



Dequan Dodson

## TCI inmate's death under investigation by FDLE

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is investigating the death of an inmate at Taylor Correctional Institution (TCI) that occurred on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Officials with FDLE said that the case was active and therefore no further details regarding the inmate's death "would be provided at this time."

Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) officials identified the inmate as Dequan Dodson, 27.

"The safe and secure operation of Florida's correctional institutions is the FDOC's top priority. Every inmate death is thoroughly investigated to ensure independent oversight and absolute accountability at all levels," FDOC officials said.

Records show that Dodson was serving a 45-year sentence for second degree murder. According to reports, Dodson was 17 years old when he shot and killed a Jacksonville man during a dispute over \$10.



## 47% of local seniors have received shot

Nearly half of Taylor County's senior population have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine, just six weeks after it first became available to the area.

# Health Department: No waiting list for COVID-19 vaccinations

The Taylor County health department officially has no waiting list for those 65 years of age or older wishing to receive the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine.

According to the latest information available, nearly half (47%) of Taylor County's senior population has now received at least one dose of the vaccine -- just six weeks after it first became available to the area.

According to Florida Department of Health-Taylor (DOH-Taylor) Operations Manager

Martine Young, all 2,900 people on the list have now been cleared, and there are only 63 people scheduled to receive the vaccine this Friday, Feb. 19.

The extensive waiting list (which totaled 3,900 people one week ago) was whittled down to 2,900 last Thursday, as health department officials attempted to make contact with each person to schedule them to receive the vaccine.

"It was a case of people either did not answer and call back, they had already received the

vaccine, they did not want to drive to Taylor County -- as there were lots of people on the list from Tampa, Miami -- or they decided they did not want the vaccine," Young said.

"As an example, one of our employees took a list of roughly 120 people. Out of all those calls, two were scheduled," Young explained.

Some of the same circumstances resulted in DOH-Taylor only being able to schedule 320 of

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# Roll-off sites targeted nightly by vandals

Taylor County's solid waste roll-off collection sites are being broken into on a nightly basis, as vandals have cut holes in fences or ripped down gates to steal scrap metal or sift through garbage in search of pills and other items.

That was the message delivered to the Taylor County Commission recently by Environmental Services Director Gary Wambolt, who oversees the county's solid waste department. He addressed the commission during

its Jan. 28 workshop, and although multiple aspects of the department were topics of discussion, a significant portion of the talk revolved around the break-ins at county roll-off sites.

"They come in probably four or five sites every

night," Wambolt said.

In addition to the damage and theft, the break-ins also result in bins being contaminated by people tossing garbage from one bin to another, resulting in higher tipping fees when the waste is delivered to

Aucilla Area Solid Waste.

"They just put up a new fence at Carlton Cemetery after the pipeline construction was done," Commissioner Jim Moody said. "They've got the

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# Shoaf seeks \$1.4 million for Taylor



Rep. Jason Shoaf

Heading into the 2021 Florida Legislative session, Rep. Jason Shoaf (HD 7) has filed budget requests totaling more than \$80 million to support projects across the 10 counties he represents, including \$1.4 million for projects in Taylor County.

The funding requests for local projects include \$606,000 for improvements to the Taylor County Courthouse, \$424,000 for softball fields at the Taylor

County Sports Complex, \$350,000 for a Taylor County School District "Safe and Secure Schools" electronic key card system and \$81,675 for auditorium improvements at Forest Capital Hall.

The projects represent the legislative funding requests made by the Taylor County School Board and Taylor County Commission for the upcoming legislative session, which will begin in March.

The largest of Shoaf's funding requests is \$25 million, which would go toward beach restoration in Mexico Beach, where Hurricane Michael destroyed much of the waterfront and left most of the town in disrepair.

"North Florida has suffered one hit after another, from the Gulf oil spill to Hurricane Michael to COVID-19. These communities need the support they deserve

to rebuild and come back stronger than ever," Shoaf said. "The residents and businesses of North Florida have proven resilient time and time again, but there are some projects that can't be built with grit and determination. They require state funding. I'm working closely with my colleagues in the House and Senate to make the case for these projects to be funded."

Another funding request made by Rep. Shoaf would

provide \$6 million to rebuild the Wakulla Emergency Operations Center. He has also requested \$1.5 million to support the construction of a new Franklin County Emergency Operations Center.

Other requests for state funding were submitted for the Calhoun-Liberty Hospital (\$3 million for facility replacement), the Madison County Hospital

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## A history of Taylor County:

# Forest Capital book is a story about people, not just a place

By ANGELA M. CASTELUCCI  
Managing Editor

Growing up a sixth-generation Taylor Countian, Josh Goodman enjoyed a steady diet of homespun stories about the men and women who shaped the county.

"My mother's family has been in Taylor County since before the Civil War, and I heard stories from my parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. My father isn't from here, but he was a land surveyor, and that puts you in contact with

history because you have to study land ownership -- going back generations in some cases," Goodman said.

"So that's how my interest in the history of Taylor County started. History in general was something I have always enjoyed learning about, and I had an enjoyable high school experience with history thanks to teachers like Ann White and Tim Tripp," he said.

While Goodman's hometown love of the past

has led him into a career as an archives historian, it also inspired him to write the first complete history of Taylor County.

His book, "Forest Capital: A History of Taylor County, Florida" is hot off the presses and now available at The Book Mart in Perry.

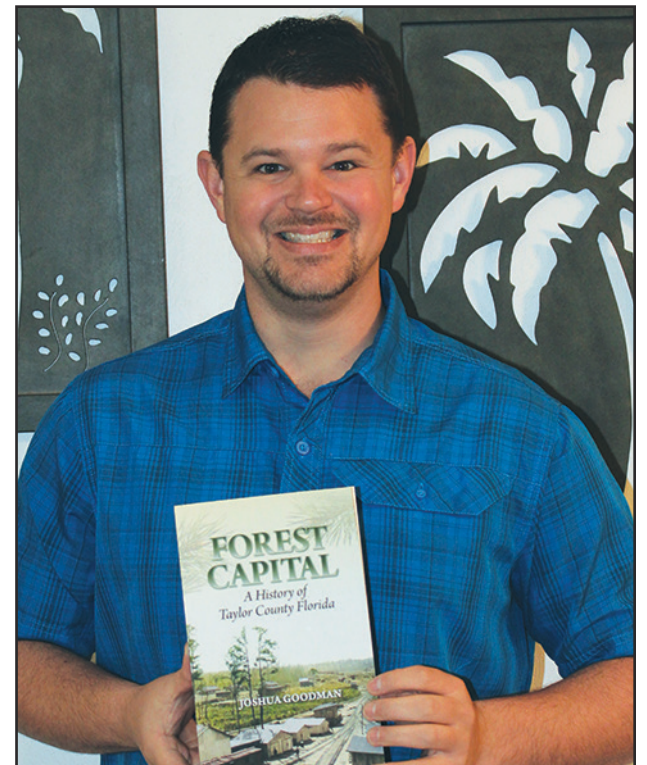
"This story moves you through time quickly. But it tells the story in such a way that you can follow my footsteps and find what you need to learn more," Goodman said. "It's a story

about people, not just a place."

The book begins with a look at the county's prehistoric era and the years before Florida's statehood. The second chapter dives into the lives of the county's early settlers, most of whom came from Georgia and the Carolinas.

From there, the book winds through the Civil War, the county's cattle days and the impact of the timber and turpentine

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Plans are underway for a book-signing with author Josh Goodman, whose new book details Taylor County's history.




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### Weather

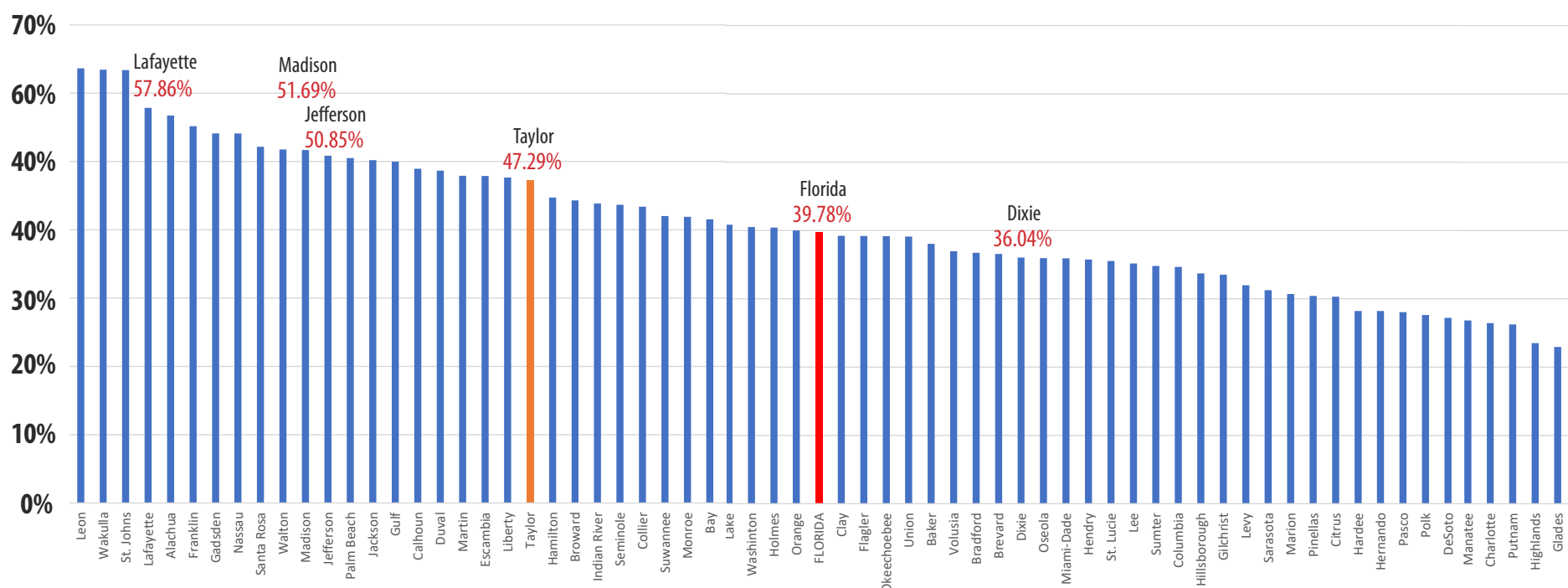
**Wednesday** 61°  
38°  
30%



**Thursday** 73°  
55°  
40%



# Percentage of Seniors with at least One Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine



County percentages were calculated using the Florida Department of Health's daily COVID-19 county report for Feb. 15, which included vaccine counts through Feb. 14, along with latest U.S. Census estimates for county population and age breakdowns, specifically those 65 years and older. The statewide percentage was calculated using the same data, but with 68,052 people listed as "out-of-state" removed to avoid skewing the results.

## Taylor ranks 21st in Florida for senior vaccinations

### VACCINATIONS

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their allotted 500 vaccines available to be given out during last Friday's mass vaccination clinic at Forest Capital Hall.

When only 285 people showed up for their appointments last Friday, the 35 remaining vaccines were offered to DOH-Taylor staff and local clinic volunteers so they would not be wasted.

Meanwhile, the remaining 180 doses will be carried forward to this Friday's clinic.

DOH-Taylor is also expecting a shipment of 500 more doses this week.

At this time, those who are 65 years or older may receive their first dose of the COVID vaccine as early as Friday, Feb. 19, by calling (850) 584-5087 (select option 2) to schedule an appointment.

With approximately 47% of those 65 or older having received the vaccine, Taylor County ranks 21st out of Florida's 67 counties in this regard – well above the state average level of 39.78%.

"The magic number is 70%. We have vaccinated roughly 45% of our senior citizens, but we hope to hit

70%," Young said.

Overall, slightly more than 12% of the county's total population has received at least one dose, which ranks Taylor County 26th in the state and again above the state average level of 10.8%.

