

FINANCIAL FOCUS

How can you boost your savings?



By Cory Taylor

It might not be on your calendar, but America Saves Week is observed from April 7–11. Are you saving enough? If not, how can you save more?

If you don't think you're saving enough, you're not alone. Just 22% of Americans are completely satisfied with the amount of money they've saved,

according to a recent Yahoo Finance/Marist Poll survey. And the same survey showed that a third of households couldn't cover one month's worth of bills if they lost a job or other source of income.

What's behind this savings gap? Several factors are involved, including the high cost of housing. But while you can't control these external forces, you may be able to increase your savings by taking these steps:

- **Create a budget — and stick with it.** Following a budget is not everyone's idea of fun, but it can be of great use in managing your spending, which, in turn, can help you save

more. You can find many free budgeting apps that allow you to track your spending and place it into categories. Once you know where your money is going, you may find it easier to cut back in certain areas, such as possibly eliminating streaming services you don't use much.

- **Pay yourself first.** Like everyone, you have a lot of bills to pay each month. But why not pay yourself first? Even if you can't put away a lot of money, any amount will help. And you can make it easier on yourself by having some funds moved automatically each month from your checking or savings account into a liquid, low-risk account —

one you don't use for your everyday expenses. Over time, as your income goes up, you can increase the amounts in these automatic transfers.

- **Take advantage of “cash-back” offers.** You may already use a credit card that provides you with cash back on purchases. But did you know you can also download cash-back apps? Like cash-back credit cards, these apps give you a percentage of your spending back, helping you save money on many of your regular purchases, such as groceries and gas. You can even find apps that offer promotions that let you earn more at specific times or for buying certain items.

- **Cut down — or consolidate — your debts.** It's easier said than done, but the more you can reduce your debts, the more money you'll be able to save. You can choose to tackle the debt with the highest interest rate or get rid of the smallest debts first, but whichever method you choose, try to be as diligent as you can. You also might be able to consolidate your debts — but be careful, because not all debt consolidation offers will work in your favor.

- **Get some help.** Your employer may provide an employee assistance program that offers, among other benefits, credit counseling and other types

of financial guidance. You may want to contact a financial professional who can take a holistic look at your situation and offer recommendations on saving, investing and goal setting.

It's always important to save money — but it's not always easy. However, by exploring every avenue available to you, you may be able to improve your saving skills to the point where they can make a real difference in your life.

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

Campers learned practical life skills



(Above) Campers made strawberry shortcakes in mason jars and (below) enjoyed the “Taste of Thomasville” food tour, visiting a bagel shop, pizza restaurant and chocolate store.



CULINARY CAMP

Continued from page 7

where students prepared homemade salsa, air-fried their own tortilla chips and assembled flavorful tacos using fresh, wholesome ingredients.

For dessert, campers built healthy strawberry shortcakes in mason jars, layering fresh berries, shortcake and homemade whipping cream, in a fun and creative twist on a classic treat.

In addition to cooking in the kitchen, campers also took their culinary learning into the community.

A visit to the local Pizza Hut gave students a behind-the-scenes look at restaurant operations, and each child had the chance to make their own personal pan pizza, a highlight of the week.

Later in the week, students enjoyed the “Taste of Thomasville” food tour, where they explored a local bagel shop, pizza restaurant and chocolate store.

Along the way, they learned how these foods are made and had the opportunity to sample a variety of flavors, engaging

all their senses in the learning process.

This camp is about more than just cooking.

It's about teaching youth practical life skills,

encouraging creativity and helping them understand where their food comes from.

Plus, they have a lot of fun while doing it.



Pizza Hut welcomed campers for a behind-the-scenes tour, where they were able to assemble their own personal pizzas.

LEGALS

(Continued from page 9)

Parcel Number: R09486-315
Described as: LEG 0000.23 ACRES - STEINHATCHEE SUB - LOT 6 BLK 92 - OR 539-754 OR 828-348
SECTION 23 TOWNSHIP 09 RANGE 09
Name in which assessed: Randall Barber & Michael Morrison
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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.

Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 1211
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R10020-020
Described as: LEG 0000.34 ACRES - STEINHATCHEE SUB - LOTS 18 19 BLK 100 - OR 551-844 860 876 OR 863-32 OR 863-33 SECTION 26 TOWNSHIP 09 RANGE 09

Name in which assessed: Willis M. Kirkland, III & Alesia J. Hall
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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 1096
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R09319-000
Described as: LEG 0000.70 ACRES - COM NW COR OF SE 1/4 OF NW 1/4 E - 304.5 FT TO E RW US 19 SE ALG RW - 970 FT FOR POB N60DE 219 FT TO W RW - RR SE ALG RW 159.7 FT S72DW 188.36 - FT NW ALG RW 120 FT TO POB - OR 548-962 - OR 812-485 SECTION 10 TOWNSHIP 07 RANGE 09
Name in which assessed: Adam I. Orenstein

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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 619
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R05567-000
Described as: LEG 0001.36 ACRES - COM SW COR OF NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 RUN - E 165 FT N 380 FT TO HWY 98 TH SW - ALG HWY TO 40 LN TH S 340 FT TO POB - LESS R/W - OR 553-195 SECTION 27 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: Wilmont D. Curtis, Jr. & Gloria S. Curtis
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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 201
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R02774-150
Described as: LEG 0004.18 ACRES - FORTNER URS - LOTS 4 & 5 DESC AS COM SW COR OF - SE 1/4 OF SW 1/4 E 658.23 FT N - 122.48 FT N57D10M44SW 340.25 FT TO - CUL DE SAC RAD 50 FT NWLY 161.23 FT - W 279.12 FT S 328.48 FT TO POB - OR 610-826 DC OR 828-438 OR 832-953 SECTION 15 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: Robert & Juliet Williams
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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.

Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 416
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R04558-000
Described as: LEG 0000.46 ACRES - TIPPETT SUB - LOTS 4-5-6 & 7 BLK 1 - OR 211-500 DC 619-437
OR 765-960 OR 622-131 OR 808-410 OR 847-484 SECTION 25 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07

Name in which assessed: Doneda Shoffner
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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 624
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R05607-000
Described as: LEG 0002.24 ACRES - COM NW COR OF SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 TH S - 420 FT FOR POB E 260 FT S 210 FT W - 50 FT S 210 FT W 210 FT N 420 FT TO - POB - OR 512-909 SECTION 27 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07
Name in which assessed: Michael K. Pillow

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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 120
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R02156-000
Described as: LEG 0002.65 ACRES - COM SE COR OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 RUN - W 660 FT N 50 FT TO N RW SR 361 FOR - POB TH W 472 FT TO E RW CO RD TH - NW ALG RD 88.5 FT TH S 89D 59M 32S - E 136.45 FT N 00D 00M 23S E 210 FT - S 89D 59M 32S E 386.64 FT S 280 FT - TO POB OR 685-457 OR 837-481 OR 692 PG 681 SECTION 04 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07

Name in which assessed: Brittany J. Faircloth
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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 25-018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that FIG 20, 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 367
Year of Issuance 2023
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R04113-070
Described as: LEG 0000.20 ACRES - BLAIR-HINELY ADD - LOT 7 & W 1/2 LOT 8 BLK 7 - OR 604- 576 DC OR 773-460 OR 848-870 OR 896-937 SECTION 24 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07

Name in which assessed: Tieon Fiffia
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 14th day of July, 2025 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 6th day of June, 2025.
Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida