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WEEKEND EDITION

Lake City Reporter

LAKECITYREPORTER.COM

DeSantis uploads \$38M into area internet

SVEC, three other providers receive broadband funding.

By **JAMIE WACHTER**
jwachter@lakecityreporter.com

Nearly \$38 million in additional state and federal broadband funding will be uploaded into North Florida.

Gov. Ron DeSantis awarded funding from the state's Broadband Infrastructure Program to seven different projects in Columbia, Suwannee, Hamilton and Lafayette counties on Friday. Those projects are among 63 that were awarded more than \$247 million through the program to connect more than 59,000 unserved or underserved residences and businesses to high-speed internet.

"High-speed broadband internet is important infrastructure for Florida communities and will generate economic development activity and a talented labor force," DeSantis said in a release. "Florida is proud to make investments in broadband internet infrastructure that will benefit all Floridians and make long-

INTERNET continued on 11A

City willing to pump water to Mega Site



COURTESY AERO PHOTO

Wharton-Smith is constructing the wastewater treatment plant for the North Florida Mega Industrial Park. Lake City and Columbia County officials are working through a 'misunderstanding' over who will provide water at the facility.

'Misunderstanding' develops over service at sewer plant

By **JAMIE WACHTER**
jwachter@lakecityreporter.com

A "misunderstanding" over water service for a wastewater plant at the North Florida Mega

Industrial Park may soon be water under the bridge.

Columbia County Utility Director Stacy Cowart told the Town of Fort White/Columbia County Utilities Committee

on Wednesday that Lake City Manager Paul Dyal was no longer willing to provide water for anything in the industrial park. Dyal refuted that claim multiple times this week to

the Reporter, saying the city remains committed to help bring in development at the NFMIP, including providing any water

WATER continued on 12A

Slater named Reporter's Advertising Director

Staff report

Monja Slater has been promoted to Advertising Director of the Lake City Reporter, according to Publisher Todd Wilson.

Previously, Slater has served as the Reporter's Business Development

Manager since 2021. She has worked in print and digital media sales in North Florida for the past 25 years.

Slater

As Advertising Director,

she replaces Chris Ratliff, who moved on to a position in the Jacksonville area.

"Monja continually brings new ideas and constant energy to evolving advertising concepts and trends that work for local businesses," said Wilson. "She understands our busi-

nesses, our communities and our readers. I am very excited to have someone of Monja's expertise leading our advertising and marketing efforts."

Slater's 25 years of business marketing and community journalism experience all have been spent in

the North Florida region in print and digital marketing in locally focused publication. She will continue to assist newspaper, magazine and digital clients throughout the Reporter's primary coverage areas of Columbia, Suwannee, Hamilton and Lafayette counties.

The Reporter publishes three times per week in print, has a digital electronic edition, lakecityreporter.com, Currents magazine, plus nine additional magazine titles and event publications.

SLATER continued on 11A

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