The **TaCo Times** arrived at these figures using the Florida Department of Health's (DOH) COVID-19 vaccine data posted online through Sunday, Feb. 14, along with the most recent available U.S. Census estimates for both the county's total population, as well as the percentage of those living here who are 65 or older.

Similar calculations were made for all of Florida's other 66 counties, as well as the state as a whole, in

order to derive the ranking.

As of Sunday, Feb. 14, a total of 2,597 people in Taylor County had received at least one dose of the vaccine, including 255 at the clinic held on Friday, Feb. 12, at Forest Capital Hall.

Through Sunday, 1,580 people had received the first dose, while 1,017 had received both.

Of the 2,597 people who have received the vaccine locally, 2,142 were age 65 or older, based on the DOH vaccine report issued Monday.

According to the U.S. Census, 21% of Taylor County's population is age 65 or older, and based on the latest population estimate of 21,569 people, there are approximately

4,529 seniors living in Taylor County.

As such, the 2,142 seniors who have received at least one dose of the vaccine account for 47.29% of those 65 or older living in Taylor County.

As for those who have completed their two-dose series, 889 people age 65 or older had done so through Sunday, accounting for 19.6% of local seniors. Similarly, 4.7% of the county's total population had received both doses.

Statewide, some 2,319,298 Floridians had received at least one dose of the vaccine through Sunday. The official statewide vaccine total of 2,387,350 as of Sunday included 68,052 out-of-state people who also received the

vaccine in Florida. That number was removed from the **TaCo Times'** calculations to not avoid skewing the results when calculating the percentage of Florida's seniors who had received the vaccine.

However, the local calculations do include 1,128 people whose origins are listed as "unknown."

Using U.S. Census population and senior citizen estimates, 39.78% of Florida's seniors (or 1,785,696 people age 65 or older) had received at least one dose of the vaccine through Sunday.

Additionally, 10.8% of the state's total population had received the vaccine.

Leon County had the highest percentage of its

senior population (63.63%) who had received at least one dose, followed closely by Wakulla (63.44%) and St. Johns (63.37%) counties.

Meanwhile, Glades County ranked last, with just 22.95% of its senior population having received at least one dose, slightly worse than Highlands County at 23.51%.

Among Taylor County's neighbors, Lafayette (57.86%), Madison (51.69%) and Jefferson (50.85%) counties had a higher percentage of their senior population receiving the vaccine, placing fourth, 10th and 11th in the state respectively. Meanwhile, Dixie County trailed Taylor with 36.04%, placing 43rd.

## New fence at Harrison Blue roll-off site cut three times in the first week

### ROLL-OFF SITES

Continued from page 1

wire bent down all the way across the back from people climbing over the wire. They climb in there, and they get the household garbage, and they dig through it and just throw it over to the next dumpster as they go.

"Some good lighting would eliminate some of that," Moody said. "But, there's a couple of the sites out in the country, and nobody can drive right by. Still, it would be harder to dig through all of that trash if they were lit up. It would help a little bit. Cameras would help a little bit too."

Wambolt said he was working to set up a meeting with the Taylor County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) to discuss the issue of vandalism and theft at the roll-off sites, as well as to get an update on a number of arrests made at the sites.

"I go by the sites early in the morning," Wambolt

said. "Before I go to work, I will drive by three or four of them. I went in there the other day, and there's a guy in there getting metal."

Wambolt said he reported the break-in, and the person was arrested by the TCSO.

**"I've caught people in the compactor getting household trash, looking for pills and stuff. I mean up on inside that thing. And, it's rough in there."**

-- Director of Environmental Services Gary Wambolt

"I thought these guys were being prosecuted," he said. "And, I'm not sure if they are or not. That's why I'm going to try to find out."

Wambolt cautioned that he did not know that the alleged perpetrators were not being prosecuted, but he wanted more information from TCSO. When asked about the meeting last week, County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton said she requested Wambolt include her in the eventual sit-down.

"A good example is

Harrison Blue (roll-off site)," Wambolt said at the workshop. "You put a lot of money in that -- \$80,000 or \$90,000, including \$20,000 for the fence. That fence was cut three times the first week. I mean, literally cut

chunks out where they were hauling things out. That site there, I've caught people in the compactor getting household trash, looking for pills and stuff. I mean up on inside that thing. And, it's rough in there.

"That is some of the stuff we're up against," Wambolt said.

Commissioner Pam Feagle questioned whether the county was receiving enough money for the metal that is often the target of theft to make the vandalism worth it in the end.

"You're not going to stop it all," she said.

"At Harrison Blue, I stopped fixing the fence," Wambolt said. "I know we

fixed it I'll say seven times in a month."

"If we can't stop that, why do we stop our residents?" Commissioner Michael Newman asked. "Why do we allow folks to trespass when we tell our residents, who are paying their rates, that they can't go in there?"

The county closed all of the walk-through gates at the roll-off sites several years ago at the recommendation of its liability insurance carrier due to concerns over the possibility of people being injured after hours.

"It got so bad one time, I spent the night out there and caught them," Wambolt. "It's been several years ago."

**"We've had them kick in a \$250 door to steal two Gatorades out of the fridge. That's happened several times. They'll break in and steal the air conditioner out of the window and stuff like that."**

-- Director of Environmental Services Gary Wambolt

"It's frustrating, and it's frustrating to you guys too," he said. "I don't have a crew. Danny O'Quinn will come over and help us repair the fence or whatever they terrorize that night. They'll

break in and steal the water pump from the well. It's just ongoing.

"They're in there every night, Blue Springs and Harrison Blue," Wambolt said. "It's not odd for them to come up and hook a chain to the gates and snatch the gates down. They do it all the time."

Feagle again questioned whether the revenue received from selling the metal was worth the cost.

Wambolt said beyond the lost revenue of the stolen metal was the cost of the vandalism itself.

"If we could figure a way to secure the sites," he said. "We've had them kick in a \$250 door to steal two

Gatorades out of the fridge. That's happened several times. They'll break in and steal the air conditioner out of the window and stuff like that."

Pemberton noted county staff hopes gates being installed at the Steinhatchee and Blue Springs roll-off sites will help with vandalism. Unlike the current gates, the new gates will be installed alongside the main roadway, which they hope will discourage trespassing.

"I think we're trying to put in steps," Pemberton said.

She added that they have tried a higher fence at Harrison Blue when the new fence was installed following the renovations, but admitted that it was not a deterrent and not something they plan to try again at other sites.

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# Planning begins on Keaton, Steinhatchee dredging

The planning and design phase of the canal dredging projects for Keaton Beach and the Steinhatchee boat ramp basin is officially underway.

In June 2020, the county received its first RESTORE Act grant in the amount of \$148,500 to cover the projected cost of the planning and design of the two dredging projects.

The grant is part of an expected \$4 million in RESTORE Act "Pot 1" funds Taylor County is expected to receive from administrative fines and civil penalties levied after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which are held by the U.S. Department of Treasury in a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund.

Last fall, the county advertised for firms to provide the design and planning services for the canal dredging projects.

Two firms responded, Jones Edmunds Engineering and Consulting Services and Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.

The bid committee reviewed both firms and recommended the commission select Wood. The commission endorsed the committee's recommendation at its Dec. 7 meeting.

At the board's Jan. 19 meeting, the commission received an update from Heather Pullen with Langton Consulting, the firm hired by the county to oversee its RESTORE Act grants.

According to Pullen, they entered into contract negotiations with Wood on Dec. 10, and a contract was signed in early January.

The RESTORE Act (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist

Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act) dedicated 80 percent of all administrative and civil penalties related to the Deepwater Horizon spill to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats,

beaches, coastal wetlands and economy of the Gulf Coast region.

Once the planning and design are complete, the county is expected to seek a second grant from Treasury to fund the actual dredging work.

Taylor County's plan

for its Pot 1 funds includes five canal restoration and enhancement projects along the local coast totaling an estimated \$4,750,900. The plan calls for the county to provide \$674,764 in matching funds.

The first two projects will be Keaton Beach

and Steinhatchee. Under the implementation plan, which was approved by Treasury, the county agreed to contribute \$11,145 as a match for the Keaton Beach canal dredging overall project cost of \$1,061,550.

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# Mediation hearing in lawsuit from former county administrator moved to March 10

A mediation hearing in the lawsuit filed by former County Administrator Ted Lakey against the Taylor County Commission over his 2018 firing has been moved up from April 2 to March 10.

County Attorney Conrad Bishop updated the commission on the date change at the board's Feb. 1 meeting.

Last month, the commission voted to appoint Commissioner Michael Newman as the board's representative during the mediation hearing, which is expected to be held virtually. Commissioner Jamie English is the alternative in case Newman is unable to attend.

Citing job performance

issues and a lack of community involvement, the county commission voted 4-0 to terminate Lakey's contract at a Nov. 14, 2018, special meeting, less than two years after he was hired on Jan. 30, 2017.

Lakey filed suit against the board in late 2019, alleging the county violated his employment

contract and due process by not providing him with a hearing prior to his termination, as well as three other claims.

Prior to the mediation meeting being set, the case was scheduled for a jury trial on June 16-18, 2021, following a case management conference on Feb. 11 and a pretrial conference on April 7.

# 2021 legislative session slated to begin March 2

## SHOAF Continued from page 1

(\$350,000 for surgical suite equipment) and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (\$1.2 million for emergency communications system).

"Each of these projects that need funding provide public services that are essential to our region. I know we have limited resources this year, and we must do more with less. But I'm going to fight for our region to get the support it deserves."

Florida's 2021 legislative session begins on March 2 and is scheduled to last for 60 days. The legislature must pass a balanced budget, informed by revenue estimates for the year ahead, before it adjourns. The governor must approve and sign the budget before the fiscal year ends June 30. The state's new fiscal year starts July 1.

Shoaf is the State Representative for House District 7 in Florida. First elected during a special election to fill a vacancy in 2019, he was subsequently reelected in 2020. House District 7 encompasses Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties, as well as a part of Leon County.

The full list of budget requests filed by Rep. Shoaf includes:

- Aerial Photography - \$359,418
- Altha Water System Improvements - \$175,000
- Apalachicola Bay Drone Oyster Seeding Project - \$1,000,000
- Apalachicola IGA Lift Station Improvement and Repair Project - \$50,000

- Apalachicola Inflow and Infiltration Study - \$75,000
- Apalachicola Stormwater Pipe Relining and Backflow Devices - \$100,000
- Bay County Crayfish Habitat Restoration - \$8,000,000
- Bay Youth Summer Work Foundation - \$95,000
- Blountstown FEMA Waiver - \$831,392
- Blountstown Police Department Renovation - \$500,000
- Blountstown Wastewater Effluent Discharge - \$1,000,000
- Bristol Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements - \$236,500
- Bristol Water System Improvements - \$560,000
- Calhoun County - Scotts Ferry Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck - \$300,000
- Calhoun County Administration Building/Extension Office - \$2,000,000
- Calhoun County Chipola River Hurricane Michael Debris Clean-Up - \$1,000,000
- Calhoun County Jail Administration Building - \$1,500,000
- Calhoun Liberty Hospital - Facility Replacement - \$3,000,000
- Charlie Johns Street Signal - \$350,000
- City Hall Renovation - Madison - \$25,000
- Connecting Everyone with Second Chances - \$716,000
- Disproportionate Share Hospital - Tallahassee Memorial Hospital - \$950,000
- Forest Capital Hall Auditorium Improvement Project - \$81,675
- Fort Coombs Armory Fire Sprinkler System - \$250,000
- Franklin County New Emergency Operations Center - \$1,500,000

- Graduate Medical Education - Tallahassee Memorial Hospital - \$800,000
- Gulf County Airport Infrastructure - \$975,000
- Gulf County Water Infrastructure - \$975,000
- Hurricane Michael - Calhoun County Schools Portables - \$361,800
- Jefferson County Broadband System - \$1,000,000
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communication System - \$1,200,000
- Lafayette District Schools Safe and Secure Schools Electronic Access Control Key System - \$400,000
- Liberty County High School New Vocational Program - \$150,000
- Liberty County Hosford Water System Improvements - \$350,000
- Liberty County Rock Bluff Water System Improvements - \$400,000
- Lynn Haven Lift Stations and Forcemain Improvement - \$1,000,000
- Lynn Haven Wastewater Stormwater Improvements - \$1,000,000
- Lynn Haven Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion - \$1,000,000
- Madison County Agricultural and Expo Center - \$650,000
- Madison County Memorial Hospital Surgical Suite Equipment - \$350,000
- Mexico Beach - Beach Restoration - \$25,000,000
- Monticello Water Losses Water Conservation - \$150,000
- Panama City Beach Fire Training Tower - \$608,536
- Panama City Kings Bayou/Pretty Bayou Sewer and Water System Expansion Phase II - \$3,000,000
- Panama City Millville Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Assessment - \$1,500,000
- Panama City Remove and Relocate Sanitary Sewer Line from St. Andrews Bay - \$3,250,000
- St. Marks Water System Improvements - \$202,960
- Tallahassee Wastewater System Resiliency Pump Station 12 Replacement - \$750,000
- Taylor County Courthouse Improvement Project - \$606,000
- Taylor County School District Safe and Secure Schools Electronic Key Card System - \$350,000
- Taylor County Sports Complex Softball Field - \$424,000
- Transitional Living Housing For Homeless Youth - \$1,000,000
- Wakulla County Emergency Operations Center - \$6,000,000
- Washington Complex Community Center ADA Compliant Restrooms - \$150,000
- Women's Dorm at Calhoun County Jail - \$2,000,000.

