-000
LEG 0000.23 ACRES – COM SE COR OF SE ¼ OF SW ¼ RUN – N 150 FT FOR POB TH N 105 FT W 105 – FT S 105 FT E 105 FT TO POB – OR 618-256 – LESS 10 FT STRIP AT OR 754-103 OR 804-438 SECTION 06 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 08
Name in which assessed: JOHN & NANJI TERESA VENHAM
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-059

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE Technologies, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which

the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 966
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R08289-000
LEG 0000.28 ACRES – COM SE COR OF SW ¼ OF NE ¼ TH W – 196 FT N 18D W 915 FT FOR POB TH N – 18D W 116 FT W 105 FT S 18D E 143 – FT NE 105 FT TO POB – OR 629-102 – HMST MARILYN HEADLEE – SECTION 06 TOWNSHIP 05 RANGE 08
Name in which assessed: MARILYN R HEADLEE & JIMMY L HEADLEE
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
Dated this 13th day of September, 2024.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-060

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE Technologies, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 153
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R02442-000
LEG 0002.58 ACRES – COM NE COR OF SE ¼ OF NE ¼ TH – S89D25M30SW 50.20 FT TO W RW RD FOR – POB S89D25M30SW 343 FT S0D25M45SW – 328.2 FT TO N RW RD N89D25M30SE 343 – FT TO W RW RD N00D25M45SE 328.20 FT – TO POB – OR 376-400 OR 808-727 SECTION 13 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: SCOTT W & TAMMY MILLER
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
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Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

TDA 24-061

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that IDE Technologies, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 408
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R04555-000
LEG 0000.23 ACRES – TIPPETT SUB – LOT 1 BLK 1 – OR 317-622 OR 841-587 SECTION 25 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: JAMES NEUMEYER JR
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
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Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 24-062

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Mikon Financial Services, Inc., the holder of the following certificate, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:
Certificate Number 132
Year of Issuance 2022
Description of Property:
Parcel Number: R02349-000
LEG 0004.90 ACRES – COM NW COR OF NW ¼ OF NE ¼ TH E – 1007.3 FT TO W RW 221 TH SELY ALG – RW 178.4 FT TO POB TH W 218.7 FT S – 33D W 207 FT S 369.4 FT E TO W RW – 221 NWLY TO POB – OR 662-872 DC 699-637 SECTION 11 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: JOHN E RITCH, JR ESTATE c/o Deborah L. RITCH
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 21st day of October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. ** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **
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