Lake Butler ends fiscal year stronger than ever

Reserves of $1 million, no property tax increase, employees to get annual raises

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

At Lake Butler’s City Commission meeting on Aug. 12, the splash park bid was finally awarded, the city approved applying for a grant for the proposed assisted living facility and Commissioner LeRoy Stalvey was recognized for 25 years of service to the city. As the Sept. 9 meeting, City Manager Dave Mezskor announced that the city ended the fiscal year with a surplus in all categories, an annual raise of 3% was awarded to employees and a tentative budget was adopted. At the Aug. 12 meeting, Mike Banks, director of public works for parks and roads, and volunteer fire chief, gave an update on a thermal imaging camera that had been stolen, which the fire department relies on during rescue operations. Eric Davis pled guilty and received a one-year probation, though he is not required to return the camera. Banks asked the commission to replace the camera, which it agreed to do. Also, Lake Butler resident Vernon Dukes asked for an update on the employment lawsuit against the city. Mezskor stated that it was in negotiations and had not been finalized. The commissioners voted to keep Lonnie Norman as mayor and Jimmy Beasley as vice mayor. Once again the city showed a surplus in both the general fund of at least $1,000 and over $212,000 in the utilities budget. As previously reported, the city finally approved a bid for the splash park, with construction scheduled to be completed by Dec. 1. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 26. See LB, 2A

Lake Butler Times
Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013
101st Year — 21st Issue — 75 CENTS

METE YOUR MARCHING BAND

SPIRIT OF UNION COUNTY TIGER MARCHING BAND

(Left side, front to back) Kaylee Molchan, Kaylee Whitehead, Kinsley O’Hern, Kaiden Romrell, Samantha Masay, Carissa Griffis, Krista Scott
(Right side, front to back) Tesha Archer, Katie Zipperer, Merle Chevrolet, Victoria Rosalia, Autumn Reay, Brianna Griffis, Tara Parrish, Shiana Hutchison
(Front row, l-r) Claire Sivyer, Chesney O’Hern, Lethia Johnson: Co-Captain, Alexa Park: Captain, McKenzie Pitcher: Co-Captain, Shelby Hopkins, Carissa Dukes; Mascot

STAFF

(by Vincent Alex Brown) Times Editor

For more information on Lake Butler, please visit湖 https://lakelake.com/
Outside Trade Area: Noting located at 410 S.E. Main Street Sept. 30, at 7 p.m.

History of Townsend

The Historical Society is recognized for 25 years of service to the community. LeRoy Stalvey would be a gift certificate to all employees for the anniversaries of $76,181 from the approximately 700.

The Bible’s Teaching on Alcohol

The Bible is filled with warnings about alcohol. In Proverbs 23:29-35 it is said, “Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; who loves wine and oil will not lack.”

In Matthew 26:26-29, Jesus broke bread and passed it around. He instructed the believers to eat this in remembrance of Him. He also told the disciples to drink wine in remembrance of Him. In 1 Corinthians 10:16, Paul states, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”

We should be careful not to take the Lord’s Supper lightly. It is a time of thanksgiving and celebration for the blood of Christ. It is a reminder of the sacrifice Christ made for our sins. As we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we should remember the price He paid for our sins.

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**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The City of Lake Butler has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

**Last year’s property tax levy:** $75,173

This year's property tax levy...$75,888

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held at

**DATE:** Monday, September 23, 2013

**TIME:** 5:15 P.M.

**PLACE:** Lake Butler City Hall

200 SW 1st Street
Lake Butler, Florida

A FINAL DECISION will be made at this hearing.

The PROPOSED BUDGET for the City of Lake BUTLER for the fiscal year 2013-2014, after the public hearing, shall be submitted to the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners for final adoption in accordance with law. The public hearing will be held at 5:15 p.m. at Lake Butler City Hall, 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida. An additional hearing will be held if requested by any interested person.

**TENTATIVE, ADOPTED AND/or FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ADMIN/MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS A PUBLIC RECORD**

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**Prescription drug ring busted**

**BY MARK J. CRAWFORD**

Some were arrested on drug-related charges by the Bradford County Sheriff’s Office Drug Task Force in a bust at a properly operation in Tallahassee. According to Capt. Brad Smith, the Sept. 6 investigation was a part of a lengthy undercover operation into the illegal prescription pill market for profit. Capt. Smith said, "With Drug Court in motion, we are in operation for the operation, the task force was able to have confidential informants and undercover agents to purchase and sell the illegal prescriptions."

The investigation stems from a prescription pill epidemic that has swept across the state in recent years," said Sheriff W. Greg Spurlin. "Some of these deaths have been attributed to the misuse of these prescription medications and some of these medications looked like oxycodone when we arrested them."

Drug dealers usually obtained the drugs from patients in whose name they were legally prescribed. They then turned around and sold the drugs for a profit.

 Arrested were:

- Paul A. Jones, 43, of Starke.

He was charged with drug trafficking.

- Christopher A. Sapp, 55, of Lake Butler, who was charged with synthetic narcotic distribution.

He was charged on Sept. 10 on $50,000 bond.

- Felicia N. Swafford, 21, of Lake Butler. She was charged with drug trafficking.

She remains in jail with bond set at $50,000.

- Peggy D. Swale, 41, of Hampton. She was charged with drug trafficking.

**Second attempt at landfill money on hold**

The board had agreed to pas a special resolution out of the New River Regional Landfill. However, if the landfill钱 was not able to be accepted on hauling it away the landfill, and also to make sure that the amount was set aside for the future development of the landfill.