# Goodman hopes his book will encourage people to write down their family stories

## FOREST CAPITAL Continued from page 1

It delves into period of Florida's development "boom" and the impact of the Great Depression, as

well as World War II.

The county's journey to becoming the Forest Capital of the South is detailed, and the book ends with the "Storm of the Century," which forever changed Taylor County's

coast.

"There's a clear beginning, middle and end. Other counties around us have wonderful histories of their own written, but Taylor County didn't have its own book. W.T. Cash's book is a wonderful collection of historical stories and information, but it wasn't a complete look at the county's history from the beginning," Goodman said.

The idea of capturing Taylor County's history in a book first came to Goodman while he was pursuing his master's degree at Florida State University (FSU), and he soon began collecting data.

However, the project was put on the back burner when Goodman realized that he needed to continue his education further and began pursuing his PhD in history.

That pursuit took him to New Orleans, La., and

a fellowship at Tulane University.

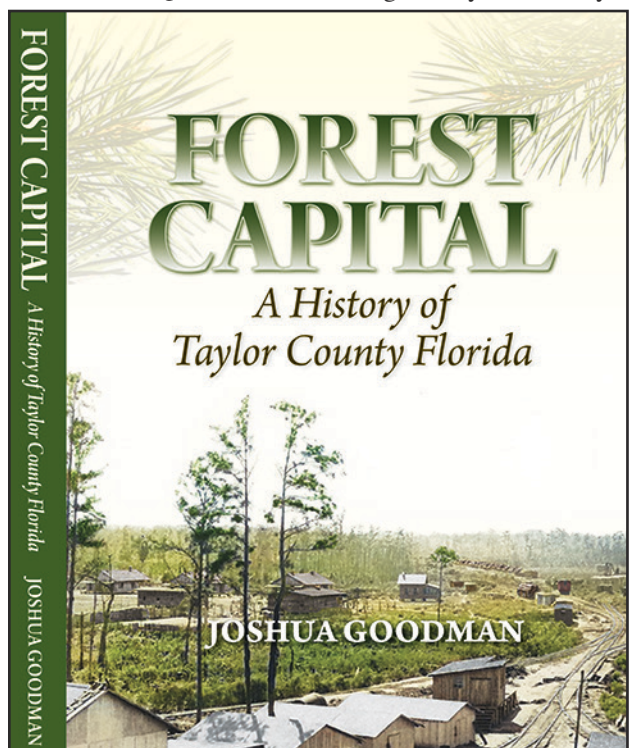
"I lived in New Orleans for six years total, and it was the time of my life," Goodman said.

He finished his doctorate in 2017, and once that was done, "all of a sudden it freed up a ton of time." Goodman used that time to complete a few chapters of his book.

He returned to the project in earnest in 2018, writing in between his full-time job with the state archives.

"It became an evening and weekend project. I wanted to be sure to touch on all the important stuff and capture all of the different characters in the county without the story getting too bogged down," he said.

His hope for the book, he said, "is that it reenergizes and encourages folks to start writing down what they know, their family stories and histories."



The idea of capturing Taylor County's history in a book first came to Josh Goodman while he was pursuing his master's degree at Florida State University.

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• Attend monthly TCDA meetings, Board of County Commission meetings, and special events.  
Interested candidates are cordially invited to submit letters of interest to the TCDA at: [tcdaperry@gmail.com](mailto:tcdaperry@gmail.com) by 5:00 pm Wednesday, March 31, 2021.



## Food pantry open Thursday

The St. James Episcopal Church Food Pantry will be open for a second time this month in order to serve more people experiencing food needs.

The pantry will be open this Thursday, Feb. 18, from 10-11 a.m.

## Food box giveaway Saturday

First Assembly of God will be distributing food boxes Saturday, Feb. 20, starting at 9 a.m.

The distribution is limited to one box per family while supplies last.

The church is located at 828 West Julia Street.

## Food pantry canceled

Volunteers with the First United Methodist Church Food Pantry have announced that the drive-thru food distribution planned this Saturday, Feb. 20, has been canceled due to other food giveaways planned within the community.

## GLAD TIDINGS

In the Bible, "glad tidings" is frequently translated to mean "to tell good news" and "preach the gospel." This space -- made available to all local pastors and church leaders -- is dedicated to messages of good news to fill readers with uplifting thoughts to carry with them throughout the week.

# Your faith is about to be tested

*Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret -- it leads only to evil.* (Psalms 37:8)

In these days in which we are living, Psalm 37 is a very good psalm to read over and over again.

I have to be honest with you, if you are a true follower of Christ, your faith is about to be tested.

The civil authorities that are now in control in America stand in full support of almost every immoral precept that the church is called upon in the Bible to stand against.

And, this body of leadership now holds the power to make laws and set boundaries that could even censor and restrict the preaching of God's Word publicly -- or at least attempt to do so.

As the body of Christ, we have to remain focused today more than ever. Civil leaders come and go. Even nations rise and fall away.

The wicked have always plotted against the righteous. This is nothing new to God.

We see this in the very first of the seeds of men in Cain and Abel. The wicked hate the righteous and always have. They have always busied themselves making schemes to carry out against the church.

But the thing to remember is that these schemes and wicked plots are truly not against the people of God, but against



By  
Cody McNeese

God Himself.

One of the most fearful things to run across in the wild is a bear cub. Not because of the cub, but because of its mother.

To harass the cub is to incur the wrath of the one who truly has the power.

Only a fool would do such a thing!

These wicked schemers only seem to see the church, but have lost sight of the awful and fearsome God who stands in the midst of the church.

Instead of being angry and anxious, what we really need to be doing is praying for them. Just as Jesus prayed in Luke 23:34 for the men who crucified Him, we should pray for the Father to forgive them, for they know not what they do!

They thought they were executing a man whom they deemed as weak. A man who threatened their world

view.

In reality they were putting to death the Son of the Most High God! An unspeakably foolish thing to incur the wrath of the maker of all things.

And so, as these leaders take over and begin to impose their platforms and agendas on our country, trickling down into our homes and churches, be mindful, they need our prayers.

No matter how you may feel about them, they are loved by God, just as we are.

The Lord is long-suffering toward us, "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

Pray that truth would abound in their hearts and that they would see God as they should. That they too would fall before the true Christ and be saved. Its never too late for America...so long as the church is praying and remaining true to its call.

Read Psalm 37 carefully and let that truth sink deep into your spirit.

Anger and worry only leads to evil. Rest assured that our Lord is watching over us with a ready sword.

And if God be for us, who can be against us?!

Cody McNeese serves as pastor of St. Johns Christian Fellowship.

## Obituaries

### Sidney Nathaniel Attaway

Sidney Nathaniel Attaway, 86, passed away on Feb. 13, 2021, in Tallahassee.

Sidney was born March 26, 1934, in Perry to Clifford Boswell Attaway and Annie Louise Falany Attaway.

Sidney honorably served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

Mr. Attaway was of the Methodist faith and was a member of Grace United Methodist Church.

Sidney will fondly be remembered for owning and operating Sid's Food Store in downtown Perry, and for owning and running the Perry Motor Lodge. He was a member of the Perry Masonic Lodge #123. In his spare time, Sidney liked to fish. The role that he most cherished was being there for, and being with, his family.

Sidney was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Annie Attaway.

Mr. Attaway is survived by: his loving wife of 47 years, Wilda Ann Attaway; his children, Jayce Henry (Julie) Holley and Cherie Holley (Mark) LaValle; sisters, Joyce Attaway Arnold and Anne Attaway McCutcheon; five grandchildren, Cecilia, Jayce, Jordan, Connor and Bradley; a niece, Belana Colquitt; and a nephew, Sean Jackson.

Private graveside services were held on Monday, Feb. 15, at Woodlawn Cemetery.

All arrangements are under the direction of Burns Funeral Home of Perry.



1400 N. Johnson Striping Rd. Perry, FL 32347



Allen Ray Buchanan

### Allen Ray Buchanan

Allen Ray Buchanan, 87, of Mayo passed away on Feb. 9, 2021, at the Suwannee Emergency Center in Live Oak.

Ray was born Aug. 8, 1933, in Mayo to Allen Augustus Buchanan and Osie Mae Turlington Buchanan.

He served in the United States Army, reaching the rank of corporal.

Ray was of the Church of Christ faith and a member

of Spring Warrior Church of Christ in Perry.

He farmed most of his life, raising hogs, cows and chickens, but also owned and operated several businesses as well.

He was a bulldozer operator, operated the Bay/Chevron/Standard Oil filling stations, ran a saw mill and drove a school bus.

He was an active member of the community, serving as a town council member, school board member, county commissioner, youth baseball coach and playing the guitar and singing in "The Pickers" band.

In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing and spending time with his family. He will be remembered by his children as a wonderful father and a great man.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Gus and Mae Buchanan, and his wife of 59 years, Louise Buchanan.

He is survived by: two daughters, Milly Markle, of Perry, and Tammy Tucker, and husband, Randall, of Lake City; three sons, Jesse Dorsey, and wife, Angie, of Charleston, S.C., Tommy Dorsey, and wife, Diane, of Mayo, and Heath Buchanan, of Mayo; one sister, Liza Black, of Williston; and a brother, Buddy Buchanan, and wife, Stella, of Mayo; as well as a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, at Burns Funeral Home of Mayo with Brother John Zelner and Brother Eric Russell officiating. Interment services followed in Northside Church of Christ Cemetery.

All arrangements are under the care of Burns Funeral Home of Mayo.

Friends may send condolences to the family at [www.joeburnsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.joeburnsfuneralhomes.com).



1400 N. Johnson Striping Rd. Perry, FL 32347

### Lewis Marion 'L.M.' Cruce Sr.

Lewis Marion "L.M." Cruce Sr., 82, met his Lord and Savior on Feb. 11, 2021, in Tallahassee.

L.M. was born June 26, 1938, in Shady Grove to J.D. Cruce and Christine Watson Cruce.

Mr. Cruce was a Baptist and member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, Sunday school director and headed the maintenance department.



Lewis Marion 'L.M.' Cruce Sr.

L.M. worked as the dairy manager with Winn Dixie for 47 years.

Many will remember L.M. as a humble and soft-spoken man.

