

Jernigan honored  
by Peoples Bank



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Holton places 2nd in  
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# The Graceville News

"The Strong Voice of Northern Jackson County"

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## USDA invests \$7.3 million to improve community infrastructure in rural Florida

*Funding will increase access to health care, education and public safety for rural communities*

Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Dr. Jewel Bronaugh has announced that USDA is investing \$7,320,580 to build and improve critical community facilities in Florida.

This infrastructure funding will increase access to health care, education and public safety while spurring community development and building sound infrastructure for people living in rural communities across the state.

"The Biden-Harris Administration has made investing in infrastructure improvements a top priority," Bronaugh said. "These loans and grants will help rural communities invest in facilities and services that

are vital to all communities, such as health care facilities, schools, libraries, and first responder vehicles and equipment. When we invest in essential services in rural America, we build opportunity and prosperity for the people who call rural communities home."

Bronaugh highlighted nine projects that USDA is making in three programs that will fund essential community services to help rural Florida build back better, stronger and more equitably than ever before.

These programs include Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants, Community Facilities

Loan Guarantees and Community Facilities Disaster Grants. Projects in Jackson, Holmes and Washington counties include:

**City of Marianna** will use \$1,713,500 Community Facility Disaster Grant to construct a 32,389 square foot public safety building, which will house both the fire and police stations. This new facility will replace the existing buildings that are over 79 years old. The existing facilities were extremely outdated, in need of repair and were damaged during Hurricane Michael. The new facility will provide improved emergency response services to the residents of

Marianna.

**City of Bonifay** will use \$20,700 Community Facility Disaster Grant and \$24,300 Community Facility Grant to purchase and install a new roof for the multi-purpose center. The existing roof experienced extensive damage during Hurricane Michael. The project will enable the city to reopen the facility for use by the citizens of Bonifay.

**Town of Noma** will use \$3,000 Community Facility Disaster Grant to provide additional financing for the roof replacement for the town hall in Noma. The improvement is to replace a roof that was damaged during Hurricane Michael. The new roof will enable continued use of the facility for the town and its citizens.

**Holmes County Hospital Corporation** will use \$40,100 Community Facility Disaster Grant to purchase a medical transportation van. The new van will enable the hospital to provide health care services to patients that lack the resources to transport themselves to receive medical care.

**Town of Caryville in Washington County** will use \$41,700 Community Facility Disaster Grant and \$13,900 Community Facility Direct Loan to purchase a utility truck and tractor

for the public works department. The existing utility truck has high mileage and having extensive maintenance issues. This will allow for increased capabilities for maintaining the town roadways and provide improved services to the residents.

**City of Chipley** will use \$92,400 Community Facility Disaster Grant to purchase three new fully equipped police vehicles for the police department. The existing vehicles are high mileage, experiencing maintenance issues and a safety concern. The addition of the new vehicles will allow for increased capabilities and provide improved emergency response services to the residents, as well as increased safety for law enforcement officers.

**Town of Wausau** will use \$87,300 Community Facility Disaster Grant and \$52,800 Community Facility Direct Loan to purchase equipment and furnishings for the newly constructed fire station for the town. The existing equipment is aging and is not adequate for fire protection services. The addition of new equipment will allow for increased capabilities and provide improved emergency response services to the residents.

## PSHS 2022 Homecoming King & Queen



**HOMECOMING ROYALTY** for Poplar Springs High School was selected Saturday evening, January 29, during Homecoming festivities. The 2022 Homecoming King is Landon King and Homecoming Queen is Kayleigh Bass. See page 7 for more Homecoming photos.

## Graceville City Commission meeting set for February 8

The Graceville City Commission will meet in Regular Commission Session on Tuesday, February 8, beginning at 6 p.m., Commission Chambers, 5348 Cliff Street, Graceville.

The public is invited to attend. Some guidelines will be followed related to social distancing.

## Graceville City Election qualifying, election and book closing dates

Qualifying for Graceville City Commissioner Groups 2 and 4 will begin at 12 o'clock noon on Monday, February 7, and will end at 12 o'clock noon on Friday, February 11. Any person meeting the qualifications set forth in the City Charter and desiring to qualify as a candidate may pay the qualifying fee of \$55 and file their qualifying papers with the City Clerk at Graceville City Hall, located at 5348 Cliff Street, Graceville.

Graceville City residents wishing to vote in this elec-

tion must be registered to vote by Monday, March 14. Voter registration applications are available at Jackson County Supervisor of Elections Office, 2851 Jefferson Street, Marianna, Florida or inquire about registration online at <https://www.jacksoncounty-soe.org/>.

The election date for City Commissioner Groups 2 and 4 is established as Tuesday, April 12, 2022, City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 5348 Cliff Street, Graceville.