Smith wanted to see if the board would be willing to earmark the $300,000, but that amount is being set aside for the future development of the landfill and not for the landfill’s gas-to-energy project.

"We want to make sure we’re not losing $300,000," said Lewis. "We put a lot of money in there, but we would like to make sure that the landfill’s gas-to-energy project is going to be run by people I know."

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The City of Lake Butler has tentatively adopted a measure for the budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. This notice appears in the Common Core.

A public hearing to make a FINAL DECISION on the budget and TAXES will be held on September 23, 2013, at 5:15 p.m.

Lake Butler City Hall.

The public is invited to attend.
Before the school year began, the Florida Department of Transportation began making changes in both the safety and better school zone along 67th Way east of Lake Butler. To enhance the safety of students and teachers near Union County Sheriff Jeri Lamb 13057 SW 67th Way Lake Butler, FL 32054-0279

What wasn’t better was “shifting” the school zone, as Union County Sheriff Jeri Lamb described by the east side of the Lake Butler Elementary School. The school zone was about 300 yards, that provided less protection to parents walking their children to school. The east side of the elementary school, where DOT didn’t shift the school zone or even the Union County School Board Parents stated that they didn’t know why the board was calling Whitehead to ask them who the board was calling Whitehead to ask them whether the city would move the overhead signs to the side of the road instead of the school zone. To add insult to injury, when county engineers had asked owners of the school to be moved back to original location, the DOT engineer in charge of the project would not budge. It is a position he later retracted. Whitehead said, the engineer didn’t know whom he was dealing with.

An article appeared in the Florida Department of Transportation’s newspaper, “The Florida Engineer.”

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Sundance Christian Revival Center giveaway, Sept. 20
Sundance Christian Revival Center at Washington Springs will have a clothes giveaway on Friday, Sept. 20, at Sprinkle Field in Lake Butler starting at 8 a.m. until... 

Greater Elizabeth Missionary Baptist celebrating anniversary
Greater Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its 138th Church Anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 11:15 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Church News

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
The Suwannee River Water Management District has tentatively adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Library hosting special celebration to commemorate Florida and UC anniversaries
On Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Union County Public Library will host a special celebration commemorating Florida’s 500th anniversary as well as Union County’s 92nd anniversary.

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The area that is now Union County was created in 1921 to Union County. On October 1, 1921, the county seat. In the late 1890s elections were held to determine the new county seat... 

Suwannee River Water Management District
Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Library hosting special celebration to commemorate Florida and UC anniversaries
The book “Florida” by Matthew Sabatella. For more information, contact the Suwannee River Water Management District at 386-789-2115 or victorylakebutler.com.

LBS kicks off Tiger Up Morning Mile program
More than 150 students came out as Lake Butler Elementary School recently kickoff another year of their Tiger Up Morning Mile walking program. The Tiger Up program gives students in grades 1-4 an opportunity to exercise rather than sit or stand in front of their classrooms waiting for the bell to ring.

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The Union County Health Department and Union County Health Advisory Group are pleased to present the following Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to county residents, community organizations, civic groups, and policy makers after engaging in a four year strategic planning process.

This process, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), was developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The purpose of using the MAPP process is to improve the health of communities. MAPP helps communities develop and chart a shared vision for a healthy, sustainable quality of life.

**Access To Effective, Efficient And Comprehensive Personal Health Services**

**GOAL 1:** All persons living in Union County will have access to high quality affordable healthcare throughout the continuum of life.

**Strategies**
- Develop ongoing funding sources to ensure primary care services are accessible for all.
- Conduct outreach activities to provide information to the public on services that are available within the county.

**Objectives**
- By Dec. 2012 have a federally qualified health center in Union County to increase access to care (New River Community Health Care Center).
- By 2013 have ongoing community education in a variety of locations promoting healthy behaviors among the people in Union County.
- By 2014, the number of people in Union County not accessing care will be reduced by 20%.
- By 2013, reduce the number of hospitalizations for people living in Union County.

**To Decrease The Burden Of Chronic Diseases By Decreasing The Prevalence Of Obesity**

**GOAL 2:** To reduce the rate of obesity in Union County.

**Strategies**
- Provide evidence based, health education and outreach services to improve health outcomes.
- Expand the number of community partners that adopt promotion of healthy behaviors as a priority for the organization.
- Increase access to healthy food choices
- Promote healthy behaviors through monthly news articles in at least two settings.

**Objectives**
- Conduct at least three community education activities utilizing a wide range of partners on a routine basis in various locations within the county.
- Partner with at least five faith based organizations to encourage healthy food choices.
- By 2013 provide educational interventions in at least three community settings on awareness and prevention strategies for reduction teen pregnancy and promotion of healthy relationships.
- By 2013 provide information on health statistics relevant to healthy relationships for at least five organizations to include businesses, community agencies, faith based organizations and avenues for support for family issues.
- By 2014 reduce the rate of teen births among youth 15–17 years of age by 5% in Union County.

**To Reduce The Incidence Of Teen Births And Sexually Transmitted Diseases In Union County**

**GOAL 3:** To promote healthy family relationships including parenting skills in Union County.

**Strategies**
- Provide evidence based outreach services in the school and community setting to increase awareness about healthy relationships.
- Conduct community wide seminars for adults in Union County on various topics that enhance ad promote healthy family relationships.
- By 2013 provide information on health statistics relevant to healthy relationships for at least five organizations to include businesses, community agencies, faith based organizations and avenues for support for family issues.
- By 2014 reduce the rate of teen births among youth 15–17 years of age by 5% in Union County.