His wife, Bessie, was the love of his life; he loved his children and cherished his grandchildren, and was the best big brother anyone could ask for.

In his spare time, he enjoyed gardening and fishing with his grandsons.

He drew strength from being a faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, and was an example not only to his family, but others who knew him on how a Christian should be.

L.M. was preceded in death by his parents, J.D. and Christine Cruce.

L.M. is survived by: his loving wife of 62 years Mrs. Bessie Mae Cruce; his children, Angie Wilson (Paul) and Lewis Cruce Jr. (Dianne); his siblings, J.W. Cruce (Derry), Reba Rogers (Freddie), Jerry Cruce (Mary) and Richard Cruce (Carol); and four grandchildren, Alyssa Wilson, Dakota Cruce, David Cruce and Logan Cruce; as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Feb. 15, at 11 a.m. at Burns Funeral Home of Perry with Pastor Bobby Hall and Pastor Jesse Benefield officiating. Interment services followed in Hendry Cemetery. The family received friends from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14, at Burns Funeral Home of Perry.

All arrangements are under the direction of Burns Funeral Home of Perry. Friends may sign the online guest book at [www.joeburnsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.joeburnsfuneralhomes.com).



### William Loren Strait

William Loren Strait, 54, passed away on Feb. 12, 2021, in Tallahassee.

William was born Feb. 24, 1966, in Eau Gallie, Fla., to William Strait and Edith Jacobs McDonald.

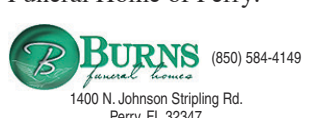
Will was a Christian, and was presently working for Perez Construction as a truck driver/carpenter. He loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and especially hog hunting, which was one of his many favorites. He had a passion to fix and do anything he set his mind to.

William was preceded in death by his brother, Ted Escoe.

Will is survived by: his mother, Edith McDonald; his brother, Noah Strait; his sister, Penny Nasworthy; three children, William Strait, Derick Tombros and Kayla Spring; his partner for three years, Jennifer; and six grandchildren, Rhylan, Slate, Hayden, Ella, Haydon and Amelia; as well as a host of nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery with Percy Jacobs officiating.

All arrangements are under the direction of Burns Funeral Home of Perry.



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## CHURCHES....

Please make sure we have your most current contact info so that we can include you in all church-related communications.

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**THANK YOU!**

## Church Directory

Find a local church service to attend.

### New Bethel M.B. Church

Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
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Wednesday Bible Study: 6 p.m.  
(850) 584-6329 • 1100 W. Dundee St., Perry, FL 32347  
[newbethelperryfl.com](http://newbethelperryfl.com)

### First Baptist Church

[www.fbcperryfl.org](http://www.fbcperryfl.org)

Sunday Worship  
10:45 a.m.  
*(The 10:45 service is also live streamed on the church's facebook page and website and on the radio WZRE 99.3)*

Wednesday Prayer Meeting  
6 p.m. on Facebook Live

Pastor: Dr. Steven Ruff  
(850) 584-7066 • 102 N Center St., Perry, FL, 32347

Churches, call (850)584-5513 to reserve your space.

## 'Dogs' season ends with loss to Hamilton

The Taylor County High School (TCHS) boys' basketball team finished their regular season with a 10-7 record before losing in the semifinals of the district tournament to Hamilton County, 74-48.

The Bulldogs were named the #2 seed in the district, which earned them a bye in the first round of the tournament before losing in the semifinals to Hamilton County.

The Bulldogs were led this season by Jayden Florence, who scored 289 points, for an average of just over 18 points per game.

Florence also recorded 107 rebounds and 17 assists.

Kevis Thomas led Taylor County in rebounds, as he snagged 131 throughout the season.

Thomas also led the Bulldogs in assists this season, as he managed to rack up 72.

Thomas averaged 12 points per game and scored 183 points during the regular season.

Tyrese Thompson led the team in blocks this season with 16, while managing to force 15 steals as well.

Thompson scored 125 points for the Bulldogs during the regular season to

go along with 99 rebounds and 23 assists.

Ajari Harris scored 76 points this season to go along with 45 rebounds and 27 assists, while Javeion Harris chipped in 73 points, 32 assists and 27 rebounds.

The Bulldogs were a very young squad this season and should only lose two graduating seniors in Delyanute Brooks and Cecil Cobb.

Brooks managed to record 42 points, 24 rebounds and 21 assists in his senior season, while Cobb recorded 56 points, 39 rebounds and 14 assists.



TCHS Bulldog Kevis Thomas secures a rebound during recent action. For the season, Thomas led Taylor County in rebounds, as he snagged 131 throughout the season. He also led the Bulldogs in assists this season, as he managed to rack up 72. Thomas averaged 12 points per game and scored 183 points during the regular season. (Photo by Amy Sadler)

## Lady Bulldogs defeat Lions, 8-4 in first game of Classic

The Taylor County High School (TCHS) Lady Bulldogs' softball team

dominated Leon County in their opening game of the Florida High Classic,

defeating the Lady Lions 8-4 in three long innings.

TCHS faced off against Leon County this past Thursday as the opening game in the Florida High Classic hosted by Florida High in Tallahassee.

The season-opening tournament also featured teams from: Chiles, Lincoln, North Bay Haven Academy, Madison County and Aucilla Christian Academy.

Taylor's game against Leon County was called in the bottom of the third inning due to the time limit being reached.

Trista Knowles started on the mound for the Lady Bulldogs and threw 40 pitches in two innings while limiting Leon to only two hits and three runs.

Hannah Shiver pitched the final inning and recorded the save by holding Leon County to only one hit and one run while recording a

→ Please see page 9



Adrianna Carter winds up to deliver a pitch during softball action last season. (Photo by Amy Sadler)

## TCHS baseball team beats Fort White to open season

The Taylor County High School (TCHS) varsity baseball team edged out the Fort White Indians, 7-6 in the season-opener for both teams this past Thursday night in Perry.

The Bulldogs led the Indians by seven runs (7-0) early in the matchup, but

Fort White battled back to make it a close ball game before Taylor County held on for the one-run win.

Garrett Mullins started on the mound for the Bulldogs and held the Indians scoreless through the first two innings, while recording four strikeouts

and only allowing one hit.

"He was very dominant and looked good in his first start on the mound," Head Coach Reggie Wentworth stated.

Clint Terrel was the only Bulldog player to get two

→ Please see page 9

## TCHS, TCHS track teams begin seasons against Wakulla County

Coach Sherman Rhines and the Taylor County High School (TCHS) and Taylor County Middle School (TCMS) track and field teams began their season yesterday (Tuesday) against Wakulla County

For TCMS, this is the school's first-ever track and field team.

Results from the opening meet against Wakulla County were not available as of press time.

The TCMS track and field teams will feature 19 athletes, including: Austin Woodruff, Jakobe Faulk, CJ Ellis, Fischer Smith, Andrew Webb, Journey Williams, Preston Denmark, Kamen

Upshaw, Dewayne Flowers, Deandre Flowers, Montray

→ Please see page 9

### Help Us Over a Hurdle

**Make a donation to the TCHS and TCMS Track Programs to help us clear a \$1,500 hurdle for the 2021 season!**

Your tax-deductible gift will help us cover the cost of local, state, and regional entry fees.

Checks or money orders can be made payable to: **Taylor County Boys or Girls Track Program.**

Mail financial donations to: **Taylor County Middle School, Attn: Sherman Rhines, 601 E. Lafayette Street, Perry, Fla., 32347.**

### 2021 TCHS Track Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
2/16	Wakulla	3:30 P.M.
2/25	Wakulla	3:30 P.M.
2/27	Godby	10:00 A.M.
3/3	Chiefland	3:30 P.M.
3/5	Godby	3:30 P.M.
3/11	The Villages	4:00 PM
3/23	Rickards	3:30 P.M.
3/26	Weeki Wachee	4:00 PM
4/1	Wakulla	3:30 P.M.
4/7	Santa Fe	4:00 PM
4/13	Florida High (Districts)	4:00 PM

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# Prepare to begin dialing 850 or 448

Taylor Countians will soon begin to see a new 448 area code popping up on their caller ID, as the regional 850 code that has long been synonymous with the Big Bend region nears exhaustion.

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a new area code on Nov. 5 that is scheduled to be introduced to the Florida Panhandle Saturday, Feb. 20.

With new phone numbers in high demand in North Florida, the PSC approved an area code overlay that will add a new 448 area code to the 18 Florida counties now served by

the existing 850 area code, including Taylor County.

"Florida's 850 area code is running out of telephone numbers, so this plan is needed to ensure a continuing supply of numbers," said PSC Chairman Art Graham. "Now, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) can begin processing the new area code for efficient implementation in 2021."

The current 850 area code is expected to run out of numbers in 2022, according to a PSC staff analysis.

An area code reaches exhaustion when nearly all

of the telephone prefixes within that area code are assigned. Prefixes follow the area code and are the first three numbers of a customer's local phone number.

In September of 2020, the NANPA, a neutral third-party that oversees telephone numbering across the U.S. and other countries, proposed creating an additional area code using what is known as an "all-services overlay."

The all-services overlay will only affect new numbers, as existing customers will keep their current telephone numbers, including the 850 area code,

but all new customers or new phone lines throughout the region will be assigned the new 448 area code.

As the area codes will be different, all local calls in the region will require 10-digit dialing once the overlay is fully implemented. The overlay has a projected life of 37 years.

Florida counties that will be affected by the new area code include: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton and Washington counties.

"Florida's 850 area code is running out of telephone numbers, so this plan is needed to ensure a continuing supply of numbers," Graham said in a statement after the commission vote.

The new 448 area code is expected to begin popping up on caller IDs as early as Feb. 20, requiring that all local calls include 10-digit dialing (850 or 448) once the overlay is fully implemented.

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## Take care of your heart & know your risk factors

American Heart Month isn't just for celebrating love -- February also reminds us to take care of our heart and consider our risk factors.

Believe it or not, heart disease can happen at any age.

Some risk factors for heart disease and stroke are preventable.

American Heart Month teaches us the ways we can help reduce our risks while eliminating those we have control over.

Do you have one of these risk factors for cardiovascular disease?

Obesity, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, high cholesterol or diabetes.

Now is the time to learn more about the risks and how to prevent heart disease and stroke.

Here are a few signs the CDC (Center for Disease Control) says you may be at

risk for heart disease if you have:

1. **High blood pressure.** There are millions of people in the United States who have high blood pressure, and millions of them are as young as in their 40s and 50s. If you are one of them, make sure to have it under control.

2. **High cholesterol, diabetes and obesity** are all conditions that can increase your risk for heart disease. If you fall into this category, work on eating healthy and getting some physical activity in a few times a week, at minimum.

3. **Smoking cigarettes.** Over 35 million adults in America are smokers and thousands of young people are picking up the habit daily. If you're a smoker, do your best to quit or cut down. It's what's best for your health.

So, if you want to stay on top of your health and

try to avoid the risk of heart disease, there are a few things you can do.

Don't smoke, and if you're already a smoker, do your best to quit. Seek out resources to help quit. Reach out to the local health department for smoking cessation programs and resources.

The next step you can take is managing any conditions you may have such as high blood pressure and cholesterol. Take your medication as prescribed by your doctor.

Next, make heart-healthy diet decisions. Eat whole foods that are low in trans-fat, saturated fat, sodium, and added sugar. A good rule of thumb is to fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables.

Finally, get moving! Living a sedentary lifestyle will put you at a much greater risk for heart disease. Try to get in at



By  
**LORI WIGGINS**  
Taylor County  
Extension Director,  
Agent III

least 20 minutes of physical activity, 4-5 days a week, then build from there. For additional information and resources on preventing heart disease go to [https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/american\\_heart\\_month.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/american_heart_month.htm).



### Livestock lessons

4-H Livestock Club members Noah Aman, Natalie Smith and Christopher Amador shared information about their swine and steer projects during last week's meeting of the Perry Kiwanis Club. Amador said his project has taught him "how to become a good businessman through keeping records of expenditures," while Smith related that she has learned about the difference in feed selection, adding that her hog is "strictly eating non-genetically modified feed." Aman educated the group on the difference in a feeder steer and fat steer, as well as why some hogs can struggle to make weight. 4-H Agent Abbey Tharpe introduced each participant and gave club members the agenda for this week's annual livestock show and sale in Madison. Shown are (left to right) Aman, Tharpe, Smith and Amador.



These shoes were made for  
**WALKING**

By **LORI WIGGINS**  
Taylor County Extension  
Director

February is American Heart Month.

This year, it is more important than ever to focus



Even though the title of the program is "Let's Walk," participants are encouraged to track and report any moderate intensity cardiovascular activity.

on heart health by adopting a healthier lifestyle to prevent heart disease.

If you started 2021 with New Year goals of improving your health and well-being, but have had trouble getting started or sticking with it, you are not alone.

Research shows that joining others who have similar intentions helps us to be more successful at meeting our personal health goals.

If you are ready to make healthier lifestyle choices and are interested in joining a local community of like-minded individuals, then join us for "Let's Walk, Florida," beginning March 15!

"Let's Walk, Florida!" is a statewide, virtual healthy lifestyle education program and physical activity challenge.

During this 10-week

program, you will receive weekly eGuides, engage in weekly eConnections with a local health educator and other residents from your county, and track and report your physical activity minutes.

This virtual community provides the education, support and accountability needed to improve your health.

What can you do for your health in 30 minutes a day?

When coupled with healthy eating, meeting physical activity recommendations for your age and activity level promotes mental and physical wellness, weight management, and chronic disease prevention and management.

The goal of "Let's Walk, Florida" is to build a community where healthy eating and an active

lifestyle become lifetime habits.

Even though the title of the program is "Let's Walk," participants are encouraged to track and report any moderate intensity cardiovascular activity.

Top performers will also compete for gift cards and other prizes at the county or state level.

Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate and medal. Program registration is \$15.

This program is open to individuals, families and organized teams.

For more information about this program and to register, visit [www.tiny.one/walkfl](http://www.tiny.one/walkfl).

You may also contact the Taylor County Extension Office at (850) 838-3508 or e-mail [lwiggins@ufl.edu](mailto:lwiggins@ufl.edu) for additional information.



TCHS students participating in a community-based work project operate a thrift store located at 604 West Julia St.

## Looking for a bargain?

Looking for a bargain? The Bulldog Educational Enterprise has got you covered!

Taylor County High School (TCHS) students are participating in a community-based work experience by operating the Bulldog Educational Enterprise, a second-hand thrift store stocked entirely by donations from the community.

The doors to the thrift shop are open on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shop is located at

604 West Julia Street.

Students receive donations from the community, organize these donations and host yard sales.

"This program has multiple goals. One is to teach students that community service is vital to community survival. Another is to have the students develop interpersonal skills, along with 'soft skills' that will help them transition into more independent, successful adult living," organizers said.

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Share the news of your new beginning with our keepsake print announcements.

To place your FREE wedding or engagement announcement, call (850) 584-5513 or go online to [www.perrynewspapers.com](http://www.perrynewspapers.com).

## Nominations sought for Educators' Hall of Fame

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Taylor County School District's Educators' Hall of Fame.

Forms are available on the district website at [www.taylor.k12.fl.us](http://www.taylor.k12.fl.us).

The deadline for nominations is Friday,

March 26, at noon. Nomination forms are also available at the district office, located on Clark Street.

## Live in the city? Don't do laundry on these days...

The City of Perry Water Division, in conjunction with the City Fire Department, will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the city and county during the months of February, March and April.

Flushing of these hydrants began Feb. 2 and continues each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. through 3 p.m.

"It would be advisable not to do any laundry on these days," a City of Perry

announcement stated. "You may experience slight pressure fluctuation and discoloration of the water. These inconveniences are only temporary and should clear up within (24) hours."

**Local news available 24/7:  
[www.perrynewspapers.com](http://www.perrynewspapers.com)**

## Overall Common'tater

By Billy Blackman

**Author's Note:** This story is fiction....or is it?

As a passerby, if you even noticed their house from the highway, you'd have a hard time telling just how poor the family actually was because of the vines. And you'd probably say to yourself, "I would never live like that!"

And the kudzu hid the worst of it: the rottin' half of the house, the tire-less cars on blocks, the dreams of a better life starved of sunlight because of all that choking entanglement.

The grandpa, his grown daughter, her husband and their two kids lived there -- or maybe "existed there" would be a better description. His sorry son-in-law was off gallivant'n again. But, then again, he might have been under the kudzu, passed out!

When grandpa would walk out to the road to get the mail, he'd lean on a stick out near the mailbox and say to anyone willing to listen, "Shoot, the kudzu's so thick at the house that a dog can walk around the yard for half a day and his feet'll never touch the ground."

That was a stretch. But not by much. It was April and things grow fast and thick in the spring, especially kudzu.

The grandkids giggled behind his back and called him "pinepa" instead of grandpa because he smelled like a pine stump. He treated his arthritic knuckles by rubbing them down with turpentine. He was as tough as a twice-fried 2x4! And

kind'a smelled like one, too.

At least they still had a roof over their heads. Though it did leak so bad that on rain days you'd be hard pressed to find a pot to boil an egg in because anything that would hold water was being used as a catch basin. Maybe that would keep the puddles from rotting the already-rotting floor.

Sometimes the different tones of the water dripping into different size pans would almost sound like blusey music -- if you were in the right state of mind and living in the wrong circumstances.

For the past several months the family had been surviving on the bounty of the county, along with some new help from the state and local churches' "feed the hungry" programs, such as "Farm Share" and "Second Harvest."

Because of the pandemic and the entanglement of lockdowns and school closings with their free lunch programs, the children were no longer considered the "half starved." They now suffered from what the government called "food insecurity."

But, a growling stomach is a growling stomach! You really don't care what they call you, as long as someone calls you if the church giveaway day changes from a Tuesday to some other day.

People line up in their cars along the road leading to the church on that day to pick up a week's worth of



free groceries. It was sort of a modern mobile soup line. There they'd idle the morning away, some cars smoking like the drivers, some not.

On those Tuesdays, you will see everything in that line from old Mazda trucks to almost new Mercedes sedans with the trunk lids open wide. They looked like the mouths of bird babies waiting for something to be shoved in.

She's thankful though. Thankful that grandpa could find the jumper cables under all that kudzu this morning. That way he could use the tractor and jumpstart the truck. Then, she could go and get in line at the church where several angels were out front loading sacks of food into truck beds and lifted lids.

She had to get there early, or else the vehicles would be

as thick as the kudzu back home, so thick that "food insecurity" could jump from hood to hood for half a day and its feet never touch the ground.

She hated having to tell grandpa a white lie. But she knew he would refuse to eat the food if he thought of it as a handout. It's a pride thing.

But it's hard to sop syrup with pride! So she told him she needed the truck jumped off so she could go to the grocery store. Everybody's got to eat -- even an overly proud "pinepa" who smelled a lot like a pine stump.

This is not her first trip "to the store." So if it takes an ongoing white lie to fill the dark emptiness, then so be it. Sometimes you have to swallow your pride and chase it with a spark of hope that comes from the strangest things -- like

jumper cables.

But even with her pride choked down, she still looked around while waiting in that line, hoping not to see anyone she knew looking around to see if they saw anyone they knew. It's a pride thing.

"It's really an answer to prayer," she said to herself while watching the food being loaded into the car trunks ahead of her.

Then she shook her head at life's ironies that seem to come to mind at the oddest times. "Never say never," she mumbled under her breath as she thought back to several months ago when she passed by the church on her way to work and saw the long line of cars. "I would never sit in a line like that!" she said to herself then. And, look at her now. "Never say never," she muttered again.

But, that was months ago. The reality of the situation is here today, Tuesday. So she waits....

Well, a least her hardest decision today won't be whether or not to use the last of the flour tonight to make biscuits so her family can eat their fill one more time. For right now, the church volunteers will take care of that worry with two bags of "White Lily" per household. She just can't do it by

herself any more. Life had never been a bouquet of flowers. But lately it seemed that life's kudzu had overtaken what few flowers she had left. She needed the help now! Especially since she was laid off from her good-tipping waitress job when "Hog Heaven Bar-b-CUE" was forced to close, a victim of the sickening entanglement after the owner caught "The Rona," as some locals call it.

There was one pool table inside, so they thought emphasizing "CUE" in the name was clever. But if customers ever made the connection, they never mentioned it. "It don't matter no more!" the owner said. To him, life was now a double negative: he was sick, and he'd lost his business!

No, her difficult decision today will be whether or not there's enough gas in the truck to leave it running with the heater going while she waits in this cold reality. Or, should she switch off the engine to save gas and hope the battery works when it comes time to inch a little closer to that angel ahead, the one wearing the orange vest and blue mask, the one holding that bouquet of lilies -- one "Self Rising" and the other "Plain."

## Letters to the Editor

### Time to review county mud bog regulations

Dear Editor:

It is a shame that three or less people can stop something that brings millions of dollars in revenue to Taylor County businesses each year.

It does not seem fair or right that a single neighbor can prevent the owners of Iron Horse Mud Ranch from holding one or two events per year.

I am sure there are neighboring property owners who may object to the BBQ, Bluegrass, Fiddler Crab or Florida Forest festivals held in Perry and Steinhatchee each year, but they are not allowed to shut these events down.

To see the kind of impact these events have on our local economy, you only have to drive around our town and see the parking lots packed full of vehicles at Walmart, Winn-Dixie, local restaurants, gas stations, motels and

hotels.

The county ordinance allowing a single neighbor to shut down special events like this one is 17 years old and needs to be reviewed.

Our county commissioners really need to step back and think of all the consequences before making a decision on an ordinance such as this one that affects so many.

I have never attended a mud bog at Iron Horse and honestly do not have a dog in this fight.

But, as a local business owner, this type of ordinance just does not make good business sense for Taylor County.

This is the sort of thing that keeps other business owners from locating their companies in Taylor County.

A lot changes in 17 years. Maybe it is time this ordinance is changed too.

Benjye Tuten



Shown above are: front row, Youth Leader Nicole Thompson, Courtney Stratton, Addison Conger, Madison Calkin, Carson Ross and Youth Leader Larry Thompson; and back row, Declan Hurst, Leah Hurst, Noah Hurst, Cole Stratton, Oasis Pastors Marion and Jim Hurst.

## A Valentine weekend of love

By DELORES LEGGETT WALKER

Some folks teach by lecturing, while others teach by example.

Such is the case with Branford Oasis Church Youth Leaders Larry and Nicole Thompson of Mayo, who decided to give their youth "hands-on" experience learning that love is more than flowers, chocolate candy and fancy words.

The Valentine's "weekend of love" kicked off Friday afternoon when the group arrived at a local food distribution center in Mayo to help unload items that had been picked up at the food bank in Gainesville.

They arose early the next morning at 6:30 a.m. to return to the food distribution site and help give out food to several hundred people who came through the drive-through area.

It was a real eye-opener to some of the young people -- ranging in age from 12 to 18 -- many who never realized there are some who need a helping hand to put food on their table.

Due to the rain, some of the older folks were unable to come out, so two of the teens lending a hand -- Declan Hurst

and Cole Stratton -- loaded up and personally delivered food to those individuals.

But, that's not where the weekend of love ended.

The youth and their leaders had also planned a "Thank You" luncheon at Oasis Church on Sunday, Feb. 14 following the morning service.

Once again the teens crawled out of bed around 6:30 a.m. to make sure everything was prepared and waiting for folks to enjoy a lasagna and salad lunch with strawberry shortcake dessert.

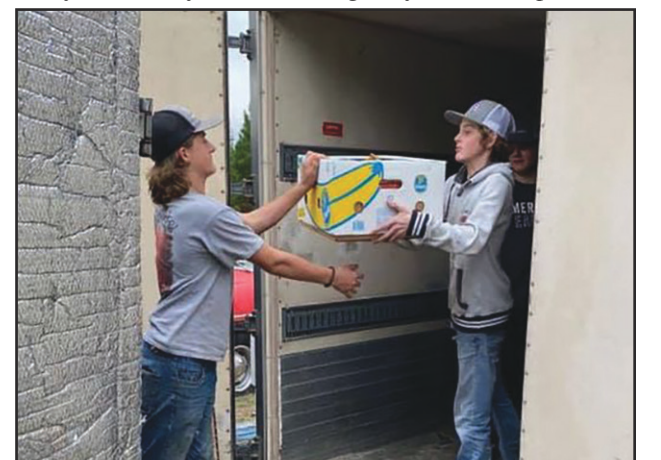
The youth served up food with a smile and cleaned up the dishes afterward with the same sweet spirit, showing their appreciation and love to those they served. They provided entertainment and door prizes to make the rainy day event a sunny memory that will likely linger with all who were there.

As one of those who were privileged to enjoy the luncheon, I must say I believe this opportunity for the youth group to show their love to so many will be a memory that could help guide their path into a form of serving others in some capacity during their lifetimes.

Nicole Thompson said the weekend ended on another positive note, as some of the same youth responded to a call for help from a Mayo resident who had suffered an accident and needed a ramp for her wheelchair.

The youth helped Larry Thompson install the ramp, rounding out the weekend of "loving by example" as illustrated by their youth leaders.

The youth group, which includes: Declan Hurst, Noah Hurst, Leah Thompson, Cole Stratton, Courtney Stratton, Carson Ross, Raylin Lee, Madison Calkin, Addison Conger, Tara Sloan, John Sloan, Colin Hodge and Ryan Conger, meet each Wednesday night at Branford Oasis Church in Lafayette County on NE US Highway 27 at 6:30 p.m.



The youth and their leaders held a "Thank You" luncheon at Branford Oasis Church in Mayo on Sunday, Feb. 14, following the morning service.

### Taco Times

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

123 S. Jefferson Street  
Perry, Florida

P.O. Box 888  
(850) 584-5513

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The Taco Times welcomes Letters to the Editor reflecting responsible opinions and views on the news. Please submit letters by Monday at 5 p.m. The Taco Times reserves the right to refuse publication of letters which are libelous or irresponsible. Name may be withheld if circumstances so require, but all letters submitted should be signed by the writer and accompanied by a phone number for verification. We look forward to hearing from you! Our address is Perry Newspapers, Inc., P.O. Box 888, Perry, Florida 32348. e-mail: newsdesk@perrynewspapers.com

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# FINANCIAL FOCUS



## How Can Women Overcome Obstacles to Financial Security?

On March 8, we observe International Women's Day, a celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Of course, women still tend to encounter more obstacles than men in the pursuit of financial security. Let's consider a few of them.

To begin with, women are still more likely to leave the workforce, at least temporarily, to raise children, resulting in lower contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans such as 401(k)s.

And women are often the ones who become full-time caregivers of aging parents or other relatives.

Caregiving duties can exact a big

financial toll: The lost wages, pensions



By Cory Taylor

(including 401(k)s and similar plans) and Social Security benefits that a woman loses to become a full-time caregiver amount to more than \$300,000 over her lifetime, according to the National Academy of Sciences.

Women also may be more susceptible to financial downturns. Consider the COVID-19

pandemic: Just a few months ago, in December, women lost 156,000 jobs, while men gained 16,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which also reported that women accounted for 54% of the jobs lost from the pandemic in 2020.

And women are not unaware of their circumstances and outlook. Just 41% of women are confident about retirement, compared with 56% of men, according to a survey by Edward Jones and Age Wave.

But if you're a woman, you can take steps to help improve your financial outlook. Here are a few suggestions:

**Take full advantage of retirement plans**

If you are still working and your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, take full advantage of it.

Put in as much as you can afford each year and increase your contributions when your salary goes up.

Also, within your plan, you'll want to choose the mix of investments that can help provide the most growth potential, given your individual risk tolerance.

Also, even if you contribute to a 401(k) or similar plan, you may also be eligible to fund an IRA, which gives you even more investment choices.

**Evaluate your Social Security options**

You can typically

start taking Social Security benefits when you're 62, but your monthly checks will be much larger if you wait until your "full" retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67.

You might also consider whether you'd be better off by taking spousal benefits, if you're married and your spouse earned more money than you.

You're generally even eligible for spousal benefits if you are divorced, as long as you were married at least 10 years and you haven't remarried.

**Look for unexpected income opportunities.**

Even after you've formally retired, you may still find ways to receive some earned

income. Perhaps you can work part time or do some consulting. And if you're a caregiver, you might be able to receive some compensation for your work. Many local governments pay non-spouse caregivers who act as personal attendants, although the rules vary greatly by state and county.

These certainly aren't the only ways you can improve your financial status, but they may prove useful to you. In any case, be aware of the challenges facing you and do whatever you can to brighten your future.

*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*

As well as Dekle Beach

## Additional dredging projects set for Dark and Cedar Island

### DREDGING

Continued from page 3

This county match represents about 1% of the total project cost.

A 2016 engineering estimate projected the canal dredging projects would cost an estimated \$5.9 million. Cox said in 2018 that the county expects to receive

\$4,076,136 in RESTORE Act funds spread out over 15 years (approximately \$271,742 per year), while the county will provide \$674,764 in matching funds for a total of \$4,750,900.

County Grants Writer Melody Cox said the county would secure a spoil site, perform hauling of the dredge material and

contribute some engineering and other in-kind services to help offset the \$1.1 million difference between the RESTORE Act funding and the projected total cost.

After Keaton and Steinhatchee projects, the commission-approved priority list includes canals at Dark Island, Cedar Island and Dekle Beach.



# YOU SHOULD KNOW...

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Public notices inform citizens of the changes that affect them and their community. Some state and local officials want to move these notices from newspapers to government-run websites, where they may not be easily accessed.

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Taco Times  
Perry News-Herald



Lady Bulldog Trista Knowles (shown in action during a game last season) started on the mound for the Lady Bulldogs in their win against the Lions, throwing 40 pitches in two innings while limiting Leon to only two hits and three runs. She also managed to cross home plate twice in the 8-4 victory over Leon County.

## Lady Bulldogs travel to Jasper

### SOFTBALL

Continued from page 5

strikeout.

Taylor County had seven hits in the victory over Leon County, as Rebecca Shoaff, Trista Knowles, Hannah Shiver, Hayden Durham and Macy Dean each recorded one hit.

Adrianna Carter led the Bulldogs at the plate, going a perfect 2-2 with an RBI

and one run scored in just three innings.

Shoaff, Shiver, Durham and Dean all scored once each, while Knowles managed to cross home plate twice in the victory over Leon County.

The Lady Bulldogs' second game of the Florida High Classic against Aucilla Christian Academy on Saturday morning was cancelled due to nasty

weather conditions.

Taylor County began their regular season Tuesday against Aucilla, but results were not available as of press time.

The Lady Bulldogs will travel to Jasper this Thursday to face off against Hamilton County at 7 p.m. before hosting their first home game this Friday night against the Chiefland Indians beginning at 7 p.m.

## 'Dogs play Blountstown Thursday

### BASEBALL

Continued from page 5

hits in the Bulldogs' debut, while Evan Lago, Tucker Wiles, Andrew Weatherly, Rhett Borklund and Mullins chipped in one hit each.

Kadyn Puhl came in and closed out the game to seal the victory, as well as recording the save against

the Indians.

"I am excited about the way our young guys played. Lago, Weatherly and Wiles all had hits and played very well defensively in their first varsity games as true freshmen," Wentworth exclaimed.

The Bulldogs were slated to travel to Tallahassee to face Florida High yesterday

(Tuesday), but results were not available as of press time.

Taylor County will make the long journey west to face Blountstown on Thursday in a game set to begin at 6 p.m.

TCHS will start off next week by hosting Aucilla Christian Academy on Tuesday beginning at 6 p.m.

## \$1,500 fund-raising goal

### TRACK

Continued from page 5

Griffin, Markis Farmer, Azaria Reddick, Jayla Farmer, Sydney Wilson, Peyton Bowden, Jha'miyah McIntyre, Danny Juday and Variah Dunnell.

The TCHS track and field teams will consist of: Chelly Margaue, Chance Glanton, Najeh Glanton, Styles Williams, Camden Flowers, Calvin Washington, Charles Simmons, Aiden Samano, Jacob Wilson, Malaysia White, Hanna Webb, Skylar Brown and Macie McGuire.

"The students at both the middle and high school levels are so excited," Rhines said.

"Many of you have sent well wishes and offered support, and I would like to say thank you to all of those who have sent monetary contributions to help with the program so far," stated Rhines.

As before, the monies

collected will go to pay local, state and regional entry fees.

By pledging your support of a tax-deductible gift, it will help the program reach the needed \$1,500 mark. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Taylor County Boys or Girls Track

Program.

Mail financial donations to Attn: Mr. Sherman Rhines, Taylor County Middle School, 601 E. Lafayette Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

You will receive acknowledgement of your donation by receipt.

2021 TCMS Track Schedule		
Date	Opponent	Time
2/16	Wakulla	3:30 P.M.
2/20	Oakleaf (Jacksonville)	10:00 A.M.
2/26	Godby	3:30 P.M.
3/9	Wakulla	3:30 P.M.
3/11	The Villages w/Vars.	4:00 P.M.
3/25	Wakulla (Conf. Champ)	3:30 P.M.
3/26	Weeki Wachee w/Vars.	4:00 P.M.
3/29	Live Oak	4:00 P.M.
4/12	Crystal River	4:00 P.M.
5/7&8	Bradenton (St. Finals)	8:00 A.M.

# Classifieds

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Published each Wednesday and Friday.  
 Deadline for Wednesday: Monday by 5 p.m.  
 Deadline for Friday: Wednesday by 5 p.m.  
 Call (850) 584-5513  
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### MISCELLANEOUS

**WE BUY**  
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For Sale: Formal dining table with six white high-back chairs. \$300 OBO. Call (850) 838-6882.

We are moving! We have quality furniture and a garage full of male items (tools and outdoor stuff) for sale! Call (850) 295-2351 after 9 a.m. to view. Located at 2887 Boyd Road.

FOR SALE: 2005 Phaeton by Tiffin motor home. 40 feet. Two slides. Diesel. 350 cat motor, diesel generator, central vacuum. 97k miles, new tires. Real good condition. \$45k. Call (850) 843-3047.

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YARD SALE Saturday, Feb. 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 411 Plantation Road. Home goods, home decor, men's, women's (1x-3x) and junior's clothing, lotions and children's toys.

MOVING SALE Saturday, Feb. 20, and Sunday, Feb. 21, from 8 a.m. until at 2887 Boyd Road. Home decor, household items and more! Good prices for quality items. No junk!

### HELP WANTED

**CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEER-IN-TRAINING**  
 We are looking for a Civil/Structural Engineer-in-Training to join the Big Top Team. The ideal candidate for this position should possess a strong structural design and architecture background. Solid knowledge in steel, concrete, and masonry are essential skills. Responsibilities include assessment, planning, and execution of structural designs on a wide range of projects. Majority of work will be designing or consulting on the installation of Shelter projects. Travel to project locations will be necessary. Must have experience in:

- ~ Metal Truss Structures
- ~ Commercial
- ~ Industrial
- ~ Government

Minimum qualifications and job responsibilities will also include:

- Designing structures to withstand pressures and forces which they must endure,
- Collaborating with other designers and/or architects as it relates to the safest designs and how they may fit in with the aesthetic concept of the construction,
- Applying expert knowledge of forces and their impact on various structures,
- Solid working knowledge in the strength of different materials (e.g. concrete, steel, or wood) and understanding of how their inclusion may necessitate a change of structural design,
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- In-process inspections, as well as providing guidance/feedback to contractors. Educational Requirements are:: Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. Qualified applications can apply online at [www.bigtopshelters.com/careers](http://www.bigtopshelters.com/careers), or in person at Big Top Manufacturing, Inc. 3255 N US 19, Perry, Florida (by appointment only). EEO/AA/m/f/vets/disabled. BT

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**GOOD SHEPHERD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER** is actively seeking a preschool director. Insurance benefits available. Preschool or Early Childhood Education experience required. Management experience is a bonus. Salary based on experience. Please call Chelsea Morgan at (850) 584-7445 for more information. 2/19

### HELP WANTED

NEEDED: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WITH STRONG WRITING AND MS OFFICE SKILLS. Taylor County Development Authority (TCDA) is seeking a dependable individual with a strong work ethic for a full-time administrative assistant position. This is an opportunity to learn a niche governmental function which serves to bring job creation and expansion within the county. Must be a self-starter, proficient with Microsoft Office to include Word, Excel and Outlook, be detail-oriented and have a pleasant phone voice. Any prior experience with web development, Facebook or LinkedIn business pages, Google ad words, Twitter and web linkages a huge plus. If you are a fast learner who enjoys working in a small office and can stay two steps ahead of the game, then please email your resume and cover letter, no more than two pages, detailing what you believe are your strongest skills to TCDA at [tcdaperry@gmail.com](mailto:tcdaperry@gmail.com), subject "Admin position."

**FULL TIME LINEMAN TRAINEE**  
 Tri-County Electric Cooperative has an opening for a full-time lineman trainee in our Madison office. This position requires working outside in adverse weather conditions and frequently working overtime; however, it is a rewarding position with good growth opportunities and does not require any previous line experience. On the job training will be provided. The co-op is looking for a candidate with a high school diploma or equivalent and solid work history that enjoys working in a team environment. The candidate must also have a Class A, Commercial Driver's License, or be able to obtain one within six months of employment. The Cooperative offers a competitive salary, starting at \$18 an hour for this position, and benefits. Tri-County is an EOE and DFWP. Please send resume and completed Tri-County Employment Application Form, which is available at any TCEC office or online at [www.tcec.com](http://www.tcec.com), before March 26, 2021 to: Andrew Pinkard Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. 2862 West US 90 Madison, FL 32340 850-973-8022 3/26

TAYLOR COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Job Vacancy Announcement. The job description and our 2-step application process can be found on our website at [www.taylorcountygov.com](http://www.taylorcountygov.com) or in the lobby of the County Annex. Applicants must apply through Career Source. Taylor County is an EEO employer. **Engineer** - full-time. **Roll-off Site Attendant** - call-in. **Mosquito Control Driver**- on call. **Concessions Lead** - part-time. **Concessions Worker** - seasonal. **Boat Ramp Attendant** - seasonal. **TCBCC**

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**FINISHER NEEDED**  
 Must have High School diploma or equivalent, the ability to read and understand CAD sketches, as well as the ability to read a tape measure to the 1/4th. Qualified candidates must be able to read and speak English, be able to follow both written and verbal instructions. Must possess a basic understanding of hand tools and how to use them, as well as the skills necessary to successfully operate a forklift and pass a forklift operators test. Candidates must also have proficient communication skills, as well as a valid driver's license. Interested and qualified candidates must either call 850-584-7786 to make an appointment to fill out an application in person or visit [bigtopshelters.com/careers](http://bigtopshelters.com/careers) to fill out an online application.

**GREENS OUTDOORS AND MORE** is now accepting applications for a cashier/clerk (must be able to lift 50 lbs.) and parts counter help. Apply in person at 1969 Old Foley Road. Call 371-5395 for more information. 2/26

**BADCOCK HOME FURNITURE AND MORE** is hiring for two positions:

- Full-time salesperson
- Part-time salesperson

Drug testing/background check. Apply in person. No phone calls. BF

### LEGALS

**THE CITY OF PERRY IS ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS** for concrete slab and concrete sidewalks at 918 N. Washington St. Specifications are attached. If you are interested in submitting a bid, your bid should be marked "Sealed Bid - BGC" and sent to the attention of Ms. Katrina Duckworth, Purchase Agent, 224 S. Jefferson St., Perry, Florida 32347. All inquiries regarding this bid invitation should be directed to Ms. Duckworth at (850)584-2189. All bids should be received no later than 2 P.M., February 24, 2021. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City reserves the right to select the bidder that it determines is in the best interest of the City. Any errors in bid submissions are the responsibility of the bidder; the City is not required to find errors in any bid submissions. CITY OF PERRY, FLORIDA

**INVITATION TO BID**  
 The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting sealed proposals for construction of the Old Dixie Highway Sidewalk (LAP) Project. FDOT Pre-qualified contractors in "Sidewalk" construction, desiring to provide the required services, must submit five (5) packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed Proposal for Old Dixie Highway Sidewalk (LAP) Project" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, to arrive no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on March 12, 2021. All Proposals MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Proposals will be opened and respondents announced at 9:05 A.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347. Bid information MUST be obtained on-line at the following website address: [www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county\\_bids/index.php](http://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county_bids/index.php) A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 03, 2021, at the Administrative Complex located at 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347. The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all Bids, to

cancel or withdraw this solicitation at any time and waive any irregularities in the Bid process. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process and to accept the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder. No faxed Proposals will be accepted. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**TAYLOR COUNTY JAIL DOOR CONTROL PANEL REPLACEMENT**  
 The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting sealed proposals for a new jail door control panel replacement to be installed at the Taylor County Jail located at 589 E US 27, Perry, Florida 32347. Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the required services must submit the proposal packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed Proposal for Taylor County Jail Door Control Panel Replacement" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, to arrive no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on Friday, March 12, 2021. All proposals MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Proposals will be opened and respondents announced at 9:05 A.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, Old Post Office, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347. Proposal information MUST be obtained from the Taylor County Jail, located at 589 E US 27, Perry, Florida 32347. Required Proposal information:

1. Firm Overview - Provide firm information including, but not limited to, Physical Address, Date Established, Key Project Personnel, Current Insurance Coverages, and Ability to Provide Requested Services.
2. Prior Related Experience - Project Examples for last five years for which similar services have been provided. For each project, indicate (1) Project Name and Location, (2) Description of Project, (3) Owner Name, Address and Contact information, (4) Cost of Work and (5) Date Completed.

➔ Please see page 11

**WALL-TO-WALL CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
 Mold Removal ~ Tile Floors ~ Pet Odors  
**TREE CAPITAL CLEANING**  
 584-CLEAN (584-2532)


**Nammo**  
 Nammo Perry, Inc. is now hiring for:

**Assemblers:**

- High School diploma or GED
- 1 year or more solid work history; manufacturing experience preferred
- Flexible to work day or night shift as needed
- Ability to manually assemble and visually inspect parts with precision

**All Applicants Must:**

- Be 18+ years of age
- Possess High School Diploma or equivalent and/or Degree as required for position posted
- Submit to and pass Pre, Post and Random drug tests
- Submit to and pass a thorough federal background check



Qualified applicants can contact the Human Resource Department by phone at **850-584-2634 ext. 565** or by E-mail at [Holly.Newberry@nammo.us](mailto:Holly.Newberry@nammo.us)

# CMS SAFETY SERVICES SEEKS DONATIONS

A local safety services organization is seeking monetary donations and medical supplies to help provide medical and security support for the local JROTC program.

CMS Safety Services, founded by Charles Swindle of Perry, is a non-profit organization of volunteer first responders and medical professionals

who offer first-aid medical support, unarmed security and safety services at JROTC events and camps.

Because the local non-profit organization operates on a very limited budget — entirely dependent upon private donations -- it is in need of bandages, over-the-counter medication, vitals monitoring equipment, airway adjuncts and splints,

as well as backpacks, clipboards and pens.

Additionally, monetary donations can contribute to the purchase of uniform items, UTV/ATVs for transporting sick and injured persons, fuel and insurance, which are needed to ease the personal expenses of volunteers.

Because they treat everything from bug bites

to anxiety attacks, CMS Safety Service volunteers' primary role is medical, providing preventative and reactive medical assistance.

"In short, this means we attempt to prevent medical incidents from occurring, and when they do occur, mitigate them to the best of our abilities," founder Charles Swindle said.

CMS Safety Services also provides free standby medical services for JROTC events and competitions, as well as to any other non-profit organization in the area.

"If there is an injury, we can potentially treat the person without having to tie up emergency services, although we will call them if the person is beyond our ability to fully assist," Swindle explained.

"We also act as safety officers, offering advice and counsel on actions that are either too unsafe to attempt and offering ideas on how to mitigate any hazards. We also report and record medical and security statistics to improve future events," Swindle added.

As basic unarmed security at JROTC camps and events, CMS Safety Services assists in ensuring accountability of each cadet by double head counting behind instructors, establishing a security presence, tracking and



CMS Safety Services, founded by Charles Swindle of Perry, is a non-profit organization of volunteer first responders and medical professionals who offer first-aid medical support, unarmed security and safety services at JROTC events and camps.

reporting any suspicious behavior and doing night patrols of the camp to ensure all cadets are in their designated areas and accounted for.

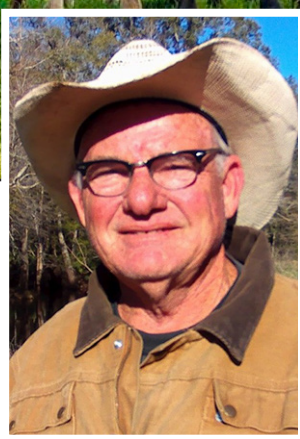
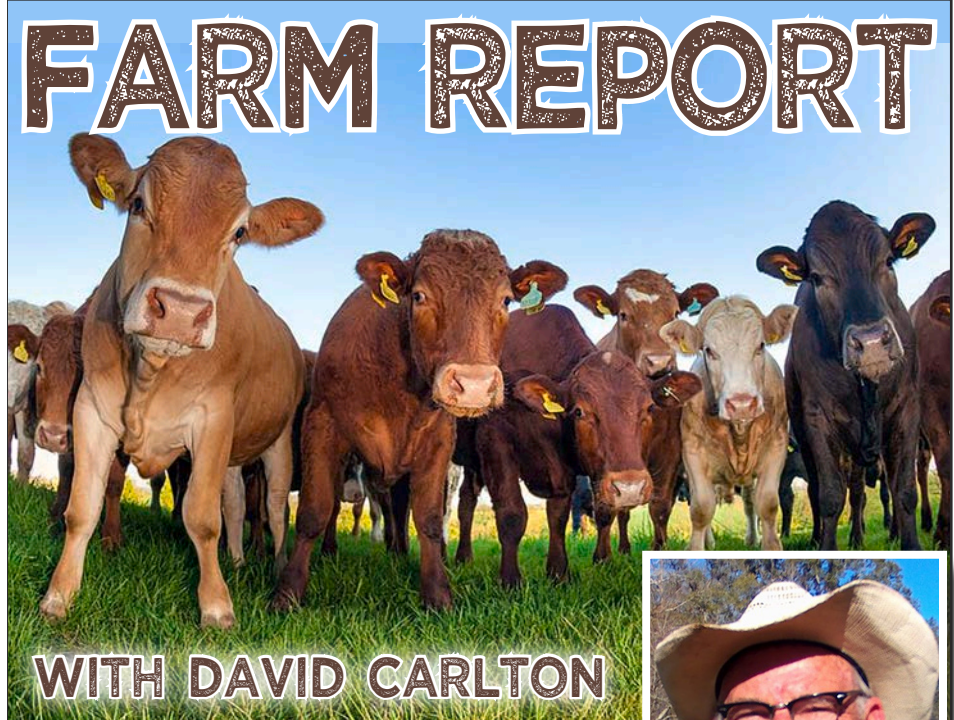
"Cadet safety is of the utmost importance to us and any security issues we have beyond the ability of unarmed security is referred to on-duty law enforcement," Swindle explained.

All services provided by

CMS are conducted at the expense of the volunteers, who are committed to preventing unnecessary medical emergencies.

To discuss how you may be able to donate, please contact CMS Safety Services at: [cmsafetyervicesinc@yahoo.com](mailto:cmsafetyervicesinc@yahoo.com).

"Any help will be greatly appreciated and put toward a great cause," Swindle said



**Feb. 10:** Old man North has come down on us and sure made life a chore.

I've been feeding stock and getting firewood with little else, other than watching Mike Massey train my cattle to respect the wishes of his hangin tree cowdogs.

The herd was stubborn at first, wanting to fight, and there were a couple of bloody noses -- especially the bulls and mother cows.

But, after four sessions, those same cows just walked in the pen with little fuss.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate Mike's help.

That is one less thing to worry about.

That was yesterday morning at good daylight, Mike had to go help somebody else, it being sale day, so he pulled out, leaving me, Johnny and John to sort and load some calves.

Then, the bottom fell out of the sky, puddles filled up and our glasses fogged over.

After a few slippy-slidy start-ups, we finally got the show on the road and had a good trip to Madison with eight yearlings.

So, today I'm recuperating -- I'm sore and have a leg in my cramp.

But, I hope for a little sunshine when I do get moving.

Praise the Lord.

**Feb. 16:**

It was a good rainy day yesterday here on Woods Creek Road in the beautiful Granthum Hills area.

My gauge says 2.5 inches, and that adds up fast in already-wet dirt.

The creek was already on the way up, so maybe some fish can raise.

The eight yearlings sold at about average prices.

I counted 15 calves left -- including the little guys, who are still coming

regular.

I still have four or five I could sell now.

This is good weather for April's ducks and spring frogs.

Wasn't it Mark Twain who said, 'A frog is the only animal in the world who can live in a well and not get tired?'

That is today's deep thought.

*David Carlton grew up in Taylor County, where he worked on a Woods Creek Road farm in his youth.*

*Decades later, he now owns that farm and spends his days tending to his cows and enjoying the country life.*

## Chamber Banquet is set for April 23

The Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce is moving forward with plans to host its annual Chamber Banquet, pushing the date back from its traditional February slot to April 23.

"Our special annual fundraiser event, which benefits the Chamber Scholarship Program for Big Bend Technical College students, will be a

50/50 ticket for \$50 with the winner going home with half the proceeds. Our theme is 'There's No Place Like Home!'. Chamber Director Dawn Perez said.

Social hour will begin at 6:15 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., an awards presentation and after-party.

"Our emcee and Master of Ceremonies, Cline

Moore, will keep the night moving along with his quick wit, energy and enthusiasm. Thank you to Capital City Bank of Perry for being the sponsor of this event. If you already purchased tickets, no worries, they will transfer to the new date. To obtain more information, please contact our office at 584-5366," she said.

### LEGALS

(continued from page 10)

3. Scope of Work - Proposal detail. Refer to Attachment "A" for suggested scope of work.

4. Fee - Proposed pricing for door control panel replacement and all options.

5. Project Timeline - Provide timeline outlining proposed starting date, estimated length of project, and date of completion.

The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all proposals, to cancel or withdraw this request for proposals at any time and waive any irregularities in the proposal process. The County reserves the right to award any contract to the respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service; therefore, the County is not bound to award any contract based on the lowest quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process and to accept the proposal deemed to be in the County's best interest. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to assign a local business preference in a maximum amount of five (5) percent of the proposed

price(s), under the conditions set forth in Ordinance 2003-12. No faxed proposals will be accepted.

For additional information contact: Mark Stephens Taylor County Jail 589 E. us 27 Perry, FL 32347 (850) 584-4333

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING:

The District Board of Trustees of North Florida College will hold its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the NFC Student Center Lakeside Room (Bldg. #9), 325 NW Turner Davis Dr., Madison, FL. For more information, an agenda or to request disability-related accommodations, contact the President's Office at (850) 973-1618 or email [wheelerm@nfc.edu](mailto:wheelerm@nfc.edu). North Florida College is deeply committed to the safety of our trustees, employees, and community members who may choose to join us. This in-person meeting will follow Department of Health guidelines for wearing masks and social distancing. If you would like to attend this

meeting, please notify Michelle Wheeler by phone 850-973-1618 or by email [wheelerm@nfc.edu](mailto:wheelerm@nfc.edu) at least one day prior to the meeting, so we may provide the proper accommodations and spacing for this gathering. NFC is an equal access/equal opportunity employer.

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA.

**Case No. 2020 - 303 - CP**  
In Re: Estate of JOYCE ARLENE CHEZEM, Deceased.

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JOYCE ARLENE CHEZEM, deceased, whose date of death was June 20, 2020; File Number 2020-303-CP is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's Attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice has

been served, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: Feb. 10, 2021.

G. CLINE MOORE ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.A.

G. CLINE MOORE Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No. 119512

107 East Green Street Perry, Florida 32347

Telephone: (850) 584-3300

Email: [kende@fairpoint.net](mailto:kende@fairpoint.net) DOUGLAS ERWIN MOORE Personal Representative

9158 Robert Ricketson Road Perry, Florida 32348

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

**PROBATE DIVISION**  
**CASE NO. 2021-CP-68**

IN RE: The Estate of FRANK PHILLIPS, JR., Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the estate of Frank Phillips, deceased, April 13, 2020, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer 1000, Perry, Florida 32348. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served within three months after the date of the first publication of

this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is Feb. 17, 2021.

Personal Representative: Cindy L. Worsham

2194 Wright Rd. Perry, Florida 32347

Attorney for Personal Representative: Twyla Sketchley, Attorney FL Bar No.: 478822

THE SKETCHLEY LAW FIRM, P.A. The Professional Center at SouthWood

3689 Coolidge Court, Suite 8 Tallahassee, Florida 32311

Telephone: (850) 894-0152

Facsimile: (850) 894-0634

Primary Service E-Mail: [service@sketchleylaw.com](mailto:service@sketchleylaw.com)

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# Booking Desk

**Editor's Note:** It is the policy of this newspaper to run the names of all those arrested and booked at the Taylor County Jail. All those listed below have been charged with a crime, but are considered innocent until proven guilty.

**Dec. 10:**  
**Thomas R. Lindsey,** 34, Perry, Fla., out-of-county warrant, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.



**Lindsey D. Murray,** 42, Perry, Fla., resist LEO (with violence), assault on first responder, flee/elude with disregard of safety, battery on first responder, resist LEO without violence, \$77,000 bond, Ptl. Maily, PPD.



Murray

**Dec. 11:**  
**Jaboree Nijuan Simmons,** 19, Perry, Fla., poss. of cannabis within 1,000 feet of school, \$2,000 bond, Dep. Brasby, TCSO.



Simmons

**Kyle Wesley Herndon,** 39, Steinhatchee, Fla., out-of-county warrant, \$90 bond, Dep. Parker, TCSO.



Herndon

**Jay's Bail Bond, LLC**  
 Henry Jay III, Agent  
 24 Hour Service  
 Office: (850) 584-2664  
 Cell: (850) 371-1113  
 427 Maurice Linton Rd., Perry  
**FINANCING, CASH & CREDIT**  
**WE BUST YOUR TAIL OUT OF JAIL**

**Jessie Ray Mathis,** 52, Perry, Fla., knowingly DWLS/R, \$2,000 bond, Sgt. McKenzie, TCSO.



Mathis

**Ventrell L. McGee,** 37, Perry, Fla., aggravated battery (pregnant victim), obstruction of justice (intimidate or threaten victim), resist LEO without violence, \$32,000 bond, Ptl. Rice, PPD.



McGee

**Johnny Lee Simmons,** 28, Perry, Fla., reckless driving first offense, \$200 bond, Ptl. Maily, PPD.



Simmons

**Dec. 12:**  
**Glen Wilson Coxwell,** 22, Perry, Fla., DUI, refuse to submit to blood-alcohol test, DWLS first offense, DUI and property damage, burglary (structure, +\$1,000 damage), reckless driving (damage property), criminal mischief (break/injure fence), resist LEO (flee/attempt to elude), burglary (in unoccupied convey. unarmed), grand theft of motor vehicle, property damage (+\$1,000 damage), to knowingly DWLS/R, \$54,000 bond, Dep. Ballard, TCSO.



Coxwell

**Brianna Nicole Smith-Carter,** 19, Perry, Fla., out-of-county warrant, Ptl. Maily, PPD.



Smith-Carter

**Jason Lavelle Bolden,** 35, Perry, Fla., aggravated assault with deadly weapon without intent to kill, property damage criminal mischief (+\$1,000 damage), poss. of LSD, \$20,000 bond, Ptl. Rice, PPD.



Bolden

**Johnnie Ray Wade,** 39, Perry, Fla., FTA, \$30,000 bond, Dep. Hamilton, TCSO.



Wade

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 584-5513

**Floyd Lamar Kelly,** 64, Perry, Fla., poss. of cntrl. subs. without a prescription, poss. of drug paraphern., \$4,000 bond, Dep. Whiddon, TCSO.



Kelly

**Dec. 13:**  
**Akeem Dukarai Price,** 28, Perry, Fla., fail to register motor vehicle, DWLS first offense, poss. of cocaine, drug equipment poss./use, \$9,000 bond, Ptl. Maily, PPD.



Price

**James Garrett Taylor,** 41, Perry, Fla., VOP, no bond, Sgt. McKenzie, TCSO.



Taylor

**Donna Victoria Ross,** 28, Steinhatchee, Fla., VOP, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.



Ross

**Dec. 14:**  
**James Kelly Cruce,** 34, Perry, Fla., battery, violation of injunction of protection domestic violence, aggravated battery with deadly weapon, cheating or gross fraud, illegal use of credit cards, larceny petit theft first degree, \$7,000 bond, Ptl. Maily, PPD.



Cruce

**Small ads... BIG RESULTS**

**Dorsey Jones,** 27, Perry, Fla., VOP, no bond, Dep. Thigpen, TCSO.



Jones

**Dale Evans,** 23, Perry, Fla., kidnap false imprisonment of adult, battery, larceny petit theft first degree, loitering or prowling, resist LEO, \$19,000 bond, Ptl. Cephus, PPD.



Evans

## Prices Good Feb. 17-23, 2021

# Save a lot

## Stock up on new deals for the week

**USDA** Fresh Fryer Bone-In Split Breast  
**79¢ /LB**

Heavy Western Boneless Beef Bottom Round Roast  
**\$2.99 /LB**

**USDA** Fresh Bone-In Assorted Pork Loin Chops "5 POUNDER"  
**\$1.29 /LB**

Heavy Western Boneless Beef Petite Sirloin Steak FAMILY PACK  
**\$4.99 /LB**

Heavy Western Beef Stew Meat or Cube Steak FAMILY PACK  
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**USDA** Fresh Bone-In Center Cut Chops "5 POUNDER"  
**\$1.79 /LB**

Sunset Farms Smoked Picnic SLICED FREE!  
**\$1.59 /LB**

Sunset Farms Smoked Sausage Asst. Var. 16 OZ  
**2/\$6**

Farmington Hickory Smoked Bacon 16 OZ  
**2/\$7**

Farmington Lunch Meat Tubs Asst. Var. 7-9 OZ  
**\$2.59**

Roma Tomatoes  
**99¢ /LB**

Cabbage  
**59¢ /LB**

Yellow Onions 3LB BAG  
**\$1.49 /EA**

Coca-Cola 12 PACK  
**3/\$12**

Powerade 28 OZ  
**79¢ /EA**

Body Armor 8 PACKS  
**2/\$10**

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